

**Parish Offerings – 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council Sunday — June 1, 2025**

“Everyone must give according to whatever he has inwardly decided; not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor 9:7)

**Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks**

Regular Offering (\$2,980) YP (\$4) .....	\$2,984.00
Holy Days (\$305) YP (\$1) .....	306.00
Peter’s Pence .....	20.00
Votive Candles .....	192.00
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	\$3,502.00

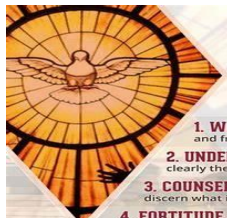
**Holy Ghost Church, North Side**

Regular Offering (\$655.80) YP (\$2) .....	\$657.80
Holy Day (\$80) YP (\$1) .....	81.00
Utilities (\$30) Improvements (\$15) Easter Décor (\$20) .....	65.00
Votive Candles .....	76.00

**Church Attendance Last Week** \$879.80

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (32)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (55); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (22)



**The 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

- 1. WISDOM:** helps us see the world differently and from God’s point of view.
- 2. UNDERSTANDING:** enables us to know more clearly the mysteries of faith.
- 3. COUNSEL [also known as Right Judgment]:** helps us to discern what is right and what is wrong.
- 4. FORTITUDE [also known as Courage]:** strengthens our will so that we can actually accomplish what is true, good and beautiful.
- 5. KNOWLEDGE:** enables us to discover God’s will in all things.
- 6. PIETY:** helps us to love God, our merciful Father, and to obey his precepts out of love for him.
- 7. FEAR OF THE LORD [also known as Wonder and Awe]:** helps us to understand how we must depend on God for everything. In other words, he is God, we are not.


**The Fruit of the Spirit**



- LOVE** Seeks the highest good of others.
- JOY** Gladness that is not based on circumstances.
- PEACE** Contentment, unity between people.
- PATIENCE** Slow to speak and slow to anger.
- KINDNESS** Merciful, sweet, and tender.
- GOODNESS** Generous and open hearted.
- FAITHFULNESS** Dependable, loyal, and full of trust.
- GENTLENESS** Humble, calm, non-threatening.
- SELF-CONTROL** Restraining well.




**Valerian F. Szal**  
238 Helen St.,  
Phone: (412) 331-9713  
**Michael P. Ferrell,**  
Supervisor, CFSP  
*Our Family Still Servina Yours Since 1953*

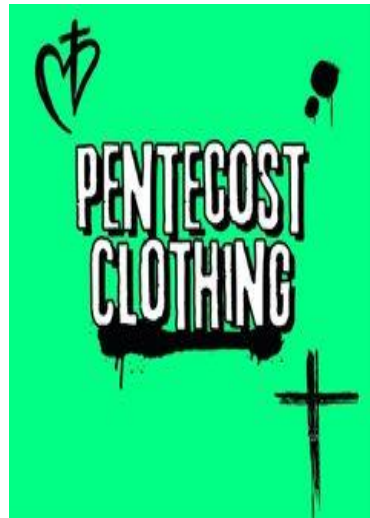


**GCU**  
Greek Catholic Union of the USA  
A Fraternal Benefit Society

GCU offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Randy (412) 973-1085



**HANDYMAN**  
North Side Parishioner  
**Alan Valeriano**  
(412) 638-3417  
PA #172370



**PENTECOST CLOTHING**

**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

.. 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE DESCENT OF THE ALL-HOLY SPIRIT**

**Pentecost Sunday — Patronal Feast Day — Rusalja**

**Jubilee Year of HOPE — June 8, 2025**



**Catholics of the Ruthenian – Byzantine Rite in full communion with the Pope of Rome**

**The Very Reverend Father Frank A. Firko**

**Pastor, Administrator & Protopresbyter**

**Reverend Father David A. Bosnich**

**Assistant Pastor (NS), Assigned to Chancery**

**The Reverend Deacon Michael E. Meaders (NS)**

**The Reverend Deacon Luke R. Iyengar (MR)**

**Rectory: (412) 771-3324; Church Fax: (412) 331-1870**

**MR School Hall Kitchen: (412) 331-5155**

**Website: [www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org) – E-Mail: [ffaf334@verizon.net](mailto:ffaf334@verizon.net)**

**SUNDAY RADIO (9:00 am WEDO 810 AM) & INTERNET DIVINE LITURGY**

**Liturgical Services LIVE: [www.Youtube.com](http://www.Youtube.com) then type: Holy Ghost Church Live Stream**

Sunday Divine Liturgies Saturday (MR) 4:00 pm Sunday (MR) 9:00 am Holy Ghost (NS) 11:00 a.m.	Holy Day Divine Liturgies w/Great Vespers (Oblig) (MR): 7:00 pm Holy Day (MR) 9:00 am; (NS) 6:00 pm	Daily Divine Liturgy M-F (MR) 8:00 am Sat. (NS) 9:00 am.
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**Holy Mystery of Reconciliation:** Sat (MR): 3:15 to 3:40 pm & Sun (MR) 8:15 to 8:40 am.; (NS) 10:30 am

**Holy Mysteries of Initiation:** Contact Church Office for Baptism, Chrismation and Eucharist.

**Holy Mysteries of Anointing:** Ask especially prior to surgery or any other time.

**Personal Care & Hospitalized:** Phone Church Office ASAP.

**Sponsor of Christian Initiation:** Godparents must be practicing Catholics.

**Religious Education Classes:** (MR) Coordinator: Pastor (412) 863-3285.

**Carpatho-Rusyn Radio:** Internet Sunday afternoon: Rusyn.fm at 3:30 pm. Archive: c-rsmedia.org.

**Social Hall Rental:** (MR) Contact Church Office.

**New & Returning Parishioners:** Welcome! Please register by phoning the Church Office.

**Remember the Church in Your Will:** Please be so kind to remember the Church in your last will and testament. This helps to secure its future & a Byzantine Catholic witness to all!

**If you would like to request a Divine Liturgy (\$20) or Sanctuary Lamp \$10** Please contact the Church Office. Also, Blessed Decorative Sacramental/Easter Basket Candles (\$15).



# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks

**CONTINUE TO SIGN FOR DEACON LUKE'S ORDINATION & FIRST SOLEMN DIVINE LITURGY IN JULY** — *“Deacon Luke Iyengar continues to invite you to his Priesthood Ordination on **Sunday, July 6, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall** as well as his First Solemn Divine Liturgy invoking the Aid of the All-Holy Spirit on Monday, July 7, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks. Both Divine Liturgies will have a party afterwards. If you are able to attend either social event, please inform him by Saturday, June 21 @ (412) 863-3285. You may also sign the list located in the side vestibule and narthex area of both Churches. If you wish, he is also accepting e-mail responses: [Liyengar3@gmail.com](mailto:Liyengar3@gmail.com).”*



**SALUTING THE RED, WHITE & BLUE** — Our annual Flag Day Ceremony will take place next **Saturday, June 14 following the Divine Liturgy** Let us show patriotism to the flag when our country needs it the most. Bring a family member/friend!

**(MR) & (NS) SAVE THE DATE: PARISH PICNIC SLATED FOR JULY** — Although details will follow in a later edition of the SOT, you are asked to set aside, **Sunday, July 13** for our parish picnic. It will be held once again in the Robinson Township Picnic Grove off of Clever Road. Please plan to join us as a member of our parish family. We are appreciative to our parishioner John Wovchko for securing this pavilion for us.

## North Side

**PARISH SECRETARY PASSES INTO ETERNITY**— It is with a heavy and painful heart that the Spirit Of Truth (S.O.T.) announces the passing of +



**Anna Velma Seman, 91**, this past Monday, June 2, 2025 at her home in the North Hills. Although she was ill, it never affected her secretarial duties for both parishes week after week. She was of great value and assistance to our pastor, which freed him to make pastoral visitations to the ill and homebound who welcomed him to their home. She was originally from Uniontown prior to studying nursing here in Pittsburgh and was a faithful member of our Holy Ghost on Superior Avenue. Upon retiring from her nursing career, she took on secretarial duties for the past 16 years. She refused an income and loved working for Our Lord and His Holy Church. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Jerome Shell Funeral Home, Inc., Uniontown. Her Funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic

Church located on East Main Street by our pastor. She was interned at Sylvan Heights Cemetery, Uniontown this past Friday, June 6. We will surely miss her and appreciate all that she had unselfishly accomplished for both parishes. We extend our most sincere sympathy to her nephews: Michael & Dan and extended family members. In blessed repose, grant O Lord eternal rest to Your departed servant, Velma, and remember her forever. Vičnaja Jej Pamjat'!

**SPECIAL FLOWER ARRANGEMENT DELIVERED BY CAST & CREW** — The *Mayor of Kingstown* of Paramount Plus send a beautiful floral arrangement in memory of + Velma. It has been placed beneath the patronal icon of the Descent of the Holy Spirit. We are most grateful for their thoughtful kindness.

# PENTECOST SUNDAY — RUSALJA

## Old & New Law Explanation of the Pentecost Celebration

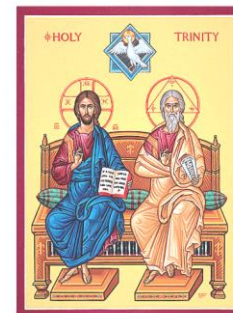
In the Old Testament, Pentecost was the feast which occurred fifty days after Passover. As the Passover feast celebrated the exodus of the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt, so Pentecost celebrated God's gift of the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai. In the new covenant of the Messiah, the New Passover event takes on its new meaning as the celebration of Christ's Death and Resurrection, the "exodus" of men from this sinful world to the Kingdom of God. And in the New Testament as well, the Pentecostal feast is fulfilled and made new by the coming of the "new law," the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Disciples of Christ.



The Divine Liturgy of Pentecost recalls our baptism into Christ with the verse from Galatians again replacing the Thrice-Holy Hymn. Special verses from the Psalms also replace the usual antiphonal psalms of the Divine Liturgy. The Epistle and Gospel proclamation tells of the Spirit's coming to men. The Kontakion sings of the reversal of the Tower of Babel as God unites the nations into the unity of his Spirit. The Troparion proclaims the gathering of the whole universe into God's net through the work of the inspired apostles. The hymns "O Heavenly King" and "We have seen the True Light" are sung for the first time prior to Easter, calling the Holy Spirit to "come and dwell in us," and proclaiming that "we have received the heavenly Spirit." The church is decorated with flowers and the green leaves of the summer to show that God's Divine Breath comes to renew all creation as the "Life-Creating Spirit." In Hebrew the word for Spirit, breath and wind is the same word, *rush*. *The figure below the icon is called The Cosmos* who represents the world holding the good news that the Holy Apostles were mandated to spread to all inhabitants of the earth.

## Feast of the Most Holy Trinity

The first day of the Pentecost Postfestive commemorates the unity of the Holy Trinity's role in our salvation. God the **FATHER** sent His Only-Begotten Son to save mankind; God the **SON** redeemed mankind by His death upon the Cross and rose from the dead; and God the **HOLY SPIRIT** sanctifies mankind pouring out His Gifts and Fruits upon all who approach Him in faith, reverence and devotion. Let us pause by participating in the Divine Liturgy rendering humble and heart-felt thanks for all that the Triune God has done and continues to do for us leading us to salvation!



**One Week Remaining to fulfill Your Easter Duty!**

# Calendar of Upcoming Events

- June 8 ..... Feast of the Decent of the All-Holy Spirit (Pentecost Sunday. Our Patronal Feast Day.
- June 9 ..... Pentecost Monday — Feast of the Most Holy Trinity – (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
- June 14 ..... Annual Flag Day Ceremony at (MR) Flag Church Flagpole following Sat. DL.
- June 15 ..... Sunday of All Saints & Final Day for fulfilling your Easter Duty.  
NS) PAC/FAC Meeting following the Divine Liturgy.
- June 28 ..... (changed from 6/10) ..... (MR) PAC/FAC Meeting @ 2:00 p.m.
- June 24 ..... Nativity of St. John the Baptist (Solemn Holy Day): (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.

## Saint of the Week – June 13

### THE HOLY YOUNG MARTYR AQUILINA

Aquilina was born in the Palestinian town of Byblus of honorable Christian parents. At



age seven, little Aquilina was already completely versed in the true Christian life and at age ten she was so filled with divine understanding and the grace of the Holy Spirit that she, with great power and zealously, preached Christ to her female companions. When Diocletian's persecution began, someone accused Aquilina before Volusian, the imperial deputy, who was more like a beast than a man. At first, Volusian ordered that Aquilina be flogged and after that, a red-hot rod be pierced through her ears and brain. Until the last moment, the virgin Aquilina freely and openly confessed Christ the Lord and when her brain and blood began to flow from her head, she fell as though dead. The deputy, thinking Aquilina was

indeed dead, ordered her body to be carried outside the city and thrown upon a dung heap for the dogs to consume. But an angel of God appeared to her at night and said to her: "Arise, and be whole!" And the virgin arose and was whole and for a long time she offered up praise of thanksgiving to God imploring Him not to deprive her to fulfill her martyr's mortification. A voice from heaven was heard: "Go, it will be to you as you pray" and Aquilina set out for the town. The gates of the town opened on their own accord before her, and she entered like a spirit into the palace of the deputy and appeared before his bed. The deputy was seized with unspeakable fear, seeing the virgin alive whom he thought was dead. The following day, according to his command, the executioners led Aquilina out to behead her. Before her beheading, the virgin Aquilina prayed to God on her knees and gave up her soul. The executioner beheaded her lifeless head. Her relics gave healing to many of the sick. **Aquilina was twelve years old** when she suffered for the Lord: suffered and crowned with the martyr's wreath in the year 293 A.D.

**Don't Forget to Wear GREEN Again Next Weekend – All Saints Sunday!**

# General Announcements

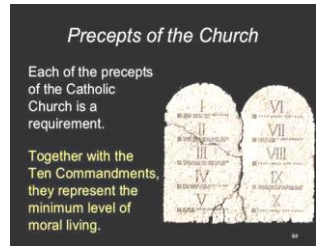
**THE GREEN HOLY DAYS AND KNEELING PRAYERS** — The Holy Feast of Pentecost was popularly called **RUSALJA** by the Ruthenian (Rusyn) people who were the founders



and benefactors of our parishes. Prior to the missionary efforts of Saints Cyril & Methodius (9<sup>th</sup> century), the pagan Slavs embraced Rusalja (the god of new spring and budding nature) and held a festival during this time of the year. Decoration from various greens, and **LINDEN** (lipa) branches were predominantly used. Following their conversion to Christianity, the Church retain the idea of green decorations in Church and at the door entrance of their homes, seeing and celebrating in them the symbol of **NEW LIFE** that the Holy Spirit brought forth on Pentecost Sunday. The week of Pentecost was also referred to as the **GREEN HOLY DAYS** (selenic svjata). *Let us glorify the Holy Spirit, Who brings and sustains us with LIGHT & LIFE, by wearing something GREEN throughout the week, and at next weekend's Divine Liturgy of All Saints Sunday!*

**NEXT WEEKEND — LAST DAY TO FULFILL EASTER DUTY — All Christian Faithful**

are **OBLIGED** to sacramentally **CONFESS** their **Mortal Sins** and to receive the Divine Eucharist during the Paschal (Easter) Period (Canon 708). This is traditionally known as the **EASTER DUTY**. Voluntary neglect of this Church precept is a serious (mortal) sin. Not only does it prohibit one from receiving the Eucharist, but also makes one ineligible to stand as Godparent/Sponsor at the Holy Mysteries of Initiation (Baptism/Chrismation/Eucharist). **Please take care of this responsibility with Confession of Serious Sins & a Holy and Worthy Reception of Holy Communion A.S.A.P.**



**OUR HOLY GHOST GRADUATE AND HIS PLANS** — Our Holy Ghost Graduate for



2025 is: **HIGH SCHOOL – (MR) NICHOLAS JUDE RIPPOLE**, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (OLSH) High School, on Sunday, June 1, 2025, He will be attending Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) in the Fall and then transferring for further studies. He is still considering a career path. He had made the honor role at OLSH. Also, he has been a faithful altar server for several years in the past. May God grant to Nicholas health and happiness for many years. We are proud of his association with our Parish.

**PATRONAL FEAST COMMEMORATION TODAY**— Following today's Divine Liturgy we will mark our special day with a beautiful cake and beverages at both Parishes. Come let us show our appreciation to the Third Person of the Holy Trinity by gathering for this social.

