

Parish Offerings – Descent of the All-Holy Spirit — June 8, 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 (\$386) YP (\$2)	\$388.00
Pentecost (\$1,907) YP (\$15) Holy Days (\$180)	2,102.00
Internet Ministry	10.00
Votive Candles	147.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,647.00

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$90) YP (\$2)	\$92.00
Pentecost (\$535) Holy Days (\$35)	570.00
Utilities (\$20) Improvements (\$10) Peter's Pence (\$5) Seminary (\$5) .	40.00
Votive Candles	6.00
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	\$764.00

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (35)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (69); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (22)

Feast of Most Holy Trinity — (MR) Mon., 9:00 a.m. (2); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (9)



Valerian F. Szal

238 Helen St.,
Phone: (412) 331-9713

Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953



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



North Side Parishioner

Alan Valeriano
(412) 638-3417 PA 172370



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET

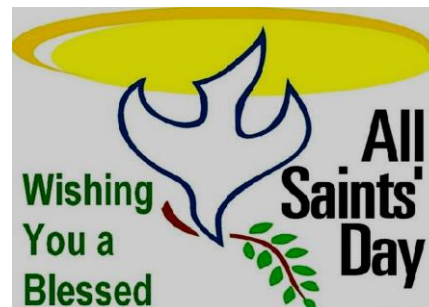
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

.. 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

1st Sunday after Pentecost – June 15, 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 – E-Mail: ffaf334@verizon.net

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

Liturgical Services LIVE: 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.

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) 771-3324.

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 will **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).

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

With unity of faith let us celebrate a solemn feast of those who from the ages have found grace before God. Let us remember all the Saints: the Patriarchs, Prophets, and Apostles of Christ, the Martyrs, and Ascetics of all ages. They intercede unceasingly for the peace of the world and for the salvation of our souls! (Great Vespers of All Saints)

June 15, 2025



Volume XV, Number 25



Seasonal Christian Greeting:
Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!
Slava Isusu Christu! — Slava Na Viki!



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
 SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS 			
1st Sunday after Pentecost — Final Day of Easter Duty — Annual Father's Day			
SUN, June 15	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Margaret Kurtanich (2 nd ann of passing 6/12)	Children
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Olga Senchyshyn (birthday)	Dgtr: Joan
Commencement of the Petrine Fast			
Mon, June 16	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ A. Velma Seman	Family: Nephews
Tue, June 17	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm.	No name listed
Recommended SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice): for vocations			
Wed, June 18	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Sandra Rosko (birthday)	Anonymous
The Holy & Glorious Apostle, Jude — First Day of Summer at 10:42 p.m.			
Thrs, June 19	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Amelia M. Sotak	Co-Workers: Caring Hts.
First Day of Summer at 10:42 p.m.			
REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice): for vocations			
Fri, June 20	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Myrona + William Duggan	Theresa Kundrat
Sat, June 21	9:00 a.m. (NS)	Living & Deceased of Helen Pytyk & Family	Dr. John A Straka, M.D.

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Second Sunday after Pentecost			
	4:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Robert Bordas	Family
2nd Sunday after Pentecost			
SUN, June 22	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Anna Marie Demianczyk (3 rd ann of passing 6/19)	Dgtr: Dawn Ringes & Family

General Announcements

All Birthdays will be published in SOT each week so that prayers may be offered on these special occasions. Please advise the Church office if your special day does not appear or if you wish your name and date not be published.

Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners

Jun 15 –Kathleen Kulka; **June 16** – Karen Stebbins; **Jun 19** – Eric Ruud

Pray For the Ill, Infirm & Shut-ins of Our Parishes

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, Dolores & William Boras, Nancy Debranski-Ferrell, Monica Lemesh, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Bernice Herrick, Michael Kachuta, Steve Kosko, Ken Krempasky, Theresa Kundrat, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, BETTY LORINC, DEACON MICHAEL & CINDY MEADERS, Kurt Perschy, Betty Spisak, Anita Wolsko.

MAPLEWOOD PC HOME (461 Maplewood Ave. Ambridge, PA 15003): Doris Naughton.
HIGHLAND PARK CARE CENTER (745 North Highland Ave., Pgh, PA 15206): Linda Reiger.
THE RESIDENCE AT WILLOW LANE (30 Heckel Rd., McKees Rocks, PA 15136): Helen Best, Mildred Terrek.

CEDAR HILL REHAB CENTER (951 Broadhead Rd., Coraopolis, PA 15108): Nancy (Shanta) Wauthier.

TAPESTRY SENIOR LIVING (550 Cherrington Parkway, Moon Township, PA 15108): Eliz. Posnak
VANADIUM WOODS VILLAGE (50 Vanadium Rd, Bridgeville, PA 15017): Bea Stempkowski.

CONCORDIA OF BRIDGEVILLE (3560 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017): Flo Charochak.

CARNEGIE PARK POST-ACUTE CARE (1848 Greentree Rd, Pittsburgh, 15220): Dolores Babin.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. How long before the Divine Liturgy should we abstain from eating? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** The Church requires that we abstain from eating for one hour before receiving the Eucharist (CCC 1387). Technically, you could eat something before a longer Divine Liturgy and still receive the Eucharist, as long as communion time was an hour after you ate. The point of the Eucharistic Fast is to prepare us to receive Jesus with greater yearning. Fasting prior to the Divine Liturgy is the appropriate way to prepare ourselves for receiving Jesus. It just doesn't seem right to have a chocolate doughnut or a cheeseburger in our stomachs just a few minutes before we receive the Creator of the universe. Also, you should refrain from chewing gum.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

Continue to burn before the real presence of our Lord, God & Savior Jesus

June 15 — 21, 2025

(MR): **In memory of Robert Bordas**

offered by Sisters and Brothers

(NS): **In memory of Olga Senchyshyn** (birthday 6/15)

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2025

offered by Dgtr: Joan (NS)

NONE AVAILABLE 2025

General Announcements

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."*



SALUTING THE RED, WHITE & BLUE — Our annual Flag Day Ceremony took place **Saturday, June 14 following the Divine Liturgy** Expressing patriotism to 'O! Glory when our country needs it the most. Thank you for remaining a few moments more to salute the salute what so many fail to do.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FATHER'S DAY — Father's Day was the invention of **Sonora Smart Dodd (1892-1978)** of Spokane, Washington, who reportedly came up with the idea while

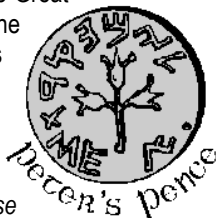


listening to a Mother's Day sermon at the Central Methodist Episcopal Church in 1909. Raised by her widowed father, Sonora felt that her father should be honored in the same way mothers were since Anna Jarvis created Mother's Day four years earlier. The first official "Father's Day" was held in Spokane in 1910. Despite its detractors—and there were many—the idea of a national "Father's Day" picked up steam when it was endorsed in 1924 by President Calvin Coolidge. In 1926 the National Father's Day Committee was formed by a group of New York City merchants who saw the value in yet another day when people would feel obligated to buy things. Once again, the media mocked

the concept as just one more example of commercialism at its crudest. It took another 30 years for "Father's Day" to be recognized by a Joint Resolution of Congress, and yet another decade for the holiday to be declared "real" in an official proclamation by President Lyndon Johnson in 1966. It was finally established as a federally recognized holiday by *President Richard Nixon in 1972, who declared it would be celebrated on the third Sunday of June.*

ANNUAL PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION — The History of Peter's Pence derives its name from an ancient custom. In ninth-century England, King Alfred the Great collected money, a "pence," from landowners as financial support for the Pope. Today, the Peter's Pence Collection supports the Pope's philanthropy by giving the Holy Father the means to provide emergency assistance to those in need because of natural disaster, war, oppression, and disease. In his address of March 20, 2013, Pope Francis spoke of our responsibility before the world and creation.

"There is much that we can do to benefit the poor, the needy and those who suffer, and to favor justice, promote reconciliation and build peace," he said. The Peter's Pence Collection unites us in solidarity to the Holy See and its works of charity to those in need. Your generosity allows the Pope to respond to our suffering brothers and sisters. For those of you who have already contributed, donations have been and will continue to be sent to the Chancery who will see that your monetary gift be sent to the Vatican.

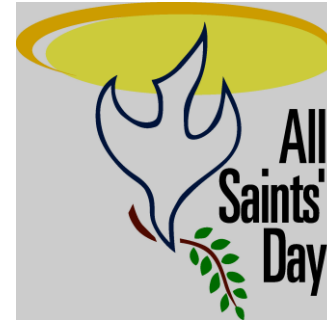


SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

Everyone is Called to Sainthood

(Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, &19:27-30)

Today, we celebrate the **SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS**. Often, we think of Saints as those holy ones who have preceded us in physical death, and have won the crown of the heavenly kingdom. They are the ones whom we should imitate in life for guidance. Many of us think of

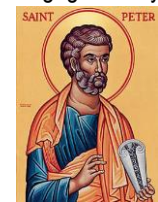


these Saints as icons beautifully romanticized who always seem to have "a faraway look" in their eyes. Many of us get caught up in the halos and the visions. Great saints were real people with everyday problems. **Baptism calls all of us to sainthood**, not just the extraordinary people but everyday people just like you and me. Throughout history, saints have come from all economic classes and all walks of life. Often, they have been faced with struggles for sanctity that lasted their entire lifetimes. We all have weaknesses, and our knowledge of those weaknesses is vital if we are ever to achieve holiness.

Knowing that we're not perfect helps us to love others who aren't perfect. It gives an important sense of humility and the power not to judge. Christianity elevates our human nature by combining it with the supernatural. This life of grace enables us to respond lovingly to the trials and irritations of everyday living. Jesus put it this way, *"A good tree does not produce decayed fruit any more than a decayed tree produces good fruit. Each tree is known by its yield"* (Luke 6:43-44). Now what is Jesus talking about when He says that we are to "produce good fruit"? What is this "yield" by which we are to be known? He is saying that we will bear signs of God's love if only we put our trust in Him. A heroic acceptance of suffering? Yes. Patience with an irritating person? Yes. Kindness to those that hurt us? Yes, that too. This is why it is so important for us to seek and embrace God's will for us. If you are bearing good fruit, your neighbors will be able to read the Gospel in your life, even if they've never read Scripture or think little of religion or of God. They will know that there is something about you that is different, even if they do not know that "something" is God. Saints are ordinary people like you and me. They knew God's will and they pursued that will despite their weakness and their humanness.

PETRINE FAST Begins Tomorrow

The **Petrine Fast (Petrovna – Ruthenian (Rusyn) Language)** is one that was actually engaged in by the disciples of Christ following the Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.



Having rejoiced throughout the fifty days following Pascha, the Resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ, the Apostles began to prepare for their departure from Jerusalem to carry Christ's message to the far corners of the world. As part of their preparation, they began a fast with prayer to ask God to strengthen their resolve and to be with them in their missionary undertakings. It is this fast that we ourselves participate in when we observe the minor Penitential Season of the Petrine Fast. But we do this not only

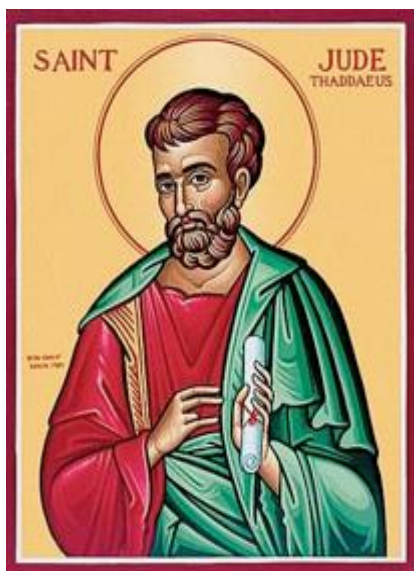
because we honor the Apostles and their sacrifice. We do this by way of preparing ourselves to be sent as missionaries into our world to reflect and radiate Christ to those around us. **As we begin the Petrine Fast (named after the Apostle Peter), let us make a serious effort to abstain from meat or do an equivalent penance not only on the required Fridays until June 29, but also on the recommended Wednesdays for the intention of an increase of vocations to the priesthood & religious life.**

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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.
 June 29 Feasts of SS. Peter & Paul.
 July 4 Special Patriotic (MR) Divine Liturgy of Independence Day @ 9:00 a.m.
 July 13 ... Annual (MR) & (NS) Parish Picnic, Cleaver Recreational Park, Robinson Township
 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saint of the Week

Apostle Jude Thaddeus — June 19



The Holy Apostle Jude also had other names: the Evangelist Matthew terms him "Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddeus" (Mt. 10:3). The Holy Evangelist Mark also calls him Thaddeus (Mark 3:18), and in the Acts of the Holy Apostles he is called Barsabas (Acts 15: 22). This was customary at that time. After the Ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ, St Jude traveled about preaching the Gospel. He propagated the faith in Christ at first in Judea, Galilee, Samaria and Idumaia, and later in the lands of Arabia, Syria and Mesopotamia. Finally, he went to the city of Edessa. Here he finished the work that was not completed by his predecessor, St Thaddeus, Apostle of the Seventy (August 21). There is a tradition that St Jude went to Persia, where he wrote his catholic Epistle in Greek. In the Epistle much profound truth was expressed in a few

words. St Jude's Epistle speaks about the Holy Trinity, about the Incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ, about the good and bad angels, and about the dread Last Judgment. The Apostle urges believers to guard themselves against fleshly impurity, to be diligent in prayer, faith and love, to convert the lost to the path of salvation, and to guard themselves from the teachings of heretics. He also says that it is not enough just to be converted to Christianity, but faith must be demonstrated by good works. He cites the rebellious angels and men punished by God (verse 6) to support this. The Holy Apostle Jude died as a martyr around the year 80 near Mt. Ararat in Armenia, where he was crucified and pierced by arrows.

Happy Father's Day to all our Dad's!

General Announcements

SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR A SUCCESSFUL PENTECOST GATHERING — What a beautiful Pentecost dessert and beverage social we had following both Sunday Divine



Liturgies last week. Both parishes participated in this our Patronal Feast Day glorifying God the Holy Spirit! Special thanks are extended to (MR) Norma Kacsur and (NS) Barbara & Peter Stecko, and to those who had served this event along with them. Thank you, also, to (NS) Kathy Mullen who baked "**Holy Spirit (Ghost) Cookies**" which were distributed at the (NS) Mirovanije. Our



pastor extends his most heartfelt thanks!!! Also, once again, a special Congratulations to our (MR) High School Graduate, Nicholas J. Rippole. Due to the demanding schedules, we had to forgo a special Patronal Feast Luncheon.

THE BODY OF CHRIST COMMEMORATION — T'ILO CHRISTOVO — This **Thursday, June 19, 2025** our Byzantine-Ruthenian Catholic Church marks a special traditional commemoration of the Holy Eucharist. It falls each year on the Thursday following All Saints Sunday. Join us in expressing gratitude to the Lord Jesus Christ and His True Presence — Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Most Holy Eucharist on this special day at the morning Divine Liturgy!



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 today!**

SAVE THE DATE: PARISHES 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 parishes picnic. It will be held once again in the Robinson Township Picnic Grove off Cleaver Road. Please plan to join us as a member of our parish family.



REGISTER TO BE HONORED FOR A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE — The Archeparchy wishes to honor those who are celebrating their 10, 15, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 etc. anniversary of marriage this year. This celebration has been extended on a new format. It will take place on **Sunday, September 7, 2025 @ 3:00 p.m. at St. Elias Church, Munhall**. If you are observing one of the above milestones, *please contact the Church office if you plan or DO NOT plan to attend!* All specially marked anniversaries submitted will be published in a September issue of the SOT. *Please call the church office A.S.A.P.*