

## Parish Offerings – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — June 29, 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 (\$1,675) YP (\$2) .....    | \$1,677.00 |
| All Saints (\$300) YP (\$10) ) .....         | 310.00     |
| Holy Day (\$863) Peter's Pence (\$230) ..... | 1,093.00   |
| Votive Candles .....                         | 127.00     |

\$3,207.00

### Holy Ghost Church, North Side

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Regular Offering .....                      | \$623.25 |
| Holy Days (\$63) YP (\$2) .....             | 65.00    |
| Utilities (\$20) Peter's Pence (\$20) ..... | 40.00    |
| Votive Candles .....                        | 131.00   |

\$859.25

## Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (22)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (52); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (35)

Independence Day — Jul. 4 – (MR) 9:00 a.m. (4)



**Valerian F. Szal**

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

**Michael P. Ferrell,**  
Supervisor, CFSP

*Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953*

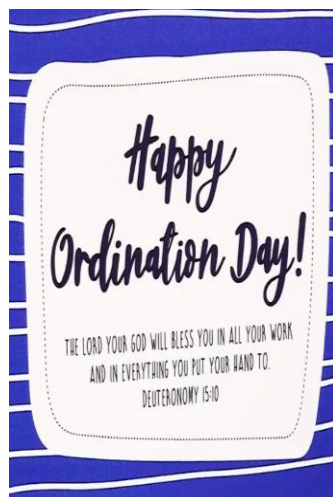


GCU offers Insurance and  
Annuity Benefits greater than  
most financial institutions. Info  
call Randy  
(412) 973-1085



North Side Parishioner

**Alan  
Valeriano**  
**(412) 638-3417 PA  
172370**



## HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET

.. 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

## The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### Priesthood Ordination of our Parish Vocation — July 6, 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.

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

When the Most High descended and confused tongues, He scattered the people; but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all men to unity. Therefore, with one voice, let us glorify the Most Holy Spirit (Matins of Pentecost Sunday).

July 6, 2025

Volume XV, Number 28



**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**

### 4th Sunday after Pentecost

**SUN, Jul 6**      **9:00 a.m. (MR)** For the Parishioners of Both Parishes  
**11:00 a.m. (NS)** + Monsignor Peter P. Tay (birthday 7/7)      Joan Senchyshyn  
**3:00 p.m. (Cathedral)**      **Ordination to the Holy Priesthood of**  
**Deacon Luke R. Iyengar**

**First Solemn Divine Liturgy of the Reverend Father Luke R. Iyengar**

**Mon, Jul 7**      \*\*\* 9:30 a.m. (MR) Invoking the Aid of the All-Holy Spirit  
**Tue, Jul 8**      8:00 a.m. (MR) + Hubal Family      Family  
**Wed, Jul 9**      8:00 a.m. (MR) + Julie Kutchmark      Nancy & Michael Ferrell

**Venerable Father Anthony of the Caves**

**Thrs, Jul 10**      8:00 a.m. (MR) + Frances Jandri      Grandson: Dubravko & Anna Gataric

**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice):in**  
**reparation for sins committed in our Country**



**Fri, Jul 11**      8:00 a.m. (MR) + A. Velma Seman      Barbara & Peter Stecko  
 (40<sup>th</sup> day. of passing)

**Sat, Jul 12**      9:00 a.m. (NS) + Ronald Hirschfield (memorial)      Family

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

**4:00 p.m. (MR)** + Ruth + Albert Barnash      Son: Al & Christine

### 5th Sunday after Pentecost

### Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils

**Annual (MR) & (NS) Churches Picnic, Robinson Township Picnic Grove**

**SUN, Jul 13**      **9:00 a.m. (MR)** For the Parishioners of Both Parishes  
**11:00 a.m. (NS)** + Daniel J. Galida (birthday 7/5)      Sister: Kathy Mullen

## 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*

**Jul 7** – Tim Bedard, Anna Stebbins; **Jul 8** – Colette Varga; **Jul 9** – Albert Kovacs, Sr., John Kutchmark, Sr., DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS; **Jul 10** – Albert Kovacs, Jr.; **Jul 11** – Michael S. Muska.

### 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, Albert Kovacs, Sr; 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.** I want to confess an obvious sin, but I do not feel remorse or regret for doing it. Do I need to be regretful to confess this sin or will it be forgiven even if I have no remorse? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** What is required is repentance, which is an act of the will. Remorse and regret are emotions, which you may or may not feel and do not have control over. Feelings of remorse and regret are not required, but they are helpful in keeping us from sinning again. One way to encourage such feelings is to develop a devotion to Christ's Passion. Meditation on the agonies Christ suffered to merit for us the grace we receive through confession helps in developing a horror for sin and a just remorse for the sins of one's life.

### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**July 6 — July 12, 2025**

(MR): **Health & Welfare of the Hubal Family**  
 offered by Family

(NS): **In memory of Ronnie (Seman) Bauca**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2025      offered by Sister: + Velma Seman      (NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2025





# General Announcements

**OUR (MR) & (NS) PARISHES LEND A HELPING HAND TO FISHER HOUSE** — Our Parishes are once again, commencing to collect items to help Pittsburgh's VA Fisher House. The Pittsburgh Fisher House is a 10-bedroom "home away from home" and provides a place for visiting families to stay, free of charge, while their loved ones receive inpatient medical care at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. The Pittsburgh Fisher House is professionally furnished and features a common kitchen, laundry facilities, spacious dining room, living room with a library, and toys for children. They are requesting assistance in keeping these areas stocked with supplies. Boxes will be placed at the side vestibule and narthex areas of both parishes for the **collection that will extend to August 4**. Needed items are listed on a stationery sheet near these boxes. Let's help our afflicted veterans and their families by supporting this collection! Needed items are listed at the entrances of both churches. Feel free to take one while shopping. Any question, please contact Tina Burns (412) 618-6567.



**SUMMARY OF THE LAST (MR) PAC-FAC MEETING** — At the meeting on Saturday afternoon, June 28 the following agenda was discussed: (1) the upcoming Priesthood Ordination and First Solemn Divine Liturgy of Deacon Luke Iyengar, and the social at the School Gym on Monday, July 7; (2) Parish Picnic to take place at the Robinson Picnic Shelter on Sunday, July 13. Elaine Kurtanich will handle the event with the help of volunteers. The Church will provide the hotdogs and hamburgers. A sign-up sheet is placed at both parishes in the (NS) Narthex, and (MR) Side Vestibule so that we may how many o prepare; (3) *Faith*



& Fun Day for all Archdiocesan Altar Servers was announced by the Office of Vocations for Monday, August 4, 2025 beginning with the (MR) Divine Liturgy; and (4) the Gravener HAVAC to review the Church A/C status for the summer months.

## Byzantine Catholic Ruthenian Metropolitan Directives Regarding the Mentioning of Deceased Names on Sundays & Holy Days

*(Many times, parishioners have asked, "why aren't the names of our deceased loved one's name audibly mentioned at the Divine Liturgy on **Sundays and Holy Days**, but mentioned many times at a Week Day Divine Liturgy?" The following abridged directive was published by our Bishops on June 25, 1975 regard this subject and remains in effect to this day).*



**Norm B:** ".... The Divine Liturgy of the **Holy Day** is to be celebrated in its entirety with no intonation or litanies for the deceased (N.B. the priest may pray them silently). Neither is there to be the singing of "Eternal Memory" following the Holy Day dismissal and blessing.

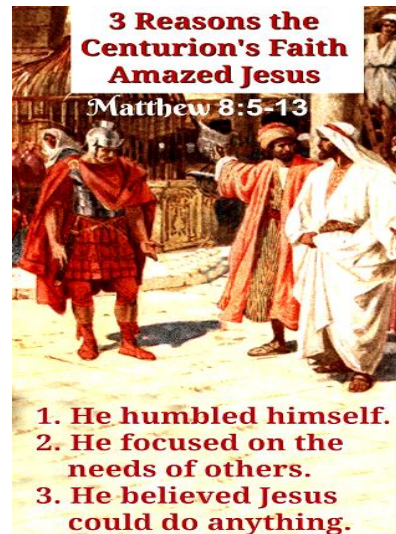
**Norm C:** "When a Divine Liturgy is taken for the deceased on a **Sunday (N.B. this includes the Saturday Anticipated for Sunday)**, it is to be celebrated in its entirety with no intonation or litanies for the deceased. Neither is there to be the singing of Eternal Memory following the Dismissal and Blessing. (N.B. an exception for the singing of Eternal Memory is on certain occasions such as Mother's Day, Father's Day, the passing of a Pope, Hierarch, or Pastor of the Church). However, no deceased litanies are to be taken unless a Panachida follows the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

In conclusion, if you wish to have your loved ones audibly mentioned at the Divine Liturgy, please see that are scheduled during a week day. Be assured that though you may not hear your loved one's name (s) mentioned, its efficacy is not diminished for their soul.— FFAF

# 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## The Centurion Teaches Us to Believe! — (Matthew 8:5-13)

This centurion was a heathen, a Roman soldier. Though he was a soldier, yet he was a godly man. No man's calling or place will be an excuse for unbelief and sin. See how he states his servant's case. *We should concern ourselves for the souls of our children and servants, who are spiritually sick, who feel not spiritual evils, who know not that which is spiritually good; and we should bring them to Christ by faith and prayers.* Observe his self-abasement. Humble souls are made humbler by Christ's gracious dealings with them. Observe his great faith. The more diffident we are of ourselves; the stronger will be our confidence in Christ. Herein the centurion owns him to have Divine power, and a full command of all the creatures and powers of nature, as a master over his servants. Such servants we all should be to God; we must go and come, according to the directions of his word and the disposals of



his providence. But when the Son of man comes he finds little faith, therefore he finds little fruit. An outward profession may cause us to be called children of the kingdom; but if we rest in that, and have nothing else to show, we shall be cast out. The servant got a cure of his disease, and the master got the approval of his faith. What was said to him, is said to all, Believe, and you will receive; only believe. See the power of Christ, and the power of faith. The healing of our souls is at once the effect and evidence of our interest in the blood of Christ.

## Who Were Roman Centurions?

In ancient Rome the "centurion" meant "captain of 100", and the Roman centurion was captain over 100-foot soldiers in a legion. The Army of Rome consisted of three types of soldiers: The Praetorian Guard (Caesar's bodyguard), The Legionaries (infantry soldiers and officers made up of citizens), and The Auxiliaries (non-citizen troops). The centurion was loyal and courageous, beginning as a soldier in the army and working their way up the ranks. They were noticed by the general for their skill and courage in battle, and were made officers. The number of centurions in a legion was 60, that being at all epochs the number of centuries, although the number varied in the cohort. **The ordinary duties of the centurion were to drill his men, inspect their arms, food and clothing, and to command them in the camp and in the field.** Centurions were sometimes employed on detached service the conditions of which in the provinces are somewhat obscure. Men like Cornelius and Julius (Acts 10:1; 27:1) may have been separated from the legion to which they properly belonged for the discharge of special duties. They and other centurions mentioned in the Gospels and the Acts (Mt 8:5; Mk 15:39, 44, 45; Lk 23:47) are represented by the sacred writers.



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

July 13 ... Annual (MR) & (NS) Parish Picnic, Cleaver Recreational Park, Robinson Township from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 July 17 ..... Feast of our Blessed Bishop-Martyr Paul P. Gojdich, OSBM.  
 July 20 ..... Feast of the Holy Prophet Elijah followed by **Blessing of Vehicles**.  
 July 24 .... Annual Byzantine Catholic Family Day at Kennywood Amusement Park (cf. inside article on how to purchased discounted tickets)  
 August 1 - 14 ..... Commencement of the Savorial Fast (Spasovka).  
 August 4 ..... Archieparchial Altar Server Faith & Fun Day Pirates vs. Giants (cf enclosure article).  
 August 6 . Feast of the Holy Transfiguration – (MR) 9:00 a.m. (NS) 6:00 p.m. **Blessing of grapes and fruits**.

## Saint of the Week

### Venerable Father Sisoës the Great — July 6

Saint Sisoës the Great (+ 429) was a solitary monk, pursuing asceticism in the Egyptian desert in a cave sanctified by the prayerful labors of his predecessor, Saint Anthony the Great (January 17). For his sixty years of labor in the desert, Saint Sisoës attained to sublime spiritual purity and he was granted the gift of wonderworking, so that by his prayers he once restored a dead child back to life. Extremely strict with himself, Abba Sisoës was very merciful and compassionate to others, and he received everyone with love. To those who visited him, the saint first of all always taught humility. When one of the monks asked how he might attain to a constant remembrance of God, Saint Sisoës remarked,



*"That is no great thing, my son, but it is a great thing to regard yourself as inferior to everyone else. This leads to the acquisition of humility."* Asked by the monks whether one year is sufficient for repentance if a brother sins, Abba Sisoës said, "I trust in the mercy of God that if such a man repents with all his heart, then God will accept his repentance in three days." When Saint Sisoës lay upon his deathbed, the disciples surrounding the Elder saw that his face shone like the sun. They asked the dying man what he saw. Abba Sisoës replied that he saw Saint Anthony, the prophets, and the apostles. His face increased in brightness, and he spoke with someone. The monks asked, "With whom are you speaking, Father?" He said that angels had come for his soul, and he was entreating them to give him a little more time for repentance. The monks said, "You have no need for repentance, Father" Saint Sisoës said with great humility, "I do not think that I have even begun to repent." After these words the face of the holy abba shone so brightly that the brethren were not able to look upon him. Saint Sisoës told them that he saw the Lord Himself. Then there was a flash like lightning, and a fragrant odor, and Abba Sisoës departed to the Heavenly Kingdom.

The icon above depicts Saint Sisoës the Great at the tomb of Alexander the Great (16th c., Varlaam monastery, Meteora), signifying the remembrance of death.

## General Announcements

**THE DEACON BECOMES FR. LUKE IYENGAR TODAY** — Our Parish Vocation, Deacon Luke will be a priest forever through the imposition of the hands of Archbishop Skurla at today's Ordination Ceremony at the Cathedral. **Sunday, July 6, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall.** The following day, July 7, he will celebrate his **First Solemn Divine Liturgy invoking the Aid of the All-Holy Spirit at 9:30 a.m. at his home parish of Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks.** Both Divine Liturgies will have a party afterwards to celebrate special milestone. We are proud of this our parish-son who grew up in our midst, and with God's call, blessing and the support of our prayers will serve as an Archieparchial Priest forever. By the way, as of this date, he has no idea where he will be assigned. The S.O.T. will be here to inform you.



**PARISHES PICNIC SLATED NEXT WEEK** — Our Annual Parishes Picnic. Is next **Sunday, July 13** in the Robinson Township Picnic Grove off Cleaver Road. In order to prepare the food, we still need to know how many will be attending. **Please sign the sheet today!** Please plan to join us as a member or friend of our parish family.



**KENNYWOOD PARK: BYZANTINE CATHOLIC FAMILY DAY** — The **100<sup>th</sup> Annual GCU & Byzantine Catholic Family Day** will be celebrated on **Thursday, July 24, 2025**. GCU is offering prepaid discounted tickets to members, parishioners, and guests. Ride All Day Tickets (ages 4 and up): \$28.00; Details at [www.GCUusa.com](http://www.GCUusa.com). Order tickets online with a debit or credit card. You may also call 1 (800) 722-4428 ext. 3927 Churches will not be handling tickets. Gates open at 11:00 a.m. until close. Come join in the fun and set the day aside.



**SCHEDULE OF ALTAR SERVER FAITH & FUN DAY** — The 2025 Faith & Fun Day for Archieparchial Altar Servers has been set for **Monday, August 4, 2025**. The day will begin at 9:30 am at Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church, McKees Rocks, PA with the Divine Liturgy and then at 10:45 a.m. off to the Pittsburgh Zoo (catered lunch at the Zoo); 2:45 p.m. depart from Zoo to Turf Attack (indoor nerf games) 4:45 p.m. depart to PNC Park for the Pirates game. The afternoon Pirates vs. the San Francisco Giants. Following the game, we will return to Holy Ghost Church to head back home. Please inform Fr. Firko if you plan to attend. Forms are needed to be filled A.S.A.P. the forms are Altar Server, Parents permission and Adult signup. Preparations determine how many altar servers and guardians will be attending.



**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 anniversaries submitted will be published in a September issue of the SOT. Please call the church office A.S.A.P. and register.

