

## Parish Offerings – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — July 13, 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 (\$3,260) YP (\$15) .....	\$3,275.00
Holy Day .....	25.00
Votive Candles .....	238.00

\$3,538.00

### Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering .....	\$595.00
Holy Day .....	5.00
Utilities (\$10.) Improvements (\$5.) .....	15.00
Votive Candles .....	72.00

\$687.00

## Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (36)

Annual Churches Picnic - Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (52); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (19)



**Valerian F. Szal**

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

Michael P. Ferrell,  
Supervisor, CFSP

*Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953*

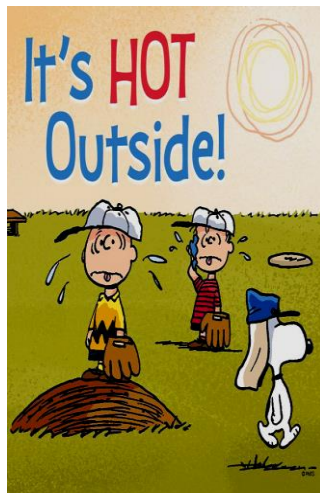


GCU offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Randy (412) 973-1085



North Side Parishioner

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



## HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET

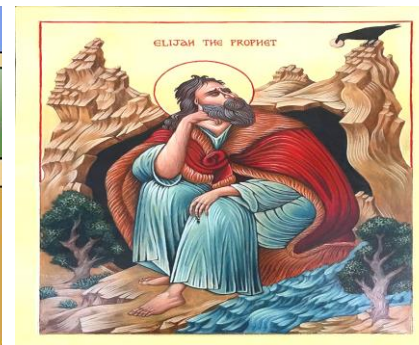
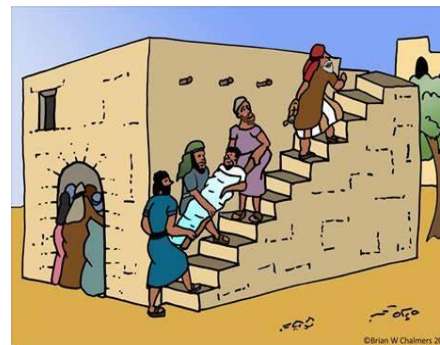
.. 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

## The 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

## Holy Old Testament Prophet Elijah — July 20, 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)

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 20, 2025

Volume XV, Number 30



**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*

### 6th Sunday after Pentecost

**Feast of the Holy O.T. Prophet Elijah — Blessing of Vehicles**

**SUN, Jul 20 9:00 a.m. (MR)** + Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm. Mom: Becky & Sisters  
(1st ann of passing 7/21)

**11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes**

**Mon, Jul 21 8:00 a.m. (MR)** + John Oslick MaryEllen & John W. Oslick  
(30th ann of passing 7/19)

*Commemoration of St. Mary Magdalene, Equal to the Apostles*

**Tue, Jul 22 8:00 a.m. (MR)** + Elizabeth Sosak MaryEllen & John W. Oslick  
(1st ann of passing 6/28)

*Passing of the Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko*

**Wed, Jul 23 \*\*\* 10:00 a.m. (MR)** + Funeral of Dolores Babin

*Holy Long-Suffering Martyrs Boris and Gleb — Annual Archieparchial Faith & Fun Day*

**Thrs, Jul 24 \*\*\* 9:30 a.m. (MR)** + Susan + Michael Baran Eleanor Gramata & Son: George

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



*Dormition of the Holy Righteous Anne, Mother of the Holy Theotokos*

**Fri, Jul 25 8:00 a.m. (MR)** + Dolores + John Koritsky Dgtr: Christine & Al Barnash

**Sat, Jul 26 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes**

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*Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*

**4:00 p.m. (MR)** + A. Velma Seman Evelyn Yakubik

### 7th Sunday after Pentecost

**SUN, Jul 27 9:00 a.m. (MR)** + A. Velma Seman Andrew Petrilla

**11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes**

## 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 21 – Nancy Lecci, ROBERT SPONTAK, Andrea Usouski, Lorraine (Bunny) Zavidny; Jul 23 – ALAN VALERIANO; Jul 24 – Fr. Luke Iyengar, Daniel Rosko; Jul 25 – Elaine Kurtanich.**

### 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, 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.

**HIGHLAND HILLS POST ACUTE** (1105 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15237): Bernice Herrick.

**ALLEGHENY GENERAL HOSPITAL** (320 E. North Ave., Pittsburgh, 15212): John Kutchmark, Sr.

### Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

**Q. What is considered a valid Catholic Marriage. A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** There are several components that need to be present in order for a marriage to be valid. They are *Compacity, Consent & Form*. **COMPACITY** – is the ability to get married. Impediments that would go against include one's age or already being married (CCC 1625). **CONSENT** – is the act of freely giving oneself to the other. The two people (male & female) must mean the words they are saying in the ceremony. If someone is planning not to allow the children to be raised Catholic or planning to "try out" marriage to see if it works, he or she is not consenting fully, and the marriage would probably be invalid. **FORM** – is the issue of how the marriage is contracted. A marriage of a Catholic before a Justice of the Peace, a non-Catholic minister, etc. is **NOT VALID**. A marriage without an official representative of the Catholic Church and two witnesses would not be valid (CCC 1630-31).

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**July 20 — July 26, 2025**

(MR): **In memory of Mike J. Sotak** (birthday 9/19)

offered by Dgtr: Elaine Cassidy

(NS): **In memory of Mike Seman, Jr.**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2025

offered by Sister: + Velma ..... (NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2025





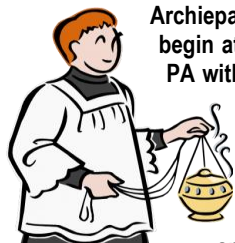
# General Announcements

**UNITED IN HOLY MATRIMONY** — A Nuptial (Marriage) Ceremony was celebrated Saturday afternoon, June 14, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at (MR) Holy Ghost Church for Brandon Robert Hatton and Mickayla Elizabeth Poloka (MR-Holy Ghost Church). Our parish family extends to Brandon and Mickayla it's most sincere congratulations and prayerful best wishes as they commence their new life together as husband and wife. Their honeymoon will take place at a later date. May God grant them peace, health and salvation for many happy and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

**(MR) & (NS) PARISHES LEND A HELPING HAND TO FISHER HOUSE** — Our Parishes are continuing 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.



**SCHEDULE OF ALTAR SERVER FAITH & FUN DAY** — The *2025 Faith & Fun Day* for Archieparchial Altar Servers will be on 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 sign up. 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.*



## 6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**Trust that God will do the best** — Read Matthew 9: 1-8

Those who brought the paralytic to Jesus did so because they believed in Him. It was faith in Jesus that inspired them to come to Him. It was also love for their paralyzed friend that emboldened them to make their way through the crowd and bring him to Jesus. The carrying of the paralytic to Christ by his friends is an image of the Church. As members of the Body of Christ, we are called to carry our needy brethren to the Lord, through intercession and charity. St Paul says that we are to bear one another's burdens and thus fulfill the law of Christ (Gal. 6:2). At the same time, we have to accept the fact that we often



need others to carry *us*, since we too are afflicted and weak and needy, in constant need of forgiveness and healing. This is how the Lord wants his love to flow within the Church: when we happen to be strong, we are to carry others; when we are weak, others are to carry us. Jesus recognized both their faith in Him and their love for their paralyzed friend, yet what He first granted was not what they had originally come to Him for. They wanted physical healing, but Jesus first granted forgiveness of sins. When we encounter Jesus, we have to be prepared to let go of our presuppositions and expectations. He may manifest Himself in a way that runs counter to the image of Him we may have built up in our own thoughts and prayers. He may do things in our lives, in our souls, that we do not expect, and perhaps that we do not even *like*. He may upset our comfortable piety with a divine wake-up call that will leave us reeling and realizing that we didn't know it all after all, but were blind and ignorant until the light of Christ showed us both our sins and his glory. The paralytic wanted to walk, but Jesus took away his sins. Yet even if the paralytic was initially disappointed, he must have taken courage as Jesus told him to and put his trust in the Lord. For Jesus did in fact give the man what he wanted, but only after giving him what *He* wanted to give, which was the most important thing. The lesson: Trust that God will do what is best!

**Tip of the day:** Jesus does not wait to see the faith of the ignorant ... Yet he does not refuse to help the faith of another, so that by grace alone he confers whatever is proper of the divine will (Chrysalises). In other words, bring others to prayer and place them at the feet of Christ!

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

July 20 ..... Feast of the Holy Prophet Elijah followed by Blessing of Vehicles.  
 July 24 ..... Annual Byzantine Catholic Family Day at Kennywood Amusement Park  
 August 1 - 14 ..... Commencement of the Savorial Fast (Spasovka).  
 August 4 ... Archieparchial Altar Server Faith & Fun Day Pirates vs. Giants (cf) encl. article.  
 August 6 ... Feast of the Transfiguration – (MR) 9:00 a.m. (NS) 6:00 p.m. Blessing of grapes and fruits.  
 August 14 ... (MR) Great Vespers w/DL for Feast of Dormition of Theotokos (Obligation) 7:00 pm  
 August 15 Feast of the Dormition – Blessing: Herbs & Flowers – (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.  
 August 29 ....Beheading Feast of St. John Baptist (Simple HD) – (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.  
 September 1 ..... Commencement of the New Ecclesiastical (Church) Year.

### Saint of the Week — July 22

#### MYRRH-BEARER & CO-EQUAL TO THE APOSTLES

One of the myrrh-bearing women and "equal to the apostles," Mary was born in the town of Magdala, along the shore of Lake Gennesaret, and was of the tribe of Issachar. She was tormented by seven evil spirits—from which she was freed by the Lord Jesus and made her whole. She was a faithful follower and servant of the Lord during His earthly life. She stood beneath the Cross on Golgotha and grieved bitterly with the All-Holy Birth-giver of God. After the death of the Lord she visited His sepulcher three times. When the Lord rose again, she saw Him on two occasions: once by herself, and once with the other myrrh-bearing women. She traveled to Rome and appeared before Tiberias Caesar, presenting him with a red-colored egg, and giving him the salutation: "Christ is Risen!" She also denounced Pontius



Pilate to Caesar for his unjust condemnation of the Lord Jesus. Caesar accepted her accusation and transferred Pilate from Jerusalem to Gaul where, in disfavor with the emperor, this unjust judge died of a dread disease. After this, she returned from Rome to Ephesus, to assist St. John the Theologian in the work of preaching the Gospel. With great love toward the resurrected Lord, with great zeal for the Faith and as a true apostle of Christ, she proclaimed the Holy Gospel to the world. She died peacefully in Ephesus. According to tradition, the cave she was buried in was the same cave in which the Seven Youths (August 4) later slept a wondrous sleep for hundreds of years, then came to life and again died. The relics of St. Mary Magdalene were later transferred to Constantinople. There is a beautiful convent dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene near the Garden of Gethsemane.

## General Announcements

**HOLY DAY & BLESSING OF VEHICLES TODAY** — This is the immovable Feast of the Holy Prophet. Elijah the Tishbite. It is an annual custom of our Byzantine Catholic Church to bless vehicles on this day. This beautiful memorial arose from the fact that near the end of his life the Lord sent a fiery chariot from heaven to take Elijah away. This happened in the presence of his disciple Elisha to whom was given double the power of his mentor to carry on the ministry. Since our vehicles are "as fast as the wind" as indicated in the prayer blessing, we pray that God will protect us from harm, and at the same time praise and thank God for this gift to glorify Him by assisting us in the service of God and neighbor. Please stay for the blessing following each Divine Liturgies.



**FUN AT THE PARISH PICNIC LAST WEEK** — It was a beautiful day at last Sunday's Parish Picnic. This was an 'old fashion style gathering at Clever Park underneath the large picnic shelter. There was plenty of food and games for all for the entire afternoon. We are grateful to those who organized the event: Staff: Elaine Kurtanich, GCU representatives Donna & Harry GCU representatives purchasing and grilling the hotdogs, hamburgers, plates and plasticware. Thank you to all who worked with them. Also, gratitude is extended to Jim Kurtanich for providing delicious ice cream for all picnickers. Once again, a special thank you to John Wovchko for reserving the shelter all the way back in January. God bless all of you for making this day a memorable one.



**THE OFFICE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY** — invites all teens aged 12-17 to *Take the Plunge 2025 - A ByzanTeen Splash Bash & More!* Date: July 26, 2025 (Saturday) Where? Saint Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Chapel, Pebble Beach Ct, Beaver, PA 15009 and Seven Oaks Pool, 132 Lisbon Rd, Beaver, PA 15009 Register by July 21, 2025 The registration fee is \$25, which includes lunch and all activities. Please make checks payable to "METROPOLITAN ARCHDIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH" and mail to: METROPOLITAN ARCHDIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH, The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, 66 Riverview Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15214. Registration form: <https://forms.gle/9Nx4H87RpitXtSDT8> More details can be found here: Take the Plunge 2025 – A ByzanTeen Splash Bash & More! | Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

**FEAST OF PASSING OF BLESSED BISHOP-MARTYR BASIL HOPKO** — This Wednesday, July 23, mark the passing to eternity of this beloved Byzantine Catholic hierarchy. On April 28, 1950, the Communist government seized complete control of Czechoslovakia and liquidated the Presov Eparchy. Bishop Hopko was imprisoned and tortured. Many years of imprisonment and harsh treatment took a final toll on his health. In the Spring of 1968, a liberalization of the Communist regime took place and the government agreed to re-establish the Church. He became chaplain to the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate who also took care of him. On Friday, July 23, 1976 following a light lunch, and being helped in an easy chair, he gave up his spirit to the Lord whom he loved and faithfully served. The late Pope John Paul II beatified him on September 14, 2004. His relics were solemnly transferred to the Presov Cathedral the following week, and rest beneath the altar adjacent to the chapel of Blessed Paul Gojdich. He was 72 years old. *His Feast Day is May 1<sup>st</sup>*. Let us continue to fervently pray for his Canonization. Veneration of his holy relics will follow the Divine Liturgy.

