

Parish Offerings – 9th Sunday after Pentecost — August 10, 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 (\$2,052) YP (\$9)	\$2,061.00
Holy Day (\$275) YP (\$6)	281.00
Votive Candles	118.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,460.00

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$526) YP (\$1)	\$527.00
Holy Day (\$75) YP (\$5) Utilities (\$20) Improvement (\$40)	140.00
Votive Candles	126.00
	<hr/>
	\$793.00

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (34) — Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (52); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (32)
 Dormition Feast — Aug. 14 (MR) 7:00 p.m. (20); Aug 15 (MR) 9:00 a.m. (26); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (22)



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
 .. 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

The 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Postfestive of the Dormition Feast — August 17, 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 – 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.



Valerian F. Szal

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

Michael P. Ferrell,
 Supervisor, CFSP

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North Side Parishioner

Alan Valeriano
(412) 638-3417 PA 172370

Time for School, CHARLIE BROWN



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).

August 17, 2025

Volume XV, Number 34



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**

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Postfestive of the Dormition Feast

SUN, Aug 17	9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	11:00 a.m. (NS) + Msgr. Peter P. Tay	Johanna & Brad Spontak
Mon, Aug 18	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Aaron Leshko <i>(11th ann of passing)</i>	Eleanor Gramata & Son: George
Tue, Aug 19	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Dan Pikras <i>(2nd ann of passing 8/15)</i>	Son: Dino & Family
Wed, Aug 20	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen Kriska	Anonymous
Thrs, Aug 21	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen + Benjamin Michalik	Br. Regis, O.F.M.

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice) for the intention of the return to God and His Church of our family, relatives, friends, and parishioners

Fri, Aug 22 8:00 a.m. (MR) + A. Velma Seman Kurt Perschy



Final Day of the Dormition Feast

Sat, Aug 23 9:00 a.m. (NS) Living & Deceased of Dr. John A. Straka Family Dr. J.A.S.

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

11th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN, Aug 24	9:00 a.m. (MR) + John Kulka <i>(19th ann of passing 8/26)</i>	Children: Kathy & John
	11:00 a.m. (NS) + Albert F. Stratemier <i>(40th day of passing 8/20)</i>	Sister: Mary Frances & Ed Spontak

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

Aug 18 – Peter Zubritzky; **Aug 19** – Anna Colbert; **Aug 20** – Nancy Lecci; **Aug 21** Carmella Rippole; **Aug 22** – Albert Barnash.

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

HOME: Ted Babin, Margaret Belunas, Dolores & William Boras, Nancy Debranski-Ferrell, John Kutchmark, Sr., Monica Lemesh, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Michael Kachuta, Steve Kosko, Albert Kovacs, Sr; Karen 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.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Is bisexuality okay? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** No. Bisexuality involves homosexual acts, which are condemned in Scripture (Lv 18:22, 20:13; Gn 18:20; I Cor 6:9-10; CCC 2357, 2353). Bisexuality is contrary to the monogamous and heterosexual lifestyle set forth by God. It is no more acceptable than homosexuality or any other sin against chastity. Bisexuality has become “fashionable” in recent years. This is due to the breakdown of stable family structures, insidious information on television and in the movies, a lack of good moral formation in our schools, and a general breakdown in the morals of society. Scripture speaks of how lust in man’s heart will lead to degrading practices (Rom 1:26-27). Sin fuels more sin. There is no limit to where the sinful human heart can go (Eph 2:3; Rom 1:19-25).

This Week’s Sanctuary Lamps

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

August 17 – August 23, 2025

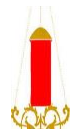
(...R): **In memory of Anne Hrebenak** *(23rd ann of passing 8/22)*

offered by Fr. Luke, Maria & Anita Iyengar

(NS): **In memory of Agnes Knoll**

NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2025

offered by Dgr: Leslie O’Donnell . (NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2025

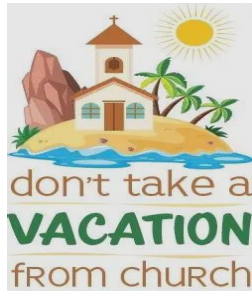


General Announcements

(MR) SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of parishioner **Lorraine June "Bunny" Zavidny, 94**, of Harmony, PA on Saturday, August 2, 2025. She preceded by her beloved husband John of whom they were married for 55 years. They have three children: Mark (Lisu), Robin (Tom) Watkins, Penny (Jim) Kane. Also, several grandchildren, great-grandchildren along with sister-in-law, Beverly Pospychala. She served many years as a faithful worker of the Holy Ghost Pirohi Project to which her family thanks all the Pirohi Workers who participated in the candle-vigil in her honor with candles prior and following the Divine Liturgy. The Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home handled arrangements. Interment was at Resurrection Cemetery, Moon Township, PA on Aug. 6. Our parish family extends its most sincere condolences and prayer support to the Zavidny Family. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant, Lorraine, and remember her forever! *Vičnaja Jej Pamjat'!*

Resurrection Cemetery, Moon Township, PA on Aug. 6. Our parish family extends its most sincere condolences and prayer support to the Zavidny Family. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant, Lorraine, and remember her forever! *Vičnaja Jej Pamjat'!*

SUMMER IS NOT A TIME TO VACATION FROM WORSHIPPING GOD — Now that Summer is here many are vacationing. Please remember to keep the worship of God in your plans. The first Precept of the Church is to participate in the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. *This does not exclude vacation time!* The place to worship God is at the Divine Liturgy. He is most kind and merciful, sustaining and gifting us in all that we have and need. *A voluntarily absence without serious reason makes one guilty of mortal sin, and unable to worthily approach Holy Communion until the sinful neglect is confessed in the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (making a sacramental Confession).* If you know where you are traveling and that there is no Catholic Church, please inform the Pastor so that a dispensation may be considered. Also, *you can download an app on your cell phone called "Mass Times."*



PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT DIVINE LITURGY & SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTIONS UNTIL ANNOUNCED — Until the 2026 Ecclesiastical Record Book arrives, the Church office will not be accepting intentions for the new year. An announcement will be appearing in a future edition of the S.O.T. when you may begin reserving your special date requests. As announced last year, *the Chancery has raised the stipend to \$20.00.* An offering of the Divine Liturgy is extremely efficacious for their soul to be purified. Thank you so much for your patience and consideration.

AN ON-GOING ANNOUNCEMENT: PASTOR CONTINUES TO MAKE SACRAMENTAL CALLS WHEN NOTIFIED — If you have been away from the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments), but are homebound, our pastor is more than willing to make a sacramental visitation to your residence. Remember, it is your responsibility to contact him. **Please phone the parish office (412) 771-3324** and set a time when Father may visit you. Remember: **SACRAMENTS AND PRAYER ARE VITALLY ESSENTIAL** for your immortal soul! He is looking forward hearing from you!



TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Do You Have A Mustard Seed Size Faith? (Mt 17: 14-23)

Faith that is the size of a mustard seed – even faith the size of the smallest seeds – is faith that can make a tree that can change the world. A person with faith the size of such a seed can be a full participant in God's plan. There is no minimum amount needed in order to be claimed by Christ. Your faith, no matter how weak and no matter how small is enough. So, don't be afraid to use your mustard seed faith, discover what you can do with the faith that you have, and practice using the faith that you have been given. If you do, you just might find that your tiny mustard seed faith will grow into something truly amazing! Faith is to live by entrusting oneself to God's promises. Faith is always God's gift and never our own accomplishment. Faith is ever and only a

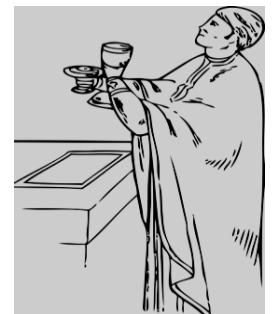
response empowered by an amazing grace originating from outside of our own efforts that enables us to entrust ourselves willingly to One we have found trustworthy. It is especially, through word and sacrament that God bestows this faith. The words of Jesus are not meant to emphasize an extraordinary physical phenomenon. Rather the contrast between the mountain and the grain of mustard seed stresses the infinite possibilities which are open to authentic faith. It is evident here that Jesus intends our faith to be something other than a simple intellectual adherence to revealed truth. Jesus speaks of faith as being a humble and total trust in the all-powerful goodness of God. If I have but a grain of authentic faith, I can risk making that faith the basis of my life in all circumstances, confident that God will grant the true and best solutions to all my difficulties. That would be my way of removing mountains.

FROM A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE:

The importance of Sunday and Participating at the Divine Liturgy

The following article was written by a Catholic Apologist, Matt Nelson and taken from Catholic Answers Webpage. This abridges article briefly teaches us the importance of Sunday and worshipping at the Divine Liturgy. Space does not permit the entire article.

Every Sunday "the whole Christ" is reunited in and through the Holy Eucharist. Moreover, our choice to participate is salvific: "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you" (John 6:53). Theologian Colin Donovan reminds us that "in the Mass (Divine Liturgy) it is Christ himself who worships the Father, joining our worship to his. In no other way is it possible to adequately give thanks (Eucharistic) to God . . . than by uniting our offerings to that of Jesus Christ himself." Christ does with us in the Mass (Divine Liturgy) what we cannot do alone: make a perfect offering to the Father. The key to understanding why Catholics must attend Sunday Mass (Divine Liturgy) lies above all in the essence of the Mass (Divine Liturgy) itself. Our duty to be willing participants **IS NOT rooted in how it makes us feel but in what it is.** As the sacred meeting place of God and man, the Mass (Divine Liturgy) reorients our lives towards God, reunites us with him in love, and thereby communicates the grace of salvation to our souls. In the long run, there can be nothing more productive than that.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 16-17 School Year Blessing of Students & Teachers.
 Aug. 29 **Beheading of St. John Baptist (Simple) – (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.**
August 29 – Sept. 1 91st Annual Pilgrimage, Mt. St. Macrina, Uniontown.
 September 1 Commencement of the New Ecclesiastical (Church) Year.
 Sept 7 Archeparchial Celebration of Marriage for Jubilarians, St. Elias Church, Munhall @ 3:00 pm
 Sept 8 Feast of Nativity of the Theotokos – (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 Sept 14 Universal Elevation of Precious Cross. Weekend DLs begin 15 minutes earlier

Saint of the Week — August 21

Saint Thaddeus one of the Seventy Apostles

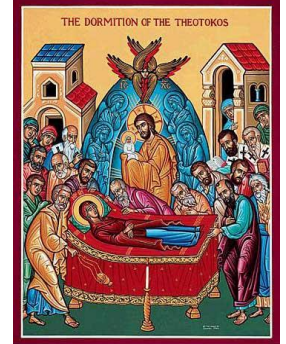
Saint Thaddeus, Apostle of the Seventy, was by descent a Hebrew, and he was born in the Syrian city of Edessa. *The holy Apostle Thaddeus of the Seventy must be distinguished from St Jude, also called Thaddeus or Levi (June 19), who was one of the Twelve Apostles.* When he came to Jerusalem for a feast day, he heard the preaching of John the Forerunner. After being baptized by him in the Jordan, he remained in Palestine. He saw the Savior and became His follower. He was chosen by the Lord to be one of the Seventy Disciples, whom He sent by twos to preach in the cities and places where He intended to visit (Luke. 10: 1). After the Ascension of the Savior to Heaven, St Thaddeus preached the good news in Syria and Mesopotamia. He came preaching the Gospel to Edessa and he converted King Abgar, the



people and the pagan priests to Christ. He backed up his preaching with many miracles (about which Abgar wrote to the Assyrian emperor Nerses). He established priests there and built up the Edessa Church. Prince Abgar wanted to reward St Thaddeus with rich gifts, but he refused and went preaching to other cities, converting many pagans to the Christian Faith. He went to the city of Beirut to preach, and he founded a church there. It was in this city that he peacefully died in the year 44. (The place of his death is indicated as Beirut in the Slavonic MENAION, but according to other sources he died in Edessa. According to an ancient Armenian tradition, St Thaddeus, after various tortures, was beheaded by the sword on December 21 in the Arta region in the year 50).

General Announcements

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION THIS PAST WEEK — Last Thursday, Aug.15 was *THE FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD* and a Holy Day of Obligation. The Canon Law of our Byzantine Catholic Church states: *“The Christian faithful are **bound by the obligation** to participate on Sundays and feast days (Holy Days of Obligation) at the Divine Liturgy” (Canon 881#1); and “are recommended to receive the Divine Eucharist on these days ...” (Canon 881 #3); “and should abstain from those labors or business matters which impede the worship to be rendered to God” (Canon 881 #4). **Neglectful fulfillment of this precept renders one guilty of mortal sin, therefore, unworthy to receive the Holy Eucharist, until one makes a worthy sacramental Confession of this voluntary neglect.***



BLESSING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN & TEACHERS TODAY — Following each of the Divine Liturgies **this weekend August 16-17, 2025** all Students and Teachers will be asked to come forward for a blessing as they commence the Academic Year of 2025-2026 in their various schools, colleges, and universities. Since many of these institutions begin earlier each year, the opportunity to receive this blessing comes the third weekend of August. Receive God’s blessing and be enriched by His tender mercy. All teachers and students are invited to come forward.



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.** Names that have been submitted to the chancery this past week are: **(MR)** Barnash, Poloka, Stebbins, Stecko, & Wauthier; **(NS)** Helms, & Kallop. If your name is not listed, please contact Fr. Firko A.S.A.P.



BLESSING OF FLOWERS AND HERBS THIS PAST WEEK — At Both parishes on the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos, flowers and herbs were solemnly blessed. Each family was asked to bring them for this blessing which occurs on this holy day. Since the aromatic fragrance came forth from her tomb and witnessed by the apostles. Thanks to all who continue to participate and transmit this annual tradition.

