

Parish Offerings – 8th Sunday after Pentecost — August 3, 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 (\$2,671) YP (\$5)	\$2,676.00
Holy Day	50.00
Votive Candles	272.50

\$2,998.50

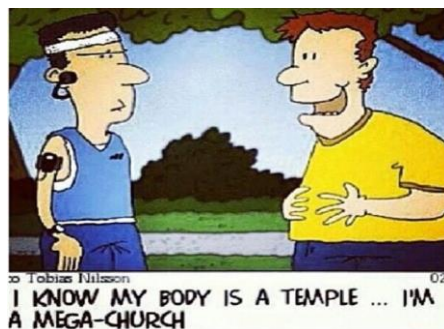
Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$937) YP (\$1)	\$938.00
Utilities	15.00
Votive Candles	52.00

\$1,005.00

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (31) — Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (49); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (22)
Transfiguration Feast — Aug. 6 (MR) 9:00 a.m. (20); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (16)



Valerian F. Szal

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

Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP

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Randy



North Side Parishioner

**Alan
Valeriano**

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

HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET

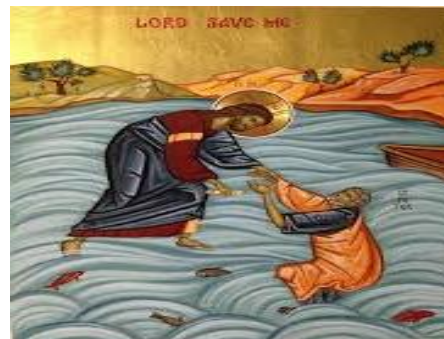
.. 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

The 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Postfestive of the Transfiguration — August 10, 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.

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 10, 2025

Volume XV, Number 33



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



<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Intention</i>	<i>Requested By</i>
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9th Sunday after Pentecost

Postfestive of the Transfiguration Feast

SUN, Aug 10 9:00 a.m. (MR) *For the Parishioners of Both Parishes*

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Agnes + Anthony Knoll Son: William

Mon, Aug 11 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Deceased Vrabel Family Julia Ann & George F. Mosko

Tue, Aug 12 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Debra Charochak Beverly Brandy

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice) for the intention of the return of our family, relatives, friends, and parishioners
Final Day of the of the Transfiguration Feast



Wed, Aug 13 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Robert Bordas Family

Prefestive of the Feast of the Dormition of the Holy Theotokos

Thrs, Aug 14 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen Perschy (birthday) Son: Kurt

Great Vespers w/ Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Dormition — Holy Day of Obligation

7:00 p.m. (MR) + Dan Pikras (2nd ann of passing) Son: Dino & Family

Feast of the Dormition of the Holy Theotokos

Holy Day of Obligation — Solemn Blessing Flowers and Herbs — Mirovanije

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



FRI, AUG 15 9:00 a.m. (MR) *For the Parishioners of Both Parishes*

6:00 p.m. (NS) + Mary + Michael Korim, Jr. (ann of passings) Nephew: Fr. Firko

Sat, Aug 16 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Louise Georgevich Jan Herczak

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) Health & Welfare of Al Barnash (birthday 8/22) Wife: Christine

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

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 10 – Betty Wickline; Aug 12 – Linda Reiger; Aug 14 – Judd Varga; Aug 16 – Janet Sendro

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. Does the Catholic Church allow birth control? A. Answer by Catholic Answers: One of the most awesome gifts God gave us is the ability to generate new life made in His image. Human beings (one male & one female) are co-creators with God in this process. Contraception deliberately thwarts this God-given gift by treating conception as an evil to be avoided. The sin of contraception may be committed by use of contraception pills, condoms, spermicides, physical or chemical “barriers,” sterilization, and other means. None of these are morally acceptable forms of family planning. On the other hand, there are morally acceptable means of “regulating births.” Natural Family Planning (NFP) uses the signs of a woman’s natural monthly cycle to determine fertility. God deigned the marital act with two inherent meanings. These meanings are “written into” the act itself. They are the “unitive” or person-uniting meaning (Gn. 2:24) and the “procreative” or person-begetting meaning (Gn. 1:28). These two meanings are interrelated and are intended by God to be present in every act of copulation.



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

August 10 — August 16, 2025

(MR): **In memory of Deceased Vrabel Family**

offered by Julia Ann & George F. Mosko

(NS): **In memory of A. Velma Seman**

NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2025

offered by Friend

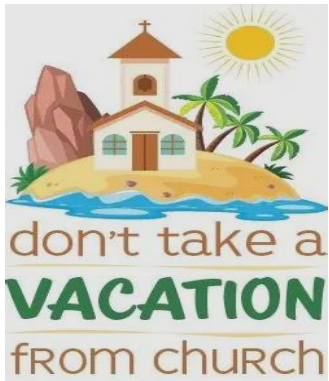
(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2025

General Announcements

BLESSING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN & TEACHERS IN TWO WEEKS — Following each of the Divine Liturgies on the weekend of August 16 & 17, 2025 all Students and Teachers will be asked to come forward for a blessing as they commence the actual and/or virtual 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. *There is a RSVP for both teachers & students via phone call, or email if you plan to participate in this blessing by Monday, August 11.*



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."*



GRATITUDE EXTENDED — This past week, our MR Church was gifted with a new wheelchair. We thank Lynn Deliman for this new gift. Occasionally, we had to employ the old one in needed circumstances. Hopefully, we'll never have to use it, but (just in case) it's here! Thank you, Lynn, and may God grant you many happy and blessed years!



Don't Forget: Bring a basket of flowers and herbs for its Solemn Blessing this week on The Feast of the Dormition

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Faith is measured by doing what He asks (Matthew 14:22-34)

Jesus said get out of the boat. Jesus told Peter he had little faith because he began thinking about the storm and doubted. How much faith did

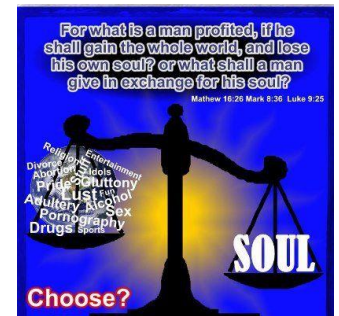


those who never got out of the boat have? Jesus is telling us to get out of the boat. Afraid of terrorists? Get out of the boat. Afraid to talk to your teenager? Get out of the boat. Talk to them anyway. Afraid of what people will think if you lead? Get out of the boat. Lead anyway. Have faith that people will follow. Getting out of the boat is taking the next step. Has God called you to do the impossible? Start! Get out of the boat! He will not leave you stranded. If He's given you the job, He'll give you the tools to get it done. If He has not, you will find out sooner if you get out of the boat. Step out in faith. Refuse

to be frozen in fear; of failure, of what people think, of opposition. Think about this...Peter failed at walking on water. He began to sink. But Jesus was right there to pull him up. He will be there for us, too. It was not being right that made Peter the one Jesus chose to carry on after Him. Peter was wrong much of the time, sometimes in very embarrassing ways. It was not his fearlessness. He denied Jesus at a crucial moment. It was not his careful, diplomatic use of words, he blurted out some of the most foolish things. What was it? Peter was willing to get out of the boat. Let us not be frozen in fear, but in faith, act.

How do you Determine if you may receive Holy Communion or not?

By your examining your informed conscience to determine, as best as you can, whether you are in the state of grace. If you have committed any mortal sins that have not been confessed, you ARE NOT in the state of grace (1 Cor 11:28). If you are in the state of grace, you can and should receive the Eucharist. If you are not, you should not receive it. To do so would be the added sin of sacrilege (1 Cor 11:27; CCC 1385). As you grow in the spiritual life, you will generally find it is easier to determine whether you have committed any mortal sins (1 Jn 3:19-24, 4:13). In the meantime, learn and abide by the moral and directional teachings of our Catholic Faith. They are essentially the Ten Commandments, the Six Precepts of the Church (which includes attending the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation), and the virtues and vices that draw us near or apart from God's Plan for us.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 1 - 14 The duration of Savior's Fast (Spasovka).
 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 16-17 School Year Blessing of Students & Teachers.
 August 29 Beheading Feast of St. John Baptist (Simple HD) – (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 the Precious Cross. Weekend DLs begin 15 minutes earlier

Saint of the Week — August 10 The Holy Archdeacon-Martyr Lawrence of Rome

Little is known about St. Lawrence (Latin: Laurentius). His Acts were lost by the time of Augustine. Legend states that he was a native of Northern Spain, who had

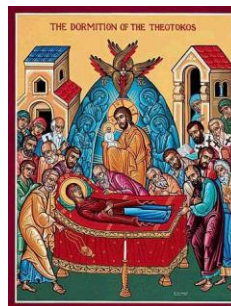


received instruction from St. Sixtus while he was an archdeacon in Rome. When Sixtus rose to the papacy in 257, Lawrence was ordained a deacon and was charged with the administration of ecclesiastical alms for the poor. In early August of 258, the Emperor Valerian issued an edict commanding that all bishops, priests, and deacons should be put to death immediately without trial. This command was immediately carried out throughout the city of Rome. On August 6, Pope Sixtus was arrested in the catacombs and executed with his two other deacons, Felicissimus and Agapitus. Lawrence is purported to have said as they were being led to torture, *"Where are you going, Holy Father, without your son? Where, O Bishop,*

without your archdeacon? Before you never approached the altar of sacrifice without your servant, and now you are going without me?" St. Sixtus was said to have prophesied that he would follow them soon after. The imperial authorities soon came to St. Lawrence to demand access to the church treasury. In the course of three days after the death of the Pope and his fellow archdeacons, St. Lawrence worked quickly to distribute as much of the ecclesiastical monies to the poor as possible. On the third day, at the head of a small tribunal, he presented himself to the prefect, and when ordered to give up the treasures of the Church, he led them to a room. There he presented the poor, crippled, and maimed, proclaiming, *"Behold the jewels of the Church! The Church is truly rich, far richer, than your emperor."* On August 10, St. Lawrence was perfected in holy martyrdom, grilled on a gridiron for his faith. Legend says that he was so strong-willed that, instead of giving in and releasing information to the Romans at the point of death, he cried, *"I'm done on this side! Turn me over and eat!"* In some iconography, he is often depicted holding his gridiron.

General Announcements

OBLIGATORY HOLY DAY THIS WEEK — Friday, Aug. 15, is the *Feast of the Dormition (Falling-Asleep) of the Mother of God,, and her Glorious Assumption into Heaven.* It is



the most ancient Marian Feast of the Church. It is customary to bless flowers and herbs on this day. This custom of the Church arose when the Holy Theotokos fell-asleep on Mount Zion and of the apostles were miraculously transported back to Jerusalem with the exception of St. Thomas. Following the funeral procession along the Kidron Valley to the Gethsemane tomb, they returned to Mount Zion. Thomas later arrived and urged the apostles to take him to view and pray before the mortal remains. When then arrived at the tomb an aromatic fragrance of flowers and herbs filled the air near the spot when they laid her. Her most pure body was no longer present.

Receiving a vision that she was transferred to heaven, the apostles rejoiced and strengthened to proclaim the Good News of her beloved Son, Jesus. Following the Divine Liturgies flowers and herbs will be solemnly blessed as a thanksgiving offering. *Since flowers symbolize the beauty of Eternal Life, and herbs a healing remedy for the body, you may wish to take a blessed flower and place it on the grave(s) of your loved one(s) as a symbol of faith and a prayer that they may be resting in the eternal Kingdom of heaven. Bring flowers and herbs for this special blessing!* Check the liturgical page for the times of the Divine Liturgies. It is a Holy Day of Obligation!

LAST DAY OF THE ANNUAL COLLECTION TO FISHER HOUSE — Today is the final day to deposit supplies for our summer alms-giving collection to the VA Fisher House. All will be transported early tomorrow morning. If you have any questions, please contact Tina Burns (412) 618-6567.

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 by August 11 and register. Thus far 5 have registered.*



FR. LUKE IS STILL AWAITING AN ASSIGNMENT — Still no word where he will be assigned. As soon as we find out, the S.O.T will relay the first-handed information! In the meantime, he will be assisting here at his home parish and serve where he is needed. Patience Father Luke, and thank you for being here with us!

