

Parish Offerings – 10th Sunday after Pentecost — August 17, 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 (\$6,662) YP (\$7)	\$1,669.00
Holy Day (\$447) YP (\$4)	451.00
Votive Candles	146.50

\$2,266.50

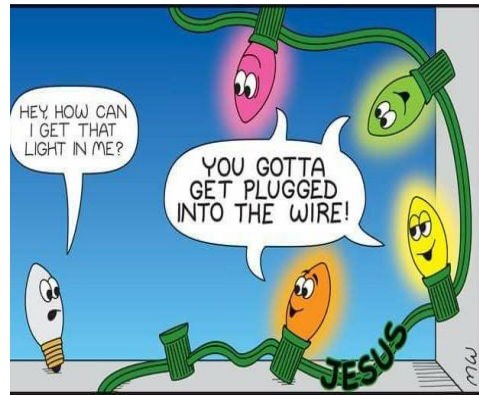
Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$621.25) YP (\$2)	\$623.25
Holy Day (\$45) YP (\$1)	46.00
Votive Candles	74.00

.. \$743.25

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (34) — Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (52); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (32)



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**



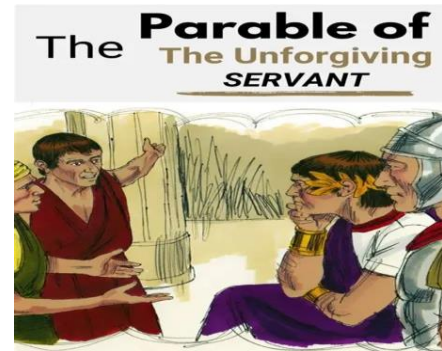
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
.. 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

The 11th Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 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 24, 2025

Volume XV, Number 35



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

11th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Mon, Aug 25 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Msgr. Russell A. Duker *(birthday 8/20)* Friend

Tue, Aug 26 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Kenneth M. Shanta *(birthday 8/19)* ... Lisa Plutto

Wed, Aug 27 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Julia (Miklos) Sibenik Son: Steven
(8th ann of passing 8/26)

Thrs, Aug 28 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Geraldine + Joe Babin Joe, Mary Ann & Jim
(wed. ann 8/27)

Beheading of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner & Baptist, John — Simple Holy Day



Traditional Day of Strict Abstinence (no meat or dairy) — RECOMMENDED
 SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (No Meat) & no serving or eating on a platter or dish

FRI, AUG 29 9:00 a.m. (MR) *For the Parishioners of Both Parishes*
 6:00 p.m. (NS) + Mary Sahayda Dgtr: Mimi Smith

Sat, Aug 30 8:00 a.m. (NS) + Ronald J. Hirschfield Dgtr: Susan & Family

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Diane M. Bell *(1st ann of passing 8/29)* Dgtr: Kim Zoldos & Family

12th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN, Aug 24 9:00 a.m. (MR) *For the Parishioners of Both Parishes*
 11:00 a.m. (NS) + A. Velma Seman Mary Ann Smoley

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 25 – Lori Lee Rippole; Aug 27 – Ilona Goyda; Aug 29 – William Babin, JUDITH BERCIK.

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

HOME: Ted Babin, Margaret Beliunas, Dolores & William Boras, 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. What difference does it make what religion you are, as long as you live like Christ? A. Catholic Answers Apologist: If someone does everything Jesus calls him to do, then he will--among other things--believe in Jesus and join his Church. Christ set up *one* Church for his believers to join. In Matthew 16:18, he says to Peter "Upon this Rock I will build my Church," not "I will build my churches...." Worship and religious affiliation are part of what Jesus commanded his followers, and so what religion you belong to *does* matter.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

August 24 — August 30, 2025

(MR): **In memory of Geraldine & Joe Babin** *(wed. ann. 8/27)*

offered by Michael, Jon, J.T., & Alex

(NS): **In memory of Michael Seman**

NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2025

offered by Dgtr: + Velma

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2025

General Announcements

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of the Byzantine Catholic iconographer, Miluse “Mila” Mina, 97, of San Diego, CA, where she passed peacefully on Wednesday, August 6, 2025. She was internationally known for her colorful and inspirational iconography especially here in the U.S.A. She had written many of the icons in Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks several decades ago mystically bringing a sense of heaven to earth. She preceded her beloved husband Albert who passed in 2009. They had four children, one who was ordained a priest and served prior to his retirement at Ascension Church in Clairton., Fr. John Mina. The Bekavak Funeral Home, Clairton handled arrangements. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was offered on Saturday, Aug. 16 followed by the Interment at Calvary Cemetery, Mount Saint Macrina, Uniontown, PA. Our parish family extends its most sincere condolences and prayer support to the Mina Family. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant, Mila, 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.”*

NEWLY ORDAINED EXPRESSES GRATITUDE— Fr. Luke asked that the following message be published in the S.O.T.: *“Fr. Luke says a big THANK YOU to Holy Ghost Church for all the blessings he has received through our parish throughout the years and for everything surrounding his ordination, as well as for the generous monetary gift! (HGC-MR – presented him with a check for \$500.00). Know of my continued love and prayers. Thanks again!*

AN ON-GOING ANNOUNCEMENT: PASTOR CONTINUES TO MAKE SACRAMENTAL CALLS WHEN NOTIFIED — If you have been away from the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments), and 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!



ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Forgiveness is NECESSARY to be Forgiven!

(Matthew 18: 23-35)

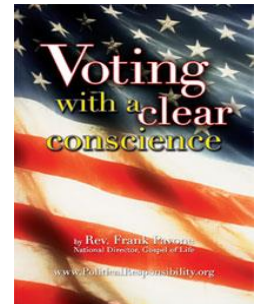
Unlimited forgiveness toward a brother or sister is illustrated by this parable. Sin is portrayed as a debt to God, a debt originated by neglecting God's will. Ten thousand talents as an impossible sum, more than a laborer could earn in all lifetime - is contrasted to a hundred denarii, equivalent to about a hundred days' wages. Just as the king shows mercy and severity toward the servant, so does God show love and strictness toward us depending on our willingness to forgive our brothers and sisters. The love of God is manifested in paying off the debt, a remission or letting go of sins. Because God forgives us, we in return are obliged to grant this gift of forgiveness to others. When each Christian forgives from his heart, true reconciliation and healing come to the Church by God's grace.



What are the 5 Non-Negotiables?

Voter's Guide for Serious Catholics to ponder and pray
YOUR ROLE AS A CATHOLIC VOTER

For Catholics, some issues concern “non-negotiable” moral principles on which there is no exception or compromise. There are numerous non-negotiable issues, but five of them are currently “in-play” politically in the United States. These five intrinsically evil actions are those that fundamentally conflict with the moral law and can never be performed under any circumstances. It is a serious sin to deliberately endorse or promote any of these actions, and citizens support these evils if they vote for candidates who do so. So, what are these five non-negotiables? Abortion: The Church teaches that, regarding a law permitting abortions, it is “never licit to obey it, or to take part in a propaganda campaign in favor of such a law, or to vote for it.” (EV 73) Euthanasia: Often disguised by the name “mercy killing,” euthanasia is actually a form of homicide. “True compassion cannot include intentionally doing something intrinsically evil to another person.” (EV 73). Embryonic Stem Cell Research: Human embryos are human beings. “Respect for the dignity of the human being excludes all experimentation or exploitation of the human embryo.” (CRF 4b). Human Cloning: Such attempts to create a human being “are to be considered contrary to the moral law, since they are in opposition to the dignity both of human procreation and of the conjugal union.” (RHL 1:6). Homosexual “Marriage”: It is an objectively immoral arrangement, and “the Catholic lawmaker has a moral duty to express his opposition clearly and publicly and to vote against it. To vote in favor ... is gravely immoral.” (UHP 10).



Calendar of Upcoming Events

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 Archieparchial 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
 Sept. 21 Catechetical Sunday & Commissioning of the Catechists. Beginning of ECF school year
 Oct.1 Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos — Feast of the Metropolitan Province.
 (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m

Save the date: Deanery Pasta Dinner – Oct. 19 @ 3:00 p.m. – St. Elias Church, Munhall.

Simple Holy Day This Week

Beheading of St. John the Baptist — August 29

Herod Antipas, son of the elder Herod, who was the slayer of the children of Bethlehem at the time of the birth of the Lord Jesus, was ruler of Galilee at the time when John the Baptist was preaching. This Herod was married to the daughter of Aretas, an Arabian prince. But Herod, an evil sprout of an evil root, put away his lawful wife and unlawfully took unto himself Herodias as his concubine, the wife of his brother Philip, who was still living. John the Baptist stood up against this lawlessness and strongly denounced Herod who then cast John into prison. At the time of a banquet in his court in Sebastia in Galilee Salome, the daughter of Herodias and Philip, danced before the guests. The drunken Herod was so taken by this dance that he promised Salome that he would give her whatever she asked of him, even though it be half of his kingdom.



Being persuaded by her mother, Salome asked for the head of John the Baptist. Herod gave the order and *John was beheaded in prison and his head brought to him on a platter*. John's disciples took the body of their teacher by night and honorably buried it, and Herodias pierced the tongue of John with a needle in many places and buried the head in an unclean place. However, God's punishment quickly befell this group of evil doers. Prince Aretas, in order to cleanse his daughter's honor, attacked Herod with his army and defeated him. The defeated Herod was sentenced by the Roman Caesar, Caligula, to exile at first to Gaul and later to Spain. As exiles, Herod and Herodias lived in poverty and humiliation until the earth opened up and swallowed them. Salome died an evil death on the Sikaris (Sula) river. The death of St. John occurred before the Passover but its celebration on *August 29 was established because*, on that day, a church which had been built over his grave in Sebastia by Emperor Constantine and Empress Helena was consecrated. In this church the relics of John's disciples, Eliseus and Audius, were also placed. *Divine Liturgies Wednesday, Aug. 29 (MR) @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 7:00 p.m. In the spirit of this feast try to avoid eating from a dish or platter but use a humble paper plate. The founders and benefactors of our Churches ate from the kitchen pots and pans on this day in St. John's honor! Some did not cut anything that resembled a head (e.g. cabbage, lettuce, even a tomato) with a knife!*

General Announcements

VA FISHER HOUSE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR ALMS

Well, the parishioners were wonderful again this year. The truck was filled to the brim.



The staff at the Fisher House again was in need of the supplies and overwhelmed by the graciousness of everyone. BIG thank you to everyone.— Tina Burns, Assistants, David Burns and Steve Puluka; **A NOTE OF GRATITUDE** — “We at the VA Pittsburgh Fisher House would like to thank each and every one of you for your unwavering support for our Veterans and their

families who stay at fisher house with us here in Pittsburgh. Since 2018 your congregations have worked hard to donate more than \$23,000 in supplies, pantry items and cash donations. We are incredibly grateful for each of you and could not provide this amazing “home away from home” for our Veterans and their families without you!” Heather Frantz, VA Pittsburgh Fisher House Manager

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR MOUNT ST. MACRINA PILGRIMAGE — It is our prayer that you can join the 91st Annual Pilgrimage in honor of the Theotokos under her precious title of Our Lady of Perpetual Help from August 29 through the September 1. If you have never attended a pilgrimage before, you are encouraged to make this one which contains a myriad of graces. If you are experiencing any difficulties or problems, need a prayer answered, or just wish to thank God through Mary for a blessing, make this special pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and lay them at her feet.



NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES — Our *Eastern Christian Formation (E.C.F.)* Classes will be commencing enrollment in the next few weeks. These sessions are open to students from both parishes. Registration which follows all Divine Liturgies beginning next week. All classes begin on Catechetical Sunday, September 17, 2023 following the Sunday morning (MR) DL. Parents, please enroll your children in this important program! Contact Co-ordinators, Leah Trapl (412) .297-6374 or Aimee Helms (412) 486-2709



LAST DAY TO 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.

