

Parish Offerings – 11th Sunday after Pentecost — August 24, 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 (\$2,092) YP (\$16)	\$2,108.00
Holy Day (\$134.) YP (\$2)	136.00
Votive Candles	157.00

\$2,401.00

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$917.) YP (\$1.)	\$918.00
Utilities (\$25) Improvements (\$25)	50.00
Votive Candles	54.00

.. \$1,022.00

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (33) — Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (69); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (22)

Beheading of St. John the Baptist, Aug 29 — (MR) 9:00 am (4); (NS) 6:00 pm (6)



Valerian F. Szal

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

Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP

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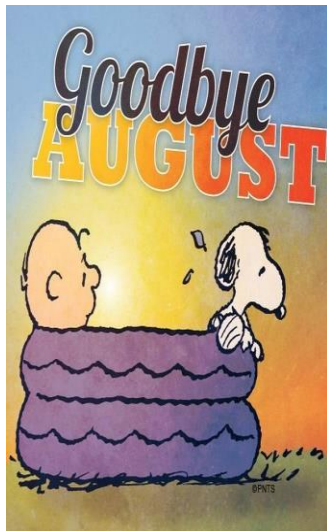


North Side Parishioner

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 12th Sunday after Pentecost

91st anniversary of Uniontown Pilgrimage — Aug. 31, 2024



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 31, 2025

Volume XV, Number 36



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

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Mount St. Macrina 91st Pilgrimage — Labor Day Weekend

SUN, Aug 31 9:00 a.m. (MR) *For the Parishioners of Both Parishes*
 11:00 a.m. (NS) + A. Velma Seman Mary Ann Smoley

Annual Labor Day — Federal Holiday — No Banks & Postal Service

Mon, Sept 1 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Deceased of Babin Family Joe Babin

Tue, Sept 2 8:00 a.m. (MR) + George E. Kraly... Zula Family
(66th ann of passing)

Wed, Sept 3 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Eleanor Kulka Arlott Family

Thrs, Sept 4 8:00 a.m. (MR) Healing & Blessings Dolly & Bill Gerwell
 for Bernice Herrick

First Friday of the Month — Reparation for the sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus
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, Sept 5  8:00 a.m. (MR) + Debra Charochak (birthday 9/5) Beverly Brandy

First Saturday of the month in reparation for blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Miracle of the Holy Angelic Commander, Michael the Archangel at Chonia

Sat, Sept 6 9:00 a.m. (NS) *For the Parishioners of Both Parishes*

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Amelia M. Sotak Dgtr: Elaine Cassidy
(6th ann of passing 9/11)

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Prefestive of the Nativity of the Theotokos

SUN, Sept 7 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Elizabeth Petruna (birthday 9/5) Forsmark & Podsiadly

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Gerard Slagle (2nd ann of passing) Wife: Alice & Family

3:00 p.m. (ST. ELIAS) **Marriage Jubilarians Anniversary Celebration**

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 31 — David Burns; Sept 1 — Joseph Babin; Sept 4 — Lynn Kacsur

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 if I don't feel like going to the Divine Liturgy? A. Catholic Apologist, Michelle Arnold: If going to the Divine Liturgy is about getting together once a week with a group of people to sing, say some prayers, and have coffee and doughnuts after, it would be understandable for someone to feel like he might have better ways to spend his Sunday mornings. But that isn't why Catholics go to the Divine Liturgy. *We go because the Divine Liturgy is the re-presentation in time and space of Christ's sacrifice on Calvary. Christ's passion, death, and resurrection are made present on the altar during the Divine Liturgy.* By attending, congregants are gathering around their Lord's Cross, much in the same way some of his disciples chose to do on that first Great Friday (the rest broke and ran). When we are present at the Divine Liturgy, we are standing vigil with the Lord in his agony, worshipping him, and receiving him sacramentally in Communion. If Christians do not "feel like" being present for *that*, can they possibly consider themselves disciples (followers) of Jesus Christ?



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

August 31 — Sept 7, 2025

(MR): **Health & Welfare of Rich Fitzpatrick**

offered by Kutchmark & Burns Families

(NS): **In memory of Nicole Ella Ringes**

NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2025 offered by Mom: Dawn Ringes & Family (NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2025



General Announcements

OUR PRIESTS RECEIVE NEW PASTORAL ASSIGNMENTS —The S.O.T. announces the pastoral assignment of Fr. Luke R. Iyengar and Fr. David A. Bosnich. The news was made known this past Friday. Fr. Luke has been assigned to two parishes effective on Tuesday, September 30, 2025. He has been appointed administrator of St. Mary Church, Weirton, WV and administrator of St. John the Baptist Church, Avella, PA. — Fr. David has been transferred to Eastern Ohio parishes. He will be administrator of St. Joseph Church, Toronto, OH, and administrator of St. John the Baptist Church, Mingo Junction, OH. His assignment takes place on Tuesday, September 30, 2025. In the meantime they will continue to celebrate with us of which we are very much appreciative. Keep Fr. Luke & Fr. David in your prayers as well as the Churches they will be serving. May God grant them many happy and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!



PRAISING AND THANKING GOD THROUGH OUR HOLY DAYS — As we mark the beginning of the new Church Year on September 1, we have the opportunity to renew the events of our salvation through all holy days. To praise and thank God for revealing His mercy to us with the promise of everlasting life. Holy days remind us of each of these special salvific events. *Over the years, the attendance has been steadily on the low side.* Show your love for God and His Church. The beauty of our Byzantine Catholic Church emphasizes much solemnity by commemorating several salvific events in our holy days throughout the year other than the required Sundays.



GRATITUDE TO FLOWER DONORS AT THE HOLY THEOTOKOS ICON — During the month August, two anonymous donors from the MR & NS Parishes graciously contributed flowers to our Blessed Mother's icon on the iconostasis on the Feast of the Dormition. May God richly bless you for this sacrificial gesture, and may the Holy Virgin always extend her vail of protection over you and your beloved! Symbolically, we can all donate "flowers of prayer" each time that we meditate and pray the Holy Rosary, Akathist or Moleben in her honor.

A Short History of Labor Day

The first Labor Day was celebrated on September 5, 1882, in New York City, when 10,000 workers marched from city hall to Union Square. Those who participated took a day off without pay and voiced their demands. In 1884, the first Monday in September was selected as the official holiday, and the Central Labor Union, who organized the first Labor Day, encouraged organizations in other cities to celebrate the workingman's holiday on that specific date. The concept spread throughout the country and was celebrated in most major industrial cities. The first state law recognizing Labor Day was passed by Oregon in 1887. That same year, four more states, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York, recognized Labor Day. By 1894, a total of 28 states have adopted the holiday, and in June Congress passed a federal act, making the first Monday in September a legal holiday. *President Grover Cleveland signed the bill* right after sending troops to quell a strike against the Pullman railroad company. Have a Happy and Safe Labor Day!



TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

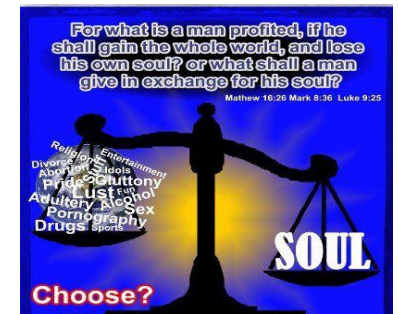
Jesus offers the same challenge today As He offered the Rich Man in today's Gospel (Matthew 19: 16-26)

The great truth of this story lies in the way it illumines the meaning of eternal life. Eternal life is life such as God himself lives. The word for eternal is aionios, which does not mean lasting or ever; it means such as befits God, or such as belongs to God, or such as is characteristic of God. The great characteristic of God is that He so loved and He gave. Therefore, the essence of eternal life is not a carefully calculated keeping of the commandments and the rules and the regulations; eternal life is based on an attitude of loving and sacrificial generosity to our fellowmen. If we would find eternal life, if we would find happiness, joy, satisfaction, peace of mind and serenity of heart, it shall not be by piling up a credit balance with God through keeping commandments and observing rules and regulations; it shall be through reproducing God's attitude of love and care to our fellowmen. To follow Christ and in grace and generosity to serve the men for whom Christ died are one and the same thing. In the end the young man turned away in great distress. He refused the challenge because he had great possessions. His tragedy was that he loved things more than he loved people; and he loved himself more than he loved others. Any man who puts things before people and self before others, must turn his back on Jesus Christ.



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

By your examining your 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 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 teachings of our Faith. They are essentially the Ten Commandments, the Six Precepts of the Church, and the virtues and vices that draw us near or apart from God's Plan for us.



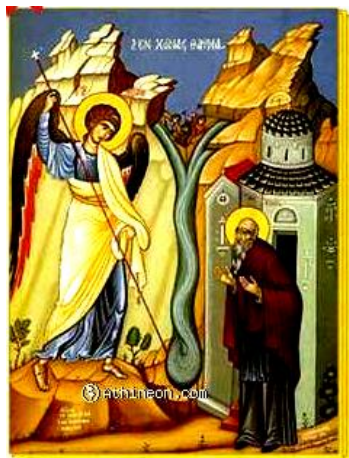
Calendar of Upcoming Events

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.

Miracle of the Archangel Michael — September 6

The Miracle of the Holy Chief Commander Archangel Michael at Colossae happened in Phrygia, not far from the city of Hieropolis, in a place called Cheretopos. There was a church named for the Archangel Michael, built over a miraculous spring. This church was built by a certain inhabitant of the city of Laodicia in gratitude to God for healing his mute daughter. The holy Chief Commander Michael appeared to this man in a dream and revealed to him that his daughter would receive the gift of speech after drinking from the water of the spring. The girl actually did receive healing and began to speak. After this miracle, the father and his daughter and all their family were baptized. In fervent gratitude, the father built the church in honor of the holy Chief Commander Michael. Not only did Christians begin to come to the spring for healing, but also

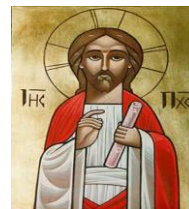


pagans. In so doing, many of the pagans turned from their idols and were converted to the faith in Christ. At this church of the holy Chief Commander Michael, a certain pious man by the name of Archippus served for sixty years as church custodian. By his preaching and by the example of his saintly life he brought many pagans to faith in Christ. With the general malice of that time towards Christians, and especially against Archippus, the pagans thought to destroy the church in order to prevent people from coming to that holy place of healing, and at the same time kill Archippus. Toward this end they made a confluence of the Lykokaperos and Kufos Rivers and directed its combined flow against the church. St Archippus prayed fervently to the Chief Commander Michael to ward off the danger. Through his prayer the Archangel Michael appeared at the temple, and with a blow of his staff, opened a wide fissure in a rock and commanded the rushing torrents of water to flow into it. The temple remained unharmed. Seeing such an awesome miracle, the pagans fled in terror. Archippus and the Christians gathered in church glorified God and gave thanks to the holy Archangel Michael for the help. The place where the rivers plunged into the fissure received the name "Chonae", which means "plunging."

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General Announcements

ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR THIS WEEK — Our Church is marking the commencement of a brand New Year on Monday, Sept. 1. It is referred to as THE YEAR OF INDICTION. In the Byzantine Empire 312 AD., the civil year began on Sept. 1. An "indiction" was a reoccurring cycle of 15 years and used for determining periods of time. *It is believed that Jesus began his public Ministry on this day.* Thus, the Byzantine Catholic Church continues to commemorate a new liturgical year at this time! HAPPY NEW



(CHURCH) YEAR!

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.



ARCHEPARCHY HONORS WEDDING JUBILARIANS — This afternoon, Archbishop



Skurla will be honoring all Byzantine Catholic Wedding Jubilarians marking the special milestones this year at St. Elias Church, Munhall, PA at 3:00 p.m. Our Holy Ghost Parishioner-Jubilarians, whose names were submitted and included in the celebration were: (MR) Michele & Richard Billy (35); (NS) Laura & Leonard R. Kallop, Jr. (35); (MR) Kerri & Dean Poloka (30); (MR) Karen & Gerald Stebbins (30); (MR) Nancy & Ronald Wauither (20); (MR) Christine & Albert Barnash (15); (NS) Aimee & John

Helms (15); Barbara & Peter Stecko (15). May God grant to our Parishioner-Jubilarians health and happiness for many blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES — Message

from ECF CO-Coordinators: We're excited to announce that ECF classes are starting soon! Whether your child is returning or joining us for the first time, we can't wait to walk this journey of faith with your family. First class is Sunday September 17th following 9:00 am Divine Liturgy. Classes will be held at our McKee's Rock location and are open to parishioners of both parishes. Please register your child for ECF today by contacting: Leah Trapl (412) 297-6374 or LeahTrapl@gmail.com Aimee Helms (412) 463-3002 or AimeeLaskoHelms@gmail.com. Join Us for Fellowship! We'll have coffee following the Sunday Divine Liturgies. All are welcome - please stop by, say hello, and enjoy fellowship with our parish community!

