

Parish Offerings – 12th Sunday after Pentecost — August 31, 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 (\$1,565) YP (\$4)	\$1,569.00
Holy Days (\$110) YP (\$2)	112.00
Votive Candles	125.00

\$1,806.00

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$501) YP (\$1.)	\$502.00
Holy Days (\$15) Utilities (\$30)	45.00
Votive Candles	90.00

.. \$637.00

Church Attendance Last Week

91st Annual Weekend Pilgrimage to Mt. St. Macrina — (MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (28)
Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (38); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (17)



Valerian F. Szal

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

Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP

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



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET

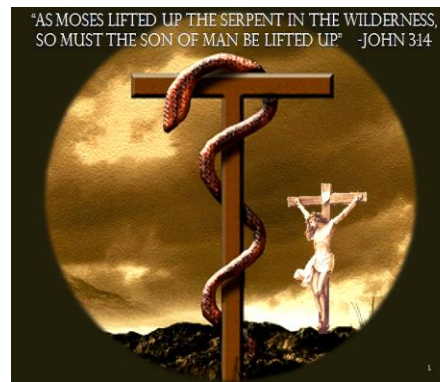
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

.. 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

The 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Prefestive of Nativity of the Theotokos — Sept 7, 2025



"AS MOSES LIFTED UP THE SERPENT IN THE WILDERNESS,
SO MUST THE SON OF MAN BE LIFTED UP" -JOHN 3:14



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.

Carpato-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).

September 7, 2025

Volume XV, Number 37



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

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Prefestive of the Nativity of the Theotokos

SUN, Sept 7 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Elizabeth Petruna (*birthday 9/4*) 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*



Nativity of the Holy Theotokos



Solemn Holy Day — Mirovanije

MON, Sept 8 9:00 a.m. (MR) *For the Parishioners of Both Parishes*
6:00 p.m. (NS) + Bishop John M. Bilock (*31st ann. of passing*)

Synaxis of the Holy Joachim & Anne

Tue, Sept 9 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann A. Kohan... Sister: + Dolores & Ted Babin
(*4th ann of passing 8/8*)

Wed, Sept 10 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Frank T. Firko, Jr + Frank Firko, Sr.
+ Ann + Sam Ones Firko Family

National Patriot Day

Thrs, Sept 11 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Lorraine "Bunny" Zavidny (*40th day of pass 9/10*) Family

Final Day of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)

Fri, Sept 12 8:00 a.m. (MR) + James Lesczynski (*3rd ann of pass 9/5*) Zula Family

Sat, Sept 13 9:00 a.m. (NS) *For the Parishioners of Both Parishes*

Sunday anticipated before the Elevation of Precious Cross Divine Liturgy

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Rose A. Debranski Dgtr: Elaine Cassidy
(*21st ann of passing 9/13*)

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Feast of the Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross

SUN, Sept 14 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Christina Michalisk (*birthday 9/17*) Husband: Wallace & Fam
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Leonard R. Kallop, Sr. (*14th ann of passing 9/15*) Valeriano & Kallop

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

Sept 8 – Theotokos Mary, AMBERLY VALERIANO; Sept 11 – Donna Herron, JOHN NEWPORT, Katherine Leasure; Sept 13 – Cynthia Anderson, Adam Leasure.

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

HOME: Ted Babin, Margaret Belunas, Dolores & William Boras, John Kutchmark, Sr., Monica Lemesh, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Michael Kachuta, Steve Kosko, Albert Kovacs, Sr; Karen Krempasky, Theresa Kundrat, ARLENE LATTI, KIRK LATTI, 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. Isn't gambling a sin? How then can you Catholics justify playing bingo? **A.** Catholic Answers Apologist: First of all, the stereotype of bingo-playing Catholics is really overblown. The vast majority of parishes don't even have a bingo night. Second, gambling is not in and of itself wrong. Read your Bible and you will not find gambling condemned anywhere in it. The average gambler loses money, but the process is entertaining, so what gambling amounts to is paying money to be entertained, and there is nothing wrong with that. Gambling becomes sinful only when one pays too much money for the entertainment. A person in a casino spending thousands of dollars that his family needs is committing a sin, and the Church is very firm about this (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2413). It would likewise be sinful for a person to spend thousands of dollars his family needed on other forms of entertainment, too, like limited edition books, movies, collector's items, or whatever. However, if you can afford it, there is nothing wrong with spending a few dollars for an evening of entertainment, whether it is bingo, the movies, or something else.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Sept 7 — Sept 13, 2025

(MR): In memory of Robert Kundrat
offered by Mom: Theresa

(NS): In memory of Paul G. Mathis

NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2025 . offered by Sister: Tamara Harding (NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2025



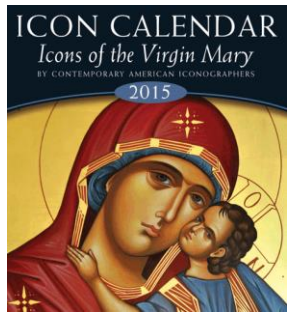
General Announcements

(MR) ADDITIONAL GRATITUDE TO FLOWER DONOR AT THE HOLY THEOTOKOS ICON — During the Nativity of the Theotokos, Sept. 8 an anonymous donor, once again, graciously contributed flowers to our Blessed Mother's icon on the iconostasis. May God richly bless you for this sacrificial gesture, & may the Holy Virgin always extend her veil 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.

(MR) & (NS) ADDITIONAL FOLLOW-UP ON VA FISHER HOUSE ALMSGIVING— Coordinator Tina Burns recently stated that *"We (MR & NS) collected over \$3,000.00 of food supplies this year and were able to match an additional amount of \$2,000.00. (The VA establishment related) that we are the largest donors of the items on their Wish List and that the donations will go a long way to help keep their pantry stocked. Once again, many thanks to all who have given assistance to veteran families"*

Holy Days Important to be Celebrated

In the liturgical calendar of the Church, Holy Days play an important part and should be celebrated by the faithful. Each event reminds us of the importance of the salvific happenings which took place. It transcends space and time through the liturgical expression, and manifests God's goodness to us as they gradually reveal His salvific plan for us. Our Byzantine Catholic Church ranks Holy Days in three classifications: (1) *Obligation*; (2) *Solemn*; & (3) *Simple*. The first precept of the Church *does oblige* us to come together and celebrate the salvific event. Solemn and Simple encourage us to do the same. *However, Solemn and Simple Holy Days are not a free ticket to avoid gathering and glorifying them. We should attend these Liturgical Services unless we are seriously impeded not by obligation but by love and gratitude.* Please make every effort in this new liturgical year to attend all or at least several Solemn and Simple Holy Days and enrich your souls with God's grace that awaits you. Our dual purpose in attending is not to be entertained but to (1) worship and praise God for all that He has done and continues to do for us through His mercy and compassion; and (2) allow Him to act by feeding us with His Word and Eucharist. If we have not done so already, let us discipline ourselves and make an established effort to keep them.



National Patriot Day this Week

On September 11, 2001, four planes were hijacked. The hijackers then deliberately flew three of the planes into two important buildings, the Pentagon in Washington DC and the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York. The fourth crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The loss of life and damage that these hijackings caused form the biggest act of terrorism ever on United States soil. Nearly 3000 people died in the attacks and the economic impact

was immense. The attacks have greatly increased attention to national security in the United States. This has had huge implications for United States national and international politics. This is particularly true for the relationships between the United States and Islamic countries in the Middle East. On the direction of the President, the flag of the United States of America should be displayed on the homes of Americans, the White House and all United States government buildings in the whole world. The flag should be flown at half-staff as a mark of respect to those who died on September 11, 2001.



SUNDAY BEFORE THE UNIVERSAL ELEVATION OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS

Gospel meditation: John 3:13-17 teaches that Jesus: **Not a Man sent from God, but God come as Man**

The one aspect about Jesus that impressed the crowds (Mt. 7:28-29) and irritated the Jewish leaders (Mt. 9:13) was that He taught and acted with authority. The basic issue for a Pharisee like Nicodemus was the authority of Jesus. Nicodemus was willing to grant, by virtue of the signs performed by our Lord that Jesus was a man sent from God, but this was not nearly enough. Jesus was God sent as a man. Our Lord's heavenly origin set him apart from every other Israelite, even the great men such as Abraham, Moses and the prophets: "And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of man!" (Jn 3:13). This is why Jesus was qualified to speak to Nicodemus of 'heavenly things' (v. 12)—He is the only one come down from heaven. He is the Son of Man. In my opinion, our Lord employed the term 'Son of Man' with reference to Himself with the specific intent of identifying Himself with the Messiah, referred to in Daniel 7:13 as the 'Son of Man'. Neither Nicodemus nor anyone else can give sufficient heed to the words of our Lord Jesus, until they have come to grips with His person. He is God come as man. Once that is settled, men must heed His teaching.



Byzantine Catholics Transmit Ancient Christian Tradition

All Catholics originally made the Sign of the Cross like today's Byzantines

Next Sunday, we will be celebrating the *Feast of the Elevation of the Holy, Precious and Life-Creating Cross of the Lord*. It is a good time to prepare and examine the way in which we bless ourselves. As is customary in the Byzantine Catholic Church, we hold the thumb and first two fingers together signifying our belief in the Three Persons in One God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The remaining two fingers are indicative of our belief of who Jesus is: God and man. These two figures are pressed into the palm reminding us that God came to earth and was incarnate of the Virgin Mary. Thus, when we make the sign of the Cross over ourselves, we begin by touching the forehead with the thumb and two fingers together while saying either "In the Name of the Father or Glory to the Father." Our action continues to move down below the heart (near the naval) signifying that the Son descended to earth to become man, to die and then resurrect from the dead. The movement then is directed to the right shoulder while saying "and to the Son" since He (Jesus) sits at the right hand of the Father. The gesture then goes across to the left shoulder while saying "and to the Holy Spirit. Amen." Historians seem to agree that this is the way Christians began signing themselves around the 8th and 9th centuries. The entirely true believing Christian world used this sign as a gesture to confess their faith, hope and love in the One Who was nailed to the Precious Cross. This action is indicated in the catechesis of Pope Innocent III (1198-1216) when delivering the following:



"The sign of the cross is made with three fingers, because the signing is done together with the invocation of the Trinity This is how it is done: from above to below, and from the right to the left, because Christ descended from the heavens to the earth, and from the Jews (right) He passed to the Gentiles (left). Others, however, make the sign of the cross from the left to the right, because from misery (left) we must cross over to glory (right), just as Christ crossed over from death to life, and from Hades to Paradise. [Some priests] do it this way so that they and the people will be signing themselves in the same way. You can easily verify this — picture the priest facing the people for the blessing — when we make the sign of the cross over the people, it is from left to right."

Calendar of Upcoming Events

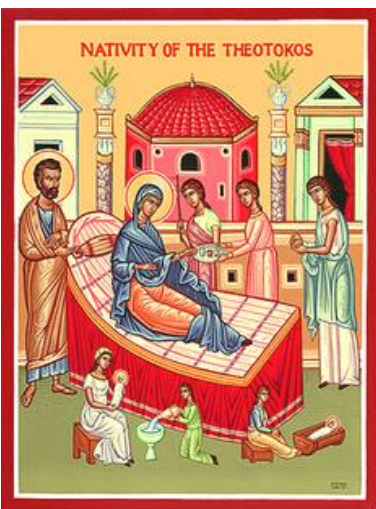
Sept 7 Archieparchial Celebration of Marriage for Jubilarians, St. Elias Church, Munhall @ 3:00 pm
 Sept 8 Feast of Nativity of the Theotokos – (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 Sept 14 Universal Elevation of Precious Cross. Weekend DLs begin 15 minutes earlier
 Sept. 21 Catechetical Sunday & Commissioning 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.
 October 3 Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary each October Friday @ 6:00 p.m.
 Blessing of animals (pets) following the Rosary @ app. 6:30 p.m.
 October 5-9 Annual Clergy Retreat & Clergy Days at the Antiochian Village, Ligonier, PA
Save the date: Deanery Pasta Dinner – Oct. 19 @ 3:00 p.m. – St. Elias Church, Munhall.

Solemn Holy Day Tomorrow — Sept 8 Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos

The Holy Virgin Mary was born of aged parents, Joachim and Anne. Her

father was of the lineage of David, and her mother of the lineage of Aaron. Thus, she was of royal birth by her father, and of priestly birth by her mother. In this, she foreshadowed Him Who would be born of her as King and High Priest. Her parents were quite old and had no children. Because of this they were ashamed before men and humble before God. In their humility they prayed to God with tears, to bring them joy in their old age by giving them a child, as He had once given joy to the aged Abraham and his wife Sarah by giving them Isaac. The Almighty and All-seeing God rewarded them with a joy that surpassed all their expectations and all

their most beautiful dreams. For He gave them not just a daughter, but the Mother of God. He illumined them not only with temporal joy, but with eternal joy as well. God gave them just one daughter, and she would later give them just one grandson-but what a daughter and what a Grandson! Mary, Full of grace, Blessed among women, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Altar of the Living God, the Table of the Heavenly Bread, the Ark of God's Holiness, the Tree of the Sweetest Fruit, the Glory of the race of man, the Praise of womanhood, the Fount of virginity and purity-this was the daughter given by God to Joachim and Anne. She was born in Nazareth, and at the age of three, was taken to the Temple in Jerusalem. In her young womanhood she returned again to Nazareth, and shortly thereafter heard the Annunciation of the Holy Archangel Gabriel concerning the birth of the Son of God, the Savior of the world, from her most-pure virgin body.



General Announcements

ARCHEPARCHY HONORS WEDDING JUBILARIANS TODAY — 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-Coordinator: 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!



STILL AWAITING THE DIVINE LITURGY & SANCTUARY RECORD BOOK FOR 2026 — Until the 2026 Ecclesiastical Record Book arrives, the Church office will not be accepting intentions. An announcement will be appearing in a future edition of the S.O.T. when you may reserve your special date requests. Again, thank you for your patience.



BYZANTINE CATHOLIC YOUTH ADULT DANCE NIGHT — The Archieparchial Young Adult Catholic Organization is sponsoring a DANCE NIGHT this coming Friday, Sept. 12 at St. George Church, 1001 Clinton Street, Aliquippa, PA. The evening will commence with a Moleben to the Holy, Precious and Life-Creating Cross @ 6:30 p.m. followed by Country Line Dancing Classes (and Sawing Dancing) in the Parish Social Hall. It will be led by one of St. Mary's, Ambridge, Parishioners. @ 7:00 p.m. Drinks and light snacks will be provided. Learn Line-Dances like Footloose, Cotton-Eyed Joe and more. All skill levels are welcomed.

