

Parish Offerings – 13th Sunday after Pentecost — September 7, 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 (\$2,141) YP (\$9)	\$2,150.00
Holy Days (\$148) YP (\$2)	150.00
Votive Candles	269.25

\$2,569.25

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$506) YP (\$1.)	\$507.00
Holy Days (\$15) Improvement (\$35)	50.00
Votive Candles	69.00

.. \$626.00

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (28); Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (38); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (22)
Nativity of the Theotokos — Mon, Sept 8 – (MR) 9:00 a.m. (8) & (NS) 6:00 p.m. (14)



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

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

.. 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

The 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross — Sept 14, 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.

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 14, 2025

Volume XV, Number 38



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

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Feast of the Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross

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

Mon, Sept 15 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Kurt Marks Wife: Kathleen & Dgtr: Kayla
(2nd ann. of passing 9/13)

Tue, Sept 16 8:00 a.m. (MR) Thanksgiving (*wed. ann.*)... Christine & Al Barnash

Wed, Sept 17 8:00 a.m. (MR) + A. Velma Seman (*birthday*) Nephews & Family

Thrs, Sept 18 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Robert Kundrat Mom: Theresa
(21st ann of passing)

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

Fri, Sept 19  8:00 a.m. (MR) + Stepan Jandri Grnd-Dgtr: Drazenka Gataric

Saturday after the Feast of the Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross

Sat, Sept 20 9:00 a.m. (NS) *For the Parishioners of Both Parishes*

Sunday anticipated after the Elevation of Precious Cross Divine Liturgy

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Eleanor L. Siglow Richard Trankocy

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday after Feast of the Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross

SUN, Sept 21 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Regina M. Mell Norma & Peter Kacsur
(1st ann. of passing 9/20)

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Anna Shirley Kalnas (*birthday 9/15*) Family

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 14 – Derrick Burns; Sept 15 – Norma Kacsur, Maryann Puluka, Laura Saber;
Sept 16 – MARY FRANCES SPONTAK; Sept. 20 – LEONARD R. KALLOP, JR.

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. Why do we use our right hand instead of our left hand to make the sign of the cross? **A.** Answer by a Catholic Apologist: The right hand, probably in part due to the fact that most people are right-handed, is traditionally the hand of blessing and greeting in many cultural settings, a convention found in Scripture and Tradition. For example, Jesus places the sheep on his right hand but the goats on his left; he himself is "seated at the right hand of the Father"; at God's "right hand are blessings forevermore"; and so on. In sacred images, Jesus is depicted raising his right hand in blessing. Even today, we use our right hand for handshakes or salutes; we are familiar with the phrase "the right hand of fellowship" and so forth. By contrast, the left hand has in many cultures a very different set of traditional associations (for example, it is often designated for personal hygiene; the word sinister is derived from the Latin for left-handed; etc.). For all these reasons, it is natural that the sign of the cross has traditionally been made with the right hand.



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Sept 14 — Sept 20, 2025

(MR): In memory of Rose A. Debranski (2nd ann of passing 9/13)

offered by Dgtr: Nancy

(NS): In memory of Leonard R. Kallop, Sr. (14th ann of passing 9/15)

NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2025

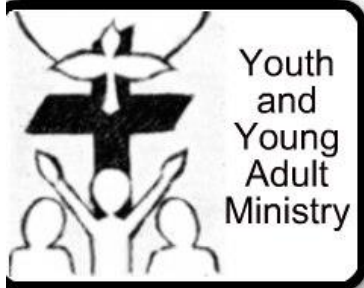
offered by Grandchildren

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2025



General Announcements

(MR & NS) ARCHIEPARCHIAL OFFICE OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY
ANNOUNCEMENT — Invites all teens (7th grade through high school and young



adults (18-39) to the pilgrimage to Loretto 2025. This event will take place on Saturday, October 4. A bus will be provided at St. John Cathedral. Additional information with cost and schedule are posted in the narthex and side vestibule. Take a picture of the QR Code for additional and full schedule. Also, you may retrieve more information at www.archpitt.org. The theme is taken from

the Sacred Scriptures *"Blessed are those whose hearts are set on PILGRIMAGE."* Last day to register is Monday, Sept. 29

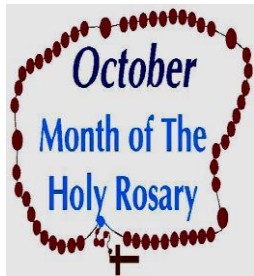
CHURCH JUST NOTIFIED OF ARRIVAL NEXT YEAR'S RECORD BOOK!

RESERVATIONS FOR DL & SANCTUARY LAMPS —

Divine Liturgy and Sanctuary Lamp reservations will be accepted next Sunday, Sept. 21 on a first come, first serve basis. Due to a high demand of both areas only two weekends of each will be permitted until the demand subsides. When the demand lightens, you will be able to reserve additional weekend dates. Place your intention and \$10.00 stipend per Sanctuary Lamp. Also, please remember that the chancery raised the stipend fee per Divine Liturgy to \$20.00. Place intentions and stipend in a regular white envelope with requested date(s) and place it in the collection basket.



UPCOMING MONTH OF OCTOBER: THE HOLY ROSARY —



At the request of several parishioners to honor Our Blessed Mother in this special month of October, the Rosary according to our Byzantine-Ruthenian (Rusyn) tradition will be prayed each Friday throughout the month @ 6:00 p.m. at our Parish in McKees Rocks. If there's a time when our Country is in need of additional prayer, it is here! This sacred devotion has been a part of our Church since its founding over 100 years ago which our Founders and Benefactors brought with them from

Carpathian Homeland. Come and join us as we pray together honoring and petitioning the Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary seeking her special intercession for our Country.

We will be preparing our 2026 Church envelopes shortly. If you do not have envelopes and would like to receive a box for next year, please contact the Church Office A.S.A.P.

General Announcements

Solemn Holy Day This Week — Sept. 14 Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross

Two events in connection with the Precious Cross of Christ are commemorated on this day: first, the finding of the Holy Cross on Golgotha and second, the return of the Life-

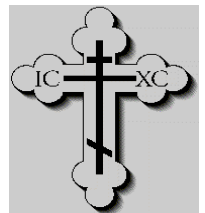


Creating Cross from Persia to Jerusalem. Visiting the Holy Land in the 4th century, the holy Empress Helena decided to find the Precious Cross of Christ. An old Jewish man named Judah was the only one who knew where the Cross was located, and, constrained by the empress, he revealed that the Cross was buried under the temple of Venus that Emperor Hadrian had built on Golgotha. The empress ordered that this idolatrous temple be razed and, having dug deep below it, found three crosses. While the empress pondered on how to recognize which of these was the Cross of Christ, a funeral procession passed by. Patriarch Macarios told them to place the crosses, one by one, on the dead man. When they placed the first and second cross on the dead man, the dead man lay unchanged. When they placed the third cross on him, the dead man came back to

life. By this they knew that this was the Precious and Life-giving Cross of Christ. They then placed the Cross on a sick woman, and she became well. The patriarch elevated the Cross for all the people to see, and the people sang with tears: "Lord, have mercy!" Empress Helena had a silver case made and set the Honorable Cross in it. Later, the Persian Emperor Chozroes conquered Jerusalem, enslaved many people, and took the Lord's Cross to Persia. The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years. In the year 628 the Greek Emperor Heraclius defeated Chozroes and, with much ceremony, returned the Cross to Jerusalem. As he entered the city Emperor Heraclius carried the Cross on his back, but suddenly was unable to take another step. Patriarch Zachariah saw an angel preventing the emperor from bearing the Cross on the same path that the Lord had walked barefoot and humiliated. The patriarch communicated this vision to the emperor. The emperor removed his raiment and, in ragged attire and barefoot, took up the Cross, carried it to Golgotha, and placed it in the Church of the Resurrection, to the joy and consolation of the whole Christian world.

A Short Explanation of the Three-Bar Cross

The Three-Bar Cross is used by those worshipping in Byzantine-Slavic Churches, namely Byzantine Catholics. As Ruthenian (Rusyn) Byzantine Catholics, we count the horizontal bars and not the vertical beam. There are 2 perspectives of its meaning: (1) the top bar contains the title that Pilate chose to be placed over Jesus' head: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews"; the bottom bar, the footstool, is seen slanted indicating the direction of the Repentant Good Thief who went upwards to Paradise; and the downward direction that the Unrepentant Thief who went to hell. (2) Another common explanation is seen from the perspective of two original apostles who gave their lives for Jesus and were also crucified. The top bar represents the cross of St. Peter, who requested to be crucified upside down, not deeming himself worthy to die in the same manner as His Lord; and the bottom bar is in the form of an "X" referred to as the St. Andrew's Cross, who was put to death in this manner. We should wear and hang the Three-Bar Cross as the trophy of our salvation and as a witness to others that God loves them and seeks their salvation.



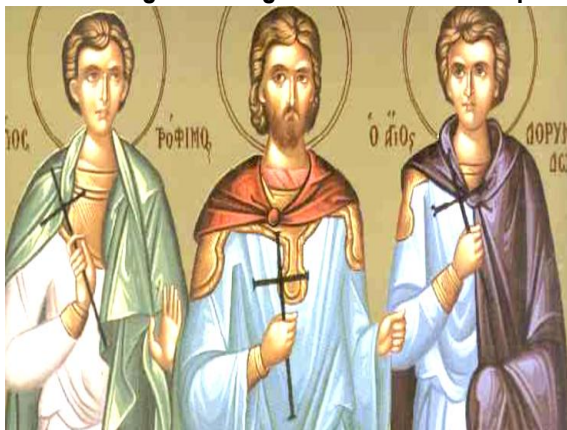
Calendar of Upcoming Events

Sept 14 Feast of the Universal Elevation of Precious Cross.
 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.

Saints of the Week — September 19

Holy Martyrs Trophimus, Sabbatius & Dorymedont

The Holy Martyrs Trophimus, Sabbatius and Dorymedont suffered for Christ during the reign of the Roman emperor Probus (276-282). A pagan



festival was being celebrated in the city of Antioch. Sacrificial

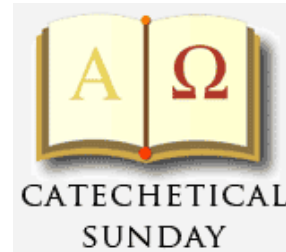
offerings were brought, the wine was poured, and vile acts were performed. The Christians Trophimus and Sabbatius arrived in the city just as the festival was taking place, and were saddened by this loud and indecent spectacle. They prayed that the Lord would

guide the errant on the way of salvation. As they said this, the idolaters noticed their presence. Seeing that the strangers did not worship the idols, they arrested them and took them to the governor. At their interrogation, the saints firmly confessed their faith. When they were told to renounce Christ, they resolutely refused to do so. St. Sabbatius died under the fierce torment. St. Trophimus was sent to the city of Synnada in Phrygia for even more terrible tortures. For three days St. Trophimus walked shod in iron sandals with sharp nails, driven on by a cavalry guard. The governor of Frigius, Dionysius, infamous as a torturer and executioner, used all manner of tortures to break the will of the brave Christian. St. Trophimus merely repeated the words of Scripture: “many afflictions has the righteous one, but from them all will the Lord deliver him” (Ps 33/34:20). The senator Dorymedont, a secret Christian, visited St Trophimus in prison, washing and binding his wounds. When the pagans learned that the senator would not participate in the festival of Castor and Pollux, they asked the reason for his refusal. He said that he was a Christian, and would not attend a festival in honor of the demons. He and St. Trophimus were thrown to the wild beasts to be eaten by them, but the martyrs remained unharmed. Then they were beheaded with the sword.

General Announcements

NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES — Message

from ECF CO-Coordinator: We're excited to announce that ECF classes are starting next Sunday! 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 next Sunday September 17 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!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR: COME & SEE WEEKEND — Young men 18-35 are invited to a weekend retreat, *Friday through Saturday, November 7-9, 2025 at Saints Cyril & Methodius Seminary.* The purpose: to see if you might be interested in the possibility of becoming a priest. No pressure, no hype, no boring lectures. Just recreation, relaxation, talking to God (a.k.a. prayer), and the opportunity to really listen to God's voice and to plan for your life. This worthwhile retreat of discovery in no way implies any future commitment other than your commitment to truly be yourself! There is no expense involved in participating in this retreat.



Deadline for online registration is at bcs.edu/come-and-see-2025. Deadline for registration is Oct 15.

PITTSBURGH DEANERY CLERGY TO SERVE PASTA DINNER PLUS MORE — Mark your calendars! The Priests and Deacons in the Pittsburgh Deanery will be again hosting a FREE PASTA DINNER at St. Elias Church, Munhall on Sunday, October 19, 2025 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The event will be preceded by a short Singing Program presented by the Archieparial Choir @ 2:00 p.m. The Clergy will be preparing and serving the dinner. A signup list will be forthcoming. We must know how many to prepare for! The final day for registration is Sunday, October 12. *A freewill offering will be taken to subsidize the project. Any profit that will be made will go to purchasing gifts card to our administratively retired / appreciation for their many years of spiritual service to the faithful*



HAPPY 70th Birthday to Our Holy Father, POPE LEO XVI! May God grant you many happy and blessed years!