

## Parish Offerings – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — September 14, 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 .....            | \$1,755.00 |
| Holy Days (\$328) YP (\$11) ..... | 339.00     |
| Votive Candles .....              | 123.00     |

\$2,217.00

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Regular Offering .....         | \$1,504.00 |
| Holy Days (\$45) YP (@1) ..... | 46.00      |
| Votive Candles .....           | 64.00      |

\$1,614.00

## Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (23); Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (51); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (14)



**Valerian F. Szal**

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

Michael P. Ferrell,  
Supervisor, CFSP

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Randy  
(412) 973-1085



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 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Final Day Celebration of Precious Cross — Sept 21, 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](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org) – E-Mail: [ffaf334@verizon.net](mailto:ffaf334@verizon.net)

**SUNDAY RADIO (9:00 am WEDO 810 AM) & INTERNET DIVINE LITURGY**

Liturgical Services LIVE: [www.Youtube.com](http://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).*

September 21, 2025

Volume XV, Number 39



**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                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b>                              |                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                 |                                 |
| <b>Sunday after Feast of the Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross</b> |                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                 |                                 |
| SUN, Sept 21                                                               | 9:00 a.m. (MR)                                                                                                                                   | + Regina M. Mell<br>(1 <sup>st</sup> ann. of passing 9/20)      | Norma & Peter Kacsur            |
|                                                                            | 11:00 a.m. (NS)                                                                                                                                  | + Anna Shirley Kalnas (birthday 9/15)                           | Family                          |
| Mon, Sept 22                                                               | 8:00 a.m. (MR)                                                                                                                                   | + Mary + Andrew Kundrat                                         | Theresa Kundrat                 |
|                                                                            | <i>Conception of St. John the Baptist</i>                                                                                                        |                                                                 |                                 |
| Tue, Sept 23                                                               | 8:00 a.m. (MR)                                                                                                                                   | + John Kundrat...<br>(35 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing 9/25)     | Wife: Theresa                   |
| Wed, Sept 24                                                               | 8:00 a.m. (MR)                                                                                                                                   | + Alexander F. Perschy<br>(16 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing)     | Son: Kurt                       |
| Thrs, Sept 25                                                              | 8:00 a.m. (MR)                                                                                                                                   | + Monsignor Russell A. Duker<br>(Ordination to Priesthood 9/20) | HGC-MR                          |
|                                                                            | <i>REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)</i><br><i>The Passing of the Holy Apostle &amp; Evangelist, John</i> |                                                                 |                                 |
| Fri, Sept 26                                                               | 8:00 a.m. (MR)                                                                                                                                   | + Anna + Mike Pungras                                           | Grnd-Dgtr: Dawn Ringes & Family |
| Sat, Sept 27                                                               | 9:00 a.m. (NS)                                                                                                                                   | + Ethel M. Galida<br>(6 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing 9/22)      | Dgtr: Kathy L. Mullen           |



\*\*\*\*\*  
*Anticipated Divine Liturgy for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
4:00 p.m. (MR) *For the Parishioners of Both Parishes*

## 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

|              |                 |                                                              |             |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| SUN, Sept 28 | 9:00 a.m. (MR)  | + Robert Bordas<br>(1 <sup>st</sup> ann. of passing          | Family      |
|              | 11:00 a.m. (NS) | + John Spontak ...<br>(22 <sup>nd</sup> ann of passing 10/2) | Son: Robert |

## 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 22 – Edward Cassidy, Margaret Nazak; Sept 23 – THERESA NAZAK, Tam Revtai, TAMARA HARDING; Sept 25 – Cindy Meaders.

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

**HOME:** Ted Babin, Margaret Beliuas, Dolores & William Boras, John Kutchmark, Sr., Monica Lemesh, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Michael Kachuta, Steve Kosko, 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.  
**UPMC SHADYSIDE** (5230 Centre Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15232): Judy Wovchko.

### Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. My siblings and I were raised in a good Catholic home but now, as adults, we no longer all share the same moral code—some follow authentic Catholic Church doctrine while others rationalize that their immoral lifestyles are actually moral. Any time I try to help family members, I'm viewed as an intolerant religious freak. Even my parents consider my efforts to be out of line and hurtful. A. Catholic Answers Apologist: You have an obligation to raise your children in the truth, teaching them genuine morals. This may mean unrest in your family, as you have already seen. But it may comfort you to know that Jesus recognized family division would sometimes be an issue for those who remain faithful to him: Do not think that I have come to bring peace on earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man's foes will be those of his own household. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. (Mt 10:34-38)

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**Sept 21 – Sept 27, 2025**

(MR): In memory of John Kundrat (35<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 9/22)

offered by Wife: Theresa

(NS): In memory of George Krulac (26<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 9/15)

NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2026 offered by Dgtr: Barbara & Peter Stecko (NS) NOW AVAILABLE 2026





# General Announcements

(MR) SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the sudden passing of long-time and faithful parishioner Albert Paul Kovacs, Sr., 82, of Pittsburgh, PA at his home on Monday, September 15, 2025. He has been married to his beloved Wife: Patti (Kopay) Kovacs for 54 years. He is also survived by his two adult children Daughter: Courtney Kovacs of New York City, and Son: Albert, Jr. (Lauren) Kovacs, McKees Rocks. His dearest grandchildren are Harper and Sawyer. The Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home, McKees Rocks will be handling arrangements. Viewing will be on Tuesday, September

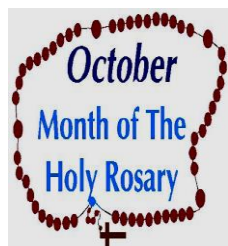
23 from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. A Parastas will be offered at 7:00 p.m. The Funeral Divine Liturgy will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 10:00 a.m. preceded by a Panachida at the funeral home at 9:30 a.m. Interment will follow at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Bridgeville, PA. Our parish family extends its most sincere condolences and prayer support to the Kovacs Family. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant, Albert, and remember him forever! Vičnaja Jemu Pamjat'!

## ARRIVAL OF NEXT YEAR'S RECORD BOOK NOW HERE!— RESERVATIONS

FOR DL & SANCTUARY LAMPS — Divine Liturgy and Sanctuary Lamp reservations are now being accepted today 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 stipend; then 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.

# General Announcements

## Sunday after the Universal Elevation of the Precious Cross — Mk. 8:34-9:1

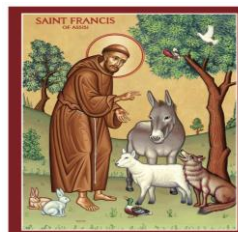
By Archpriest Igor Tarasov

Today is Sunday after the feast of the Universal Elevation of the Cross, and thus the Gospel lesson is about taking up a cross to follow Christ. It also contains an interesting statement: "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" (Mk. 8, 36). If our Lord Himself uses such earthly words as "profit" and "gain", let us make a conclusion using the similar vocabulary: Jesus says that gaining the whole world and losing one's soul is the world's worst bargain. "Let us imagine, for a moment, that man gains the whole world. It cannot keep him from trouble; it cannot give him peace; it cannot comfort him in sorrow; it cannot purchase him immortality and it cannot secure him a place in heaven when he



is gone. All he can do with the world, is to keep it until he dies; he cannot carry any of it with him to the other life. *"Our greatest treasure is our soul. Therefore, to lose it would be to lose the most valuable thing we may possess.* We lose our souls when we are no longer alive to God and to His love. We lose our souls when we place some other person or thing at the center of life. We lose our souls when we move away from God and no longer experience the power of His presence. And we lose our souls when we feel there is no longer any hope of forgiveness. *It was to keep us from losing our soul that God sent His Son to be our Savior.* Through Him no person needs to lose his soul. Through Him, the door to salvation is always open. Through Jesus we can now become alive toward God and toward our fellow humans. Through Jesus we can gain treasures far greater in value than the entire universe." *"The Gospel today tells us how to follow Jesus and how to prepare for heaven. "If we really follow the Lord, He will bless us and secure our eternity. He says, "Whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it" (Mk. 8, 35). Losing one's life for Jesus equals saving it for eternity; it equals gaining eternal life.* Being tied to God, the soul finds eternal purity. Therefore, *let us listen to the words of the Holy Gospel and deny our sinful nature and its inclinations.* Let us say "no" to sin and to all that could prevent us from being saved. Let us tie our life to our Savior Jesus Christ, our only Hope who can grant us eternal life and make us gain His everlasting Kingdom!

## FIFTH ANNUAL BLESSING OF ANIMALS FORTHCOMING — Since our pets are



very dear to us, our pastor will, once again this year, beseech God to shower blessings upon them. In the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, (Feast Day, Oct. 4), who loved animals and often spoke to them, and whose feast is at the beginning of October, our pastor is inviting you to bring your pets for a short blessing service on *Friday, October 3, 2025 @ 6:30 p.m. at the (MR) Church's side entrance.* This blessing signifies our gratitude to Almighty God for the gift of companionship that our pets afford us.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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.*

## Saint of the Day This Week

### Conception of St. John the Baptist

**September 23**

The Conception of the Venerable Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John: The holy Prophet Malachi prophesied that before the Messiah's birth His Forerunner would appear, and would indicate His coming. The Jews therefore in awaiting the Messiah also awaited the appearance of His Forerunner. In a city of the hills of Judea in the land of Palestine lived the righteous priest St Zachariah and his wife St Elizabeth, zealously observing the commandments of the Lord. The couple, however, had a misfortune: they remained childless in their old age, and they prayed unceasingly to God to grant them a child. Once, when St Zachariah took his turn as priest at the Temple of Jerusalem, he went into the Sanctuary to offer incense. Going behind the veil of the Sanctuary, he beheld an angel of God standing at the right side of the altar of incense. St Zachariah was astonished and halted in fear, but the angel said to him, "Fear not, Zachariah, for your



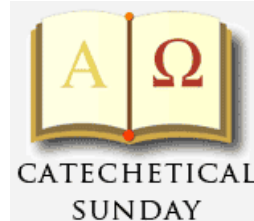
prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John." But Zachariah did not believe the words of the heavenly messenger, and then the angel said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stand in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you the good news. Behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things come to pass, because you did not believe my words...." Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zachariah and they were astonished that he had not come out from the Sanctuary after so long a time. And when he did come out, he was supposed to pronounce a blessing upon the people but could not do so because he had been struck speechless. When Zachariah explained by gestures that he was unable to speak, the people then understood that he had experienced a vision. The prophecy of the Archangel was fulfilled, and Righteous Elizabeth was delivered from her barrenness, and gave birth to John, the Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord.

prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John." But Zachariah did not believe the words of the heavenly messenger, and then the angel said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stand in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you the good news. Behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things come to pass, because you did not believe my words...." Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zachariah and they were astonished that he had not come out from the Sanctuary after so long a time. And when he did come out, he was supposed to pronounce a blessing upon the people but could not do so because he had been struck speechless. When Zachariah explained by gestures that he was unable to speak, the people then understood that he had experienced a vision. The prophecy of the Archangel was fulfilled, and Righteous Elizabeth was delivered from her barrenness, and gave birth to John, the Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord.

## General Announcements

### NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES — Message

from ECF CO-Coordinator: We're excited to announce that ECF classes are starting today, Catechetical 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 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](mailto:LeahTrapl@gmail.com) Aimee Helms (412) 463-3002 or [AimeeLaskoHelms@gmail.com](mailto:AimeeLaskoHelms@gmail.com). Join Us for Fellowship! We'll have coffee following the Sunday Divine Liturgy. 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](https://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 Archieparchial Choir @ 2:00 p.m. The Clergy will be preparing and serving the dinner. A signup list is currently available. 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 priests. This small gesture demonstrates appreciation for their many years of spiritual service to the faithful



## AUTUMN COMMENCES THIS WEEK

Autumn, interchangeably known as fall in North America, is one of the four temperate seasons. Autumn marks the transition from summer into winter, in September (Northern Hemisphere) when the arrival of night becomes noticeably earlier and the temperature cools considerably. One of its main features is the shedding of leaves from deciduous trees. *Autumn begins Monday, September 22 at 2:19 p.m.*

