

Parish Offerings – 15th Sunday after Pentecost — September 21, 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 (\$3,226) YP (\$7.80) \$3,233.80
 Holy Days (\$142) Initial (\$10) 152.00
 Votive Candles 150.50

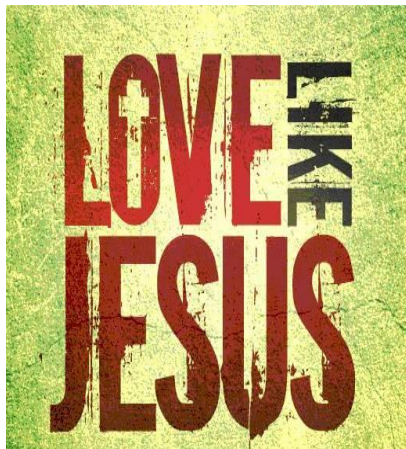
\$3,536.30

Regular Offering (\$515) YP (\$1) \$516.00
 Votive Candles 60.00

\$576.00

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (28); Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (77); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (21)

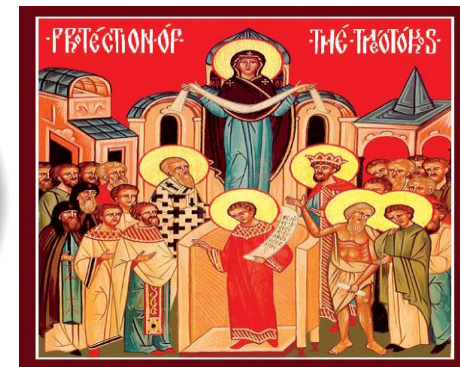


HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
 .. 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

The 16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 28, 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).*



Valerian F. Szal

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

Michael P. Ferrell,
 Supervisor, CFSP

Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953



GCU offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Randy (412) 973-1085



North Side Parishioner

Alan Valeriano
(412) 638-3417 PA 172370



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 28, 2025

Volume XV, Number 40



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
16th Sunday after Pentecost			
SUN, Sept 28	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Robert Bordas <i>(1st ann. of passing)</i>	Family
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ John Spontak <i>(22nd ann of passing 10/2)</i>	Son: Robert
Mon, Sept 29	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Fr. Richard F. Zula <i>(8th ann of passing)</i>	Zula Family
Tue, Sept 30	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Gramata <i>(71st ann of passing 9/29)</i>	Eleanor Gramata & Son: George

The Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos Patroness of the Metropolitan Providence — Solemn Holy Day

WED, OCT 1	9:00 a.m. (MR)	<i>For the Parishioners of Both Parishes</i>	
	6:00 p.m. (NS)	+ Mary + Michael Sahayda	Dgtr: Mimi Smith
Thrs, Oct 2	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Margaret Zula <i>(54th ann of passing)</i>	Zula Family
<i>First Friday of the Month —Reparation for the sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus</i>			
<i>REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)</i>			
Fri, Oct 3	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ A. Velma Seman	Karen & Frank Grzywinski
	6:00 p.m. (MR)	Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Patriotic Rosary	
<i>First Saturday of the month in reparation for blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary</i>			
Sat, Oct 4	9:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Daniel J. Galida <i>(13th ann of passing 9/30)</i>	Sister: Kathy L. Mullen

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

17th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN, Oct 4	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Michele J. (Terrek) Chiavetta <i>(birthday)</i>	Mom: Mildred & Family
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Joyce Spontak <i>(3rd ann of passing 10/7)</i>	Husband: 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 29 – Kayla Marks; Oct 1 – Nanine Cifrulak, Frank Grzywinski, KIMBERLY VALERIANO; Oct 2 – BETTY LORINC; Oct 3 – Michele Billy, James Eberle; Oct 4 – MaryEllen Oslick, Steve Usouski.


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

HOME: Ted Babin, Margaret Beliuнас, 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, Judy Wovchko.

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. In Luke 8:10, Jesus says that he speaks in parables so that "seeing they (the Pharisees and scribes, I presume) may not see, and hearing they may not understand." Why wouldn't Jesus want them to look and see and to hear and understand? A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist: God did not withhold grace so that the Pharisees and scribes could not understand; they put up barriers to God's grace and thus were unable to understand. God's grace is offered to everyone, including the Pharisees and scribes. But Jesus knows that their disposition is such that they will not respond to God's grace. (They don't want to give up their sins; they don't want a kingdom anywhere but here; they want to be in positions of power, not positions of service as Christ's message commands.) Therefore, they will not be able to grasp the deeper meaning that the parables help the willing mind to understand. So, Jesus wants to teach those willing to hear what he has to say without revealing information to those who, through their unwillingness to understand it properly, might use the information against him and others who follow him. Christ says, "Do not give dogs what is holy; and do not throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under foot and turn to attack you" (Mt 7:6).



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

September 28 – October 4, 2025



(MR): **In memory of Amelia M. Sotak** *(birthday 9/28)*
 offered by Dgtr: Elaine Cassidy

(NS): **In memory of John Spontak** *(22nd ann of passing 10/2)*
 offered by Son: Robert

NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2026
NOW AVAILABLE 2026

General Announcements

WE ARE SADDENED THAT OUR TWO FISHERMAN ARE LEAVING US FOR A LIFE-LONG CATCH — Since his Ordination to the Priesthood in July, Fr. Luke Iyengar, and over a year ago being with us, Fr. David Bosnich have been anxiously praying for a fishing hole to be with Our Lord Jesus to be spiritual “fishers of men.” Several weeks ago, as reported by the Spirit Of Truth (S.O.T.) Church Bulletin, both have received the assignments they had been looking forward to. Effective this Tuesday, Sept. 30, Fr. Iyengar has been assignment as the Administrator of Mary Church, Weirton, WV and St. John Church, Avella, PA. Fr. David Bosnich will head the administrative role of St. Joseph Church, Toronto, OH, and St. John Church, Mingo Junction, OH. What an awesome responsibility has been placed on their shoulders, as they go to proclaim the Word of God, and reach out to sanctify souls by the Power of the Holy Spirit. They will be missed but not forgotten. Please remember them in your prayers so that God will continue to bless and sustain them in their priestly ministry, as they await to merit the long-awaited heavenly crown! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita! Go Forth in Peace!



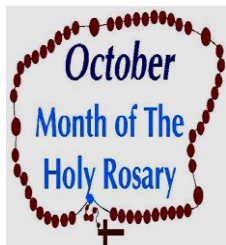
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ARRIVAL OF NEXT YEAR'S RECORD BOOK NOW HERE!— Divine Liturgy and Sanctuary Lamp reservations are now being accepted on a first come, first serve basis. Due to a high demand of both areas only two weekends of each will be permitted until the demand 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

16th Sunday after Pentecost

A Preposterous Request — LK 5:1-11

It all started with the Lord's preposterous request. He said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” What's so out of line about that? Three things! First, anybody knows that the best net fishing is done at night when the fish can't see the net in the dark—not in broad daylight. Second, the fishermen had just come in from fishing all night, having caught nothing. Obviously the fish were somewhere else. Third, now their nets were all cleaned from their night's work. It was a messy job to clean those nets of seaweed and scum. Besides, these fishermen were tired and discouraged. Who wants to start out on the day shift right after finishing a long night shift? What Jesus asked was beyond all reason and all fishing experience. How would Peter respond? Here's how he did respond. “Master,” he began. So far, so good. This seems to imply complete obedience. But then Peter protested, “We have worked all night long but have caught nothing.” Peter was sitting on the fence. On the one hand, he wanted to obey Jesus. On the other hand, he knew that it was utter foolishness. Something about Jesus struck Peter as different from any other person he had ever met. He heard promises more beautiful than the bewitching charm of blue Galilee, sparkling in the morning sun. All of a sudden something snapped in Peter's heart. He jumped off the fence on the side of obedience, saying to Jesus, “*Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.*” At that precise point, Peter surrendered the keys of his life to Jesus—all the keys, including the master key. It was an electric encounter on the shore between the Carpenter and the fisherman. The base essence of Peter's reply was, “You say . . . I will.” That was an obedient surrender of the keys based on an implicit trust in Jesus. James, John and others followed Peter in heading out for the deep. After the Lord's preposterous request followed his fantastic gift. These fishermen netted a whopping catch. They had never seen a catch like that. Their net almost broke; their boats almost sank, and they hardly had enough men to haul in the fish. They were astounded that it happened in broad daylight. God was saying in language that fishermen understand what amazing things can happen when the keys of a life are surrendered to Jesus. It illustrated the truth that God never ask of us anything, no matter how costly, but what he gives us back a hundred times more. The Twenty-third Psalm puts it in these words, “My cup runneth over.” We ask God for a grain of sand and he gives us a whole beach. *God always gives far more than either we desire or deserve, according to our trust in him.*



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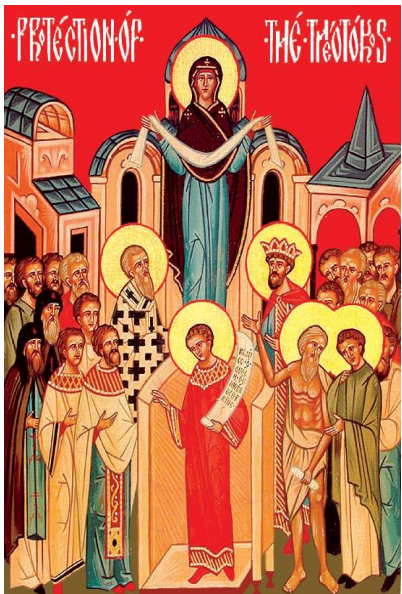
Calendar of Upcoming Events

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.

SOLEMN HOLY DAY THIS WEEK Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos

Wednesday, Oct. 1, marks the feast day of the appearance of the Mother of God at Blachernae (Laverna) in the tenth century. At the end of St.

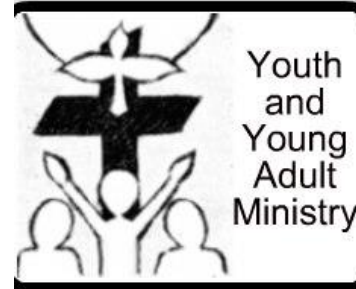
Andrew also known as a “fool for Christ,” along with his disciple St. Epiphanius, and a group of people, saw the Mother of God, St. John the Baptist, and several other saints and angels during a vigil in the Church of Blachernae, nearby the city gates. The Blachernae Palace church was where several of her relics were kept. The relics were her robe, veil, and part of her belt that had been transferred from Palestine during the fifth century. The Theotokos approached the center of the church, knelt down and remained in prayer for a long time. Her face was drowned in tears. Then she took her veil off and spread it over the people as a sign of protection. During the time, the people in the city were threatened by a barbarian invasion. After



the appearance of the Mother of God, the danger was averted, and the city was spared from bloodshed and suffering. The Protection is commemorated most fervently in Slavic churches, probably because St. Andrew was a Slav. The first celebration of the Theotokos' Protection in the Eastern Slavic Churches dates back from the 12th century and today is celebrated throughout the Byzantine Catholic Church. The feast day commemorating the miracle is celebrated with an All-Night Vigil, with many of the same elements as occur on Great Feasts of the Theotokos. However, this feast has no post-festive. *This feast is of particular importance to the Metropolitan Province of Pittsburgh because 51 years ago on October 6, 1974, Metropolitan Archbishop Stephen J. Kocisko along with the bishops of Passaic and Parma consecrated the entire metropolitan province to her heavenly protection at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.*

General Announcements

ARCHIEPARCHIAL OFFICE OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY FINAL CALL 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



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 MARYFEST 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*



YOUTH GROUP BAKE SALE NEXT SUNDAY — Our Byzant-TEENS first bake sale is one week from today, following the Divine Liturgy. The election of new officers will then follow. Social activities will then be arranged for the upcoming months. The proceeds from this project will help them collect funds for their participation to the 2026 Byzan-Teen Youth Rally



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