

Parish Offerings – 17th Sunday after Pentecost — October 5, 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 (\$2,783) YP (\$4.80) \$2,787.80
 Holy Day (\$131) YP (\$2) Christmas Décor (\$5) Collection for Poor (\$35) ... 173.00
 Votive Candles 172.00

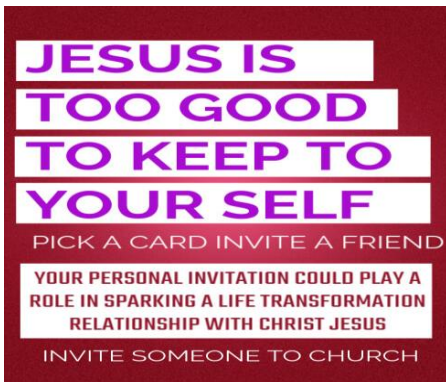
\$3,187.80

Regular Offering (\$584.50) YP (\$2) \$586.50
 Holy Day (\$5) Improvement (\$45) 50.00
 Votive Candles 54.00

\$690.50

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (31); Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (72); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (26)



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

.. 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

The 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Respect Life Month — October 12, 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

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



Greek Catholic Union of the USA
 A Fraternal Benefit Society

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

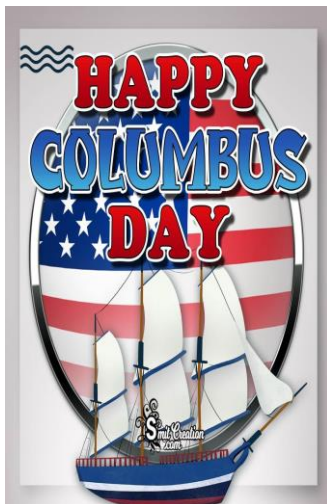


North Side Parishioner

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).

October 12, 2025

Volume XV, Number 42



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

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council

UN, Oct 12 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Marian + Michael Bagala: Bagala & Bodnarchuk Families

Annual Columbus Day Federal Holiday — No Banking or Postal Services

Mon, Oct 13 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Dolores Babin Theresa Kundrat

Tue, Oct 14 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Dorothy H. Dobda Family

Wed, Oct 15 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Doris + Wasil Koblowski Eleanor Gramata & Son: George

Thrs, Oct 16 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Agnes + Anthony Knoll Dgtr: Leslie O'Donnell
(8th ann. of passing 10/15)

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

Fri, Oct 17 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Frank Firko, Sr. Grandson: Fr. Firko
(42nd ann of passing)



6:00 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

Sat, Oct 18 9:00 a.m. (NS) + A. Velma Seman Georgevich Family

Anticipated Divine Liturgy for the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Frances + Walter Grzywinski Son: Frank & Karen

19th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN, Oct 19 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Robert J. Galida (birthday 10/11): Dgtr: Kathy L. Mullen
2:00 p.m. MaryFest followed by Deanery Pasta Dinner at St. Elias Church

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

Oct 15 – LAURA KALLOP; Oct 16– Nancy Debranski-Ferrell; Oct 18 – Jeno Lecci, Paul Zubritzky.

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, 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): Rosemarie Nazak, 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 light of the ecumenism following Vatican II, are Catholics now under serious obligation (that is, binding under pain of sin) to skip Sunday Mass (Divine Liturgy) once in a while and worship instead at non-Catholic churches? **A.** Answer by a Catholic Apologist: "Required"? "Not allowed," you mean! A Catholic may *not* "worship instead at non-Catholic churches." To do so is to violate the First Commandment. (This is to be distinguished from engaging in, say, an ecumenical prayer service.) It is mandatory, under pain of mortal sin but allowing for exceptions arising from necessity, for every Catholic to attend Mass (Divine Liturgy) *every* Sunday (or Saturday evening) and on holy days of obligation. Catholics are under *no* obligation to attend non-Catholic services. Such visits are purely voluntary and may be undertaken so long as no scandal is given. Vatican II's *Directory on Ecumenism* allows some participation at such services in common responses or hymns that are not in variance with the Catholic faith.



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

October 12 – October 18, 2025

(WR): **In memory of Frances & Walter Grzywinski**
 offered by Son: Frank & Karen

(NS): **In memory of Agnes Knoll** *(8th ann of passing 10/15)*
 offered by Dgtr: Leslie O'Donnell

NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2026 (NS) NOW AVAILABLE 2026



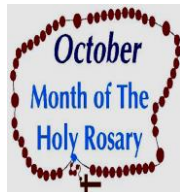
General Announcements

(MR) CONDOLENCES EXTENDED — The Spirit Of Truth (S.O.T.) announces the recent passing of long-time parishioner and friend, Helen Best, 95, formally of The Bottoms who was residing at the Residence of the Willows Personal Care Facility, McKees Rocks last Sunday, October 9, 2025. She is survived by several nieces and nephews. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was offered on Wed., October 8. Interment followed at St. Mark Cemetery. Our parish extends its most sincere sympathies to the Best, Wahal and Cifruk Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord eternal rest to your servant Helen, and remember her forever! *Vičnaja Jej Pamjat'!*

NEXT YEAR'S RECORD BOOK CONTINUES TO RECORD DIVINE LITURGIES AND SANCTUARY LAMPS FOR 2026 — Divine Liturgy and Sanctuary Lamp reservations continue to be 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.



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.



VOCATIONAL ICON AND PRAYER BOOKS WILL BE MAKING ITS ROUNDS – The faithful of the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Province will soon be encouraged to sponsor a week of prayer for an increase of Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and Monastic life. This renewed program has been recently initiated by the Archbishop and Bishops of the Metropolitan Province. Please consider sponsoring a week of intense prayer for this important cause.

Re-learn to Pray the Rosary especially for the intention: *That God may bless our nation with peace, that the division in our country may be healed and that the hearts of many will turn back to Our Lord and His Church.* Let us come and sacrifice this time as Our Country is depending on our prayer! — (MR) OCTOBER FRIDAYS @ 6:00 p.m.

General Announcements

COMMEMORATING TODAY

The Seventh Ecumenical Council – Nicea II

SITE: Nicea

YEAR: 787 A.D. POPE: Hadrian I, 772 - 795

EMPERORS: Constantine VI, 780 - 797 and Empress Irene (797 - 802)

ACTION: This council, called by Empress Irene (widow of Emperor Leo IV and regent for her son Constantine VI), with its doctrinal decree ratified by Pope Hadrian I, condemned ICONOCLASM. The Pope's letter here, just as with Pope St. Leo I at Chalcedon, set the tone of the council.

NOTE: Brewing beneath the surface at this time, however, was a rejection of papal authority. The Eastern Bishops, cut off from Rome and receptive to heresy under persecution, were held suspect by Rome. ALSO: Iconoclasm had been fostered by Emperor Leo III (717 - 741), who was opposed by Popes Gregory II (715 - 731) and Gregory III (731 - 741) and by St. John Damascene (d.749), priest and Doctor of the Church, who published three discourses in defense of images.

HERESY: ICONOCLASM (Destroyers of Icons) — The Second Council of Nicea, the seventh ecumenical council of the Christian church, was convoked by the Byzantine empress Irene in 787 (on the front cover to the right) to rule on the use of saints' images and icons in religious devotion. At that time a strong movement known as iconoclasm, which opposed the pictorial representation of saints or of the Trinity, existed in the Greek church. At the prompting of Irene the council declared that whereas the veneration of images was legitimate and the intercession of saints efficacious, their veneration must be distinguished from the worship due God alone.



October Respect-Life Month

3rd WEEK INTENTION OF REPECT LIFE MONTH:

Prayer for the Elderly

O Lord of Life, grant that the Elderly may lovingly accept Your will, and place themselves each day in Your merciful hands.



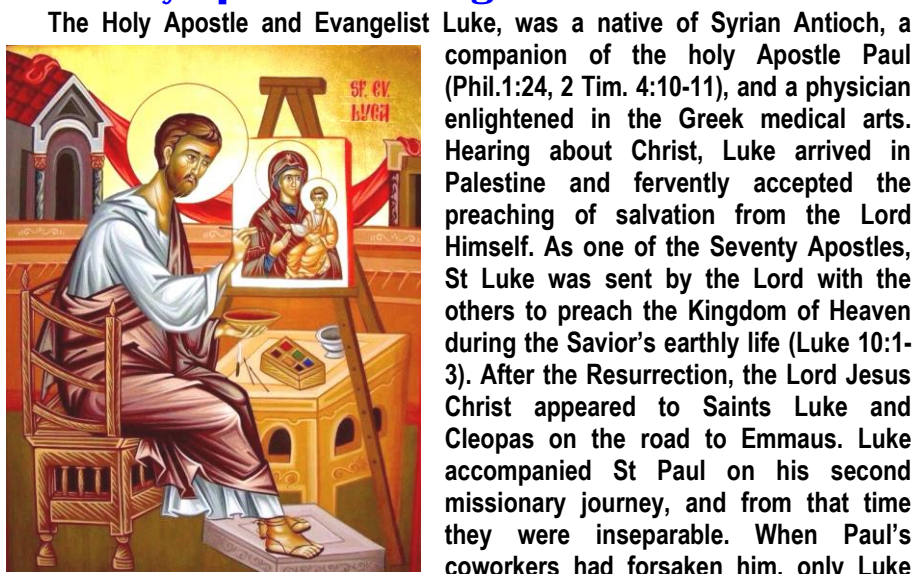
When the moment of their passing comes, grant that they may face it with serenity, without regret for what they shall leave behind. For in meeting, You after having sought You for so long, they shall find once more every authentic good which they have known here on earth in the company of all who have gone before them marked with the sign of faith and hope. Grace the Elderly with this wisdom so that they and we may bless and glorify Your Great Name Father, Son (+) and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

October Fridays Each Friday:.. (MR) The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:00 p.m.
October 12 (NS) PAC/FAC Meeting in Church following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.
October 19 ...*Deanery Pasta Dinner from 3:00 p.m.to 5:00 p.m. – St. Elias Church, Munhall.*
October 20 (MR) PAC/FAC Meeting, Monday @ 7:00 p.m.
October 29 Sunday of Christ the King
November 2 Annual Moleben for our 5 saintly bishops.@ 3:00 p.m.
November 8 Synaxis of St. Michael & All Incoprael Powers: (MR) 9:00-am & (NS) 6:00 pm

Saints of the Week

The Holy Apostle & Evangelist Luke — October 18



The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, was a native of Syrian Antioch, a companion of the holy Apostle Paul (Phil.1:24, 2 Tim. 4:10-11), and a physician enlightened in the Greek medical arts. Hearing about Christ, Luke arrived in Palestine and fervently accepted the preaching of salvation from the Lord Himself. As one of the Seventy Apostles, St Luke was sent by the Lord with the others to preach the Kingdom of Heaven during the Savior's earthly life (Luke 10:1-3). After the Resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to Saints Luke and Cleopas on the road to Emmaus. Luke accompanied St Paul on his second missionary journey, and from that time they were inseparable. When Paul's coworkers had forsaken him, only Luke remained to assist him in his ministry (2 Tim. 4:10-11). After the martyrdom of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul, St Luke left Rome to preach in Achaia, Libya, Egypt and the Thebaid. He ended his life by suffering martyrdom in the city of Thebes. *Tradition credits St Luke with painting the first icons of the Mother of God.* St Luke also painted icons of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul. St Luke's Gospel was written in the years 62-63 at Rome, under the guidance of the Apostle Paul. In the preliminary verses (1:1-3), St Luke precisely sets forth the purpose of his work. He proposes to record, in chronological order, everything known by Christians about Jesus Christ and His teachings. He made generous use of the oral tradition of the Church and of what the All-Pure Virgin Mary Herself had told him (2:19, 51). In St Luke's Gospel, the message of the salvation made possible by the Lord Jesus Christ, and the preaching of the Gospel, are of primary importance. St Luke also wrote the Acts of the Holy Apostles at Rome around 62-63 A.D. The Book of Acts, which is a continuation of the four Gospels, speaks about the works and the fruits of the holy Apostles after the Ascension of the Savior. The theological focus of the Book of Acts is the coming of the Holy Spirit, Who will guide the Church "into all truth" John 16:13) until the Second Coming of Christ.

General Announcements

LAST WEEK FOR 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.*

FINAL SIGN UP TODAY: 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 today, October 12. *A freewill offering will be taken to subsidize the project. Any profit that will be made will go to purchasing gift cards to our administratively retired priests. This small gesture demonstrates appreciation for their many years of spiritual service to the faithful.*



LAST WEEK'S YOUTH GROUP BAKE SALE SUCCESSFUL — Our Byzan-TEEN YOUTH GROUP extends its gratitude to all who participated in last week's Bake Sale which took in \$209.00. This amount aids them for preparing for the 2026 Metropolitan Province Youth Rally taking place in Cleveland in July 2026. Also, beginning next Sunday they will be selling Sarris Candy Bars. If you are willing to sell a box, please contact Maria Iyengar. Let us continue to support our TEENS and help them to reach their goal!



PIROHI MEETING TODAY — Following the 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, there will be a organizational meeting to see if we will be having Pirohi Sales prior to the Christmas Season. Please join us and become a part of this fabulous team. If it is to be started the dates will also be announced.