

Parish Offerings – 18th Sunday after Pentecost — October 12, 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 (\$2,898) YP (\$13)	\$2,911.00
Holy Day (\$43) YP (\$2)	43.00
Special Donation (In Thanksgiving of Wed. Ann. Barbara & Lee Feldman	25.00
Votive Candles	160.00

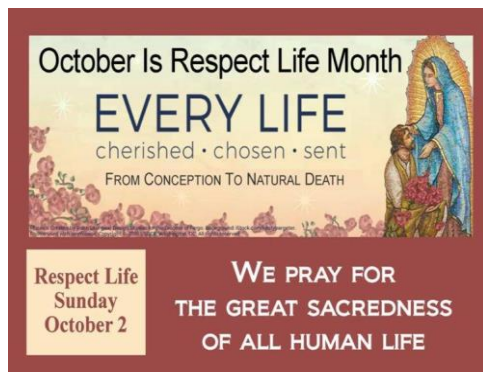
\$3,139.00

Regular Offering (\$631) YP (\$2)	\$633.00
Holy Day (\$30 Utilities (\$30) Improvement (\$80)	140.00
Votive Candles	137.00

\$910.00

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (44); Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (55); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (30)



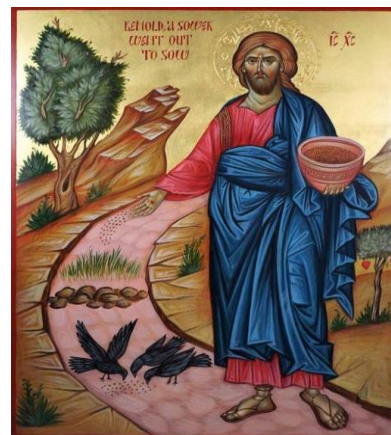
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
.. 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

The 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Respect Life Month — October 19, 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



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



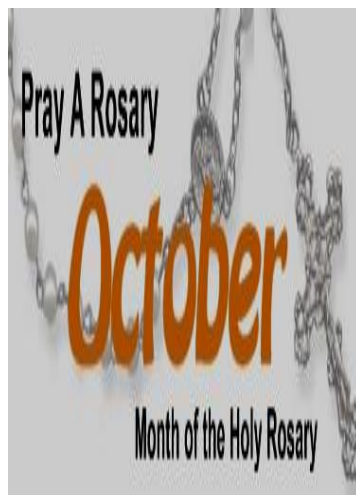
North Side Parishioner

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 (Matus of Pentecost Sunday).

October 19, 2025

Volume XV, Number 43



Seasonal Christian Greeting:
Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!
Slava Isusu Christu! — Slava Na Viki!



Liturgical Services for the Week

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Intention</i>	<i>Requested By</i>
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	

Mon, Oct 20	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Lorraine "Bunny" Zavidny	Theresa Kundrat
Tue, Oct 21	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Ann Muska (birthday 10/15)	Friend
Wed, Oct 22	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ John Kulka (birthday)	Children: Kathy & John
Thrs, Oct 23	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Albert P. Kovacs, Sr. (40th of passing 10/24)	Wife: Patty & Family

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

Fri, Oct 24	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Robert Bordas	Family
	6:00 p.m. (MR)	Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary	



Sat, Oct 25	9:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Esther M. Kallop	Brother: Charles Kaiser
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Anticipated Divine Liturgy for the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Margaret Cifrutak	Son: Burt & Nanine
	(1st ann of passing 10/23)	

20th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday of Christ the King



SUN, Oct 26	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Dolores Babin	Pirohi Workers
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	

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 20 – Patricia Ference; Oct 21 – Charles McCusker; Oct 23 – Michael Liberatore; Oct 24 – Anastasia Bedard, Theresa Kundrat; Oct 25 – Gregory Stilwell, Emma Joy Usouski.

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 LATTI, KIRK LATTI, 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. My fiancé and I want to live together for the next year to save money. My mom is upset about this and says this is wrong. But if we both honor our commitment to live chastely until marriage, why would it be wrong? **A.** Catholic Answers Apologist: Even if you and your fiancé don't have sexual relations for the entire time of your living together, your actions give scandal. The Catechism warns: The person who gives scandal becomes his neighbor's tempter. He damages virtue and integrity; he may even draw his brother into spiritual death. Scandal is a grave offense if by deed or omission another is deliberately led into a grave offense. (CCC 2284). And remember Jesus' warning in Luke 17:1: "Temptations to sin are sure to come; but woe to him by whom they come!" Saving money for your future life together is commendable, but moving in with your fiancé is not the only way in which you can do so. You could also find a roommate of your own sex or move in with your parents until your wedding day. Surely, saving a few bucks is not worth the dishonor your parents will suffer if you follow through with your decision. Nor is it worth sacrificing your commitment to live according to the teachings of Christ and his Church in your preparation for marriage. Trust God for his grace to see you through.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

October 19 – October 25, 2025

(MR): In memory of Eleanor & John Kulka

offered by Children: Kathy & John

(NS) In memory of Thomas F. Zon (7th ann of passing 10/7)

offered by Sister-in-law: Theresa Fitzurka

(MR) NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2026

(NS) NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2026

General Announcements

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 — 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.

YOUTH GROUP TAKING CANDY ORDERS THE VIRTUAL WAY — Every two years our Youth Group attends the **Byzan-TEEN Rally**. It is a wonderful chance



for our youth to meet other Byzantine Catholics from across the country. In July 2026 we are hoping to send our teens and chaperones to Cleveland. In order to defray the cost, the Holy Ghost Youth Group is holding a virtual fundraiser from Sarris Candies. This is a contactless fundraiser, and all purchases will be shipped directly to the buyer free of charge. You can purchase anything from the company, and we will receive 25% of the sale. Just follow these steps and candy will be on the way:

1. Go to sarriscandiesfundraising.com
2. Go to the "fundraising" tab.
3. Our group code is 10-3617.
4. You do not have to put in a teen's name unless you want to.
5. Shop!

North Side

BAKELESS BAKE SALE & 50/50 RAFFLE FOR THANKSGIVING — Next Sunday, we are launching these two social activities in time for the Thanksgiving Holiday including a Bakeless Bake Sale. We will see if matching funds from GCU Headquarters are available. Tickets will be available at the weekend Divine Liturgy. If you wish to contribute to the Bakeless Bake Sale, place your donation in a white envelope with your name, envelope number, and amount. Both the Raffle and Bakeless Bake Sale will terminate on *Sunday, November 23 and the day the drawing will take place*. The proceeds will be applied to our *Boiler Fund Project*.



Today's Gospel Proclamation

Parable of the Sower — Luke 8: 5-15

The different ways of receiving the word of God. The Sower is our Lord Jesus Christ, Who, through the apostles and their successors, proclaims the word of God. The field is the heart of man, for which the divine seed is destined. The chief lesson contained in the



parable is that the effect of God's word upon the soul depends entirely on the preparation and disposition of him who hears it, just as the fruitfulness of the natural seed depends on the cultivation and quality of the earth in which it is sown. The three cases mentioned in which the seed brought forth no fruit, point out the chief hindrances which man puts in the way of the efficacy of God's word. The first class are those in whom there is wanting a good will to receive God's word with faith. They hear it indeed, but they will not open their hearts to it, because the devil and his human agents have succeeded by scorn, prejudice and false explanations in so setting them against

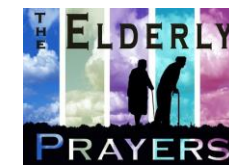
everything supernatural, that they utterly refuse to believe. Take, for instance, the Pharisees in our Lord's time, and also the so-called "enlightened" men of the present day. The second class have a good will and are religious-minded people, but they are shallow and weak in character. They receive the word of God eagerly, but their faith does not penetrate to the depths of their heart and will and lacks firmness and steadfastness. Therefore they fall away as soon as trials and persecution put their faith to the test. Remember the Israelites in the desert! The third class are those who have faith and hold fast to it, but who do not live up to it, being quite absorbed in the things of this world. They give themselves up to the concupiscence of the eyes, the concupiscence of the flesh, and the pride of life, and bring forth no fruits worthy of faith. They have faith, but it is dead. The word of God bears fruit in those only who, besides accepting it willingly, cherish it in a heart purified by faith, and patiently and perseveringly live up to their faith. Religion and grace are, therefore, affairs, not of reason, but chiefly of the heart and will. **APPLICATION:** You see by this parable how necessary it is that your heart should be well prepared for receiving the word of God. Have you always had a desire to hear God's word? Have you kept what you have heard in your heart, and made corresponding resolutions? Have you thought your religious instruction tedious? To which of the four classes described by our Lord do you think you belong? Pray fervently to the Holy Ghost before you hear any sermon, and listen attentively to it, with the resolve to take to heart and carry out what you hear.

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.



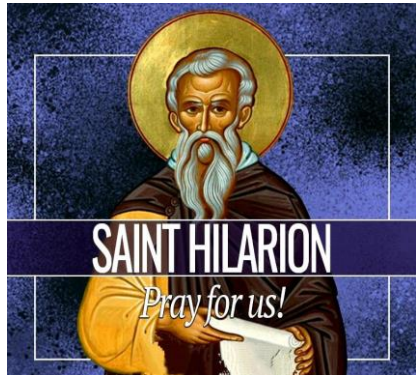
Calendar of Upcoming Events

October Fridays Each Friday: (MR) The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:00 p.m.
 October 19 *Deanery Pasta Dinner from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. – St. Elias Church, Munhall.*
 (NS) PAC/FAC Meeting in Church following the Sunday Divine Liturgy
 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.
 Standard Time Resumes. Clocks FALL BACK ONE HOUR.
 November 8 .. Synaxis of St. Michael & All Incorporeal Powers: (MR) 9:00-am & (NS) 6:00 pm

Saint of the Week

Venerable Father Hilarion the Great October 21

Saint Hilarion the Great was born in the year 291 in the Palestinian village of Tabatha . He was sent to Alexandria to study. There he became acquainted with Christianity and was baptized. After hearing an account of the angelic life of St Anthony the Great (January 17), Hilarion went to meet him, desiring to study with him and learn what is pleasing to God. Hilarion soon returned to his native land to find that his parents had died. After distributing his family's inheritance to the poor, Hilarion set out into the desert surrounding the city of Maium. In the desert the monk struggled intensely with impure thoughts, vexations of the mind and



the burning passions of the flesh, but he defeated them with heavy labor, fasting and fervent prayer. The devil sought to frighten the saint with phantoms and apparitions. During prayer St Hilarion heard children crying, women wailing, the roaring of lions and other wild beasts. The monk perceived that it was the demons causing these terrors in order to drive him away from the wilderness. He overcame his fear with the help of fervent prayer. Once, robbers fell upon St Hilarion, and he persuaded them to forsake their life of crime through the power of his words. Soon all of Palestine learned about the holy ascetic. The Lord granted to St Hilarion the power to cast out unclean spirits. With this gift of grace he loosed the bonds of many of the afflicted. The sick came for healing, and the monk cured them free of charge, saying that the grace of God is not for sale (MT 10:8). Such was the grace that he received from God that he could tell by the smell of someone's body or clothing which passion afflicted his soul. They came to St Hilarion wanting to save their soul under his guidance. With the blessing of St Hilarion, monasteries began to spring up throughout Palestine. Going from one monastery to another, he instituted a strict ascetic manner of life. About seven years before his death (+ 371-372) St Hilarion moved back to Cyprus, where the ascetic lived in a solitary place until the Lord summoned him to Himself.

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General Announcements

VOCATIONAL ICON AND PRAYER BOOKS WILL BE MAKING ITS ROUNDS – The faithful of the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Province are 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. Sign the list. On your week take the special icon from the tetrapod, and prayer booklets. This program is not just with families, but also individuals who must pray the from the booklets from Sunday through Saturday, and then return the icon to the tetrapod.



ANNUAL MOLEBEN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CAUSES — The yearly prayer service for the advancement of the Causes of Beatification and Canonization of our now five holy Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic Bishops will take place at the Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks, PA on Sunday, November 2, 2025 @ 3:00 p.m. For the past 40 years faithful through the Pittsburgh Archeparchy have gathered in various archieparchial parishes, monasteries, and the seminary to pray for the Canonization of *Bishop-Martyr Theodore G. Romzha, Uzhorod (+1947); Bishop-Martyr Paul P. Gojdich, O.S.B.M., Presov (+1960); Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko, Presov (+1976); and newly beatified Priest-Martyr Peter Oros and for the beatification of the Servant of God Bishop Alexander Chira, Uzhorod (+1985).* A Marian Moleben is offered seeking the aid of the Holy Mother of God in helping us achieve this end. Archbishop Skurla will be in attendance. Please invite your friends! *Since we will host this event, you are asked to bake or purchase some cookies for the fellowship that follows.*



NEWS RELEASE: Holy Ghost Pirohi



Holy Ghost Church in McKees Rocks will be selling our award-winning pirohi for six weeks prior to Christmas this year. Sale dates are November 7, 14, 21 and December 5, 12, 19. Prices are the same as last year – *but may be subject to change:* \$12/doz. Potato with cheese and \$13/doz. Kraut or Farmers' Cheese. *New this year:* Jalapeño \$15/doz. Check weekly by phone for availability. All orders must be placed between 9 a.m. and 12 noon on Wednesday prior to the sale date. Call the Pirohi Kitchen at (412) 331-5155. We were "Best in the Burgh" two years in a row at Kennywood's Pierogi Fest! Come on down to "The Bottoms!"

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