

Parish Offerings – 21st Sunday after Pentecost — November 2, 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

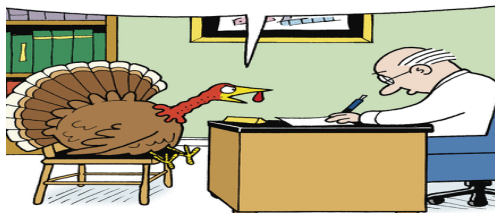
Regular Offering (\$3,631) YP (\$12.62)	\$2,643.62
Holy Days (\$50) YP (\$2) Collection for Poor (\$20).....	72.00
Special Donation (In mem. of + Helen Best by Barbara Bjalobok)	50.00
Votive Candles (\$246.50) Arch. Charities (\$330) Thanksgiving Day (\$60) .	636.50
	<hr/>
	\$3,402.12

Regular Offering (\$495) YP (\$1)	\$496.00
Improvements (\$15) Arch. Charities (\$25)	40.00
Special Donation (by William Knoll)	100.00
Votive Candles	53.00
	<hr/>
	\$689.00

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (25); Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (63); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (25)
St. Michael the Archangel — Fri. (NS) 6:00 p.m. (5); (MR) 9:00 a.m. (10)

...AND FARMER BROWN GETS
NOTHING IF I DIE UNDER
SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES...



Valerian F. Szal

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

Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP

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Randy
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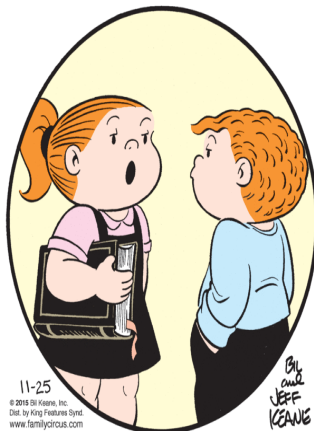


North Side Parishioner

Alan

Valeriano

**(412) 638-3417 PA
172370**



11-25

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“Guardian Angels watch over us
so God can work on more
important stuff.”

HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

.. 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

November 9, 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).*

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).

November 9, 2025

Volume XV, Number 46



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

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

SUN, Nov 9 9:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare of Mildred Terrek (100th birthday) Dgtrs.
11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Mon, Nov 10 8:00 a.m. (MR) Lorraine "Bunny" Zavidny Karen Skirpan Perreault

Veteran's Day Observed — No Banking or Postal Services

Tue, Nov 11 8:00 a.m. (MR) Eleanor Kulka (birthday) Children: Kathy & John

Archbishop-Martyr Josaphat of Polosk

Wed, Nov 12 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Stephen M. Yovino Wife: Stephanie Family

Our Father among the Saints, John Chrysostom

Thrs, Nov 13 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen Best (40th day of passing) Nephew: Burt & Nanine

Holy Apostle Philip

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

Fri, Nov 14 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Julia + Charles Wovchko Anonymous



Commencement of the Philippian Fast

Sat, Nov 15 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Ronald J. Hirschfield Dgtr: Susan & Family

Anticipated Divine Liturgy for the Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Mike J. Sotak Dgtr: Elaine Cassidy
(35th ann of passing 11/14)



23rd Sunday after Pentecost

SUN, Nov 16 9:00 a.m. (MR) Lorraine "Bunny" Zavidny 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

Nov 9 – Tina Burns, JOHN HELMS; Nov 11 – Frederick Colbert; Nov 15 – Barbara Feldman.

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

HOME: Ted Babin, Margaret Beliunas, Dolores & William Boras, Monica Lemesh, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Michael Kachuta, Steve Kosko, Karen Krempasky, Theresa Kundrat, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, BETTY LORINC, DEACON MICHAEL & CINDY MEADERS, John W. Oslick, 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): Rosemarie Nazak, Mildred Terrek.

CEDAR HILL REHAB CENTER (951 Broadhead Rd., Coraopolis, 15108): Nancy 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. The family of a deceased Catholic friend is considering giving the cremated remains to a company that will process a diamond out of the cremains. Can you help me give them a good reason why this is wrong? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** Although the Church allows for cremation (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2301), (although it teaches preference for burial/entombment in imitation of Christ) it is very concerned that the cremains be treated with appropriate respect (Indult on Cremation, Congregation for Divine Worship, 1997). The cremains should not be scattered but should be disposed of in a dignified manner, whether by committing them to the earth or sea in a suitable container or by placing them in a mausoleum (Order of Christian Funerals 416).



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

November 9 — November 15, 2025

(MR): In memory of Eleanor & John Kulka

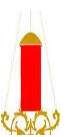
offered by Children: Kathy & John

(NS) In memory of Tommy Seman

offered by Sister: + A. Velma

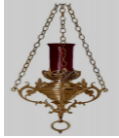
(MR) NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2026

(NS) NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2026



General Announcements

ADDITIONAL SANCTUARY LAMPS NOW AVAILABLE AT BOTH PARISHES — Divine Liturgy and Sanctuary Lamp reservations continue to be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. The demand has subsided thus you are now 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.



(MR) 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:



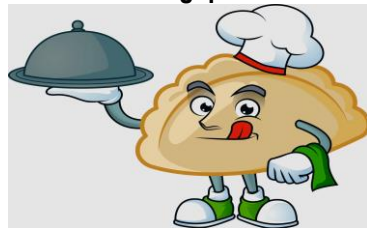
1. Go to sarriscandiesfundraising.com
2. Go to the "fundraising" tab.
3. Our group code is 10-3617.
4. You do not have to put in a teen's name unless you want to.
5. Shop!

(NS) BAKELESS BAKE SALE & 50/50 RAFFLE FOR THANKSGIVING — We have launched three social activities in time for the Thanksgiving Holiday including a Bakeless Bake Sale, Raffle & through two anonymous contributors 2 Gift-Cards. GCU Headquarters will provide matching funds. 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*. Gratitude to those who are participating in this event. The total will be listed later in the month.

(MR) Holy Ghost Church continues to make award-winning pirohi for five additional weeks prior to Christmas. Remaining sale dates are November 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. 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!"



Meditation on today's Gospel

Faith in Jesus is Necessary for Salvation

Like 8:41-56

When the woman with a hemorrhage learned that the Lord said to the leader of the synagogue, "Believe, and your daughter will live," she thought to



herself that he who could bring back the soul of a little girl of twelve into her body would also be able to take away an illness of twelve years and expel it from the body. When she heard him say, "Believe firmly and your daughter will live," this woman reflected, "can give the faith he requires as the price." The healing came forth from his mouth, and he negotiated as its price the faith expressed by the woman's mouth. He gave a clear healing and demanded a clear price. The healing that came out from his lips could be heard publicly, and he required from the lips a faith openly professed. Although the woman professed before everyone, they did not believe her, especially since her pains were hidden. When the Lord opened the eyes of the blind man, they called him a madman, and when he restored Lazarus to life, certain people, even among those who had seen for themselves, did not believe. This is why he restored the little girl of twelve years to life. He who was able to put the continued vitality of twelve years in the body back into its place was also able to arrest and banish from its place a flow of blood that continued for twelve years. He who was able to alleviate one illness was also able to banish another. He who was able to vivify all the dead members of this little girl was also able to heal the woman's womb.

(MR) & (NS) VOCATIONAL ICON AND PRAYER BOOKS CONTINUE MAKING ITS ROUNDS — The faithful of the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Province are encouraged to sponsor a week of prayer as a Harvest-Helper 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. Please 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. We are praying that all parishioners participate in this important project.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

November 12	....., Greater Pittsburgh Deanery Meeting @ 12:00 noon at Rico's Restaurant.
November 14	..... Pirohi Sales.
November 15	..... Commencement of the Philippiian (Filipovka) Fast.
November 21	..... Feast of the Holy Theotokos' Entrance Into the Temple The Divine Liturgy schedule: (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m. Pirohi Sales.
November 23	..... Byzant-Teen Haluški Sale.
November 27	..... Annual Thanksgiving Day Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m.
November 30	... Decorating the (MR) Church for Christmas following the Divine Liturgy. Decorating the (NS) Church for Christmas following the Divine Liturgy.
December 5	..... Pirohi Sales.
December 6	..... Solemn Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonder-Worker Friday Eve prior (NS) 6:00 p.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m. and Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m.
December 7	..... Parish & Archieparchial St. Nicholas Celebration.
December 8	..... Solemn Feast of Immaculate Conception: (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.

Saints of the Week — November 15

The Holy Martyrs Urias, Samonas & Habib

The Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias, Samonas and Habib: during the persecution against Christians under the emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Maximian (305-311). The two friends Gurias and Samonas, preachers of the Word of God, were arrested in the city of Edessa. The saints refused to offer sacrifice to the gods, and boldly confessed their faith in Christ. For this they were subjected to cruel tortures: they were beaten, hung up by their hands, heavy weights were tied to their feet, and they were cast into a stifling prison. The martyrs endured everything with firmness. By night, they were taken out beyond the city and beheaded (+ 299-306). Christians buried their holy bodies with reverence. After some years, the last pagan emperor, Licinius (311-324), began a persecution against Christians. Habib, a deacon of the Church of Edessa whom



the emperor ordered to be arrested for his zealous spreading of the true Faith, presented himself before the executioners when he learned they were searching for him. The saint confessed his faith in Christ and was sentenced to be burned alive. The martyr went willingly into the fire and with a prayer surrendered his soul to the Lord. When the fire went out, the mother and relatives of the saint found his body unharmed. They buried the martyr next to Saints Gurias and Samonas. In an Akathist, the Holy Church addresses the martyrs: "Rejoice, Gurias, Samonas and Habib, Heavenly Patrons of honorable marriage." We pray to them for deliverance from family turmoil, and from marital difficulties, especially where one spouse hates the other without cause.

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General Announcements

BEGINNING OF THE PHILIPPIAN FAST – Saturday, Nov. 15, marks the beginning of our journey through the PHILIPPIAN FAST. It is called the Philippiian Fast (Filipovka in Church Slavonic) since it begins the day after the Apostle Philip's Feast. It is comparable to the Western Rite's Advent Season. The Byzantine Catholic Church does not use the Latin Language to describe this penitential season, since it's traditional language is based on the Greek. This minor penitential period directs us to prepare ourselves for the



spiritual meaning of Christmas. May we allow Him to be reborn in our souls by sanctifying the temple of our Body. Through prayer, abstinence, almsgivings of mercy, frequent confession of sins, and additional attendances at the Divine Liturgies we can accomplish this end. Together as a parish, let us collectively join to practice simple abstinence (no meat) or an equivalent penance on Wednesdays (recommended) and Fridays (REQUIRED) for the intention for the return of our beloved back to the fullness of the Faith.

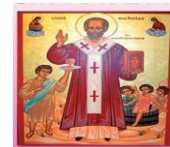
GRATITUDE TO THOSE WHO CAME TO PRAY LAST SUNDAY AFTERNOON — The 39th



Annual Archieparchial Moleben for the Beatification & Canonization of our four saintly European Bishops was celebrated last Sunday afternoon. We were privileged to have our Archbishop Skurla to preside in this intercessory prayer. We were also proud to have our ECF Religious Education teachers and students involved throughout the ceremony. A special thank you to Karen Stebbins, Peggy McCusker Maria Iyengar and Dana Leasure for organizing the social following the Moleben. We thank Fr. Luke for joining us as well as our cantors Steve Puluka and Carl Bates sang the responses to the

Moleben. Also, many thanks goes out to all who brought different variety of cookies for the coffee social that followed. Through the prayers of Bishops Romzha, Gojdich, Hopko, Chira and Oros may they always intercede for all who call upon their assistance!

ARCHIEPARICHAL ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION — The 67th Annual St. Nicholas Celebration will take place at the Cathedral and Center on Sunday, December 7, 2024. We would like to get at least one full table per parish(s) family. Please sign the list in the (MR) Side Vestibule; (NS) Narthex.



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER FOOD DRIVE — In our compassion for the area's less fortunate, we are collecting non-perishable items for the annual food



drive to be delivered to the *Interfaith-Church Food Drive*, in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Please bring non-expired items to the Church and place them at the entrance. Julia & George Mosko will be delivering these

items to the food bank in time for Thanksgiving & Christmas. For additional information contact Julia or George (412) 771-4244.