

Parish Offerings – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost — November 9, 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)

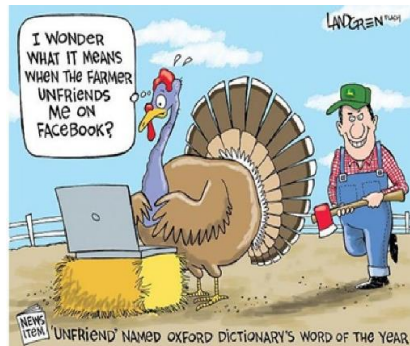
Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks

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
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	\$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
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	\$689.00

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (39); Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (81); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (22)



Valerian F. Szal

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

Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP

Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953



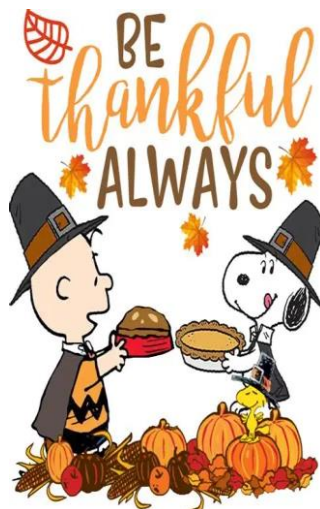
GCU offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Randy (412) 973-1085



North Side Parishioner

Alan
Valeriano

(412) 638-3417 PA
172370



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

.. 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

First Sunday of the Philippian Fast

November 16, 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 16, 2025

Volume XV, Number 47



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

1st Sunday of the Philippian Fast

SUN, Nov 16 (2) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Lorraine "Bunny" Zavidny Pirohi Workers
11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Mon, Nov 17 (3) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary Hrivnak (54th ann of passing) Firko Family

Tue, Nov 18 (4) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Monsignor Peter P. Tay Jen, Nancy & Nina

RECOMMENDED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)
for the intention of the return of our beloved to the fullness of the Faith

Wed, Nov 19 (5) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Teofil Dlugoš Zuzanna Revilak

Prefestive of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

Thurs, Nov 20 (6) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Teofil Dlugoš Zuzanna Revilak

Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple



Solemn Holy Day — Mirovanije

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)
for the intention of the return of our beloved to the fullness of the Faith

FRI, Nov 21 (7) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + John Debranski (19th ann of passing) Dgtr: Nancy
6:00 p.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sat, Nov 22 (8) 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Anticipated Divine Liturgy for the Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Irene + Alex Bilak, Jr. Grandson: Mike Tomchak

24th Sunday after Pentecost

2nd Sunday of the Philippian Fast

SUN, Nov 23 (9) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna Velma Seman Pirohi Workers
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Marie Wittmer (birthday) Sister: Joan Senchyshyn

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 16 — Maria Iyengar, Paul A. Rubish; **Nov 17** — Kathleen Marks; **Nov 19** — John R. Chomko; **Nov 22** — Mike Tomchak.

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, Kenneth & 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. It is my understanding that we should be cleansed of our sins before we receive the Eucharist. **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** Receiving Christ in the Eucharist forgives venial sins. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains, "As bodily nourishment restores lost strength, so the Eucharist strengthens our charity, which tends to be weakened in daily life; and this living charity wipes away venial sins" (CCC 1394). However, the reception of the Eucharist does not forgive mortal sins, so a person who is conscious of mortal sin (eg. Ten Commandments, 6 Precepts of the Church) must go to confession before receiving communion. When a person conscious of mortal sin receives the Eucharist without prior forgiveness he commits another mortal sin and only compounds his desperate situation. St. Paul tells us, "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord" (1 Cor. 11:27). The Church calls this a *sacrilege* which is profaning or treating unworthily the sacraments and other liturgical actions, as well as persons, things, or places consecrated to God (CCC 2120).



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

November 16 — November 22, 2025

(MR): In memory of John R. Debranski (19th ann of pass 11/21)

offered by Dgtr: Nancy

(NS) In memory of Monsignor Peter P. Tay

offered by Anonymous

(MR) NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2026

(NS) NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2026

General Announcements

(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:

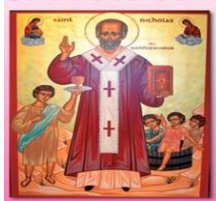
1. Go to sarriscandiesfundraising.com
2. Go to the "fundraising" tab.
3. Our group code is 10-3617.
4. You do not have to put in a teen's name unless you want to.
5. Shop!

(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 next **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.



Parishes St. Nicholas Christmas Party

(MR) & (NS) — All parish members from McKees Rocks and North Side are invited to attend the ECF Saint Nicholas celebration following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday December 7th. The event will be held in the school building. The ECF students will sing, the Youth Group will recite readings, there will be an appearance by St. Nicholas, and crafts for the children. A light lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by Sunday November 30th using the signup sheet outside the Chapel at McKees Rocks or contact Aimee Helms at 412-463-3002. We hope you and your family can join us for this joyful celebration of faith, fellowship, and fun!



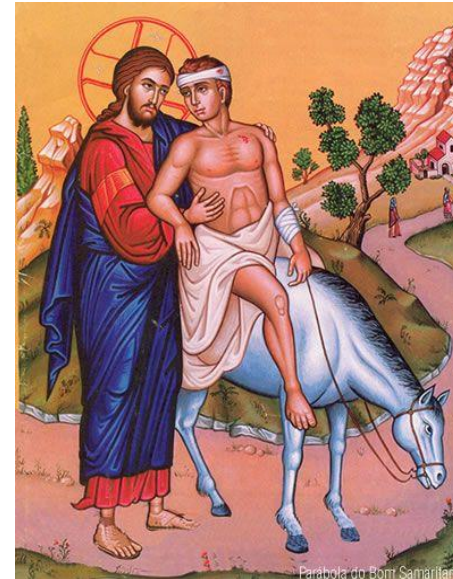
Join Us For A Special 2025 Jubilee Blessing Pilgrimage

On **Sunday, December 21, 2025 @ 1:00 p.m.**, we will depart together by our vehicles on a Pilgrimage to the Cathedral in Munhall. This has been a designated place to receive a Jubilee Indulgence by the late Pope Francis. Details later. We will then stop for a mid-day lunch at the Waterfront. If interested, please sign and join us and receive this special blessing prior to the Nativity of Our Lord.

Meditation on today's Gospel

An Allegorical Meaning to the Parable (Luke 10:25-37)

The story of the **Good Samaritan** tells us of a man that *fell among robbers*, represents *Adam* and his posterity; *Jerusalem*, the state of peace and innocence,



which man leaves by going down to *Jericho*, which means the moon, the state of trouble and sin: the *robbers* represent the devil, who *stripped* him of his supernatural gifts, and *wounded* him in his natural faculties: the *priest and Levite* represent the old law: the *Samaritan*, Christ; and the *beast*, his humanity. The *inn* means the Church; *wine*, the blood of Christ; *oil*, his mercy; whilst the host signifies St. Peter and his successors, the bishops and priests of the Church. (Origen, St. Jerome, St. Ambrose, St. Augustine, and others). Since all men possess a rational soul and are created in God's likeness, since they have the same nature and origin, have been redeemed by Christ, and

enjoy the same divine calling and destiny, the basic equality of all must receive increasingly greater recognition. True, all men are not alike from the point of view of varying physical power and the diversity of intellectual and moral resources. Nevertheless, with respect to the fundamental rights of the person, every type of discrimination, whether social or cultural, whether based on sex, race, color, social condition, language, or religion, is to be overcome and eradicated as contrary to God's intent. --- Documents of Vatican II, *The Church Today*

Let us Pray for Vocations

(MR) & (NS) **VOCATIONAL ICON AND PRAYER BOOKS CONTINUE MAKING ITS**

ROUNDS — The faithful of each parish within 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. 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 21	Feast of the Holy Theotokos' Entrance Into the Temple. 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 18

Great-Martyr Plato of Ancyra & Romanus

Plato was from the town of Ancyra in Galatia. He was a Christian by birth and upbringing. While in his youth, he showed great perfection in every virtue. Plato did not conceal his faith in Christ the Lord, but preached it openly, denouncing idolaters because of their worshiping lifeless objects in place of the Living Creator. For this, he was brought to trial before Governor Agrippinus, and was interrogated and harshly tortured by him. When the governor counseled him to avoid death and save his life by worshiping the idols, Plato said: *"There are two deaths, the one temporal and the other eternal; so also, are there two lives, one of short duration and the other without end."* Then Agrippinus subjected him to even harsher tortures. Among other tortures, red-hot cannon balls were set on the saint's naked body; then they cut strips from his skin. "Torture me more harshly," the martyr cried out to the torturers, "so that your inhumanity and my endurance may be seen more clearly." When the torturer

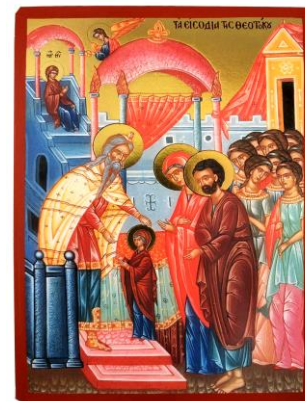


reminded the martyr that his namesake, Plato the philosopher, was a pagan, the martyr replied: ***"I am not like Plato, nor is Plato like me except in name. I learn and teach the wisdom of Christ, but Plato was a teacher of wisdom that is foolishness to God."*** After that, Plato was thrown into prison, where he remained for eighteen days without food and water. When the guards were amazed that Plato was able to live in hunger for so long, he told them: "You are satisfied by meat, but I, by holy prayers. Wine gladdens you, but Christ the True Vine gladdens me." Plato was beheaded in about the year 266 and received his wreath of eternal glory. **Romanus (also known as Roman)** was born in Palestine, and served as a deacon in Caesarea. At the time of the persecution against Christians, he was living in Antioch. Through his preaching, he encouraged the faithful to stand firm in their confession of Christ when the Eparch Asclapiades wanted to raze the church to its foundations. Romanus told the people that they must fight to prevent the destruction of the house of God, assuring them that even if they died in their efforts they would sing a hymn of victory in heaven. At that time there a festival was being celebrated in honor of the idols, and Saint Romanus went to the pagan temple to upbraid the Eparch and the unbelievers for their impiety. As Asclapiades was about to enter the temple, Romanus fearlessly proclaimed that the idols were not gods, and that only Jesus Christ was truly God! Asclapiades ordered the saint to be beaten, and even tried to persuade him to deny Christ. When this failed, the Eparch ordered that Saint Romanus be tortured. He was suspended and beaten, and his sides were scraped with metal blades. Bravely enduring these torments, Saint Romanus confessed Christ, and chastised Asclapiades for his obstinate refusal to see the truth. Then Saint Romanus was condemned to death by fire. As soon as the fire was lit, however, a rain fell and put it out. Then the Eparch ordered the saint's tongue to be cut out, because he still confessed Christ and reviled the idolaters. Even after his tongue was cut out, the saint continued to speak as before. Finally, Saint Romanus was nailed to a keg, and he was strangled in his prison cell..



General Announcements

SOLEMN FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE INTO THE TEMPLE THIS WEEK — The origin of the feast is found in an account in the apocryphal Protoevangelium of Saint James. According to this document, after Saint Anne's miraculous birth-giving, the Most Holy Virgin having completed her second year, Joachim said to his wife: "Let us lead her to the Lord's Temple, as we promised Him." Ann said: *"Let us yet wait until her third year, so that the child will not clamor for her father or mother, thus she will not walk straight before the Lord."* When the child was three years old, Joachim said: *"Let us call from among the daughters of the Hebrews those who are undefiled, and let them each take a lamp and let these lamps be lit, that the child not turn to look backward and her heart be not held captive outside the Lord's Temple."* They did thusly. Zachary the priest received her and said to her: *"May the Lord crown your name with glory!"*, and he set her down on the altar step. There, Mary was nourished by an angel until she was twelve years old. When the time came for her to marry, Joseph received her from the priests' hands, and took her from the Lord's Temple. Whatever the foundations of this gracious legend may be, the Church invites us above all to meditate on the mystery of the internal preparation of Mary for her vocation as Theotokos. This preparation is a total self-commitment, in the "immaculate victim," "as a most holy vessel" which must receive the body of the Word incarnate, "a living temple and throne of the King, elected to be his Mother," "the spiritual ark enclosing the incomprehensible Word." The miracle of her subsistence by the hand of the Archangel is the symbol of her spiritual life entirely nourished by the will of God. ***Come and pray with us at the Divine Liturgy. See the liturgical schedule for times***



THE FIRST FEW DAYS INTO THE PHILIPPIN FAST – Yesterday, Nov. 15, marked the beginning of our journey through the **PHILIPPIN FAST**. It is called the Philippian 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 its 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.

