

Parish Offerings – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost — November 16, 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 (\$1,701) YP (\$9)	\$1,710.00
Holy Days (\$81) YP (\$2) Arch. Charities (\$50)	133.00
Special Donation (Margaret Lautenschlager)	3,000.00
Votive Candles	159.50
	<u>\$5,002.50</u>

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$502.) YP (\$2)	\$504.00
Votive Candles	50.25
	<u>\$554.25</u>

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)

Previous week published twice) Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks

Regular Offering (\$2,129) YP (\$12)	\$2,141.00
Holy Days (\$201) YP (\$4) Arch. Charities (\$105)	310.00
Special Donation (Mary Lynn Condeluci)	500.00
Votive Candles (\$168) Coffee Social (\$9)	177.00
	<u>\$3,128.00</u>

Previous week published twice) Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$547.) YP (\$1)	\$548.00
Holy Day (\$25) Arch. Collection (\$10) Collection for Poor (\$10)	45.00
Votive Candles (\$84) Utilities (\$20) Improv. (\$20)	124.00
	<u>\$717.00</u>

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (33); Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (62); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (28)
 Nov 21- Entrance of Theotokos into Temple — (MR) 9:00 am (7); (NS) 6:00 pm (4)



Valerian F. Szal

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Michael P. Ferrell,
 Supervisor, CFSP

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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 24th Sunday after Pentecost

2nd Sunday of Philipian Fast — November 23, 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.
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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 23, 2025

Volume XV, Number 48



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

24th Sunday after Pentecost

2nd Sunday of the Philippian Fast — Postfestive of Entrance Feast

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

Mon, Nov 24 (10) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Alexander F. Perschy (16th ann of passing) Son: Kurt
Final Day of the Entrance Feast

Tue, Nov 25 (11) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Dolores Babin Elaine Kurtanich

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

Wed, Nov 26 (12) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael Gramata Eleanor Gramata & Son: George
(40th ann of passing)



Annual Thanksgiving Day



Thrs, Nov 27 (13) 9:00 a.m. (MR) Thanksgiving for all God's Blessings

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 28 (14) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael Sotak, Jr. Wife: Jane

Sat, Nov 29 (15) 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Anna Velma Seman Joan Senchyshyn

Anticipated Divine Liturgy for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
4:00 p.m. (MR) + Lorraine "Bunny" Zavidny Rich Cifrulak

25th Sunday after Pentecost

3rd Sunday of the Philippian Fast — Thanksgiving Weekend

SUN, Nov 30 (16) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Alphonse A. Siglow Dgtr: Kathe & Bill Kress
(15th ann of passing)

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 23 – Harry Herron; Nov 27 – DIANE LASKO; Nov 29 – Leonora Haffly

Pray for the Ill & Shut-ins of Our Parishes

HOME: Ted Babin, Margaret Beliuas, 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):
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.
ALLEGHENY GENERAL HOSPITAL (320 E. North Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15212): Nancy Wauthier

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Is the penitent bound by the seal of confession? **A.** Catholic Answers Apologist: No, a penitent is not bound by the seal of confession. One should be prudent when discussing one's sins, but it's possible another person might benefit from the advice a penitent received in confession. A priest who celebrates the sacrament or anyone who deliberately or inadvertently hears a confession is bound to uphold the seal. In addition, while a priest may not break the seal, if a penitent brings up the same subject outside of confession, then the priest could prudently talk about that conversation. But the seal remains even after a penitent's death.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

November 23 – November 29, 2025

(MR) **In memory of John Hustak (26th ann of pass 11/27)**
 offered by Fr. Luke, Maria & Anita Iyengar

(NS) **In memory of Marie Wittmer (birthday 11/23)**
 offered by Sister: Joan Senchyshyn

(MR) FEW AVAILABLE FOR 2026

(NS) NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2026

Come O Jesus Our Savior, Redeem and Save Us!

General Announcements

(MR) PHILIPPIAN FAST PIROHI SALES HALT ONE WEEK — There will be NO Pirohi Sales this Friday, November 28 but they will resume on December 5, 12 & 19. Orders must be placed on the sheet at the Church entrances following the weekend Divine Liturgies, or by phoning on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon @ (412) 331-5155. Eat-ins will still be available. We could still use additional help, especially pinchers when we resume!. Thanks to all of you who continue to make this project profitable to the Church. God bless you.



(MR) ANGEL TREE PROJECT FOR AREA LESS FORTUNATE CHILDREN — Our Parish is, once again, holding a fraternal activity to help area children who may not be getting much for Christmas this year. This project is the ANGEL TREE located near the elevator in the side vestibule. Over the years, they really went fast! If you would like to participate and make a child's Christmas a little brighter this year you are asked to take an angel from the tree. It will have a child's age listed on the back. You are asked to purchase a gift and bring it back to the tree UNWRAPPED with the angel taped on it no later than *Sunday, December 7*. Local Area Agencies will distribute these gifts to the children in time for Christmas. Let's send this entire tree of angels in the form of gifts to these under-privileged children. You may call to make a donation to the project and we will do the shopping in your name. Call Barb Stecko (412) 334-8245.



(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. . 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 RAFFLES TODAY — 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. Drawing takes place today at the weekend Divine Liturgy. 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.

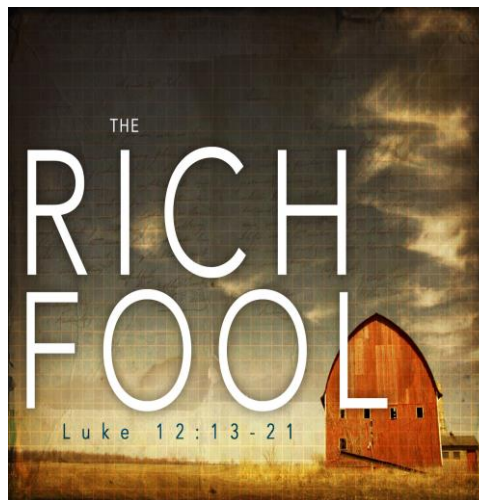


Meditation on today's Gospel

A godly life is more important than material things

Luke 12:16-21

In Luke 12:13-21, a listener in the crowd surrounding Jesus asks Him to instruct his brother to divide the inheritance due to him equitably.



Jesus declines, saying that life should not be based on having many possessions. He uses this occasion to teach His disciples that a godly life is more important than material things. To explain this, He tells a parable about a rich man who builds larger and larger barns to store all his crops and goods. Since he had everything he could possibly want or need, the rich man's focus was on living an easy life. God's response is

that the man was foolish because, when he died later that night, his goods would do nothing for him. Someone else would inherit and enjoy them. A person whose life is caught up in what he owns is not rich toward God. The Parable of the Rich Fool illustrates Jesus' teaching to guard against every kind of covetousness.

(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 23 Byzant-Teen Haluški Sale.
- November 27 Annual Thanksgiving Day Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m.
- November 28 Pirohi Project takes a break — NO SALES TODAY.
- 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 Wonderworker
Friday Eve prior (NS) 6:00 p.m.; and Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m.
- December 7 Parish & Archieparichal St. Nicholas Celebration.
- December 8 Solemn Feast of Immaculate Conception: (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
- December 14 ... Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) for ECF Students following the DL.
..... Special Holy Mystery of Reconciliation time for all — (NS) following Sunday's DL.
..... Special Holy Mystery of Reconciliation time for all — (MR) 3:00 p.m.
- December 21 Jubilee Year of HOPE Pilgrimage to Cathedral to receive the gifted Indulgence.
- December 24 ... (MR) 8:00 a.m. Royal Hours; (MR) 1:00 p.m. Vespers w/DL of St. Basil the Great.

- 8:00 p.m. (MR) Great Compline followed by Christmas Carols; 9:00 p.m. Christmas Divine Liturgy.
- December 25 . 9:00 a.m. (MR) Christmas Divine Liturgy; 11:00 a.m. (NS) Christmas Divine Liturgy.

- December 26 2nd Day of Christmas: Synaxis of the Theotokos — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (NS) 6:00 p.m.
- December 27 3rd Day of Christmas – Feast of St. Stephen (MR ONLY) 9:00 a.m.
- January 1 New Year's Day: Feast of Circumcision & St. Basil - (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 11:00 am.

Saints of the Week — November 27

The Holy Martyr James the Persian



The Holy Great Martyr James the Persian (the Sawn-Asunder) was born in the fourth century into a pious Christian family, both wealthy and illustrious. His wife was also a Christian, and the couple raised their children in piety, inspiring in them a love for prayer and the Holy Scriptures. James occupied a high position at the court of the Persian emperor Izdegerd (399-420) and his successor Barakhranes (420-438). But on one of the military campaigns James, seduced by the emperor's beneficence, was afraid to acknowledge himself a Christian, and so he offered sacrifice to idols with the emperor. Learning of this, James' mother and wife wrote him a letter, in which they rebuked him and urged him to repent. Receiving the letter, James realized the gravity of his sin. Faced with the horror of being cut off not only from his family, but also from God Himself, he began to weep loudly, imploring the Lord for forgiveness. His fellow-soldiers, hearing him pray to the Lord Jesus Christ, reported this to the emperor. Under interrogation, St James bravely confessed his faith in the one True God. No amount of urging by the emperor could make him renounce Christ. The emperor then ordered the saint to be put to death. They began to cut off his fingers and his toes one by one, then his hands and his feet, and then his arms and legs. During the prolonged torture St James offered prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord, Who had granted him the possibility of redemption from his sins by enduring these terrible torments. Finally, the martyr was beheaded. Christians gathered up the pieces of his body and buried them with great reverence.

General Announcements

2nd WEEK: SPIRITUAL PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS — We began our first full week of our journey through the PHILIPPIAN FAST this past Nov. 15. It is called the Philippiian Fast (Filipovka in Church Slavonic) since it began the day after the Apostle Phillip's Feast (Nov. 14). 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 (eg. Advent), 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 sacramental confession of sins, and additional attendances at the Divine Liturgies we can accomplish this end. The color purple is donned in our Churches to signify the coming of ROYALTY (Jesus) to the cave of Bethlehem to be born in the flesh. *Together as a parish, let us collectively practice simple abstinence (no meat) or an equivalent penance on Wednesdays (recommended) and Fridays (REQUIRED) for the intention of the return of our beloved back to the fullness of the Faith.*

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.

ARCHIEPARICHAL ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION — The 67th Annual St. Nicholas Celebration will take place at the Cathedral and Center on Sunday, December 7, 2025. 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.