

Parish Offerings – 24th Sunday after Pentecost — November 23, 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 (\$1,672) YP (\$11.05)	\$1,683.05
Holy Days (\$130) YP (\$2.05) Christmas (\$20) Initial (\$8)	160.05
Votive Candles (\$136.50) Thanksgiving (\$42)	178.50
	<u>\$2,021.60</u>

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$786.) YP (\$2)	\$788.00
Holy Days (\$55) Collection for Poor (\$10) Thanksgiving (\$5)	70.00
Utilities (\$70) Improvements (\$5) Arch Charities (\$5)	80.00
Votive Candles	<u>154.25</u>
	\$1,092.25

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (39); Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (62); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (30)
 Nov 27- Thanksgiving Day — (MR) 9:00 am (15)



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
 .. 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

The 25th Sunday after Pentecost

3rd Sunday of Philipian Fast — November 30, 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

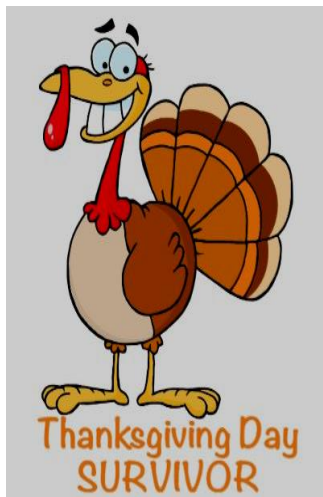


GCU offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Randy (412) 973-1085



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 (Matins of Pentecost Sunday).

November 30, 2025

Volume XV, Number 49



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**

25th Sunday after Pentecost

3rd Sunday of the Philippian Fast — Thanksgiving Weekend

SUN, Nov 30 (16)	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Alphonse A. Siglow <i>(15th ann of passing)</i>	Dgr: Kathe & Bill Kress
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
Mon, Dec 1 (17)	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Teofil DluGoć	Zuzanne Revilak
Tue, Dec 2 (18)	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Health & Welfare <i>(Birthday)</i>	Kurt W. Perschy
Wed, Dec 3 (19)	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Dolores + John Koritsky	Dgr: Christine & Al Barnash
Thrs, Dec 4 (20)	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Monsignor Raymond A. Balta	<i>(1st ann of passing 12/1)</i>

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

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

First Friday of the month in reparation of the offenses against the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Fri, Dec 5 (21)	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Irene + Emil Petruska	Son: Michael & Amy
	6:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Frances Jandri	<i>(15th ann of passing 11/30)</i> Grand-Dgr: Ljiljana & Tim Firko

Feast of Our Holy Father, Nicholas the Wonder-Worker

Patron of the Byzantine Catholic Church — Mirovanije

First Saturday of the month in reparation of the blasphemies against the Most Holy Theotokos

Sat, Dec 6 (22)	9:00 a.m. (NS)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	

	4:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Helen Best	Mike, Leyte & Mike Tomchak

26th Sunday after Pentecost

4th Sunday of the Philippian Fast

SUN, Dec 7 (23)	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Monsignor Peter P. Tay	Joan Senchyshyn
		<i>(2nd ann of passing 12/10)</i>	

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 30 – Paul Rubish, Jr.; **Dec 2** – ALEXANDER HELMS, KATHY MULLEN, Kurt Perschy; **Dec 5** – Lee Feldman, THEODORE HELMS.

Pray for the Ill & Shut-ins of Our Parishes

HOME: Ted Babin, Margaret Belionas, 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. A friend of mine has used a Ouija board on several occasions. I have advised him against using it, but he insists it is used just for fun and that it is harmless. Is this true? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** No. The Ouija board is far from harmless, as it is a form of divination (seeking information from supernatural sources). The fact of the matter is, the Ouija board really does work, and the only "spirits" that will be contacted through it are evil ones. It's true that many people view the Ouija board as harmless. They often claim, "Oh, I don't believe in it," or something to this effect. On the experiential side of the issue, we have the testimony of the Church's exorcists. Their experience shows that Ouija boards are far from harmless. Some investigating supernatural phenomena from a Catholic perspective have gone so far as to say that 90 percent of their very worst cases involving demonic activity have been linked to the use of the Ouija board. Simply put, nothing positive can ever come from the use of the Ouija board, and God warns us against such things for our own spiritual safety.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

November 30 — December 6, 2025

(MR): **Health & Welfare** *(Birthday 12/2)*

offered by Kurt W. Perschy

(NS): **In memory of Mary Helen Gifford**

(MR) Some available for 2026 offered by Niece: Tamara Harding (NS) Few available for 2026

General Announcements

PIROHI PROJECT WILL CONTINUE THIS WEEK — *Listed are the Friday sales dates: Dec. 5, 12, & 19. Remember, all orders must be placed on the Wednesday prior to the sale date between 9:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon @ (412) 331-5155. MR & NS may sign the list located in the narthex on upcoming weekends.*



(MR) ANGEL TREE PROJECT FOR AREA'S LESS FORTUNATE CHILDREN — Our Parish is 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! There are a few angels remaining. 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 next **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 heart-felt gifts to these underprivileged 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) LAST WEEK RAFFLE WINNER & BAKELESS BAKE SALE — First of all Thank You immensely for supporting our 50/50 Raffle following last week's drawing. The winner of the 50/50 Drawing was *Barbara Feldman of Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks* for her total share of 1/2 the winning of \$199.50. The Bakeless Bake Sale took in: (NS) \$1,620.00 (MR) \$445.00 combining total \$2,065.00. The Eatn' Park \$30.00 Gift Card collected \$294.00. The winner did not sign the ticket. **The green ticket # 30333377. Please bring your winning ticket with you and present it to our pastor no later than the conclusion of next week's (NS) Divine Liturgy, Dec. 7, 2025** If there is no response a second ticket was drawn and will go to that individual. **Totaling all three events: \$2,558.50**, which will be matched by the GCU up to \$3,000.00. A big Thank You is extended to several anonymous donors and to Mary Frances and Edward Spontak, Sr. for spear-heading this project virtually each week between the two parishes. Also, TY to our Parish GCU Organizers, Barbara & Peter Stecko. God bless all of you for this special sacrifice towards our Church Steam Boiler Fund!



Meditation on today's Gospel

Sanctify the Lord's Day by good works not Selfish Acts

Luke 13:10-17

There are a number of important points to keep in mind about the sanctification of the Lord's Day. God's commandment prescribes the sanctification of the whole day. We need to keep this in mind in our times when so many people feel that all we have to do is go to church for one hour on Sunday and rest of the day belongs to us. **WRONG!** ... The whole day is the Lord's Day. It belongs to Him! How do we keep it holy? It is a day of rest when people should put away their tools of labor. But it doesn't mean that people should be lazy or slothful because that too is a sin. Besides going to church it can be a time for visiting or going to see the sick. To heal their bent spirits by lifting them up by our visitation. It should be a day for doing good. "Remember that thou shall keep holy the Lord's Day." There are many things involved in this commandment. But there is a starting place, and the woman of the Gospel lesson today provides it. She was ill, she was crippled, but she was worshipping in church on the Lord's Day. We, too, can make such a start each Sunday in keeping the Lord's Day holy. Jesus said, "Wherever two or three are gathered in My Name, there am I amongst them." His special presence and power are felt when His family meets together that they might with one heart and one tongue raise a common plea to Him. When a hundred voices cry out: "Lord, have mercy," a situation is created which opens the gates of grace to flow.

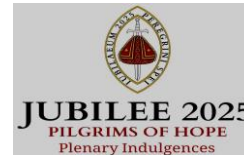


Join Us For A Special 2025 Jubilee Blessing Pilgrimage

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 (Indulgence) prior to the Nativity of Our Lord.

What Are Indulgences? (Part I)

Indulgences are one of the Catholic Church's most misunderstood teachings, and there are various myths surrounding them. For example, up until the sixteenth century, many believe the Church formally taught that the sale of indulgences was morally permissible. These myths, however, are untrue and built upon misinformation. An indulgence is a dispensation or grant of God's mercy that removes the *temporal* punishment due to one's sins whose guilt has *already been forgiven*—normatively through the sacrament of penance (commonly known as confession). This dispensation is made possible through the Church's treasury of merits, which "is the infinite value which Christ's merits have before God," plus the prayers and good works of the faithful, which have merit in Jesus (CCC 1476-1477). In short, after God forgives one's sins, there typically remains temporal punishment due as a result of that sin. An indulgence is what lessons, or removes, that remaining punishment. It's kind of like the kid who breaks his neighbor's window. The neighbor can forgive the child for the offense, and yet the kid still needs to help pay for the broken window. Similarly, even if one has repented and received forgiveness for his sins, that doesn't necessarily mean he has *fully detached from the bad habits associated with his sins*. Thus the need to do penance and benefiting from the merciful remission of the related punishment granted though an indulgence.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

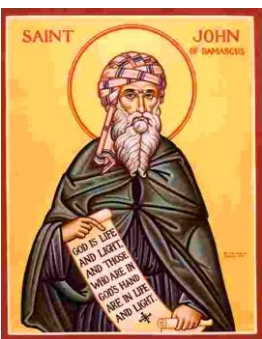
- November 30 Decorating the (MR) Church for Christmas following the Divine Liturgy.
 Decorating the (NS) Church for Christmas following the Divine Liturgy.
 December 5 Pirohi Sales.
 December 6 Solemn Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker
 Friday Eve prior (NS) 6:00 p.m.; and Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m.
 December 7 Parish & Archieparchial 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 pm.
 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 262nd 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.

Saint of the Week — December 4

St. John Damascene



Saint John of Damascus was born about the year 680 at Damascus, Syria into a Christian family. His father, Sergius Mansur, was a treasurer at the court of the Caliph. John had also a foster brother, the orphaned child Cosmas (October 14), whom Sergius had taken into his own home. When the children were growing up, Sergius saw that they received a good education. After the death of his father, John occupied ministerial posts at court and became the city prefect. In Constantinople at that time, the heresy of Iconoclasm had arisen and quickly spread, supported by the emperor Leo III the Isaurian (717-741). Rising up in defense of the True Faith of icons, St John wrote three treatises entitled, "Against Those who Revile the Holy Icons." The wise and God-inspired writings of St John enraged the emperor. But since the author was not a Byzantine subject, the emperor was unable to lock him up in prison, or to execute him. The emperor then resorted to slander. A forged letter to the emperor was produced, supposedly from John. This letter and another hypocritically flattering note were sent to the Saracen Caliph by Leo the Isaurian. The Caliph immediately ordered that St John be removed from his post, that his right hand be cut off, and that he be led through the city in chains. That same evening, they returned the severed hand to St John. The saint pressed it to his wrist and prayed to the Most Holy Theotokos to heal him so that he could defend the True Faith and write once again in praise of the Most Pure Virgin and Her Son. After a time, he fell asleep before the icon of the Mother of God. He heard Her voice telling him that he had been healed and commanding him to toil unceasingly with his restored hand. Upon awakening, he found that his hand had been attached to his arm once more. Only a small red mark around his wrist remained as a sign of the miracle. Later, in thanksgiving for being healed, St John had a silver model of his hand attached to the icon, which became known as "Of the Three Hands." Some unlearned painters have given the Mother of God three hands instead of depicting the silver model of St John's hand. John entered the monastery of St Sava the Sanctified. It was there that John wrote his renowned funeral troparia ("What earthly delight," "All human vanity," and others). He left the monastery only to denounce the iconoclasts at the Constantinople Council of 754. They subjected him to imprisonment and torture, but he endured everything, and through the mercy of God he remained alive. He died in about the year 780, more than 100 years old.

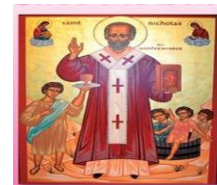
General Announcements

THE 3rd SUNDAY OF THE PHILIPPIAN FAST PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS — As we continue this minor penitential period, we are directed to follow Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem by preparing ourselves for the spiritual meaning of Christmas. Not only prior to Christmas but always through our earthly pilgrimage, we must carry Him reborn in our souls by sanctifying the temple of our Body. It is through prayer, abstinence, almsgivings, frequent confession of sins, works of virtue and additional participation in Divine Liturgies, we can accomplish this end. 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 for the return of our beloved back to Church. The color **PURPLE** is worn as a sign of **ROYALTY** of the One coming to be born in Bethlehem.



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 today November 30th using the sign up 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!



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 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 Christmas. For additional information contact Julia or George (412) 771-4244. Thank you to all who participated in our November Thanksgiving Drive.

2026 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES & CALENDARS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN (MR) CHURCH BASEMENT & (NS) NARTHEX SOON — Your 2026 *Contribution Envelopes* will be ready for pickup very shortly. **Please look for your name and not your current number.** If you were inadvertently missed or would like a box of envelopes, please call the Church office. **Remember, please do not use your 2026 until January!** We wish to thank the **Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home and Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home** for sponsoring our calendars once again this year



MR & NS CHURCHES DECORATING TODAY — We are calling all to help us start decorating the Churches **following today's Divine Liturgy**. We, especially, would like to have individuals assemble the large and heavy Christmas display items. Please remain with us following the Divine Liturgies.

Remember children to put out your shoes Friday evening for St. Nicholas to fill on Dec. 6th!