

**Parish Offerings – Sunday before the Enlightenment — January 4, 2026**

“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 (\$2,560) YP (\$1)	\$2,561.00
Holy Days	230.00
Initial (\$232) YP (\$1)	233.00
Votive Candles	166.80
	<b>\$3,190.80</b>

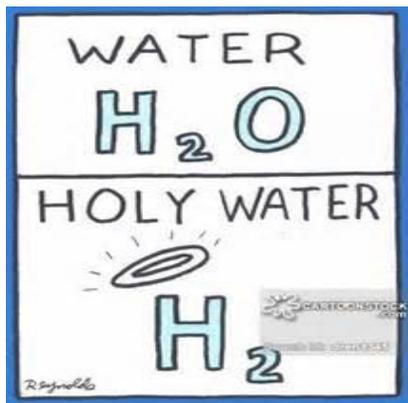
**Holy Ghost Church, North Side**

Regular Offering (\$530) YP (\$2)	\$532.00
Holy Day (\$5) Initial (\$430) YP (\$1)	436.00
Improvement (\$15) B.C.W. (\$14)	29.00
Votive Candles	87.10
	<b>\$1,084.10</b>

**Church Attendance Last Week**

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (31); Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (51); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (30)  
 Theophany — Monday. (MR) 7:00 p.m. (21); Mon.(MR) 9:00 a.m. (21); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (20)

**Your most powerful testimony is how you treat others after the CHURCH SERVICE is over**



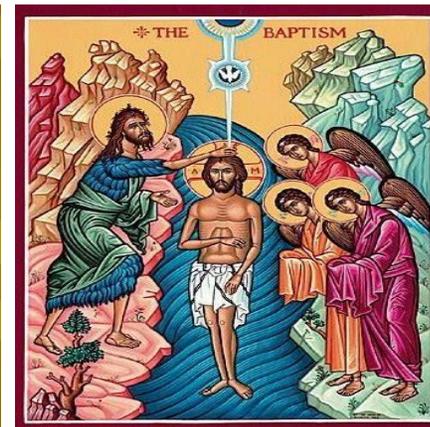
**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET  
 .. 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE SUNDAY AFTER ENLIGHTENMENT**

**The Sunday After Theophany — January 11, 2026**



**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](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org) – E-Mail: [ffaf334@verizon.net](mailto:ffaf334@verizon.net)

**SUNDAY RADIO (9:00 am WEDO 810 AM) & INTERNET DIVINE LITURGY**

Liturgical Services LIVE: [www.Youtube.com](http://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).



**Valerian F. Szal**

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

Michael P. Ferrell,  
 Supervisor, CFSP

*Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953*



North Side Parishioner

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



Info call Randy (412) 973-1085  
 GCU offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits

# THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

*As the prophet foretold, a Great Light, Christ, has shown upon Galilee of the Gentiles, upon the land of Zebulon, and the land of Naphtali. A people living in darkness have seen a Great Light shining from Bethlehem. The Sun of Righteousness, the Lord born of Mary, casts His rays upon all those who dwell on earth. Come then, O naked children of Adam, and let us clothe ourselves in Him that we may warm ourselves. For the Light that no one can approach, the One Who is a protection and a mantle for the naked, the Light to those in darkness, has appeared and revealed Himself today (Ikos of Theophany Matins).*

January 11, 2026

Volume XVI, Number 2



**Seasonal Christian Greeting:**  
**Christ is Baptized! — In the Jordan!**  
**Christos Kreščajetsja! — Vo Jordani!**



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
<b>Sunday after the Enlightenment</b>			
SUN, Jan 11	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Nicholas Vrabel	Sister: Theresa
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Leonard R. Kallop, Sr. (birthday 1/12)	Valeriano & Kallop Families
Mon., Jan 12	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Teofil Dlugoš	Zuzanna Revilak
Tue., Jan 13	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Berniece + John Quinn	Amy & Michael Petruska
		<i>Final Day of the Theophany Feast</i>	
Wed, Jan 14	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Michael Korim, Jr. (birthday)	Nephew: Fr. Firko
Thrs, Jan 15	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Michael Sosak, Sr. (1 <sup>st</sup> ann of passing)	MaryEllen & John W. Oslick
		<i>Venerable Father Anthony the Great</i>	
Fri, Jan 16	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Darko S. Gataric (birthday 1/9)	Michael Opat & Family
		<i>Venerable Father Anthony the Great</i>	
Sat, Jan 17	9:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Fr. John J. Kapitan, O.F.M.	Anonymous
		*****	
		<i>Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy for Sunday of Zacchaeus — 1<sup>st</sup> Pregreat Fast Sunday</i>	
	4:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Irene Muha (1 <sup>st</sup> ann of passing)	Patricia Zuranski

## Sunday of Zacchaeus

### 1<sup>st</sup> Pregreat Sunday

*Beginning of the annual eight days of prayer for Christian Unity*

SUN, Jan 18	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Peter A. Smoley (53 <sup>d</sup> ann of passing 1/17)	Dgtr: Mary Ann.

# 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

Jan 11 – Dennis Uram; Jan 12 – Michael Tomchak; Jan 13 – Noreen Muha; Jan 14 – James Kurtanich, Ray Rippole; Jan 15 – William Boros.

### Pray for the Ill & Shut-ins of Our Parishes

**HOME:** Ted Babin, Margaret Belunas, Dolores & William Boras, Monica Lemesh, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Michael Kachuta, Steve Kosko, Theresa Kundrat, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, BETTY LORINC, DEACON MICHAEL & CINDY MEADERS, John W. Oslick, Kurt Perschy, 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. Poznak  
**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. What should you get out of church (Divine Liturgy)?** **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** The real question is, "What should you put into the Divine Liturgy?" We are there to worship God (CCC 1070, 1073). He is not there to entertain us. With good and fervent worship of God and heartfelt prayer, you will have an inner peace in knowing that you adore God and are giving Him thanks (1 Jn 4:19; Sirach 7:30). This is the funny thing: People who go to the Divine Liturgy seeking to put in faith, hope and charity find themselves getting all sorts of wonderful things out of the Divine Liturgy. Those who go trying to get something out of the Divine Liturgy often find it dull.

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**January 11 — January 17, 2026**

(MR): In memory of John R. Debranski (birthday 1/10)

offered by Dgtr: Nancy

(NS): In memory of Andrew Drukalsky

(MR) Some available for 2026 offered by Eileen & Kevin Finnegan (NS) Few available for 2026

# General Announcements

(MR) & (NS) 2026 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES & CALENDARS AVAILABLE IN (MR) CHURCH SIDE VESTIBLE & (NS) NARTHEX — Your 2026 *Contribution Envelopes* are ready for pickup today. Please look for your name. If you were inadvertently missed or would like a box of envelopes, please call the Church office. Again, *we wish to thank the Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home and Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home* for sponsoring our calendars this year.

## Deanery Penitential Vespers for the Great Fast 2026

The Great Fast begins this year on Pure Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. The Protosynod of the City of Pittsburgh of our Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy will hold its annual Penitential Vespers from February 22<sup>nd</sup> – March 22<sup>nd</sup>. It's an opportunity to come together to participate in the sacrament of Reconciliation at 3:30 pm and to pray the Vespers at 4:00 pm. Each is followed by a social hour focused on a meager meal



of fast-friendly meatless soups and bread. This is a wonderful opportunity for prayer, penance, self-denial, fellowship, and to gather with fellow travelers in the Great Fast, spiritually preparing us on our way to receive the Lord in the Feast of Feasts, Great and Holy Pascha on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Please consult the schedule below if you or someone you know would like to attend:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, Feb. 22: St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church, 506 Saline St., Pittsburgh, PA 15207  
Homilist: Fr. Michael Kunitz
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, March 1: Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church  
4815 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
Homilist: Fr. Tyler Wisniewski
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, March 8: Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church  
225 Olivia St., McKees Rocks, PA 15136  
Homilist: Fr. Vitalii Stashkevych
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, March 15: Ss. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church  
431 George St., Braddock, PA 15104  
Homilist: Fr. Frank Firko
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, March 22 : St. Pius X Byzantine Catholic Church  
2336 Brownsville Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15210  
Homilist: Fr. Valerian Michlik

## Seasonal Greeting During Christmas

During this time of Theophany until January 14, the greeting that we address each other is CHRIST IS BAPTIZED! (Christos Kreščajetsja!). The response is IN THE JORDAN! (Vo Jordan'!).

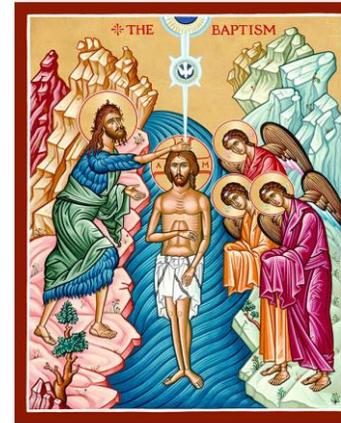
# CONTINUING THE HOLY THEOPHANY FEAST

## Sunday after the Enlightenment

GOSPEL Matthew 4: 12-17



We are currently in the Postfestive period of Holy Theophany, and it is designated to be a continuation of Our Lord Jesus' Baptism and the revelation of the Holy Trinity. This Sunday is referred to as the "Sunday after the Enlightenment." This designation comes from the early Church from the Holy Mystery of Baptism which was referred to as the "Enlightenment." It was the usual practice to administer baptism or the enlightenment on the Theophany Feast since Jesus' own baptism was being commemorated on this important feast day. At that time catechumens who were prepared for their initiation and admission into the Church received baptism, chrismation and eucharist on that day. Therefore, this Sunday calls us to reflect on the importance of one's own baptism, and how its



relevance and personal effect have called us to be God's new chosen people. What a privilege that has been bestowed upon us! We have been satiated with Jesus' Light, and have partaken of the sanctified Jordan Water. We have been invested with Christ Himself. It is a time to ask ourselves if we have been living in accordance to His teachings and witnessing to His very presence. Our Faith goes far beyond being personal. It is to be shared with all that we come into contact with. Are you reflecting the joy of this event which promises us heavenly glory or are we like others who are depressed and saddened by the negative events that surround us?

## The (Church) Fathers Know Best

The Early Church Fathers believed that being baptized was being born again. They baptized both adults and infants and they used three methods; immersion, pouring and sprinkling. Tertullian: "No one can attain salvation without baptism, especially in view of the declaration of the Lord, who says, "Unless a man shall be born of water, he shall not have life" (On Baptism 12:1 [A.D. 203]. Origen: "The Church received from the apostles the tradition of giving baptism even to infants. The apostles, to whom were committed the secrets of divine sacraments, knew there is in everyone innate strains of [original] sin, which must be washed away through water and the Spirit" (Commentaries on Romans 5:9 [A.D. 248])



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 11 . Dismantling of the (MR) Christmas Decorations following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.  
... Dismantling of the (NS) Christmas Decorations following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.  
January 18-25 ..... Annual 8 days of Prayer for Christian Unity.  
February 2 ..... Feast of the Encounter of the Lord (Solemn Holy Day)  
..... Solemn Blessing of Candles prior to each Divine Liturgy (MR) 8:50 am.; (NS) 5:50 pm.

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### Saint of the Week — January 12

### The Holy Woman Martyr Tatiana

Tatiana was a Roman whose parents were of great nobility. She was a Christian and a deaconess in the church. After the death of Emperor Heliogabalus, Emperor Alexander,



whose mother Mammae was a Christian, reigned in Rome. The emperor himself was wavering and indecisive in the Faith for he kept statues of Christ, Apollo, Abraham and Orpheus in his palace. His chief assistants persecuted the Christians without the emperor's orders. When they brought out the virgin Tatiana for torture, she prayed to God for her torturers. And behold, their eyes were opened and they saw four angels around the martyr. Seeing this, eight of them believed in Christ for which they also were tortured and slain. The tormentors continued to torture St. Tatiana. They whipped her, cut off parts of her body; they scraped her with irons. All disfigured and bloody, Tatiana was thrown into the dungeon

that evening so that the next day, they could, again, begin anew with different tortures. But God sent His angels to the dungeon to encourage her and to heal her wounds so that, each morning, Tatiana appeared before the torturers completely healed. They threw her before a lion, but the lion endeared himself to her and did her no harm. They cut off her hair, thinking, according to their pagan reasoning, that some sorcery or some magical power was concealed in her hair. Finally, Tatiana along with her father were both beheaded. Thus, Tatiana ended her earthly life about the year 225 A.D., and this heroic virgin, who had the fragile body of a woman but a robust and valiant spirit, was crowned with the immortal wreath of glory.

## General Announcements

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION THIS PAST WEEK — Just a reminder that The Feast of Holy Theophany – The Baptism of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, was celebrated this past week on *January 6* was a **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**. The Canon Law of our Byzantine Catholic Church states: “The Christian faithful are bound by the obligation to participate on Sundays and feast days (Holy Days of Obligation) in the Divine Liturgy ....” (Canon 881#1); and “are recommended to receive the Divine Eucharist on these days ...” (Canon 881 #3); “and should abstain from those labors or business matters which impede the worship to be rendered to God ....” (Canon 881 #4). Negligence of this church precept renders one guilty of mortal sin, therefore, unworthy to receive the Holy Eucharist, until one makes a worthy sacramental Confession of this voluntarily neglect. Please come to Confession before approaching Holy Communion.



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### THE MANY BENEFITS OF SANCTIFIED AND HOLY WATER

Because sanctified and holy water is one of the Church's sacramentals, it remits venial sin. Keep your soul beautifully pure in God's sight by making the Sign of the Cross carefully while saying: “*Wash me with hyssop and I shall become clean, cleanse me and I will be whiter than snow*” (Psalm 51). Draw Blessings down on Your Loved Ones. Holy water, sprinkled with faith and piety, can move the Sacred Heart to bless your loved ones and protect them from all harm of soul and body. When worry and fear take possession of your heart, hasten to your holy water font, and give your dear ones the benefit of the Church's prayers. **HOLY WATER USES:** Bless Yourself and Others (family & friends) Bless Your Pets Bless Your House (especially during bad weather); Bless Your Electronics (computers, televisions, etc.); Bless Your Car, Motorcycle, and/or Boat, Bless Your Work Space; Bless the Sick and Dying Sprinkle Some on the Graves when you visit a Cemetery & also sprinkle some for the Poor Souls in Purgatory. Proper Disposal of Holy Water: **Remember to discard previous years Sanctified Water in a respectable manner such as watering your plants or place it in an area of the ground that is not walked on! It is not to be poured down the sink drain! Also, you may bring it to North Side Church to be drained in a holy sink called a Sacarium.**



TIME TO RENEW YOUR B.C.W. SUBSCRIPTION— A good source of Archieparchial News is *The Byzantine Catholic World*. News and photographs concerning all parishes are reported. Our parishes cannot sustain the cost on a complimentary basis. Please submit \$14.00 in the special envelope in your contribution box. If you are subscribing for the first time, please make a notation on the envelope: **NEW SUBSCRIBER**. This will help the Church office to expedite your request. If you would like to subscribe for someone not able to afford an annual subscription, please submit the amount.

