

Parish Offerings – Man Born Blind Sunday — May 10, 2026

“Everyone must give according to whatever he has inwardly decided; sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor 9:7)

Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks

Regular Offering (\$2,192) YP (\$6.28)	\$2,198.28
Hoy Days	65.00
Seminary Collection	167.00
Votive Candles	196.00
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	\$2,626.28

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$595) YP (\$1)	\$ 596.00
Hoy Day (\$50) Easter (\$25)	75.00
Utilities (\$20) Improvement (\$20)	40.00
Votive Candles	139.00

Church Attendance Last Week \$850.00

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (39)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (55); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (29)

Ascension (Holy Day of Obligation) — Wed. (MR) 7:00 p.m. (20);

Thrs. (MR) 9:00 a.m. (15); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (24)



Valerian F. Szal
238 Helen St.,
Phone: (412) 331-9713
Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953



In Memory
+ Anna + Michael Sejka
+ Helen + Anna May Sejka
The Sejka Family

North Side Parishioner
Alan Valeriano
(412) 638-3417 PA #172370

GCU
Greek Catholic Union of the USA
A Fraternal Benefit Society
GCU offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Randy (412) 973-1085



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

SUNDAY OF 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Postfestive of the Ascension — May 17, 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 Meaders (NS)

Rectory: (412) 771-3324; Church Fax: (412) 331-1870

MR School Hall Kitchen: (412) 331-5155

Web-site: 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.

d. Personal Care & Hospitalized: Phone Church Office ASAP.

Sponsor of Christian Initiation: Godparents must be practicing Catholics.

Religious Education Classes: (MR) Coordinator: Subdeacon Luke Iyengar (412) 863-3285.

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 last will and testament. This helps to secure its future & a Byzantine Catholic witness to all!

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

As He went on His way, Jesus the Lord Who saves us met a man struck with blindness from his birth. Moistening the dust of the earth with His saliva, Christ made some mud to anoint the eyes of the Blind Man. Then He sent him to Siloam to wash in the pool; when he had washed the Blind Man returned, and he saw the brightness of Your light, O Christ (Matins of Blind Man)

May 17, 2026 **Seasonal Christian Greeting:** Volume XIV, Number 19



Glory to Jesus! — Glory Forever!
Slava Isusu Christu!! — Slava na Viki!



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUM. COUNCIL			
Postfestive of the Ascension			

SUN., May 17 9:00 a.m. (MR) + George Kurtanich (*birthday 5/7*) Children
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Margaret "Peg" Krulac (*10th ann of pass 5/22*) Dgtr: Barbara & Peter Stecko

Mon, May 18 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mosko Family Julia Ann & George F. Mosko

Annual Clergy Day, St. John Cathedral, Munhall @ 9:00 a.m. — Primary Voting Day

Tues, May 19 *** 7:00 a.m. (MR) + Dorothy H. Dobda Family

Annual Clergy Day, St. John Cathedral, Munhall @ 9:00 a.m.

Wed, May 20 *** 7:00 a.m. (MR) + Amelia + Frank T. Firko (*ann of passing*) Family

Annual Clergy Day, St. John Cathedral, Munhall @ 9:00 a.m.

Thrs, May 21 *** 7:00 a.m. (MR) + Stepan Jandri Grand-Dgtr: Drazanka Gataric

Final Day of the Ascension Feast

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

Fri, May 22 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Basil P. Gramata (*7th ann of passing*) Gramata Family



Fifth & Final Universal All Souls Saturday Vigil

*** 6:00 p.m. (NS) + All Souls w/reading of Hramoty

6:00 p.m. (MR) Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

FIFTH & FINAL UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY

Sat., May 23 *** 9:00 a.m. (MR) + All Souls w/reading of Hramoty



Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Descent of the All-Holy Spirit — Pentecost Sunday

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Anna + George Skalyo Dgtr: Joyce & James Walsh

SUNDAY OF THE DESCENT OF THE ALL-HOLY SPIRIT

Pentecost Sunday — Patronal Feast — Mirovanije — Memorial Weekend

SUN., May 24 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Eleanor Kulka (*13th ann of passing 5/26*) Children: Kathy & John.

11:00 a.m. (NS) *For the Parishioners of Both Parishes*

Vigil for Pentecost Monday — 6:00 p.m. (NS) + Dolores Hudanick Children: Geo., Paul & Janet

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 to be published.

Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners

May 12 – ELIANA TRAPL (sorry!); **May 17** – John W. Oslick, Anita Sidun; **May 18** – Daniel Rowe; **May 19** – Paul Shanta, **May 22** – Theresa Hrishenko, John Kutchmark, Jr., Ray Rippole, **May 23** – Carl Bates, Janet Herczak.

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

HOME: Ted Babin, Margaret Beliunas, Dolores & William Boras, TAMARA HARDING, Michael Kachuta, Steve Kosko, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, Monica Lemesh, BETTY LORINC, CINDY MEADERS, John W. Oslick, Kurt Perschy, Cindy Saber, Anita Wolsko.

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.

CEDAR HILL REHAB CENTER (951 Broadhead Rd., Coraopolis, 15108): Nancy Wauthier
HIGHLAND HILLS POST ACUTE (1105 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15237): Bernice Herrick.

FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE SOUTH HILLS (1290 Boyce Rd., Upper St. Clair, 15241): Bea Stempkowski.

CONCORDIA OF CRANBERRY (10 Adams Ridge Blvd., Mars, PA 16046): Theresa Kundrat.

PERRY HEALTH & REHAB CENTER (9850 Old Perry Highway, Wexford, PA 15090): DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS

CUMBERLAND CROSSING MANOR (1201 Cumberland Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15237): Susan Fejka.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. What does "honor your father and your mother" mean? If the parents are abusive, does this change anything? **A. Catholic Apologist, Jim Blackburn.:** St. Paul clarifies the fourth commandment, "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you" (Ex. 20:12), in his letter to the Ephesians: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right (Eph. 6:1, emphasis added). The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) explains: As long as a child lives at home with his parents, the child should obey his parents in all that they ask of him when it is for his good or that of the family . . . But if a child is convinced in conscience that it would be morally wrong to obey a particular order, he must not do so ... Obedience toward parents ceases with the emancipation of the children; not so with respect, which is always owed to them. (CCC 2217)

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

May 17 — May 23, 2026

(MR): **In memory of the Mosko Family**

offered by Julia Ann & George F. Mosko

(NS): **In memory of Margaret "Peg" Krulac**

(MR) FEW AVAILABLE FOR 2026 offered by Dgtr: Barbara & Peter Stecko (NS) FEW AVAILABLE 2026



General Announcements

McKees Rocks & North Side

ARCHIEPARCHIAL MARRIED DEACONS TO BE ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD IN JUNE — Deacon Mark Le ROY & Deacon Nicholas Krivacs will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood at St. John Cathedral, Munhall on **Sunday, June 7, 2026 @ 3:00 p.m. by Archbishop Skurla**. Let us keep them in prayer that God the Holy Spirit may assist them in the vineyard of Christ.



ONCE AGAIN ANONYMOUS FLOWER DONOR PURCHASES FLOWERS FOR THE BLESSED MOTHER ICON — Once again, an anonymous source has donated beautiful and colorful flowers placed before the Blessed Mother's icon on the iconostasis for all four Fridays during the month. May is the month of the Holy Virgin Mary. We thank whoever you are, and we commend you and your intentions before the feet of the Holy Theotokos. Let us remember that each of us can place a spiritual bouquet before her on all Fridays this month by praying the Holy Rosary.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT FORTHCOMING — **June 21-23** is the date of the upcoming Young Adult Retreat at Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer, Uniontown. The weekend invites men and women into "Strengthening Discipleship." The program runs from 7 pm Friday to 12 pm Sunday; the offering is \$115. Scholarships available. Registration due June 14. To register call 724-438-7149 or email.

EASTER DUTY PRECEPT — All Christian Faithful are **OBLIGED (MANDATED)** to receive the Divine Eucharist when in danger of death **AND** during the Paschal (Easter) Period (Canon 708). In regards to the latter, this is traditionally known as the **EASTER DUTY**. When one is aware of Mortal (Deadly) Sin, a Sacramental Confession is necessary before receiving Holy Communion. Serious Sins are those fractures especially against the Ten Commandments and omissions of the 6 Precepts of the Church, but not limited to them. If you have not attended to your Easter Duty Precept, the **Sunday of All Saints (May 26)** is the final day to take care of this important spiritual matter without incurring serious (mortal) sin of omission. Use the special examination of conscience forms located in the vestibule and narthex of the Church to assist you in making a good confession of sins.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

JUNE 26-28, 2026 — MOUNT ST. MACRINA

Friday 7:00 pm – Sunday 12 pm

Overnight accommodation, meals, snacks, conferences, groups for discussion, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Sunday Divine Liturgy. Sponsored by the Sisters of St. Basil. Program by Sister Barbara Jean and a team of young adults.

Registration is due June 19. Payment on arrival or by mail:

House of Prayer 500 W. Main St. Uniontown PA 15401—

Offering: \$125. hpmsm@verizon.net

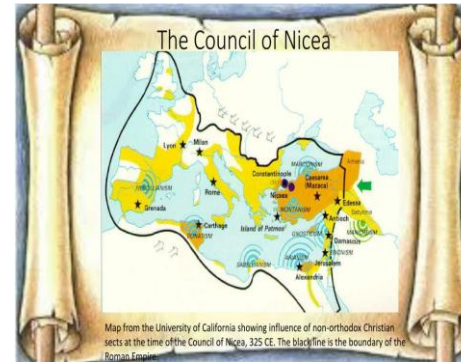
724-570-5783

THE SEVENTH PASCHAL SUNDAY

Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

The Core of Our Common Faith *(first read John 17: 1-13)*

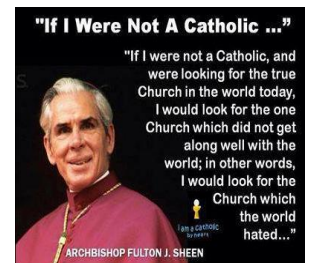
Today, we are commemorating the Fathers of The First Council of Nicea held in the year 325 AD. It is the first ecumenical council of the Catholic Church. *Most significantly, it resulted in the first, extra-biblical, uniform Christian doctrine, called the Nicene Creed.* With the creation of the creed, a precedent was established for subsequent local and regional councils of Bishops (Synods) to create statements of belief and canons of the true faith — the intent being to define unity of essential beliefs for the whole of Christendom. The council did not create the doctrine of the deity of Christ but it did settle, to some degree, the debate within



the Early Christian communities regarding the divinity of Christ. This idea of the divinity of Christ, along with the idea of Christ as a messenger from God (The Father), had long existed in various parts of the Roman Empire. The divinity of Christ had also been widely endorsed by the Christian community in the otherwise pagan city of Rome. The council affirmed and defined what it believed to be the teachings of the Apostles regarding who Christ is: that Christ is the one true God in deity with the Father. Derived from Greek "ecumenical" meaning "worldwide or universal." One purpose of the council was to resolve disagreements arising from within the Church of Alexandria over the nature of the Son in relationship to the Father. Saints Alexander of Alexandria and Athanasius claimed that Christ is God and the popular presbyter Arius, from whom the term Arianism comes, denied this claim. The council decided against the Arians overwhelmingly. Of the estimated 318 attendees, all but two agreed to sign the creed and these two, along with Arius, were banished to Illyria. Another result of the council was an agreement on when to celebrate Easter, the most important feast of the ecclesiastical calendar.

Why we need the Catholic Church – In a Nutshell

1. We are made in God's image and likeness, meant for a deep, loving relationship with him. (Genesis 1:27);
2. Due to sin, we have broken this friendship with God. (Romans 6:23);
3. Jesus Christ, God's Son, became man, died on the cross, and rose from the grave for our salvation. (Philippians 2:7-10);
4. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and through Jesus our relationship with God is restored. (Ephesians 2:8);
5. Through the Catholic Church which Jesus established while on earth, we have access to grace by Baptism and are nourished by the Eucharist and other sacraments. (Matthew 16:18-19);
6. Through these sacraments, the Holy Spirit changes us, perfects us, fulfills our every desire, ultimately bringing us to eternal beatitude in heaven. (Matthew 5:48).



Calendar of Upcoming Events

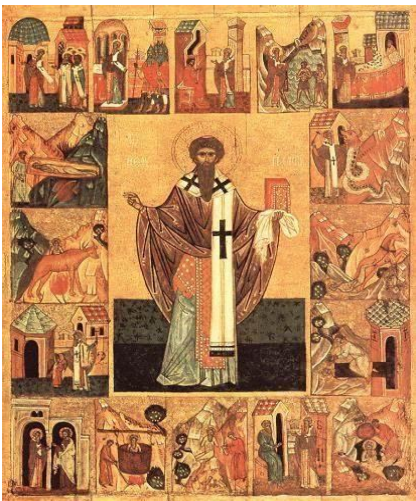
May 19-21 Annual Clergy Days, St. John Cathedral, Munhall for all Archdiocesan Clergy.
May 22 & 23 5th Universal All-Souls Saturday – May 22 (NS) 6:00 p.m.; May 23 (MR) 9:00 a.m.
May 24 Feast of the Decent of the All-Holy Spirit (Pentecost Sunday). Our Patronal Feast Day.
..... Patronal Feast Luncheon & honoring our High School & College Graduates
..... Vigil Divine Liturgy for (NS) Pentecost Monday, Sunday evening @ 6:00 p.m.
May 25 ... (Memorial Day) Pentecost Monday — Feast of the Most Holy Trinity – (MR) 9:00 a.m..
May 31 Sunday of All Saints (Final Day for fulfilling The Paschal (Easter) Precept).

Saints of the Week

Bishop-Martyr Patrick &

His Presbyters (Priests) Companions — May 19

Saint Patrick lived during the first century and was bishop of the city of Prusa in Bythnia (Asia Minor, present day Turkey). He openly and boldly preached



Christ the Savior and denounced the error of the pagans. Therefore, he and the priests, Acacius, Menander and Polyainus were arrested, and brought to Julius, the prefect of the city for interrogation. Julius was going to the hot springs for treatment, and he ordered that the Christian bishop and the priests be brought along after him, bound in iron chains. After he washed in the hot springs, Julius offered sacrifice to his gods. He had Saint Patrick and the other prisoners brought before him, ordering them to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods,

threatening punishment if they refused. **Saint Patrick replied, “I am a Christian and I worship the one true God, Jesus Christ, Who has created the heavens and the earth, and these warm springs for the benefit of all mankind.”** Julius had the saint thrown into the hot spring, and with firm faith the martyr prayed, “Lord, Jesus Christ, help Your servant,” and he remained unharmed. In an impotent rage, Julius ordered Saint Patrick and his three presbyters beheaded. They received their crowns of unfading glory from Christ around the year 100.

Be Exalted above the Heavens, O God, and let Your glory be over all the Earth

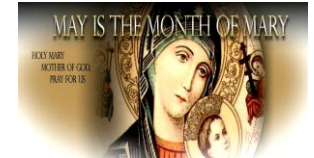
General Announcements

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION LAST WEEK — This past Thursday was **Ascension Thursday** and 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) at 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). Neglectful fulfillment of this precept renders one guilty of mortal sin, therefore, unworthy to receive the Holy

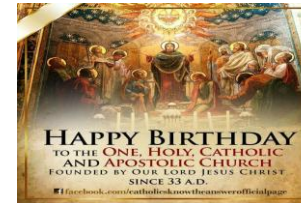


Eucharist, until one makes a worthy sacramental Confession of this voluntary neglect.

MARIAN DEVOTIONS CONTINUE EVERY FRIDAY OF MAY — In all Rites of the Catholic Church, the month of May is especially devoted to the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary. Come join us at the **HGC-MR on Fridays at 6:00 p.m.** for the offering of the Holy Rosary to the Most Holy Mother of God, especially for peace in Israel and Ukraine. God bless them all!



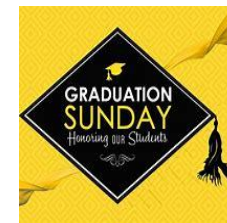
PLANS UNDERWAY FOR PATRONAL PENTECOST DINNER NEXT SUNDAY —



Our Patronal Feast Day Dinner at the (MR) school hall is planned for **Pentecost Sunday, May 24, 2026 @ 1:00 p.m.** All Members and guests of both Holy Ghost Parishes of MR & NS are asked to put this day aside so as to glorify God the Holy Ghost (Spirit) during these green holy days! The event will be a luncheon.

The cost: a free-will offering. There will be no tickets, but you **MUST** sign the sheets by today. They are located in the (MR) side vestibule; and the (NS) narthex. Further information, please phone Elaine Kurtanich (412) 370-9092.

GRADUATES MUST REGISTER TO BE RECOGNIZED — Our Holy Ghost Churches would like to honor all of our High School and University/College



Graduates on the occasion of our **Patronal Feast, May 24**. All MR & NS graduates will be our guests and receive a gift from the parish congratulating them on their milestone achievement as they commence a new chapter in their lives. All graduates must phone or email the church office with the following information: (1) *University/College of Graduation*; (2) *Date of Graduation*; (3) *Graduating Degree*; (4) *Future plans and employment*; and (4) *if you will be attending the Recognition Luncheon*. Call the Church Office A.S.A.P. Deadline is May 17.