

**Parish Offerings – Man Born Blind Sunday — May 25, 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 (\$1,746) YP (\$16) ..... | \$1,762.00 |
| Holy Days (\$145) YP (\$2) .....           | 147.00     |
| Seminary .....                             | 10.00      |
| Votive Candles .....                       | 126.55     |
|  | <hr/>      |
|  | \$2,045.55 |

**Holy Ghost Church, North Side**

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Regular Offering (\$475) YP (\$1) ..... | \$476.00 |
| Holy Day (\$25) Utilities (\$30) .....  | 55.00    |
| Votive Candles .....                    | 57.00    |

**Church Attendance Last Week** \$588.00

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

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (44); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (20)

*Ascension (Holy Day of Obligation) — Wed. (MR) 7:00 p.m. (16);*

*Thrs. (MR) 9:00 a.m. (16); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (24)*



**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA

**Sunday of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council of Nicaea**

**Jubilee Year of HOPE — June 1, 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**

**Reverend Father David A. Bosnich**

**Assistant Pastor (NS), Assigned to Chancery**

**The Reverend Deacon Michael E. Meaders (NS)**

**The Reverend Deacon Luke R. Iyengar (MR)**

**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.

**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) 863-3285.

**Carpatho-Rusyn Radio:** Internet Sunday afternoon: Pastor (412) 863-3285.

**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!

**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).



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

**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

**Right at Home HANDYMAN**  
North Side Parishioner  
**Alan Valeriano**  
**(412) 638-3417**  
**PA #172370**

# THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

Let us honor today those mystical trumpets of the Spirit, namely the God-mantled Fathers who speaking of divine things sang in the midst of the Church a hymn in unison, teaching that the Trinity is one, not differing in substance or Godhead, refuting Arius and defending the true faith. They always intercede with the Lord to have mercy on our souls (Great Vespers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council Fathers)

June 1, 2025

Volume XV, Number 23



**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           |
|---|------------------------|---|------------------------|
| <b>SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ECUM. COUNCIL</b>  |                        |   |                        |
| <b>Postfestive of the Ascension</b>   |                        |   |                        |
| <b>SUN., June 1</b>   | <b>9:00 a.m. (MR)</b>  | + Irene O. Bordas   | Bernadette Gunkel      |
|   | <b>11:00 a.m. (NS)</b> | + Monsignor Peter P. Tay ( <i>Ordination</i> )  | Joan Senchyshyn        |
| Mon, June 2   | 8:00 a.m. (MR)         | + Kenneth M. Shanta Diane, Alice, Beckey, Peggy & Tammy<br><i>(2<sup>nd</sup> ann of passing)</i> |                        |
| Tues, June 3  | 8:00 a.m. (MR)         | + Mike Palahunik<br><i>(6<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 6/4)</i>                                    | Bob Zitelli            |
| Wed, June 4   | 8:00 a.m. (MR)         | + George L. Verner  | Anonymous              |
| Thrs, June 5  | 8:00 a.m. (MR)         | Health & Welfare of Christine Barnash ( <i>birthday</i> )   | Husband: Al            |
|  <b>Final Day of the Ascension Feast</b><br>First Friday of June<br><b>REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)</b> |                        |   |                        |
| Fri, June 6   | 8:00 a.m. (MR)         | + Alexander F. Perschy ( <i>birthday</i> )  | Son: Kurt              |
| <b>*** 6:00 p.m. (NS) + All Souls w/reading of Hramoty</b>  |                        |   |                        |
| <b>FIFTH &amp; FINAL UNIVERSAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY</b>   |                        |   |                        |
| First Saturday of June  |                        |   |                        |
| Sat., June 7  | *** 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)         | + Mildred + Michael Tomchak   | Grandson: Mike Tomchak |
| <b>SUNDAY OF THE DESCENT OF THE ALL-HOLY SPIRIT</b>   |                        |   |                        |
| <b>Pentecost Sunday — Patronal Feast — Mirovanije — Memorial Weekend</b>  |                        |   |                        |
| SUN., June 8  | 9:00 a.m. (MR)         | For the Parishioners of Both Parishes   |                        |
|   | 11:00 a.m. (NS)        | + William D. Spontak ( <i>40<sup>th</sup> day of pass 6/16</i> )                                  | Mary Ann Smoley        |

# 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*

**Jun 1** – Archbishop Skurla; **Jun 2** – Katherine Chomko, Brian Cybator; **Jun 5** – Christine Barnash, Nancy Sedon, Justin Varga; **Jun 7** – Peter Kacsur.

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

**HOME:** Margaret Beliuнас, Dolores & William Boras, Monica Lemesh, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Bernice Herrick, Michael Kachuta, Steve Kosko, Theresa Kundrat, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, BETTY LORINC, DEACON MICHAEL & CINDY MEADERS, 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): Helen Best, Mildred Terrek.

**CEDAR HILL REHAB CENTER** (951 Broadhead Rd., Coraopolis, PA 15108): Nancy (Shanta) 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.

**CARNEGIE PARK POST-ACUTE CARE** (1848 Greentree Rd, Pittsburgh, 15220): Dolores Babin.

## 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

**June 1 – 7, 2025**

(MR):

**In memory of Mildred & Michael Tomchak**

offered by Grandson: Mike Tomchak

(NS): **Health & Welfare of Otče Duchovnyj**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2025

offered by Velma Seman

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2025

# General Announcements

**(MR) AGAIN, AN ANONYMOUS FLOWER DONOR PURCHASES FLOWERS FOR THE FINAL TIME IN MAY** — Once again, an anonymous source will be donating beautiful and colorful flowers to be 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.



**(MR) & (NS) SAVE THE DATE: PARISH PICNIC SLATED FOR JULY** — Although details will follow in a later edition of the SOT, you are asked to set aside, **Sunday, July 13** for our parish picnic. It will be held once again in the Robinson Township Picnic Grove off of Clever Road. Please plan to join us as a member of our parish family. We are appreciative to our parishioner John Wovchko for securing this pavilion for us.

**SALUTING THE RED, WHITE & BLUE** — Our annual Flag Day Ceremony will take place on **Saturday, June 14 following the Divine Liturgy** at the flag pole in the front of the MR Church. Let us show patriotism to the flag when our country needs it the most. Bring a family member/friend!

**(MR) PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NEXT WEEK** — A PAC Meeting will be conducted this **Tuesday, June 10, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.** All appointed members are encouraged to be in attendance in the parish office. Please mark your calendar.

**(MR) ANNOUNCING III AND FINAL BANNS OF MARRIAGE** — This is the third and final announcement of the upcoming Nuptial Ceremony on **Saturday, June 14, 2025** of **Brandon Robert Hatton (NC) and Mickayla Elizabeth Poloka (BC – MR- Holy Ghost Church)** to be celebrated at 2:00 p.m. If anyone knows why this couple cannot enter into Holy Matrimony, please inform the Pastor A.S.A.P.

**(NS) PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NEXT WEEK** — A PAC Meeting will be conducted on **Sunday, June 15, 2025** following the Divine Liturgy. All appointed members are encouraged to be in attendance in the parish rectory. Please mark your calendar.

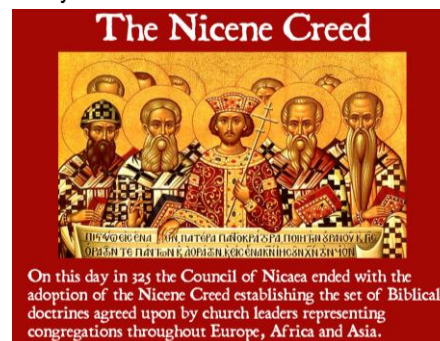
**EASTER DUTY PRECEPT** — All Christian Faithful are OBLIGED (MANDATED) to receive the Divine Eucharist when in danger of death AND during the Paschal (Easter) Period (Canon 708). In regards to the latter, this is traditionally known as the EASTER DUTY. When one is aware of Mortal (Deadly) Sin, a Sacramental 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 (June 15)** 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.

**2 Weeks Remaining to fulfill Your Easter Duty!**

# Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

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

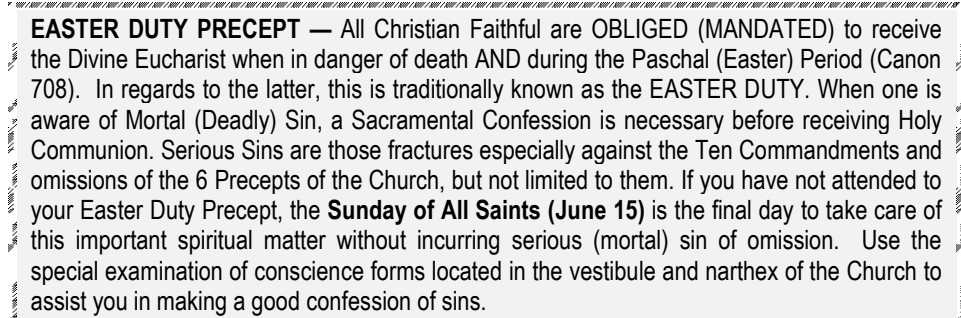
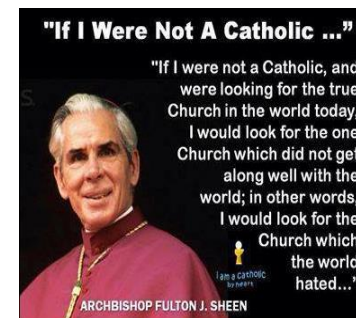
Today, we are commemorating the Fathers of The First Council of Nicea held in the year 325 AD. It is the first ecumenical council of the Catholic Church. *Most significantly, it resulted in the first, extra-biblical, uniform Christian doctrine, called the Nicene Creed.* With the creation of the creed, 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.



On this day in 325 the Council of Nicea ended with the adoption of the Nicene Creed establishing the set of Biblical doctrines agreed upon by church leaders representing congregations throughout Europe, Africa and Asia.

## 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).



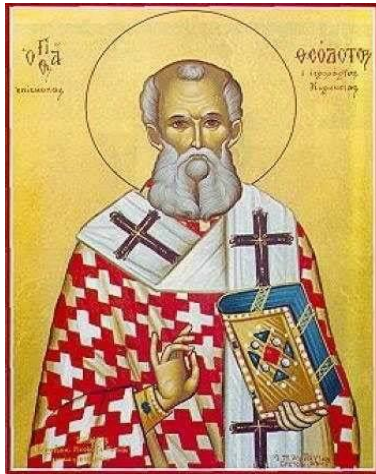
# Calendar of Upcoming Events

June 6 & 7 ..... 5<sup>th</sup> Universal All-Souls Saturday – Jun 6 (NS) 6:00 p.m.; Jun 7 (MR) 9:00 a.m.  
 June 8 ..... Feast of the Decent of the All-Holy Spirit (Pentecost Sunday. Our Patronal Feast Day.  
 June 9 ..... Pentecost Monday — Feast of the Most Holy Trinity – (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.  
 June 10 ..... (MR) PAC/FAC Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.  
 June 14 ..... Annual Flag Day Ceremony at (MR) Flag Church Flagpole following Sat. DL.  
 June 15 ..... Sunday of All Saints & Final Day for fulfilling your Easter Duty.  
 (NS) PAC/FAC Meeting following the Divine Liturgy.  
 June 24 ..... Nativity of St. John the Baptist (Solemn Holy Day): (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.

## Saint of the Week – June 7

### Bishop-Martyr Theodotus of Cyrenia, Cyprus

The Hierolatry Theodotus, a native of Galatia in Asia Minor, was Bishop of Cyrenia in Cyprus. During a time of persecution against Christians under the impious emperor Licinius (311-324), Saint Theodotus openly preached Christ, calling on the pagans to abandon idolatry and turn to the true God. Sabinus, the governor of Cyprus, ordered that Bishop Theodotus be arrested and brought to trial. When he heard about this order, the saint did not wait for the soldiers to be sent after him, but immediately went to the governor saying, "I, whom you seek, am here. I have shown myself in order to preach Christ my God." The governor ordered that the saint be beaten without mercy, suspended from a tree, raked with sharp implements, and then be taken to prison. Five days later Saint Theodotus was brought to the governor, who presumed that after his tortures the bishop would prefer to renounce Christ, rather than endure new sufferings. However, **Saint Theodotus did not cease to preach about Christ.** At first they put the saint on an iron grate, under which they lit a fire, and then hammered nails into his feet and let him go. Many witnessed the sufferings of the martyr. Astonished at the saint's endurance and his divinely-inspired speech, they came to believe in Christ. Learning of this, Sabinus gave orders to stop the torture and throw the saint into prison. During the reign of Saint Constantine the Great (May 21), the freedom to confess their faith was given to all Christians, and among those set free from prison was Saint Theodotus. The saint returned to Cyrenia and after two years serving as bishop he peacefully fell asleep in the Lord in about the year 326.



**Don't Forget to Wear GREEN Next Weekend – Pentecost Sunday OUR PATRONAL FEAST!**

# General Announcements

## Our Christian Responsibility & Duty

**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.*



**JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE DEACON LUKE'S ORFDINATION & FIRST SOLEMN DIVINE LITURGY IN JULY** — *"Deacon Luke Lyengar would like to invite you to his Priesthood Ordination on Sunday, July 6, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall as well as his First Solemn Divine Liturgy invoking the Aid of the All-Holy Spirit on Monday, July 7, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks. Both Divine Liturgies will have a party afterwards. If you are able to attend either social event, please inform him by Saturday, June 21 @ (412) 863-3285. You may also sign the list located in the side vestibule and narthex area of both Churches. If you wish, he is also accepting e-mail responses: [Liyengar3@gmail.com](mailto:Liyengar3@gmail.com)."*



**SIGN FOR OUR PATRONAL PENTECOST COMMEMORATION** — Our Patronal Feast Day Commemoration is planned for **Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025 following the Divine Liturgy** This will not be a dinner but we will be serving a special Pentecost cake with beverages to mark the occasion. We ask that if you plan on attending that you sign the sheets placed in the (MR) side vestibule; and the (NS) narthex. **Today is the final day to inform us of your decision.** Further information, please phone Norma Kacsur (412) 331-4864.



**FINAL ALL SOULS' COMMEMORATION THIS WEEK** — The 5<sup>th</sup> and Final All Souls commemoration will be offered this coming **Friday, June 6 (NS); and Saturday, June 7 (MR)**. This final Eucharistic Service in behalf of all Souls comes a day prior to *The Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, also known as Pentecost.* Our prayer is directed to God the Holy Spirit so as to grant eternal rest and a blessed repose to All Souls, especially the names submitted earlier. It is still not too late to submit your beloveds' names using the envelope in your contribution box. Vicnaja Jim Pamjat'! Come & pray for their repose!

