

Parish Offerings – 11th Sunday after Pentecost — August 9, 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 (\$1,972) YP (\$5)	\$1,977.00
Holy Days (\$150) YP (\$4)	154.00
Votive Candles	134.00

\$2,265.00

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$742.00
Holy Days (\$60) (\$1)	61.00
Utilities (\$35) Improvement (\$65)	100.00
Votive Candles	60.00

\$963.00

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (30)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (42); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (29)

Dormition of Theotokos — (NS) 6:00 p.m. (29); (MR) 9:00 a.m. (21)



Valerian F. Szal

238

St., McKees Rocks, PA 15136

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Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP

Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953



North Side Parishioner

Alan Valeriano

(412) 638-3417

PA #172378

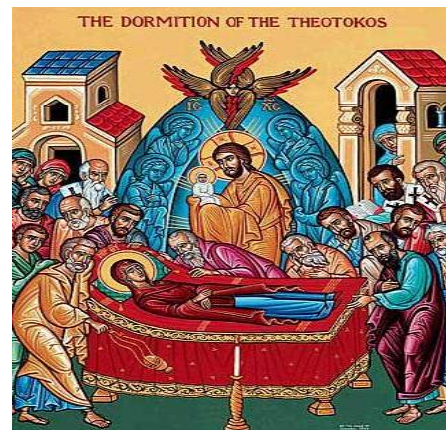
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Postfestive of the Dormition — August 16, 2026



Catholics of the Ruthenian – Byzantine Rite in full communion with the Pope of Rome

The Very Reverend Father Frank A. Firko, Pastor

Pastor, Administrator & Protopresbyter

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.

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).

August 16, 2026

Seasonal Greeting

Volume XVI, Number 32



Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!
Slava Isusu Christu! — Slava Na Viki!



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
 12th Sunday after Pentecost Postfestive of the Dormition Feast			
SUN., Aug 16	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Ann M. Lecci	Jeno Lecci, Sr.
Mon, Aug 17	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Helen Perschy (birthday 8/14)	Son: Kurt
Tue, Aug 18	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Aaron Leshko + Eleanor Gramata & Son: George (12 th ann of pass)	
Wed, Aug 19	8:00 a.m. (MR)	No Divine Liturgy Scheduled	
Thrs, Aug 20	8:00 a.m. (MR)	No Divine Liturgy Scheduled	

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)
for the intention of our beloved's return to the Church

Fri, Aug 21  8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mildred Terrek Sandy Mikovitz & Lana Ford & Family

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

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Julie Kutchmark

Wagner Family

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Final Day of the Dormition Feast



SUN., Aug 23 9:00 a.m. (MR) + John Kulka Children: Kathy & John (20th ann of passing 8/26)
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Anna Shirley Kalnas Family

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

Birthdays: Aug 16 – Janet Sendro; Aug 18 – Peter Zubritzky; Aug 19 – Anna Colbert; Aug 20 – Nina Bella Lecci; Aug 21 – Carmella Marie Rippole; Aug 22 – Albert Barnash.

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

HOME: Margaret Belunas, Dolores & William Boras, John Chomko, TAMARA HARDING, Michael Kachuta, Norma Kacsur, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, Monica Lemesh, BETTY LORINC, CINDY MEADERS, Margaret Nazak, 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, Pgh, 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.
CUMBERLAND CROSSING MANOR (1201 Cumberland Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15237): Susan Fejka.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Is bisexuality okay? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** No. Bisexuality involves homosexual acts, which are condemned in Scripture (Lv 18:22, 20:13; Gn 18:20; I Cor 6:9-10; CCC 2357, 2353). Bi sexuality is contrary to the monogamous and heterosexual lifestyle set forth by God. It is no more acceptably than homosexuality or any other sin against chastity. Bisexuality has become "fashionable" in recent years. This is due to the breakdown of stable family structures, insidious information on television and in the movies, a lack of good moral formation in our schools, and a general breakdown in the morals of society. Scripture speaks of how lust in man's heart will lead to degrading practices (Rom 1:26-27). Sin fuels more sin. There is no limit to where the sinful human heart can go (Eph 2:3; Rom 1:19-25).

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Aug 16 — Aug 22, 2026

(MR): In memory of Irene & Alex Bilek, Jr.

offered by Leyte, Mike & Mike Tomchak

(NS): In memory of Paul Gregory Mathis

(MR) All reserved for 2020 offered by Sisters: Michelle & Tamara (NS) All reserved for 2020



General Announcements

(MR) & (NS) PREPARING TO RECEIVE 2027 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES — Our contribution envelopes will be arriving shortly. The price per box escalates each year especially due to inflation. For those who haven't been contributing for the **past two years**, seems to indicate that you are not interested in receiving envelopes for the new year. In due respect, your name will be eliminated from distribution and placed on the inactive list. To be an active member or to re-establish active status, one must have contribution envelopes. Please help your church meet its fiduciary responsibilities by using this investment responsibility. We can't do it without you!

FROM A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE:

Mary's Assumption in the Eastern Tradition

The following article was written by a Catholic Answer writer, Deacon Daniel G. Dozer and taken from Catholic Answers Webpage. This abridges article briefly teaches us the importance of understanding the Dormition Feast. Space does not permit the entire article.

.... We continue to celebrate this holy end of Mary's life with the Solemnity of the Assumption, in the East called the Dormition. Catholics of the Latin tradition often assume that Mary's final end has been sufficiently addressed by the dogma of the Assumption, that is, her translation, body and soul, into heaven as defined by Pius XII in 1950.... The Byzantine tradition, however, as part of the universal and fully Catholic patrimony of the Church, is not silent on this topic. It guards a rich treasury of teaching, iconography, and liturgy concerning the end of Mary's life.... These three events—her death, her resurrection, and her assumption into heaven—complete the mosaic of the holy end of Mary's life. According to Stephen Shoemaker, a contemporary theologian who specializes in the area of the Dormition traditions, some of the common threads running through the Palm narratives are as follows: **1)** An angel meets Mary on the Mount of Olives and announces to her that her time of death has come and brings to her a palm branch from the Tree of Life in paradise; **2)** Mary goes back to her home in Jerusalem and informs her friends and family of the message of the angel, and the apostles, who were engaged in their respective missions all over the earth, re-gather miraculously in Jerusalem; **3)** Peter, who is treated as the head of the apostles, delivers a homily to those who have come the night before to pray as Mary prepares for her death; **4)** When the moment arrives, the crowds are put to sleep, all except the apostles and three virgins, who see Jesus and a host of angels appear; **5)** Jesus receives the immaculate soul of Mary, appearing in the form of an Infant in white swaddling clothes, and gives it to Michael the Archangel; **6)** The apostles carry Mary's body on a funeral bier to a tomb beside the Garden of Gethsemane; **7)** Jephonias, one of the Jewish leaders, attempts to upend the funeral bier but as he does so his hands are severed by an angel, then later restored by his conversion and prayers to Mary; **8)** After laying her body in the tomb, the apostles wait for Christ there for several days until he returns, resurrects Mary and takes her body, along with the apostles, to paradise; **9)** The apostles, after being shown heaven and hell, then return to earth with Mary remaining, body and soul, in heaven. One of the later narratives also mentions a situation where Thomas arrives late. By the time he reaches the city and meets with the other apostles, Mary has been buried and he requests to see her body in the sealed tomb. When the tomb is opened, however, Mary's body is not to be found, but rather the relics of her funeral robe and her belt. The finding of the relics is also part of the Dormition traditions of Constantinople and Ephesus.



TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jesus offers the same challenge today As He offered the Rich Man in today's Gospel (Matthew 19: 16-26)

The great truth of this story lies in the way it illumines the meaning of eternal life. Eternal life is life such as God himself lives. The word for eternal is *aionios*, which does



not mean lasting or ever; it means such as befits God, or such as belongs to God, or such as is characteristic of God. The great characteristic of God is that He so loved and He gave. Therefore, the essence of eternal life is not a carefully calculated keeping of the commandments and the rules and the regulations; **eternal life is based on an attitude of loving and sacrificial generosity to our fellowmen.** If we would find eternal life, if we would find happiness, joy, satisfaction, peace of

mind and serenity of heart, it shall not be by piling up a credit balance with God through keeping commandments and observing rules and regulations; it shall be through reproducing God's attitude of love and care to our fellowmen. To follow Christ and in grace and generosity to serve the men for whom Christ died are one and the same thing. In the end the young man turned away in great distress. He refused the challenge because he had great possessions. His tragedy was that he loved things more than he loved people; and he loved himself more than he loved others. Any man who puts things before people and self before others, must turn his back on Jesus Christ.

FROM A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE:

The importance of Sunday and Participating at the Divine Liturgy

The following article was written by a Catholic Apologist, Matt Nelson and taken from Catholic Answers Webpage. This abridges article briefly teaches us the importance of Sunday and worshipping at the Divine Liturgy. Space does not permit the entire article.

Every Sunday "the whole Christ" is reunited in and through the Holy Eucharist. Moreover, our choice to participate is salvific: "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you" (John 6:53). Theologian Colin Donovan reminds us that "in the Mass (Divine Liturgy) it is Christ himself who worships the Father, joining our worship to his. In no other way is it possible to adequately give thanks (Eucharistic) to God . . . than by uniting our offerings to that of Jesus Christ himself." Christ does with us in the Mass (Divine Liturgy) what we cannot do alone: make a perfect offering to the Father. The key to understanding why Catholics must attend Sunday Mass (Divine Liturgy) lies above all in the essence of the Mass (Divine Liturgy) itself. Our duty to be willing participants **IS NOT rooted in how it makes us feel but in what it is.** As the sacred meeting place of God and man, the Mass (Divine Liturgy) reorients our lives towards God, reunites us with him in love, and thereby communicates the grace of salvation to our souls. In the long run, there can be nothing more productive than that.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 28 Vigil of Beheading Feast of St. John Baptist (Simple HD) – (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 August 29 Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist — (MR) 9:00 a.m.
 September 1 Commencement of the New Ecclesiastical (Church) Year.
 September 4-7 92nd Annual Pilgrimage of Mount Saint Macrina.
 September 8 Feast of Nativity of the Theotokos – (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 p.m....
 Sept 14 Universal Elevation of Precious Cross. Weekend DLs begin 15 minutes earlier
 Sept. 20 Catechetical Sunday & Commissioning of the Catechists. Beginning of ECF school year.
 Archeparchy honors milestone Marriage Jubilarians, St. Elias Church, Munhall @ 3:00 p.m.

Saint of the Week — August 21

Saint Thaddeus one of the Seventy Apostles

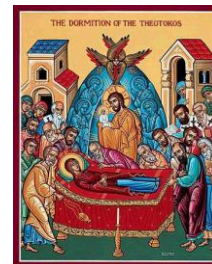
Saint Thaddeus, Apostle of the Seventy, was by descent a Hebrew, and he was born in the Syrian city of Edessa. *The holy Apostle Thaddeus of the Seventy must be distinguished from St Jude, also called Thaddeus or Levi (June 19), who was one of the Twelve Apostles.* When he came to Jerusalem for a feast day, he heard the preaching of John the Forerunner. After being baptized by him in the Jordan, he remained in Palestine. He saw the Savior and became His follower. He was chosen by the Lord to be one of the Seventy Disciples, whom He sent by twos to preach in the cities and places where He intended to visit (Luke. 10: 1). After the Ascension of the Savior to Heaven, St Thaddeus preached the good news in Syria and Mesopotamia. He came preaching the



Gospel to Edessa and he converted King Abgar, the people and the pagan priests to Christ. He backed up his preaching with many miracles (about which Abgar wrote to the Assyrian emperor Nerses). He established priests there and built up the Edessa Church. Prince Abgar wanted to reward St Thaddeus with rich gifts, but he refused and went preaching to other cities, converting many pagans to the Christian Faith. He went to the city of Beirut to preach, and he founded a church there. It was in this city that he peacefully died in the year 44. (The place of his death is indicated as Beirut in the Slavonic MENAION, but according to other sources he died in Edessa. According to an ancient Armenian tradition, St Thaddeus, after various tortures, was beheaded by the sword on December 21 in the Artaz region in the year 50).

General Announcements

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION THIS PAST WEEK — Yesterday, Aug. 15 was *THE FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD* 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.**



THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED — Many thanks are extended to all who fully participated in the August Holy Days of the Transfiguration of Our Lord and Dormition of the Theotokos by continuing the long-time traditions of brings grapes, fruits, flowers and herbs to be blessed. It may seem like a small gesture, but it is really not. At this time of our parish's history, you have handed on the torch of fidelity and love for our Byzantine Catholic traditions as did those who preceded us during our many decades of our Churches foundings. God grant you many blessed years!

SUMMER IS NOT A TIME TO VACATION FROM WORSHIPPING GOD — Now that Summer is here many are vacationing. Please remember to keep the worship of God in your plans. The first Precept of the Church is to participate in the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. *This does not exclude vacation time!* The place to worship God is at the Divine Liturgy. He is most kind and merciful, sustaining and gifting us in all that we have and need. *A voluntarily absence without serious reason makes one guilty of mortal sin, and unable to worthily approach Holy Communion until the sinful neglect is confessed in the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (making a sacramental Confession).* If you know where you are traveling and that there is no Catholic Church, please inform the Pastor so that a dispensation may be considered. Also, *you can download an app on your cell phone called “Mass Times.”*



(MR) & (NS) PARISHES LEND A HELPING HAND TO FISHER HOUSE — Our Parishes are continuing to collect items to help Pittsburgh's VA Fisher House. The Pittsburgh Fisher House is a 10-bedroom "home away from home" and provides a place for visiting families to stay, free of charge, while their loved ones receive inpatient medical care at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. The Pittsburgh Fisher House is professionally furnished and features a common kitchen, laundry facilities, spacious dining room, living room with a library, and toys for children. They are requesting assistance in keeping these areas stocked with supplies. Boxes will be placed at the side vestibule and narthex areas of both parishes for the **collection that has been extended to next weekend, August 24.** Needed items are listed on a stationery sheet near these boxes. Let's help our afflicted veterans and their families by supporting this collection! Needed items are listed at the entrances of both churches. Feel free to take one while shopping. Any question, please contact Tina Burns (412) 618-6567.