

Parish Offerings – 12th Sunday after Pentecost — August 16, 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 (\$2,380) YP (\$5)	\$2,385.00
Holy Days (\$472) YP (\$5)	477.00
Votive Candles	145.30

\$3,007.30

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$564.05
Holy Days	45.00
Votive Candles	54.00

\$663.05

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (25)

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



Valerian F. Szal

238

St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412) 331-9713
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Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP

Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953



Alan Valeriano
(412) 638-3417
PA #172378

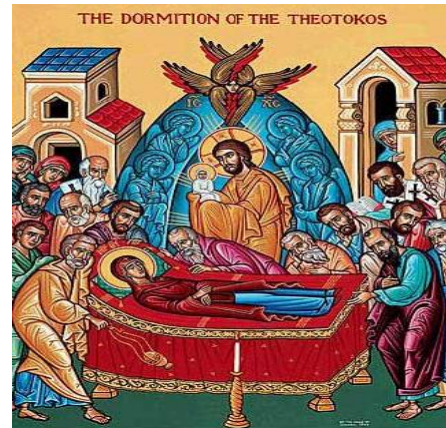
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Final Day of the Dormition Feast — August 23, 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 23, 2026

Seasonal Greeting

Volume XVI, Number 33



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
13th Sunday after Pentecost			
Final Day of the Dormition Feast			
SUN., Aug 23	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ John Kulka (20 th ann of passing 8/26)	Children: Kathy & John
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Anna Shirley Kalnas	Family
Mon, Aug 24	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Kenneth M. Shanta (birthday 8/19)	Diane, Alice, Beckey & Peggy
Tue, Aug 25	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Dan Pikras	Son: Dino & Family
Wed, Aug 26	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Ilona Goyda (birthday 8/27)	Brian Goyda
Thrs, Aug 27	8:00 a.m. (MR)	Health & Welfare of Al Barnash (birthday 8/22)	Wife: Christine
Fri, Aug 28	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Julia (Miklos) Sibenak (9 th ann of passing 8/25)	Son: Steven



Anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist

6:00 p.m. (NS) + Marlene Pfieffer Eileen & Rick Fahert

Beheading of the Holy Prophet,



Forerunner & Baptist, John — Simple Holy Day

Traditional Day of Strict Abstinence (no meat or dairy) — RECOMMENDED

SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (No Meat) & no serving or eating on a platter or dish

SAT, AUG 29 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Elizabeth Poznak Family

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Final Day of the Beheading Feast

SUN, Aug 30 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Amelia Firko + Mary Korim + Joyce Hrivnak (birthdays) 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 25 – Lori Lee Rippole; Aug 29 – William Babin.

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

HOME: Margaret Belionas, 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. What difference does it make what religion you are, as long as you live like Christ? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** If someone does everything Jesus calls him to do, then he will—among other things—believe in Jesus and join his Church. Christ set up *one* Church for his believers to join. In Matthew 16:18, he says to Peter "Upon this Rock I will build my Church," not "I will build my churches...." Worship and religious affiliation are part of what Jesus commanded his followers, and so what religion you belong to *does* matter.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Aug 23 — Aug 29, 2026

(MR): **In memory of Lee & Carol Honthy**

offered by Sister: Peggi & George Lucas

(NS): **In memory of Agnes Knoll** (birthday 8/18)

(MR) All reserved for 2026 offered by Dgtr: Leslie O'Donnell (NS) All reserved for 2026



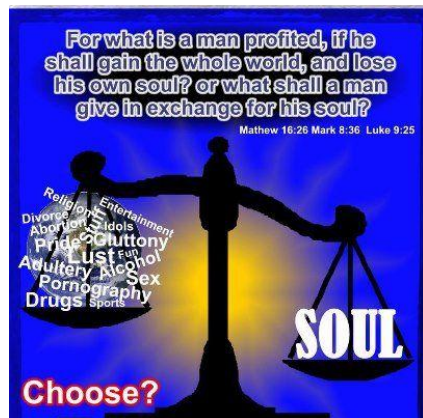
General Announcements

AN ON-GOING ANNOUNCEMENT: PASTOR CONTINUES TO MAKE SACRAMENTAL CALLS — If you have been away from the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments), but are homebound, our pastor is more than willing to make a sacramental visitation to your residence. Remember, it is your responsibility to contact him. **Please phone the parish office (412) 771-3324** and set a time when Father may visit you. Remember: **SACRAMENTS AND PRAYER ARE VITALLY ESSENTIAL** for your immortal soul! He is looking forward hearing from you!



How do you Determine if you can receive Holy Communion or not?

By your examining your conscience to determine, as best as you can, whether you are in the state of grace. If you have committed any mortal sins that have not been confessed, you ARE NOT in the state of grace (1 Cor 11:28). If you are in the state of grace, you can and should receive the Eucharist. If you are not, you should not receive it. To do so would be the sin of sacrilege (1 Cor 11:27; CCC 1385). As you grow in the spiritual life, you will generally find it is easier to determine whether you have committed any mortal sins (1 Jn 3:19-24, 4:13). In the meantime, here is a quick lesson on what



constitutes a mortal sin. A mortal sin is a grievous offense against God that deprives the sinner of sanctifying grace, which is the supernatural life of the soul (1 Jn 5:16-17; CCC 1855). It also makes the person an enemy of God, takes away the merits of one's good action done in a state of serious sin, and deprives one of the sanctifying grace necessary for salvation (Rom 1:18; Prv 15:9; CCC 1861).

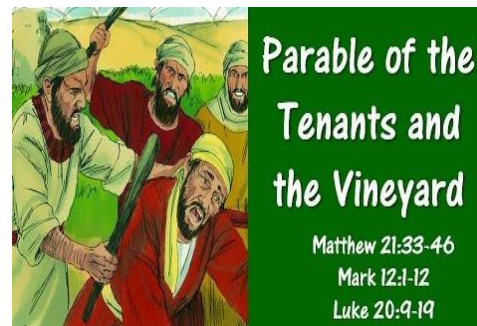
To commit a mortal (or deadly) sin, there are three conditions that must be present: (1) The thought, word, action, or omission must be seriously wrong or considered seriously wrong. (2) The sinner needs to know that it is seriously wrong. (3) The sinner must give full consent of the will in choosing the sin (CCC 1857, 1874).

At our Holy Ghost Church, we have a confession guide available of the confession prayers and an examination of conscience, if you cannot locate it, ask for a copy). As you become more sensitive to God's laws (through prayer, study and frequent reception of the sacraments), you will know almost immediately when you have committed a serious offense.

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

St. Basil the Great Commentary and Explanation of the Vineyard — Mt. 21:33-42

You need only to look at the vine to be reminded of your own nature, that is, if you observe it intelligently. No doubt you remember the image used by the Lord in



which he says that he is the vine and the Father the vinedresser. **Each of us who have been grafted onto the Church by faith he calls branches, and he urges us to bear much fruit so as not to be rejected as useless and thrown onto the fire.**

Throughout the Scriptures the Lord continually likens human souls to vines. He says for instance: My

beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hillside; and again: I planted a vineyard and put a hedge round it. Clearly it is human souls that he calls his vineyard, and the hedge he has put round them is the security of his commandments and the protection of the angels; for the angel of the Lord will encamp around those who fear him. Moreover, by establishing in the Church apostles in the first place, prophets in the second, and teachers in the third, he has surrounded us as though by a firmly planted palisade. In addition, the Lord has raised our thoughts to heaven by the examples of saints of past ages. He has kept them from sinking to the earth where they would deserve to be trampled on, and he wills that the bonds of love, like the tendrils of a vine, should attach us to our neighbors and make us rest on them, so that always climbing upward like vines growing on trees, we may reach the loftiest heights. **He also requires that we allow ourselves to be weeded. To be spiritually weeded means to have renounced the worldly ambitions that burdened our hearts.** Anyone who has renounced the love of material things and attachment to possessions, or who has come to regard as despicable and deserving of contempt the poor, wretched glory of this world, is like a weeded vine. Freed from the profitless burden of earthly aspirations, that person can breathe again. Finally, following out the implications of the comparison, we must not run to wood, or, in other words, show off or seek the praise of outsiders. Instead, we must bear fruit by reserving the display of our good works for the true vinedresser.

I am the vine, you are the branches.
John 15:5

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.

Simple Holy Day This Week

Beheading of St. John the Baptist — August 29

Herod Antipas, son of the elder Herod, who was the slayer of the children of Bethlehem at the time of the birth of the Lord Jesus, was ruler of Galilee at the time



when John the Baptist was preaching. This Herod was married to the daughter of Aretas, an Arabian prince. But Herod, an evil sprout of an evil root, put away his lawful wife and unlawfully took unto himself Herodias as his concubine, the wife of his brother Philip, who was still living. John the Baptist stood up against this lawlessness and strongly denounced Herod who then cast John into prison. At the time of a banquet in his court in Sebastia in Galilee Salome, the daughter of Herodias and Philip,

danced before the guests. The drunken Herod was so taken by this dance that he promised Salome that he would give her whatever she asked of him, even though it be half of his kingdom. Being persuaded by her mother, Salome asked for the head of John the Baptist. Herod gave the order and **John was beheaded in prison and his head brought to him on a platter**. John's disciples took the body of their teacher by night and honorably buried it and Herodias pierced the tongue of John with a needle in many places and buried the head in an unclean place. However, God's punishment quickly befell this group of evil doers. Prince Aretas, in order to cleanse his daughter's honor, attacked Herod with his army and defeated him. The defeated Herod was sentenced by the Roman Caesar, Caligula, to exile at first to Gaul and later to Spain. As exiles, Herod and Herodias lived in poverty and humiliation until the earth opened up and swallowed them. Salome died an evil death on the Sikaris (Sula) river. The death of St. John occurred before the Passover but its celebration on *August 29 was established because*, on that day, a church which had been built over his grave in Sebastia by Emperor Constantine and Empress Helena was consecrated. In this church the relics of John's disciples, Eliseus and Audius, were also placed. **Divine Liturgies Wednesday, Aug. 29 (MR) @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 7:00 p.m.** *In the spirit of this feast try to avoid eating from a dish or platter, but use a humble paper plate. The founders and benefactors of our Churches ate from the kitchen pots and pans on this day in St. John's honor! Some did not cut anything that resembled a head (eg. cabbage, lettuce, even a tomato) with a knife!*

General Announcements

(MR) & (NS) FINAL DAY OF COLLECTION FOR FISHER HOUSE — This is the



final day for collecting 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.

Any question, please contact Tina Burns (412) 618-6567.

DID YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS? — We are preparing labels for the upcoming contribution envelope boxes. We wish to make sure that we have your current address on file along with your current email address. Please notify the Church Office if there are any changes. Also, please use your contribution envelopes. Your sacrificial offerings help to continue the mission of proclaiming the Gospel and the administration of the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments) at our Holy Ghost Church. Just as you are required to meet your fiduciary obligations at home, so must we here at the Church. It is a Universal Church Precept to meet this responsibility. The Church understands that in times of economic distress and shortcomings this may not be tentatively possible. If you are not able to contribute, please contact the pastor. He will understand. Remember to be a sponsor at Baptism/Chrismation or to be married in the Church this Precept of the Church (this is only one of six) must be fulfilled!



FUN AT THIS YEAR'S PARISH PICNIC — It was a beautiful day for a Parish Picnic last month. This was an 'old fashion style gathering at Clever Park underneath the



large picnic shelter. There was plenty of food and some games for all for the entire afternoon. We are grateful to those who organized the event: Staff: Elaine Kurtanich, GCU representatives (MR) Donna & Harry and (NS) Barbara & Peter Stecko GCU representatives purchasing and grilling the hotdogs, hamburgers, plates and plasticware. Thank you to all who worked with them. Also, gratitude is extended to Jim Kurtanich for providing complimentary delicious ice cream for all picnickers. Once again, a special thank you to John Wovchko for reserving the shelter all the way back in January. God bless all of you for making this day a memorable one.