

Parish Offerings – 4th Sunday after Pentecost — June 21, 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 (\$2,619) YP (\$2)	\$2,621.00
Holy Days (\$20) YP (1)	21.00
Special Donation (Campbell Foundation: In honor of Anastasia Bedard)	2,000.00
Votive Candles	124.50

\$4,766.50

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$567.00
Holy Days (\$25) Utilities (\$20) Improv. (\$45) Peter's Pence (\$20)	110.00
Candles	76.00

\$753.00

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat., 4:00 p.m. (36)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (47); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (19)

Nativity of St. John the Baptist — Wed, Jun. 24 (MR) 9:00 a.m. (5); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (5)



Happy Feasts of SS. Peter & Paul

Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953

Valerian F. Szal

238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412) 331-9713
Fax: (412) 331-6688

Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP



GCU offers Insurance and
Annuity Benefits greater than
most financial institutions. Info
call Randy (412) 973-1085



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 5th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

4th & Final Sunday of the Petrine Fast — June 28, 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

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.

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).

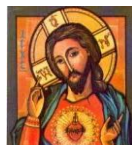
June 28, 2026

Seasonal Greeting

Volume XVI, Number 26



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date

Time

Intention

Requested By

5th Sunday after Pentecost

4th & Final Sunday of the Petrine Fast

SUN., Jun 28 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael Sendro (12th ann of pass 7/1) Wife: Janet & Family
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Anna Gecy (60th ann of pass 6/26) Grandson: Robert Spontak

7:00 p.m. (MR) Great Vespers & DIVINE LITURGY for Feast of Saints Peter & Paul

Feast of the Holy Prime Apostles Peter and Paul

Holy Day of Obligation — Mirovanije

MON, JUN 29 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
6:00 p.m. (NS) + Michael Sotak, Jr + Mary + Michael Sotak, Sr. Jane Sotak

Synaxis of the Holy 12 Apostles

Tue, Jun 30 8:00 a.m. (MR) + John Gramata (28th ann. of passing 4/29) + Eleanor & George

Wed, Jul 1 *** 10:00 a.m. (NS) + Funeral of Deacon Michael Meaders

Thrs, Jul 2 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary + Andrew Skalko + Rosemarie Boris Anonymous



First Friday of the Month

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice): for religious freedom
Fri, Jul 3 8:00 a.m. (MR) + John Sosak (55th ann. of passing 7/4) MaryEllen & John W. Oslick

250th Independence Day — First Saturday of the Month

Sat, Jul 4 *** 9:00 a.m. (MR) Health, Welfare & Forgiveness of Sins of our Country



Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Mike Muska (2nd ann of pass 7/1) Peggy & Chuck McCusker

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Independence Weekend

SUN., Jul 5 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Monsignor. Peter P. Tay (birthday 7/7) John Senchyshyn



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: Jun 29 – Patricia Kovacs; Jun 30 – Olivia Leasure; Jul 1 – PAUL MITRO;

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

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, Dolores & William Boras, TAMARA HARDING, Michael Kachuta, Steve Kosko, 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. Does baptism make a baby a friend of God? A. Answer by Catholic Answers: In baptism a baby is made a child of God. Like circumcision in the Old Testament, baptism makes the baby a member of the family of God (Col 2:11-14; Jn 3:3-5; CCC 804). However, baptism is more powerful than circumcision because it is built on a better foundation — Jesus Christ and the new covenant He established (Heb 8:6-7). In fact, baptism does at least three things for the one being baptized: (1) It unites him or her to Jesus Christ (Gal 3:26-27; CCC 790); (2) By infusing sanctifying grace, baptism gives supernatural life to a soul previously dead because of original sin (Sanctifying grace is necessary for salvation.) In adults, baptism also removes actual sins that were committed before baptism (Rom 6:3-5, 11; Col 2:11-14; CCC 405, 1263-66); and (3) It makes the baptized person a member of the Church (Jn 3:3-5; CCC 1267).

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

June 28 — July 4, 2026

(MR): In memory of Mary Agnes Kress (birthday 6/28)

Son: William & Kathryn

(NS): In memory of Deacon Michael Meaders

All reserved for 2026 offered by (NS) Holy Ghost Parishioners (NS) All reserved for 2026



General Announcements

McKees Rocks

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of long-time parishioner, **Theodore "Ted" J. Babin, 96**, of McKees Rocks, and resided for a few days at the Good Samaritan Hospice Care Facility, Wexford, PA. prior to his passing on Monday, June 15, 2026. He had been married for 73 years prior to her passing last July 2025. He is survived by his children: Theodore (Allison) Cynthia "Cindy" (David) Anderson, and Gregory (Jenine). He had several stepchildren and grandchildren. The Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home, McKees Rocks, handled the arrangements. A Funeral Divine Liturgy was offered on Tuesday, June 23rd follow by interment at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Bridgeville, PA. Our Parish Family offers its most sincere condolences to the Babin and Anderson Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord eternal rest to your servant Ted, and remember him forever. Vicnaja Jemu Pamjat'!



SUBJECT MATTER DISCUSSED AT PAC/FAC MEETING — At the last PAC/FAC Meeting, **June 8, 202**, discussion on the following topics were presented **(1)** Review of the 2025 General Financial Statement; Report will appear in an upcoming Sunday's S.O.T.; **(2)** At the Clergy Days it was stressed that all parish volunteers must enroll in the Federal and State Child Protection Program in order to participate. Again this is mandated by Federal and State Guidelines, even clergy. Carl Bates is putting together a program to present to the parish. **(3)** Discussion if our Annual Church Picnic slated for Sunday July 26, 2026. **(4)** Archieparchial Faith & Fun Days for Altar Servers will take place on Monday July 26 at Cleaver Recreation Park, McKees Rocks. More information will be forthcoming.



Northside

DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS PASSES ONTO ETERNITY — It is with sadness that the S.O.T announces the passing of **Deacon Michael Meaders** passed away at the Perry Rehab & Rehabilitation Center, Center on Thursday, June 25, 2026. Viewing will be at the Hughes Funeral Home, Inc, 1501 Lowrie St., Pittsburgh, PA 15212 on Tuesday 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. A Parastas will be offered at the funeral home at 7:00 p.m. The Funeral Divine Liturgy will be on Wednesday, July 1 at 10:00 a.m. The body will be transferred to (NS) Holy Ghost Church at 9:00 a.m. followed by a Panachida and viewing. Interment will follow at Rose Hill Cemetery, Butler, PA. More detail will appear in a future S.O.T. In blessed repose, grant O Lord eternal rest to your servant Deacon Michael, and remember him forever. Vicnaja Jemu Pamjat'!

AN INTERESTING LOOK AT AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

(WIKIPEDIA) — During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the Thirteen Colonies from Great Britain in 1776 actually occurred on July 2, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia declaring the United States independent from Great Britain's rule. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a Committee of Five, with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Congress debated and revised the wording of the Declaration, finally approving it two days later on July 4. The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more. Adams's prediction was off by two days. From the outset, Americans celebrated independence on July 4, the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress.



5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Demons in today's Holy Gospel — Read Matthew 8:28-9:1

St. John Chrysostom says about this account, "Look at what the demons did when they were cast out of the men." They entered into the swine, and caused the swine to run violently down to their own death. St. John says that is what the demons want to do to each one of us. They want to cause us to run violently down to our death. He says, "Do not be deceived. You have many foes. Just because you can't see them with your natural eyes does not mean they are not there. Just because you are not aware of them every second of every day does not mean they do not follow you around, because they do. They huddle around you." What they seek is to enter you so that they may cause you to rush violently to your own death. This is the nature of our spiritual struggle. In 1 Peter 5:8, St. Peter says that our adversary the devil "walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." If we are going to fight the spiritual war, if we are going to live out this Christian life, then we must be aware every second of every day that the demons are there, and that they are looking for just one opening, just one second when we are not paying attention, one look that is not carefully guarded, one movement of anger, jealousy, or envy in our heart. The demons look for opportunities to destroy us. The demons never take a day off. But very often those thoughts are suggestions of the evil one. Satan and the demons are very skillful at suggesting thoughts to us and then leaving so quickly that we don't see that it was the demons that placed those thoughts in our head. They're very skillful at lining up all the facts to prove the thought. We beat Satan and the demons with the name of Jesus. It's a wonderful image of Satan and the demons in this Gospel passage, where the demons flex their muscles and scream at Jesus, "What have we to do with You?" The name of Jesus is more powerful than any demon. The name of Jesus strikes fear into the heart of Satan and all his minions. That is why the name of Jesus is to be on our lips with every breath. If we center our thoughts on the name of Jesus, then Satan will not get us with any other thoughts. That's why the Fathers say that we descend with our mind into our heart, and we guard our mind with our heart, because the name of Jesus is our protection: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." When Jesus says, "Go," the demons flee.



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The Devil has not Full Power

"Among the angelic powers the chief of the terrestrial order, the one to whom God had entrusted the task of looking after the earth, was not evil by nature, he had not received any trace of evil from his Creator. He was good. However, he did not maintain the light and the honor that God had given him. By a deliberate act of his own free will he rebelled against the Creator. He turned his face away from goodness and fell into evil. Evil is in fact merely the absence of good, as darkness is the absence of light. A host of angels placed under his command followed him in the fall. Despite their angelic nature, they also freely plunged from goodness down to evil and became wicked. The devils cannot do anything against us without God's permission. But with God's permission they are powerful. All wickedness, all the passions are inspired by them but listen: God allows them to suggest sin to a person, but they cannot force him to do it. We ourselves are responsible for accepting or rejecting their seductive suggestions." --- By St. John Damascene - *The True Faith*, 2, 4 (PG94,873ff.)

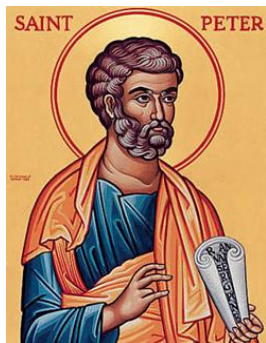


Calendar of Upcoming Events

July 4 A special (MR) 9:00 a.m. Patriotic Divine Liturgy.
 July 20 Simple Holy Day: Feast of the Holy Prophet Elijah — Blessing of Vehicles.
 (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 July 23 BYZANTINE CATHOLIC FAMILY DAY, Kennywood Park.
 July 26 Holy Ghost Parishes Annual Picnic, Cleaver Recreational Park from 1:00 p.m., - 5:00 p.m.
 July 27 Annual Archieparchial Altar Servers FAITH & FUN DAYS (details to follow).
 August 1 - 14 Commencement of the Savorial Fast (Spasovka).

Holy Day of Obligation this Week — June 29

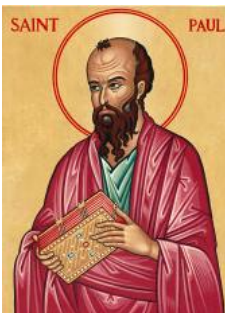
THE HOLY APOSTLE PETER



The son of Jonah and brother of Andrew the First-Called, of the tribe of Simeon and the town of Bethsaida, he was a fisherman and was at first called Simon, but the Lord was pleased to call him Cephas, or Peter (Jn 1:42). He was the first of the disciples to give clear expression to his faith in the Lord Jesus, saying: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God" (Mt 16:16). His love for the Lord was very strong, and his faith in Him went from strength to strength. When the Lord was put on trial, Peter denied him three times, but it needed only one look into the face of the Lord, and Peter's soul was filled with shame and repentance. After the descent of the Holy Spirit, Peter became a fearless and powerful preacher of the Gospel. After his first sermon in Jerusalem, about 3,000 souls were converted to the Faith. He preached the Gospel throughout Palestine and Asia Minor, in Italy and Illyria. He performed many wonders, healing the sick and raising the dead, and even his shadow had the power of healing the sick. He had a major struggle with Simon the Magician, who declared himself to be from God but was actually a servant of the devil. He finally put him to shame and overcame him. Peter was condemned to death on the order of the wicked Emperor Nero, a friend of Simon's. After installing Linus as Bishop of Rome and exhorting and encouraging the flock of Christ there, Peter went to his death with joy. When he saw the cross before him, he asked the executioner to crucify him upside-down, because he felt himself unworthy to die in the same way as his Lord. And so, this great servant of the greatest Master went to his rest and received a crown of eternal glory.

THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL

Born in Tarsus and of the tribe of Benjamin, he was formerly called Saul and studied under Gamaliel. He was a Pharisee and a persecutor of Christians. He was wondrously converted to the Christian faith by the Lord Himself, who appeared to him on the road to Damascus. He was baptized by the Apostle Ananias, named Paul and enrolled in the work of the Great Apostles. He preached the Gospel everywhere with burning zeal, from the borders of Arabia to the land of Spain, among both the Jews and the heathen, and receiving the title of "The Apostle to the Gentiles." His fearful sufferings were matched only by his superhuman endurance. Through all the years of his preaching, he hung from day to day like a thread between life and death. Filling his days and nights with toil and sufferings for Christ, organizing the Church in many places and receiving a high level of perfection, he was able to say: "I live, yet not I but Christ lives in me" (Gal 2:20). He was beheaded in Rome in the reign of Nero, at the same time as St. Peter was being crucified.



General Announcements

REGISTER FOR A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE — The Archeparchy wishes to honor those who are celebrating their 10, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 etc. anniversary of marriage this year. This celebration has been extended on a new format. It will take place on **Sunday, September 20, 2026 @ 3:00 p.m. at St. Elias Church, Munhall**. If you are observing one of the above milestones, *please contact the Church office if you plan or DO NOT plan to attend!* All anniversaries submitted will be published in a September issue of the SOT.



PRAYER FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CONTINUES — DEFEND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY — Catholic eparchies and dioceses across the Commonwealth are continuing Religious Freedom Week which began **June 22 and continues through June 29**: Let us stand up and learn, defend, proclaim the Truth of our Faith and by offering this prayer for Religious Freedom: **O God our Creator, from your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ. Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society. We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith. Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome — for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us — this great land will always be "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Amen."**

DID YOU KNOW THIS ABOUT THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE?

John Hancock, the President of the Continental Congress at the time, was the first and only person to sign the Declaration on July 4, 1776 (he signed it in the presence of just one man, Charles Thomson, the secretary of Congress). According to legend, the founding father signed his name bigger than everyone else's because he wanted to make sure "fat old King George" could read it without his spectacles. But the truth is that Hancock had a large blank space and didn't realize the other men would write their names smaller. Today, the term "John Hancock" has become synonymous with a person's signature. **Thomas Jefferson** and **John Adams**, the only two presidents to sign the document, both died on the Fourth of July in 1826, the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration. Adam's last words have been reported as "Thomas Jefferson survives." He did not know that Jefferson had died only a few hours before. **James Monroe**, the last president who was a Founding Father, also died on July 4 in 1831. **Calvin Coolidge**, the 30th President, was born on July 4, 1872, and, so far, is the only President to have been born on Independence Day.

