

Parish Offerings – 5th Sunday after Pentecost – June 28, 2026

Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks

Regular Offering (\$2,321) YP (\$5) All Saints (\$2)	\$2,328.00
Holy Days (\$213) YP (\$8) Peter's Pence (\$320)	541.00
Votive Candles	147.50
	\$3,016.50

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering (\$727) YP (\$1)	\$728.00
Holy Day (\$20) Utilities (\$15) Peter's Pence (\$5)	40.00
Votive Candles	38.00
	\$806.00

Church Attendance Last Week

06/28 (MR) Sat., 4:00 pm (26); Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (51); (NS) 11:00 am (21)

Parish Offerings – 6th Sunday after Pentecost – July 5, 2026

Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks

Regular Offering (\$3,097) YP (\$3)	\$3,100.00
Holy Days (\$240) YP (\$2) Peter's Pence (\$210)	452.00
Votive Candles	202.50
	\$3,754.50

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering (\$544) YP (\$1)	\$545.00
Holy Day (\$25) YP (\$1) Improvement (\$35)	61.00
Votive Candles	84.00
	\$690.00

Church Attendance Last Week

07/05 (MR) Sat., 4:00 pm (18); Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (56); (NS) 11:00 am (34)



Valerian F. Szal
238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412) 331-9713
Fax: (412) 331-6688
Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953



North Side Parishioner
Alan Valeriano
(412) 638-3417
PA #172378



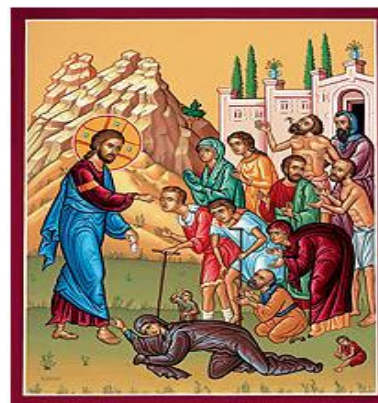
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

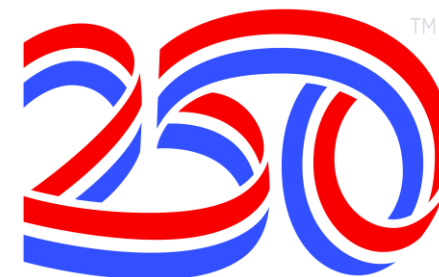
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 12, 2026



AMERICA



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).

July 12, 2026

Seasonal Greeting

Volume XVI, Number 27



Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!

Slava Isusu Christu!! — Slava Na Viki!



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date

Time

Intention

Requested By

7th Sunday after Pentecost

SUN., Jul 12

9:00 a.m. (MR)

+ William D. "Billy" Murray

Anonymous

(13th ann of passing 7/17)

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



Mon, Jul 13

8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary + Charles Kundrat

Theresa Kundrat

Tue, Jul 14

8:00 a.m. (MR) + Dolores Babin

(1st ann of passing)

Anonymous



Co-Equal to the Apostles, Vladimir the Great

Wed, Jul 15

8:00 p.m. (MR) + Ruth Barnash (birthday 7/13)

Son: Al & Christine

Thrs., Jul 16

8:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna Swayka

(30th ann of passing)

MaryEllen & John W. Oslick

Feast of the Blessed Bishop-Martyr Paul P. Gojdich, O.S.B.M.

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or **Equivalent Penance** (your choice): for religious freedom

Fri, Jul 17



8:00 a.m. (MR) + John Koritsky (birthday 7/24)

Dgr: Christine & Al Barnash

Sat, Jul 18

9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Lorraine "Bunny" Zavidny

Karen Skirpan Perreault

(birthday 7/21)



8th Sunday after Pentecost

Commemorating the Fathers of the Six Ecumenical Councils

SUN., Jul 19

9:00 a.m. (MR)

+ Joseph A. Cehula, TOR Carm.

Mom: Beckey & Sisters

(2nd ann of passing 7/21)

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Agnes Knoll

Son: William

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 date not be published.

Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners

Birthdays: Jul 7 – Tim Bedard, Anna Stebbins; Jul 8 – Colette Varga; Jul 9 – John Kutchmark, Sr.; Jul 10 – Albert Kovacs, Jr.; Jul 12 – Michael S. Muska; Jul 13 – Michael Maslaney,

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. I want to confess an obvious sin, but I do not feel remorse or regret for doing it. Do I need to be regretful to confess this sin or will it be forgiven even if I have no remorse? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** What is required is repentance, which is an act of the will. Remorse and regret are emotions, which you may or may not feel and do not have control over. Feelings of remorse and regret are not required, but they are helpful in keeping us from sinning again. One way to encourage such feelings is to develop a devotion to Christ's Passion. Meditation on the agonies Christ suffered to merit for us the grace we receive through confession helps in developing a horror for sin and a just remorse for the sins of one's life.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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



July 12 — July 18, 2026

(MR): **Health & Welfare of John Kutchmark, Sr.** (Birthday 7/9)

offered by Dgr: Tina & David Burns

(NS): **In memory of Ruth** (birthday 7/13) & **Albert Barnash**

offered by Son: Al & Christine

July 5 — July 11, 2026

(MR): **In memory of Helen & Carl Wincalow** by Mike Tomchak

(NS): **In memory of Monsignor Peter P. Tay** (birthday 7/7) by Joan Senchyshyn

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE for 2026

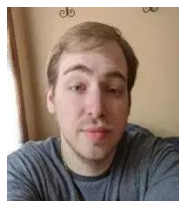
(NS) NONE AVAILABLE for 2026

General Announcements

SAVE THE DATE: ALTAR BOY "FAITH & FUN DAY" — Mark your calendar for **Monday, July 27, 2026** and get ready for another great day of "Faith & Fun!" Open to all Altar Boys (elementary through college), this exciting day sponsored by the Vocations Office is filled with tons of awesome activities around Pittsburgh to thank you for volunteering your time and service to the Church. We will be attending Pirate Baseball Game against the Arizona Diamondbacks. Register your name at the church office by today>



(MR) SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* sadly announces the sudden and unexpected passing of **Daniel R. Rowe, 30**, at his MR Home on Saturday, July 4, 2026. He had been a current **altar server of Holy Ghost Church for several years**. He was making plans to enter the seminary aspirants' (pre-theology) program this coming school year. He was currently residing with his Uncle Dave. Arrangements are being handled by the Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home, McKees Rocks. There has been no announcement concerning funeral arrangements. In blessed repose grant O Lord eternal rest to your servant, Daniel, and remember him forever! Vičnaja Jemu Pamjat'.



(MR) & (NS) HOLY GHOST CHURCHES CONTINUE WITH ANNUAL COLLECTION TO FISHER HOUSE — Since this is no longer a GCU Fraternal Event, both of our Holy Ghost Churches will sponsor the program 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. They are requesting assistance in keeping these areas stocked with supplies. Currently, an additional facility is being constructed in Aspinwall to temporarily house Veteran Family Members as they visit their loved ones. Boxes are placed at the side vestibule and narthex areas of both parishes for the **collection that will extend to August 2**. A list of items needed may be obtained from the NS Narthex and MR Side Vestibule. For additional information, please contact Tina Burns (412) 618-6567.



(NS) SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* sadly announces the passing of **Deacon Michael Earl Meaders, 75**, a parish vocation of Holy Ghost Church, Superior Avenue, North Side, at the Perry Health & Rehab Center, Wexford, PA, on Thursday, June 25, 2026. He had been ill for the past several years. Among many relatives, he is survived by his beloved wife, Cindy and stepchildren and their families. Arrangements were handled by the Hughes Funeral Home, Inc, on Pittsburgh's Troy Hill section. He was ordained to the major order of the Diaconate on Sunday, October 9, 2011 at St. John Byzantine Catholic Cathedral, Munhall, PA by the Most Reverend Gerald N. Dino. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was offered on Wednesday, July 1, at 10:00 a.m. Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla presided and bestowed the blessings among the concelebrating clergy in attendance. Deacon Meader's two classmate, Deacon Daniel Perich and Deacon Sean Petrisko were assisting the priests at the altar. Interment followed at Rose Hill Cemetery, Butler, PA. In blessed repose grant O Lord eternal rest to your servant, Deacon Michael, and remember him forever! Vičnaja Jemu Pamjat'.

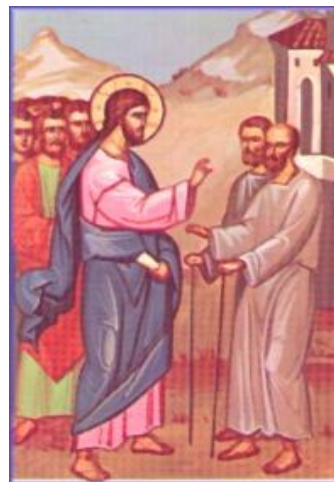


7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

They wanted desperately to be healed

(Matthew 9: 27-35)

One of the reasons Jesus came to earth was to show us what God is really like. Although God had revealed himself continually to his people, it was difficult for them to understand how he thought because of their fallen minds. By giving us the Holy Spirit, Jesus enabled us to understand how he thought because of their fallen minds. By giving us the Holy Spirit, Jesus enabled us to understand the mind of God (see John 16:13). By living a perfect human life, Jesus showed how God wants us to live. The two blind beggars in today's reading were probably very needy individuals, both materially and emotionally. They wanted desperately to be healed of their blindness. From what they had heard about him; they realized that Jesus was their only hope. They believed that he could heal them and so they came to him, begging for mercy. Seeing their faith, God granted their request. The gift that the Lord



most wants to give us is spiritual life through knowledge of him. All the other healings we may need are dependent upon this. Our Father is delighted when his children want to know him more deeply. He will reveal himself to us. Pray in this fashion: "Holy Spirit, I want to know more about Jesus than I've ever known before. Make this a time of preparation and revelation. Teach me how to ask the Lord questions and give me the faith to expect answers."

SUMMER IS NOT A TIME TO VACATION FROM WORSHIPPING GOD — Now that Summer is here many will be going on vacation. 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 so kind and merciful, sustaining and gifting us with all that we have and need. Voluntarily absenting oneself without serious reason makes us guilty of mortal sin, and unable to approach Holy Communion until the sinful neglect is confessed in the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation. If you know that where you are traveling is far a Catholic Church, please inform Fr. Firko so that a dispensation may be given.

COME & JOIN US FOR THE DAILY DIVINE LITURGY! THERE'S NO BETTER WAY TO BEGIN THE DAY!!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- July 20 This Holy Day Divine Liturgy commemorates the Feast of St. Elijah. Blessing of vehicles follow each of the Divine Liturgies. All vehicles in the lot please!
- July 23 Byzantine Catholic Family Day, Kennywood Park, West Mifflin.
- July 26 Annual Holy Ghost Churches Parish Picnic, Cleaver Recreational Center, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
& (NS) 6:00 p.m.
- August 6 Feast of the Holy Transfiguration – Blessing of grapes and fruits – (MR) 9:00 a.m.
& (NS) 6:00 p.m.
- August 14 Feast of the Dormition – Blessing of Herbs & Flowers – (NS) 6:00 pm
- August 15 Feast of the Dormition – Blessing of Herbs & Flowers – (MR) 9:00 am

Saint of the Week

The Holy Apostle Aquila, one of the Seventy July 14

Saint Aquila, Apostle of the 70: It is possible that he was a disciple of the Apostle Paul, a native of Pontus and a Jew, living in the city of Rome with his wife Priscilla. During the reign of the emperor Claudius (41-54) all the Jews were banished from Rome, so Aquila and

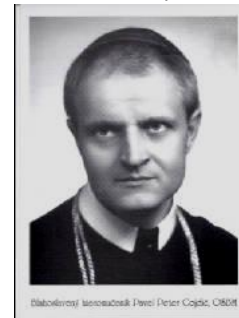


his wife were compelled to leave. They settled in Corinth. A short while later, the holy Apostle Paul arrived there from Athens preaching the Gospel. Having made the acquaintance of Aquila, he began to live at his house and labored together with him, making tents. Having received Baptism from the Apostle Paul, Aquila and Priscilla became his devoted and zealous disciples. They accompanied the apostle to Ephesus. The Apostle Paul instructed them to continue the preaching of the Gospel at Ephesus, and he himself went to Jerusalem, in order to be present for the feast of Pentecost. At Ephesus, Aquila and Priscilla heard the bold preaching of a newcomer from Alexandria, the Jew Apollos.

He had been instructed in the fundamentals of the Faith but knew only the baptism of John the Forerunner. They called him over and explained more precisely the way of the Lord. After the death of the emperor Claudius, Jews were permitted to return to Italy, and Aquila and Priscilla then returned to Rome. The Apostle Paul in his Epistle to the Romans recalls his faithful disciples, "Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my coworkers in Christ Jesus, who put forth their heads for my soul, whom I do not alone thank, but also all the Church of the Gentiles and the church of their household" (Rom. 16: 3-4). St Aquila did not dwell long in Rome: the Apostle Paul made him a bishop in Asia. St Aquila zealously labored at preaching the Gospel in Asia, Achaia and Heraklia. He converted pagans to Christ, he confirmed newly converted Christians in the faith, he established presbyters and destroyed idols. St Priscilla constantly assisted him in the apostolic work. St Aquila ended his life a martyr: pagans murdered him. According to the Tradition of the Church, St Priscilla was killed together with him.

General Announcements

FEAST OF BLESSED-MARTYR PAUL P. GOJDICH, OSBM — This **Friday, July 17** marks the Martyrdom Feast. He excelled in knowing, loving and serving God. While in prison he grew up in holiness, and was reportedly gifted with bilocation, levitation and the stigmata of the Lord. He prayed for only two favors: (1) to pass peacefully to the Lord on his birthday, and (2) to have a priest near his side to anoint him with the Sacrament. Both requests were answered on July 17, 1960 just after 12 o'clock midnight. He was buried quickly in an uncommon grave with only a number to signify the placement of his mortal remains. He was beatified by the late Pope John Paul II on November 4, 2001. His relics were transferred to the Presov (Slovakia) Cathedral where they remain for veneration to this day. He was posthumously awarded with the prestigious decree "*Righteous Among the Nations*" by the Hebraic Community due to his role in saving thousands of Jewish people from extermination during World War II. Let us whole-heartedly resolve to pray daily for his immediate Canonization.



BYZANTINE CATHOLIC FAMILY DAY THIS WEEK — Special discounted tickets are no longer available today from GCU. Regular priced tickets may be purchased at KP. Byzantine Catholic Family Day is **Thursday, July 23, 2026**. There will be no discounted tickets at the Park. No Cash will be used in the Park, please. Come join in the fun and set the day aside. *Remember, the deadline for discounted tickets has already expired!*



A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE — The Archeparchy wishes to honor those who are celebrating their 10, 25, 40, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 etc. anniversary of marriage this year. 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 A.S.A.P. The chancery will send out personal invitations. All anniversaries submitted will be published in a September issue of the SOT. Register by contacting the Church office. *Deadline is Friday, July 26th.*



USPS POSTAL RATE INCREASE ON JULY 12, 2026 — The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is raising mailing service prices effective Sunday, July 12, 2026, with an average increase of about 4.8% across First-Class Mail, USPS Marketing Mail, Periodicals, Package Services, and selected Special Services Key Changes: Forever stamp: \$0.78 → \$0.82 (4¢ increase); 1-ounce First-Class letter: \$0.78 → \$0.82; Metered 1-ounce letter: \$0.74 → \$0.78; Domestic postcard: \$0.61 → \$0.65; International postcard: \$1.70 → \$1.75; Additional-ounce price for single-piece letters: unchanged at 29¢ — Why the Increase? — USPS says it is facing a severe financial crisis with rising operational costs and billions in losses in recent years. The



agency relies on postage sales to fund operations and has not had a profitable year in the past decade.