

Parish Offerings – 7th Sunday after Pentecost — July 12, 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

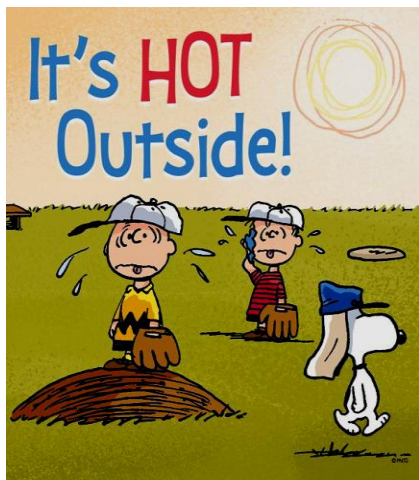
Regular Offering (\$2,470) YP (\$4)	\$2,479.00
Holy Days (\$65) Easter (\$50) Peter's Pence (\$35)	145.00
Votive Candles	142.00
	\$2,766.00

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$530.00
Votive Candles	45.00
	\$575.00

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 pm (29);
 Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (45); (NS) 11:00 am (15)



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

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



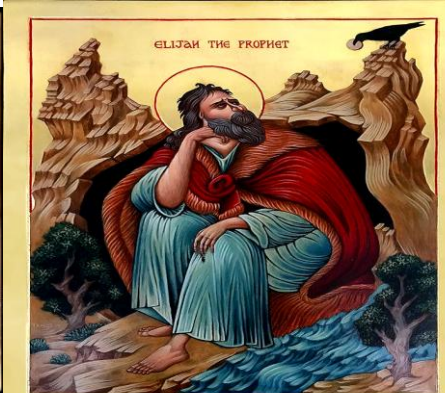
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE 8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Fathers of the 6 Ecumenical Councils — July 19, 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).

July 19, 2026

Seasonal Greeting

Volume XVI, Number 28



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

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

Feast of the Holy Glorious Prophet Elijah the Tishbite

Blessing of Vehicles — Simple Holy Day

Mon, Jul 20 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of both Parishes
6:00 p.m. (NS) + William D. Spontak Cousin: Fr. James A. Spontak

Tue, Jul 21 8:00 a.m. (MR) + John Oslick John W. & MaryEllen Oslick
(31st ann of passing 7/19)

Wed, Jul 22 8:00 p.m. (MR) + Elizabeth Sosak MaryEllen & John W. Oslick
(22nd ann of passing 7/20)

Byzantine Catholic Family Day, Kenneywood Park

The Passing of Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko

Thrs., Jul 23 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Sandy Donnelly MaryEllen & John W. Oslick
(3rd ann of passing 7/20)

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice):

Fri, Jul 24 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Irene Palahunik Family

Sat, Jul 25 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Michael Sotak, Jr. + Mary + Michael, Sr. Jane Sotak

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Ann + John Marks H. Jonathan Osso

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Annual Parishes Picnic

SUN., Jul 26 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Anna Marie Demianczyk Anonymous

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 21 – Nancy Lecci, ROBERT SPONTAK, Andrea Usouski; Jul 23 – ALAN VALERIANO; Jul 24 – Fr. Luke Iyengar, Daniel Rosko; Jul 25 – Elaine Kurtanich.

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

HOME: Margaret Belionas, 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. What is considered a valid Catholic Marriage. A. Answer by Catholic Answers: There are several components that need to be present in order for a marriage to be valid. They are *Compacity, Consent & Form*. COMPACITY – is the ability to get married. Impediments that would go against include one's age or already being married (CCC 1625). CONSENT – is the act of freely giving oneself to the other. The two people (male & female) must mean the words they are saying in the ceremony. If someone is planning not to allow the children to be raised Catholic or planning to "try out" marriage to see if it works, he or she is not consenting fully, and the marriage would probably be invalid. FORM – is the issue of how the marriage is contracted. A marriage of a Catholic before a Justice of the Peace, a non-Catholic minister, etc. is NOT VALID. A marriage without an official representative of the Catholic Church and two witnesses would not be valid (CCC 1630-31).

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

July 19 — July 25, 2026

(MR): In memory of Lorraine "Bunny" Zavidny (birthday 7/21)
offered by Karen Skirpan Perreault

(NS): In memory of Agnes Kacsur (birthday 7/26)

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE for 2026 offered by Niece: Barbara & Peter Stecko (NS) NONE AVAILABLE for 2026

General Announcements

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. Altar Servers are asked to register by today on the gcuusa.com website



(MR) SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of parishioner, **Dorothy C. Hrishenko, 86**, at Sewickley Hospital on Saturday, July 11, 2026. She had been residing in Franklin Park with her beloved husband. Besides her husband Andrew, she is survived by a stepdaughter, Denise L. Thomas. Arrangements were handled by the Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home, McKees Rocks. At the request of the family, a Panachida was offered at the funeral home followed by interment at St. Mark Cemetery, Kennedy Township. Our parish offers its most sincere condolences to the Hrishenko Family. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant, Dorothy, and remember her forever. *Vičnaja Jej 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.



HOLY DAY & BLESSING OF VEHICLES TODAY — This is the immovable Feast of the Holy Prophet. **Elijah the Tishbite**. It is an annual custom of our Byzantine Catholic Church to bless vehicles on this day. This beautiful memorial arose from the fact that near the end of his life the Lord sent a fiery chariot from heaven to take Elijah away. This happened in the presence of his disciple Elisha to whom was given double the power of his mentor to carry on the ministry. Since our vehicles are "as fast as the wind" as indicated in the prayer blessing, we pray that God will protect us from harm, and at the same time praise and thank God for this gift to glorify Him by assisting us in the service of God and neighbor. Please stay for the blessing following each Divine Liturgies.



8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Fathers of the First 6 Ecumenical Councils — (John 17: 1-13)

Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils *Catholic Encyclopedia* --- **HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ECUMENICAL COUNCILS** --- The present article deals chiefly with the theological and canonical questions concerning councils which are Ecumenical in the strict sense above defined. Special articles give the history of each important synod under the head of the city or see where it was held. In order, however, to supply the reader with a basis of fact for the discussion of principles of six of the twenty-one Ecumenical councils with a brief statement of the purpose of each.

First Ecumenical Council: Nicea I (325) — The Council of Nicea lasted two months and twelve days. Three hundred and eighteen bishops were present. Hosius, Bishop of Cordova, assisted as legate of Pope Sylvester I. The Emperor Constantine was also present. To this council we owe The Creed of Nicea, defining against Arius the true Divinity of the Son of God, and the fixing of the date for keeping Easter.

Second Ecumenical Council: Constantinople I (381) — The First General Council of Constantinople, under Pope Damasus and the Emperor Theodosius I, was attended by 150 bishops. It was directed against the followers of Macedonius, who impugned the Divinity of the Holy Ghost. To the above-mentioned Nicene Creed it added the clauses referring to the Holy Ghost and all that follows to the end.

Third Ecumenical Council: Ephesus (431) — The Council of Ephesus, of more than 200 bishops, presided over by St. Cyril of Alexandria representing Pope Celestine I, defined the true personal unity of Christ, declared Mary the Mother of God (*Theotokos*) against Nestorius, Bishop of Constantinople, and renewed the condemnation of Pelagius.

Fourth Ecumenical Council: Chalcedon (451) — The Council of Chalcedon -- 150 bishops under Pope Leo the Great and the Emperor Marcian -- defined the two natures (Divine and human) in Christ against Eutyches, who was excommunicated.

Fifth Ecumenical Council: Constantinople II (553) — The Second General Council of Constantinople, of 165 bishops under Pope Vigilius and Emperor Justinian I, condemned the errors of Origen and certain writings (The Three Chapters) of Theodoret, of Theodore, Bishop of Mopsuestia and of Ibas, Bishop of Edessa; it further confirmed the first four general councils, especially that of Chalcedon whose authority was contested by some heretics.

Sixth Ecumenical Council: Constantinople III (680-681) — The Third General Council of Constantinople, under Pope Agatho and the Emperor Constantine Pogonatus, was attended by the Patriarchs of Constantinople and of Antioch, 174 bishops, and the emperor. It put an end to Monothelitism by defining two wills in Christ, the Divine and the human, as two distinct principles of operation. It anathematized Sergius, Pyrrhus, Paul, Macarius, and all their followers.

O Holy Fathers Who Defended, Lived & Transmitted the Fullness of the True Faith — Pray to God for us!

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 Parish Picnic, Robinson Clever Road, beginning @ 1:00 pm.

July 27 Archieparchial Altar Servers "Faith & Fun Day (cf. MR Announcements)

August 6 Feast of the Holy Transfiguration – Blessing of grapes and fruits – (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.

August 8-9 Blessing of Students and Teachers for the new Academic School Year following weekend DL.

August 14 Vigil of 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

August 28 Vigil of the Feast of Beheading of St. John the Baptist – (NS) 6:00 p.m.

August 29 Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist – (MR) 9:00 a.m.

Holy Day the Week

The Holy Prophet Elijah the Tishbite — July 20

Of all the Old Testament prophets it was St. Elijah (Greek: Elias) the Tishbite who, in a special way, captured the imagination of our Byzantine Slav people in Eastern Europe



The prophet, whose name means "strength of the Lord" was a man aflame with the fire of the love of God and was uncompromising in his faithfulness to the one true God. He was a powerful and courageous figure who had been given power over the elements: rain, wind, fire, etc. St. Elijah lived during the reign of Ahab, the seventh king of Israel (875-854 B.C.). The king had married Jezebel, the pagan daughter of the king of Tyre. She brought with her hundreds of pagan prophets (ritual priests) to Samaria and introduced the worship of the Phoenician deity, Melkart, also known under the general name of Baal. Apart from the sacrifices they offered as part of their priestly function, they observed a special ritual

dance accompanied by musical instruments. Every spring they had a ceremony of fire to mark the awakening of their god who had slept through the winter. They enkindled a great fire from which the god was supposed to renew his strength. During this time, the priest-prophets of Baal danced and whirled faster and faster in a frenzy, even to wounding themselves with swords and spears on their arms and legs. Under the influence of Queen Jezebel the true prophets of Israel were persecuted and the Israelites became divided in their loyalty between Baal and Yahweh. They thought they could worship both, the God of their fathers and the pagan god, Baal, whom the Queen favored. Elijahs' strong and determined opposition to this divided loyalty earned for him the hatred of the queen. St. Elijahs' loyalty to God and uncompromising faithfulness is a model for those who are straddling between loyalty to God and to the world.

General Announcements

FEAST OF BLESSED BISHOP-MARTYR BASIL HOPKO — Thursday, July 23, marks the passing to eternity of this beloved Byzantine Catholic hierarch. On April 28, 1950, the Communist government seized complete control of Czechoslovakia and liquidated the Presov



Eparchy. Bishop Hopko was imprisoned and tortured. Many years of imprisonment and harsh treatment took a final toll on his health. In the Spring of 1968, a liberalization of the Communist regime took place and the government agreed to re-establish the Church. He became chaplain to the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate who also took care of him. On **Thursday, July 23, 1976** following a light lunch, and being helped in an easy chair, he gave up his spirit to the Lord whom he loved and faithfully served. The late Pope John Paul II beatified him on September 14, 2004. His relics were

solemnly transferred to the Presov Cathedral the following week, and rest beneath the altar adjacent to the chapel of Blessed Paul Gojdich. He was 72 years old. His Feast Day is May 11th. Let us continue to fervently pray for his Canonization.

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC FAMILY DAY AT KENNYWOOD THIS WEEK — If you are planning to attend the Annual Byzantine Catholic Family Day at Kennywood this **Thursday, July 23**, please note the schedule of events: 10:30 a.m. – Park Opens; 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The schedule is listed on the GCU webpage (gcuusa.com)



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 special milestone anniversaries submitted will be published in a September issue of the SOT. Register by contacting the Church office. *Deadline is this Friday, July 26th. There Are 4 couples that have registered as of today.*



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 Church the worship of God in your plans. The first Precept of the 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.