

Parish Offerings – 8th Sunday after Pentecost — July 19, 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	\$1,605.00
Holy Day	85.00
Votive Candles	143.50
	\$1,833.50

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$510.00
Holy Day	5.00
Votive Candles	44.00
	\$559.00

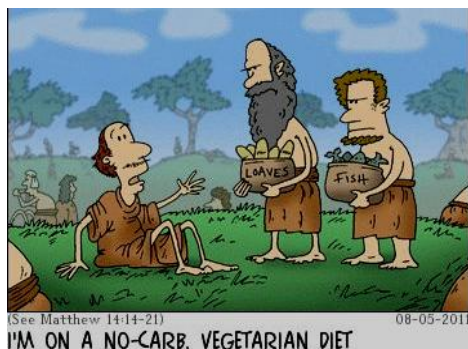
Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 pm (26);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (40); (NS) 11:00 am (39)

Feast of Holy Prophet Elijah — Blessing of Vehicles

Mon, July 20 (MR) 9:00 a.m. (15); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (9)



Every loaf of bread is a tragic story of a group of grains that could have become beer but didn't.

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

WITRALL 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 9th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Annual Churches Picnic — July 26, 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 26, 2026



Seasonal Greeting

Volume XVI, Number 29

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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date

Time

Intention

Requested By

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

Annual Archieparchial Altar Servers Faith & Fun Day

Mon, Jul 27 9:30 a.m. (MR) + Anna Velma Seman Nephews & Family

Tue, Jul 28 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Richard Holm Zula Family
(2nd ann of passing)

Wed, Jul 29 8:00 p.m. (MR) + Susan + Michael Baran + Eleanor Gramata & Son: George

Thrs., Jul 30 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Diane + William Bell Dgtr: Kim Zoldos & Family

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice): for Our Lord Crucified for us
Fri, Jul 31  8:00 a.m. (MR) + Debra Charochak Rosemarie Corsetti

Commencement of the Savorial Fast (Spasovka- August 1-14)

Sat, Aug 1 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Monsignor Peter P. Tay Eileen & Ray Arensburg

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Lorraine "Bunny" Zavidny Nancy & Michael Ferrell
(1st ann of passing)



10TH Sunday after Pentecost

Within the Savorial Fast

SUN., Aug 2 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Esther M. Kallop Brother: Charles Kaiser

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 would be published.

Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners

Birthdays: Jul 28 –Theresa Varga; **Aug 1** – Michael Sedon.

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, Dennis Uram, 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. A friend of mine has used a Ouija board on several occasions. I have advised him against using it, but he insists it is used just for fun and that it is harmless. Is this true? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** No. The Ouija board is far from harmless, as it is a form of divination (seeking information from supernatural sources). The fact of the matter is, the Ouija board really does work, and the only "spirits" that will be contacted through it are evil ones. ... The Lord repeatedly condemns any and all occultic practices, including divination. While many Bible passages could be cited, the following one is typical of his view of occultic practices (cf. (Dt 18:10–12). ... Simply put, nothing positive can ever come from the use of the Ouija board, and God warns us against such things for our own spiritual safety.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

July 27 — August 1, 2026

(MR): In memory of Lorraine "Bunny" Zavidny (1st ann of passing 8/1)

offered by Karen Skirpan Perreault

(NS): In memory of Alphonse A. Siglow (birthday 7/28)

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE for 2026 offered by Dgtr: Kathe & Bill Kress (NS) NONE AVAILABLE for 2026

Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks

TOMORROW'S ALTAR BOY "FAITH & FUN DAY" — We are starting the day off by having Archbishop Skurla and clergy celebrating the Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. This exciting day sponsored by the Vocations Office is filled with tons of awesome activities around Pittsburgh, including a visit to the Byzantine Catholic Seminary, other fun-filled activities end up with a Pirate verses the Arizona Diamondback's at PNC Park. This special day is dedicated to all our parish altar servers as a way to thank you for volunteering your time and service to the Church. Don't delay! Following the game, the bus will take us back to Holy Ghost Church for the departure home.



Holy Ghost, Northside

CHURCH AIR CONDITIONING UNIT REPAIRED THIS WEEK — We had to phone the HAVAC team to repair the left side compressor unit this week. We were blessed not to have a fire! The connectors and strand wires were frayed melting what was remaining! With the repair of new parts along with arrival time and labor, the discounted cost was \$383.00. That's almost a whole Sunday's collection!! Our next task is to repair the second row ceiling lights from the power box which have not been functioning for several weeks.



BLESSING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN & TEACHERS IN TWO WEEKS — Following each of the Divine Liturgies **on the weekend of August 8 & 9, 2026** all Students and Teachers will be asked to come forward for a blessing as they commence the actual and/or virtual Academic Year of 2025-2026 in their various schools, colleges, and universities. Since many of these institutions begin earlier each year, the opportunity to receive this blessing comes the third weekend of August. Receive God's blessing and be enriched by His tender mercy. **There is a RSVP for both teachers & students via phone call, email or sign up sheet if you plan to participate in this blessing by deadline: August 2.**



Have a Happy, Safe and Enjoyable Summer & Don't Forget the Sunday & Holy Day of Obligation Divine Liturgies!!!

10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Christ's Compassion: Feeding the Multitude (Matthew 14: 14-22)

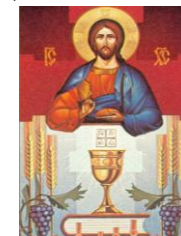
The great New Testament miracle of the multiplication of the loaves reminds us of another miracle, the one performed by God's Prophet Elijah. Elijah had told King Ahab and his wife Jezebel that God would punish the apostasy of Israel and its ruler for worshipping the heathen sun-god Baal. This punishment would be in the form of a long drought and famine. During the drought, Elijah went to Zerephath, where he was hospitably received by a poor widow and her son, who offered him their last meal. He rewarded their charity by miraculously increasing their flour and oil - just enough each day to feed them - throughout the three-and-a-half years the famine lasted. In the churches of our metropolitan province, we are reminded of this great miracle every time that there is festive anointing - 'mirovanije' - on the occasion of special holydays. During the Vesper Service preceding the feast day, the priest blesses five loaves of bread, and the prayer of blessing mentions the miracle of the feeding of over 5,000 people. **Sacramental Bread** — Why did Our Lord Jesus perform this great miracle of feeding over 5,000 people? He wanted to prepare them for still another miracle, an even greater one, the one that He performed at the Last Supper, when He changed the substance of bread into His own Body. This He did when He blessed the bread, saying: **"Take and eat: this is My Body,"** and changed the wine into His Precious Blood. He thus instituted the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, through which we today receive the spiritual nourishment necessary for our souls. Jesus Himself said: **I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.** In order to unite us with Him spiritually, Our Lord enables us to receive Him every time the Divine Liturgy is celebrated, for the nourishment and salvation of our souls. May we always approach Him worthily and thank Him, collectively and personally, for this Most Precious Gift!



Christos Posred'i Nas — Christ is Among Us!
Jest' I Budet — He is and shall be!

The Catechism on the EUCHARIST

"The Eucharist is the heart and the summit of the Church's life, for in it Christ associates his Church and all her members with his sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving offered once for all on the cross to his Father; by this sacrifice he pours out the graces of salvation on his Body which is the Church" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1407). "It is Christ himself, the eternal high priest of the New Covenant who, acting through the ministry of the priests, offers the Eucharistic sacrifice. And it is the same Christ, really present under the species of bread and wine, Who is the offering of the Eucharistic sacrifice" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1410).



Calendar of Upcoming Events

July 26 **Annual Parish Picnic, Robinson Clever Road, beginning @ 1:00 p.m.**
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.**

Saint of the Week

The Great-Martyr & Healer Panteleimon — July 27

The Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon was born in Nicomedia into the family of the illustrious pagan Eustorgius. His mother St Euboula (March 30) was a Christian. She wanted to raise her son in the Christian Faith, but she died when he was just a young child.

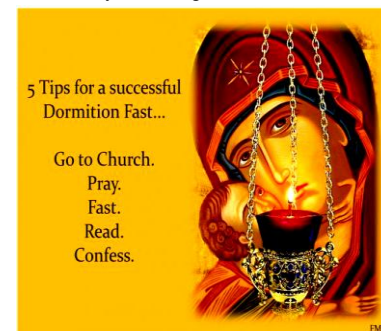


His father sent him to a pagan school, after which the young man studied medicine at Nicomedia under the renowned physician Euphrosynus. Pantoleon, as he was called, came to the attention of the emperor Maximian (284-305), who wished to appoint him as royal physician when he finished his schooling. The hieromartyrs Hermolaus, Hermippus and Hermocrates, survivors of the massacre of 20,000 Christians in 303 (December 28), were living secretly in Nicomedia at that time. St Hermolaus saw Pantoleon and invited the youth to the house and spoke about the Christian Faith. After this Pantoleon visited St Hermolaus every day. One day the saint found a dead child on the street.

He had been bitten by a great snake, which was still beside the child's body. Pantoleon began to pray to the Lord Jesus Christ to revive the dead child and to destroy the venomous reptile. He firmly resolved that if his prayer were fulfilled, he would become a follower of Christ and receive Baptism. The child rose up alive, and the snake died before Pantoleon's eyes. After this miracle, **Pantoleon was baptized by St Hermolaus with the name Panteleimon (meaning "all-merciful")**. Speaking with Eustorgius, St Panteleimon prepared him to accept Christianity. When the father saw how his son healed a blind man by invoking Jesus Christ, he then believed in Christ and was baptized by St Hermolaus together with the man whose sight was restored. After the death of his father, St Panteleimon dedicated his life to the suffering, the sick, the unfortunate and the needy. He treated all those who turned to him without charge, healing them in the name of Jesus Christ. He visited those held captive in prison. The envious doctors told the emperor that St Panteleimon was healing Christian prisoners. The ferocious Maximian gave St Panteleimon over to fierce torture. The Lord appeared to the saint and strengthened him before his sufferings. Throughout the tortures the martyr remained unhurt, and denounced the emperor. When the saint was beheaded, the olive tree to which the saint was tied became covered with fruit. Many who were present at the execution believed in Christ. The saint's body was thrown into a fire, but remained unharmed, and was buried by Christians. Portions of the holy relics of the Great-Martyr Panteleimon were distributed throughout all the Christian world.

General Announcements

PENITENTIAL PERIOD IN PREPARATION FOR THE DORMITION FEAST — Every year the Byzantine Catholic Church sets aside the first fourteen days of August in honor of the Virgin Mary. On August 15th, the faithful then gather to celebrate the Great Feast of the Dormition (Falling-Asleep) of the Theotokos. During this fourteen-day penitential period, the Church prescribes the Paraklis Service be held in honor of the Mother of God. The word "paraklis" has two different meanings: the first is "consolation," from which the Holy Spirit is called the "Paraclete," or "Consoler"; the second is "supplication" or "petition". The Paraklis Service consists of supplication hymns to obtain consolation and courage. It should be recited in times of temptation, discouragement or sickness. It is used more particularly during the two weeks before the Dormition, of the Theotokos, from **August 1 to August 14**. The theme of this Paraklis Services centers around the petition. "Most Holy Mother of God, save us." *Following each of the daily Divine Liturgies we will offer a portion of this service for all our family, relatives and friends who have left our church that they may return for the sake of their salvation.*



PARISH PICNIC THIS AFTERNOON — The day has arrived for our Annual Dual Churches Picnic. This year's event will be, once again, at Robinson Clever Recreational Park, Rotary Shelter, 115 Robinson Pool Drive, McKees Rocks 15136. If have not signed the list, come anyway and bring a picnic basket. The event will extend from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is the 'old fashion style when we can eat and enjoy everybody's company. Hope to see you there! We thank our coordinator Elaine Kurtanich and helpers along with our (MR) GCU Representatives Donna & Harry Herron, and (NS) Barbara and Peter Stecko for obtaining the fraternal organization's social

event funds!

(MR & NS) LAST WEEK'S BLESSING OF VEHICLES — Following all Divine Liturgies, the Blessing of Vehicles took place in the parking lot. It is a custom of our Byzantine Rite to seek a special favor of God's grace and favor upon our vehicles on the Feast of the Holy and Glorious Old Testament Prophet Elijah. From the Old Testament Book of Kings, we hear that near the end of his earthly life, God sent a fiery chariot from heaven and took the Holy Prophet into eternity. May we be grateful to Our :Lord for privileging us with this gracious sacramental. *(Photo credit: Dr. Peter Zubritzky)*

