

**Parish Offerings – Royal Entry Into Jerusalem
Palm (Flowery) Sunday — Apr. 9, 2017**

“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 (\$180) YP (\$19)	\$199.00
Flowery Sunday (\$2,313) Holy Day (\$35) Easter (\$125)	2,473.00
Eastern European Churches	35.00
Votive Candles	154.40
	\$2,861.40

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering (\$558.50) Flowery Sunday (\$805)	\$1,363.50
Holy Day (\$85) Easter (\$185) Flowers (\$20)	290.00
Utilities (\$50) Eastern European Churches (\$10) Improv (\$25)	85.00
Votive Candles (\$60.75) Initial (\$5)	65.75

Church Attendance Last Week \$1,804.25

- (MR) Sat., *3:45 p.m. (51) Sun., (MR) *8:45 a.m. (120); (NS) *10:45 a.m. (67)
 Presanctified Divine Liturgy — **Holy Mon.**, (MR) 7:00 p.m. (8)
 Presanctified Divine Liturgy — **Holy Tue.**, (NS) 7:00 p.m. (10)
 Presanctified Divine Liturgy — **Holy Wed.**, (MR) 7:00 p.m. (23)
 Great Vespers w/Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great — **Holy Thrs.**, (MR) 7:00 p.m. (31)
 12 Passion Gospels — **Great Fri.**, (MR) 8:00 a.m. (23); Royal Hours (MR) 12 noon (9)
 Entombment Vespers w/Procession — (NS) 5:00 p.m. (60); (MR) 7:00 p.m. (101)

HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
 225 OLIVIA STREET
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE
 McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE RADIANT RESURRECTION
OF OUR LORD, GOD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
THE GREAT DAY — APRIL 16, 2017**



Catholics of the Ruthenian – Byzantine Rite in full communion with the Pope of Rome
The Very Reverend Father Frank A. Firko, Pastor
The Reverend Deacon Michael Meaders (NS)

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

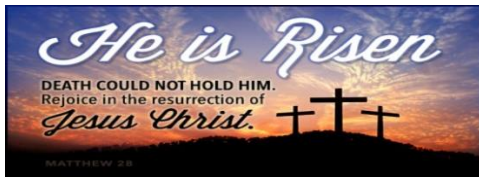
SUNDAY RADIO (9:00 am WEDO 810 AM) & INTERNET DIVINE LITURGY
All Liturgical Services LIVE on UStream: www.Ustream.tv/channel/holy-ghost-church

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.

Holy 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.
Holy Mystery of Matrimony: Contact pastor one year in advance; Pre-Cana Classes required.
Sponsor of Christian Initiation: Godparents must be practicing Catholics.
Religious Education Classes: (MR) Coordinator: Steve Puluka (412) 897- 4650.
GCU Lodge 390: (MR) Contact Margaret Beliuнас (412) 331-3577 for membership requirements.
Slavjane Folk Ensemble: (MR) Membership requirements contact Dean Poloka (412) 877-9351.
Carpatho-Rusyn Radio Broadcast: Every Sunday from 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. WPIT 730 AM.
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 as to remember the Church in your last will and testament. This helps to secure its future & a Byzantine Catholic witness to all!



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

Easter
He IS Risen!

DESIGNS BY NANCY
 235 McCartney Drive,
 Moon Township 15108
 Phone: (412) 262-9141
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Nancy C. Debranski
Sewing, Alternations, Custom Embroidery and Unique Gifts

GCU
 Greek Catholic Union of the USA
 A Fraternal Benefit Society
 Lodge 390 offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Marge (412) 331-3577

In Appreciation to Our Religious Education Teachers for teaching our children the Catholic Faith & Byzantine-Rusyn traditions (anonymous)

Please patronize our fabulous sponsors! They make it possible to bring you this weekly & informative S.O.T. without an added expense to the Church. New Sponsors please contact Church 9 til 1:00 p.m. Mon-Fri!

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

April 16, 2017

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VII, Number 16



Christ is Risen! — Indeed! He is Risen!
Christos Voskrese!! — Voistinnu Voskrese!



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date **Time** **Intention** **Requested By**

RADIANT RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Easter Sunday — The Great Day — MIROVANJE — Blessing of the Artos —
 Proclamation of the Evangelist John's Gospel in 3 languages:
 Latin, Church Slavonic and English

SUN., APR 16 **9:00 a.m. (MR)** + Geraldine Nazak (*1st ann of passing*) Dale, Kathy & Carly
11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes



BRIGHT WEEK



No Simple Abstinence from meat all week in the light of the Radiant Resurrection

Proclamation of the 4 Resurrectional Gospels at the four corners of the Church

* **The BRIGHT HOURS will be celebrated each day before the Empty Tomb 15 minutes prior**

Solemn Holy Day

BRIGHT MON, APR 17 **9:00 a.m. (MR)** For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
6:00 p.m. (NS) + Jay D. Mowery Sandy Podlucky
 (*1st ann of passing 3/23*)



Simple Holy Day

BRIGHT TUE, APR 18 * **9:00 a.m. (MR)** + Margaret "Peggy" Krulac Mildred Terrek
 * **6:00 p.m. (NS)** For the Parishioners from Both Parishes

BRIGHT Wed, Apr 19 * **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + H. Jayne Skreptach Helen & Lester Best
 (*6th ann of passing*)

Bright Thrs, Apr 20 * **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + Stephen Gramata Eleanor & Basil Gramata
 (*28th ann of passing 3/23*)

Bright Fri, Apr 21 * **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + Elsie Eberle Elizabeth Petruna



Final Day of Bright Week — Closing of the Royal & Deacon Doors

Bright Sat, Apr 22 ** **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + Anna Hrebenak+ Eleanor, Kathy & John Kulka
 (*8th ann of passing 4/13*)

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Antipasch & St. Thomas – Divine Mercy Sunday

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Andrew Wahal Richard Cifrulak

SUNDAY OF THE ANTIPASCH & ST. THOMAS

Divine Mercy Sunday – 2nd Paschal Sunday
Feast of Great-Martyr & Victory-Bearer George –
Distribution of the Artos at the Mirovanije



SUN., APR 23 **9:00 a.m. (MR)** For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Jay D. Mowery (*birthday 4/15*) Dgr: Barbara "Babs"

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: **Apr 17** – EDWARD SPONTAK, SR., Hilary Zubritzky; **Apr 18** – Dale Charochak, Denise Wickline; **Apr 19** – LOGAN KALLOP; **Apr 20** – DIANE VIDA.

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

HOME: Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Mary Culan, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Agnes Rosko, MARY SAHAYDA, Michael Spisak, ANNA TOTH, EVELYN VENTO, JOHN VEREB, Julia Wovchko.

MAPLEWOOD PC HOME (461 Maplewood Ave. Ambridge, PA 15003): Susan Dragosh, Doris Naughton.

HIGHLAND PARK CARE CENTER (745 North Highland Ave., Pgh, PA 15206): Linda Reiger.

MASONIC VILLAGE (1000 Masonic Drive, Sewickley, PA 15143): Helen M. Kriska, Marjorie Preganz.

MARIAN MANOR (2695 Winchester Dr., Pgh, 15220): MICHAEL BARBUSH, Irene Bednar.

CHIPPEWA PLACE (7005 Stadium Dr., Apt 427, Brecksville, OH 44141): Stephen Katrenich.

VALENCIA WOODS OF ST. BARNABAS (85 Charity Place, Valencia, PA 16059): Eleanor Kapko.

SUNRISE OF EAST COBB (1551 Johnson Ferry Rd., Marietta, GA 30062): AGNES KNOLL.

CARING HEIGHTS (234 Coraopolis Rd., Coraopolis, PA 15108): Margaret Beliuнас.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. How do I overcome lust? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** Regular recourse to the sacrament of reconciliation, i.e., once a month, even if you have only venial sins to confess, is a good place to start. Doing so will help keep you vigilant regarding impure thoughts and give you the sacramental graces to engage the battle. Keep focused on Jesus otherwise, praying short prayers to him regularly, including, "Jesus I trust in you; help my lack of trust." Avoid the near occasion of sin; be vigilant about what movies and TV programs you watch, what you view otherwise on the Internet, and what you read as well. This also includes being mindful of the people who are your close friends. Ask the help of the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph, who are great examples and intercessors regarding chastity. Jason and Crystalina Evert have written a useful book, How to Find Your Soulmate Without Losing Your Soul. Catholic Answers' website Chastity.com also offers a lot of helpful information.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

April 16 — April 22, 2017

(MR): **In memory of Gerry Nazak**

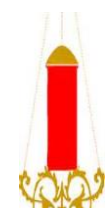
offered by Husband: Andy & Family

(NS): **In memory of Deceased Firko & Hrivnak Families**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2017

offered by Fr. Firko

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2017



McKees Rocks Announcements

ALL DIVINE LITURGIES THIS WEEK BEGIN EARLIER — Just a reminder that we will be starting each of the Bright Week Divine Liturgies 15 minutes earlier with the BRIGHT HOURS at the Tomb. They are beautiful prayers and glorify the Feast of the Radiant Resurrection!

BYZAN-TEEN YOUTH GROUP MATCHING FUNDS PROJECT — Our HGC Byzan-TEEN Youth Group is working on a matching funds project. GCU Lodge 390 will match their total. They are selling candy bars. For every purchase that you make the teens will receive a matching funds offer. This will help raise money for the 2018 Youth Rally in Latrobe, PA while having a great time and meeting other Byzan-TEENS coming from all corners of our great nation.

GRATITUDE TO OUR PIROHI WORKERS — Where did the weeks go? Special Thanks to Helen Hopey and her assistants along with who came out faithfully every week to see this Project through! In appreciation we will meet for an appreciation luncheon at the Golden Corral on **Bright Friday, April 21 @ 5:00 p.m. Meat is permitted this day!** God bless you for sacrificing your time and effort!

TWO GREAT EVENTS! ONE GREAT CAUSE — Parishioner Kathy Kulka submitted the following announcement: Please join the local non-profit, Hope Grows, for its 4th Annual A Victorian Tea and 2nd Annual Tee Time Golf Classic. Both will be held on Sunday, May 21, 2017 at The Club, Shadow Lakes, Aliquippa, PA. For more information go to www.hopegrows.net or phone (412) 369-4673. Hope Grows is a non-profit organization located in Moon Township that provides counseling, support groups, resources, and therapeutic respite activities to help alleviate caregivers' stress and to help them direct some of their focus on self-care.

Holy Ghost, Northside

LAST WEEK'S PALM SUNDAY HAM BINGO RESULTS — A special thank you is



extended to all who worked and contributed to making our Ham Bingo possible last week. There were 67 adults players. Congratulations to all our winners! Thank you for your support. A SPECIAL THANK YOU is extended to the Spontak's, Meader's, Senchyshyn's, Smoley Families for working behind the scene, and contributed baked goods & etc. We are grateful to Lisa and George Plutto for all the prizes, hams, etc. that they sought through area stores. Also, a special thank you to all those vendors and individuals who contributed in making our annual event profitable. The results: Baked Goods totaled \$449.25; Basket Raffles \$326.00; 50/50 Raffle totaled \$230.00 (which included a \$36.00 donation without tickets not to be included in the drawing). The winner was Alice Slagle (parishioner - \$194.00); Bingo totaled \$916.00, Kitchen \$304.00. Thank you to all our workers who wish to remain anonymous! We couldn't have done it without you! May the Risen Lord Jesus remember the sacrifices you make for His Church!!

Ruthenian & Ukrainian: Christos Voskres! Voistinnu Voskres!

Church Slavonic: Christos Voskrese! Voistinnu Voskrese!

Hungarian: Feltamadt Krisztus! Valaban Feltamadt!

Slovak: Kristus vstal zmr'tvych! Skutoc ne vstal!

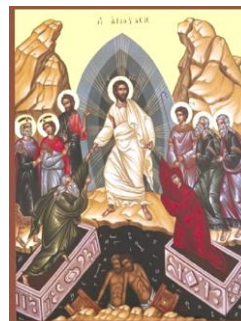
PASCHAL (EASTER) SUNDAY THE RADIANT RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, GOD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

My Dear Parishioners:

What a true privilege it was to make the vicarious walk in the footsteps of Our Lord, God & Savior Jesus Christ this year. The Holy Week liturgical services beginning on Lazarus Saturday through the Resurrectional Matins and Resurrectional Divine Liturgy make it possible each year. The over-abundant mercy of God is reverberated through the sacred words and melodies of our Church. It is truly an uplifting spiritual experience to know that God rejects no one who comes to Him with a humbled and contrite heart no matter what we have foolishly done or committed in our life. Let us share this Good News to those we love, especially those who are estranged from God and wish to be reconciled to Him while it is still day (life). For the night (physical death) will come and then it will be too late. May our Resurrectional Greeting that CHRIST IS RISEN be lived so others may see by our example this great mercy of the Most Holy Trinity. May the Radiant Resurrection of Jesus be a blessing to you and those whom you love! **CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRISTOS VOSKRESE!** — Fr. Firko



THE GREAT DAY --- VELIK DEN



Today as we commemorate the total and complete triumph of Our Lord's Radiant Resurrection flowing from the Empty Tomb of Christ, this Principle Feast of our Faith festively echoes and resounds Jesus' message of HOPE for mankind in the "New Life" that He secured for us by His Passion, Death and Resurrection. The founders and benefactors of our Byzantine Catholic Church referred to this day as **THE GREAT DAY** since the Lord Jesus Who is the New Paschal Lamb was victorious in securing for us a NEW PASSOVER. From darkness to Light, from death to Life!

PROCLAMATION OF GOSPEL IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES

The New Creation brought forth by Christ (John 1: 1 – 12)

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist John's Gospel Prologue is proclaimed at the Easter Divine Liturgy on each year. It is divided into 12 separate verses indicating that the 12 apostles' mission was to proclaim the Good News throughout the world. These verses may be chanted in several different languages so that all peoples may hear and understand the Good News. The pealing of the bells send forth this jubilant message to the entire universe that Jesus, The Messiah, established the spreading of His Church under the pastoral leadership of Peter and the Holy Apostles. Today, it is the Pope and all Bishops united with him that have this mission. Let us be grateful to Almighty God for all priests who continue this sacred mission.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS INCLUDING BRIGHT WEEK

APRIL 16 – EASTER SUNDAY — THE RADIANT RESURRECTION — THE GREAT DAY
(MR) 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods — (NS) 11:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.

BRIGHT WEEK

* The Bright Hours will be celebrated at the Empty Tomb 15 minutes before each Bright Week Divine Liturgy
April 17 .. Bright Monday w/procession (Solemn): (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.
April 18 Bright Tuesday (Simple): (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.
Bright Wednesday through Saturday: (MR) All Morning Divine Liturgies in Main Church
April 23 Thomas Sunday & Divine Mercy Sunday. This is also the Feast of St. George.

Sanctified Dinner Today

Following the Solemn Blessing of the Paschal Foods in our Easter Baskets, we take these festive and Sanctified Foods to our homes for our Paschal Meal. The Ruthenian people refer to this meal as the **SANCTIFIED DINNER**. This is a beautiful and meaningful custom passed on to us. May we always cherish it and pass it to future generations as a part of our particular custom so that God's grace bestowed on these bountiful gifts may be received by all.



Traditional & Special 3 Days of Easter

Easter Sunday, Bright Monday and Bright Tuesday mark the customary 3 days of Easter. We refer to this week as BRIGHT WEEK because of the brilliance that flows from the empty-tomb of Christ! The Resurrectional Feast is celebrated throughout these next seven days, the first three days are of special significance. *The Church bestows particular graces to all the faithful who attend and worship God and worthily receive the Holy Eucharist at this time.* The pioneers of our Holy Ghost Parish filled these days with their presence and festively proclaimed CHRISTOS VOSKRESE! Let us follow in their footsteps and imitate their faith and love for the Resurrected Jesus and their Byzantine Catholic Tradition.

THREE
DAYS

Ruthenian (Rusyn) Folklore Remembered

On **Bright Monday** and **Bright Tuesday**, traditional Rusyn Folklore reminds us that



Jesus' followers were so overwhelmed with the joy of their Resurrected Savior that they went through the streets of Jerusalem proclaim the news of the Radiant Resurrection. Their opponents tried to squelch their enthusiasm by throwing water from their upstairs window at them. Our Byzantine Catholic ancestors of the Carpathian Mountains developed the "**POLIVANKA**" that is "Water-pouring" on each other. On Bright Monday, the men would pour (actually throw) water upon the women; and the later in turn did the

same to the men on Bright Tuesday. As they enacted this tradition from the past they cried out, "**CHRISTOS VOSKRESE!**" **CHRIST IS RISEN!!!**

General Announcements

EMPTY TOMB REMAINS VISIBLE FOR 40 DAYS — Over the course of the next 40 days, the Empty Tomb will remain in our midst as a reminder that **CHRIST IS RISEN!** It is meant to motivate us in giving witness to this truth and to bring others to experience Him. The burial shroud (Plaschanica) is placed on the altar prior to the Resurrectional Matins signifying that the Resurrected Christ remains with us vicariously as He was with His disciples strengthening them in their Faith. It is a time of over-whelming joy prior to His glorious Ascension into Heaven.

CUSTOM TO PRAY BEFORE THE EMPTY-TOMB — You are encouraged to pray before the Empty-Tomb of Our Lord as it is set in our presence for the 40 days of Easter. It is a way of manifesting our personal and collective Faith in the Risen Lord Jesus and the radiant power that flows from it.

THE "GLORIFIED-CROSS" DESIGNATES "CHRIST IS RISEN!" — Throughout the entire Paschal Period, our Byzantine Catholic Church glorifies the triumphant Cross of Christ. So until Pentecost Sunday all of our Byzantine Crosses (even the ones you wear) should be turned in the reversed manner. Thus the bottom bar should look as though it's backwards!



EASTER DUTY PRECEPT — All Christian Faithful are OBLIGED to receive the Divine Eucharist when in danger of death AND during the Paschal (Easter) Period (Canon 708). In regards to the latter, this was traditionally known as the EASTER DUTY. When one is aware of Mortal (Deadly) Sin, a Sacramental Confession is necessary before receiving Holy Communion. Serious Sins are those fractures especially against the Ten Commandments and 6 Precepts of the Church, but not limited to them. If you have not attended to your Easter Duty Precept, the **Sunday of All Saints (June 11)** is the final day to take care of this important spiritual matter without incurring serious sin of omission. Use the special examination of conscience forms located in the vestibule and narthex of the Church to assist you in making a good confession of sins.



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY NEXT WEEK — The Sunday following Easter is a very special Sunday when the Divine Floodgates from Heaven are wide-opened and Jesus offers us the total forgiveness of all sins and punishment to any soul, who goes to Confession and receives Him in Holy Communion on that day. Our Lord's promise to grant complete forgiveness of sins and punishment on the Feast of Mercy is recorded three times in the Diary of Saint Faustina, each time in a slightly different way: "I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy" (1109). "Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment" (300). "The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion will obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment" (699). **To be eligible to receive this promise of the**

Lord Jesus Himself, one must make seek His Mercy is the Holy Mystery (Sacrament) of Reconciliation, and receive Holy Communion on this day.

**This is the Resurrection Day,
let us be enlightened by this Feast ... let us forgive one
another and let us sing: Christ is Risen!!!**