

Parish Offerings – Easter Sunday — April 16, 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	\$331.50
Palm Sunday (\$345) Holy Days (\$1,334)	1,679.00
Easter (\$3,962) YP (\$54)	4,016.00
Eastern European Churches	20.00
Votive Candles (\$165.50) Special Blessed Candles (\$44)	209.50
	\$6,256.00

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

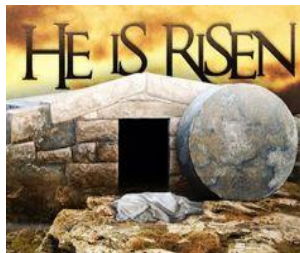
Regular Offering	\$282.00
Palm Sunday (\$10) Holy Days (\$87)	97.00
Easter	1,045.00
Special Donation (In mem. of + Theodore Demianczyk + Nicole Elena	
Rings by Dawn Rings)	50.00
Votive Candles	97.00

Church Attendance Last Week \$1,571.00

(NS) Sat., 5:45 p.m. (64); (MR) Sat., 7:45 p.m. (104)
 Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (125); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (49)
 Bright Monday (MR) 9:00 a.m. (13); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (10)
 Bright Tuesday (MR) 9:00 a.m. (10); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (7)



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



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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)*

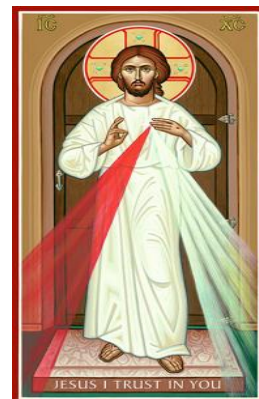
Please patronize our fabulous sponsors! They make it possible to bring you this weekly & informative S.O.T. without an added expense to the Church. New Sponsors please contact Church 9 til 1:00 p.m. Mon-Fri!

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

SUNDAY OF THE ANTIPASCH

Sunday of St. Thomas — 2nd Paschal Sunday

St. George, Great-Martyr — Divine Mercy Sunday — April 23, 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 Bellunas (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!

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

Eight days after Your Resurrection, O Lord, * You appeared to Your disciples in the room where they were gathered; You greeted them saying: Peace be with you! Then You showed Your hands and side to the doubting disciple. He, therefore, cried out in an act of faith: My Lord and my God, glory to You! (Great Vespers for Thomas Sunday).

April 23, 2017

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VII, Number 17



Christ is Risen! — Indeed! He is Risen!
Christos Voskrese!! — Voistinnu Voskrese!
Liturgical Services for the Week



Date

Time

Intention

Requested By

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) Dgtr: Barbara "Babs"

Mon, Apr 24



8:00 a.m. (MR) + Archbishop Judson M. Procyk
 (16th ann of passing)

Tues, Apr 25

8:00 a.m. (MR) + George Timulak Gunkel Family

Weds, Apr 26



8:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna Mudry Dgtr: Marlene Pfeiffer

Thrs, Apr 27

8:00 a.m. (MR) + Elizabeth Mross Helen & Lester Best

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

Fri, Apr 28



8:00 a.m. (MR) + John Hopeny M/M Burt Cifrutak
 (40th day of passing 4/14)

Sat, Apr 29

*9:00 a.m. (NS) + Michael Lorinc Nephew: Mike & Deb Kaylor

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Myrrh-Bearing Women & Joseph & Nicodemus



4:00 p.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

Joseph of Arithemea & Nicodemus – 3rd Paschal Sunday

SUN., Apr 30

9:00 a.m. (MR) + Deceased of Simko + Butchko Families Family

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Michael Lorinc Alice Slagle & Family

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 23 – ARLENE LATTA, William Kress; Apr 24 – Nicholas Poloka; Olivia Stebbins; Apr 28 – Gerald Stebbins.

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 Beliuinas.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. If I go to Mass (Divine Liturgy) on Saturday for my obligation, may I work on Sunday? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** First, God bless you for working to fulfill your Sunday obligation by participating in the Saturday vigil Mass (Divine Liturgy). However, whether you fulfill your Sunday obligation at the vigil Mass (Divine Liturgy) or on Sunday, there is still the issue of whether the work to be done on Sunday is necessary. In providing for yourself (and your family if you're married), if you can avoid working on Sunday, you should. If you can't, the Church understands and encourages you to look for opportunities with your employer to avoid working on Sunday.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

April 23 — April 29, 2017

(MR): **In memory of John Zavidny**

offered by Wife: Bunny & Family

(NS): **In memory of Anthony Knoll**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2017 offered by Wife: Agnes & Family (NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2017



McKees Rocks Announcements

PROPERTY CLEANUP THIS WEEK — To tidy up the Church grounds this Spring, we are calling on all parishioners to set aside this **Saturday, April 29, 2017** from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon for this purpose! Weeding and hedge trimming are especially needed. Please bring garbage bags, hedge clippers, brooms, gloves and any other necessary instruments to make this cleanup easier. We are counting on you! Also, if you know anyone young people needing social working credit hours, we invite them to this event.



FIRST RECONCILIATION AND CORPORATE COMMUNION FORTHCOMING — Two young members of our parish will be celebrating their Renewal of Baptismal Promises, and receiving the Holy Eucharist together at the Saturday afternoon Divine Liturgy on **Saturday May 6, 2017** at the 4:00 p.m. Vigil Sunday Divine Liturgy. They will also reaffirm their baptismal promises to serve their Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ!

TWO GREAT EVENTS! ONE GREAT CAUSE — Parishioner Kathy Kulka submitted the following announcement : Please join the local non-profit, Hope Grows, for it's 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

PROPERTY CLEANUP IN MAY — To tidy up the Church grounds this Spring, we are calling on all parishioners to set aside **Saturday, May 13, 2017** from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon for this purpose! Weeding and hedge trimming are especially needed. Please bring garbage bags, hedge clippers, brooms, gloves and any other necessary instruments to make this cleanup easier. We are counting on you! Also, if you know anyone young people needing social working credit hours, we invite them to this event.



NATIONAL SINGLES CONFERENCE FORTHCOMING — Join hundreds of single Catholics of all ages for the NCSC which will be held in Pittsburgh this year from Friday-Sunday, **May 19-21, 2017**. There will be talks by dynamic speakers, music, social events, prayer, food, fellowship and more. The Conference usually hosts between 300-400 participants who are largely Latin Rite Catholics. Our Byzantine Catholic Divine Liturgy will be celebrated. Responses by the Archieparchial Choir. Fr. Thomas Loya, a priest of the Parma Eparchy will be one of the speakers. Information and registration: NationalCatholicSingles.com. Use *promo code* NCSCPA to receive a special discount or phone (888) 267-8885 ext. 8049. Ask for Mirjana Northrop.

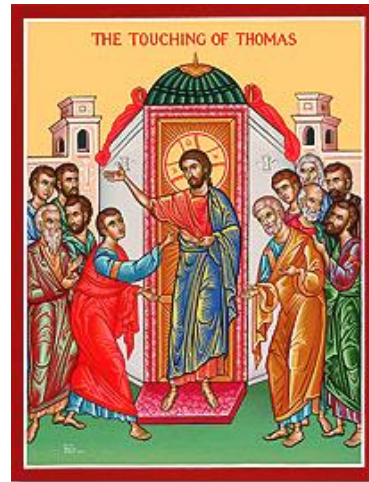


CHRIST IS RISEN! — **Latin:** Christus Resurrexit! Vere Resurrexit!
INDEED! HE IS RISEN! — **Greek:** Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

SUNDAY OF THE ANTIPASCH

The Sunday of St. Thomas (John 20: 19 – 31)

The Sunday after Easter is the **Sunday of St. Thomas**, also known as **Second Sunday of the Antipasch** ("opposite"



"opposite" Pascha, i.e., at the other end of Bright Week). Historically, this day in the early Church was the day that the newly-baptized Christians removed their robes and entered once again into the life of this world. This day is also known as **Antipasch**. This does not mean "opposed to Pascha," but "in place of Pascha." Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord's Resurrection. Sunday is called "Resurrection" in Russian, and "the Lord's Day" in Greek. The Byzantine Catholic Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord's

Resurrection starting this Sunday, the eighth day of the paschal celebration. Liturgically, the Church remembers the Apostle Thomas' vision of Christ after eight days. As with all the services until the feast of Ascension the Easter Troparion is sung, and the epistle readings are from the Acts of the Holy Apostles informing us of the first Christians who lived in communion with the Risen Lord. The Gospel of St. John is read since it starts the New Testament as the new creation because of the Risen Christ! Finally, the gospel readings are from the Gospel of John, considered by many to be a gospel written particularly for the newly baptized.

BLESSED ARTOS DISTRIBUTED TODAY

"Artos" is a Greek word which means bread made with yeast. The Artos is blessed on Pascha after the Ambon Prayer which is said at the end of the Paschal Divine Liturgy. The prayer used in the blessing of the Artos then follows. During Bright Week, the blessed bread, covered with an icon of the Resurrection, remains in the church to be venerated until the Sunday after Pascha (Saint Thomas Sunday), when the Artos is distributed to the faithful. According to the old custom, the Artos was distributed on the Saturday of Bright Week after the Holy Liturgy with the prayer, "this bread may be for the health and sanctification of the soul of him who eats of it." In the former centuries the faithful would preserve little pieces of bread for those who were seriously ill or in danger of death and unable to receive Holy Communion. Presently, the Artos is generally broken and distributed on Thomas Sunday so that as many of the faithful as possible can partake of this blessing. Take a piece home especially for those unable to be present today.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

April 23 Thomas Sunday & Divine Mercy Sunday. This is also the Feast of St. George.
 April 29 Spring Cleaning of the Church Grounds. Volunteers needed from 10:00 am to 12 Noon.
 May 5 Practise of those preparing for First Reconciliation in MR Church @ 7:00 p.m.
 May 6 Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Corporate Communion of our children @ 4:00 p.m. DL.
 Final Weekend Coffee Social until the near end of summer.
 G.C.U. celebrates its 125th anniversary of its Founding, Beaver, PA.
 May 10 Feast of Mid-Pentecost
 May 11 Feasts of Saints Cyril & Methodius & Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko.
 May 24 Great Vespers w/DL for the Feast of the Glorious Ascension (MR) 7:00 p.m.
 May 25 ... Feast of the Glorious Ascension (Holy Day of Obligation) (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 pm.

The Holy Great-Martyr & Victory-Bearer George the Wonder-worker — April 23

This glorious and victorious saint was born in Cappadocia the son of wealthy and virtuous parents. His father suffered for Christ and his mother then moved to Palestine. When George grew up, he entered the military, where in his twentieth year, attained the rank of a Tribune and as such was in the service of the Emperor Diocletian. When Diocletian began the terrible persecution against Christians, George came before him and courageously confessed that he is a Christian. The emperor had him thrown into prison and ordered that his feet be placed in a stockade of wooden hobbles and that a heavy stone be placed on his chest. After that, the emperor commanded that George be tied to a wheel under which was a board with large nails and he was to be rotated until his



entire body became as one bloody wound. After that, they buried him in a pit with only his head showing above the ground and there they left him for three days and three nights. Then George was given a deadly poison to drink by some magician. But, through all of these sufferings, George continuously prayed to God and God healed him instantly and saved him from death to the great astonishment of the people. When he resurrected a dead man through his prayer, many then accepted the Faith of Christ. Among these also was Alexandra, the wife of the Emperor Athanasius, the chief pagan priest and the farmers: Glycerius, Valerius, Donatus and Therinus. Finally the emperor ordered George and his wife Alexandra beheaded. Blessed Alexandra died on the scaffold before being beheaded. St. George was beheaded in the year 303 A.D. The miracles which have occurred over the grave of St. George are without number. Numerous are his appearances, either in dreams or openly, to those who have invoked him and implored his help from that time until today. Enflamed with love for Christ the Lord, it was not difficult for this saintly George to leave all for the sake of this love: rank, wealth, imperial honor, his friends and the entire world. For this love, the Lord rewarded him with the wealth of unfading glory in heaven and on earth and eternal life in His kingdom. In addition, the Lord bestowed upon him the power and authority to assist all those in miseries and difficulties who honor him and call upon his name.

General Announcements

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY TODAY — 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.**



CUSTOM TO PRAY BEFORE THE EMPTY-TOMB — You are encouraged to say a prayer 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 power that flows from it. Here is a prayer to pray before it: "Being God, You were present by Your body, and yet in hades by Your soul, in Paradise with the thief, and on the throne, O Christ with the Father and the Holy Spirit, filling all things and encompassed by none. Glory to the Father and to the Son (+) and to the Holy Spirit. O Christ, Your tomb, the font of our resurrection, is indeed a giver of life more splendid than Paradise and more radiant than any royal chamber. Now and ever and forever. Amen. Hail! Holy and divine dwelling of the Most High, for through you O Mother of God, joy has been given to those who cry out: Blessed are you among women, O Lady most pure!"



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 to proclaim Our Lord's Salvific Death and Radiant Resurrection!

PASTOR EXTENDS GRATITUDE FOR EASTER REMEMBRANCE

— Fr. Firko extends heart-felt thanks to all who remembered him by way of prayers, greeting cards, gifts and Paschal Foods this Resurrectional Season. Also, a special thank you for all who attended the Lenten Presanctified Divine Liturgies, Holy Week and Resurrectional Services, Tomb Vigil, Men holding candles during the Great Friday Passion Gospel Matins, Church Decorators, Cantors, Altar Servers, St. Aquilina Ministry, Ushers, cleaning of the Church's chandeliers, and for those coming out to make a good and worthy Confession of sins in fulfillment of the Easter Duty. God bless all of you for your devotion, kindnesses & thoughtfulness!!!

