

Parish Offerings – Sunday of St. John Climacus – Mar. 11, 2018

“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 (\$1,760.75) YP (\$11)	\$1,771.75
Eastern Europe (\$95) Initial (\$5)	100.00
Votive Candles	125.50
	<hr/>
	\$1,997.25

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$402.00
Holy Days (\$30) Eastern Europe (\$15)	45.00
Utilities (\$10) Improvement (\$30) B.C.W. (\$14) Easter Décor (\$60)	114.00
Votive Candles	45.35
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	\$606.35

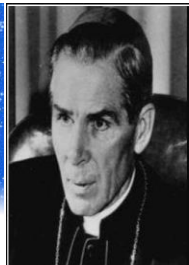
Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 pm (47);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (75); (NS) 11:00 am (31)

5th Great Fast Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (24); 5th Great Fast Friday — (NS) 6:00 pm (n/a)

Akathistos Saturday — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (n/a)

Moral principles do not depend on a majority vote. Wrong is wrong, even if everybody is wrong. Right is right, even if nobody is right.

— Fulton J. Sheen —



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

Is it Spring, yet?



DESIGNS BY NANCY
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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 Tina (412) 859-9597

This space available for ads for wishing someone birthday or anniversary greetings, get-well wishes, etc.

Call the office (412) 771-3324

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!



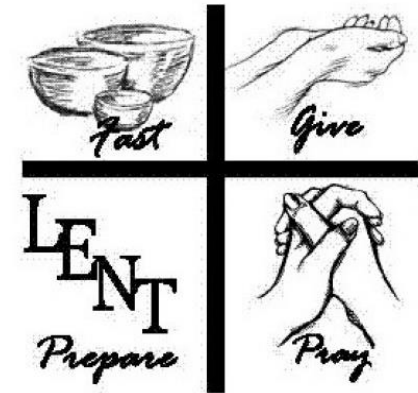
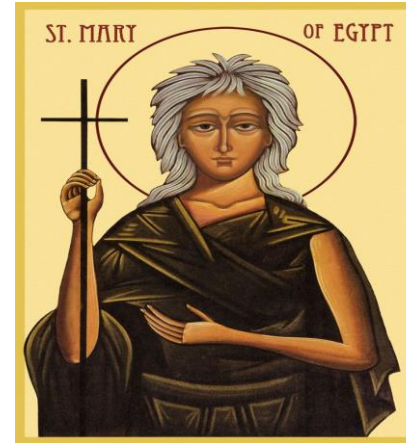
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

The Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt — March 18, 2018



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.
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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 Tina Burns (412) 859-9597 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

In you, O Mother Mary the Egyptian, the faithful image of God shone forth; * for you carried your cross and followed Christ. You taught by your deeds how to spurn the body, for it passes away; and how to value the soul for it is immortal. Therefore, your soul is forever in happiness with the angels (Troparion of St. Mary the Egyptian).

March 18, 2018 Christian Greeting Volume VIII, Number 11



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
The Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt			
5th Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy			
SUN., Mar 18 (35)	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ John Chambers (7 th ann of pass 2/25) Wife: Julia & Dgtrs.	
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	4:00 p.m.	Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. John Cathedral, Munhall, preceded by the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation by a Deanery Priest @ 3:30 p.m..	

Mon, Mar 19 (36) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna Pungras Dgr: Anna Pungras Demianczyk

Tue, Mar 20 (37) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Olga J. Connelly Kacsur & Herron Families.
(40th day of passing 3/27)

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Wed, Mar 21 (38) 8:00 a.m. (MR) 1st & 3rd Penitential Greatfast Hours
6:30 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary
7:00 p.m. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Thrs, Mar 22 (39) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Andrew Kundrat, Jr. Theresa Kundrat

FINAL DAY OF THE HOLY & GREAT 40 DAYS FAST — REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

FRI, Mar 23 (40) 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours
6:00 p.m. (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy



LAZARUS SATURDAY



We now walk vicariously with Our Lord throughout the next 8 days

Sat, Mar 24 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Edward Zotyak Wife: Florence

Sunday anticipated St. John Chrysostom Divine Liturgy of the Royal Entry Into Jerusalem — Palm (Flowery) Sunday
*3:45 p.m. (MR) + Ann Lubas Ruud Family

ROYAL ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Palm (Flowery) Sunday — Feast of the Annunciation

SUN., Mar 25 *8:45 a.m. (MR) + Joyce Buchko (birthday 3/26) McCusker Family

*10:45 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
*2:00 p.m. (MR) Passion Week Vespers followed by Confessions w/ extra-Confessor

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

Mar 20 – Andrew Schlight; Mar 21 – Kenneth Kremasky; Mar 22 – Margaret Beliuas, Nicholas Rippole; Mar 24 – Richard Billy.

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

HOME: Irene Bordas, Margaret Beliuas, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Iona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, Helen Hopey, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Alice Sejka, ANNA TOTH, EVELYN VENTO, Julia Wovchko, SHIRLEY YANOSKO.

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

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

BRIGHTON REHAB & WELLNESS CENTER (246 Friendship Circle, Beaver, PA 15009): Mary Susan Dragosh.

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

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

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

FAIR OAKS ASSISTED LIVING (2200 W. Liberty Ave., Pgh, 15226): ANNA MARIE DEMIANCZYK.

LUTHERAN SENIORLIFE (500 Wittenberg Way, Mars PA 16046): William Zavidny.

CRANBERRY PLACE (5 St. Francis Way, Cranberry Twp, PA 16066): MARY SAHAYDA

VETERANS HOSPITAL (1010 Delafield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15215): JOHN VEREB.

OHIO VALLEY HOSPITAL (25 Heckel Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136): John Marks.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. I would like feedback on whether one should have a Mass (Divine Liturgy) offered for someone who has died who was an atheist. **A. Answer by Catholic Apologist:** By all means, you may have a Mass (Divine Liturgy) offered for an atheist who has died. Obviously, he or she is not an atheist anymore! And should the person be in purgatory, the help received from the Holy Mass (Divine Liturgy) is considerable, especially if the atheist was originally baptized and so has the character of baptism, which relates the soul directly to receiving the fruits of divine worship.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

March 18 — March 24, 2018

(MR): Health & Welfare of Hubal, Keene, Bradley & Meloni Families
offered by Hubal Family

(NS): In memory of Andrew & Edward

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2018 offered by Sister: Velma Seman (NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2018



McKees Rocks Announcements

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the sudden passing of **Barry W. Smyda, 61**, of Stowe Township, PA, at home on Thursday, March 8, 2018. He was the son of parishioner of Annamae Smyda. The Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home handled the arrangements. Parastas was celebrated on Monday, March 12 and followed by the Interment at Resurrection Cemetery, Moon Township. Our most sincere sympathies are extended to Annamae and the entire Smyda Family. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant Barry, and remember him forever. Vicnaja Jemu Pamjat'!



FINAL PIROHI SALES THIS WEEK — The remaining Pirohi Sale is this Friday **Mar. 23**. Orders are taken Wednesday prior to the sale from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon @ (412) 331-5155. **This will be our busiest sale date and we still are still in need additional volunteers to be on the front line pinching.** Since there are no sales during Holy Week, you are asked to place your orders A.S.A.P. A special thanks is extended to our anonymous donors for purchasing the flour for this entire project! Every little bit helps!

ECF HOLDS EGG HUNT NEXT SUNDAY — Our Eastern Christian Formation Religious Program will be sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt **next Sunday, March 25**. It is open for our children from Pre-Kindergarten to 5th grade.

Northside Announcements

THOMAS SUNDAY 50/50 RAFFLE — Since we do not have the Ham & Turkey Bingos any longer, we will take up a few 50/50 raffles to bring in a little more income. We will also work with GCU Lodge 390 to have funds matched! Tickets are \$1.00 each; 6 for \$5.00; and 13 for \$10.00. Please support this project! Drawing on **Thomas Sunday, April 8, 2018**.

EXTRA CONFESSOR NEXT WEEK — Palm (Flowery) Sunday, March 25, 2018 following (MR) Passion Vespers @ 2:00 p.m. — Our pastor is conscripting an additional Confessor to aid in hearing Confessions. *Please make every effort to make a good and worthy confession of sins as we prepare for the salutary events of Holy Week & Easter!* Use this opportunity to fulfill your **Easter Duty Precept!** You may also make your confession at the ordinary times listed on the front page of the S.O.T. A *Guide to Confession* is available in the narthex and vestibule of the Church.

FINAL DEANERY PENITENTIAL VESPERS TODAY — This afternoon will be the final liturgical service at **St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall** — Homilist: **Fr. Thomas Schaefer**. It was good to see so many from our parishes attending these services. If you haven't done so, please join us. Fellowship of meatless soups and bread will be served following the liturgical services.



Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary:

Wednesdays during the Lenten Season (MR) @ 6:30 p.m.

Join us in this Byzantine-Ruthenian Tradition to the Theotokos!

PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGIES this week

(MR) Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

(NS) Friday @ 6:00 p.m.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

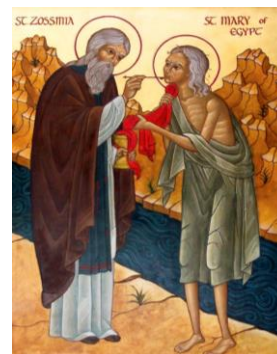
FINAL SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST: Centering our lives on Jesus

For the third time, Jesus spoke of his passion and death (see also Mark 8:31-33; 9:30-32). His cross was to be the climax of his earthly mission. The Lord was clearly trying to impress upon his closest disciples that this would indeed occur. He was teaching them the doctrine of the cross. Certainly John and James had heard all that Jesus said about his mission for they were among his closest disciples, the only ones privileged—along with Peter—to witness his transfiguration (see Mark 9:2-13). Despite all they had seen and heard, they asked Jesus to promise that they would sit at his side in places of honor when he came into his kingdom (Mark 10:37). They knew what Jesus was about, yet they still asked this question. What was going on in their minds at that moment that could make them disregard all they had learned? We often are like James and John when it comes to the things of God. Like these two sons of Zebedee, we have heard and seen much: we have heard the gospel proclaimed; we have pondered God's word in scripture; we understand the nature of our Lord's mission. Our minds can be so entrenched in the ways of this world, however, that what we've seen and heard drifts out of our minds when we must make decisions. The influence of the world is constantly pressing us, relentless in forcing upon us ways and standards which are opposed to what Christ taught. Each day we must center our lives on the truths we have learned in Christ so that they, not the world, can guide our lives. The author of the letter to the Hebrews warned: "We must pay the closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it" (Hebrews 2:1).



St. Mary of Egypt Commemorated Today

St. Mary is commemorated on the Fifth Sunday of The Great Fast. The Church holds her up as an example to the faithful during these fast days as an incentive for repentance.



She died about the year 530 A.D. The biography of this wonderful saint was written by St. Sophronius, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. After living an immoral life, she was converted to the faith in Jerusalem. Having venerated the Cross she entered the vestibule and, before the icon, gave thanks to the Mother of God. At that very moment she heard a voice saying: "If you cross over Jordan you will find real peace!" Immediately she purchased three loaves of bread and started out for the Jordan where she arrived that same evening. The next day she received Holy Communion in the Monastery of St. John and crossed over the Jordan River. She remained in the wilderness for forty-eight years in great torment, fear and struggle with passionate thoughts as though with wild beasts. She received Holy Communion for the final time from a priest-monk named Zosimus. After her death, Zosimus buried the body of this wonderful saint. When he returned to the monastery Zosimus related the entire history of her life and the miracles which he had personally witnessed. Thus, the Lord knows how to glorify penitent sinners. God doesn't reject anyone who comes to Him with a humble and contrite heart!!! **Do you know where her icon is in our (MR) Church?**

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS INCLUDING HOLY WEEK & EASTER

March 18..... Final Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. John the Baptist Cathedral @ 4:00 p.m. preceded by Confessions @ 3:30 p.m. by a Deanery Priest.

March 21 Week VI: WEDNESDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 1st & 3rd Penitential Greatfast Hours. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.

March 23 Week VI: FRIDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours. (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.The Final Day of The Holy & Great 40 Days Fast. & Final Day of Pirohi Sales.

March 24 Lazarus Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m.

March 25 Feast of the Annunciation & Palm (Flowery) Sunday — All weekend Divine Liturgies commence 15 minutes earlier for Solemn Blessing of Palms & Pussy Willows. ... Passion Vespers inaugurating Holy Week @ 2:00 p.m. followed by Confessions by extra Confessor.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE (March 26 through March 31)

Great & Holy Monday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.

Great & Holy Tuesday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m. (NS) Confessions @ 6:15 a.m.

Great & Holy Wednesday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.

Great & Holy Thursday. ... (MR) Betrayal Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Vespers & St. Basil Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.

Great & Holy Friday .. (MR) Passion Matins w/12 Passion Gospels @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR) Royal Hours @ 12:00 noon

**(MR) CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 12:00 NOON UNTIL 3:00 pm
FOR PRIVATE DEVOTION**

(NS) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 5:00 p.m. & (MR) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 7:00 p.m.

ALL NIGHT VIGIL BEFORE THE TOMB (Please Signup)

Great & Holy Sat. (MR) Sepulcher (Jerusalem) Matins w/Procession @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR) Great Vespers w/St. Basil Vigil Divine Liturgy @ 2:00 p.m. — (NS) Resurrectional Matins & Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods @ 5:45 p.m. — (MR) Resurrectional Matins & Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods @ 7:45 p.m.

APRIL 1 – 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 followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods.

BRIGHT WEEK

* The Bright Hours will be celebrated at the Empty Tomb 15 minutes before each Bright Week Divine Liturgy

April 2 .. Bright Monday w/procession (Solemn): (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.

April 3 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

SPECIAL LITURGICAL SERVICE THIS WEEK

LAZARUS SATURDAY BEGINS THE LAST EIGHT DAYS — This Palm Friday, March

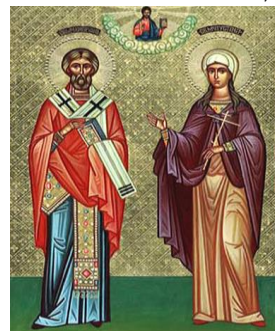


23 terminates the *Penitential Season of the Holy & Great 40 Days Fast*. It was given to us “to bring profit to our souls.” It, however, DOES NOT mean that we stop our Lenten abstinence efforts! It encourages us to continue the practice for an additional eight days. Beginning with *Lazarus Saturday* the Church points out that we now are given the privilege and opportunity to walk *vicariously* with the Lord. This happens by participating in each of the daily liturgical services offered until Resurrection Sunday. Please use this extraordinary time to be with Our Lord in as many (if not all) upcoming Church services.

Saints of the Week

The Holy Martyrs Chrysanthus & Daria — March 19

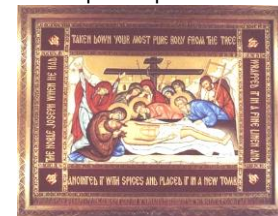
Saint Chrysanthus came from a pagan family who had moved to Rome from Alexandria. He received a fine education, and among the books he read were those in which pagans discussed Christianity. The young man, however, wanted to read books written by Christians themselves. He finally managed to find a copy of the New Testament, which enlightened his rational soul. Seeking someone to instruct him in the Holy Scriptures, he found the presbyter Carpophoros hiding from persecution, and received holy Baptism from him. After this, he began to preach the Gospel. Chrysanthus' father tried to turn his son from Christianity, and finally married him to Daria, a priestess of Minerva. Saint Chrysanthus managed to convert his wife to Christ, and the young couple mutually agreed to lead celibate lives. After the death of the father, they



began to live in separate houses. Saint Chrysanthus converted several young men to Christ, and many pious women gathered around Saint Daria. The people of Rome complained to the eparch Celerinus that Saints Chrysanthus and Daria were preaching celibacy and attracting too many young men and women to monasticism. Saint Chrysanthus was sent to the tribune Claudius for torture. The torments, however, did not shake the bravery of the young martyr, since the power of God clearly aided him. Struck by this, the tribune Claudius himself came to believe in Christ and accepted holy Baptism together with his wife Hilaria, their sons Jason and Maurus, and all his household and soldiers. When news of this reached the emperor Numerian (283-284), he commanded them all to be executed. He ordered Saints Chrysanthus and Daria to be turned over to the executioners. After many cruel tortures, the martyrs were buried alive in the ground.

General Announcements

(MR) VIGIL TOMB WATCH SIGNUP SHEET NOW READY — A special poster is now available for signatures. *This vigil is open and encourages both Parishes to participate.* If you select a time slot, and someone else has signed, you may also sign in the same slot. It would be nice if a few individuals and/or families would share the same slots for safety reasons. We need to know if anyone will continue the vigil from 12:00 mid-night to 7:00 a.m. A.S.A.P. All mid-morning slots **MUST** be filled for the continual vigil. If there aren't enough to register throughout the night, the Church will close from 12:00 midnight to 7:00 a.m. So, please sign early so that we may know if this activity will continue as in the years past.



MEN STILL NEEDED TO HOLD CANDLES DURING PASSION GOSPELS — On **Holy &**

Great Friday morning during the Passion Matins with the reading of the Twelve Gospels, the tradition of the Church always had 12 men holding candles as the Passion of the Lord Jesus was being proclaimed. We sure would like to keep this meaningful and sacred custom alive. It is open to all men of both parishes to participate. **Please register your name on the special sheet in the MR side vestibule or phone the Church Office.**

Let us honor Our Lord for all that He endured for our salvation and mankind's redemption.

