

**Parish Offerings – Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers — April 15, 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 (\$1,863) YP (\$10.43)	\$1,873.43
Easter (\$6) Holy Days (\$35) Christmas 2017 (\$1)	42.00
B.C.W. (\$1) Initial (\$5)	6.00
Votive Candles	116.50
	<hr/>
	\$2,037.93

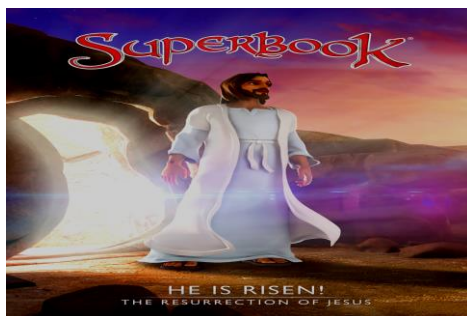
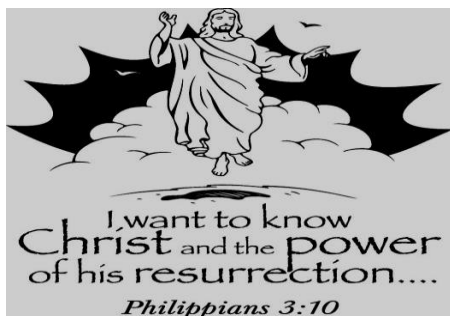
**Holy Ghost Church, Northside**

Regular Offering	\$421.00
Easter (\$101) Holy Days (\$3) Christmas 2017 (\$1)	105.00
Utilities	40.00
Votive Candles	53.00
	<hr/>
	\$619.00

**Church Attendance Last Week**

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (55)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (90); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (26)



**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*



**DESIGNS BY NANCY**  
 235 McCartney Drive,  
 Moon Township 15108  
 Phone: (412) 262-9141  
 Nandce@aol.com  
**Nancy C. Debranski**  
*Sewing, Alterations, 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 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**

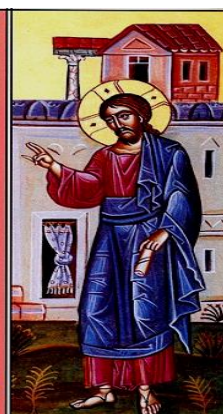
**Please patronize our fabulous sponsors! They make it possible to bring you this weekly & informative S.O.T. without an added expense to the Church. New Sponsors please contact Church 9 til 1:00 p.m. Mon-Fri!**

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

**SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN**

**4<sup>th</sup> Paschal Sunday — April 22, 2018**

SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 “SIN NO MORE, LEST A WORSE THING COME UPON YOU.”



**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](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org) – E-Mail: [ffaf334@verizon.net](mailto: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](http://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!

# THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

O Savior, my Lord and my God, You desired to raise the fallen human race, You walked upon the earth as a man, healing the sick through Your tender compassion, and having come to the pool at the Sheep gate, You found the man who had been sick for thirty-eight years. By Your word alone You restored him to health (Great Vespers of the Paralytic Man)

April 22, 2018

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VIII, Number 16



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



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



## SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN

### 4<sup>th</sup> Paschal Sunday



SUN., Apr 22

9:00 a.m. (MR) + Joseph Hrebenak                      Dgr: Maria, Luke & Anita  
 11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

## Feast of the Holy Great-Martyr & Victory-Bearer George the Wonderworker — Simple Holy Day

Mon, Apr 23

9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

6:00 p.m. (NS) Health & Welfare of Amelia Temer                      Marlene Pfeiffer



Tues, Apr 24

8:00 a.m. (MR) + Bonnie Glosser (memorial)                      Bernadette Gunkel

## COMMEMORATION OF THE FEAST OF MID-PENTECOST

Wed, Apr 25

8:00 a.m. (MR) + Frank Mazur                      + Alex Bilak

Thrs, Apr 26

8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ron Hytinen                      Kathleen J. Murphy

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

Fri, Apr 27

8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ann Marks                      Judy & Giulio DiCicco

Sat, Apr 28

9:00 a.m. (NS) Health & Welfare of Katherine Schadel                      Anna Marie Demianczyk



Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Samaritan Woman

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Gary Rossick                      Nanine & Burt Cifrutlak

## SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN Postfestive of Mid-Pentecost — 5<sup>th</sup> Paschal Sunday

SUN., Apr 29

9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes  
 11:00 a.m. (NS) + Catherine Frketich                      Dgr: Joyce Smiechowski

# 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*

**Apr 23** – William Kress, ARLENE LATTA **Apr 24** – Nicholas Poloka, Olivia Stebbins **Apr 25** – Audrey Hart; **Apr 28** – Gerald Stebbins.

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

**HOME:** Irene Bordas, Margaret Beliuas, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, Helen Hopey, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, John Marks, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Alice Sejka, 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., Pittsburgh, PA 15220): Irene Bednar.

**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.

**HEALTHSOUTH REHAB** (303 Camp Meeting Road, Sewickley, PA 15143): ANNA TOTH.

**THE RESIDENCE AT WILLOW LANE** (30 Heckel Rd., McKees Rocks, PA 15136): John Marks.

### Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

**Q.** What is the will of God for man? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** "This is the will of God: your sanctification." This is what the apostle tells us. Further, "It is the will of God that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth." So, apart from everything else that God may will for individual lives, he wills that all things "work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his promise." So, in any instance, we can know at least that God's will is that course of action that will lead us to greater holiness. Sometimes it may be hard to tell what that course of action might be, but in any case, if we desire union with God and holiness above all else, then we will accomplish his will, even with our failings and mistakes. Loving God and our neighbor is always the way to fulfill God's will!

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**April 22 — April 28, 2018**

(MR): **In memory of Geraldine Nazak** (2<sup>nd</sup> ann of passing 416)

offered by Husband: Andy & Dgtrs.

(NS): **In memory of Agnes Kacsur**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2018 offered by Barbara & Peter Stecko (NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2018

# McKees Rocks Announcements

**SPECIAL CLASSES CONTINUE THIS EVENING** — Special Classes continue for those wishing to know the fundamental teachings of the Catholic Church and to increase one's knowledge of the Byzantine-Ruthenian Catholic Church. This 3<sup>rd</sup> of a 12 week format presents awareness to anyone who is non-Catholic and for those who are Catholic of another Rite, the important Traditions of the Catholic Church and to increase their understanding of our Rite. This series (1 hour each) will continue **this evening, April 22, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m.** in Church Basement Library area classroom. These sessions serve as convert instructions.

**SWEATERS FOR SENIORS** — It will be greatly appreciated if you have any new or gently-worn Sweaters, Cardigans or Zip Sweatshirts that you can donate to our resident-friends who tend to fill a chill at Caring Heights located in Coraopolis, PA. Boxes will be placed in the Church Narthex and Side Vestibule **and the date has now been extended through May 6.** It would be most appreciative if you would support this Volunteer Month effort. For further information, you may contact Deb Charochak (412) 331-0953.



**PROPERTY CLEANUP THIS WEEK — this Saturday, April 28, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Please join us!**

## Holy Ghost, Northside

**SYMPATHY EXTENDED** — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **Marie (Senchyshyn) Wittmer, 87**, of Bedford, PA at her residence on Monday, April 16, 2018. She was the Sister of parishioner, Joan Senchyshyn. The Timothy A. Berkebile Funeral Home, Bedford, handled the arrangements. Marie was an active member of St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, Winder, PA, and traveled over 35 miles to Church each week. A Paschal Funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated on Wed., April 18<sup>th</sup> by Fr. Robert F. Oravetz as celebrant. Interment was at Bedford County Memorial Park, Bedford. Our Parish extends its most sincere sympathies to the Senchyshyn-Wittmer Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant Marie, and remember her forever because CHRIST IS RISEN! Vichaja Jaj Pamjat' ibo CHRISTOS VOSKRESE!



**PROPERTY CLEANUP IN MAY — Saturday, May 12, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

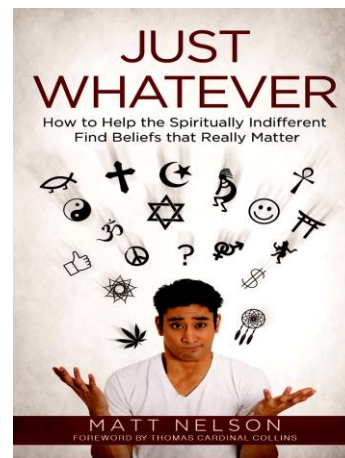
## Pray for Vocations especially to the Priesthood & Religious Life!

**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). 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 and must be confessed at least once a year. If you have not attended to your Easter Duty Precept, the **Sunday of All Saints (May 27)** 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.

# Evangelizing the Closed-Minded

(The follow abridged article appeared on the web-page from Catholic Answers. To locate the entire article go to Catholic.com. The author is Catholic Apologist, Matt Nelson dated April 18, 2018)

Do you know someone who isn't exactly hostile to God and religion, but just doesn't seem to care much about them one way or the other? Such a person exhibits religious



indifference: the failure to think seriously about religion and, accordingly, to give God his due. This is a general definition, but in real life indifference occurs in a variety of forms and to varying degrees. One common form of indifference involves a failure to take religion seriously due to disbelief in a personal, present God. Such disbelief leads the indifferentist to treat all religious beliefs and behaviors as absurd since God—whatever he may be—cannot know (or care) what we do in this life. This radical closed-mindedness towards religion that results from such skepticism is called closed indifference. Not every unbeliever is a closed indifferentist. Some skeptics take religious claims very seriously. This was notably evident in the twentieth century, before the rise of the New Atheism.... Catholics everywhere have found the Aristotelean approach to

arguing for God—especially as developed later by St. Thomas Aquinas—to be deeply compelling.... [U]nlike the new atheists, I take scholarship seriously. I have written that The God Delusion made me ashamed to be an atheist and I meant it. Trying to understand how God could need no cause, Christians claim that God exists necessarily. I have taken the effort to try to understand what that means. The New Atheist movement is ignorant of such claims and positively contemptuous of those who even try to understand them, let alone believe them. Thus, like a first-year undergraduate, he can happily go around asking loudly, "What caused God?" as though he had made some momentous philosophical discovery.

How do we awaken the closed indifferentists? The solution could be as simple as re-introducing arguments for God's existence and inviting the spiritually indifferent into a serious discussion. It could be that many closed indifferentists have simply never heard a proper explanation of such proofs before. "The great majority of naturalist philosophers have an unjustified belief that naturalism is true and unjustified belief that theism (or supernaturalism) is false." We might also remind closed indifferentists of the costs of their beliefs. Many skeptics are strict materialists, for example—they believe in nothing outside of physical reality. This obviously rules out God, angels, and the like. But this also means that mental thoughts, for instance, amount to nothing more than a kind of secretion of the brain. It also means that we have, to quote biologist Anthony Cashmore, no more free will than a bowl of sugar. This calls into question whether we can really be responsible for our actions—a line of reasoning most closed indifferentists probably haven't considered.

Since God has placed in our hearts a hunger for him and his truth, I would like to think that, deep down, every human being has an interest in religious questions—like those regarding the meaning of life, morality, and life after death. Our evangelical task, therefore, is first and foremost to show that we are willing to take the indifferentist's thoughts and questions seriously and, second, to be prepared to give a compelling account for the hope that is within us. We plant the seeds. God takes care of the rest. *Want to help the spiritually indifferent people in your life? Matt's forthcoming book, Just Whatever, can help!*

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 22** III Session: Special Classes on the Faith & Rite of the Byzantine Catholic Church @ 6:00 p.m.  
**April 23** St. George, the Victory-Bearer (Simple): (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.  
 April 25 ..... Feast of Mid-Pentecost  
 April 28 .. (MR) Spring Cleaning of the Church Grounds. Volunteers needed from 10:00 am to 12 Noon.  
 May 5 ..... Practice of those preparing for First Reconciliation in MR Church @ 11:00 a.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.  
 ..... GCU Lodge Meeting (MR) Church Basement @ 2:00 p.m.  
 ..... Archbishopial "Rejoice and be glad" Coral Concert, St. John Cathedral @ 3:00 p.m.  
 May 9 . Great Vespers w/DL for the Feast of the Glorious Ascension (Holy Day of Obligation) (MR) 7:00 p.m.  
 May 10 ... Feast of the Glorious Ascension (Holy Day of Obligation) (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 pm.  
 May 11 ..... Feasts of Saints Cyril & Methodius & Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko.

### 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

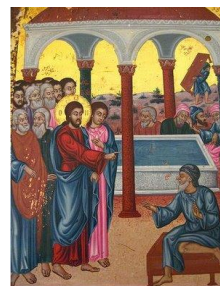


Palestine. When George grew up, he entered the military, where in his twentieth year, attained the rank of a Tribune and as such was in the service of the Emperor Diocletian. When Diocletian began the terrible persecution against Christians, George came before him and courageously confessed that he is 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

**THE SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN & IMPORTANCE OF WATER** — The fourth Paschal Sunday is dedicated to Christ's healing of the paralytic (Jn. 5:1-15. The man who had



been paralyzed for 38 years is healed by Christ while waiting to be put down into the pool of water. For the next two Sundays, the symbol of water and its importance is indicated. It shows us how imperative Baptism is to remove the paralysis of sin. Through baptism in the church we, too, are healed and saved by Christ for eternal life. Thus, in the church, we are told, together with the paralytic, to "sin no more that nothing worse befall you." (John 5:14). Our baptism is a call to continued repentance. We have been restored by and through Jesus Christ, and we ought not to turn away from that new level of life to our old sinful ways, because

that would be courting disaster. Rather, we must strive to root out all sin. As Saint John Climacus said: repentance is the renewal of baptism. *"The font of tears after baptism has become greater than baptism..., though this is a bold idea."* Our baptism was a pledge to walk in newness of life. The epistle showed us a good woman. On her behalf others interceded with Peter, showing him the fruits of her labor. He was so moved by this goodness, he raised her to life through God's power. May our lives, ever repentant, move God to raise us to life.

**WEDNESDAY: FEAST OF MID-PENTECOST** — After the Savior had miraculously healed the paralytic the Pharisees and Scribes were moved with envy, and sought to slay Him, using the excuse that He did not keep the Sabbath, since He worked miracles on that day. Jesus then departed to Galilee. About the middle of the Feast of Tabernacles, He went up again to the Temple and taught. The Jews, marveled at the wisdom of His words. But Christ first reproached their unbelief and lawlessness, then proved to them by the Law that they sought to slay Him unjustly, since He had healed the paralytic on the Sabbath. Since we have already reached the midpoint of the fifty days between Pascha and Pentecost, the Church has appointed this present feast as a bond between the two great feasts, thereby uniting, as it were, the two into one. Come and be with Our Savior at the Divine Liturgy on this day.



**SLAVJANE 42<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL CONCERT TICKETS** — The *Slavjane Folk Ensemble* will be celebrating their annual Dinner-Theater at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Auditorium, 1504 Woodcrest Ave., Corapolis, PA on **Saturday, May 12, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.** Slavjane consists of 29 students ranging from ages 4 through 18 years old and are from the Pittsburgh area. Featured on this year's concert are songs, dances and musical selections from Croatia, Dalmatia and Carpatho-Rus'. Featured this year are Roma selection from Eastern Slavokia. Special guest performers are the Pittsburgh area Slovak (PAS) Ensemble. The **Reception will then follow at Holy Trinity Social Hall, 5720 Steubenville Pike, McKees Rocks @ 5:00 p.m. Very reasonable charge for entertainment and dinner: Donation is Adult - \$10.00; Students - \$5.00; Reception only - \$5.00. The Reception Music will be by**



**Okrestar Zabava. Contact Dean Poloka (412) 877-9351.** If you have never attended a Slavjane Performance, this is the one of the greatest! Tickets are now available, get yours today! Let us support our Byzantine Catholic Cultural Performers – Slavjane.