

Parish Offerings – Sunday of the Paralytic Man — April 22, 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 (\$1,477) YP (\$17)	\$1,494.00
Easter (\$25) Holy Days (\$82)	107.00
Archdiocesan Collection (\$1) Offering for the Poor (\$1)	2.00
Votive Candles	112.40
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	\$1,715.40

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

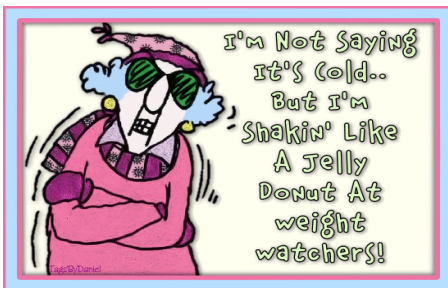
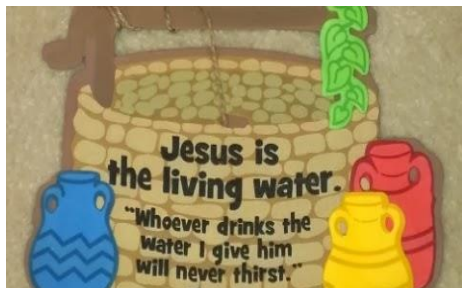
Regular Offering	\$510.00
Holy Days	10.00
Utilities	53.00
Votive Candles	55.50
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	\$628.50

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (49)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (65); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (34)

Feast of the Holy Martyr, George, Monday, Apr. 23 – (MR) 9:00 a.m. (6); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (7)



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

When my arms can't reach people who are close to my heart...

I always hug them with my prayers.



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This space available for ads for wishing someone birthday or anniversary greetings, get-well wishes, etc. Call the office (412) 771-3324

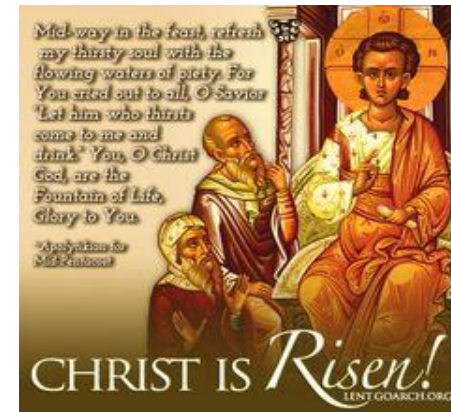
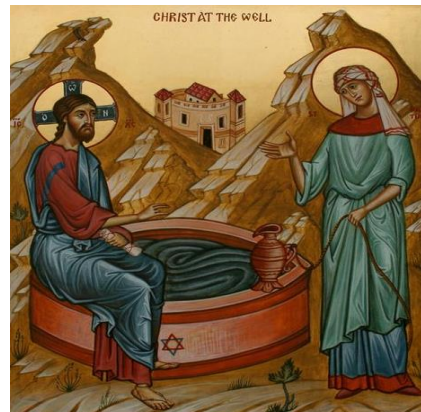
Please patronize our fabulous sponsors! They make it possible to bring you this weekly & informative S.O.T. without an added expense to the Church. New Sponsors please contact Church 9 til 1:00 p.m. Mon-Fri!



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

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

5th Paschal Sunday – Mid-Pentecost – April 29, 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.

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

The midpoint of the Feast has arrived, the days which begin with the Resurrection of the Savior and are fulfilled in the divine Feast of Pentecost. Truly it unites both Feasts and draws light from their double brightness, giving honor to the Ascension of the Lord, which prefigures our glory! (Great Vespers of Mid-Pentecost)

April 29, 2018 Seasonal Greeting Volume VIII, 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 SAMARITAN WOMAN Postfestive of Mid-Pentecost — 5th Paschal Sunday			
SUN., Apr 29	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Catherine Frketch	Dgtr: Joyce Smiechowski
<i>The Holy Apostle James the Greater</i>			
Mon, Apr 30	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Marian Rybowicz (32 nd ann of passing)	Son: Peter & Debbie
Tues, May 1	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Michael Butchko	Niece: Marlene Pfeiffer
Final Day of the Feast of Mid-Pentecost			
Wed, May 2	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Helen Dziki (8 th ann of passing)	+ Alex & Sonny Bilak
Thrs, May 3	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ George W. Hornak	Sister: Helena Barth & Family
First Friday of the Month REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)			
Fri, May 4	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Joyce D. Ray	Leyte & Mike Tomchak
First Saturday of the Month			
Sat, May 5	9:00 a.m. (NS)	Mary Ann Holesh Culey	Sister: Helen Holesh Marince
***** <i>Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Man Born Blind</i> <i>Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Corporate Communion of 2 young members</i> 4:00 p.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes			
SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND 6th Paschal Sunday			
SUN., May 6	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ George Kurtanich (birthday)	Children
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Betty + Jay Mowery	Dgtr: 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

May 4 – Geraldine Babin, Anita Wolsko; **May 5** – Irene Muha.

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

HOME: Irene Bordas, Margaret Beliuнас, 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. Is it permissible for a Roman-rite Catholic to hold Eastern theological opinions on things like purgatory and original sin? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** Certainly. The tradition of the Church is one. The divisions of East and West are simply questions of culture and different emphases. There is no doctrine held by the universal Church that is purely Eastern or Western. The two traditions are complementary and hardly exhaustive, since even within the Western (or Latin) Church and the Eastern (or Greek) Church there are many different spiritual and theological and liturgical tendencies that show the fullness of the Faith without contradicting it. When you find someone claiming that a doctrine held definitively by the Church—for example, purgatory (although one does not have to use the term itself) or original sin (as in the case of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception)—is meaningless or nonexistent in the Eastern Church, you may be sure that he has not understood the meaning of the theology that teaches these truths. That being said, you are free to avoid the Augustinian emphasis on fallen nature in favor of, for example, a sunnier view like that of St. Gregory of Nyssa, or to emphasize the progressive aspect of the intermediate state before heaven rather than its punitive aspect.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

April 29 — May 5, 2018

(MR): **In memory of the Pizur & Sejka Families**

offered by Alice & Anna May Sejka

(NS): **In memory of George**

(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 passing of **Mary Stecko, 90**, on Friday, April 20, 2018. She was the Mother (in-law) of parishioners, Peter (Barbara Krulac) Stecko. The McDermott Funeral Home, Coraopolis, PA, handled arrangements. Funeral Services were at the Funeral Home followed by the Interment at Calvary Cemetery, McKees Rocks. Our Parish extends its most sincere sympathy to the Stecko Family. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant Mary, and remember her forever because **CHRIST IS RISEN!** *Vicnaja Jej Pamjat' ibo CHRISTOS VOSKRESE!*



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 4th 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 29, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m.** in Church Basement Library area classroom. These sessions serve as convert instructions.

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND CORPORATE COMMUNION THIS WEEKEND — 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 5, 2018** 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!

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 another week 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.



Holy Ghost, Northside

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

ARCHIEPARICAL CHOIR CONCERT NEXT SUNDAY — The members of the Archieparical Choir welcome all to the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Munhall, PA on **May 6**. The glorious Resurrection is celebrated in readings, hymns and songs. The hour-long inspirational presentation "Rejoice and Be Glad!" will begin at **3:00 p.m.** A hospitality reception with light snacks and beverages will follow the program in the Cathedral's lower level. The Archieparical Choir, which observes the 20th anniversary of its founding this year, hopes to see you there!

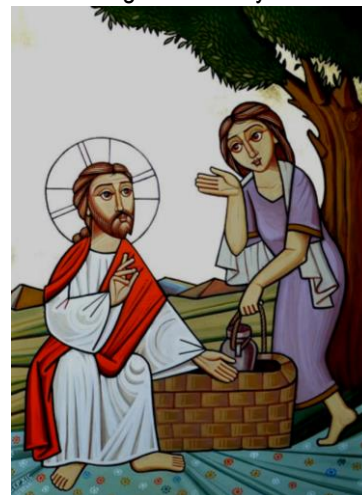
EASTER DUTY PRECEPT — All Christian Faithful are OBLIGED to receive the Divine Eucharist when in danger of death AND during the Paschal (Easter) Period (Canon 708). This was traditionally known as the EASTER DUTY. When one is aware of Mortal (Deadly) Sin, a Sacramental Confession is necessary before 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.

THE FIFTH PASCHAL SUNDAY

Why Samaria Was So Controversial To The Jews

(first read John 4: 5-42)

One of the most ancient cities of the Promised Land was Shechem, also called Sikima, located at the foot of Mount Gerazim. There the Israelites had heard the blessings in the days of Moses and Joshua. Near to this town, Jacob, who had



come from Mesopotamia in the nineteenth century before Christ, bought a piece of land where there was a well. **This well, preserved even until the time of Christ, was known as Jacob's Well.** Later, before he died in Egypt, he left that piece of land as a special inheritance to his son Joseph (Gen. 49:22). This town, before it was taken into possession by Samaria, was also the leading city of the kingdom of the ten tribes. In the time of the Romans it was called Neapolis, and at present Nablus. It was the first city in Canaan visited by the Patriarch Abraham. Here also, Joshua addressed the tribes of Israel for the last time. Almost three hundred years later, all Israel assembled there to make

Roboam (Rehoboam) king. Concerning the Samaritans we know the following: In the year 721 before Christ, Salmanasar (Shalmaneser), King of the Assyrians, took the ten tribes of the kingdom of Israel into captivity, and relocated all these people to Babylon and the land of the Medes. From there he gathered various nations and sent them to Samaria. These nations had been idolaters from before. Although they were later instructed in the Jewish faith and believed in the one God, they worshipped the idols also. Furthermore, they accepted only the Pentateuch of Moses, and rejected the other books of Holy Scripture. Nonetheless, they thought themselves to be descendants of Abraham and Jacob. Therefore, the pious Jews named these Judaizing and idolatrous peoples Samaritans, since they lived in Samaria, the former leading city of the Israelites, as well as in the other towns thereabout. *The Jews rejected them as heathen and foreigners, and had no communion with them at all, as the Samaritan woman observed, "the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans"* (John 4:9). Therefore, the name Samaritan is used derisively many times in the Gospel narrations.

After the Ascension of the Lord, and the Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the woman of Samaria was baptized by the holy Apostles and became a great preacher and Martyr of Christ; she was called Photine or Photina, and her feast is kept on February 26.

**CHRIST IS RISEN In Various Languages:
Chinese: Helisituosi fuhuole! — Qeshi fuhuole!
Japanese: Harisutosu Fukkatsu! — Jitsu Ni Fukkatsu**

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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.
 May 12 ... Slavjane 42nd Annual Concert at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (OLSH) School @ 2:00 p.m.
 May 13 Mother's Day.
 May 18-19 5th & Final All Souls Saturday: Friday: (NS) 6:00 p.m.; Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m.
 May 20 Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit — Pentecost Sunday — Patronal Feast.
 Patronal Dinner Celebration & Honoring all our Parish Graduates @ 1:00 pm.
 May 28 Memorial Day observed; special Divine Liturgy @ 8:00 a.m.
 May 29 through 30 Clergy Information Days at St. John Cathedral, Munhall.

The Holy Martyrs Timothy & His Wife, Maura

May 3

Saints **Timothy and Maura** suffered for the faith during the persecution under the emperor Diocletian (284-305). Saint Timothy came from the village of Perapa (Egyptian Thebaid), and was the son of a priest named Pikolposos. He was made a reader among the church clergy, and also a keeper and copyist of divine service books. Saint Timothy was denounced as a keeper of Christian books, which the emperor ordered to be confiscated and burned. They brought Saint Timothy before the governor Arian, who demanded that he hand over the sacred books. They subjected the saint to horrible tortures for his refusal to obey the command. They shoved two red-hot iron rods into his ears, from which the sufferer lost his eyesight and became blind. Saint Timothy bravely endured the pain and he gave thanks to God, for granting him to suffer for Him. The torturers hung the saint head downwards, putting a piece of wood in his mouth, and they tied a heavy stone to his neck. Saint Timothy's suffering was



so extreme, that even those who tortured him implored the governor to ease up on the torture. Saint Timothy urged his wife not to fear the tortures, but to follow his path. Saint Maura answered, "I am prepared to die with you," and she boldly confessed herself a Christian. Arian commanded that the hair be torn from her head, and to cut the fingers off her hands. Saint Maura underwent the torment with joy and even thanked the governor for the torture, which she endured so that her sins might be forgiven. Then Arian gave orders to throw Saint Maura into a boiling cauldron, but she did not feel any pain, and she remained unharmed. Suspecting that the servants had filled the cauldron with cold water out of sympathy for the martyr, Arian went up and ordered the saint to splash him on the hand with water from the cauldron. When the martyr did this, Arian screamed with pain and drew back his scalded hand. Then, momentarily admitting the power of the miracle, Arian confessed God in Whom Maura believed as the True God, and he ordered her to be released. But the devil still held great power over the governor, and soon he again began to urge Saint Maura to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. Having gotten nowhere, Arian was overcome all the more by a satanic rage and he came up with new tortures. Then the people began to murmur and demand a stop to the abuse of this innocent woman. But Saint Maura, turning to the people, said, "Let no one defend me. I have one Defender, God, in Whom I trust." Finally, after torturing them for a long time, Arian ordered the martyrs to be crucified. For ten days they hung on crosses facing each other. On the tenth day of martyrdom the saints offered up their souls to the Lord.

General Announcements

PLANS UNDERWAY FOR PATRONAL PENTECOST DINNER — Our Patronal Feast Day Dinner at the (MR) school hall is being planned for **Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018 @ 1:00 p.m.** We will also honor our upcoming high school and college graduates at this time. All Members of both Holy Ghost Parishes of MR & NS are asked to put this day aside so as to glorify God the Holy Ghost (Spirit) during these green holy days! The event will once again be catered this year. Tickets will soon be available once we get the price of the meal.

GRADUATES REGISTER TO BE RECOGNIZED — Our Holy Ghost Churches would like to honor all of our High School and College Graduates on the occasion of our Patronal Feast, **May 20, 2018**. All MR & NS graduates will be our guests and receive a gift from the parish congratulating them on their milestone achievement as they commence a new chapter in their lives. All graduates must phone the church office to inform us that you are graduating and will be attending the dinner.



GCU LODGE 390 UPCOMING QUARTERLY MEETING — The special quarterly Lodge meeting is slated for next **Sunday, May 6, 2018 in MR @ 2:00 p.m.** Members, please mark your calendars. It is open to all GCU members and those wishing to join via a purchase of a life insurance and/or a high percentage ROTH or REGULAR IRA Certificate.

BI-PARTISAN PRO-LIFE GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE — PA Primary Elections are just a little more than a week away on **May 15**. You are encouraged to consider those candidates who are truly dedicated to the Pro-Life position. Let us defend the most vulnerable of God's children and speak for them by our vote when they cannot speak or act for themselves. Imagine yourself in their position. Wouldn't you want someone to defend you when your life is threatened?! Take the guide with you to the polls. Jesus came so that we may



have life and live it to its fullness!

MARIAN DEVOTIONS EVERY FRIDAY OF MAY — In all Rites of the Catholic Church, the month of May is especially devoted to the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary. Come join us at the **HGC-MR on Fridays at 6:00 p.m.** for the offering of the Holy Rosary and Moleben to the Most Holy Mother of God, especially as we commemorate the 100th anniversary of her appearance in Fatima.

SLAVJANE 42nd 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.