Parish Offerings - The Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt Fifth Sunday of The Great Fast — Apr. 2, 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 (\$2,843) YP (\$12)\$2	,855.00
Holy Day (\$122) Easter Décor (\$20) Easter (\$55)	197.00
Eastern European Churches (\$800) Coffee Social (\$44)	844.00
Votive Candles	103.05

\$3,999.05

\$901.00

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$259.00
HD (\$30) Easter (\$505)	
Utilities (\$5) Eastern European Churches (\$5) Improv (\$65)	
Votive Candles	32.00

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 pm (51);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (90); (NS) 11:00 am (32)

VI Presanctified Divine Liturgy — Wed. (MR) 7:00 pm (25); Fri. (NS) 6:00 pm (7) Lazarus Saturday — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (9)







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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

THE ROYAL ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

Palm (Flowery) Sunday — April 9, 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 Beliunas (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

April 9, 2017

Seasonal Greeting

Volume V. Number 14

Datr: Susie



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

Liturgical Services for the Week

Intention

and date not be published. Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners

Birthdays: Apr 10 - ALAN HARPER; Apr 13 - Margaret Cifrulak; Apr 14 - Kristian Kassabov, Kathryn Kress, Elias Stebbins; Apr 15 – Stephen Katrenich, John Timulak.

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

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

Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Agnes Rosko, MARY SAHAYDA, GERARD SLAGLE, Michael Spisak, ANNA TOTH, EVELYN VENTO, JOHN

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 Beliunas.

HOME: Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Mary Culan, Andrew Drukalsky, VEREB, Julia Wovchko.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Will a child that commits suicide go to heaven? A. Answer by Catholic Answers: Catechism of the Catholic Church: 2282 ... Grave psychological disturbances, anguish, or grave fear of hardship, suffering, or torture can diminish the responsibility of the one committing suicide. 2283 We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives. To be guilty of a mortal sin an individual must know what he is choosing and freely choose it. Individuals who commit suicide are usually suffering from some kind of psychological or emotional condition that overwhelms them and impairs their ability to fully understand and freely choose their actions. Even more so for children who can't possibly understand what they are doing. We must always remember that Jesus taught us that God is Father (Matthew 7:11; Luke 11:11). God creates us out of nothing, no one could have greater love for us than God. God would embrace such a child with all love and compassion.

ROYAL ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

Palm (Flowery) Sunday — St. John Chrysostom Divine Liturgy SUN.. Apr 9

*8:45 a.m. (MR) + Mary Fejka (21st ann of passing 4/6)

*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

HOLY (PASSION) WEEK

Holy Mon, Apr 10

8:00 a.m. (MR) Bridegroom Matins

6:30 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary 7:00 p.m. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Holy Tue, Apr 11

Holy Wed, Apr 12

8:00 a.m. (MR) Bridegroom Matins

*5:30 p.m. (NS) Special Confession Time

6:00 p.m. (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

8:00 a.m. (MR) Bridegroom Matins

6:30 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

7:00 p.m. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Institution of the Most Holy Eucharist

HOLY THRS, APR 13 8:00 a.m. (MR) Betrayal Matins

7:00 p.m. (MR) Great Vespers w/St. Basil Divine Lituray

REQUIRED STRICT ABSTINENCE (no meat and dairy products)

HOLY & GREAT FRI, APR 14 8:00 a.m. (MR) Passion Matins w/12 Passions Gospels

12:00 nn. (MR) Royal Hours: Commemoration of Our Lord's Crucifixion



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

24 Hour Continuous Vigil Before The Tomb — Church Opened For Devotion Recommended Simple Abstinence (no meat) on Holy Saturday

HOLY SAT, APR 15 8:00 a.m. (MR) Sepulcher Matins w/Procession indoors

2:00 p.m. (MR) Great Vespers w/St. Basil Divine Liturgy

Antiticipated Resurrectional (Easter Sunday) Liturgical Services 5:45 p.m. (NS) Resurrectional Matins & Blessing of Paschal Foods

7:45 p.m. (MR) Resurrectional Matins w/ Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Paschal Foods

RADIANT RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Easter Sunday — The Great Day — MIROVANIJE

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



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

April 9 — April 15, 2017

(MR): In memory of Anna Hrebenak offered by Dgtr: Maria, Luke & Anita Iyengar

(NS): In memory of Joseph, Catherine, Joe & Kathy Kisner

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2017 offered by Niece: Joan Senchyshyn

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2017









McKees Rocks Announcements

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The Spirit of Truth announces the passing of William J. Lucas, 81, of



Girard, OH, at home on Monday, April 3, 2017. He was the brother of parishioner, George (Peggi) Lucas, Uncle of parishioner, Andrea (Steven) Usouski, and Great-Uncle of their children, Madelyn, Alaina and Emma. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on April 6 at St. Rose Roman Rite Church, Girard, OH. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Blackstone Funeral Home, Girard, followed by the Interment at the Girard City Cemetery. Our parish offers its most sincere

condolences and prayerful support to the Lucas-Usouski Families. In blessed repose grant O Lord eternal rest to your servant, William, and remember him forever! Vicnaja Jemu Pamjat'

GRATITUDE TO ALL WILLOW CONTRIBUTORS — Although the trees on the Church property produced an average amount of willows this year, we are grateful to all who came forward with extras. Willows maintain a Byzantine Catholic tradition!! God Bless you!!!

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!

MEN HOLDING CANDLES FOR 12 GOSPELS — First of all thank you to all who accepted the penitential task of standing with candles for the proclamation of the Passion Gospels on Holy and Great Friday Morning! You are asked to meet in the priest's sacristy no later than 7:45 a.m. This service is app. 1 ¾ hours in length. May we express our repentance and gratitude to the Lord for suffering the Holy Passion in our place!

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

HAM BINGO TODAY - JOIN US! — This special event begins this afternoon on Palm



Sunday, April 9. Early Birds: 2:00 p.m.; Regular games: 3:00 p.m. Gift Baskets, 50/50 Raffle and Baked goods will also be available. We are asking for volunteers to contributing some time in helping at the bingo. We are in need of funds to pay bills! We will, also, be applying

for matching funds from the G.C.U. Headquarters. Help us to double the monetary proceeds that will be made!

Sanctification of Paschal Foods

REQUESTING ALL HOUSEHOLDS TO BRING AN EASTER BASKET — Following the



Resurrectional Matins/Divine Liturgy on Holy Saturday Evening and Easter Sunday Morning, Paschal Foods will be solemnly blessed. All households are highly recommended to bring an Easter Basket with some traditional foods (cf. insert). Special Paschal blessings are bestowed upon them so please don't deprive yourself or your family and friends of God's blessing as you partake of

this sanctified food in the joy of the Radiant Resurrection of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

PALM (FLOWERY) SUNDAY

Significance of Palms & Pussy Willows in Byzantine Rite (John 12: 1 – 18)

The Triumphal Entry of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem before His Passion was celebrated with particular solemnity since the first centuries of Christianity. In the Byzantine



Rite it is considered one of the twelve Major Feasts of the liturgical year. Its official name is the "Royal Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem." It is always celebrated on the Sunday before Easter with the solemn blessing of branches (Palms, Willows & Olive Branches). Popularly it was also called Willow Sunday (Verbna Ned'ilja) because in Europe, pussy-willows were blessed instead of palms. It is also known as Flowery Sunday (Cvitna Ned'ilja) since in and near

Constantinople they used to distribute early spring flowers, such as branches of lilac or elder, to the faithful, (cf. Constantine Proph. in P.G. 112, 412). From ancient times, **Palm-branches were symbols of victory and triumph.** The Romans used to reward their champions of the games with palm-branches. Also military triumphs, i.e. the celebrations of victory, were observed with palms. It seems that the Jews followed the same custom (Lev. 23:40; I Mace. 13:37) of carrying palm-branches on their festive occasions. That is what happened during the solemn entry of Jesus into the Holy City before His last Passover (Jn. 12:13), **Pussy Willows signify 'new life"** and **Olive Branches signify "peace."** In the New Testament, the palm-branches become a symbol of martyrdom (Rev. 7:9) meaning victory over death. For this reason in Christian art martyrs were usually represented with palms in their hands. Thus, since the end of the fourth century, the palm-branch also became a symbol of the Resurrection. (P.G. 33, 1025-1028). Jesus Christ, after raising Lazarus (Jn. 11:1-44), was finally recognized by the Jewish people as their Messiah. When He arrived in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, they greeted Him with a triumphant welcome. The Evangelist, however, hastened to remark that it was done in fulfillment of a prophecy (Mt. 21:4-5).

Final Days of CHRIST THE BRIDEGROOM

The first three weekdays of Holy Week centers its theme upon Christ the

Bridegroom. The special Matins services offered a commemoration of the last days in the earthly life of the Lord are recounted. We are vicariously present as Christ presents His last teaching discourse to the disciples. As such, these services incorporate readings and hymns inspiring this theme. The mood of the services is to experience sorrow and to feel Christ's voluntary submission to His passions and highlight the purpose behind the evil that is about to take place against the Lord. The atmosphere is one of mourning (for sins) and is symbolic of the shame the Christian should feel for the Fall of Adam and Eve, the depths of



hell, the lost Paradise and the absence of God. The main emphasis of the Bridegroom Matins is metanoia (a complete change of direction in following Christ) and each service has its own particular theme of repentance and watchfulness. One of its primary features is its Troparion: Behold, the Bridegroom comes in the middle of the night, and blessed is the servant He shall find vigilant; but unworthy is he whom He shall find neglectful. Beware awake therefore, O my soul, lest you be weighed down by sleep, and be given over to death and be closed out from the kingdom; rise up crying out: Holy! Holy! Holy are You our God; through the intercession of the Theotokos, have mercy on us."

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS INCLUDING HOLY WEEK & EASTER

April 9 Palm (Flowery) Sunday — All weekend Divine Liturgies commence 15 minutes earlier. Passion Vespers inaugurating Holy Week @ 2:00 p.m. followed by Confessions by extra Confessor.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE (April 10 through April 15)

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 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

Holy Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday The Final Presanctified Divine Liturgies

On the evening of these first three days of Holy Week the Presanctified Divine Liturgy is



celebrated. The Church calls us to begin our preparation for the forthcoming passion, death and burial of Our Lord Jesus and to accompany Him to the consummation of the redemptive acts by which salvation was secured for us. Let us use this time wisely and manifest our loyalty to Him Who now approaches the Holy Passion and join Him as He affects our salvation. Of the several parables that we will hear proclaimed in the Gospel, the one concerning the "wise and Foolish virgins is particularly important. It teaches us that we must always be

prepared to meet the Bridegroom Christ whenever He decides to come for us!

Holy & Great Thursday — Institution of the Most Holy Eucharist

At the Mystical Supper in the Upper Room Jesus gave a radically new meaning to the food and drink of the sacred meal. He identified Himself with the bread and wine: "Take, eat; this is my Body. Drink of it all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant" enacts sacramentally the redemptive event of the Cross and participates in its



saving grace. This does not suggest that the Eucharist attempts to reclaim a past event. The

Holy & Great Thursday (cont.)

Eucharist does not repeat what cannot be repeated. Christ is not slain anew and repeatedly.

Rather the Eucharistic food is changed concretely and truly into the Body and Blood of the Lamb of God, "Who gave Himself up for the life of the world." Christ continually offers Himself to the faithful through these consecrated Gifts. In the Eucharist we receive and partake of the Resurrected Christ. We share in His sacrificed, risen and deified Body, "for the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting" (Divine Liturgy). Make this an important event to attend rendering thanks for the Holy Eucharist. How



precious our Byzantine Catholic Church truly is! This is a great opportunity to fulfill your Easter Duty Precept!

Holy & Great Friday

The Passion, Death & Entombment of Our Lord

Praying that you will join us for this historical and inspiring salvific event! On this day of STRICT ABSTINENCE (no meat or dairy products) is permitted as we commemorate the



sufferings of Christ: the mockery, the crown of thorns, the scourging, the nails, the thirst, the vinegar and gall, the cry of desolation, and all that the Savior endured on the Cross. Great Friday and Holy Saturday direct our attention to the trial, crucifixion, death and burial of Christ. We are placed within the awesome mystery of the extreme humility of our suffering God. Therefore, these days are at once days of deep gloom as well as watchful expectation. The Author of life is at work transforming death into life: "Come, let us see our Life (Jesus) lying in the tomb, that he may give

life to those that in their tombs lying dead" (Sticherion of Great Saturday). Near the end of the Entombment Vespers the **Arimathean Procession** occurs with the Burial Shroud (Plaschanica) taken in procession around the Church by the priest and faithful. Near its conclusion, it is placed in the tomb near the front of the Church. It remains there for all night veneration.

SEPULCHER MATINS & GREAT VESPERS w/ST. BASIL

Holy Saturday morning prayer of the **Sepulcher (Jerusalem) Matins with an inside procession** commemorates Our Lord's descent into Hades to rescue the Holy & Just and takes them to the New Jerusalem (Heaven). The afternoon celebrates **Great Vespers & St. Basil Divine Liturgy** which is the initial commencement of Our Lord's Radiant Resurrection. The dark coverings and Priestly vestments are changed to bright colors announcing the destruction of death and the introduction of New Life. Let us be with our Lord by participating in these moving ceremonies! (cf. liturgical schedule for times).

Resurrectional Matins

The Myrrh-Bearers Procession to the Tomb

This is one of the most memorable liturgical celebrations ringing in the joy of the Radiant Resurrection. The faithful enter a darkened Church symbolizing the Tomb of Our Lord quietly awaiting in anxious anticipation the promise of the Resurrection. Following the <code>Myrrh-Bearers Procession</code> around the Church, the priest declares that CHRIST IS RISEN and while rolling back the large stone (the Church



Doors) enters a radiant and brilliant Church festively singing Christ's Resurrection! It reminds us of same the joy and wonder of the women disciples who were the first to witness the Empty Tomb and then declaring to the Apostles of Our Lord's Radiant Resurrection!