

Parish Offerings – Sunday of Paralytic Man — May 7, 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 (\$3,681) YP (\$16)	\$3,697.00
Holy Days (\$6) Easter Décor (\$1)	7.00
Seminary (\$372) Coffee Social (\$34)	406.00
Votive Candles	114.50
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	\$4,224.50

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$369.00
Holy Days	40.00
Utilities (\$25) Improvements (\$30) Seminary (\$20)	75.00
Votive Candles	48.50
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	\$532.50

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Renewal of Baptism Promises — Sat., 4:00 p.m. (73)
Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (98); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (44)

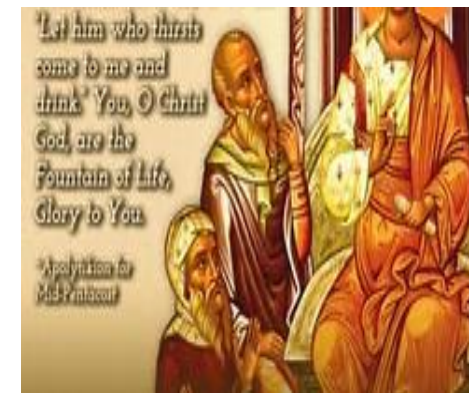


HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

5th Paschal Sunday – Mid-Pentecost — Mother's Day

May 14, 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

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Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953



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 Marge (412) 331-3577

Individuals may sponsor an ad or greeting for a weekly or monthly price. Call the office for rates!

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!



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

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)

May 14, 2017 Seasonal Greeting Volume VII, Number 20



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

5th Paschal Sunday — Postfestive of Mid-Pentecost & Mother's Day

SUN., May 14		9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes		
		11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Living & Deceased Mothers of Both Parishes		
Mon, May 15		8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary Fejka (birthday)		Dgtr: Susie
Tues, May 16		8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael Maletz		Son: Bob & Martha
		Final Day of the Commemoration of Mid-Pentecost		
Weds, May 17		8:00 a.m. (MR) + Amelia Firko (8 th ann of passing)		Son: Fr. Firko
Thrs, May 18		8:00 a.m. (MR) + Geraldine Nazak		Elaine, Brian & Lauren Vattimer
		REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)		
Fri, May 19		8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael Butchko		Niece: Marlene Pfeiffer
		6:00 p.m. (MR) Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary & Moleben to the Most Holy Mother of God		
Sat, May 20		9:00 a.m. (NS) + Frank T. Firko, Jr. (12 th ann of passing)		Son: Fr. Firko



Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Samaritan & Postfestive of Mid-Pentecost

4:00 p.m. (MR) + John Bordas Dgtr: Karen & Frank Grzywinski

SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND

6th Paschal Sunday

SUN., May 21	9:00 a.m. (MR) + Andrew Margo, Sr. + Ilona & Andrew, Jr. + Kathryn + Mary + Helen + Elizabeth	Marge & James Lautenschlager
	11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	

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: **May 15** – Adam Kacsur; Karen Krempasky, George Mosko **May 16** – Loretta Keller; **May 17** – John Oslick, Anita Sidun; **May 18** – Daniel Rowe; **May 19** – MARY ANN CONTI; **May 20** – A. Jean Jumba.

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. What is the new Church teaching regarding masturbation? Is self-gratification still a sin? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** Actually, there is no new Church teaching on masturbation. The Church has always definitively taught that masturbation is "an intrinsically and gravely disordered action" ([Catechism of the Catholic Church 2352](#), It is a corollary teaching of the [sixth commandment](#). And when committed with full knowledge and complete consent (CCC 1859), it is a mortal sin ([CCC 1854-64](#)). For more on this matter and living a chaste life in general, see our resources at the website [Chastity.com](#).

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

May 14 — May 21, 2017

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

offered by Dgtr: Karen & Frank Grzywinski

(NS): **In memory of Anna Spontak**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE 2017 offered by Son: Robert & Joyce (NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2017



McKees Rocks Announcements

A MILESTONE IN THE LIVES OF TWO YOUNG PARISHIONERS LAST WEEK —



Renewing their Baptismal Promises, making their First Confession and received the Holy Eucharist together at the Saturday afternoon Vigil Divine Liturgy on **May 6, 2017** were **Matthew Joseph Harsh & Carmella Marie Rippole**. They reaffirmed their baptismal promises to serve their Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ! Our parish offers its most sincere congratulations and prayerful best wishes to them on this most important event in their lives. May God grant to Matthew & Carmella many happy and blessed years!

BYZAN-TEEN YOUTH GROUP MATCHING FUNDS PROJECT — Our HGC Byzan-TEEN Youth Group is working on a matching funds project. GCU Lodge 390 will match their total. They are selling candy bars. For every purchase that you make the teens will receive a matching funds offer. This will help raise money for the 2018 Youth Rally in Latrobe, PA while having a great time and meeting other Byzan-TEENS coming from all corners of our great nation.

Holy Ghost, Northside

SATURDAY MORNING DIVINE LITURGIES — The Saturday Morning Divine Liturgies are open to anyone who wishes to attend a daily Eucharistic Service during the week. It is not only for those whose intention is being offered. Our pastor offers this Liturgical service for your spiritual devotion and sanctification. Please consider attending and making a worthy reception of Holy Communion. Demonstrate your love for Our Lord who said: "Do this in memory of Me!"

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 Archiepiscopal 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.

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.

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER — A week from Thursday is Ascension Thursday. **It is a Holy Day of Obligation.** Please reserve this time to attend the Divine Liturgy.

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 14	Annual Mother's Day.
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.
May 29	Memorial Day observed; special Divine Liturgy @ 8:00 a.m.
May 30 through 31	Clergy Information Days at St. John Cathedral, Munhall.
June 2.....	5 th & Final All Souls Commemoration at (NS) @ 6:00 p.m. – June 3 - (MR) @ 9:00 a.m.
June 3	Helping Hands Day, Mt. St. Macrina, Uniontown
June 4	Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit — Pentecost Sunday — Patronal Feast. Patronal Dinner Celebration & Honoring all our Parish Graduates @ 1:00 pm
June 10	Slavjane 40 th Anniversary Concert @ 1:30 p.m. (cf. article).
June 11	Sunday of All Saints & Final Day for fulfilling the Easter Duty Precept. A special G.C.U. Lodge 390 Quarterly Meeting @ (MR) 2:00 p.m.
June 12	MR Parish Advisory Council Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
June 13	NS Parish Advisory Council Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
June 14	GCU Lodge 390 Flag Day Ceremony @ 7:00 p.m.
June 18	Annual Father's Day.
June 23	Vigil Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (NS) 6:00 p.m.
June 24	Solemn Holy Day: Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (MR) 9:00 a.m.

Saints of the Week

Bishop-Martyr Patrick & His Companions

May 19

Saint Patrick lived during the first century and was bishop of the city of Prusa in Bythnia (Asia Minor). He openly and boldly preached Christ the Savior, and denounced the error of the pagans. Therefore, he and the priests, Acacius, Menander and Polyainus were arrested, and brought to Julius, the prefect of the city for interrogation. Julius was going to the hot springs for treatment, and he ordered that the Christian bishop and the priests be brought along after him, bound in iron chains. After he washed in the hot springs, Julius offered sacrifice to his gods. He had Saint Patrick and the other prisoners brought before him, ordering them to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods, threatening punishment if they refused. Saint Patrick replied, "I am a Christian and I worship the one true God, Jesus



Christ, Who has created the heavens and the earth, and these warm springs for the benefit of all mankind." Julius had the saint thrown into the hot spring, and with firm faith the martyr prayed, "Lord, Jesus Christ, help Your servant," and he remained unharmed. In an impotent rage, Julius ordered Saint Patrick and his three presbyters beheaded. They received their crowns of unfading glory from Christ around the year 100.

General Announcements

PLANS UNDERWAY FOR PATRONAL PENTECOST DINNER — Our Patronal Feast Day Dinner at the (MR) school hall is being planned for **Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 2017 @ 1:00 p.m.** This special celebration will mark the 100th anniversary of our MR Church Building; and the 115th anniversary of the founding of our NS Holy Ghost Church. 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 Church would like to honor all of our High School and College Graduates on the occasion of our Patronal Feast, **June 4** 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 or email the church office with the following information: (1) University/College of Graduation; (2) Date of Graduation; (3) Graduating Degree; (4) Future plans and employment; and (4) will you be attending the Recognition Luncheon. Deadline is May 28



GCU LODGE 390 UPCOMING QUARTERLY MEETING — A special quarterly Lodge meeting date has been revised for **Sunday, June 11, 2017** in the MR Gym @ 2:00 p.m. Members, please mark your calendars. Following the meeting, food and raffles will take place.

BI-PARTISAN PRO-LIFE GUIDE: TAKE TO THE POLLS — PA Primary Elections are this **Tuesday, May 16.** 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!



SLAVJANE 41ST ANNUAL CONCERT TICKETS — The Slavjane Folk Ensemble will be celebrating their annual Dinner-Theater at St. Elias Byzantine Catholic Church, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road, Munhall, PA on **Saturday, June 10, 2017. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. & Concert @ 6:00 p.m.** The Reception will then follow in the Church Hall. Donation is Adult - \$5.00; Students under 16 – No Charge. 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!



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). In regards to the latter, 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. If you have not attended to your Easter Duty Precept, the **Sunday of All Saints (June 11)** 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.