Parish Offerings - Royal Entry of Our Lord Into Jerusalem Palm (Flowery) Sunday & Feast of Annunciation — Mar. 25, 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	\$585.00
Flowery Sunday (\$1,932) Holy Day (\$540) Easter (\$280) YP (\$15.53)	2,767.53
Special Donation (In mem of Helen Petak by Dgtr: Marilyn Furman)	1,200.00
Votive Candles (\$121.05) Easter Décor (\$183)	304.05
Holy Ghost Church, Northside	\$4,856.58
Regular Offering	\$150.75
Flowery Sunday (\$268) Holy Day (\$235) Easter (\$25)	
Utilities (\$45) Improv (\$5)	50.00
Special Donation (In mem of Michael Sotak, Jr. by Wife: Jane)	100.00
Votive Candles (\$79.13) Easter Decor (\$10)	89.13

Church Attendance Last Week

\$917.88

(MR) Sat., *3:45 p.m. (52) Sun., (MR) *8:45 a.m. (113); (NS) *10:45 a.m. (50)

Presanctified Divine Liturgy — Holy Mon., (MR) 7:00 p.m. (10) Presanctified Divine Liturgy — Holy Tue., (NS) 7:00 p.m. (10)

Presanctified Divine Liturgy — **Holy Wed.**, (MR) 7:00 p.m. (28)

Great Vespers w/Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great — Holy Thrs., (MR) 7:00 p.m. (31) 12 Passion Gospels — Great Fri., (MR) 8:00 a.m. (23); Royal Hours (MR) 12 noon (4)

Entombment Vespers w/Procession — (NS) 5:00 p.m. (58); (MR) 7:00 p.m. (110)







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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

THE RADIANT RESURRECTION **OF OUR LORD, GOD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

THE GREAT DAY — APRIL 1, 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 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 1, 2018

Date

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VII, Number 13



Christ is Risen! — Indeed! He is Risen! Christos Voskrese!! — Voistinnu Voskrese!



Liturgical Services for the Week

Intention Requested By

RADIANT RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Easter Sunday — The Great Day — MIROVANIJE — Blessing of the Artos — Proclamation of the Evangelist John's Gospel in 3 languages: Latin, Church Slavonic and English

CHRIST IS RISEN!

SUN., APR 1

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

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Michael Lorinc

Wife: Betty



No Simple Abstinence from meat all week in the light of the Radiant Resurrection

Proclamation of the 4 Resurrectional Gospels at the four corners of the Church * The BRIGHT HOURS will be celebrated each day before the Empty Tomb 15 minutes prior

SOLEMN HOLY DAY

BRIGHT MON, APR 2 * 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes * 6:00 p.m. (NS) + Mary Frances Pungras Sister: Anna Pungras Demianczyk

SIMPLE HOLY DAY

BRIGHT TUE. APR 3 * 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners from Both Parishes 12:00 Noon (MR) + Paschal Funeral Divine Liturgy of Pauline Gaydas

> * 6:00 p.m. (NS) + Andrew Latta (5th ann of passing 4/4)

Wife: Arlene & Family

Bright Wed, Apr 4

* 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Edward Zotyak

Wife: Florence

Bright Thrs, Apr 5

* 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Fr. Charles M. Yastishock Nancy & Michael Ferrell (40th day of passing 3/30)

The Passing of St. Methodius, Apostle of the Slavs

Bright Fri, Apr 6

* 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Margaret Dubensky (40th day of passing 3/30)



Final Day of Bright Week — Closing of the Royal & Deacon Doors

Bright Sat. Apr 7

* 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna Hrebenak

Datr: Maria, Luke & Anita

(9th ann of passing 4/13)

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Antipasch & St. Thomas – Divine Mercy Sunday **4:00 p.m.** (MR) + Nicholas Terrek (13th ann of passing) Wife: Mildred & Family

SUNDAY OF THE ANTIPASCH & ST. THOMAS



Divine Mercy Sunday - 2nd Paschal Sunday Distribution of the Artos at the Mirovanije

SUN., APR 8 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary Fejka (22nd ann. of passing 4/6)

Dgtr: Susie

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 Apr 2 - Russell Sidun; Apr 3 - Beverly Harsh.

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

HOME: Irene Bordas, Margaret Beliunas, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona 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, Mariorie 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. MANOR CARE (1848 Greentree Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220): John Marks.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Why do we believe in indulgences? A. Answer by Catholic Apologist: In a nutshell, our belief in indulgences is rooted in the fact that we are sinners in need of God's mercy. We all sin and will incur punishment for our sins, either in the form of eternal punishment or temporal punishment (Isa. 1:18, Rom. 5:9, 2 Sam. 12). When we are absolved of our mortal sins in the sacrament of reconciliation, the eternal punishment is removed, but the temporal punishment remains. The Catechism explains: "Absolution takes away sin, but it does not remedy all the disorders sin has caused" (1459). Thus, the priest imposes a penance on the penitent, which can take the form of "prayer, an offering, works of mercy, service of neighbor, voluntary self-denial, sacrifices, and above all the patient acceptance of the cross we must bear" (1460). Read more from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (1472-1473).



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

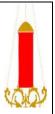
Continue to burn before the real presence of our Lord, God & Savior Jesus

April 1 — April 7, 2018

(MR): In memory of Rose Babin (14th ann of passing) offered by Dgtr: Janet Sendro & Family

(NS): In memory of Anna & George Grazorchalk

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2018 offered by Dgtr: Alice Slagle & Family (NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2018



McKees Rocks Announcements

ALL DIVINE LITURGIES THIS WEEK BEGIN EARLIER — Just a reminder that we will be starting each of the Bright Week Divine Liturgies 15 minutes earlier with the **BRIGHT HOURS** at the Tomb. They are beautiful prayers and glorify the Feast of the Radiant Resurrection!

SPECIAL CLASSES COMMENCES IN TWO WEEKS — For those who wish to know the fundamental teachings of the Catholic Church and to increase your knowledge of the Byzantine-Ruthenian Catholic Church, here is your chance. This 12 week format will be presented to anyone who is non-Catholic and for those who are Catholic of another Rite, and those who wish to increase their understanding of our Rite. This series (1 hour each) will commence next **Sunday**, **April 8, 2016** @ 6:00 p.m. Please phone the Church Office to officially register: (412) 771-3324.

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.

GRATITUDE TO OUR PIROHI WORKERS — Where did the weeks go? Special Thanks to all who took the reins of the project and those who came out faithfully every week to see this Project through! In gratitude we will meet for an appreciation luncheon at the Rivers Casino on **Bright Friday!** God bless you for sacrificing your time and effort!

Holy Ghost, Northside

THOMAS SUNDAY 50/50 RAFFLE NEXT SUNDAY — Since we no longer have the Ham & Turkey Bingos, 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 next week, **Thomas Sunday, April 8, 2018** following the Divine Liturgy.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO GAVE OF THE THREE T'S — Our pastor extends a heartfelt

thank you to all who remembered him this Resurrectional Season with all the prayers, gifts and especially for responding to our liturgical services. Your TIME, TALENT and TREASURE are truly appreciated and important to keep our Holy Ghost alive and active

for the continual preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ and Dispensing the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments) without interruption for over 110 years! A special thank you to our Church Decorators and Altar Cover Changer whose unique talent make our Church fantastically beautiful at this time of the year by cleaning and arranging the flowers around the Tomb and the Holy Altar; to those who lead the singing and the readings; to the 12 men who stood vigil during the Proclamation of the 12 Passion Gospels on Great Friday; to

our altar servers, St. Aqualina ministers and ushers, to our parish secretary and to all of you who have attended additional liturgical services during The Great Fast and Holy Week; and to everyone else who made this Holy Season a memorable reality! A special thanks extended to Rich Fitzpatrick for guarding the Church during the tomb-vigil and guarding the Paschal Food Baskets prior to the solemn blessing. May Our Risen Lord Jesus bless all of you! – CHRIST IS RISEN!!!

Ruthenian (RUSYN) & Ukrainian: Christos Voskres! Voistinnu Voskres!
Church Slavonic: Christos Voskrese! Voistinnu Voskrese!
Hungarian: Feltamadt Krisztus! Valaban Feltamadt!
Slovak: Kristus vstal zmr'tvych! Skutoc ne vstal!

PASCHAL (EASTER) SUNDAY THE RADIANT RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, GOD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

My Dear Parishioners:

What a true privilege it was to make the vicarious walk in the footsteps of Our



Lord, God & Savior Jesus Christ this year. The Holy Week liturgical services beginning on Lazarus Saturday through the Resurrectional Matins and Resurrectional Divine Liturgy make it possible each year. The over-abundant mercy of God is reverberated through the sacred words and melodies of our

Church. It is truly an uplifting spiritual experience to know that God rejects no one who comes to Him with a humbled and contrite heart no matter what we have foolishly done or committed in our life. Let us share this Good News to those we love, especially those who are estranged from God and wish to be reconciled to Him while it is still day (life). For the night (physical death) will come and then it will be too late. May our Resurrectional Greeting that CHRIST IS RISEN be lived so others may see by our example this great mercy of the Most Holy Trinity. May the Radiant Resurrection of Jesus be a blessing to you and those whom you love! CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRISTOS VOSKRESE! — Fr. Firko

THE GREAT DAY --- VELIK DEN

Today as we commemorate the total and complete triumph of Our Lord's Radiant Resurrection flowing from the Empty Tomb of Christ, this

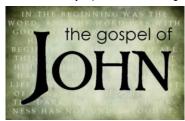
Resurrection flowing from the Empty Tomb of Christ, this Principle Feast of our Faith festively echoes and resounds Jesus' message of HOPE for mankind in the "New Life" that He secured for us by His Passion, Death and Resurrection. The founders and benefactors of our Byzantine Catholic Church referred to this day as **THE GREAT DAY** since the Lord Jesus Who is the New Paschal Lamb was victorious in securing for us a NEW PASSOVER. From darkness to Light, from death to Life!



PROCLAMATION OF GOSPEL IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES

The New Creation brought forth by Christ (John 1: 1 – 12)

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Johns' Gospel Prologue is proclaimed at the Easter



Divine Liturgy on each year. It is divided into 12 separate verses indicating that the 12 apostles' mission was to proclaim the Good News throughout the world. These verses may be chanted in several different languages so that all peoples may hear and understand the Good News. The pealing of the bells send forth this jubilant message to the entire universe that Jesus, The Messiah, established the spreading of

His Church under the pastoral leadership of Peter and the Holy Apostles. Today, it is the Pope and all Bishops united with him that have this mission. Let us be grateful to Almighty God for all priests who continue this sacred mission & to all Christian faithful who live it!

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS INCLUDING BRIGHT WEEK

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.

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
April 8 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.

Sanctified Dinner Today

Following the Solemn Blessing of the Paschal Foods in our Easter Baskets, we take



these festive and Sanctified Foods to our homes for our Paschal Meal. The Ruthenian people refer to this meal as the **SANCTIFIED DINNER**. This is a beautiful and meaningful custom passed on to us. May we always cherish it and pass it to future generations as a part of our particular custom so that God's grace bestowed on these bountiful gifts may be received by all.

Traditional & Special 3 Days of Easter

Easter Sunday, Bright Monday and Bright Tuesday mark the customary 3 days of

Easter (Pascha). We refer to this week as BRIGHT WEEK because of the brilliance that flows from the empty-tomb of Christ! The Resurrectional Feast is celebrated throughout these next seven days; the first three days are of special significance. The Church bestows particular graces to all the faithful who attend and worship God and worthily receive the Holy Eucharist at this time. The pioneers of our Holy Ghost Parish filled these days with their



presence and festively proclaimed CHRISTOS VOSKRESE! Let us follow in their footsteps and imitate their faith and love for the Resurrected Jesus and their Byzantine Catholic Tradition.

Ruthenian (Rusyn) Folklore Remembered

On Bright Monday and Bright Tuesday, traditional Rusyn Folklore reminds us that



Jesus' followers were so overwhelmed with the joy of their Resurrected Savior that they went through the streets of Jerusalem proclaim the news of the Radiant Resurrection. Their opponents tried to squelch their enthusiasm by throwing water from their upstairs window at them. Our Byzantine Catholic ancestors of the Carpathian Mountains developed the "POLIVANKA" that is "Water-pouring" on each other. On Bright Monday, the men would pour (actually throw) water upon the women; and the later in turn did the

same to the men on Bright Tuesday. As they enacted this tradition from the past they cried out, "CHRISTOS VOSKRESE!" CHRIST IS RISEN!!!

General Announcements

EMPTY TOMB REMAINS VISIBLE FOR 40 DAYS — Over the course of the next 40 days, the Empty Tomb will remain in our midst as a reminder that **CHRIST IS RISEN!** It is meant to motivate us in giving witness to this truth and to bring others to experience Him. The burial shroud (Plaschanica) is placed on the altar prior to the Resurrectional Matins signifying that the Resurrected Christ remains with us vicariously as He was with His disciples strengthening them in their Faith. It is a time of over-whelming joy prior to His glorious Ascension into Heaven.

CUSTOM TO PRAY BEFORE THE EMPTY-TOMB — You are encouraged to pray before the Empty-Tomb of Our Lord as it is set in our presence for the 40 days of Easter. It is a way of manifesting our personal and collective Faith in the Risen Lord Jesus and the radiant power that flows from it. A special prayer of the Church is available at the Tomb.

THE "GLORIFIED-CROSS" DESIGNATES "CHRIST IS RISEN!" — Throughout the entire Paschal Period, our Byzantine Catholic Church glorifies the triumphant Cross of Christ. So until Pentecost Sunday all of our Byzantine Crosses (even the ones you wear) should be turned in the reversed manner. Thus the bottom bar should look as though it's backwards!

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 (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.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY NEXT WEEK — The Sunday following Easter (Pascha) is a very special Sunday when the Divine Floodgates from Heaven are wide-opened and Jesus offers



us the total forgiveness of all sins and punishment to any soul, who goes to Confession and receives Him in Holy Communion on that day. Our Lord's promise to grant complete forgiveness of sins and punishment on the Feast of Mercy is recorded three times in the Diary of Saint Faustina, each time in a slightly different way: "I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy" (1109). "Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment" (300). "The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion will obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment" (699). To be eligible to receive this promise of the Lord

Jesus Himself, one must make seek His Mercy is the Holy Mystery (Sacrament) of Reconciliation, and receive Holy Communion on this day. Avail yourself to this gift!

This is the Resurrection Day,

let us be enlightened by this Feast ... let us forgive one another and let us sing: Christ is Risen!!!