

Parish Offerings – Thomas Sunday — April 8, 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 (\$1,748) YP (\$8)	\$1,756.00
Easter (\$135) Holy Days (\$198)	333.00
Special Donation (by Lisa & Mark Petrunia)	100.00
Votive Candles (\$86.50) Coffee Social (\$19.75)	106.25
	\$2,295.25

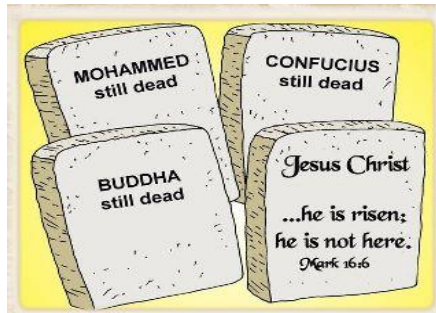
Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$615.52
Easter (\$135) Holy Days (\$20)	155.00
Church Improvement (\$5) BCW (\$28) Initial (\$10)	43.00
Votive Candles	50.80
	\$864.32

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (44)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (70); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (34)



Valerian F. Szal
238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412) 331-9713
331-9713
Fax: (412) 331-6688
Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953

I don't have time to worry about who doesn't like me.
I'm too busy loving the people who love me.

DESIGNS BY NANCY
235 McCartney Drive,
Moon Township 15108
Phone: (412) 262-9141
Nancde@aol.com
Nancy C. Debranski
Sewing, Alternations, 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 MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN With Joseph & Nicodemus — 3rd Paschal Sunday April 15, 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 Beliuas (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

Before the sun was up, a group of women sought the true Sun, whom they believed had set in the tomb. To these Myrrh-Bearers, the radiant angel appeared and said: 'The resplendent Light enlightens those who sleep in the darkness. Go and announce to the radiant disciples that sorrow is now changed into joy.' With a confident heart and clapping of hands cry out with joy: The Pasch of joy now saves us. Christ is Risen and grants great mercy to the world.' (Great Vespers for Myrrh-Bearers Sunday)

April 15, 2018

Seasonal Greeting

Volume VIII, Number 15



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



Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN			
Joseph of Arithemea & Nicodemus – 3rd Paschal Sunday			
SUN., Apr 15	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Simko + Buchko Families	Peggy & Chuck McCusker
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
Mon, Apr 16	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Geraldine Nazak (2 nd ann of passing)	Husband: Andy & Dgtrs
Tues, Apr 17	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Barry W. Smyda (40 th of passing 4/16)	MaryEllen & John Oslick
Weds, Apr 18	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Marlene Eisenman	Sister: Martha & Bob Maletz
Thrs, Apr 19	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Elsie Eberle	Leonora & Greg Haffly
REQUIRD SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)			
Fri, Apr 20	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Jennie Timulak	Jackie & Mel Weinstein
Sat, Apr 21	*10:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Irena Katicova	Singing Revilak Family

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Paralytic Man

4:00 p.m. (MR) + John N. Zavidny. Wife: Bunny & Family
 (8th ann of passing 4/20)



SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN
4th Paschal Sunday

SUN., Apr 22 **9:00 a.m. (MR)** + Joseph Hrebenak Dgtr: Maria, Luke & Anita
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 15 – Stephen Katrenich; John Timulak **Apr 17** – EDWARD SPONTAK, Hilary Zubritzky;
Apr 18 – Dale Charochak, Denese Wickline; **Apr 19** – LOGAN KALLOP; **Apr 20** – DIANE VIDA.

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

HOME: Irene Bordas, Margaret Beliuas, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Iona 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.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Is it OK to attend daily Mass (Divine Liturgy) every day? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** The Church obliges the faithful to take part in the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and feast days (Holy Days of Obligation) and, prepared by the sacrament of Reconciliation, to receive the Eucharist at least once a year, if possible during the Easter season. But the Church strongly encourages the faithful to receive the holy Eucharist on Sundays and feast days, or more often still, even daily (Catechism of the Catholic Church, number 1389).

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

April 15 — April 21, 2018

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

offered by Alice & Anna May Sejka

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

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2018 offered by Joan Senchyshyn (NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2018



McKees Rocks Announcements

SPECIAL CLASSES CONTINUE MONDAY — The first class has commenced last week 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 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 continue **Monday evening, April 16, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m.** in Church Basement Library area classroom. These sessions serve as convert instructions.

BYZAN-TEEN YOUTH GROUP MATCHING FUNDS PROJECT — The Youth Group still has several Chocolate Candy Bars remaining on a matching funds project. GCU Lodge 390 will match their total. They are extending this sale for this weekend. 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.

PROPERTY CLEANUP THIS WEEK — To tidy up the Church grounds this Spring, we are calling on all parishioners to set aside this **Saturday, April 28, 2018** from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon for this purpose! Weeding and hedge trimming are especially needed. Please bring garbage bags, hedge clippers, brooms, gloves and any other necessary instruments to make this cleanup easier. We are counting on you! Also, if you know anyone needing social working credit hours, we invite them to this event.



Holy Ghost, Northside

50/50 RAFFLE HAS A WINNER — Following last week's Sunday Divine Liturgy the 50/50 took place. We took in a total of \$803.00; \$401.50 to both the winner and the Holy Ghost NS Church! It came just in time to make a partial payment towards our real estate taxes. The winner came from a drawn gold ticket #049561. N.C. Gogal of Pittsburgh was the winner. We will now apply to GCU Headquarters for matching funds. We wish to thank Roxanne Savka now a member of GCU Lodge 390 for selling tickets at her home parish of St. Andrew's in Gibsonia. We thank Mary Frances and Edward Spontak, Sr. for spearheading this project; and thank you to all who supported this important money making endeavor.



PROPERTY CLEANUP IN MAY — To tidy up the Church grounds this Spring, we are calling on all parishioners to set aside **Saturday, May 12, 2018** from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon for this purpose! Weeding and hedge trimming are especially needed. Please bring garbage bags, hedge clippers, brooms, gloves and any other necessary instruments to make this cleanup easier. We are counting on you! Also, if you know anyone needing social working credit hours, we invite them to this event.



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.

5 Reasons Why We Should Try to Go To Daily Mass (Divine Liturgy)

(The follow article appeared on the web-page from the Roman Rite Diocese of Salina, Kansas. The author is Rev. Steve Heina. He will use the term 'Mass' but it is also to be understood also in the context of Byzantine Rite terminology 'Divine Liturgy.' Please read and ponder.)



I've been going to daily Mass for the greater part of twenty years. In the days and weeks after September 11, my soul was touched by the number of people who also began attending. I thought I understood God's purpose in allowing that evil day to happen. It seemed the churches were half-full, at daily Masses. I wondered why they were not completely full. Then, as things seem to brighten and become more stable, the churches gradually emptied again. I guess we really didn't understand... God's love and protection are the only real stability we will ever know in life. So, below are five reasons I go to daily Mass. I believe they are five of the same reasons you, also, might consider.

1. Receiving Christ in the Blessed Eucharist gives us the strength to fight selfish pride and sin. Pride and ego are two of the many demons most of us must battle constantly. We desire pleasure, things, convenience, notice, etc. It's a constant struggle to weaken these impulses... especially when they impact our other priorities and relationships. We cannot win the struggle alone. We were not created perfect. We were born frail and defective so that we might acknowledge that any good which happens in us or through us is from God. It takes supernatural strength to combat ego; and we can get that strength from our Lord present in the Eucharist. The sanctifying grace that pours through us when we receive the consecrated host allows us to stop before uttering a word of anger, or engaging in a selfish sin. Simply put, the Eucharist strengthens us for the daily journey.

2. Praising God first thing in the morning is the most important thing on our daily calendar. "First things first", as they say. And since we've been blessed to be a member of this one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, we should understand that it's a privilege and a gift that we can make God the first and most important person in our day by worshipping Him in His temple. Plus, God asks for the first fruits of our harvest, the first tenth of all our blessings. Going to Mass is offering the first part of our day to the Lord who is the source of all our blessings. It's the best form of Catholic stewardship.

3. The Mass is my ongoing spiritual formation. One beautiful thing about the Mass is that it is so drenched in scripture. Attending Mass daily allows us to soak in God's Word. Reading and reflecting on the daily scriptures the evening before makes the Mass seem even richer and more fulfilling. The Mass helps us get a full Catholic education in Christ -- stewardship, the sacraments, the saints, and evangelization. It helps us grown in the Lord a day at a time.

4. The Mass heals. Every Mass is a healing experience. It heals wounds caused by our sinful nature, it heals our relationship with God and with one another, bringing us closer to our Lord, giving us opportunities to draw near and receive Him not only in the Word, but also in the Blessed Sacrament.

5. You meet your Creator, your friend, your love. It is good to be a friend and lover of God. On the day we see Him face-to-face, we will realize that which we have missed throughout our lives. As Saint Augustine says: "my heart is restless until it rests in You." Find your shelter in the wings of the Lord. Find it, every morning, in His Holy temple. During the day, find it in silent prayer wherever we are. We will come to yearn for the Lord knowing that our day is incomplete without prayer and worship. We will find no greater solace than in His Word, in His sacraments, and in surrendering to His love. In accepting the challenge of meeting Jesus daily in the Eucharist, we will find more joy than ever.

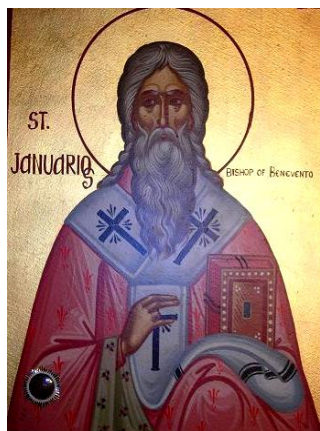
CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

April 16 II 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.
 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.

Saint of the Week — April 21

Holy Bishop-Martyr Januarius & Companions

The Bishop-Martyr Januarius Bishop of Benevento, and the deacons Proculus, Sossius



and Faustus, Desiderius the Reader, Eutychius and Acution suffered martyrdom for Christ about the year 305 during the persecution ordered by the emperor Diocletian (284-305). They arrested Saint Januarius and led him to trial before Menignus, the governor of Campagna (central Italy). Because of his firm confession of Christianity, they threw the saint into a red-hot furnace. But like the Babylonian youths, he came out unharmed. Then at Menignus's command, they stretched him out on a bench and beat him with iron rods until his bones were exposed. In the crowd were Deacon Faustus and the Reader Desiderius, who wept at the sight of their bishop's suffering. The pagans surmised that they were Christians, and threw them into

prison with the Bishop-Martyr Januarius, in the city of Puteolum. At this prison were two deacons who had been jailed for confessing Christ: Saints Sossius and Proculus, and also two laymen, Saints Eutychius and Acution. On the following morning they led out all the martyrs into the circus to be torn to pieces by wild beasts, but the beasts would not touch them. Menignus claimed that all the miracles were due to sorcery on the part of the Christians, and immediately he became blinded and cried out for help. The gentle Bishop-Martyr Januarius prayed for his healing, and Menignus recovered his sight. The torturer's blindness of soul, however, was not healed. He accused the Christians of sorcery, and ordered the martyrs beheaded before the walls of the city (+ 305). Christians from surrounding cities took up the bodies of the holy martyrs for burial, and those of each city took one, in order to have an intercessor before God. The inhabitants of Neapolis (Naples) took the body of the Bishop-Martyr Januarius. With the body, they also collected his dried blood. Since the fifteenth century, the blood liquifies when the container is placed near another relic, believed to be the martyr's head. Many miracles proceeded from the relics of the Bishop-Martyr Januarius. During an eruption of Vesuvius around 431, the inhabitants of the city prayed to Saint Januarius to help them. The lava stopped, and did not reach the city.

General Announcements

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN — The Third Sunday after Easter is dedicated to the memory of seven of the most dedicated and courageous women of the New Testament. We know a great deal about the Twelve Apostles of Christ, but we know very little about the Myrrh-Bearing Women who were devoted to Christ equally as much as the Apostles themselves. They were with Jesus as He preached the message of Salvation. They were with Him when He was taken



down from Calvary. It was these women who came to anoint His Sacred Body and prepare it for burial. This is why the Church refers to them as the "Myrrh-Bearing Women." Who were they? 1. **Mary Magdalene**; 2. **Salome**; 3. **Mary, the Mother of James and Joses**; 4. **Johanna, the wife of Chuza**; 5. **Susanna**; 6 & 7. **Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus**. These glorious ladies of the Church remained steadfast in their faith and brought glory to the Church of Christ. The Fathers of the Church consider them "equal to the Apostles."

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.



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 Corapolis, PA. Boxes will be placed in the Church Narthex and Side Vestibule **through Apr. 25**. It would be most appreciative if you would support this Volunteer Month effort. For further information, you may contact Deb Charochak (412) 331-0953.

NO CANADIAN MONEY PLEASE — Over the past several weeks, our counters have been discovering Canadian Coins in the collection. Although we love our Canadian brethren, the bank is not accepting and giving us credit towards the deposit. Please be very careful in not depositing these coins especially in the candle collection. It is greatly appreciated!

