

Parish Offerings – Thomas Sunday — April 28, 2019

“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 (\$1,357) YP (\$13)	.....	\$1,370.00
Easter (\$130) Holy Days (\$206) YP (\$1)	.....	337.00
Radio Ministry	.....	200.00
Votive Candles	.....	72.50
		<hr/>
		\$1,979.50

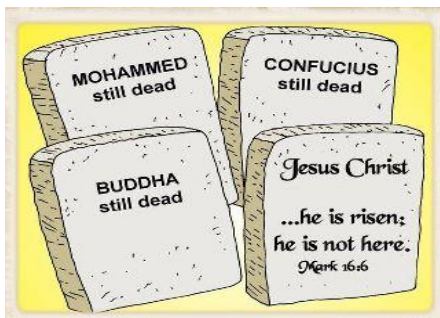
Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	.....	\$409.60
Easter (\$145) Holy Days (\$30)	.....	175.00
Church Improvement (\$10) Utilities (\$75)	.....	85.00
Votive Candles	.....	45.50
		<hr/>
		\$715.10

Church Attendance Last Week

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

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (85); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (33)



FOR SALE - Single owner tomb. Only used three days, and still has that new tomb smell. Reason for sale.. resident was resurrected.

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



DESIGNS BY NANCY
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*Sewing, Alternations, Custom
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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

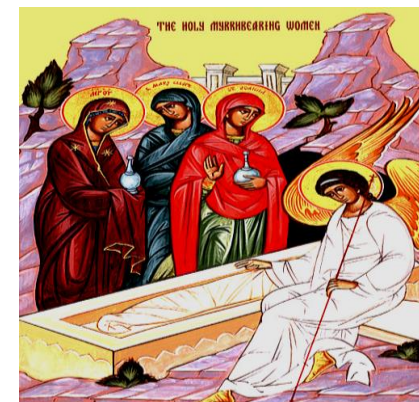
This space available for ads for wishing someone birthday or anniversary greetings, get-well wishes, etc. Call the office (412) 771-3324

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 May 5, 2019



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 Tina Burns (412) 859-9597 for membership requirements.

Slavjane Folk Ensemble: (MR) Membership requirements contact Bob Bartko: (412) 779-0915.

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)

May 5, 2019

Seasonal Greeting

Volume IX, 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 MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

Joseph of Arimathea & Nicodemus – 3rd Paschal Sunday

SUN., May 5		9:00 a.m. (MR) + George Kurtanich (<i>birthday 5/7</i>)	Children
		11:00 a.m. (NS) + Mary Farabaugh	Ron & Marianne Farabaugh
Mon, May 6	***	10:00 a.m. (MR)	Health & Welfare (<i>Birthday</i>) Helen Hopey
Tues, May 7		8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Jennie Timulak Becky & Michael Mozuch
Weds, May 8		8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Helen Jayne Skreptach Maria, Luke & Anita Iyengar
Thrs, May 9		8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Eleanor Kulka  Kim & Eric Ruud
Fri, May 10		REQUIRFD SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)	
		8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Joyce D. Ray George Lucas
		6:30 p.m. (MR)	The Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary
Sat, May 11		9:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Agnes Knoll Sally Sawicki

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Paralytic Man

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Evelyn Squires. Bro: Steve & Dolores Kosko



SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN

4th Paschal Sunday — Annual Mother's Day

SUN., May 12 **9:00 a.m. (MR)** Thanksgiving (*40th Wed. Ann 5/5*) Peggy & Chuck McCusker
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

May 5 – Irene Muha; **May 6** – Gregory Fejka; Helen Hopey (93); **May 7** – Matthew Zoldos.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Iloa Goyda, Beverly Harsh, MILAN JUGAN, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Lisa Plutto, Betty Spisak, EVELYN VENTO, Anita Wolsko, 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.

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.
LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR (1028 Benton Ave., PGH 15212): MARY SAHAYDA
VETERANS HOSPITAL (1010 Delafield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15215): JOHN VEREB.
NEW HOPE ASSISTED LIVING (300 Union Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15202): Helen Hopey.
VICTORIA MANOR PERSONAL CARE HOME (100 Rose Ct., Oakdale, PA 15071): Andrew Drukalsky.

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

May 5 — May 11, 2019

(MR): **In memory of Agnes Kacsur**
 offered by Alice & Anna May Sejka

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

(MR) All reserved for 2019

offered by Sister: Velma Seman

(NS) All reserved for 2019



McKees Rocks Announcements

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of former parishioner, **Stephen P. Malis, 94**, formally of McKees Rocks, PA, on Wednesday, April 24, 2019 near Roswell, GA. Both he and his wife, Mary moved to GA a few years ago. The Cromwell Funeral Home & Crematory, Peachtree, GA is handling the arrangements. A Paschal Funeral Service will be offered at the Epiphany Byzantine Catholic Church, Roswell. Our Parish extends its most sincere sympathies and prayerful solicitude to his wife, Mary, and the entire Malis Family. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant, Stephen, and remember him forever because Christ is Risen!. *Vicnaja Jemu*



Pamjat ibo Christos Voskrese!

SUMMARY OF OUR LENTEN PIROHI PROJECT — Listed is a summary of this year's Lenten Pirohi Account. Total Proceeds in *Parish Savings & Share Account* prior to Pirohi Sales (\$76,267.00); Total Income from sales (\$22,982.26) Expenses (-\$4,259.67). Minus 5% Cathedraticum (-\$1,149.11); Grand Buffet, Rivers Casino (-\$406.83), Total Profit (\$17,166.65). Current Total in PS&S account: (\$93,434.64). This fund continues to make at least 2% interest. Plans are now in motion for the renovation of the Church & Gym Rest Rooms. Thank you again to all who made this Project possible. God bless you for your sacrifice!



PROPERTY CLEANUP THIS WEEK — To tidy up the Church grounds this Spring, we are calling on all parishioners to set aside on **Saturday, May 18, 2019** 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

WINNERS OF THE TRI-FECTRA — Following last week's Sunday Divine Liturgy the **50/50** took place. **We took in a total of \$588.00.** The winner (HGC-MR) wishes to remain anonymous and who generously returned the entire amount back to the Church. We are extremely grateful! May God look upon your sacrificial gift and reward you! The **Bakeless Bake Sale totaled \$4,882.29** (MR - donated \$2,409.00; NS - donated \$1,973.29); St. Andrew Church, Gibsonia (donated \$500.00). With your help, we have reached the maximum amount of the \$3,000.00 matching funds from the GCU! Total for the **Easter Baskets was \$453.00.** Winners were: Baskets #1 – Theresa Hrishenko (MR); #2- Barbara Stecko (MR); #3 – Susan Freeling (Gibsonia); #4 – George Hudanick, Sr. (NS); #5 – George Brosky (MR); #6 & #7 – Julie Harrilla (Gibsonia). We wish to thank Roxanne Savka Vice-President of GCU Northwestern Lodge for selling tickets at her home parish of St. Andrew's in Gibsonia. We thank Mary Frances and Edward Spontak, Sr. for spearheading the 50/50 Raffle project. A big THANK YOU is extended to all who supported this important money making endeavor. The total income (there were no expenses) for this three-fold capital fund raiser was **\$5,923.29.**

PROPERTY CLEANUP IN MAY — To tidy up the Church grounds this Spring, we are calling on all parishioners to set aside this **Saturday, May 11, 2019** 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.



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

(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

May 4-5	Final Weekend Coffee Social until September.
May 5	GCU Lodge Meeting (MR) Church Basement @ 2:00 p.m. Archieparchial Choral Concert (cf) article @ 3:00 p.m.
May 11	Feasts of Saints Cyril & Methodius & Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko.
May 12	Annual Mother's Day.
May 15	Feast of Mid-Pentecost.
May 26	Memorial Day Weekend observed.
May 29	Great Vespers w/ Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Ascension: (MR) 7:00 p.m.
May 30	Feast of the Ascension: — Holy Day of Obligation — (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
Jun 7-8	5 th & Final All Souls Saturday: Friday: (NS) 6:00 p.m.; Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m.

Saints of the Week — May 11

SS. Cyril & Methodius, Equals to the Apostles

Saints Cyril and Methodius were brothers from Thessalonica of distinguished and wealthy parents, Leo and Maria. The older brother Methodius spent ten years as an officer among the Macedonian Slavs and thus learned the Slavic language. After that Methodius withdrew to Mount Olympus and dedicated himself to the monastic life of asceticism. It was here that Cyril (Constantine) later joined him. When the Khazarite king, Kagan, requested preachers of the Faith of Christ from Emperor Michael III then, by command of the emperor, these two brothers were found and sent among the Khazars. Convincing King Kagan of the Faith of Christ, they baptized him along with a great number of his chief assistants and even a greater number of the people. After a period of time, they returned to Constantinople where they compiled the Slavonic alphabet consisting of thirty-eight letters and proceeded to translate ecclesiastical books from Greek into Slavonic. At the request of Prince Rastislav, they traveled to Moravia where they spread and established the devout Faith and multiplied books and distributed them to the priests to teach the youth. At the request of the pope, Cyril traveled to Rome where he became ill and died on February 14, 867 A.D. Then Methodius returned to Moravia and labored to strengthen the Faith of Christ among the Slavs until his death. Following his death - he died in the Lord on April 6, 885 A.D. - his disciples, THE FIVE FOLLOWERS, with St. Clement, the bishop at the head, crossed the Danube River and descended to the south into Macedonia, where from Ohrid they continued their labor among the Rusyn people begun by Cyril and Methodius in the north.



Feast of Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko

Basil Hopko was born on April 21, 1904 in the Rusyn Village of Hrabске near Bardejov, Eastern Slovakia. In 1922 young Basil enrolled into the eparchial seminary in Presov. Following his second year, he was drafted into the army. There he would gather all the Rusyn soldiers together and take them to Sunday services. Upon completing his military service, he completed seminary studies in 1928. He was ordained to the holy priesthood by Bishop Paul P. Gojdich. Fr. Basil served his pastoral assignments faithfully displaying a great love for the poor, workers and Rusyn youth. Foreseeing a political overturn in Czechoslovakia in the autumn of 1946, Bishop Gojdich petitioned Rome that Father Hopko serve as his auxiliary bishop. Bishop Hopko was imprisoned and tortured. He became chaplain to the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate who also took care of him. On Friday, July 23, 1976 following a light lunch, and being helped in an easy chair, he gave up his spirit to the Lord whom he loved and faithfully served. Pope St. John Paul II beatified him on September 14, 2003. His Feast Day is May 11.



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." We, also, commemorate Joseph of Arimathea & Nicodemus.

GCU LODGE QUARTERLY MEETING TODAY — The quarterly Lodge Meeting is this afternoon **Sunday, May 5, 2019 in MR @ 2:00 p.m.** Members are asked to be in attendance.. It is also open to all who wish to join. All it takes is to purchase of a life insurance and/or a high percentage ROTH or REGULAR IRA Certificate.



CHRIST IS RISEN PASCHAL PROGRAM NEXT WEEK — The Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archieparchial Choir presents a Paschal Choral Program entitled, "*Sing with Joy and Rejoice!*" at St. Gregory Nazianzus Byzantine Catholic Church, Upper St. Clair PA, next Sunday, **May 5, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.** The PBCAC welcomes all to this open and free concert. A hospitality reception will be held following the program.



ACCEPTED INTO THE SEMINARY — This past week (MR) parishioner, **Luke R. Iyengar**, received his official letter of acceptance to commence studies in the spiritual formation program at Saints Cyril & Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary, Pittsburgh. Archbishop Skurla accepted Luke for the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh beginning this Fall semester. The pastor and parishioners of our Holy Ghost Churches (MR) & (NS) offer him our most sincere congratulations and prayerful endeavor on his new journey of discernment. May God grant to Luke health and happiness for many blessed years! Na Manohaja I Blahaja L'ita ibo Christos Voskrese!



MARIAN DEVOTIONS CONTINUE 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 6:30 p.m.** for the offering of the Holy Rosary to the Most Holy Mother of God, especially as we commemorate the 102nd anniversary of her appearance in Fatima.

**CHRIST IS RISEN! — INDEED! HE IS RISEN!
CHRISTOS VOSKRESE! — VOISTINU VOSKRESE!**