

**Parish Offerings – Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers — May 5, 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 (\$2,753.75) YP (\$6) .....	\$2,759.75
Easter (\$10) Holy Days (\$30) .....	40.00
Seminary (\$452) Coffee Social (\$36) .....	488.00
Votive Candles .....	111.50
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	\$3,399.25

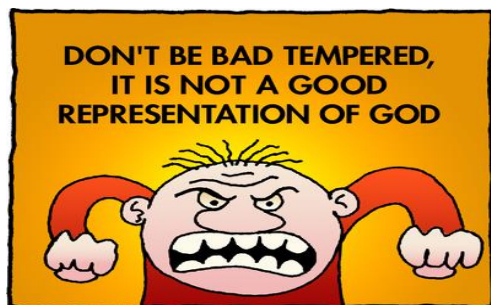
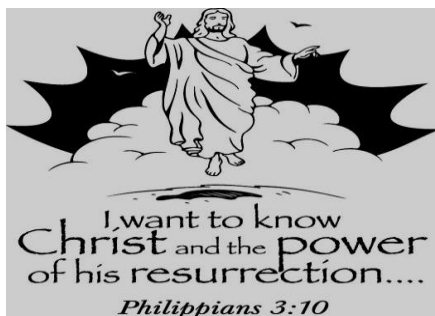
**Holy Ghost Church, Northside**

Regular Offering .....	\$469.00
Holy Days (\$5) Utilities (\$5) Improvement (\$75) .....	85.00
Seminary .....	10.00
Votive Candles .....	52.00
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	\$616.00

**Church Attendance Last Week**

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (106)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (65); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (32)



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

**SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN**

**4<sup>th</sup> Paschal Sunday — Annual Mother's Day**

**May 12, 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](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org) – E-Mail: [ffaf334@verizon.net](mailto:ffaf334@verizon.net)

**SUNDAY RADIO (9:00 am WEDO 810 AM) & INTERNET DIVINE LITURGY**

**Liturgical Services LIVE: [www.Youtube.com](http://www.Youtube.com) then type: Holy Ghost Church Live Stream**

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

**FOR ALL YOU DO, THIS BUD'S FOR YOU!**

**DESIGNS BY NANCY**  
 235 McCartney Drive,  
 Moon Township 15108  
 Phone: (412) 262-9141  
[Nancde@aol.com](mailto:Nancde@aol.com)  
**Nancy C. Debranski**  
*Sewing, Alterations, Custom Embroidery and Unique Gifts*

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.

**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 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

O Savior, my Lord and my God, You desired to raise the fallen human race, You walked upon the earth as a man, healing the sick through Your tender compassion, and having come to the pool at the Sheep gate, You found the man who had been sick for thirty-eight years. By Your word alone You restored him to health (Great Vespers of the Paralytic Man)

May 12, 2019 Seasonal Greeting Volume IX, Number 19



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





**Date**                      **Time**                      **Intention**                      **Requested By**

## SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN

### 4<sup>th</sup> Paschal Sunday — Annual Mother's Day

**SUN., May 12** 9:00 a.m. (MR) Thanksgiving (40<sup>th</sup> Wed. Ann 5/5) Peggy & Chuck McCusker  
 11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Mon, May 13  \*\*\*7:30 a.m. (MR) + Paraska Gramata  Son: Basil & Eleanor  
 (21<sup>st</sup> ann of passing 5/12)  
 Fr. Firko will be attending the Funeral of Fr. Cuccaro in Duquesne, PA @ 10:00 a.m.


Tues, May 14 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Holy Souls in Purgatory Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm.

## COMMEMORATION OF THE FEAST OF MID-PENTECOST

**Wed, May 15** 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary Fejka (birthday) Dgtr: Susie

Thrs, May 16 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael Maletz  Son: Bob & Martha


**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)**

Fri, May 17  8:00 a.m. (MR) + Fr. Richard F. Zula (ordination) Family  
 6:30 p.m. (MR) The Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

Sat, May 18 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Helen Petracosta  Mary Sahayda

\*\*\*\*\*

### Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Samaritan Woman

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Andrew Yakubik  Dgtr: Evelyn  
 (10<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 5/16)

## SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

### Postfestive of Mid-Pentecost – 5<sup>th</sup> Paschal Sunday

**SUN., May 19** 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Margo Family 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*

**May 12** – ELI ANNA TRAPL, Kimberly Zoldos; **May 14** – Mary Lynn Eberle Vorono; **May 15** – Adam Kacsur, Karen Krempasky, George F. Mosko; **May 16** – Loretta Keller; **May 17** – John Oslick, Anita Sidun.

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

**HOME:** Margaret Belionas, Irene Bordas, MARY ANN CONTI, Ilona 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 Hopley.  
**VICTORIA MANOR PERSONAL CARE HOME** (100 Rose Ct., Oakdale, PA 15071): Andrew Drukalsky.

### Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

**Q.** My wife and I have been married fifteen years. We are both lapsed Catholics and both were previously married. My marriage was annulled, hers was not. What is our current standing in the Catholic Church? Can we join a parish? Can we receive Communion? **A.** **Answer by Catholic Answers:** You most certainly can join a parish and attend Mass (Divine Liturgy). But until you have your marriage validated in the Church, you would be unable to receive Communion. If her ex-husband is deceased, then you could simply have your marriage validated right away. If her ex is still living, she would need to receive a decree of nullity (i.e., an annulment) before you could validate your marriage.

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**May 12 — May 18, 2019**

(MR): **In memory of the Pizar & Sejka Families**  
 offered by Alice & Anna May Sejka

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

(MR) All reserved for 2019 offered by Dgtr: Karen, Frank & Matthew (NS) All reserved for 2019



# McKees Rocks Announcements

**RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES 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 4, 2019** were **Madelyn Rose Usouski (L)** and **Olivia Renee Leasure (R)**. They reaffirmed their baptismal promises and in love promised 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 Madelyn and Olivia many happy and blessed years because **CHRIST IS RISEN!**



**A SPECIAL BLESSING ON THEIR MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES** — Following the Sunday Divine Liturgy last week, Fr. Firko bestowed a combined blessing on the Revtai's and McCusker's. **Charles and Peggy McCusker (L)** celebrated their **40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary**; **Frank and Tam Revtai (R)** celebrated their **35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary**. Our parish offers its most sincere congratulation and prayerful best wishes to the two couples. May God grant to Charles and Peggy, and to Frank and Tam, many happy and blessed years because **CHRIST IS RISEN!**



**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR ECF TEACHERS** — Often times we forget the important task that our Eastern Catholic-Christian Formation Teachers accomplish week after week! They are to be commended for their services! This past year's Religious Education teachers were: **Coordinator Steve Puluka, Lori Rippole, Peggi Lucas, Stephanie Herron, Maria & Anita Iyengar, and substitute Ed Connor!** Thank you for the invaluable service rendered to our younger members! They, and their parents, and Godparents are to be commended for their attendance! May God grant them all many Happy and Blessed Years because **CHRIST IS RISEN!**



**PROPERTY CLEANUP THIS WEEK** — **this Saturday, May 18, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Please join us!**

## Holy Ghost, Northside

**SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS** — Much gratitude is extended to all those who sacrificed two hours of their time and muscle strength to bring some spring cleaning to our Church and grounds. Our time is precious! To donate a few hours of this heart-felt gift is greatly appreciated! God bless you!

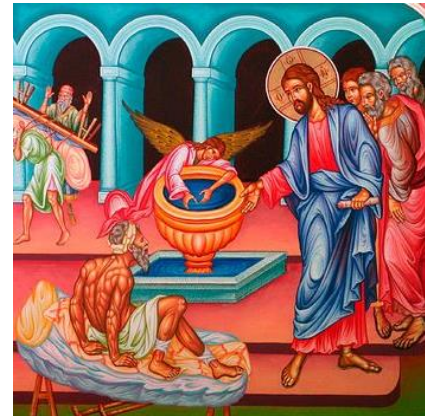
**EASTER DUTY PRECEPT** — All Christian Faithful are OBLIGED to receive the Divine Eucharist when in danger of death AND during the Paschal (Easter) Period (Canon 708). This was traditionally known as the **EASTER DUTY**. When one is aware of Mortal (Deadly) Sin, a Sacramental Confession is necessary 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 (June 16)** 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.

# THE 4<sup>TH</sup> PASCHAL SUNDAY

## The Sunday of the Paralytic Man & Importance of Water

(John 5: 1-15)

The fourth Paschal Sunday is dedicated to Christ's healing of the paralytic. The

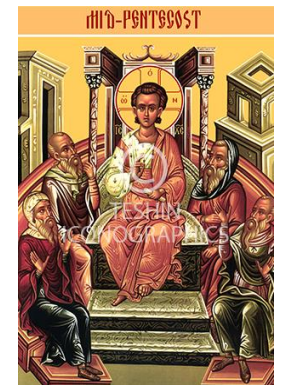


man who had been paralyzed for 38 years is healed by Christ while waiting to be put down into the pool of water. For the next two Sundays, the symbol of water and its importance is indicated. It shows us how imperative Baptism is to remove the paralysis of sin. Through baptism in the church we, too, are healed and saved by Christ for eternal life. Thus, in the church, we are told, together with the paralytic, to "sin no more that nothing worse befall you." (John 5:14). Our baptism is a call to continued repentance. We have been

restored by and through Jesus Christ, and we ought not turn away from that new level of life to our old sinful ways, because that would be courting disaster. Rather, we must strive to root out all sin. As Saint John Climacus said: repentance is the renewal of baptism. "The font of tears after baptism has become greater than baptism...", though this is a bold idea." Our baptism was a pledge to walk in newness of life. The epistle showed us a good woman. On her behalf others interceded with Peter, showing him the fruits of her labor. He was so moved by this goodness, he raised her to life through God's power. May our lives, ever repentant, move God to raise us to life.

## The Feast of Mid-Pentecost on Wednesday

After the Savior had miraculously healed the paralytic, the Pharisees and Scribes, were moved with envy, and sought to slay Him, using the excuse that He did not keep the Sabbath, since He worked miracles on that day. Jesus then departed to Galilee. About the middle of the Feast of Tabernacles, He went up again to the Temple and taught. The Jews, marveled at the wisdom of His words. But Christ first reproached their unbelief and lawlessness, then proved to them by the Law that they sought to slay Him unjustly, since He had healed the paralytic on the Sabbath. Since we have already reached the midpoint of the fifty days between Pascha and Pentecost, the Church has appointed this present feast as a bond between the two great feasts, thereby uniting, as it were, the two into one. Come and be with Our Savior at the Divine Liturgy on this day. Jesus is the Source of Living Water!



## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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 <sup>th</sup> & Final All Souls Saturday: Friday: (NS) 6:00 p.m.; Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m.
Jun 9 .....	Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit — Pentecost Sunday — Patronal Feast. Patronal Dinner Celebration & Honoring all our Parish Graduates @ 1:00 pm.
Jun 10 .....	2 <sup>nd</sup> Day of Pentecost — Feast of the Most Holy Trinity — (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
Jun 16 .....	Sunday of All Saints & Final Day for fulfilling the Easter Duty Precept. Annual Father's Day.

## The Holy Virgin-Martyr Glyceria at Heraclea

**May 13**

Saint Glyceria suffered as a martyr for her faith in Christ in the second century, during a persecution against Christians under the emperor Antoninus (138-161). Saint Glyceria lost both her father and mother at an early age. Falling in with Christians, she converted to the true Faith, and she visited the church every day. Sabinus, the prefect of Trajanopolis, received the imperial edict ordering Christians to offer sacrifice to the idols, and so he designated a certain day for the inhabitants of the city to worship the idol Zeus. Saint Glyceria firmly resolved to suffer for Christ. She told the Christians of her intention, and she begged them to pray that the Lord would give her the strength to undergo the sufferings. On the appointed day Saint Glyceria made the Sign of the Cross on her forehead, and went into the pagan temple. The saint stood on a raised spot in the rays of the sun, and removed the veil from her head, showing the holy Cross traced on her forehead. She prayed fervently to God to bring the pagans to their senses and destroy the stone idol of Zeus. Suddenly thunder was



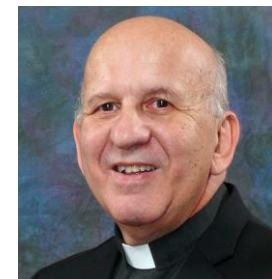
heard, and the statue of Zeus crashed to the floor and smashed into little pieces. In a rage, the prefect Sabinus and the pagan priests commanded the people to pelt Saint Glyceria with stones, but the stones did not touch the saint. They locked Saint Glyceria in prison, where the Christian priest Philokrates came to her and encouraged the martyr in the struggle before her. In the morning, when the tortures had started, suddenly an angel appeared in the midst of the torturers, and they fell to the ground, overcome with terror. When the vision vanished, Sabinus, who was hardly able to speak, ordered them to throw the saint into prison. They shut the door securely and sealed it with the prefect's own ring, so that no one could get in to her. While she was in prison, angels of God brought Saint Glyceria food and drink. Many days afterwards, Sabinus came to the prison and he himself removed the seal. Going in to the saint, he was shaken when he saw her alive and well. Setting off for the city of Heraclea in Thrace, Sabinus gave orders to bring Saint Glyceria there also. The Christians of Heraclea came out to meet her with Bishop Dometius at their head, and he prayed that the Lord would strengthen the saint to endure martyrdom. At Heraclea they cast Saint Glyceria into a red-hot furnace, but the fire was extinguished at once. Then the prefect, in a mindless fury, gave orders to rip the skin from Saint Glyceria's head. Then they threw the martyr into prison onto sharp stones. She prayed incessantly, and at midnight an angel appeared in the prison and healed her of her wounds. When the jailer Laodicius came for the saint in the morning, he did not recognize her. Thinking that the martyr had been taken away, he feared he would be punished for letting her escape. He wanted to kill himself, but Saint Glyceria stopped him. Shaken by the miracle, Laodicius believed in the true God, and he entreated the saint to pray that he might suffer and die for Christ with her. "Follow Christ and you will be saved," the holy martyr replied. Laodicius placed upon himself the chains with which the saint was bound, and at the trial he told the prefect and everyone present about the miraculous healing of Saint Glyceria by an angel, then he confessed himself a Christian. He was beheaded by the sword. Christians secretly took up his remains, and reverently buried them. Saint Glyceria was sentenced to be eaten by wild beasts. She went to execution with great joy, but the lioness set loose upon the saint meekly crawled up to her and lay at her feet. Finally, the saint prayed to the Lord, imploring that He take her unto Himself. In answer she heard a Voice from Heaven, summoning her to heavenly bliss. At that moment, another lioness was set loose upon the saint. It pounced upon the martyr and killed her, but did not tear her apart. Bishop Dometius and the Christians of Heraclea reverently buried the holy martyr Glyceria. She suffered for Christ around the year 177. Her holy relics were glorified with a flow of healing myrrh. Saint Glyceria, whose name means "sweetness," now rejoices in the unending sweetness of the heavenly Kingdom.

## General Announcements

**MOTHER'S DAY COMMEMORATED TODAY—** In its present form, *Mother's Day* was established by **Anna Marie Jarvis**, following the death of her mother Ann Jarvis on May 9, 1905, with the help of Philadelphia merchant John Wanamaker. A small service was held on May 12, 1907 in the Andrew's Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia where Anna's mother had been teaching Sunday school. Anna then campaigned to establish Mother's Day first as a U.S. national holiday. *On May 8, 1914, the U.S. Congress passed a law designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day and requesting a proclamation. On May 9, 1914 President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation declaring the first national Mother's Day as a day for American citizens to show the flag in honor of those mothers whose sons had died in war.* The Grafton's church, where the first celebration was held, is now the International Mother's Day Shrine and is a National Historic Landmark. It must be noted that, while Miss Jarvis spent most of her adult life striving to create a special day to honor mothers, in the end, she was disappointed with the way Mother's Day turned out. As the popularity of the holiday grew, so did its commercialization. What she had intended as a day of sentiment quickly turned into a day of profit. In the end, shortly before her death, Anna Jarvis told a reporter that she was sorry she ever started Mother's Day.



**GREATER PITTSBURGH DEANERY PRIEST PASSES INTO ETERNITY —** With great sadness, one of our area Byzantine Catholic Priest in active ministry passed away suddenly on Saturday afternoon, May 4, 2019. **Fr. John Cuccaro, 68**, pastor of Saints Peter & Paul Church, Duquesne, PA and administrator of Ascension Church, Clairton, PA was taken to UPMC Presbyterian Hospital, Oakland the previous Thursday from the church rectory. Fr. Cuccaro was planning on celebrating his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priesthood later this month. The William S. Skovranko, Duquesne, PA is handling arrangements. Viewing of his mortal remains will lie in repose at Saints Peter & Paul Church, 701 Foster St., Duquesne on Sunday, May 12 at 2:00 p.m. followed by a Parastas for a priest at 7:00 p.m. The Paschal Funeral Divine Liturgy will be offered by Archbishop Skurla, principle celebrant, on Monday, May 13 at 10:00 a.m. Interment will follow at the Irwin Union Cemetery, North Huntingdon, PA. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your departed servant, the priest, Fr. John, and remember him forever because CHRIST IS RISEN!



**TICKETS FOR PATRONAL PENTECOST DINNER NEXT WEEK —** Our Annual Patronal Dinner at the (MR) school hall is slated for **Pentecost Sunday, June 9 @ 1:30 p.m.** We will also be honoring our recent graduates at this time! All Members of both MR & NS Holy Ghost Parishes are asked to put this day aside so as to glorify God the Holy Ghost (Spirit) during these green holy days!

**GRADUATES REGISTER TO BE RECOGNIZED —** Our Holy Ghost Churches would like to honor all of our High School and College Graduates on the occasion of our Patronal Feast, **June 9, 2019.** 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 the church office to inform us that you are graduating and will be attending the dinner

