

Parish Offerings – Easter Sunday — April 21, 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	\$183.00
Easter (\$4,730) YP (\$37) Flowery Sunday (\$280)	5,047.00
Holy Days	1,356.00
Votive Candles	200.10
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	\$6,786.10

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$70.00
Easter (\$1,291) Holy Days (\$168)	1,459.00
Votive Candles	60.50

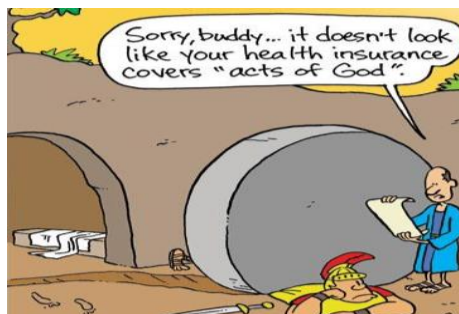
Church Attendance Last Week \$1,589.50

(NS) Sat., 5:45 p.m. (58); (MR) Sat., 7:45 p.m. (94)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (140); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (39)

Bright Monday (MR) 9:00 a.m. (14); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (7)

Bright Tuesday (MR) 9:00 a.m. (4); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (7)



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Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP

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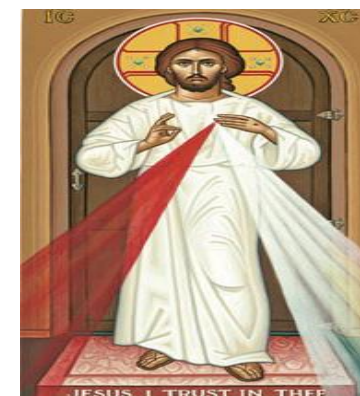
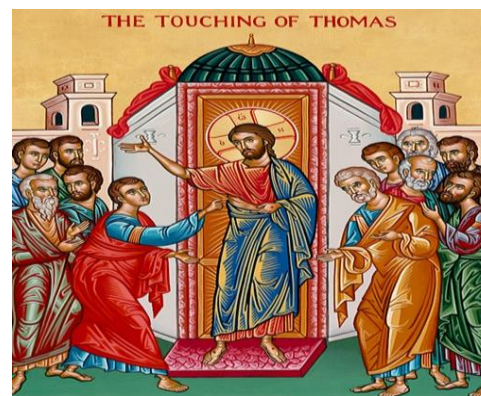


HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

SUNDAY OF THE ANTIPASCH

Sunday of St. Thomas — 2nd Paschal Sunday

Divine Mercy Sunday — April 28, 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

Liturgical Services LIVE: www.Youtube.com then type: Holy Ghost Church Live Stream

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!

McKees Rocks Announcements

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND CORPORATE COMMUNION NEXT WEEK — Two young members of our parish will be celebrating their Renewal of Baptismal Promises, and receiving the Holy Eucharist together at the Saturday afternoon Divine Liturgy on **Saturday, May 4, 2019** at the 4:00 p.m. Vigil Sunday Divine Liturgy. They will also renew their baptismal promises to serve their Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, and reject the devil and his ways!



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 102nd anniversary of her appearance in Fatima.

PROPERTY CLEANUP THIS WEEK — To tidy up the Church grounds this Spring, we are calling on all parishioners to set aside this **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 young people needing social working credit hours, we invite them to this event.



Holy Ghost, Northside

50/50 AND EASTER BASKET RAFFLES TODAY — Following the morning's Divine Liturgy, these special drawings will take place in the narthex of the Church. Tickets are available up until the drawing.

PROPERTY CLEANUP IN MAY — To tidy up the Church grounds this Spring, we are calling on all parishioners to set aside **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 young people needing social working credit hours, we invite them to this event.



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.



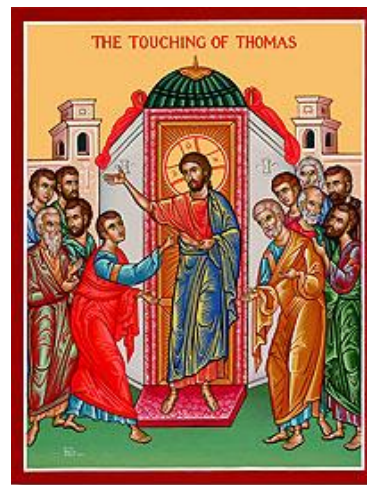
PASTOR EXTENDS GRATITUDE FOR EASTER REMEMBRANCE — Fr. Firko extends heart-felt thanks to all who remembered him by way of prayers, greeting cards, gifts and Paschal Foods this Resurrectional Season. Also, a special thank you to all who attended the Lenten Presanctified Divine Liturgies, and walked vicariously with Our Lord Jesus in the salvific events of Holy Week and Resurrectional Services, Tomb Vigil, Men holding candles during the Great Friday Passion Gospel Matins, Church Decorators, Cantors, Altar Servers, St. Aquilina Ministry, Ushers, cleaning of the Church's chandeliers, Sanctuary Lamp, kadilnici (censers) and for those coming out to make a good and worthy Confession of sins in fulfillment of the Easter Duty. God bless all of you for your devotion, piety, kindnesses & thoughtfulness!!!



SUNDAY OF THE ANTIPASCH

THE SUNDAY OF ST. THOMAS (John 20: 19 – 31)

The Sunday after Easter is the **Sunday of St. Thomas**, also known as **Second Sunday of the Antipasch** ("opposite"



Pascha, i.e., at the other end of Bright Week). Historically, this day in the early Church was the day that the newly-baptized Christians removed their robes and entered once again into the life of this world. This day is also known as **Antipasch**. This does not mean "opposed to Pascha," but "in place of Pascha." Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord's Resurrection. Sunday is called "Resurrection" in Russian, and "the Lord's Day" in Greek. The Byzantine Catholic Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord's

Resurrection starting this Sunday, the eighth day of the paschal celebration. Liturgically, the Church remembers the Apostle Thomas' vision of Christ after eight days. As with all the services until the feast of Ascension the Easter Troparion is sung, and the epistle readings are from the Acts of the Holy Apostles informing us of the first Christians who lived in communion with the Risen Lord. The Gospel of St. John is read since it starts the New Testament as the new creation because of the Risen Christ! Finally, the gospel readings are from the Gospel of John, considered by many to be a gospel written particularly for the newly baptized.

BLESSED ARTOS DISTRIBUTED TODAY

"Artos" is a Greek word which means bread made with yeast. The Artos is blessed on Pascha after the Ambon Prayer which is said at the end of the Paschal Divine Liturgy. The prayer used in the blessing of the Artos then follows. During Bright Week, the blessed bread, covered with an icon of the Resurrection, remains in the church to be venerated until the Sunday after Pascha (Saint Thomas Sunday), when the Artos is distributed to the faithful. According to the old custom, the Artos was distributed on the Saturday of Bright Week after the Holy Liturgy with the prayer, "this bread may be for the health and sanctification of the soul of him who eats of it." In the former centuries the faithful would preserve little pieces of bread for those who were seriously ill or in danger of death and unable to receive Holy Communion. Presently, the Artos is generally broken and distributed on Thomas Sunday so that as many of the faithful as possible can partake of this blessing. Take a piece home especially for those unable to be present today.

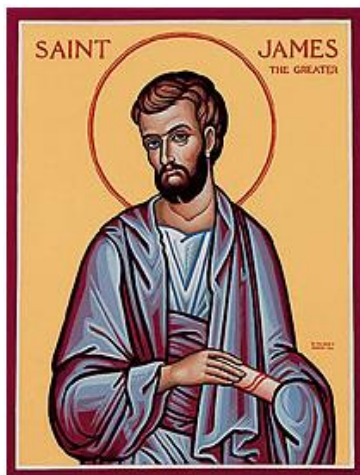


CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

May 4	Practice of those preparing for First Reconciliation in MR Church @ 11:00 a.m. Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Corporate Communion of our 2 children @ 4:00 p.m. DL.
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.

Saint of the Week — April 10

† The Holy Apostle James the Greater



James was the son of Zebedee, brother of John and one of the Twelve Apostles. At the invitation of the Lord Jesus, James left the fishermen's net, his father and, together with John, immediately followed after the Lord. He belonged to that trinity of apostles to whom the Lord revealed the greatest mysteries; before whom He was transfigured on Tabor and before whom He lamented before His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. After receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit, he preached the Gospel in various places and traveled to Spain. Upon his return from Spain, the Jews began to quarrel with him concerning Holy Scripture and no one was able to withstand him, not even a certain

magician Hermogenes. Hermogenes and his disciple Philip were defeated by the power of truth which James preached and, both of them were baptized. Then the Jews accused him before Herod and persuaded Josias to slander the apostle. Josias, seeing the brave conduct of James and listening to his clear explanation about the truth, repented and believed in Christ. When James was condemned to death, this same Josias was also condemned to death. Enrooted to the place of execution, Josias implored James to forgive him the sin of slander. James embraced and kissed him and said: "Peace and forgiveness be to you!" Both of them bowed their heads under the sword and were beheaded for the Lord Whom they loved and Whom they served. Saint James suffered in Jerusalem in the year 45 A.D. His body was translated to Spain, where miraculous healings occurred over his grave and, do so even today.

Holy Apostle James, pray to God for us!

General Announcements

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY TODAY — The Sunday following Easter 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). Again, **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 (within 8 days prior or after the Feast), and receive Holy Communion on this day. This will enable you to fulfill your Easter Duty too!**



CUSTOM TO PRAY BEFORE THE EMPTY-TOMB — You are encouraged to say a prayer 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 power that flows from it. Here is a prayer to pray before it: *"Being God, You were present by Your body, and yet in hades by Your soul, in Paradise with the thief, and on the throne, O Christ with the Father and the Holy Spirit, filling all things and encompassed by none. Glory to the Father and to the Son (+) and to the Holy Spirit. O Christ, Your tomb, the font of our resurrection, is indeed a giver of life more splendid than Paradise and more radiant than any royal chamber. Now and ever and forever. Amen. Hail! Holy and divine dwelling of the Most High, for through you O Mother of God, joy has been given to those who cry out: Blessed are you among women, O Lady most pure!"*



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 to proclaim Our Lord's Salvific Death and Radiant Resurrection! **Turn your crosses around and glorify Our Lord victorious defeat of death!**



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 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.