

**Parish Offerings – Royal Entry of Our Lord Into Jerusalem
Palm (Flowery) Sunday — Apr. 5, 2020**

“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	\$1,309.00
Palm Sunday (\$3,895) YP (\$15) Holy Day (\$350) Easter (\$1,138)	5,398.00
Easter Décor	25.00
Votive Candles	24.00

Holy Ghost Church, Northside \$6,756.00

Regular Offering	\$465.00
Palm Sunday (\$135) Holy Days (\$30) Easter (\$880)	1,045.00
Utilities (\$5) Improvements (\$5)	10.00
Votive Candles	18.00

Church Attendance Last Week \$1,538.00

NO PUBLIC LITURGICAL SERVICES DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANADEMIC

*** Unfortunately, during the Covid-19 Virus shut-down, our parishes expenses (utilities, insurance, etc.) will continue through this period of confinement. For those of you sending in your weekly offerings, thank you for your thoughtfulness in helping your parish meet its fiduciary responsibilities.



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Phone: (412) 331-9713
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Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
"Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953"



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

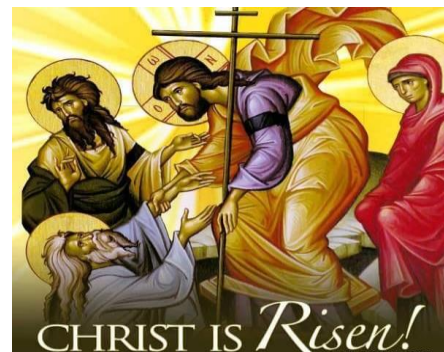
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informative S.O.T.
without an added expense
to the Church. New
Sponsors please contact
Church 9 tile 1:00 p.m.
Mon-Fri!**

HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE RADIANT RESURRECTION
OF OUR LORD, GOD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
THE GREAT DAY — APRIL 12, 2020**



Catholics of the Ruthenian – Byzantine Rite in full communion with the Pope of Rome

The Very Reverend Father Frank A. Firko

Pastor, Administrator & Protopresbyter

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 - Vigil
Holy Days (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 Northwest Pittsburgh Lodge: (MR) Contact Randy Baden (412) 973-1085 for membership requirements.

Slavjane Folk Ensemble: (MR) Membership requirements contact Bob Bartko: (412) 779-0195.

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

All Public Liturgical Services have been suspended for gatherings of more than 10 individuals. However, since the McKees Rocks Parish has access to the internet and Sundays to the WEDO RADIO Station 810 AM that outreaches the homebound, all listed are considered Private Liturgical Services which will be offered. This schedule is published for transparency in which the Pastor will privately offer the intentions stated and lists the times to participate via MR's internet.

April 12, 2020 Seasonal Greeting Volume X, Number 15



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

RADIANT RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Easter Sunday — The Great Day

proclamation of the Evangelist John's Gospel in 3 languages:
Latin, Church Slavonic and English

SUN., APR 12 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes followed by 10:15 am — Blessing of Paschal Foods . — 11:00 a.m. (NS) + Theodore Demanczyk (21st ann of pass. 4/4) Wife: Ann — Blessing of Paschal Foods



BRIGHT WEEK



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 13 * 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna Hrebenak (11th ann of pass 4/4) *lyengar's*
* 6:00 p.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

SIMPLE HOLY DAY

BRIGHT TUE, APR 14 * 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners from Both Parishes
* 6:00 p.m. (NS) + Milan Jugan Wife: Irene & Family

Bright Wed, Apr 15 * 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Stephen Gramata (31st ann of pass) Eleanor & George

Bright Thrs, Apr 16 * 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Stephen M Yovino, DMD Wife: Stephanie & Family

Bright Fri, Apr 17 * 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael P. Harsh (Memorial) Wife: Beverly

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

Bright Sat, Apr 18 *** 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Majorie Preganz (1st ann of pass 4/4) Anonymous

4:00 p.m. (MR) *This Divine Liturgy has been temporarily suspended*

SUNDAY OF THE ANTIPASCH & ST. THOMAS



Divine Mercy Sunday – 2nd Paschal Sunday
(cf. article on how to obtain a plenary indulgence)

SUN., APR 19 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Geraldine Nazak (4th ann of pass) Dgtrs & Grandchildren
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 date not be published.

Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners.

BIRTHDAYS: Apr 13 – Margaret Cifrulak; Apr 14 – Kathryn Kress, Elias Stebbins; Apr 15 – Stephen Katrenich, John Timulak; Apr 17 – EDWARD SPONTAK, Hilary Zubritzky; Apr 18 – Dale Charochak, Denise Wickline.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuнас, Helen Best, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, Margaret Cifrulak, MARY ANN CONTI, Iona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, MARTHA LUCAS, Irene Muha, Mike Muska, Irene Palahunik, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Lisa Plutto, Betty Spisak, Anita Wolsko, EVELYN VENTO, 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.

VANADIUM WOODS VILLAGE (50 Vanadium Rd, Apt 230 Bridgeville, PA 15017): Helen Hopye.

WEXFORD HOUSE NURSING CTR. (9850 Old Perry Highway, Wexford, PA 15090): OLGA MANFREDO.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. If you plan to marry someone, is it OK to have sex before the wedding? A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist: No. There is no good intention that justifies doing an evil act. For example, we could not sell drugs to raise money for the poor, because we know that evil will result from selling drugs. The Bible is very clear on the spiritual fate of those who sin against God (and their own bodies) through premarital sex and who do not repent before they die. St. Paul says, "Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor boy prostitutes, nor practicing homosexuals Will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor 6:9-10; Gal 5:19-21; Eph 5:5)... While you may believe that you will be with your boy/girlfriend or fiancé all your life there are no guarantees.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

April 12 — April 18, 2020

In memory of Geraldine & Andrew Nazak

offered by Dgtrs & Grandchildren

(NS) In memory of Gabriel Babin (birthday 414)

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2020 offered by Dgtr: Janet Sendro & Family (NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2020

Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks

ALL DIVINE LITURGIES THIS WEEK BEGIN EARLIER ON THE INTERNET — 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! See you on the internet!

GRATITUDE TO OUR PIROHI WORKERS — Although we had to cut the Lenten Sales short due to the coronavirus, we still did fairly well and are able to apply for the GCU Matching Funds Program. In weeks to come, we will list an itemized tally of the income and expenditures made. Thank you to all who came, once again, this season to make this project one that produced income.



Of course, due to the closure of many non-essential businesses, this will put the washroom project on a slight hold. God bless all of you who sacrificed your time!

Holy Ghost, Northside

WE WILL STILL HAVE USE OF THE PARKING LOT — The lease agreement with the Tamburitzans still permits us to use the former Social Center parking facilities for Church activities. Once again, we thank the Tamburitzans for including our Church in the use of the Parking Lot, especially during this time of the Solemn Blessing of our Paschal Easter Baskets.

PALMS, WILLOWS & CONFESSIONS — Last week's Palm Sunday celebration was accomplished a little differently this year. Due to the coronavirus and the cancelling of Public Liturgical Service, Palms and pussy willows were distributed in the afternoon by two healthcare parishioners. They were donned with gloves and face masks as they handed these precious sacramentals to those who in cars in the Church parking lot. Both Kim Ruud and Lori Ripple took great care in distributing the blessed earlier at the morning Divine Liturgy; after each penitent made a Confession of sins, the chair was sanitized with Clorox wipes. Our pastor also wore gloves and a face mask as he heard Confessions in the church garage while being separated from the penitent the required 6 feet. The virus may have not been destroyed, but something far dangerous –SIN– was annihilated and souls were healed! Pictured below are just a few photos of this event.



Join us via Internet for Bright Week Services.

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

My Dear Parishioners:

Who would have ever thought that our liturgical commemoration of Our Lord's Passion, Death and Radiant Resurrection would result in a virtually empty Church this year?



Yet, due the world-wide pandemic Covid-19 virus this is what we have. We declare, it just doesn't seem like Easter!" Maybe not, but we must never forget what history has taught us. The early Christians, and even our Byzantine Catholic faithful in the Carpathian Mountains over 70 years ago, had undergone a similar persecution in which they too couldn't celebrate Our

Lord's Passion, Death & Resurrection in the way they would have like to either. Did it extinguish their joy, peace and love for God and neighbor? All the more, it intensified it! They were willing to suffer and die for Christ Who promises eternal life! Yes, it is quite different this year. But, the reality of God's love for us still remains, and never changes. May we live according to His Commandments and rededicate our entire lives back to Him. May we find joy in His promises that someday we will inherit the Kingdom of Heaven! **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 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 John's 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!

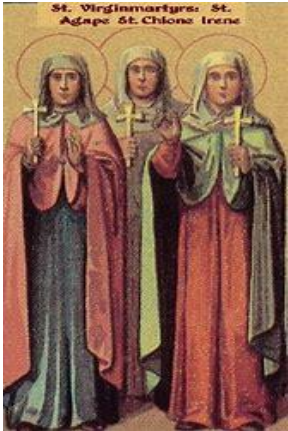
Calendar of Upcoming PRIVATE Events via internet (MR) For BRIGHT WEEK

* The Bright Hours will be celebrated at the Empty Tomb 15 minutes before each Bright Week Divine Liturgy

April 13 .. Bright Monday w/procession (Solemn): (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.
 April 14 Bright Tuesday (Simple): (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.
 April 19 Thomas Sunday is also Divine Mercy Sunday.
 April 23 Feast of the Holy Great-Martyr & Victory Bearer, St. George, the Wonder-Worker
 (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.
 May 10 Annual Mother's Day.
 May 11 Feasts of Saints Cyril & Methodius & Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko.
Bright Wednesday through Saturday: (MR) All Morning Divine Liturgies in Main Church

Saints of the Week — April 16 VIRGIN-MARTYRS AGAPE, CHIONIA & IRENE

All three were sisters from the vicinity of Aquileia. When Emperor Diocletian was staying in Aquileia he ordered that the distinguished spiritual father Chrysogonus be killed. At that time an aged presbyter, Zoilus, had a vision in which the location of the unburied body of Chrysogonus was revealed. Hastening, the elder found the martyred body of Chrysogonus, placed it in a coffin and kept it in his home. Thirty days later, St. Chrysogonus appeared to him, informing him that, in the course of nine days, these three maidens would suffer martyrdom and that he, Zoilus, would also die at that time. The same news was received in a vision by Anastasia the Deliverer from Bonds [a woman endowed with moral and spiritual insight-December 22], who was a disciple of Chrysogonus. Indeed, after nine days the Elder Zoilus died **and these three sisters were brought to trial before the emperor. The emperor urged these three maidens to worship idols, but they all refused and confessed their steadfast faith in Christ.** Irene told the emperor that it was foolish to worship



things made of stone and wood, which were ordered for an agreed price and made by the hands of a mortal man. The enraged emperor cast them into prison. When the emperor departed for Macedonia, all slaves and prisoners were taken with him, including these three saintly maidens. The emperor turned them over to a certain commander, Dulcitus, for torture. This commander, inflamed by dark passion, wanted to defile the virgins; however, when the commander attempted to enter the prison while the virgins were praying to God, he went insane. He fell among the black cauldrons and pots by the gates and began to embrace and kiss them, departing sooty and blackened. The emperor, upon hearing about this incident, ordered that another commander, Sisinius, take over the trial of these sisters. After prolonged torture, the judge condemned the first two sisters to death by burning, while he detained Irene for a while longer, hoping to defile her. But when the judge sent Irene to a brothel with the soldiers, an angel of God saved this chaste virgin by staving off the soldiers and bringing her to a hill. The next day, the commander and his soldiers went to this hill, but they were unable to ascend it. He then ordered that Irene be shot with arrows. St. Anastasia gathered the bodies of these three sisters into one place and honorably buried them. They all suffered honorably for Christ the King and Lord in about the year 304 A.D.

General Announcements

EMPTY TOMB REMAINS VISIBLE FOR 40 DAYS — Empty Church or not, 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 — By way of the internet, 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.

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!



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 (this year via internet) and worship God make a Spiritual Communion at this time.* The pioneers of our Holy Ghost Parish filled these days with their presence and festively proclaimed CHRISTOS VOSKRESE! Although we cannot physically accomplish this due to our confinement, let us follow in their footsteps and imitate their faith and love for the Resurrected Jesus and their Byzantine Catholic Tradition via internet

**THREE
DAYS**

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY NEXT WEEK — The Sunday following Easter (Pascha) is a very special Sunday when the Divine Floodgates of God's Mercy 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 seek His Mercy in the Holy Mystery (Sacrament) of Reconciliation, and receive Holy Communion on this day. Approach any Catholic priest avail yourself to this gift!*