

**Parish Offerings – Thomas Sunday — April 19, 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 (\$1,578) YP (\$7) .....	\$1,585.00
Easter (\$655) Palm Sunday (\$35) Holy Days (\$169) .....	859.00
Easter Décor (\$5) Initial (\$5) B.C.W. (\$14) .....	24.00
Votive Candles .....	32.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,500.00

**Holy Ghost Church, Northside**

Regular Offering .....	\$130.00
Easter (\$725) Holy Days (\$40) .....	765.00
Votive Candles (\$27.01) Initial (\$25) .....	52.01
	<hr/>
	\$947.01

**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. Thank you all who have been mailing your weekly donations. It is greatly appreciated.

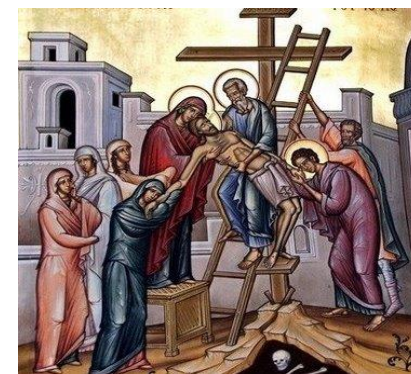
**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET  
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN**  
**With Joseph & Nicodemus — 3<sup>rd</sup> Paschal Sunday**

**April 26, 2020**



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)**

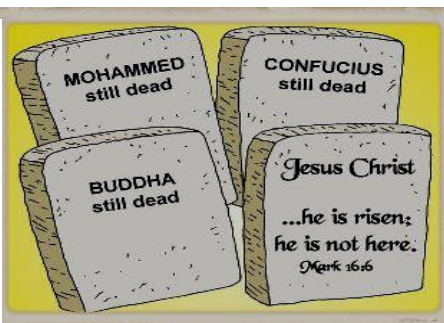
Rectory: (412) 771-3324; Church Fax: (412) 331-1870  
 MR School Hall Kitchen: (412) 331-5155

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**



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*



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**GCU**  
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 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!**



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:** Until further notice by calling the Church Office.  
**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

*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 26, 2020

Seasonal Greeting

Volume X, Number 17



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



Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
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## SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

**Joseph of Arimathea & Nicodemus – 3<sup>rd</sup> Paschal Sunday**

SUN, Apr 26	9:00 a.m. (MR) + George Kurtanich		Children
	11:00 a.m. (NS) + William Gogal		Joan Senchyshyn

Mon, Apr 27	8:00 a.m. (MR)	Special Intention	Florence & Deb Charochak
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Tues, Apr 28	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Joanna C. McCarthy	Son: Joseph
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Weds, Apr 29	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ George F. Zula <i>(61<sup>st</sup> ann. of passing 5/1)</i>	Zula Family
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**Holy Apostle James the Greater**

Thrs, Apr 30	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Marlene Andrascik <i>(birthday 5/1)</i>	Niece: Janet Herczak
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**First Friday of the Month**

**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE** (no meat) or **Equivalent Penance** for the sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Fri, May 1	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Helen Dziki <i>(10<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 5/2)</i>	Patti Dobies
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**First Saturday of the Month**

**Reparation for the blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary**

Sat, May 2	9:00 a.m. (NS)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
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**Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Paralytic Man**

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



## SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN

**4th Paschal Sunday**

SUN, May 3	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Simko + Buchko Families	Peggy & Chuck McCusker
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Helen (Seman) Lucy	Mary Ann Smoley

# 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*

**Birthdays: Apr 28** – Gerald Stebbins.

## 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 Hopey.

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

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

**Q.** Why should we abstain from meat on Fridays or do an equivalent penance? **A.**

**Catholic Answers Apologist:** The church asks us to abstain from meat on Fridays or to do an equivalent penance as a means of “offering our bodies as a living sacrifice” in union with Christ (Rom. 12:1; CCC 1434). The purpose is not to make life tough for us. The Church is truly working in our best interest and only asks us to do what is ultimately good for us... We are obliged to do some form of penance every Friday because it is the day of Jesus’ Crucifixion, the ultimate sacrifice (CCC 1438). We do penance for several reasons: (1) As a way to atone for sins of the past, both ours and others (Col. 1:24); (2) To learn to master our inclinations towards sin (Jas 1:2-4); (3) To help us prepare for a spiritual Feast such as the Resurrection; (4) As a sign of our conversion; (5) As a way to purify our soul (CCC 2043).

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**April 26 — May 2, 2020**

**(MR): In memory of George Kurtanich** *(birthday 5/7)*

offered by Children

**(NS): In memory of George Seman** *(birthday 4/28)*

(MR) All reserved for 2020

offered by Sister: Velma

(NS) All reserved for 2020



## General Announcements

**PLEASE SUBMIT ENVELOPES WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS** — Once again, thank you for submitting your weekly contributions to the Church. It would greatly be



appreciated that when submitting your donation that you also include each envelope from the contribution box (or at least submit the front portion of the envelope with your name and amount). It makes book keeping much easier to give proper credit on your individual financial statement. Please **DO NOT** submit a check and list on a sheet a paper how the check is to be divided. This

cause the Counting Team to use extra supplement envelopes as they mark each contribution amount and takes much more time. Thank you so much, again, for attending to your Church's fiduciary responsibility.

### THE HOLY MYSTERIES OF PENANCE & EUCHARIST OFFERED OUTDOORS



**NEXT SATURDAY** — Our pastor will be making himself available for Confessions on **Saturday, May 2, 2020 @ 1:00 p.m.** in the rectory car port. The distribution of Holy Communion will then follow outdoors. We will be following the mandated norms so that all will remain safe. Until there are public services, the First Saturday of each month will be following this temporary schedule. Of course, Confession & Holy Communion may be received at

anytime by calling the church office.

**IMPORTANT: SUBMITTED BY A HEALTHCARE WORKER** — Below are two links that have been posted related to how the medical field will treat various cases and how they will decide who gets a ventilator. The first one was posted in TIME and the second was in a monthly news update that I receive from Catholic Health Association. I don't want to be accused of fear mongering but I do want you to be aware that this is happening. Allegheny County has been really lucky at this point but back in the end of March and first week of April, these decisions were being made. The average COVID patient is on a ventilator for 12 days. You can't pull a patient off of the ventilator on day 6 because someone with better odds has showed up at your door. New research released today showed that all individuals that were on the ventilator in a certain hospital in NYC died. I expect that research will be critical going into next fall and the decisions as to who gets to be saved. Note again, I do not agree but just letting you know that this isn't happening just in NY. It is US wide. I also believe that the Catholics and others should be made aware that this is the new system.

<https://time.com/5825145/coronavirus-rationing-health-care/>

Foundational principles should guide care decisions for COVID-19 patients, ethicists say



## THE THIRD PASCHAL SUNDAY

### The Sunday of the 7 Holy Myrrh-Bearing Women (Mark 15: 43 – 16:8)

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**, (Her feast day is celebrated July 22). This remarkable woman is the most famous of the Myrrh-Bearing Women of the New Testament. If you remember, it was she whom our Lord healed of a

terrible illness which Holy Scripture describes as "being possessed by seven demons." Holy Tradition tells us that after the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ, Mary Magdalene journeyed to Rome and convinced Emperor Tiberius that both Pontius Pilate and the archpriests of Jerusalem should be punished for their participation in the crucifixion of Christ. She later lived on the Greek island of Ephesus in the Christian community founded by St. John the Evangelist. Although she died on the island, her remains were eventually taken to the ancient of Constantinople. **2. Salome**, the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee (her feast day is celebrated Aug. 3). Salome was a very saintly woman who loved Jesus very much. Her great love was shared by her two famous sons, James and John, two of the original Twelve Apostles of Christ. Tradition tells us that Salome enjoyed a very close relationship with the family of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She remained devoted to Mary after the Ascension of Christ. **3. Mary, the Mother of James and Joss**, the wife of Cleophas (her feast day is celebrated May 23). Very little is recorded concerning her life: however, she devoted many years in the service of our Lord. **4. Johanna, the wife of Chuza**, Herod Antipas' steward (her feast day is celebrated June 27). Johanna first heard of the coming of Christ during His first visit to the temple in Jerusalem. She became a true believer and assisted the Apostles during their first years as leaders of the new Faith. She was a woman of great courage. **5. Susanna**, (her feast day is celebrated on the Sunday of the Forefathers, which falls on the Sunday before Christmas). Susanna was a close friend of Mary Magdalene and 'was constantly by her side during her affliction. Susanna remained with the Apostles of Christ and shared in the work of spreading the message of salvation. She assisted with the serving of the "Communion Suppers" and administering to the sick and the aged. **6 & 7. Mary and Martha**, the sisters of Lazarus - (feast day, June 4). Our Blessed Lord was very fond of Lazarus, and on many occasions visited his home in Bethany. The sisters of Lazarus, Mary and Martha, became followers of Christ and dedicated their lives to Him. After the miracle of the "Resurrection of Lazarus" by Jesus Christ, Mary and Martha returned with Jesus and His Apostles. They devoted their lives to the spreading of the new Faith. *These are the famous "Seven Myrrh-Bearing Women" of the New Testament.* 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."

## Calendar of Upcoming PRIVATE Events via (MR) internet

May 10 ..... Annual Mother's Day.  
 May 11 ..... Feasts of Saints Cyril & Methodius & Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Holko.  
 May 20 ..... Great Vespers w/DL for the Feast of the Glorious Ascension (MR) 7:00 p.m.  
 May 21 ... Feast of the Glorious Ascension (Holy Day of Obligation) (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 pm.  
 May 29-30 ..... 5<sup>th</sup> & Final All Souls Saturday: Friday: (NS) 6:00 p.m.; Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m.  
 May 31 ..... Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit — Pentecost Sunday — Patronal Feast

## The Nine Holy Martyrs of Cyzicus April 29

At the end of the third century Cyzicus in Asia Minor (present day Turkey) was basically a pagan city, although there was a Christian church there. The situation in the city distressed the Christians, who sought to uphold Christianity. The nine holy martyrs **Thaumasius, Theognes, Rufus, Antipater, Theostichus, Artemas, Magnus, Theodotus, and Philemon** were also from Cyzicus. They came from various places, and were of different ages: the young like Saint Antipater, and the very old like Saint Rufus. They came from various positions in society: some were soldiers, countryfolk, city people, and clergy. All of them declared their faith in Christ, and prayed for the spread of Christianity. **The saints boldly confessed the Risen Christ and fearlessly denounced pagan impiety.** They were arrested and brought to trial before the ruler of the city. Over several days they were tortured, locked in prison and brought out again. They were promised their freedom if they renounced Christ. The valiant martyrs of Christ continued to glorify the Lord. All nine martyrs were beheaded by the sword (+ ca. 286-299), and their bodies buried near the city. In the year 324, when the Eastern half of the Roman Empire was ruled by Saint Constantine the Great (May 21), and the persecutions against Christians ended, the Christians of Cyzicus removed the incorrupt bodies of the martyrs from the ground and placed them in a church built in their honor. Various miracles occurred from the holy relics: the sick were healed, and the mentally deranged were brought to their senses. The faith of Christ grew within the city through the intercession of the holy martyrs, and many of the pagans were converted to Christianity. When Julian the Apostate (361-363) came to rule, the pagans of Cyzicus complained to him that the Christians were destroying pagan temples. Julian gave orders to rebuild the pagan temples and to jail Bishop Eleusius. In time he was set free after Julian's death, and the light of the Christian Faith shone anew through the assistance of the holy martyrs.



## General Announcements

**INTERNET VIEWERS: CONTINUE TO PRAY TO PRAY BEFORE THE EMPTY-TOMB** — You are encouraged to say a prayer before the Empty-Tomb of Our Lord via internet 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! *Keep your crosses turned around and glorify Our Lord victorious defeat of death! The Cross remains like this until Pentecost Sunday.*



**GCU NORTHWEST PITTSBURGH LODGE TO CONDUCT CONFERENCE MEETING** — The quarterly Lodge Meeting on **Sunday, May 3, 2020 in MR @ 2:00 p.m. will be conducted via of a conference call.** Members are asked to participate by dialing at the time of the meeting: **1 (605) 472-5351; Access Code: 451303#.** The GCU continues to offer excellent life insurance policies and both Traditional and Roth Annuities. See the sponsor section on the last page and call Tina (412) 859-9597.

**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 6:00 p.m.** for the offering of the Holy Rosary to the Most Holy Mother of God, especially as we pray for the vanquishing of the Covid-19 Virus, those afflicted, for those who died from it, and for the first responders who daily place their lives in jeopardy coming to the aid of those suffering. God bless them all!

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