

Parish Offerings – 5th Sunday of Great Fast — Mar. 29, 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)

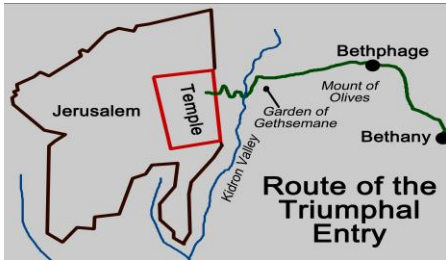
Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks

Regular Offering (\$2,135) YP (\$12)	\$2,147.00
Holy Days (\$40) Palm Sunday (\$20)	60.00
Easter Décor	65.00
Votive Candles	121.00
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	\$2,393.00

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$270.00
Utilities	15.00
Improvements	25.00
Votive Candles	8.00
	<hr/>
	\$318.00

*** 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.



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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get-well wishes, etc.
Call the office
(412) 771-3324**

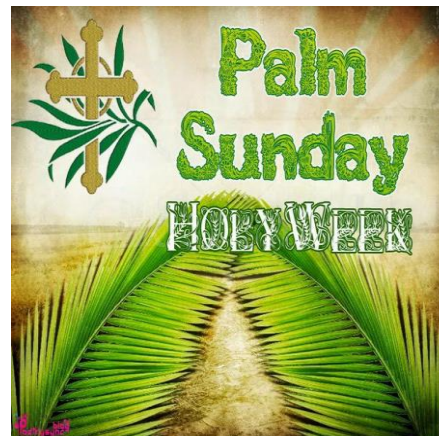
**Please patronize our
fabulous sponsors! They
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informative S.O.T.
without an added expense
to the Church. New
Sponsors please contact
Church 9 tile 1:00 p.m.
Mon-Fri!**

HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE ROYAL ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM



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!

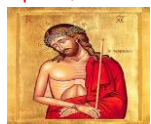
THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

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 5, 2020

Seasonal Greeting

Volume X, Number 14



Glory to Jesus Christ — Glory Forever!
Slava Isusu Christu! — Slava Na Viki!



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
ROYAL ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM			
Palm (Flowery) Sunday			

SUN., Apr 5

***8:45 a.m. (MR) + Mary Fejka (24th ann of passing 4/6)

Dgtr: Susie



11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

*2:00 p.m. (MR) Passion Week Vespers



HOLY (PASSION) WEEK

Holy Mon, Apr 6 8:00 a.m. (MR) Bridegroom Matins

6:30 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary; 7:00 p.m. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Holy Tue, Apr 7 8:00 a.m. (MR) Bridegroom Matins

6:30 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary; 7:00 p.m. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)



Holy Wed, Apr 8 8:00 a.m. (MR) Bridegroom Matins

6:30 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary; 7:00 p.m. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Institution of the Most Holy Eucharist



HOLY THRS, APR 9 8:00 a.m. (MR) Betrayal Matins

6:30 p.m. (MR) Luminous Mysteries of the Holy Rosary; 7:00 p.m. (MR) Great Vespers w/St. Basil Divine Liturgy

REQUIRED STRICT ABSTINENCE (no meat and dairy products)

HOLY & GREAT FRI, APR 10 8:00 a.m. (MR) Passion Matins w/12 Passions Gospels



12:00 nn. (MR) Royal 6TH Hour: Commemoration of Our Lord's Crucifixion

5:00 p.m. (NS) Entombment Vespers indoors 7:00 p.m. (MR) Entombment Vespers indoors

24 Hour Continuous Vigil Before the Tomb (Website only)



RECOMMENDED Simple Abstinence (no meat) on Holy Saturday

HOLY SAT, APR 11 8:00 a.m. (MR) Sepulcher Matins w/Procession indoors

2:00 p.m. (MR) Great Vespers w/St. Basil Divine Liturgy

Anticipated Resurrectional (Easter Sunday) Liturgical Services

5:00 p.m. (NS) Blessing of Paschal Foods only.

7:00 p.m. (MR) Resurrectional Matins Only; 8:15 p.m. Blessing of Paschal Foods

RADIANT RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Easter (PASCHA) Sunday — The Great Day

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

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.

No Birthdays submitted this week

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

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, Helen Best, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, Margaret Cifrlak, MARY ANN CONTI, Ilona Goyda, 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.

VINCENTIAN HOME (111 Perrymount Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237): TAMARA HARDING.

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

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Why is it so important to go to the Divine Liturgy? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** The Eucharist is the supreme act of worshipping God because it is Christ offering Himself to the Father on our behalf (Lk. 22:19-20; I Cor 10:16; CCC 1324, 1365). It is the sacrifice of Calvary made present here and now. By participating at the Divine Liturgy we make Christ's sacrifice our own and receive the grace of salvation anew. When we receive the Eucharist, we receive Jesus Himself (Jn 6: 51-59; CCC 1372, 1391). We have an obligation to worship the Creator (Ps 22:23; Rev 5:16). It would be an insult to receive all the gifts we have received from God (our eyesight, our health, nice home, etc.) and then give Him nothing in return Is it not selfish if we do not give Him at least one hour of worship each week (Ex 20:8-11; Heb 10: 23-25; CCC 2177-2178)?

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

April 5 — April 11, 2020

(MR) **In memory of Mary Fejka** (birthday 4/6)

offered by Dgtr: Susie

(NS) **In memory of Rose Babin** (16th ann of passing 4/6)

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2020

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



Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks

SYMPATHIES EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of parishioner, **Michael P. Harsh, 77**, of McKees Rocks (Presston), PA, on Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at the Ohio Valley Hospital. The Valarian F. Szal Funeral Home, McKees Rocks, handled the arrangements. He is survived by wife, Beverly of 56 years; Daughter Kimberly Ruud and Son: Michael along with several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A Parastas was offered at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, April 3. Interment will be at a later date; and **Gary S. Hubal, 59**, of McKees Rocks (The Bottoms), who passed away suddenly at Allegheny General Hospital on Saturday, March 28, 2020. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home, McKees Rocks. Services were in private. Interment will be at a later date. Our Parish extends its most sincere sympathies to the Harsh, Ruud, and Hubal Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servants, Michael and Gary, and remember them forever. *Vicnaja Jim Pamjat'!*



Holy Ghost, Northside

WE WILL STILL HAVE USE OF THE PARKING LOT — The lease agreement with the Tamburitizans still permits us to use the former Social Center parking facilities for Church activities. Once again, we thank the Tamburitizans for including our Church in the use of the Parking Lot.

VIEW OF THE LOT NEXT TO THE CHURCH — This past week, we hired a Tree and Landscaping Company to take down all the decayed trees and the stumps. It was an expense that needed to be accomplished. Below are two photos that show that lot as it presently looks.



Join us via Internet for Holy Week Services. Refer to the Liturgical Page for times of services

PALM (FLOWERY) SUNDAY

Significance of Palms & Pussy Willows in Byzantine Rite (*John 12: 1 – 18*)

The Triumphal Entry of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem before His Passion was celebrated with particular solemnity since the first centuries of Christianity. In the Byzantine Rite it is considered one of the twelve Major Feasts of the liturgical year. Its official name is the **“Royal Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem.”** It is always celebrated on the Sunday before Easter with the solemn blessing of branches (Palms, Willows & Olive Branches). Popularly it was also called Willow Sunday (*Verbna Ned'Ilja*) because in Europe, pussy-willows were blessed instead of palms. It is also known as Flowery Sunday (*Cvitna Ned'Ilja*) since in and near Constantinople they used to distribute early spring flowers, such as branches of lilac or elder, to the faithful, (cf. Constantine Proph. in P.G. 112, 412). From ancient times, **Palm-branches were symbols of victory and triumph.** The Romans used to reward their champions of the games with palm-branches. Also, military triumphs, i.e. the celebrations of victory, were observed with palms. It seems that the Jews followed the same custom (Lev. 23:40; 1 Mace. 13:37) of carrying palm-branches on their festive occasions. That is what happened during the solemn entry of Jesus into the Holy City before His last Passover (Jn. 12:13), **Pussy Willows signify ‘new life’** and **Olive Branches signify ‘peace.’** In the New Testament, the palm-branches become a symbol of martyrdom (Rev. 7:9) meaning victory over death. For this reason, in Christian art martyrs were usually represented with palms in their hands. Thus, since the end of the fourth century, the palm-branch also became a symbol of the Resurrection. (P.G. 33, 1025-1028). Jesus Christ, after raising Lazarus (Jn. 11:1-44), was finally recognized by the Jewish people as their Messiah. When He arrived in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, they greeted Him with a triumphant welcome. The Evangelist, however, hastened to remark that it was done in fulfillment of a prophecy (Mt. 21:4-5).



FINAL DAYS OF CHRIST THE BRIDEGROOM

The **first three weekdays of Holy Week** centers its theme upon **Christ the Bridegroom**. The special Matins services offered a commemoration of the last days in the earthly life of the Lord are recounted. We are vicariously present as Christ presents His last teaching discourse to the disciples. As such, these services incorporate readings and hymns inspiring this theme. The mood of the services is to experience sorrow and to feel Christ's voluntary submission to His passions and highlight the purpose behind the evil that is about to take place against the Lord. The atmosphere is one of mourning (for sins) and is symbolic of the shame the Christian should feel for the Fall of Adam and Eve, the depths of hell, the lost Paradise and the absence of God. The main emphasis of the Bridegroom Matins is metanoia (a complete change of direction in following Christ) and each service has its own particular theme of repentance and watchfulness. One of its primary features is its Troparion: *Behold, the Bridegroom comes in the middle of the night, and blessed is the servant He shall find vigilant; but unworthy is he whom He shall find neglectful. Beware awake therefore, O my soul, lest you be weighed down by sleep, and be given over to death and be closed out from the kingdom; rise up crying out: Holy! Holy! Holy are You our God; through the intercession of the Theotokos, have mercy on us.*



Calendar of Upcoming PRIVATE Events Including Holy Week & Easter via internet w/ Confessions, Palm Distribution & Paschal Food Blessing

April 5 (MR) Palm (Flowery) Sunday @ 8:45 a.m. (Private DL); (NS) @ 11:00 a.m. (Private D.L.)
(MR) Solemn Blessing of Palms & Pussy Willows only. (MR) 2:00 p.m. – Passion Vespers inaugurating Holy Week. **At 3:00 pm - If you wish palms & willows they will be distributed to you at this time for both parishes at McKees Rocks Parking Lot.. CONFESSIONS** will be outside in the parking lot. .

**PLEASE SEE THE LITURGICAL PAGE – ALL SERVICES
ARE PRIVATE AND VIEWED ON THE INTERNET**

Please Note for Palms, Willows, Easter Baskets Sacraments of Penance & Holy Communion

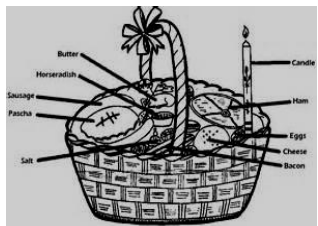
There has been a slight revision from last week's presentation: .With your cooperation, our pastor will do his best to accommodate you in carrying out our



customs and traditions from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday in the present manner. **(MR & NS) PALM SUNDAY** — The Distribution of Blessed Palms and Pussy Willows will take place @ **3:00 p.m.** near the side entrance of the McKees Rocks Church for both Parishes. Palms & Willows will be



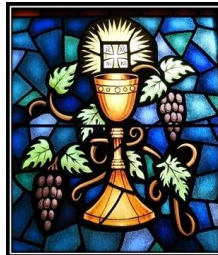
distributed in a hygienic manner while remaining in your car. Outside Confessions will then follow. **(NS) HOLY SATURDAY @ 5:00 p.m.** — Paschal (Easter) Foods will be solemnly blessed in the parking lot. Place your Basket on the hood and remain in the vehicle. Our Pastor will offer the prayer and then bless each basket. You may then place the Blessed Food in the



vehicle. If you wish to receive Holy Communion, it will be given to you by the Consecrated Bread in a disposable cup as you open your mouth wide. — **(MR) HOLY SATURDAY @ 8:15 p.m.** Easter (Paschal) Foods will be blessed from the side entrance of the Church. As on the NS, place your Basket on the hood and remain

in the vehicle. Our Pastor will offer the prayer and then bless each basket. You may then place the Blessed Food only in the vehicle. If you wish to receive Holy Communion, it will be given to you by the Consecrated Bread only in a disposable cup as you open your mouth wide. followed by distribution of Holy Communion. **(MR) RESURRECTIONAL (EASTER) SUNDAY @ 10:15 a.m.** — Same instructions as above.

These are inordinate days that mankind is experiencing Let us trust in the Lord, and beseech the Holy Theotokos to keep us under the vail of her heavenly protection. Still confused? Please call Church Office for clarification



Saint of the Week – April 10 Holy Martyr Terrence & Companions

The Holy Martyr Terence and his companions suffered under the emperor Decius (249-251). The emperor issued an edict commanding all subjects to offer sacrifice to



the pagan idols. When the governor of Africa Fortunianus received this edict, he gathered the people into the city square, set out cruel instruments of torture and declared that everyone without exception had to offer the sacrifice to the idols. Many, afraid of torture, complied. However, Saint Terence and forty other Christians bravely affirmed their faith in the Savior and ridiculed the idols. Fortunianus was amazed at their boldness and he asked how they as rational people, could confess as God, One Whom the Jews crucified as a malefactor. Saint Terence answered that their

belief was in the Savior, Who voluntarily endured death on the Cross and rose on the third day. Fortunianus saw that Terence inspired the others by his example, and so he ordered him to be isolated in prison with his three closest companions: Africanus, Maximus, and Pompeius. Fortunianus was determined to force the rest of the martyrs, including Zeno, Alexander and Theodore, to renounce Christ. Neither threats nor terrible tortures could sway the holy martyrs. They burned them with red-hot iron, they poured vinegar on the wounds, they sprinkled on salt, and they raked them with iron claws. In spite of their sufferings, the saints did not weaken in their confession of Christ, and the Lord gave them strength. The governor put heavy chains on them, and gave orders to starve them to death. By night, an angel of the Lord removed the martyrs' chains and fed them. The furious Fortunianus gave orders to behead the holy martyrs. Christians took up their holy bodies and buried them with reverence outside the city.



INTERNET PARTICIPATION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC — Since all liturgical services are in PRIVATE at this crucial time, all will be televised via internet at the McKees Rocks Church to give both churches and others the opportunity to worship together at home. Please make every effort to participate during this special time of the year. Our web address is www.youtube.com. Once you arrive at the page type in Holy Ghost Church Live Stream.

TO THOSE WHO ARE SUBMITTING YOUR WEEKLY OFFERING VIA MAIL, KNOW THAT IT IS TRULY APPRECIATED! THE POSTAL SERVICE CONTINUES TO DELIVER BILLS!