

## Parish Offerings – Easter Sunday — April 12, 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 .....   | \$547.00         |
| Easter (\$4,649) YP (\$35) Palm Sunday (\$295) Holy Days (\$372) ... | 5,351.00         |
| Votive Candles (\$17) Initial (\$10) .....                           | 27.00            |
|  | <hr/> \$5,925.00 |

### Holy Ghost Church, Northside

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Regular Offering .....   | \$30.00        |
| Easter (\$390) Palm Sunday (\$25) Holy Days (\$10) .....           | 425.00         |
| Utilities (\$10) Improvement (\$10) Initial (\$6) BCW (\$14) ..... | 40.00          |
| Votive Candles .....   | 22.00          |
|  | <hr/> \$517.00 |

### NO PUBLIC LITURGICAL SERVICES DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

\*\*\* 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.



**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

**He Is  
RISEN  
INDEED!**



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## HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

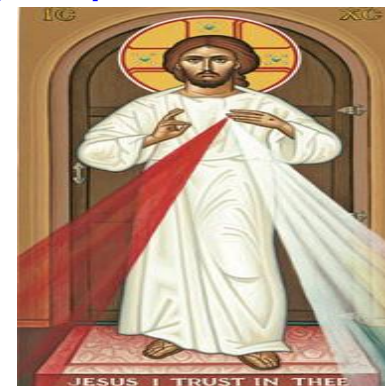
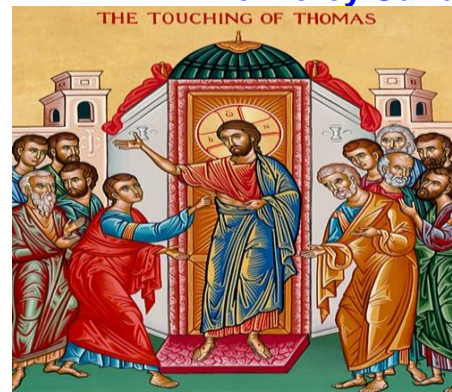
225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

## SUNDAY OF THE ANTIPASCH

## Sunday of St. Thomas — 2<sup>nd</sup> Paschal Sunday

Divine Mercy Sunday — April 19, 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**

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 19, 2020

Seasonal Greeting

Volume X, Number 16



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

**Date Time Intention Requested By**

### SUNDAY OF THE ANTIPASCH & ST. THOMAS



**Divine Mercy Sunday – 2<sup>nd</sup> Paschal Sunday**  
(cf. article on how to obtain a plenary indulgence)

**SUN., APR 19 9:00 a.m. (MR)** + Geraldine Nazak (4<sup>th</sup> ann of pass) Dgtrs & Grandchildren  
**11:00 a.m. (NS)** For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Mon, Apr 20 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Holy Souls in Purgatory Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm.

Tues, Apr 21 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary (Batko) Firko Grandson: Fr. Firko  
(35<sup>th</sup> ann of passing)

Weds, Apr 22 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Marlene Eisenman Sister: Martha & Bob Maletz

### Feast of the Holy Great-Martyr & Victory-Bearer George the Wonderworker — Simple Holy Day

**Thrs, Apr 23 9:00 a.m. (MR)** + George Kurtanich Kathy Kulka  
(5<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 4/24)

**6:00 p.m. (NS)** For the Parishioners of Both Parishes



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

Fri, Apr 24 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Deceased Members Br. Regis, OFM

Sat, Apr 25 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Myrrh-Bearing Women & Joseph & Nicodemus**



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



### SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

**Joseph of Arithemea & 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 Senchysyn

## 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 19 – LOGAN KALLOP; Apr 20 – DIANE VIDA; Apr 23 – ARLENE LATTA, William Kress, JUNE MITRO; Apr 24 – Olivia Stebbins; Apr 25 – Audrey Hart.

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

**HOME:** Margaret Beliuinas, Helen Best, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, Margaret Cifrutlak, 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.** Is it OK to work on Sunday? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** Rest from work is necessary. We know that even God himself rests: "He rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done" (Gen. 2:2). In recognition of this, the Church obligates us to rest on the Lord's day. The Code of Canon Law states, "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass (Divine Liturgy) unless dispensed by the hierarch or pastor for a legitimate reason. Moreover, they are to abstain from those works and affairs which hinder the worship to be rendered to God, the joy proper to the Lord's Day, or the suitable relaxation of mind and body" (CIC 1247). However, the Church also recognizes that legitimate reasons excuse from this obligation. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains, "Family needs or important social service can legitimately excuse from the obligation of Sunday rest. The faithful should see to it that legitimate excuses do not lead to habits prejudicial to religion, family life, and health" (CCC 2185).

### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**April 19 — April 25, 2020**

(MR): **In memory of Richard D. Struderbaker**

offered by Bernetta

(NS): **In memory of Mary Stecko** (2<sup>nd</sup> ann of passing 4/20)

(MR) All reserved for 2020

offered by Son: Peter & Barbara

(NS) All reserved for 2020



## General Announcements

**PLEASE RETURN REGISTRATION CARDS** — During this pandemic situation that



we find ourselves experiencing, the church would like to keep in touch with you. The best and most efficient way is via the Spirit Of Truth (S.O.T.) Church Bulletin. Postage is expensive and is reserved to send bulletins to those in nursing homes who have no one to take a bulletin to them. It is best to send via email. If you do not have email, please ask a relative or friend who has a computer if they wouldn't mind that we send the bulletin to their email address for you. Please, please, please fill out the card

in the front of your contribution envelope box. If you have an email address, please add it on the card. There are many whose addresses have changed. We do not have your current address and phone number. The church will not give this information to anyone who asks unless we have your permission. We are NOT directory assistance; it is for church business only. Please assist us with this vital information; it is for your benefit.

**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. Gratitude is also extended to those leading the Private Divine Services during this pandemic Covid-19 Viral Crisis; to Donna Herron and Mary Staskevych for changing the altar covers and placing the flowers around the altar and tomb; to our Usher, Michael Maslaney, for his assistance at the church; to Kim Ruud and Lori Rippole for the distribution of palms and willows on Palm Sunday; and to our church secretary, Velma Seman, for the loads of work she accomplishes in the office. Father would have a hard time if it weren't for the assistance of these self-sacrificing individuals. Thank you, also, to all who have made an effort to worship via internet You Tube. Although it's not the same as being here in person, it's the next best way of praising and thanking God for the Unbloody Sacrifice of the Divine Liturgy. God bless all of you for your devotion, piety, kindnesses & thoughtfulness!!!



**Ruthenian (Rusyn) & Ukrainian:** Christos Voskres! Voistinnu Voskres!

**Church Slavonic:** Christos Voskrese! Voistinnu Voskrese!

**Hungarian:** Feltamadt Krisztus! Volaban Feltamadt!

**Slovak:** Kristus vstal zmr'tvych! Skutoc ne vstal!

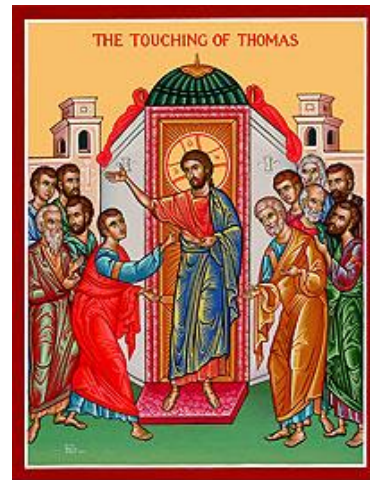
**Latin:** Christus resurrexit! Vere resurrexit!

**Greek:** Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

## 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.

## Our Holy Father's General Audience

**Vatican City State on the Beatitudes — April 15, 2020**

*Dear Brothers and Sisters: In our continuing catechesis on the Beatitudes, we now turn to*



*the seventh Beatitude: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Mt 5:9). One kind of peace can be seen in the biblical term Shalom, which signifies an abundant, flourishing life. A second idea is the modern notion of interior serenity. Yet this second type of peace is incomplete since spiritual growth often occurs precisely when our tranquility has*

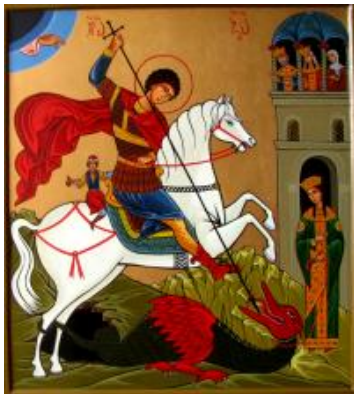
*somehow been disturbed. In this Easter season we see Jesus bringing the gift of his own peace, a fruit of his death and resurrection. The Lord bestows his gift not as the world does – where "peace" is often purchased at the expense of others – but by destroying hostility in his own person (cf. Eph 2:14). A peacemaker, then, is someone who, by God's grace, imitates Jesus in bringing reconciliation to others by giving of themselves, always and everywhere! Those who do so are true children of God and show us the way of true happiness. Once again, I wish you all a happy Easter, in the peace of Christ!*

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

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| April 19 ..... | Thomas Sunday is also Divine Mercy Sunday.   |
| April 23 ..... | Feast of the Holy Great-Martyr & Victory Bearer, St. George, the Wonder-Worker<br>(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 Holko.  |

## The Holy Great-Martyr & Victory-Bearer George the Wonder-worker — April 23

This glorious and victorious saint was born in Cappadocia the son of wealthy and virtuous parents. His father suffered for Christ and his mother then moved to Palestine. When George grew up, he entered the military, where in his twentieth year, attained the rank of a Tribune and as such was in the service of the Emperor Diocletian. When Diocletian began the terrible persecution against Christians, George came before him and courageously confessed that he is a Christian. The emperor had him thrown into prison and ordered that his feet be placed in a stockade of wooden hobbles and that a heavy stone be placed on his chest. After that, the emperor commanded that George be tied to a wheel under which was a board with large nails and he was to be rotated until his entire body became as one bloody wound. After that, they buried him in a pit with only his head showing above the ground and there they left him for three days and three nights. Then George was given a deadly poison to drink by some magician. But, through all of these sufferings, George continuously prayed to God and God healed him instantly and saved him from death to the great astonishment of the people. When he resurrected a dead man through his prayer, many then accepted the Faith of Christ. Among these also was Alexandra, the wife of the Emperor Athanasius, the chief pagan priest and the farmers: Glycerius, Valerius, Donatus and Therinus. Finally the emperor ordered George and his wife Alexandra beheaded. Blessed Alexandra died on the scaffold before being beheaded. *St. George was beheaded in the year 303 A.D. The miracles which have occurred over the grave of St. George are without number. Numerous are his appearances, either in dreams or openly, to those who have invoked him and implored his help from that time until today.* Enflamed with love for Christ the Lord, it was not difficult for this saintly George to leave all for the sake of this love: rank, wealth, imperial honor, his friends and the entire world. For this love, the Lord rewarded him with the wealth of unfading glory in heaven and on earth and eternal life in His kingdom. In addition, the Lord bestowed upon him the power and authority to assist all those in miseries and difficulties who honor him and call upon his name.



## 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 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! *Turn your crosses around and glorify Our Lord victorious defeat of death!*

