

Parish Offerings – Samaritan Woman Sunday — May 10, 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 (\$2,270) YP (\$5)	\$2,275.00
Pentecost (\$40) Holy Days (\$95)	135.00
Seminary	25.00
Votive Candles	51.50
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	\$2,486.50

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$210.00
Easter	50.00
Candles	18.50
	<hr/>
	\$278.50

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.



The Pharisees become miffed with the answers of the blind man healed by Jesus. **John 9**



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 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



DESIGNS BY NANCY
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GCU
 Greek Catholic Union of the USA
 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!

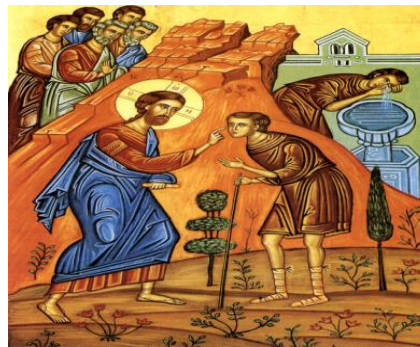
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND

6th Paschal Sunday — May 17, 2020



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

The Very Reverend Father Frank A. Firko, Pastor

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
 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 continue to be suspended for gatherings of more than 25 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.

May 17, 2020 Seasonal Greeting Volume X, Number 20



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND			
6th Paschal Sunday			
SUN., May 17	9:00 a.m. (MR)	Health & Welfare of Julia Haluska (birthday 3/8)	Judith & Gerald Rihn
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Robert M. Smoley (42 nd ann of passing 5/14)	Sister: Mary Ann Smoley
Mon, May 18	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Deceased of the Margo Family	M & J Lautenschlager
Tues, May 19	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Joanna C. McCarthy	Joseph A. Cehula, T.O. Carm.
<i>Final Day of Feast of the Radiant Resurrection & Solemn Removal of Burial Shroud</i>			
Wed, May 20	8:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	

Great Vespers and Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Ascension

	7:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Basil P. Gramata (1 st ann of passing 5/22) Wife: Eleanor & Son: George	
GLORIOUS ASCENSION OF OUR LORD INTO HEAVEN			
THRS, MAY 21	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	6:00 p.m. (NS)	+ Margaret "Peg" Krulac (4 th ann of pass 5/22)	Dgtr: Barb & Peter Stecko

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

Fri, May 22	8:00 a.m. (MR)	Thanksgiving (43 rd ann of Priesthood Ann.)	Fr. Firko
	6:00 p.m. (MR)	The Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary	
Sat, May 23	9:00 a.m. (NS)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	

<i>Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council & Ascension Feast</i>			
	4:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Rose A. Debranski (birthday 5/28)	Dgtr: Nancy

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUM. COUNCIL Postfestive of the Ascension — 7th Paschal Sunday

SUN., May 24	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Eleanor Kulka (7 th ann of passing 5/26)	Children: Kathy & John
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Anna Spontak (16 th ann of passing 5/22)	Son: Robert & Joyce

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: May 17 – John Oslick, Anita Sidun; May 19 – MARY ANN CONTI; May 20 – Alexis Jean Jumba; May 22 – Theresa Hrishenko, John Kutchmark, Jr., Ray Rippole, Emilia Wegner; May 23 – Carl Bates, Janet Herczak.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuнас, Helen Best, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, Margaret Cifrulak, MARY ANN CONTI, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, MARTHA LUCAS, Olga Manfredo, 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.
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.
MT. MACRINA MANOR (520 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401): Helen Hopey.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. What is the difference between Catholic and Christian? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** Nothing. To be Catholic is to be fully Christian... All Catholics are Christians, but not all Christians are Catholic. A Christian is someone who believes in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and is baptized. A Catholic is a specific kind of Christian — one who believes that the Catholic Church was founded by Christ and accepts it as a possessing the fullness of Christian truth and the means of salvation (Mt 16: 18-19; 1 Tim. 3:15; CCC 2032-2033, 2051). Being Catholic involves three main things: (1) sincerely holding to the Catholic Faith as taught by the Magisterium, which is the official teaching body of the Church (2 Thess 2:15; CCC 1113, 1129); (2) accepting the sacraments of the Catholic Church; and (3) submitting to the teaching authority of the pope and the bishops in communion with him (1 Thess 5: 12-13; CCC 1269). The words Catholic and Christian were once interchangeable. The first Christians called the Church "catholic" or "universal" to distinguish it from heretical splinter groups that denied necessary Christian truths. Thus, early Christians came to be known as Catholics.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

May 17 — May 23, 2020

(MR): **Thanksgiving** (68th Wed. Ann. 5/15)

offered by Dolores & Ted Babin

(NS): **In memory of Amelia & Frank T. Firko** (ann of passings)

(MR) All reserved for 2020

offered by Fr. Firko

(NS) All reserved for 2020

General Announcements



CATHOLIC LEAGUE
For Religious and Civil Rights

May 14, 2020 — Is PRAYER a reliable tonic? Yes. Is there scientific data to back it up? Yes. — One leading researcher, Dr. Herbert Benson of Harvard Medical School, holds that prayer and general stress management can reduce doctor visits by up to 50 percent. Most patients would agree. In a national survey, it was revealed that 35 percent of respondents used prayer for health concerns; 75 percent of these prayed for wellness, and 22 percent prayed for specific medical conditions. Perhaps most important, 69 percent of those who prayed for specific medical conditions found prayer very helpful. With data like this, it makes moot the convictions of skeptics: **what matters is that "Hail Marys" work.** Many of the skeptics, of course, eschew any evidence that does not comport with their view of reality. Dr. Jeff Levin, an epidemiologist and former medical school professor, contends that the "resistance and hostility that some scientists and physicians show to this topic stem, I believe, from an unwillingness to consider explanations that undermine a strictly materialistic worldview." — Perhaps **the most controversial aspect of prayer and better well-being is whether praying for others actually has beneficial consequences.** As it turns out, what is called "absent prayer," or "intercessory prayer," does yield positive outcomes. When people are asked to pray for a specific person, whom they do not know, but who is suffering from an illness, and the recipient of prayer has no knowledge that this is happening, most of these "double blind" studies show that patients who are prayed for improve better than those patients with the same condition but who did not have anyone pray for them. One of the earliest and most prominent studies ever done on the health effects of intercessory prayer was conducted by Dr. Randolph C. Byrd in 1988. In a study of 393 people admitted to the coronary care unit at San Francisco General Hospital, the patients were divided into two groups. Half the group was selected for intercessory prayer by devout Christians, and the other half received no such treatment; the patients were randomly assigned and neither the patients nor the health staff had a clue which was the experiential group and which was the control group. The former fared significantly better than the latter. Two explanations are possible: praying for others works, or the results were due to chance. However, the odds that this was due to chance were one in 10,000. Those who did the praying were all devout Catholics and Protestants. Dr. Byrd concluded that these findings "suggest **intercessory prayer to the Judeo-Christian God had a beneficial therapeutic effect in patients admitted to a CCU [coronary care unit].**" In a similar study done in 1999 under similar conclusions were reached with AIDS patients in a study published in the *Western Journal of Medicine*: those who were prayed for did better than their non-prayed for counterparts.... Most studies done on the efficacy of intercessory prayer show the power of prayer — it works.

THE SIXTH PASCHAL SUNDAY

**Baptism originally termed
'Holy Illumination' and "Enlightenment"** — *(first read John 9: 1-38)*

The methodology of the actual cure of this man born blind in today's Holy Gospel



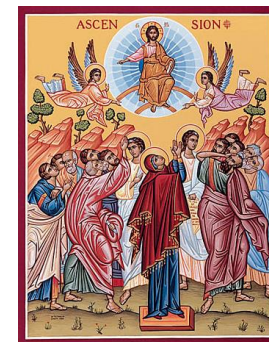
symbolizes mankind's means for its recovery from its blindness. It symbolizes the Holy Mystery of Baptism. Baptism is called 'holy illumination'. Those who have been recently baptized are referred to as the newly illuminated. As this man is cured of his blindness when he washes in the waters of the pool of Siloam, as Jesus tells him to do, so are we brought out of darkness into a new life when we are baptized as Christ instructed us to be. Jesus restores his creation, mankind, with the potential to become what it was meant to be before the fall of Adam. We also hear in the reading that after this man was cured many of those who knew him before did not recognize him. He is still the same man but something has significantly

changed about him. He is no longer blind. So when we are illuminated we are also new persons, though our outward appearance might be the same. To symbolize this newness a white garment is put on us to show the purity with which we start this new existence. We must however, become different and unrecognizable in our inward and outward actions also. We must manifest our new existence to those around us through these actions. We must radiate this new found light to others by the way we live our lives. We must say to the world "*I am he who was blind but now my eyes are opened.*" Credit must be given to Him who has cured us of our darkness by living our lives according to the lessons of the illumination we have received and the continued guidance we get with the reception of the Holy Spirit.

Ascension Thursday This Week

This week's *Feast of the Ascension* (a dispensed HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION due to the Covid-19 Virus) reminds us that our true destiny lies in

God. We must not only do what Jesus commands us, but we must follow him to the place where he has gone. The *Feast of the Ascension* tells us that our life is not limited to life on earth, but after our death we will experience a new life in heaven, and even now we are being pulled by the strings of God's love towards our encounter with him. Now, in our Liturgy let us try to open ourselves to God's boundless love --- the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit --- so that He may confirm and strengthen us in our love for Him and for the world. "*Be exalted above the heavens, O God, and let Your glory be over all the earth.*" See the liturgical schedule for times.



Calendar of Upcoming PRIVATE Events via (MR) internet

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 (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 pm.
May 29-30	.....	5 th & 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
June 7	.....	2 nd Day of Pentecost — Feast of the Most Holy Trinity — (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
June 14	.....	Annual Flag Day.
June 20	.....	First day of summer.
June 24	.....	Nativity of St. John the Baptist — (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.

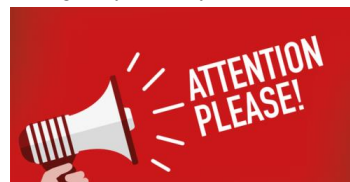
Saints of the Week — May 19 Bishop-Martyr Patrick & His Presbyter (Priest) Companions

Saint Patrick lived during the first century and was bishop of the city of Prusa in Bythnia (Asia Minor, present day Turkey). He openly and boldly preached Christ the Savior, and denounced the error of the pagans. Therefore, he and the priests, Acacius, Menander and Polyainus were arrested, and brought to Julius, the prefect of the city for interrogation. Julius was going to the hot springs for treatment, and he ordered that the Christian bishop and the priests be brought along after him, bound in iron chains. After he washed in the hot springs, Julius offered sacrifice to his gods. He had Saint Patrick and the other prisoners brought before him, ordering them to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods, threatening punishment if they refused. ***Saint Patrick replied, "I am a Christian and I worship the one true God, Jesus Christ, Who has created the heavens and the earth, and these warm springs for the benefit of all mankind."*** Julius had the saint thrown into the hot spring, and with firm faith the martyr prayed, "Lord, Jesus Christ, help Your servant," and he remained unharmed. In an impotent rage, Julius ordered Saint Patrick and his three presbyters beheaded. They received their crowns of unfading glory from Christ around the year 100.



General Announcements

PUBLIC LITURGICAL STILL SUSPENDED; PRIVATE BY REQUEST — On May 15, Allegheny County and 12 other counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania have moved to the YELLOW phase of Gov. Tom Wolf's reopen plan during the coronavirus pandemic. Large gatherings of more than 25 people will be prohibited, and masks and six-foot separation of people will still be urged in what Pennsylvania has called "aggressive mitigation" to reduce the spread



of Covid-19. ***For those who wish to attend the Ascension Thursday Holy Day & Weekend Divine Liturgies, you MUST call the Church office to register before Wednesday @ 1:00 p.m. However, if you are ill or have health comprising situations, DO NOT attend. If you register and then become ill, please call the Church office and leave a message so that a standby may be contacted.*** The Church will not be providing masks, you must bring your own. Please do not challenge our volunteers at the door by not bringing and wearing a mask! While in Church, keep your mask on and be sure to practice social distancing (6 feet apart except for families). Registration DOES NOT APPLY to the Daily Liturgical services. Our pastor will be wearing a mask and gloves for the distribution of Holy Communion. The Saturday afternoon Private Divine Liturgy will resume next week under these guidelines. Archbishop Skurla continues to dispense all the faithful of the Archeparchy from the Obligation.

PENTECOST DINNER CANCELLED; GRADUATES RECOGNIZED — Due to the pandemic this year our Patronal Feast Dinner celebration has been cancelled. We usually honor all High School and University/College Graduates at this time. Our Parishes would still like to recognize them by announcing their milestone. If you are graduating, please call the Church Office A.S.A.P. and let us know where you are graduating from and what your future plans will be.



BI-PARTISAN PRO-LIFE GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE — PA Primary Election Day has been moved to Tuesday, **June 2**. Many of you have probably received your absentee ballot already. For those on the Church email roster, the ProLife Guide has already been sent to you. If you have not yet voted you are encouraged to consider those candidates who are truly dedicated to the Pro-Life position. Let us defend the most vulnerable of God's children and speak for them by our vote when they cannot speak or act for themselves.

Imagine yourself in their position. Wouldn't you want someone to defend you when your life is threatened?! Take the guide with you to the polls. Jesus came so that we may have life and live it to its fullness! They are located in the narthex and side vestibule.

LAST MARIAN DEVOTION THIS FRIDAY — 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 for the final Friday of May at the **HGC-MR at 6:00 p.m.** for the offering of the Holy Rosary as we mark the 103rd anniversary of the Holy Virgin Mary's appearance in Fatima.

