

Parish Offerings – Myrrh-Bearers Sunday — April 26, 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 (\$3,510) YP (\$7)	\$3,517.00
Easter (\$375) Palm Sunday (\$35) Holy Days (\$275)	685.00
Easter Décor (\$5) Seminary (\$70)	75.00
Votive Candles	37.00
	\$4,314.00

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$319.00
Pentecost (\$10) Holy Days (\$40) Seminary \$10) Utilities (\$45)	105.00
Votive Candles	41.50
	\$465.50

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.



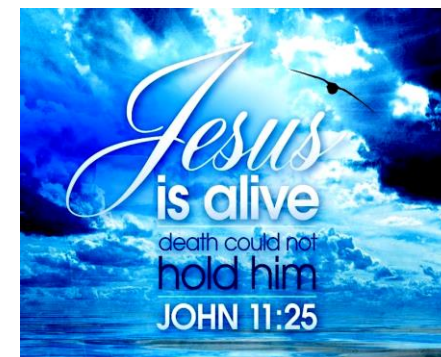
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN

4th Paschal Sunday — May 3, 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.

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

Христос

Воскресе!

DESIGNS BY NANCY
 235 McCartney Drive,
 Moon Township 15108
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Sewing, Alternations, Custom Embroidery and Unique Gifts

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 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.

May 3, 2020

Seasonal Greeting

Volume X, Number 18



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date **Time** **Intention** **Requested By**

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
Mon, May 4	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Sr. Ann Fedyszak, O.S.B.M.	Julia Ann & George F. Mosco
Tues, May 5	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Julia + John Borsh	Dgtr: Audrey Hart

COMMEMORATION OF THE FEAST OF MID-PENTECOST



Wed, May 6 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael P. Harsh (40th day of passing) Children

Thrs, May 7 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Gary S. Hubal (Memorial) Hubal Family

The Holy Apostle & Evangelist John

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

Fri, May 8 8:00 a.m. (MR) + John + Ann + Ray Herczak Florence & Deb Charochak
 6:00 p.m. (MR) The Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

Transpotion of the Relics of Our Holy Father Nicholas, the Wonder-Worker

Sat, May 9 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Health & Welfare of Joyce Spontak Husband: Robert

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Paralytic Man

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

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

Postfestive of Mid-Pentecost – 5th Paschal Sunday – Mother's Day

SUN., May 10 9:00 a.m. (MR) *For the Living & Deceased Mothers of Both Parishes*
 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 name and date not be published.

Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners

Birthdays: **May 4** – Geraldine Babin, Anita Wolsko; **May 5** – Irene Muha; **May 6** – Helen Hopey.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuinas, Helen Best, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, Margaret Cifrulak, MARY ANN CONTI, Iлона 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. Are people ever reincarnated? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** No. Reincarnation is a myth, an idea entirely foreign to what has been revealed by God. The Bible teaches that it is appointed to man to die once and then face judgment (Heb 9:27; CCC 1013). Ultimately, we will go to heaven, to be with God forever, or to hell, which is external exile from God's loving presence (Mt 25: 31-46; CCC 1022). Of course, on the way to heaven, a person may need purification in Purgatory (1 Cor 3:10-17; CCC 1031). Reincarnation denies the need for a Savior. Titus 3:5 says that we are not saved by works of righteousness, but by the renewal offered by the Holy Spirit. Reincarnation is a philosophy that says that we have to continually "work" to improve ourselves, allowing us to come back to life as something better than before. According to this philosophy, the death of Christ for our sins has no meaning because our salvation is totally dependent on our continued work. Reincarnation also denies the dignity of the person as a unique individual being. You are not really unique id you are the reincarnation of George Washington and, before that, Cleopatra. You are just a recycled person, not unique "one time" creation made in the image and likeness of God (Gn 1:26-27).

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

May 3 — May 9, 2020

(MR): **In memory of Agnes Kacsur**

offered by Alice & Anna May Sejka

(NS): **In memory of the Vrabel Family**

(MR) All reserved for 2020 offered by Julia Ann & George F. Mosko (NS) All reserved for 2020



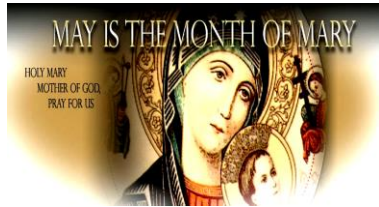
General Announcements

GCU NORTHWEST PITTSBURGH LODGE TO CONDUCT CONFERENCE MEETING

THIS AFTERNOON — 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!

PLEASE SUBMIT ENVELOPES WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

— First of all, Thank You to those who are submitting weekly contributions with your contribution envelopes. 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.** You may still submit one check, BUT PLEASE include the individual envelope(s) with the amount on each. Listing on a sheet of paper causes those counting them to use extra supplemental envelopes as they mark each contribution amount, takes much more time and is also an expense to the Church. Thank you so much, again, for attending to your Church's fiduciary responsibility.



POPE FRANCIS: IDENTIFY AND CONFESS YOUR SINS CONCRETELY (Catholic News Service, April 29, 2020)

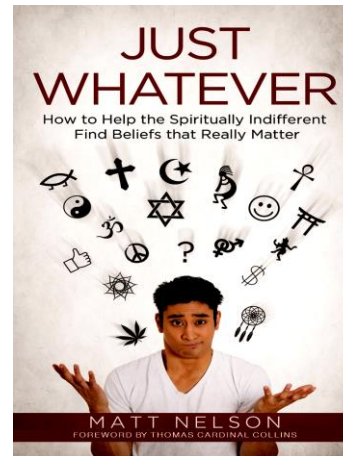


— “When identifying your faults, avoid being vague and tell God your sins honestly and frankly so that He can heal you,” Pope Francis said at the Liturgy on Wednesday. According to Francis, to say: “We are all sinners,” is abstract. People should instead think and say: “I am a sinner,” concretely naming what they have said, thought, and done wrong. Like children, “we too must be simple, real,” he said April 29. “Concreteness leads you to humility.” “It is important that within us we give names to our sins,” he stated.

Evangelizing the Closed-Minded

(The follow abridged article appeared on the web-page from Catholic Answers. To locate the entire article, go to Catholic.com. The author is Catholic Apologist, Matt Nelson dated April 18, 2018)

Do you know someone who isn't exactly hostile to God and religion, but just doesn't seem to care much about them one way or the other? Such a person exhibits religious



indifference: the failure to think seriously about religion and, accordingly, to give God his due. This is a general definition, but in real life indifference occurs in a variety of forms and to varying degrees. One common form of indifference involves a failure to take religion seriously due to disbelief in a personal, present God. Such disbelief leads the indifferentist to treat all religious beliefs and behaviors as absurd since God—whatever he may be—cannot know (or care) what we do in this life. This radical closed-mindedness towards religion that results from such skepticism is called closed indifference. Not every unbeliever is a closed indifferentist. Some skeptics take religious claims very seriously. This was notably evident in the twentieth century, before the rise of the New Atheism.... Catholics everywhere have found the Aristotelean approach to

arguing for God—especially as developed later by St. Thomas Aquinas—to be deeply compelling.... [U]nlike the new atheists, I take scholarship seriously. I have written that The God Delusion made me ashamed to be an atheist and I meant it. Trying to understand how God could need no cause, Christians claim that God exists necessarily. I have taken the effort to try to understand what that means. The New Atheist movement is ignorant of such claims and positively contemptuous of those who even try to understand them, let alone believe them. Thus, like a first-year undergraduate, he can happily go around asking loudly, “What caused God?” as though he had made some momentous philosophical discovery.

How do we awaken the closed indifferentists? The solution could be as simple as re-introducing arguments for God's existence and inviting the spiritually indifferent into a serious discussion. It could be that many closed indifferentists have simply never heard a proper explanation of such proofs before. “The great majority of naturalist philosophers have an unjustified belief that naturalism is true and unjustified belief that theism (or supernaturalism) is false.” We might also remind closed indifferentists of the costs of their beliefs. Many skeptics are strict materialists, for example—they believe in nothing outside of physical reality. This obviously rules out God, angels, and the like. But this also means that mental thoughts, for instance, amount to nothing more than a kind of secretion of the brain. It also means that we have, to quote biologist Anthony Cashmore, no more free will than a bowl of sugar. This calls into question whether we can really be responsible for our actions—a line of reasoning most closed indifferentists probably haven't considered.

Since God has placed in our hearts a hunger for him and his truth, I would like to think that, deep down, every human being has an interest in religious questions—like those regarding the meaning of life, morality, and life after death. Our evangelical task, therefore, is first and foremost to show that we are willing to take the indifferentist's thoughts and questions seriously and, second, to be prepared to give a compelling account for the hope that is within us. We plant the seeds. God takes care of the rest. *Want to help the spiritually indifferent people in your life? Matt's forthcoming book, Just Whatever, can help!*

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 5th & 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

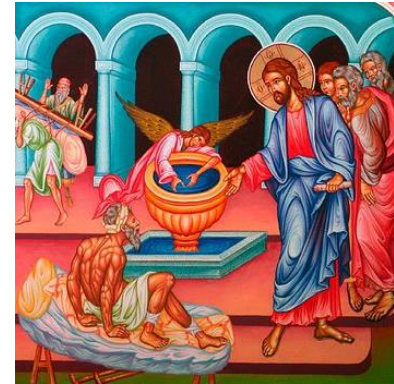
The Holy Apostle & Evangelist, John — May 8

The Apostle and Evangelist St. John, called the Theologian, was the son of Salome and Zebedee. Zebedee was a fisherman of Galilee who possessed rather vast holdings with workers. He was a member of some importance in the Jewish community, having access to the high priest. John's mother Salome, one of the 7 Holy Myrrh-Bearers, is mentioned as being one of the ranks of women who served God with their possessions. John was at first the disciple of St. John the Baptist. Listening to his witness of Christ as the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world, he, together with Andrew the First-Called, followed the Savior. Zealously loving the Lord, John was filled with indignation at those who were hostile to the Lord or who estranged themselves from Him. While traveling through Samaria he prohibited those who did not walk with Christ to cast out demons in the name of Jesus Christ (cf. Mk. 9:38), and asked the Lord's permission to consume with fire certain residents of a Samaritan town for not accepting Him (cf. Luke 9:54). For this he and his brother James were called by the Lord "sons of thunder" (Boanerges). Feeling the love of Christ toward himself, but as yet not enlightened with grace by the Holy Spirit, he decides to ask for himself and his brother James a place close to the Lord in His future Kingdom and learns of the impending sufferings for both of them. After the Lord's Resurrection, we often see Apostle John together with Apostle Peter, together with whom he is also considered a pillar of the Church, and with whom he often travels to Jerusalem. True to the Lord's command, he cared for the Holy Virgin Mary as a most devoted son, and only after her Blessed Dormition did he begin to preach in other lands. During Apostle John's ministry, one notices that he uniquely chose for himself a specific province and directed all the energy of his soul to eradicate paganism there and strengthen the holy faith. As an example of his specific care were the seven Churches of Asia Minor—He lived mainly in Ephesus. During the time of Emperor Domitian (81-96), Apostle John, as the sole surviving Apostle, was summoned to Rome and by the decree of this persecutor of the Church was thrown into boiling oil, but the power of God saved him unscathed just as it saved the three youths from the fiery furnace. Then Domitian sent him to the desert island of Patmos. Here John wrote the Book of Revelation of the fate of the Church and the world. After the death of Domitian, Apostle John returned to Ephesus from exile. The Bishops and presbyters of the Ephesian Church showed him three Gospels written by the Apostles Matthew, Mark and Luke. Having approved these Gospels, Apostle John deemed it necessary to supplement that which was lacking and which he knew well, being the last of the living eyewitnesses. This was of great importance, since toward the end of the first century there appeared in the Christian world several active gnostic sects which abased and even denied the Divinity of the Lord Savior. It was imperative to protect the faithful from that teaching. St. John the Theologian died a natural death (the only one of the Apostles to do so), being around 105 years of age, during the time of Emperor Trajan.

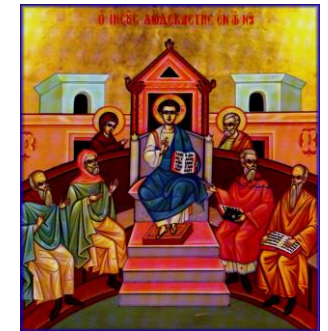


General Announcements

THE 4TH PASCHAL SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN & IMPORTANCE OF WATER — The fourth Paschal Sunday is dedicated to Christ's healing of the paralytic (Jn. 5:1-15). The man who had been paralyzed for 38 years is healed by Christ while waiting to be put down into the pool of water. For the next two Sundays, the symbol of water and its importance is indicated. It shows us how imperative Baptism is to remove the paralysis of sin. Through baptism in the church we, too, are healed and saved by Christ for eternal life. Thus, in the church, we are told, together with the paralytic, to "sin no more that nothing worse befall you." (John 5:14). Our baptism is a call to continued repentance. We have been restored by and through Jesus Christ, and we ought not to turn away from that new level of life to our old sinful ways, because that would be courting disaster. Rather, we must strive to root out all sin. As Saint John Climacus said: repentance is the renewal of baptism. *"The font of tears after baptism has become greater than baptism..., though this is a bold idea."* Our baptism was a pledge to walk in newness of life. The epistle showed us a good woman. On her behalf others interceded with Peter, showing him the fruits of her labor. He was so moved by this goodness, he raised her to life through God's power. May our lives, ever repentant, move God to raise us to life.



WEDNESDAY: FEAST OF MID-PENTECOST — After the Savior had miraculously healed the paralytic the Pharisees and Scribes were moved with envy, and sought to slay Him, using the excuse that He did not keep the Sabbath, since He worked miracles on that day. Jesus then departed to Galilee. About the middle of the Feast of Tabernacles, He went up again to the Temple and taught. The Jews, marveled at the wisdom of His words. But Christ first reproached their unbelief and lawlessness, then proved to them by the Law that they sought to slay Him unjustly, since He had healed the paralytic on the Sabbath. Since we have already reached the midpoint of the fifty days between Pascha and Pentecost, the Church has appointed this present feast as a bond between the two great feasts, thereby uniting, as it were, the two into one. Come and be with Our Savior at the Divine Liturgy on this day.



CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN:

Hungarian: Felta'madt Krisztus! Valo'ban felta'madt!

German: Christos ist auferstanden! In wahrheit ist er auferstanden!