

Parish Offerings – Paralytic Man Sunday — May 3, 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 (\$3,381) YP (\$13)	\$3,394.00
Easter (\$10) Pentecost (\$105) Holy Days (\$40)	155.00
Memorial Donation for Marlene Andrasko	200.00
Memorial Donation for Elsie & Francis Eberle & Manny Lopez	500.00
Votive Candles (\$33) Initial (\$15) Seminary (\$405)	453.00

\$4,702.00

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$415.00
Seminary (\$5) Improvements (\$40) Candles (\$34.50)	79.50

\$494.50

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

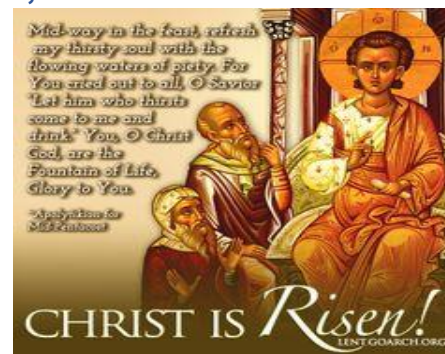
225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

5th Paschal Sunday – Mid-Pentecost – Annual Mother’s Day

May 10, 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)

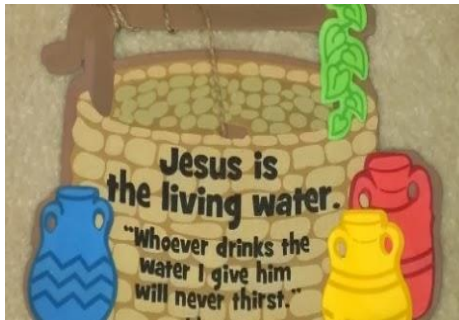
Rectory: (412) 771-3324; Church Fax: (412) 331-1870

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



Valerian F. Szal
238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412) 331-9713
331-9713
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Michael P. Ferrell
Supervisor, CFSP
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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!

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!

General Announcements

MR CHURCH SYMPATHIES EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of parishioner, **Mary Susan Dragosh, 68**, formally of McKees Rocks (Presston), PA, at the Brighton Wellness and Rehab Center on Sunday, May 3, 2020. The Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home, McKees Rocks, handled the arrangements. She is to be interred at St. Mary



Cemetery, McKees Rocks.; **Sandra (Vestovich) Derrick, 68**, of Pittsburgh (Hazlewood) PA, who passed away at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital on Wednesday, April 29 2020. She was the sister of parishioner, Barbara (Lee) Feldman. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home, McKees Rocks. Services were in private. Interment was at St. Mark Cemetery, McKees Rocks. Our Parish extends its most sincere condolences to the Dragosh, Vestovich and Feldman Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servants, Mary Susan and Sandra, and remember them forever. Vicnaja Jim Pamjat'!

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!



Our Holy Father's General Audience

Vatican City State on Prayer — May 6, 2020

Today we begin a new series of catechesis on the theme of *prayer*. Prayer is the breath of faith; it is its most proper expression. Like a *cry* that issues from the heart of those who believe and entrust themselves to God. Let us think about the story of Bartimaeus, a character in the Gospel (cf. Mk 10:46-52) He uses the only weapon he possesses: his voice. He begins to shout: "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" (v. 47). And he continues to cry out in this manner. His repeated cries are a nuisance. They do not seem polite and many people scold him, telling him to be quiet: "But be polite; do not do this". However, Bartimaeus does not keep silent but rather cries out even more loudly: "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" (v. 47): That beautiful stubbornness of those who seek a grace and knock and knock on the door of God's heart. He cries out; he knocks. That expression: "Son of David", is very important. It means "the Messiah" — he professes the Messiah. It is a profession of faith that emerges from the mouth of that man who was despised by all. And Jesus listens to his cry. Bartimaeus' prayer touches his heart, God's heart, and the doors of salvation open up for him. Jesus calls for him. He jumps to his feet and those who had first told him to be quiet, now lead him to the Master. Jesus speaks to him. He asks him to express his desire — this is important — and then the cry becomes a request: "that I may see again, Lord!" (cf. v. 51).... Jesus says to him: "Go your way; *your faith has made you well*" (v. 52). He recognizes in that poor, defenseless and despised man, all the power of his faith, which attracts the mercy and the power of God. Faith is having two hands raised up, a voice that cries out to implore the gift of salvation.

THE FIFTH PASCHAL SUNDAY

Why Samaria Was So Controversial to The Jews

(first read John 4: 5-42)

One of the most ancient cities of the Promised Land was Shechem, also called Sikima, located at the foot of Mount Gerazim. There the Israelites had heard the blessings in the days of Moses and Joshua. Near to this town, Jacob, who had come from Mesopotamia in the nineteenth century before Christ, bought a piece of land where there was a well. **This well, preserved even until the time of Christ, was known as Jacob's Well.** Later, before he died in Egypt, he left that piece of land as a special inheritance to his son Joseph (Gen. 49:22). This town, before it was taken into possession by Samaria, was also the leading city of the kingdom of the ten tribes. In the time of the Romans it was called Neapolis, and at present Nablus. It was the first city in Canaan visited by the Patriarch Abraham. Here also, Joshua addressed the tribes



of Israel for the last time. Almost three hundred years later, all Israel assembled there to make Roboam (Rehoboam) king. Concerning the Samaritans we know the following: In the year 721 before Christ, Salmanasar (Shalmaneser), King of the Assyrians, took the ten tribes of the kingdom of Israel into captivity, and relocated all these people to Babylon and the land of the Medes. From there he gathered various nations and sent them to Samaria. These nations had been idolaters from before. Although they were later instructed in the Jewish faith and believed in the one God, they worshipped the idols also. Furthermore, they accepted only the Pentateuch of Moses, and rejected the other books of Holy Scripture. Nonetheless, they thought themselves to be descendants of Abraham and Jacob. Therefore, the pious Jews named these Judaizing and idolatrous peoples Samaritans, since they lived in Samaria, the former leading city of the Israelites, as well as in the other towns thereabout. *The Jews rejected them as heathen and foreigners, and had no communion with them at all*, as the Samaritan woman observed, "the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans" (John 4:9). Therefore, the name Samaritan is used derisively many times in the Gospel narrations.

After the Ascension of the Lord, and the Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the woman of Samaria was baptized by the holy Apostles and became a great preacher and Martyr of Christ; she was called Photine or Photina, and her feast is kept on February 26.

CHRIST IS RISEN In Various Languages:

Chinese: Helisituosi fuhuole! — Qeshi fuhuole!

Japanese: Harisutosu Fukkatsu! — Jitsu Ni Fukkatsu

Calendar of Upcoming PRIVATE Events via (MR) internet

May 11 Feasts of Saints Cyril & Methodius & Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko.
 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
 Jun 7 2nd Day of Pentecost — Feast of the Most Holy Trinity — (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.

Saints of the Week — May 11

SS. Cyril & Methodius, Equals to the Apostles

Saints Cyril and Methodius were brothers from Thessalonica of distinguished and wealthy parents, Leo and Maria. The older brother Methodius spent ten years as an officer among the Macedonian Slavs and thus learned the Slavic language. After that Methodius withdrew to Mount Olympus and dedicated himself to the monastic life of asceticism. It was here that Cyril (Constantine) later joined him. When the Khazarite king, Kagan, requested preachers of the Faith of Christ from Emperor Michael III then, by command of the emperor, these two brothers were found and sent among the Khazars. Convincing King Kagan of the Faith of Christ, they baptized him along with a great number of his chief assistants and even a greater number of the people. After a period of time, they returned to Constantinople where they compiled the Slavonic alphabet consisting of thirty-eight letters and proceeded to translate ecclesiastical books from Greek into Slavonic.



At the request of Prince Rastislav, they traveled to Moravia where they spread and established the devout Faith and multiplied books and distributed them to the priests to teach the youth. At the request of the pope, Cyril traveled to Rome where he became ill and died on February 14, 867 A.D. Then Methodius returned to Moravia and labored to strengthen the Faith of Christ among the Slavs until his death. Following his death - he died in the Lord on April 6, 885 A.D. - his disciples, THE FIVE FOLLOWERS, with St. Clement, the bishop at the head, crossed the Danube River and descended to the south into Macedonia, where from Ohrid they continued their labor among the Rusyn people begun by Cyril and Methodius in the north.

Feast of Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko

Basil Hopko was born on April 21, 1904 in the Rusyn Village of Hrabске near Bardejov, Eastern Slovakia. In 1922 young Basil enrolled into the eparchial seminary in Presov. Following his second year, he was drafted into the army. There he would gather all the Rusyn soldiers together and take them to Sunday services. Upon completing his military service, he completed seminary studies in 1928. He was ordained to the holy priesthood by Bishop Paul P. Gojdich. Fr. Basil served his pastoral assignments faithfully displaying a great love for the poor, workers and Rusyn youth. Foreseeing a political overturn in Czechoslovakia in the autumn of 1946, Bishop Gojdich petitioned Rome that Father Hopko serve as his auxiliary bishop. Bishop Hopko was imprisoned and tortured. He became chaplain to the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate who also took care of him. On Friday, July 23, 1976 following a light lunch, and being helped in an easy chair, he gave up his spirit to the Lord whom he loved and faithfully served. Pope St. John Paul II beatified him on September 14, 2003. His Feast Day is May 11.



General Announcements

MOTHER'S DAY COMMEMORATED TODAY— In its present form, *Mother's Day* was established by **Anna Marie Jarvis**, following the death of her mother Ann Jarvis on May 9, 1905, with the help of Philadelphia merchant John Wanamaker. A small service was held on May 12, 1907 in the Andrew's Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia where Anna's mother had been teaching Sunday school. Anna then campaigned to establish Mother's Day first as a U.S. national holiday. On May 8, 1914, the U.S. Congress passed a law designating the second Sunday in May as *Mother's Day* and requesting a proclamation. On May 9, 1914 President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation declaring the first national *Mother's Day* as a day for American citizens to show the flag in honor of those mothers whose sons had died in war. The Grafton's church, where the first celebration was held, is now the International Mother's Day Shrine and is a National Historic Landmark. It must be noted that, while Miss Jarvis spent most of her adult life striving to create a special day to honor mothers, in the end, she was disappointed with the way Mother's Day turned out. As the popularity of the holiday grew, so did its commercialization. What she had intended as a day of sentiment quickly turned into a day of profit. In the end, shortly before her death, Anna Jarvis told a reporter that she was sorry she ever started Mother's Day.



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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, it 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.

