

Parish Offerings – 4th Sunday of The Great Fast — March 14, 2021

“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 (\$2,488.29) YP (\$9)	\$2,497.29
Holy Days	30.00
Easter Décor	10.00
Votive Candles	89.50
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	\$2,626.79

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$1,199.00
Easter Décor	10.00
Initial (\$5) B.C.W. (\$14) Eastern European Churches (\$20)	39.00
Votive Candles	40.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,288.00

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat (MR), 4:00 p.m. (41); Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (50); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (23)

IV Sunday Penitential Vespers — (MR) 3:00 p.m. (12)

Presanctified Divine Liturgy

V Lenten: Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (18); Friday — (NS) 6:00 pm (5)

Akathistos Saturday — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (5)

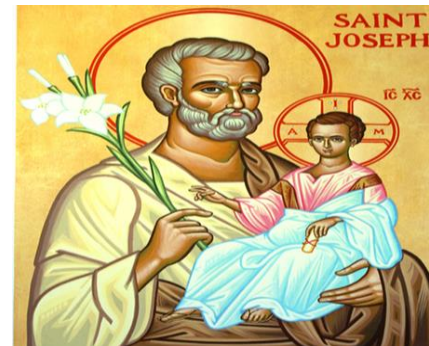
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

**225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE**

**McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212**

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

The Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt — March 21, 2021



2020 – Year of St. Joseph – 2021

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 E. 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: 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 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: Internet Sunday afternoon: Rusyn.fm at 3:30 pm. Archive: c-rsmedia.org.

New & Returning Parishioners: Welcome! Please register by phoning the Church Office.

Remember the Church in Your Will: Please be so kind to remember the Church in your last will and testament. This helps to secure its future & a Byzantine Catholic witness to all!



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
Ill Serving Yours Since 1953



DESIGNS BY NANCY
235 McCartney Drive,
Moon Township 15108
Phone: (412) 580-1545
Nancde@aol.com

Nancy C. Debranski
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Embroidery and Unique Gifts*

GCU
Greek Catholic Union of the USA
A Fraternal Benefit Society
NWPL 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

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 Office

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

In you, O Mother Mary the Egyptian, the faithful image of God shone forth; * for you carried your cross and followed Christ. You taught by your deeds how to spurn the body, for it passes away; and how to value the soul for it is immortal. Therefore, your soul is forever in happiness with the angels (Troparion of St. Mary the Egyptian).

March 21, 2021

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XI Number 12



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

The Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

5th Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

SUN., Mar 21 (35) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Deceased Simko & Buchko Families McCusker Family



11:00 a.m. (NS) + Jay Mowery. (5th ann of passing 3/23) Dgtr: Babs

3:00 p.m. (MR) Penitential Vespers for the Fifth Week of the Great Fast

Mon, Mar 22 (36) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Raymond Huddas Maria, Luke & Anita Iyengar

Tue, Mar 23 (37) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Br. Thomas Sommerfield Family

Vigil of the Annunciation — **EQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)**

Wed, Mar 24 (38) 8:00 a.m. (MR) 1st & 3rd Penitential Greatfast Hours

6:30 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

7:00 p.m. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy



MAKE THESE 40 DAYS HOLY

FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Solemn Holy Day

THRS, MAR 25 (39) 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

6:00 p.m. (NS) + Ann Onesi (2nd ann of passing) Family

FINAL DAY OF THE HOLY & GREAT 40 DAYS FAST — **REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)**

FRI, Mar 26 (40) 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours

*** 6:00 p.m. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy



LAZARUS SATURDAY

We now walk vicariously with Our Lord throughout the next 8 days

Sat, Mar 27 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael P. Harsh (1st ann of passing 4/1) Family

Sunday anticipated St. John Chrysostom Divine Liturgy of Royal Entry Into Jerusalem — Palm (Flowery) Sunday

*** 3:45 p.m. (MR) + Andrew Kundrat, Sr. (55th ann of passing 3/30) Theresa Kundrat

ROYAL ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

Palm (Flowery) Sunday — Solemn Blessing of Palms & Willows

SUN., Mar 28 *** 8:45 a.m. (MR) + Joyce Buchko (birthday 3/26) Sister: Peggy McCusker

*** 10:45 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

3:00 p.m. (MR) Passion Week Vespers

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

Mar 22 – Margaret Beliunas, Nicholas Rippole; Mar 24 – Richard Billy; Mar 25 – Wallace Michalisin, RUTH YANOSKO; Mar 26 – James Gunkel, AIMEE HELMS, Marlo Safi.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, MARY ANN CONTI, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, OLGA MANFREDO, Joseph Mitro, Irene Muha, Michael Muska, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Lisa Plutto, Anna May Sejka, Betty Spisak, Anita Wolsko, Nancy (Shanta) Wauthier.

MAPLEWOOD PC HOME (461 Maplewood Ave. Ambridge, PA 15003): Doris Naughton.

HIGHLAND PARK CARE CENTER (745 North Highland Ave., Pgh, PA 15206): Linda Reiger.

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.

ASBURY HEIGHTS (700 Bower Hill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15243): Helen Hopey.

THE RESIDENCE AT WILLOW LANE (30 Heckel Rd., MR, PA 15136): Helen Best, Marge Cifruk.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Does the Bible teach the sacrament of extreme unction? A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist: Yes. Extreme Unction, which is more commonly known today as the Anointing of the Sick, has its biblical foundation in James 5:14-16: "Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the church, and they should pray over him and anoint [him] with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed any sins he will be forgiven." This sacrament, in addition to remitting sin and strengthening the soul (and often the body) through an infusion of sanctifying grace, helps us unite our physical sufferings with those of Jesus. For additional insight you might read Matthew 10:1, Mark 6:13, Romans 8:17, and Colossians 1:24.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Mar. 21 — Mar. 27, 2021

(MR): In memory of the Simko & Buchko Families

offered by Peggy & Chuck McCusker.

(NS): In memory of Jay Mowery

(MR) None available 2021

offered by Dgtr: Barbara "Babs"

(NS) None available 2021



General Announcements

McKees Rocks

LAST WEEK OF PIROHI PROJECT — This coming week, our Pirohi Project will terminate for the Lenten Season. We have been vigilant of the Covid-19 situation, and have directed our Project according to local county guidelines. For the final sale we would appreciate additional **Pirohi-pinchers**. We would appreciate more volunteers to keep us ahead with the demand! Once again, **Phone orders only will be taken on Wednesdays prior to the sale (412) 331-5155 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.** Again, NO EAT-INS or WALK-INS. Also, to our Volunteers & Customers, if



you are feeling ill, please stay home or provide a healthy individual to stand in your place. Thank you for your concern and consideration.

YOUTH GROUP CONTINUES CANDY RAISING PROJECT — Every two years our Youth Group attends the Metropolitan Byzantine Rally. It is a wonderful chance for our youth to meet other Byzantine Catholics from across the country. In 2021 we are hoping to send 7 teens and 2 chaperones to Mt. St. Mary's University in Maryland. In



order to defray the cost, the Holy Ghost Youth Group continues a virtual fundraiser from Sarris Candies. The fundraiser is in effect now and continues until March 29. This is a contactless fundraiser and all purchases will be shipped directly to the buyer with a \$5 packaging charge per order.. You can purchase anything from the company and we will receive 25% of the sale. Just follow these steps and candy will be on the way. Go to the "fundraising" tab.

3. Our **group code is 10-3617.**
4. You do not have to put in a teen's name unless you want to.
5. Shop! — Thank you so much for your help! Holy Ghost Byzan-Teen Youth Group

Northside

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **Helen (Derkach) Mitro, 93**, of Pittsburgh (Greenfield) PA at UPMC Mercy Hospital on Sunday, February 28, 2021. She is the mother (in-law) of parishioner, Paul (June) Mitro. Along with her other beloved children and grandchildren, she is also survived by brother-in-law & parishioner Joseph Mitro of McKees Rocks Funeral arrangements were handled by the Edward P. Kanai Funeral Home, Greenfield. The Blessing Service was celebrated on Friday, March 5 @ 10:00 a.m. Our Parish extends its most sincere condolences to the Mitro Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, *eternal* rest to your servant, Helen, and remember her forever. *Vicnaja Jej Pamjat!*



MEN NEEDED TO HOLD CANDLES DURING PASSION GOSPELS — On Holy & Great Friday morning during the Passion Matins w/reading of the Twelve Gospels, the tradition of the Church always had 12 men holding candles as the Passion of the Lord Jesus was being proclaimed. We sure would like to keep this meaningful and sacred custom alive. It is open to all men of both parishes to participate. **Please register your name on the special sheet in the MR side vestibule or phone the Church Office.** Let us honor Our Lord for all that He endured for our salvation and redemption. At this point, only 5 have signed the list.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

FINAL SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST: Centering our lives on Jesus

For the third time, Jesus spoke of his passion and death (see also Mark 8:31-33; 9:30-32). His cross was to be the climax of his earthly mission. The Lord was clearly trying to impress



upon his closest disciples that this would indeed occur. He was teaching them the doctrine of the cross. Certainly, John and James had heard all that Jesus said about his mission for they were among his closest disciples, the only ones privileged—along with Peter—to witness his transfiguration (see Mark 9:2-13). Despite all they had seen and heard, they asked Jesus to promise that they would sit at his side in places of honor when he came into his kingdom (Mark 10:37). They knew what Jesus was about, yet they still asked this question. What was going on in their

minds at that moment that could make them disregard all they had learned? We often are like James and John when it comes to the things of God. Like these two sons of Zebedee, we have heard and seen much: we have heard the gospel proclaimed; we have pondered God's word in scripture; we understand the nature of our Lord's mission. Our minds can be so entrenched in the ways of this world, however, that what we've seen and heard drifts out of our minds when we must make decisions. The influence of the world is constantly pressing us, relentless in forcing upon us ways and standards which are opposed to what Christ taught. Each day we must center our lives on the truths we have learned in Christ so that they, not the world, can guide our lives. The author of the letter to the Hebrews warned: "We must pay the closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it" (Hebrews 2:1).

St. Mary of Egypt Commemorated Today

St. Mary is commemorated on the Fifth Sunday of The Great Fast. Her feast is on April 1. The Church holds her up as an example to the faithful during these fast days as an incentive for repentance. She died about the year 530 A.D. The biography of this wonderful saint was written by St. Sophron us, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. After living an immoral life, she was converted to the faith in Jerusalem. Having venerated the Cross, she entered the vestibule and, before the icon, gave thanks to the Mother of God. At that very moment she heard a voice saying: "*If you cross over Jordan you will find real peace!*" Immediately she purchased three loaves of bread and started out for the Jordan where she arrived that same evening. The next day she received Holy Communion in the Monastery of St. John and crossed over the Jordan River. She remained in the wilderness for forty-eight years in great torment, fear and struggle with passionate thoughts as though with wild beasts. She received Holy Communion for the final time from a priest-monk named Zosimus. After her death, Zosimus buried the body of this wonderful saint. When he returned to the monastery Zosimus related the entire history of her life and the miracles which he had personally witnessed. Thus, the Lord knows how to glorify penitent sinners. God doesn't reject anyone who comes to Him with a humble and contrite heart!!! **Do you know where her icon is in our (MR) Church?**



Calendar of Upcoming Events Including Holy Week & Easter

March 21 Penitential Great Fast Vespers at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks @ 3:00 p.m.
 March 24 .. **VI LENTEN WEDNESDAY:** (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.; (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m. – **NO MEAT.**
 March 25 Feast of the Annunciation — Wednesday (MR) 9:00 a.m.; (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 March 26 The Final Day of The Holy & Great 40 Days Fast. & Final Day of Pirohi Sales.
Week VI: FRIDAY: 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours.
 (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.
 March 27 Lazarus Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m.
 March 28 Palm (Flowery) Sunday — All weekend Divine Liturgies
 commence 15 minutes earlier for Solemn Blessing of Palms & Pussy Willows.
 Passion Vespers inaugurating Holy Week @ 3:00 p.m. preceded by Confessions.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE March 29 through April 3

Great & Holy Monday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 Great & Holy Tuesday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.
 (NS) Confessions @ 5:15 a.m.
 Great & Holy Wednesday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
Great & Holy Thursday ... (MR) Betrayal Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Vespers & St. Basil Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
Great & Holy Friday . (MR) Passion Matins w/12 Passion Gospels @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR) Royal Hours @ 12:00 noon.

**(MR) CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 12:00 NOON UNTIL 3:00 pm
FOR PRIVATE DEVOTION**

(NS) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 5:00 p.m. & (MR) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 7:00 p.m.

ALL NIGHT VIGIL BEFORE THE TOMB (Please Signup)

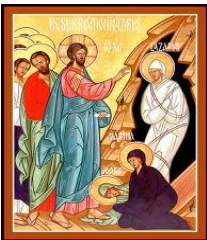
Great & Holy Sat. (MR) Sepulcher (Jerusalem) Matins w/Procession @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR) Great Vespers w/St. Basil Vigil Divine Liturgy @ 2:00 p.m. — **(NS) Resurrectional Matins @ 5:45 pm. & Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods in Church — (MR) Resurrectional Matins & Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom @ 7:45 p.m. followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods on Vehicles.**

APRIL 4 – EASTER SUNDAY — THE RADIANT RESURRECTION — THE GREAT DAY

(MR) 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods on Vehicles — (NS) 11:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods in Church.

SPECIAL LITURGICAL SERVICE THIS WEEK

LAZARUS SATURDAY BEGINS THE LAST EIGHT DAYS — This Palm Friday,

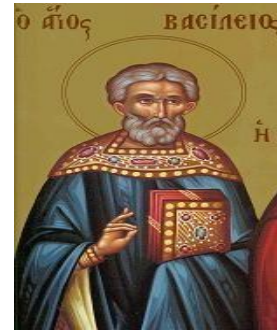


March 26 terminates the *Penitential Season of the Holy & Great 40 Days Fast.* It was given to us “to bring profit to our souls.” It, however, DOES NOT mean that we terminate our Lenten abstinence efforts! It encourages us to continue the practice for an additional eight days. Beginning with *Lazarus Saturday* the Church points out that we now are given the privilege and opportunity to walk *vicariously* with the Lord. This happens by participating in each of the daily liturgical services offered until Resurrection Sunday. Please use this extraordinary time to be with Our Lord in as many (if not all) upcoming Church services.

General Announcements

Saints of the Week

Bishop-Martyr Basil of Ancyra — March 22



Basil was a presbyter in Ancyra, Galatia. Fighting against the Arian heresy, he urged his flock to cling firmly to the True Faith. Because of this Saint Basil was deposed from his priestly rank by a local Arian council, but a Council of 230 bishops in Palestine reinstated him. Saint Basil openly continued to preach and denounce the Arians. Therefore, he became the victim of persecution and was subjected to punishment as a man dangerous to the state. Two apostates, Elpidios and Pegasios, were ordered to turn Saint Basil from the True Faith. The saint remained unshakable, and was again subjected to tortures. When the emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363) arrived in the city of Ancyra, Saint Basil bravely confessed Christ before him at the trial, and denounced the emperor for his apostasy. Julian ordered that strips of skin be cut from the saint's back. Saint Basil endured the gruesome torture with great patience. When they began to beat his shoulders and stomach with red-hot rods, he fell down upon the ground from the torments and cried out, “O Christ, my Light! O Jesus, my Hope! Quiet Haven from the stormy sea. I thank You, O Lord God of my fathers, that You have snatched my soul from the pit of Hell and preserved Your Name in me unstained! Let me finish my life a victor and inherit eternal life according to the promise You gave my fathers. Now accept my soul in peace, remaining steadfast in this confession! For You are merciful and great is Your mercy, You Who live and sojourn throughout all the ages. Amen.” Having made such prayer, and lacerated all over by the red-hot rods, the saint fell into a sweet slumber, giving up his soul into the hands of God. Basil died June 29, 362. His commemoration was transferred to March 22 due to the Feasts of Saints Peter & Paul.

VIGIL TOMB WATCH SIGNUP SHEET NOW READY — It has always been a long standing



custom that following the Entombment Vespers on Holy & Great Friday, the Church remains open up to the Resurrectional Matins Holy Saturday evening to venerate the Most Pure Body of Our Savior in the Tomb. In today's environs, we must be very careful that the Church is protected from vandalism. The McKees Rocks Parish will attempt to carry on this beautiful and solemn practice IF we can get enough of people to keep vigil before the Tomb, especially throughout the early hours

of the morning. A special poster is now available for signatures. This vigil is open and encourages both Parishes to participate. If you select a time slot, and someone else has signed, you may also sign in the same slot. It would be nice if a few individuals and families would share the same slots for safety reasons. If there aren't enough to register throughout the night, the Church will discontinue this tradition. So, please sign early so that we may know if this activity will become a true reality. Parents, please teach your children by your example of this important custom.