

Parish Offerings – Palm (Flowery) Sunday — March 28, 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	\$509.00
Palm Sunday (\$1,995) YP (\$10)	2,005.00
Holy Days (\$176) YP (\$2) Easter (\$45)	223.00
Votive Candles (\$112.50) Easter Décor (\$45)	262.50
	<hr/>
	\$2,999.50

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering	\$30.00
Palm Sunday (\$1,008) Holy Days (\$60) Easter (\$70)	1,138.00
Utilities (\$50) Improvements (\$30)	80.00
Votive Candles	83.85

Church Attendance Last Week \$1,331.85

(MR) Sat., *3:45 p.m. (35) Sun., (MR) *8:45 a.m. (65); (NS) *10:45 a.m. (35)
 Holy (Passion) Week Vespers — (MR) 3:00 p.m. (6)
 Presanctified Divine Liturgy — **Holy Mon.**, (MR) 7:00 p.m. (6)
 Presanctified Divine Liturgy — **Holy Tue.**, (NS) 7:00 p.m. (7)
 Presanctified Divine Liturgy — **Holy Wed.**, (MR) 7:00 p.m. (20)
 Great Vespers w/Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great — **Holy Thrs.**, (MR) 7:00 p.m. (22)
 12 Passion Gospels — **Great Fri.**, (MR) 8:00 a.m. (23); Royal Hours (MR) 12 noon (5)
 Entombment Vespers w/Procession — (NS) 5:00 p.m. (25); (MR) 7:00 p.m. (52)



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 McKees Rocks, PA 15136
 Phone: (412) 331-9713
 331-9713
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Michael P. Ferrell,
 Supervisor, CFSP
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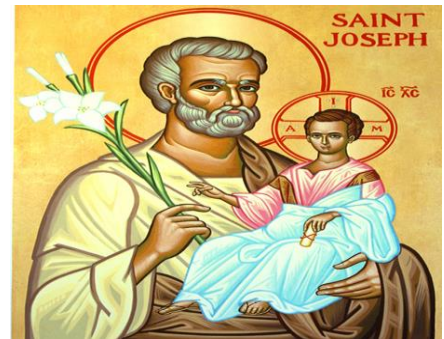
GCU
 Greek Catholic Union of the USA
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 NWPL offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Tina (412) 859-9597

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

HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
 225 OLIVIA STREET
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE
 McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE RADIANT RESURRECTION
OF OUR LORD, GOD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
THE GREAT DAY — APRIL 4, 2021



CHRIST IS Risen!
 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
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Daily Divine Liturgy M-F (MR) 8:00 am Sat. (NS) 9:00 am.
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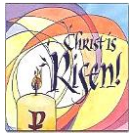
Holy Mystery of Reconciliation: Sat (MR): 3:15 to 3:40 pm & Sun (MR) 8:15 to 8:40 am.; (NS) 10:30 am
Holy Mysteries of Initiation: Contact Church Office for Baptism, Chrismation and Eucharist.
Holy Mysteries of Anointing: Ask especially prior to surgery or any other time.
Holy Mystery of Matrimony: Contact 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!

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

April 4, 2021

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XI Number 14



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

RADIANT RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Easter Sunday — The Great Day — MIROVANJE — Blessing of the Artos —
Proclamation of the Evangelist John's Gospel in 3 languages:
Latin, Church Slavonic and English

SUN., APR 4 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael P. Harsh (1st ann of pass. 4/1) Children
11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes



BRIGHT WEEK

No Simple Abstinence from meat all week in the light of the Radiant Resurrection
Proclamation of the 4 Resurrectional Gospels at the four corners of the Church
*** The BRIGHT HOURS will be celebrated each day before the Empty Tomb 15 minutes prior**

SOLEMN HOLY DAY

BRIGHT MON, APR 5 * 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes
*** 6:00 p.m. (NS) + Andrew Latta (6th ann of passing 4/6) Wife: Arlene & Family**



SIMPLE HOLY DAY

The Passing of St. Methodius, Apostle of the Slavs

BRIGHT TUE, APR 6 * 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners from Both Parishes
*** 6:00 p.m. (NS) + Theodore Demianczyk, Jr. (22nd ann of pass 4/4) Wife: Ann**

Bright Wed, Apr 7 * 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Marjorie Preganz (2nd ann of passing 4/4) Anonymous
10:00 a.m. (MR) + Paschal Funeral Divine Liturgy of Anna May Sejka (private)
2:00 a.m. (NS) + Paschal Funeral Divine Liturgy of Mary Sahayda

Bright Thrs, Apr 8 * 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mark A. Cifrulak Paronish & Ludwig Families

MEAT PERMITTED — NO ABSTINENCE

We continue to celebrate the joy of the Radiant Resurrection

Bright Fri, Apr 9 * 8:00 a.m. (MR) + William J. Hrivnak (birthday 4/1) Wife: Joyce & Family

Final Day of Bright Week — Closing of the Royal & Deacon Doors

Bright Sat, Apr 10 * 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Elizabeth Petruna Dgtr: Julia & Family

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Antipasch & St. Thomas — Divine Mercy Sunday

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Nicholas Terrek (16th ann of passing 4/8) Wife: Mildred & Family

SUNDAY OF THE ANTIPASCH & ST. THOMAS

Divine Mercy Sunday — 2nd Paschal Sunday

Distribution of the Artos at the Mirovanije
(cf. article on how to obtain a plenary indulgence)



SUN., APR 11 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary Fejka (25th ann. of passing 4/6) Dgtr: Susie
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

Apr 10 — Alan Harper.

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, Irene Muha, Michael Muska, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Lisa Plutto, 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.
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 Cifrulak.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. I have read that when a person is not yet able to receive the sacrament of confession, he can use the act of contrition. What specifically is that, and how does one make an act of contrition? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** Contrition may be either perfect or imperfect. While perfect contrition forgives all sins, it does not relieve us of the obligation to go to confession (cf Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 1452–53). The Byzantine form of an act of contrition outside of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is: *“Remit, pardon and forgive O God, my sins committed deliberately or through human frailty, by word or deed, by thought or purpose, by day or night. Forgive all these for you are gracious and the Lover of Mankind.”*

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Apr. 4 — Apr. 10, 2021

(MR): **In memory of Rose Babin (17th ann. of passing 4/6)**

offered by Dgtr: Janet Sendro

(NS): **In memory of Vivianne Grace Trapl**

(MR) None available 2021 offered by Parents & Sister: Damian, Leah & Eliana (NS) None available 2021



General Announcements

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the unexpected passing of **Anna May Sejka, 84**, of Rennersdale (Oakdale) PA at St. Clair Hospital, on Tuesday, March 30, 2021. She is the sister of parishioner, Alice Sejka and brother, Michael (Carolyn). Along with her other nephews and great-nephews and great-nieces. Ana May was a faithful worker at our Pirohi Project. Funeral arrangements will be handled by the Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home, McKees Rocks. The family requests viewing and funeral services to be in private. A Paschal Funeral Divine Liturgy will be on Wednesday, April 7, 2021. Entombment will follow at Resurrection Cemetery, Moon Township, PA. A public memorial service and luncheon will be at a later date. Our parish extends its most sincere condolences to the Sejka Family. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, *eternal* rest to your servant, Anna May, and remember her forever. Vicnaja Jej Pamjat! because Christ is Risen!



Our parish extends its most sincere condolences to the Sejka Family. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, *eternal* rest to your servant, Anna May, and remember her forever. Vicnaja Jej Pamjat! because Christ is Risen!

GRATITUDE TO OUR PIROHI WORKERS — Special Thanks to all of our determined Pirohi Project workers who took the reins despite this unprecedented time who came out faithfully every week to see this Project through! The financial results are as follows: Haluski Sale — \$291.00 minus the expenses of \$51.47 totaling \$240.53; Pirohi Sales — \$13,083.00 minus the expenses of \$1,268.49 totaling \$11,814.51. Please keep in mind that this does not include the utilities used in this project. God bless you for sacrificing your time and effort!



SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO GAVE OF THE THREE T'S — Our pastor extends a heartfelt thank you to all who remembered him this Resurrectional Season with all the prayers, gifts and especially for responding to our liturgical services. Your TIME, TALENT and TREASURE are truly appreciated and important to keep our Holy Ghost alive and active for the continual preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ and Dispensing the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments) without interruption for over 114 years! A special thank you to our Church Decorators and Altar Cover Changers whose unique talent make our Churches fantastically beautiful at this time of the year by cleaning and arranging the flowers around the Tomb and the Holy Altar; to those who lead the singing and the readings; to the 12 men who stood vigil during the Proclamation of the 12 Passion Gospels on Great Friday; to our altar servers, St. Aquilina ministers and ushers, to our parish secretary who sacrificially keeps both parishes up-to-date with all communications and bills that pass by her desk, and then some; to those who led the singing at the Great Fast Penitential Services; to all who have been faithful to the additional liturgical services of The Great Fast and Holy Week as well as signing for the Tomb-Vigil; and to everyone else who made this Holy Season a memorable reality! A special thanks extended to Rich Fitzpatrick for guarding the Church during the tomb-vigil. May Our Risen Lord Jesus bless all of you! — CHRIST IS RISEN !!!



Ruthenian (RUSYN) & Ukrainian: Christos Voskres! Voistinnu Voskres!
Church Slavonic: Christos Voskrese! Voistinnu Voskrese!
Hungarian: Feltamadt Krisztus! Valaban Feltamadt!
Slovak: Kristus vstal zmr'tvych! Skutoc ne vstal!

PASCHAL RESURRECTIONAL (EASTER) SUNDAY THE RADIANT RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, GOD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

My Dear Parishioners — Unfortunately, we still find ourselves in the midst of the Covid-19 Pandemic! It has been over a year that the coronavirus has manifested its presence among



us. It is disturbing and continues to wear us down. At the same time, it is puzzling that many are more concerned and fearful against this viral affliction of the body, while neglecting concern of the soul. Many gather in long lines and even travel far distances to receive a vaccine. Today's celebration of Christ's Radiant Resurrection in which He tramples sin and death is a hopeful time to acknowledge the annihilation of a spiritual virus that causes sickness and destruction to our souls. Christ is awaiting to distribute through the Church a vaccine to inoculate us in The Holy Mysteries of Penance and the Holy Eucharist. Unfortunately, the lines are small and the concern not so great. However, it is truly wonderful to see that many have been returning to the hospital of the Church, and receive Our Lord's powerful and mighty presence in the Sacraments that are a salutary remedy to our souls and bodies. Let us not be fearful, but be careful! Let us have great faith that **CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRISTOS VOSKRESE!** — Fr. Firko

THE GREAT DAY --- VELIK DEN

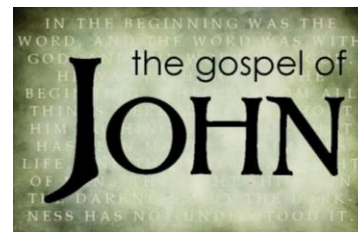
Today as we commemorate the total and complete triumph of Our Lord's Radiant Resurrection flowing from the Empty Tomb of Christ, this Principal Feast of our Faith festively echoes and resounds Jesus' message of HOPE for mankind in the "New Life" that He secured for us by His Passion, Death and Resurrection. The founders and benefactors of our Byzantine Catholic Church referred to this day as **THE GREAT DAY** since the Lord Jesus Who is the New Paschal Lamb was victorious in securing for us a NEW PASSOVER. From darkness to Light, from death to Life!



PROCLAMATION OF GOSPEL IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES

The New Creation brought forth by Christ (John 1: 1 – 12)

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist John's Gospel Prologue is proclaimed at the Easter



Divine Liturgy on each year. It is divided into 12 separate verses indicating that the 12 apostles' mission was to proclaim the Good News throughout the world. These verses may be chanted in several different languages so that all peoples may hear and understand the Good News. The pealing of the bells send forth this jubilant message to the entire universe that Jesus, The Messiah, established the spreading of His Church under the pastoral leadership of Peter and the Holy Apostles. Today, it is the Pope and all Bishops united with him that have this mission. Let us be grateful to Almighty God for all priests who continue this sacred mission & to all Christian faithful who live it!

Calendar of Upcoming Events Of Easter and Bright Week

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.

BRIGHT WEEK

* The Bright Hours will be celebrated at the Empty Tomb 15 minutes before each Bright Week Divine Liturgy

April 5 Bright Monday w/procession (Solemn): (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.

April 6 Bright Tuesday (Simple): (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.

Bright Wednesday through Saturday: (MR) All Morning Divine Liturgies in Main Church

April 11 Feast of St. Thomas & Feast of Divine Mercy.

April 23 Feast of the Holy Great-Martyr & Victory Bearer, St. George, the Wonder-Worker
 (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.

Sanctified Dinner Today

Following the Solemn Blessing of the Paschal Foods in our Easter Baskets, we take these festive and Sanctified Foods to our homes for our Paschal Meal. The Ruthenian people refer to this meal as the **SANCTIFIED DINNER**. This is a beautiful and meaningful custom passed on to us. May we always cherish it and pass it to future generations as a part of our particular custom so that God's grace bestowed on these bountiful gifts may be received by all.



Traditional 3 Day of Easter

Easter Sunday, Bright Monday and Bright Tuesday marks the customary 3 days of Easter. We refer to this week as BRIGHT WEEK because of the brilliance that flows from the empty-tomb of Christ! The Resurrectional Feast is celebrated throughout these next seven days, the first three days are of special significance. *The Church bestows particular graces to all the faithful who attend and worship God and worthily receive the Holy Eucharist at this time.* The pioneers of our Holy Ghost Parish filled these days with their presence and festively proclaimed CHRISTOS VOSKRESE! Let us follow in their footsteps and imitate their faith and love for the Resurrected Jesus and their Byzantine Catholic Tradition.

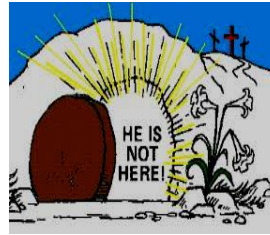
Ruthenian (Rusyn) Folklore Remembered

On **Bright Monday** and **Bright Tuesday**, traditional Rusyn Folklore reminds us that Jesus' followers were so overwhelmed with the joy of their Resurrected Savior that they went through the streets of Jerusalem proclaim the news of the Radiant Resurrection. Their opponents tried to squelch their enthusiasm by throwing water from their upstairs window at them. Our Byzantine Catholic ancestors of the Carpathian Mountains developed the **"POLIVANKA"** that is "Water-pouring" on each other. On Bright Monday, the men would pour (actually throw) water upon the women; and the later in turn did the same to the men on Bright Tuesday. As they enacted this tradition from the past they cried out, **"CHRISTOS VOSKRESE!"**



General Announcements

EMPTY TOMB REMAINS VISIBLE FOR 40 DAYS — Over the course of the next 40 days, the Empty Tomb will remain in our midst as a reminder that **CHRIST IS RISEN!** It is meant to motivate us in giving witness to this truth and to bring others to experience Him. The burial shroud (Plaschanitza) is placed on the altar prior to the Resurrectional Matins signifying that the Resurrected Christ remains with us vicariously as He was with His disciples strengthening them in their Faith. It is a time of over-whelming joy prior to His glorious Ascension into Heaven.



CUSTOM TO PRAY BEFORE THE EMPTY-TOMB — You are encouraged to pray before the Empty-Tomb of Our Lord 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 radiant power that flows from it.

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!



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY NEXT WEEK — The Sunday following Easter (Pascha) is a very special Sunday when the Divine Floodgates of God's Mercy 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). *To be eligible to receive this promise of the Lord Jesus Himself, one must seek His Mercy is the Holy Mystery (Sacrament) of Reconciliation, and receive Holy Communion on this day. Approach any Catholic priest avail yourself to this gift!*



EASTER DUTY PRECEPT — All Christian Faithful are OBLIGED (MANDATED) to receive the Divine Eucharist when in danger of death AND during the Paschal (Easter) Period (Canon 708). In regards to the latter, this is traditionally known as the EASTER DUTY. When one is aware of Mortal (Deadly) Sin, a Sacramental Confession is necessary before receiving Holy Communion. Serious Sins are those fractures especially against the Ten Commandments and omissions of the 6 Precepts of the Church, but not limited to them. If you have not attended to your Easter Duty Precept, the **Sunday of All Saints (June 13)** is the final day to take care of this important spiritual matter without incurring serious (mortal) sin of omission. Use the special examination of conscience forms located in the vestibule and narthex of the Church to assist you in making a good confession of sins.