

Parish Offerings – Sunday of the Antipasch — April 11, 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 (\$1,432) YP (\$5)	\$1,437.00
Easter (\$120) Palm Sunday (\$10) Holy Days (\$190)	320.00
Special Donation (In memory of + Anna May Sejka)	25.00
Votive Candles	120.50
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	\$1,902.50

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering	\$638.00
Easter (\$105) Palm Sunday (\$5) Holy Days (\$35)	145.00
Utilities (\$10) Improvements (\$15) Easter Décor (\$155)	180.00
Votive Candles (\$32.01) Eastern European Churches (\$5)	37.01
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	\$1,000.01

Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (26)

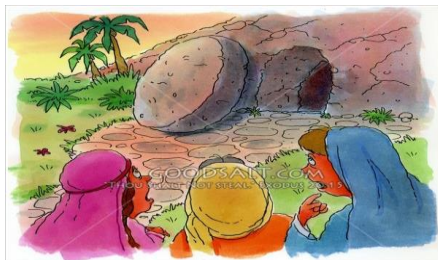
Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (57); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (21)



THE ORIGINAL ROCK



...AND ROLL



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
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HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

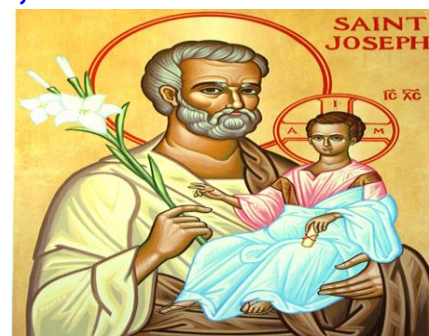
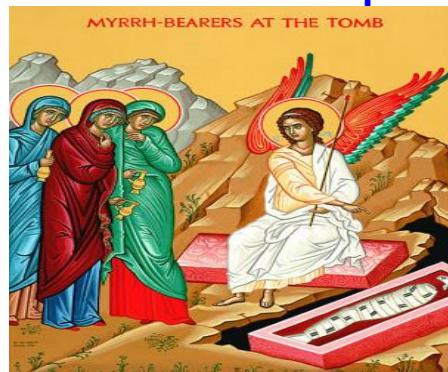
225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

With Joseph & Nicodemus — 3rd Paschal Sunday

April 18, 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!

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

Before the sun was up, a group of women sought the true Sun, whom they believed had set in the tomb. Myrrh-Bearers, the radiant angel appeared and said: 'The resplendent Light enlightens those who sleep in the darkness. Go and announce to the radiant disciples that sorrow is now changed into joy.' With a confident heart and clapping of hands cry out with joy: The Pasch of joy now saves us. Christ is Risen and grants great mercy to the world.' (Great Vespers for Myrrh-Bearers Sunday)

April 18, 2021

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XI Number 16



Christ is Risen! — Indeed! He is Risen! The Glorified Cross
Christos Voskrese!! — Voistinnu Voskrese!



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
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SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

Joseph of Arithemea & Nicodemus – 3rd Paschal Sunday

SUN., Apr 18	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ H. Jayne Skreptach <i>(10th ann of passing 4/19)</i>	Bilak & Tomchak Families
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	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Agnes + Anthony Knoll	Son: William
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Mon, Apr 19	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ John N. Zavidny <i>(11th ann of passing 4/20)</i>	Wife: Bunny & Family
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Tues, Apr 20	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Ruth + Albert Barnash	Son: Al & Christine Barnash
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Weds, Apr 21	*** 7:30 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary (Batko) Firko <i>(36th ann of passing)</i>	Firko Family
	10:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Paschal Funeral Divine Liturgy of Helen Hopey	

Thrs, Apr 22	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Joseph L. Patrick <i>(birthday)</i>	Nieces & Nephews
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Feast of the Holy Great-Martyr & Victory-Bearer

George the Wonderworker — Simple Holy Day

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

Fri, Apr 23	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ George Kushner	Son: Deacon David & Family
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	6:00 p.m. (NS)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
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Sat, Apr 24	9:00 a.m. (NS)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
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Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Paralytic Man — 4th Paschal Sunday

	4:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Geraldine Nazak <i>(5th ann of passing 4/16)</i>	Dgtrs & Grand-Children
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SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN

4th Paschal Sunday

SUN, Apr 25	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ George Kurtanich <i>(6th ann of passing 4/24)</i>	Children
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	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Helen (Derkach) Mitro <i>(40th day of passing 4/8)</i>	Son: Paul & June
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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 18 – Dale Charochak; Denise Wickline **Apr 19** – LOGAN KALLOP; **Apr 20** – Lauren Sidun, DIANE VIDA; **Apr 23** – William Kress, ARLENE LATTA, JUNE MITRO; **Apr 24** — Olivia Stebbins.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, MARY ANN CONTI, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, 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.
THE RESIDENCE AT WILLOW LANE (30 Heckel Rd., MR, PA 15136): Helen Best, Marge Cifrulak.
ALLEGHENY GENERAL HOSPITAL (320 E. North Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15212): Peggi Lucas.
CARING HEIGHTS REHAB (234 Coraopolis Rd., Coraopolis, PA 15108): Beverly Harsh.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Why should we abstain from meat on Fridays or do an equivalent penance? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** The church asks us to abstain from meat on Fridays or to do an equivalent penance as a means of “offering our bodies as a living sacrifice” in union with Christ (Rom. 12:1; CCC 1434). An “equivalent penance” means that it is to extend throughout the entire penitential day. The purpose is not to make life tough for us. The Church is truly working in our best interest and only asks us to do what is ultimately good for us... We are obliged to do some form of penance every Friday because it is the day of Jesus’ Crucifixion, the ultimate sacrifice (CCC 1438). We do penance for several reasons: (1) As a way to atone for sins of the past, both ours and others (Col. 1:24); (2) To learn to master our inclinations towards sin (Jas 1:2-4); (3) To help us prepare for a spiritual Feast such as the Resurrection; (4) As a sign of our conversion; (5) As a way to purify our soul (CCC 2043).

This Week’s Sanctuary Lamps

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

Apr. 18 — Apr. 24, 2021

(MR): **In memory of Anna & Michael Goyda**

offered by Grand-Dgtr: Mary Ann

(NS): **In memory of Mary Gifford**

(MR) None available 2021

offered by Niece: Tamara Harding

(NS) None available 2021



General Announcements

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **Helen (Kunsak) Hopey, 96**, of Vanadium Woods Village, Bridgeville, PA, at the Asbury Heights Nursing Facility, Mt. Lebanon, PA on Bright Wednesday, April 7, 2021. She is survived by five Sons: Stephen (Don) of Mt. Lebanon, PA; James (Jim) of Lemont Centre County, PA; Mark of Spring Creek, NC; Paul of Mountain Rest, SC; and Glen of Oreland, Montgomery County, PA. She is also survived by 4 daughter-in-laws and 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. She was very active in several projects including a long standing associate member of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great, Mt. St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA; also, she served many years as the head



coordinator of our Holy Ghost Pirohi Project. In tribute, Pirohi Workers will hold a candle vigil upon the exiting from the Church. The Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home, McKees Rocks, is handling the arrangements. An honorary closed casket public filing will take place on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. A Paschal Funeral Divine Liturgy will follow @ 10:00 a.m. Interment will be at Calvary Cemetery, Mt. St. Marina, Uniontown, PA. Our Parish extends its most sincere sympathy to the Hopey Family. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant Helen, and remember her forever because CHRIST IS RISEN! Vicnaja Jej Pamjat' ibo CHRISTOS VOSKRESE!

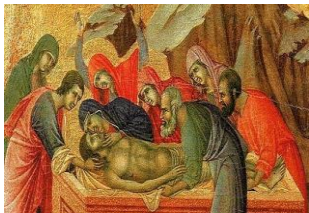
North Side

No Particular Announcements this Week

Joseph of Arimathea & Nicodemus

Also Commemorated Today

Little did **Joseph** know that his own tomb would become the Holy Sepulcher? Joseph not only buried Jesus in his tomb, he later became a missionary to England. He was a member of the Sanhedrin,



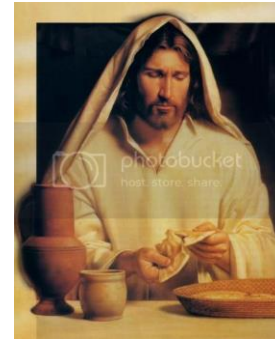
which was the highest court of the Jewish nation, as well as their supreme religious council. This group voted to put Jesus to death. Joseph, however, abstained from voting. He was chained and imprisoned for burying Jesus. However, Jesus appeared to him after His burial, and so Joseph believed. He was released from prison and exiled from Jerusalem. He traveled with the Apostle Philip and many other apostles to England, winning converts along the way. They were all thrown into prison by the chief, who would

only release them if they remained in one area, a reservation, of his choosing. It was swampland, which the Christians all drained and made habitable. The area is now known as Glastonbury. They built a chapel to the Archangel Gabriel, and Joseph is buried in Avalon. Joseph is the Patron saint of Funeral Directors. **Nicodemus** was a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin, who, according to the Gospel of John, showed favor to Jesus. He appears three times in the plot: the first is when he visits Jesus one night to listen to his teachings (John 3:1–21); the second is when he states the law concerning the arrest of Jesus during the Feast of Tabernacles (John 7:45–51); and the last follows the Crucifixion, when he assists Joseph of Arimathea in preparing the corpse of Jesus for burial (John 19:39–42). The discussion with Jesus is the source of several common expressions of contemporary Christianity, specifically, the descriptive phrase born again used to describe the experience of believing in Jesus as Savior, and John 3:16, a commonly quoted verse used to describe God's plan of salvation.

5 Reasons Why We Should Try to Attend The Daily Mass (Divine Liturgy)

(The follow article appeared on the web-page from the Roman Rite Diocese of Salina, Kansas. The author is Rev. Steve Heian. He will use the term 'Mass' but it is also to be understood also in the context of Byzantine Rite terminology 'Divine Liturgy.' Please read and ponder.)

I've been going to daily Mass for the greater part of twenty years. In the days and weeks after September 11, my soul was touched by the number of people who also began attending. I thought I understood God's purpose in allowing that evil day to happen. It seemed the churches were half-



full, at daily Masses. I wondered why they were not completely full. Then, as things seem to brighten and become more stable, the churches gradually emptied again. I guess we really didn't understand... God's love and protection are the only real stability we will ever know in life. So, below are five reasons I go to daily Mass. I believe they are five of the same reasons you, also, might consider.

1. Receiving Christ in the Blessed Eucharist gives us the strength to fight selfish pride and sin. Pride and ego are two of the many demons most of us must battle constantly. We desire pleasure, things, convenience, notice, etc. It's a constant struggle to weaken these impulses... especially when they impact our other priorities and relationships. We cannot win the struggle alone. We were not created perfect. We were born frail and defective so that we might acknowledge that any good which happens in us or through us is from God. It takes supernatural strength to combat ego; and we can get that strength from our Lord present in the Eucharist. The sanctifying grace that pours through us when we receive the consecrated host allows us to stop before uttering a word of anger, or engaging in a selfish sin. Simply put, the Eucharist strengthens us for the daily journey.

2. Praising God first thing in the morning is the most important thing on our daily calendar. "First things first", as they say. And since we've been blessed to be a member of this one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, we should understand that it's a privilege and a gift that we can make God the first and most important person in our day by worshipping Him in His temple. Plus, God asks for the first fruits of our harvest, the first tenth of all our blessings. Going to Mass is offering the first part of our day to the Lord who is the source of all our blessings. It's the best form of Catholic stewardship.

3. The Mass is my ongoing spiritual formation. One beautiful thing about the Mass is that it is so drenched in scripture. Attending Mass daily allows us to soak in God's Word. Reading and reflecting on the daily scriptures the evening before makes the Mass seem even richer and more fulfilling. The Mass helps us get a full Catholic education in Christ -- stewardship, the sacraments, the saints, and evangelization. It helps us grown in the Lord a day at a time.

4. The Mass heals. Every Mass is a healing experience. It heals wounds caused by our sinful nature, it heals our relationship with God and with one another, bringing us closer to our Lord, giving us opportunities to draw near and receive Him not only in the Word, but also in the Blessed Sacrament.

5. You meet your Creator, your friend, your love. It is good to be a friend and lover of God. On the day we see Him face-to-face, we will realize that which we have missed throughout our lives. As Saint Augustine says: "my heart is restless until it rests in You." Find your shelter in the wings of the Lord. Find it, every morning, in His Holy temple. During the day, find it in silent prayer wherever we are. We will come to yearn for the Lord knowing that our day is incomplete without prayer and worship. We will find no greater solace than in His Word, in His sacraments, and in surrendering to His love. In accepting the challenge of meeting Jesus daily in the Eucharist, we will find more joy than ever.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- April 21 Paschal Funeral Divine Liturgy of Helen Hopey @ 10:00 a.m.
- 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.
- April 28 Commemoration of Mid-Pentecost.
- May 1 Tentative Practice of those preparing for First Reconciliation in MR Church @ 11:00 a.m. Tentative Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Corporate Communion @ 4:00 p.m. DL.
- May 9 Annual Mother's Day.
- May 11 Feasts of Saints Cyril & Methodius & Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko
- May 12. Great Vespers w/DL for the Feast of the Glorious Ascension (Holy Day of Obligation) (MR) 7:00 p.m.
- May 13 .. Feast of the Glorious Ascension (Holy Day of Obligation) (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 pm..

Saint of the Week

The Holy Great-Martyr & Victory-Bearer George the Wonder-worker — April 23

This glorious and victorious saint was born in Cappadocia the son of wealthy and virtuous parents. His father suffered for Christ and his mother then moved to Palestine. When

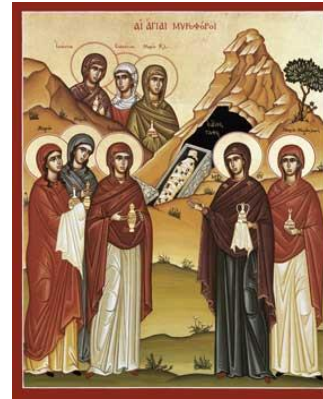


George grew up, he entered the military, where in his twentieth year, attained the rank of a Tribune and as such was in the service of the Emperor Diocletian. When Diocletian began the terrible persecution against Christians, George came before him and courageously confessed that he is a Christian. The emperor had him thrown into prison and ordered that his feet be placed in a stockade of wooden hobbles and that a heavy stone be placed on his chest. After that, the emperor commanded that George be tied to a wheel under which was a board with large nails and he was to be rotated until his entire body became as one bloody wound. After that, they buried him in a pit with only his head showing

above the ground and there they left him for three days and three nights. Then George was given a deadly poison to drink by some magician. But, through all of these sufferings, George continuously prayed to God and God healed him instantly and saved him from death to the great astonishment of the people. When he resurrected a dead man through his prayer, many then accepted the Faith of Christ. Among these also was Alexandra, the wife of the Emperor Athanasius, the chief pagan priest and the farmers: Glycerius, Valerius, Donatus and Therinus. Finally, the emperor ordered George and his wife Alexandra beheaded. Blessed Alexandra died on the scaffold before being beheaded. *St. George was beheaded in the year 303 A.D. The miracles which have occurred over the grave of St. George are without number. Numerous are his appearances, either in dreams or openly, to those who have invoked him and implored his help from that time until today.* Enflamed with love for Christ the Lord, it was not difficult for this saintly George to leave all for the sake of this love: rank, wealth, imperial honor, his friends and the entire world. For this love, the Lord rewarded him with the wealth of unfading glory in heaven and on earth and eternal life in His kingdom. In addition, the Lord bestowed upon him the power and authority to assist all those in miseries and difficulties who honor him and call upon his name.

General Announcements

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN — The Third Sunday after Easter is dedicated to the memory of seven of the most dedicated and courageous women of the New



Testament. We know a great deal about the Twelve Apostles of Christ, but we know very little about the Myrrh-bearing Women who were devoted to Christ equally as much as the Apostles themselves. They were with Jesus as He preached the message of Salvation. They were with Him when He was taken down from Calvary. It was these women who came to anoint His Sacred Body and prepare it for burial. This is why the Church refers to them as the "Myrrh-bearing Women." Who were they? **1. Mary Magdalene; 2. Salome; 3. Mary, the Mother of James and Joses; 4. Johanna, the wife of Chuza; 5. Susanna; 6 & 7. Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus.** These glorious ladies of the Church remained steadfast in their faith and brought

glory to the Church of Christ. The Fathers of the Church consider them "equal to the Apostles."

SUBMIT SUBSCRIPTION TO ARCHIEPARCHIAL NEWSPAPER — We are in the process of sending all submitted new and renewal payments to *The Byzantine Catholic World*. There



are several who have not turned in their 2021 subscription envelope. In order to keep your B.C.W. from being terminated or interrupted, please submit payment **by Wednesday, April 28.** This newspaper serves as an excellent source of reporting all news in

the Archeparchy and throughout the metropolitan province. The annual subscription price is \$14.00. As a side note, there are still several 2021 Contribution envelopes and calendars in the basement of the (MR) Church. All of the (NS) have already been pickup. Both of our Churches depend on your weekly contribution to meet our fiduciary responsibilities.

ATTEND TO YOUR 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.

**CHRIST IS RISEN! — INDEED! HE IS RISEN!
CHRISTOS VOSKRESE! — VOISTINU VOSKRESE!**