

**Parish Offerings – Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers — April 18, 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 (\$2,233.50) YP (\$10) .....	\$2,243.50
Easter (\$860) Holy Days (\$110) .....	970.00
B.C.W. (\$14) Initial (\$10) .....	24.00
Votive Candles .....	168.50
	<hr/>
	\$3,406.00

**Holy Ghost Church, North Side**

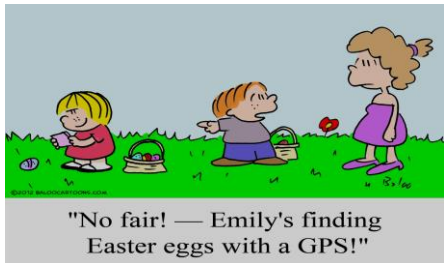
Regular Offering .....	\$387.00
Easter (\$300) Holy Days (\$25) .....	325.00
Special Donation (In memory of + Mary Sahayda) .....	40.00
Special Donation (In memory of + Theo. Demianczyk + Dawn Ringes) ..	200.00
Votive Candles (\$29.50) Improvements (\$10) .....	39.50

**Church Attendance Last Week \$991.50**

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (45)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (52); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (22)

Holy Martyr, George, Friday, Apr. 23 – (MR) 9:00 a.m. (11); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (9)



**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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**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**

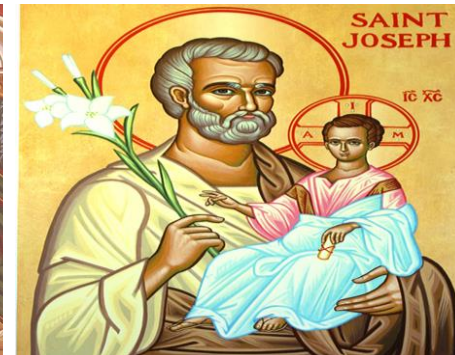
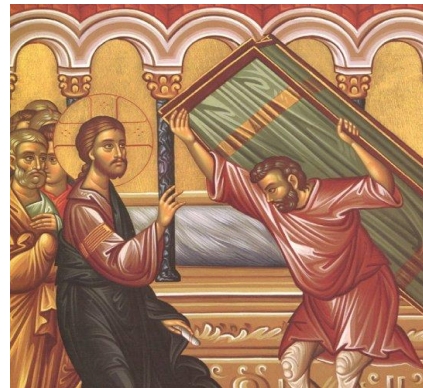
**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN**

**4<sup>th</sup> Paschal Sunday — April 25, 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](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org) – E-Mail: [ffaf334@verizon.net](mailto:ffaf334@verizon.net)

**SUNDAY RADIO (9:00 am WEDO 810 AM) & INTERNET DIVINE LITURGY**  
**Liturgical Services LIVE: [www.Youtube.com](http://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

O Savior, my Lord and my God, You desired to raise the fallen human race, You walked upon the earth as a man, healing the sick through Your tender compassion, and having come to the pool at the Sheep gate, You found the man who had been sick for thirty-eight years. By Your word alone You restored him to health (Great Vespers of the Paralytic Man)

April 25, 2021

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XI Number 17



**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, Apr 25**                      9:00 a.m. (MR) + George Kurtanich (6<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 4/24) Children  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Helen (Derkach) Mitro (40<sup>th</sup> day of passing 4/8)    Son: Paul & June

Mon, Apr 26                      8:00 a.m. (MR) + Olszewski Family                       Br. Regis, O.F.M.

Tues, Apr 27                      8:00 a.m. (MR) + Darko S. Gataric                      Family  
 (1<sup>st</sup> ann. of passing)





### COMMEMORATION OF THE FEAST OF MID-PENTECOST

**Wed, Apr 28**    8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michele (Terrek) Chiavetta    Marge Cifrulak & Helen Best

Thrs, Apr 29    8:00 a.m. (MR) + Sandra (Vestovich) Derrick    Sister: Barbara & Lee Feldman

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

Fri, Apr 30     8:00 a.m. (MR) + George Zula                      Zula Family  
(62<sup>nd</sup> ann. of passing 5/1)                      

**First Saturday of the month in reparation for blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary**

Sat, May 1                      9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Samaritan Woman — 5<sup>th</sup> Paschal Sunday**

 4:00 p.m. (MR) + Robert G. Sakara                      Aunt: Mildred Terrek

### SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

#### 5th Paschal Sunday

**SUN, May 2**                      9:00 a.m. (MR) + Mark A. Cifrulak (wedding ann)                      Wife: Nancy  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Helen Meaders                      Family

## 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 25** – Audrey Hart; **Apr 28** – Gerald Stebbins; **Apr 30** – Gary Yakubik.

### 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.  
**THE RESIDENCE AT WILLOW LANE** (30 Heckel Rd., MR, PA 15136): Helen Best, Marge Cifrulak.  
**WEST PENN HOSPITAL REHAB** (4800 Friendship Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15224): Peggi Lucas.

#### Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

**Q.** Is it wrong to receive Communion before committing a mortal sin? Suppose you know that you are going to be in a position where you may fall into committing a mortal sin. **A.** **Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** The Church teaches that anyone conscious of a mortal sin must receive the sacrament of reconciliation before receiving Holy Communion. If you know you are going to be in a position where you may commit a mortal sin, you need to make a conscious effort to avoid those situations that tempt you. The strength to resist sin and break our disordered attachments comes from 1) frequent reception of the sacraments (e.g., confession, Eucharist) and 2) a disciplined prayer life. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says: As bodily nourishment restores lost strength, so the Eucharist strengthens our charity, which tends to be weakened in daily life; and this living charity wipes away venial sins. By giving himself to us Christ revives our love and enables us to break our disordered attachments to creatures and root ourselves in him. (CCC 1394).

### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**Apr. 25 — May 1, 2021**

(MR): **In memory of Geraldine & Andrew Nazak**

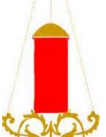
offered by Dgtrs & Grandchildren

(NS): **In memory of Anthony Knoll**

(MR) None available 2021

offered by Dgtr: Leslie O,Donnell

(NS) None available 2021





# General Announcements

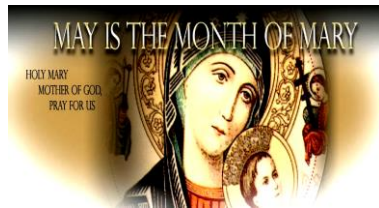
**SYMPATHY EXTENDED** — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the youthful passing of **Lynne**



**Marie Austin Cramer, 50**, at her residence under Hospice Care in Mt. Lebanon, PA, on Holy and Great Friday, April 2, 2021. She is survived by her husband, Steve and step-children. She is the sister of parishioner, Harry (Donna) Herron; and aunt of parishioner, Stephanie Herron and Mary Elizabeth (Fr. Vatii) Stashkevych. The Hershberger-Stover Inc. Funeral Home, Pittsburgh (Crafton), PA 15205 handled the arrangements. Our Parish extends its most sincere sympathy to the Cramer-Herron Families and all of their family members. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant Lynne, and remember her forever because **CHRIST IS RISEN!** *Vicnaja Jej Pamjat' ibo CHRISTOS VOSKRESE!*

**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 all to return to Divine Worship and Sacraments. God bless them all!



## North Side

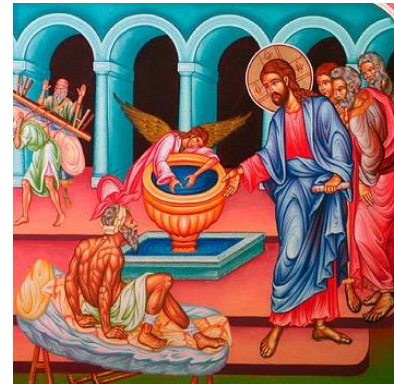
### No Particular Announcements this Week

**SACRAMENTAL CALLS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE REQUESTING** — As we continue through the Paschal Season, many still have not returned to Divine Worship over the weekends. It is true that Archbishop Skurla continues to dispense from obligatory worship on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. However, this does not mean that we are not encouraged to come and participate in the Unbloody Sacrifice of Christ and to glorify His Radiant Resurrection at the Divine Liturgy. There is plenty of room (especially near the front of the Church) if you find that you need extra space for separation in physical distancing. Wear your face covering. However, if you are ill, please remain at home. Our pastor is willing to come to your home for a sacramental visitation at any time. Remember, we are still obligated to fulfill our Easter Duty and to confess our mortal sins prior to validating our reception of Holy Communion. Please take care of this A.S.A.P. This is a serious obligation, and serves as a means of grace for your immortal soul. Also, and mostly important of all, it demonstrates your love and filial respect to God Who Died and is Resurrected for us!



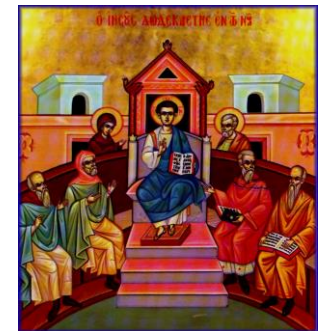
# General Announcements

**THE 4<sup>TH</sup> 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: COMMEMORATION OF MID-PENTECOST** — After our 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!*

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 28 ..... Commemoration of Mid-Pentecost.  
May 1 ..... Postponed until further notice: Practice of those preparing for First Reconciliation in MR Church @ 11:00 a.m. Postponed until further notice: Tentative Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Corporate Communion @ 4:00 p.m. DL.  
May 7 ..... The Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary: (MR) @ 6:00 p.m.  
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 — April 27

### Bishop-Martyr Simeon of Jerusalem

ST. SIMEON was the son of Cleophas, otherwise called Alpheus, brother to St. Joseph, and of Mary, sister to the Blessed Virgin. He was therefore nephew both to St.



Joseph and to the Blessed Virgin, and cousin to Our Savior. We cannot doubt but that he was an early follower of Christ, and that he received the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost, with the Blessed Virgin and the apostles. When the Jews massacred St. James the Lesser, his brother Simeon reproached them for their atrocious cruelty. St. James, Bishop of Jerusalem, being put to death in the year 62, twenty-nine years after Our Savior's Resurrection, the apostles and disciples met at Jerusalem to appoint him a successor.

They unanimously chose St. Simeon, who had probably before assisted his brother in the government of that Church. In the year 66, in which SS. Peter and Paul suffered martyrdom at Rome, the civil war began in Judea, by the seditions of the Jews against the Romans. The Christians in Jerusalem were warned by God of the impending destruction of that city. They therefore departed out of it the same year, —before Vespasian, Nero's general, and afterwards emperor, entered Judea,—and retired beyond Jordan to a small city called Pella, having St. Simeon at their head. After the taking and burning of Jerusalem they returned thither again, and settled themselves amidst its ruins, till Adrian afterwards entirely razed it. The Church here flourished, and multitudes of Jews were converted by the great number of prodigies and miracles wrought in it. Emperors Vespasian and Domitian had commanded all to be put to death who were of the race of David. St. Simeon had escaped their searches; but, Trajan having given the same order, certain heretics and Jews accused the Saint, as being both of the race of David and a Christian, to Atticus, the Roman governor in Palestine. **The holy bishop was condemned to be crucified.** After having undergone the usual tortures during several days, which, though one hundred and twenty years old, he suffered with so much patience that he drew on him a universal admiration, and that of Atticus in particular, he died in 107. He must have governed the Church of Jerusalem about forty-three years.

## General Announcements

**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.

**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.

**THE “GLORIFIED-CROSS” STILL 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!



**CHRIST IS RISEN! — INDEED! HE IS RISEN!**