

Parish Offerings – Easter Sunday — April 4, 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

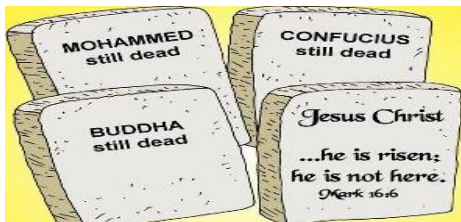
Regular Offering	\$506.00
Easter (\$6,094) YP (\$32) Palm Sunday (\$575)	6,701.00
Holy Days (\$1,665) Pentecost (20)	1,685.00
Votive Candles (\$126) Easter Décor (\$5) Seminary (\$10)	141.00
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	\$9,003.00

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering	\$260.00
Easter (\$900) Holy Days (\$177)	1,077.00
Improvements	37.00
Votive Candles	99.50

Church Attendance Last Week \$1,473.50

(NS) Sat., 5:45 p.m. (51); (MR) Sat., 7:45 p.m. (61)
 Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (72); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (35)
 Bright Monday (MR) 9:00 a.m. (10); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (10)
 Bright Tuesday (MR) 9:00 a.m. (9); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (6)



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

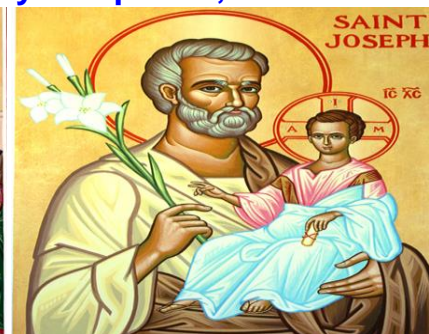
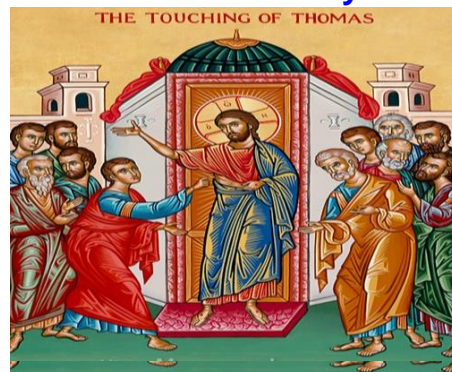
225 OLIVIA STREET
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

SUNDAY OF THE ANTIPASCH

Sunday of St. Thomas — 2nd Paschal Sunday

Divine Mercy Sunday — April 11, 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

<p>Valerian F. Szal 238 Helen St., McKees Rocks, PA 15136 Phone: (412) 331-9713 Fax: (412) 331-6688 Michael P. Ferrell, Supervisor, CFSP <i>Ill Serving Yours Since 1953</i></p>	<p>He Is RISEN INDEED!</p>	<p>DESIGNS BY NANCY 235 McCartney Drive, Moon Township 15108 Phone: (412) 580-1545 Nancde@aol.com</p> <p>Nancy C. Debranski <i>Sewing, Alternations, Custom Embroidery and Unique Gifts</i></p>
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<p>GCU Greek Catholic Union of the USA <i>A Fraternal Benefit Society</i></p> <p>NWPL offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Tina (412) 859-9597</p>	<p>This space available for ads for wishing someone birthday or anniversary greetings, get-well wishes, etc. Call the office</p>	<p>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</p>
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<p>Sunday Divine Liturgies Saturday (MR) 4:00 pm Sunday (MR) 9: 00 am Holy Ghost (NS) 11:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Holy Day Divine Liturgies w/Great Vespers (Oblig) (MR): 7:00 pm Holy Day (MR) 9:00 am; (NS) 6:00 pm</p>	<p>Daily Divine Liturgy M-F (MR) 8:00 am Sat. (NS) 9:00 am.</p>
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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!

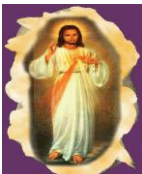
THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

Eight days after Your Resurrection, O Lord, * You appeared to Your disciples in the room where they were gathered; You greeted them saying: Peace be with you! Then You showed Your hands and side to the doubting disciple. He, therefore, cried out in an act of faith: My Lord and my God, glory to You! (Great Vespers for Thomas Sunday).

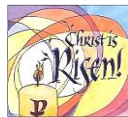
April 11, 2021

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XI Number 15



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date **Time** **Intention** **Requested By**



SUNDAY OF THE ANTIPASCH & ST. THOMAS



Divine Mercy Sunday – 2nd Paschal Sunday
Distribution of the Artos at the Mirovanije



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

Mon, Apr 12  8:00 a.m. (MR) + Vince Capozzi  Zula Family


Tues, Apr 13  8:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna Hrebenak Dgtr: Maria, Luke & Anita Iyengar
 (12th ann of passing)

Weds, Apr 14 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Elizabeth Petruna Dgtr: Julia & Family
 (rescheduled from Bright Saturday)

Thrs, Apr 15 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Stephen Gramata Eleanor Gramata & Son: George
 (32nd ann of passing)

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

Fri, Apr 16  8:00 a.m. (MR) + Marlene Eisenman Sister: Martha & Bob Maletz

Sat, Apr 17 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes 

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Myrrh-Bearing Women & Joseph & Nicodemus



4:00 p.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

Joseph of Arithemea & Nicodemus – 3rd Paschal Sunday

SUN., Apr 18 9:00 a.m. (MR) + H. Jayne Skreptach Bilak & Tomchak Families
 (10th ann of passing 4/19)

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Agnes + Anthony Knoll Son: William

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 13 – Margaret Cifrulak; **Apr 14** – Kathe Kress; Elias Stebbins; **Apr 15** – Stephen Katrenich. John Timulak; **Apr 17** – EDWARD SPONTAK, Hilary Zubritzky.

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.
ALLEGHENY GENERAL HOSPITAL (320 E. North Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15212): Peggi Lucas.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. I'm thinking about divorce. What does the Catholic Church have to say about it? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** Jesus said, "What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder" (Mark 10:9). So, although the Catholic Church recognizes the need for civil divorce in some circumstances, the Church also teaches that **divorce does not dissolve the marriage bond before God.** Therefore, even in situations where civil divorce is tolerated, divorce does not free the spouses to marry again. If there are sufficient reasons for obtaining a civil divorce in your case, then it would be morally permissible to pursue one, but this would not result in the ability to remarry unless, for example, you pursued and received an annulment that showed your first marriage was invalid.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Apr. 11 — Apr. 17, 2021

(MR): **In memory of Mary Fejka** (25th ann. of passing 4/6)

offered by Dgtr: Susie

(NS): **In memory of Gabriel Babin** (birthday 4/14)

(MR) None available 2021 offered by Dgtr: Janet Sendro & Family (NS) None available 2021

General Announcements

McKees Rocks

FUNERAL SERVICES FORTHCOMING — The *Spirit of Truth* is awaiting funeral information on the passing of parishioner, Helen Hopey on Bright Wednesday, April 7th. Additional information will be forthcoming. Since the family will be traveling from out of town, the funeral will be offered next week.

North Side

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **Mary (Kost) Sahayda, 103**, of Pittsburgh, at the Little Sisters of the Poor, Pittsburgh on Holy Thursday, April 1, 2021. She is survived by a Daughter, Marlene "Mimi" Smith, and a Son: Michael (Linda) Sahayda. She had several grandchildren along with nephews and nieces. The Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home, California Avenue, handled the arrangements. A Paschal Funeral Divine Liturgy was offered at our Church on Bright Wednesday,



April 7th. @ 2:00 p.m. Interment followed at the Union Dale Cemetery, Northside. Our Parish extends its most sincere sympathies to the Sahayda and Smith Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant Mary, and remember her forever because CHRIST IS RISEN! Vicnaja Jej Pamjat' ibo CHRISTOS VOSKRESE!

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.

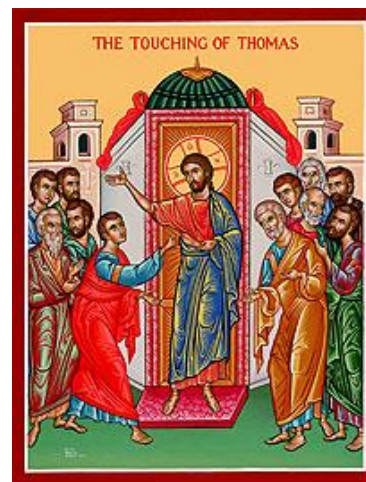
**This is the Resurrection Day,
let us be enlightened by this Feast ... let us forgive one another and let us sing: Christ is Risen!!!**

**Ruthenian (RUSYN) & Ukrainian: Christos Voskres! Voistinnu Voskres!
Church Slavonic: Christos Voskrese! Voistinnu Voskrese!
Hungarian: Feltamadt Krisztus! Volaban Feltamadt!
Latin: Christus resurrexit! Vere resurrexit!
Greek: Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!**

SUNDAY OF THE ANTIPASCH

THE SUNDAY OF ST. THOMAS (John 20: 19 – 31)

The Sunday after Easter is the **Sunday of St. Thomas**, also known as **Second Sunday of the Antipasch** ("opposite" Pascha, i.e., at the other end of Bright Week).



Historically, this day in the early Church was the day that the newly-baptized Christians removed their robes and entered once again into the life of this world. This day is also known as **Antipasch**. This does not mean "opposed to Pascha," but "in place of Pascha." Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord's Resurrection. Sunday is called "Resurrection" in Russian, and "the Lord's Day" in Greek. The Byzantine Catholic Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord's Resurrection starting this Sunday, the eighth day of the paschal celebration. Liturgically, the Church remembers the Apostle Thomas' vision of Christ after eight days. As

with all the services until the feast of Ascension the Easter Troparion is sung, and the epistle readings are from the Acts of the Holy Apostles informing us of the first Christians who lived in communion with the Risen Lord. The Gospel of St. John is read since it starts the New Testament as the new creation because of the Risen Christ! Finally, the gospel readings are from the Gospel of John, considered by many to be a gospel written particularly for the newly baptized.

BLESSED ARTOS DISTRIBUTED TODAY

"Artos" is a Greek word which means bread made with yeast. The Artos is blessed on Pascha after the Ambon Prayer which is said at the end of the Paschal Divine Liturgy. The prayer used in the blessing of the Artos then follows. During Bright Week, the blessed bread, covered with an icon of the Resurrection, remains in the church to be venerated until the Sunday after Pascha (Saint Thomas Sunday), when the Artos is distributed to the faithful. According to the old custom, the Artos was distributed on the Saturday of Bright Week after the Holy Liturgy with the prayer, "this bread may be for the health and sanctification of the soul of him who eats of it." In the former centuries the faithful would preserve little pieces of bread for those who were seriously ill or in danger of death and unable to receive Holy Communion. Presently, the Artos is generally broken and distributed on Thomas Sunday so that as many of the faithful as possible can partake of this blessing. Take a piece home especially for those unable to be present today.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 11 Feast of St. Thomas & Feast of Divine Mercy
April 21 Paschal Funeral Divine Liturgy of Helen Hope @ 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.

Saints of the Week — April 16

THE HOLY WOMEN-MARTYRS AGAPE, CHIONA & IRENE

All three were sisters from the vicinity of Aquileia. When Emperor Diocletian was staying in Aquileia he ordered that the distinguished spiritual father Chrysogonus be killed. At that time, an aged Presbyter Zoilus had a vision in which the location of the unburied body of Chrysogonus was revealed. Hurrying, the elder found the martyred body of Chrysogonus, placed it in a sarcophagus and kept it in his home. Thirty days later, St. Chrysogonus appeared to him and informed him that, in the course of nine days, those three maidens would suffer martyrdom and that he, too, would also die at that time. The same news was



received in a vision by Anastasia, [a woman endowed with moral and spiritual insight], who had followed the example of her teacher, Chrysogonus. Indeed, after nine days the Elder Zoilus died and those three sisters were brought to trial before the emperor. The emperor urged these three maidens to worship the idols, but they all refused and confessed their steadfast faith in Christ. Irene said to the emperor: "How stupid it is to worship things made of stone and wood, which were ordered for an agreed price and made by the hands of a mortal man." The enraged emperor cast them into prison. When the emperor departed for Macedonia, all slaves and prisoners were taken with him, among whom were these three saintly maidens. The emperor turned them over to a certain Commander Dulcitus for torturing. This commander intended to defile the virgins however, when the commander attempted to enter the prison while the virgins were praying to God he went insane. The emperor upon hearing about this incident ordered that another commander, Sisinius, take over the trial of these sisters. After prolonged torture, the judge condemned the first two sisters to death by burning and he detained Irene for a while longer hoping to defile her. But, when he sent Irene to the brothel with the soldiers, an angel of God saved this chaste virgin and staved off these soldiers and brought her to a hill. The next day, the commander with his soldiers went to this hill and were unable to ascend it. He then ordered that Irene be shot with arrows. St. Anastasia [the disciple of Chrysogonus] gathered the bodies of these three sisters into one place and honorably buried them. They all suffered honorably for Christ the King and Lord about the year 304 A.D.

General Announcements

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY TODAY — The Sunday following Easter is a very special Sunday when the Divine Floodgates from Heaven 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). Again, **To be eligible to receive this promise of the Lord Jesus Himself, one must seek His Mercy in the Holy Mystery (Sacrament)**

of Reconciliation (within 8 days prior or after the Feast), and receive Holy Communion on this day, promise to refrain from sinning, and prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father, the Pope. This will enable you to fulfill your Easter Duty too!

CUSTOM TO PRAY BEFORE THE EMPTY-TOMB — You are encouraged to say a prayer

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 power that flows from it. Here is a prayer to pray before it: "Being God, You were present by Your body, and yet in hades by Your soul, in Paradise with the thief, and on the throne, O Christ with the Father and the Holy Spirit, filling all things and encompassed by none. Glory to the Father and to the Son (+) and to the Holy Spirit. O Christ, Your tomb, the font of our resurrection, is indeed a giver of life more splendid than Paradise and more radiant than any royal chamber. Now and ever and forever. Amen. Hail! Holy and divine dwelling of the Most High, for through you O Mother of God, joy has been given to those who cry out: Blessed are you among women, O Lady most pure!"



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!