

Parish Offerings – Sunday of the Samaritan Woman — May 2, 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 (\$3,188.50) YP (\$8)	\$3,196.50
Holy Days	100.00
B.C.W. (\$34) Seminary (\$464)	503.00
Votive Candles	169.00
	<hr/>
	\$3,968.50

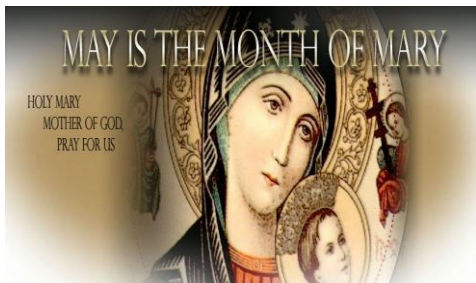
Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering	\$568.00
Easter (\$100) Pentecost (\$5) Holy Days (\$20)	125.00
Utilities (\$10) Improvement (\$30) Seminary (\$5)	45.00
Votive Candles	32.50

Church Attendance Last Week \$770.50

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (37)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (48); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (28)



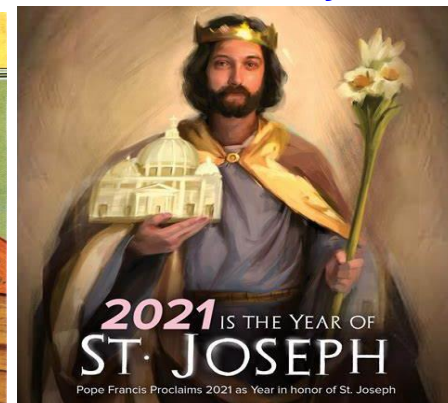
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND

6th Paschal Sunday – Annual Mother's Day – May 9, 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

Valerian F. Szal
238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412) 331-9713
331-9713
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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

Come Join Us

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

As He went on His way, Jesus the Lord Who saves us met a man struck with blindness from his birth. Moistening the dust of the earth with His saliva, Christ made some mud to anoint the eyes of the Blind Man. Then He sent him to Siloam to wash in the pool; when he had washed the Blind Man returned, and he saw the brightness of Your light, O Christ (Matins of Blind Man)

May 9, 2021 Seasonal Greeting (Last day May 12): Volume XI Number 19



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND			
6th Paschal Sunday — Annual Mother's Day			
SUN, May 9	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ George Kurtanich (birthday 5/7)	Children
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Shirley Yanosko	Dgtr: Ruth
<i>Feast of the Holy Apostle Simon the Zealot</i>			
Mon, May 10	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Dorothy Billy (3 rd ann of passing 5/20)	Family
<i>Feast of SS. Cyril & Methodius & Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko</i>			
Tues, May 11	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Dolores + John Koritsky	Dgtr: Christine & Al Barnash
<i>Final Day of Feast of the Radiant Resurrection & Solemn Removal of Burial Shroud</i>			
Wed, May 12	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Paraska Gramata	Eleanor & Son: George Gramata (23 rd ann of passing 5/12)

Great Vespers and Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Ascension			
	7:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Amelia M. Sotak	Patricia & Adam Fleiner
GLORIOUS ASCENSION OF OUR LORD INTO HEAVEN			
MIROVANJE			
THRS, MAY 13	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	6:00 p.m. (NS)	+ Mary Stecko (3 rd ann of passing (4/20) Son: Peter & Barbara	
REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)			
Fri, May 14	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Fejka (birthday 5/15)	Dgtr: Susie
	6:00 p.m. (MR)	Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary	
Sat, May 15	9:00 a.m. (NS)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	

<i>Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council & Ascension Feast</i>			
	4:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Andrew Yakubik (12 th ann of passing 5/16)	Dgtr: Evelyn
SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUM. COUNCIL			
Postfestive of the Ascension — 7th Paschal Sunday			
SUN., May 16	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Margo Family	Margaret & James Lautenschlager
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Robert M. Smoley (43 rd ann of passing 5/14)	Sister: Mary Ann

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

May 12 – ELIANA TRAPL, Kim Zoldos; May 14 – FERDINAND (ERIC) STEHLE; May 15 – Adam Kacsur, George Mosko

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

HOME: Margaret Belionas, Irene Bordas, Florence Charochak, MARY ANN CONTI, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, Peggy Lucas, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Muha, 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.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. My wife and I have been married fifteen years. We are both lapsed Catholics and both were previously married. My marriage was annulled, hers was not. What is our current standing in the Catholic Church? Can we join a parish? Can we receive Communion? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** You most certainly can join a parish and attend Mass (Divine Liturgy). But until you have your marriage validated in the Church, you would be unable to receive Communion. If her ex-husband is deceased, then you could simply have your marriage validated right away. If her ex is still living, she would need to receive a decree of nullity (i.e., an annulment) before you could validate your marriage.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

May 9 — May 15, 2021

(MR): **In memory of Dolores & John Koritsky**

offered by Dgtr: Christine & Al Barnash

(NS): **In memory of Mary (Kost) Sahayda**

(MR) None available 2021 offered by Nieces: Georgina Tovcimak & Shirley Marks (NS) None 2021



General Announcements

McKees Rocks

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **Barbara Howell, 76**, who passed away at West Penn Hospital, Pittsburgh, on Tuesday, April 27, 2021. She is survived by her children. Her grandchildren are parishioners, Matthew and Olivia Harsh. The Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home, McKees Rocks, handled the arrangements. A Panachida was offered for her soul on May 1st at the Funeral Home. She will be interred at a later date. Our Parish extends its most sincere sympathy to the Families. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant Barbara, and remember her forever because CHRIST IS RISEN! Vicnaja Jej Pamjat' ibo CHRISTOS VOSKRESE!



ANONYMOUS FLOWER DONORS — Two anonymous sources have donated beautiful and colorful flowers and requested that they be placed before the Blessed Mother's icon on the iconostasis. May is the month of the Holy Virgin Mary. We thank whoever you are, and we commend you and your intentions before the feet of the Holy Theotokos. Let us remember that each of us can place a spiritual bouquet before her on all Fridays this month, as we pray the Holy Rosary commencing at 6:00 p.m.



North Side

No Particular Announcements this Week

BI-PARTISN PRO-LIFE GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE — PA Primary Election Day is **Tuesday, May 18**. If you have not yet voted you are encouraged to consider those candidates who are truly



dedicated to the Pro-Life position. Let us defend the most vulnerable of God's children and speak for them by our vote when they cannot speak or act for themselves. Imagine yourself in their position. Wouldn't you want someone to defend you when your life is threatened?! Take the guide with you to the polls. Jesus came so that we may have life and live it to its fullness! They are located in the narthex and side vestibule.

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 (May 30)** 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!

Morse Code:- ---

THE SIXTH PASCHAL SUNDAY

Baptism originally termed "Holy Illumination" and "Enlightenment" — *(first read John 9: 1-38)*

The methodology of the actual cure of this man born blind in today's Holy Gospel



symbolizes mankind's means for its recovery from its blindness. It symbolizes the Holy Mystery of Baptism. Baptism is called "holy illumination". Those who have been recently baptized are referred to as the newly illuminated. As this man is cured of his blindness when he washes in the waters of the pool of Siloam, as Jesus tells him to do, so are we brought out of darkness into a new life when we

are baptized as Christ instructed us to be. Jesus restores his creation, mankind, with the potential to become what it was meant to be before the fall of Adam. We also hear in the reading that after this man was cured many of those who knew him before did not recognize him. He is still the same man but something has significantly changed about him. He is no longer blind. So when we are illuminated we are also new persons, though our outward appearance might be the same. To symbolize this newness a white garment is put on us to show the purity with which we start this new existence. We must however, become different and unrecognizable in our inward and outward actions also. We must manifest our new existence to those around us through these actions. We must radiate this new found light to others by the way we live our lives. We must say to the world "I am he who was blind but now my eyes are opened." Credit must be given to Him who has cured us of our darkness by living our lives according to the lessons of the illumination we have received and the continued guidance we get with the reception of the Holy Spirit.

Ascension Thursday This Week

This week's *Feast of the Ascension* reminds us that our true destiny lies in God. We



must not only do what Jesus commands us, but we must follow him to the place where he has gone. The *Feast of the Ascension* tells us that our life is not limited to life on earth, but after our death we will experience a new life in heaven, and even now we are being pulled by the strings of God's love towards our encounter with him. Now, in our Liturgy let us try to open ourselves to God's boundless love --- the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit --- so that He may confirm and strengthen us in our love for Him and for the world. "Be exalted above the heavens, O God, and let Your glory be over all the earth." See the liturgical schedule for times.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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 — (MR) @ 7:00 p.m.
 May 13 Feast of the Glorious Ascension — (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 May 21 5th & Final Universal All Souls Vigil (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 May 22 5th & Final Universal All Souls Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m.
 May 23 Pentecost Sunday — Patron of our two Parishes
 May 24 ... Pentecost Monday — Feast of the Most Holy Trinity – (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
 May 25 Clergy Days at the Cathedral.
 May 30 Sunday of All Saints — Final Day for fulfilling Easter (Paschal) Duty.

Saints of the Week – May 11

SS. Cyril & Methodius, Equals to the Apostles

Saints Cyril and Methodius were brothers from Thessalonica of distinguished and wealthy parents, Leo and Maria. The older brother Methodius spent ten years as an officer among the Macedonian Slavs and thus learned the Slavic language. After that Methodius withdrew to Mount Olympus and dedicated himself to the monastic life of asceticism. It was here that Cyril (Constantine) later joined him. When the Khazarite king, Kagan, requested preachers of the Faith of Christ from Emperor Michael III then, by command of the emperor, these two brothers were found and sent among the Khazars. Convincing King Kagan of the Faith of Christ, they baptized him along with a great number of his chief assistants and even a greater number of the people. After a period of time, they returned to Constantinople where they compiled the Slavonic alphabet consisting of thirty-eight letters and proceeded to translate ecclesiastical books from Greek into Slavonic. At the request of Prince Rastislav, they traveled to Moravia where they spread and established the devout Faith and multiplied books and distributed them to the priests to teach the youth. At the request of the pope, Cyril traveled to Rome where he became ill and died on February 14, 867 A.D. Then Methodius returned to Moravia and labored to strengthen the Faith of Christ among the Slavs until his death. Following his death - he died in the Lord on April 6, 885 A.D. - his disciples, THE FIVE FOLLOWERS, with St. Clement, the bishop at the head, crossed the Danube River and descended to the south into Macedonia, where from Ohrid they continued their labor among the Rusyn people begun by Cyril and Methodius in the north.



Feast of Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko

Basil Hopko was born on April 21, 1904 in the Rusyn Village of Hrabske near Bardejov, Eastern Slovakia. In 1922 young Basil enrolled into the eparchial seminary in Presov. Following his second year, he was drafted into the army. There he would gather all the Rusyn soldiers together and take them to Sunday services. Upon completing his military service, he completed seminary studies in 1928. He was ordained to the holy priesthood by Bishop Paul P. Gojdich. Fr. Basil served his pastoral assignments faithfully displaying a great love for the poor, workers and Rusyn youth. Foreseeing a political overturn in Czechoslovakia in the autumn of 1946, Bishop Godjich petitioned Rome that Father Hopko serve as his auxiliary bishop. Bishop Hopko was imprisoned and tortured. He became chaplain to the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate who also took care of him. On Friday, July 23, 1976 following a light lunch, and being helped in an easy chair, he gave up his spirit to the Lord whom he loved and faithfully served. Pope St. John Paul II beatified him on September 14, 2003. His Feast Day is May 11.



General Announcements

MOTHER'S DAY COMMEMORATED TODAY— In its present form, *Mother's Day* was established by **Anna Marie Jarvis**, following the death of her mother Ann Jarvis on May 9, 1905, with the help of Philadelphia merchant John Wanamaker. A small service was held on May 12, 1907 in the Andrew's Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia where Anna's mother had been teaching Sunday school. Anna then campaigned to establish Mother's Day first as a U.S. national holiday. On May 8, 1914, the U.S. Congress passed a law designating the second Sunday in May as *Mother's Day* and requesting a proclamation. On May 9, 1914 President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation declaring the first national *Mother's Day* as a day for American citizens to show the flag in honor of those mothers whose sons had died in war. The Grafton's church, where the first celebration was held, is now the International Mother's Day Shrine and is a National Historic Landmark. It must be noted that, while Miss Jarvis spent most of her adult life striving to create a special day to honor mothers, in the end, she was disappointed with the way Mother's Day turned out. As the popularity of the holiday grew, so did its commercialization. What she had intended as a day of sentiment quickly turned into a day of profit. In the end, shortly before her death, Anna Jarvis told a reporter that she was sorry she ever started Mother's Day.



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ATTENTION GRADUATES: REGISTER TO BE RECOGNIZED — Our Holy Ghost Churches would like to honor all of our High School and College Graduates on the occasion of our Patronal Feast, **May 23, 2021**. All registered MR & NS graduates will receive a gift from the parish congratulating them on their milestone achievement as they commence a new chapter in their lives. All graduates must phone the church office to inform us that you are graduating and will be our guests at the Golden Corral, Robinson Township following @ 2:00 p.m. **Deadline to register by phoning the Church office (412) 771-3324 by May 16.**



GCU NORTHWEST PITTSBURGH LODGE MEETING FORTHCOMING — The first quarter meeting will be VIRTUAL on **Sunday, June 6, 2021 @ 2:00 p.m.** All members are expected to participate by dialing 1 (605) 472-5351. Then type in the Access Code: 451303#. You may direct your questions and/or concerns to Steve Puluka @ (412) 897-4650.



CHRISTOS VOSKRESE! — VOISTINU VOSKRESE!