

Parish Offerings – Sunday of the Paralytic Man — April 25, 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 (\$1,962) YP (\$8)	\$1,970.00
Easter (\$110) Palm Sunday (\$5) Holy Days (\$85) YP (\$2)	202.00
B.C.W. (\$14) Seminary (\$50)	64.00
Votive Candles	77.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,313.00

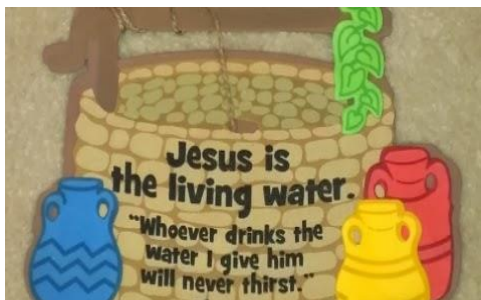
Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering	\$443.00
Easter (\$120) Palm Sunday (\$100) Holy Days (\$35)	255.00
Special Donation (In memory of + Helen Derkach Mitro)	100.00
Votive Candles (\$37) Utilities (\$80)	117.00

Church Attendance Last Week \$915.00

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (27)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (53); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (27)



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
Ill Serving Yours Since 1953



DESIGNS BY NANCY
 235 McCartney Drive,
 Moon Township 15108
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Sewing, Alternations, Custom Embroidery and Unique Gifts

GCU
 Greek Catholic Union of the USA
 A Fraternal Benefit Society
 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

Come Join Us

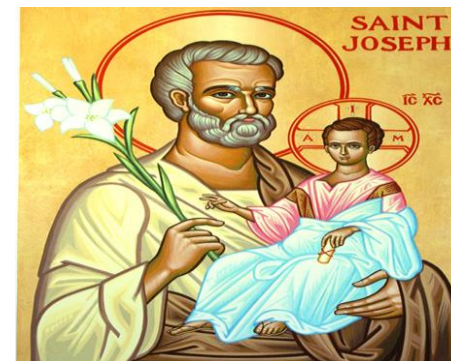
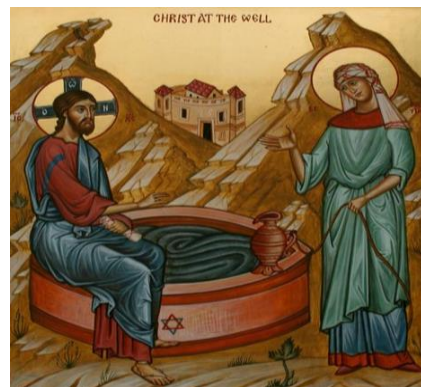
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

5th Paschal Sunday – Mid-Pentecost — May 2, 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
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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

The midpoint of the Feast has arrived, the days which begin with the Resurrection of the Savior and are fulfilled in the divine Feast of Pentecost. Truly it unites both Feasts and draws light from their double brightness, giving honor to the Ascension of the Lord, which prefigures our glory! (Great Vespers of Mid-Pentecost)

May 2, 2021 Seasonal Greeting: Volume XI Number 18



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

5th Paschal Sunday

SUN, May 2	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mark A. Cifrulak (wedding ann)	Wife: Nancy Family
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Helen Meaders	
Mon, May 3	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Susan Dragosh (1st ann. of passing)	Evelyn Yakubik
Tues, May 4	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Elsie Eberle	Irene Muha
		Final Day of Mid-Pentecost	
Wed, May 5	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Fr. Charles M. Yastishock (birthday)	Fr. Firko
Thrs, May 6	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Helen Hopey (birthday)	Bunny Zavidny

First Friday of the month in reparation for sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus
REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)

Fri, May 7	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Anna May Sejka (40th day of passing 5/8)	Mike & Michael Muska
		6:00 p.m. (MR)	

Sat, May 8	9:00 a.m. (NS)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	1:00 p.m. (NS)	Nuptial Divine Liturgy & Marriage Ceremony of Alan John Harper (Holy Ghost) & Kayla Marie Henderson (Immaculate Conception, Irwin)	

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Man Born Blind — 6th Paschal Sunday
4:00 p.m. (MR) Living & Deceased Mothers of Both Parishes

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

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 4 – Gerry Babin; Anita Wolsko; May 5 – Irene Muha (99).

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, Peggi Lucas, 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.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Please help me find a way to explain to my seventh-grade students why the daily horoscope is a bad idea for them. One student insists that horoscopes are “entertaining.” **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** The Catechism of the Catholic Church instructs us: All forms of divination are to be rejected: recourse to Satan or demons, conjuring up the dead or other practices falsely supposed to “unveil” the future. Consulting horoscopes, astrology, palm reading, interpretation of omens and lots, the phenomena of clairvoyance, and recourse to mediums all conceal a desire for power over time, history, and, in the last analysis, other human beings, as well as a wish to conciliate hidden powers. They contradict the honor, respect, and loving fear that we owe to God alone. (CCC 2116). I see nothing entertaining about that.



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

May 2 — May 8, 2021

(MR): **In memory of Mark A. Cifrulak (wed ann 5/2)**

offered by Wife: Nancy & Dgtrs: Lisa & Stacie

(NS): **In memory of the Hubal Family**

(MR) None available 2021

offered by Family

(NS) None available 2021



General Announcements

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR ECF TEACHERS — Often times we forget the important task that our Eastern Catholic-Christian Formation Teachers accomplish week after week! They are to be commended for their services! The 2020-2021 E.C.F. School Year came to a close last week. This past year's Religious Education teachers were: **Coordinator Steve Puluka, Lori Rippole, Peggi Lucas, Stephanie Kacsur, and Maria and Anita Iyengar!** Thank you for the invaluable service rendered to our younger members! They, and their parents, and Godparents are to be commended for making this program possible despite the Covid Challenge! May God grant them many Happy and Blessed Years because CHRIST IS RISEN! Also Catechists and this year's High School & University/College Graduates are invited to the Golden Corral, Robinson Township on May 23, 2021 @ 2:00 p.m.



North Side

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THIS WEEK'S UPCOMING WEDDING — The upcoming marriage of *Alan John Harper (Holy Ghost Church)* and *Kayla Marie Henderson (Immaculate Conception Roman Rite Church, Irwin, PA)* at our Holy Ghost Church on **Saturday, May 8, 2021**. If anyone knows why these individuals cannot contract marriage, please call the rectory office and speak to the pastor.

CHURCH ROOF REPAIRED LAST WEEK — Over the past several weeks, our Church roof had been leaking in rain water. After searching for a reputable roofer, we received a lead that GORGE L. HEINLEIN of Roofing & Aluminum Company, Pittsburgh, came and assessed the problem on April 20, 2021. He wrote the following order: *"Replace missing shingles at the left side; the section of the roof in front of the left side; Nail shingle caps above the missing shingles where the existing ridge vent blew off completely. It consisted of a 10 foot section at the front and another 10 foot section behind totaling 20 feet."* Total cost of the project was \$300.00. Once again, your sacrificial weekly contributions helped us to repair this problem. God bless you.

SACRAMENTAL CALLS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE REQUESTING — 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 the Living Water 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!

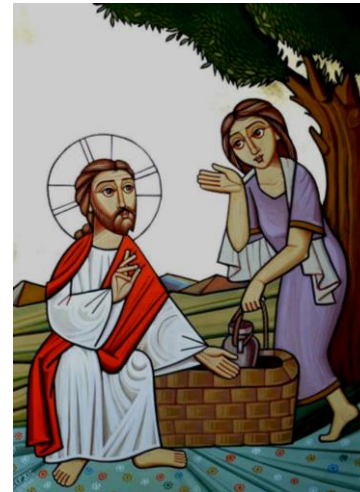
CHRIST IS RISEN! — INDEED! HE IS RISEN!

THE FIFTH PASCHAL SUNDAY

Why Samaria Was So Controversial To The Jews

(first read John 4: 5-42)

One of the most ancient cities of the Promised Land was Shechem, also called Sikima, located at the foot of Mount Gerazim. There the Israelites had heard the blessings in the days of Moses and Joshua.



Near to this town, Jacob, who had come from Mesopotamia in the nineteenth century before Christ, bought a piece of land where there was a well. **This well, preserved even until the time of Christ, was known as Jacob's Well.** Later, before he died in Egypt, he left that piece of land as a special inheritance to his son Joseph (Gen. 49:22). This town, before it was taken into possession by Samaria, was also the leading city of the kingdom of the ten tribes. In the time of the Romans it was called Neapolis, and at present Nablus. It was the first city in Canaan visited by the Patriarch Abraham. Here also, Joshua addressed the tribes of Israel for the last

time. Almost three hundred years later, all Israel assembled there to make Roboam (Rehoboam) king. Concerning the Samaritans, we know the following: In the year 721 before Christ, Salmanasar (Shalmaneser), King of the Assyrians, took the ten tribes of the kingdom of Israel into captivity, and relocated all these people to Babylon and the land of the Medes. From there he gathered various nations and sent them to Samaria. These nations had been idolaters from before. Although they were later instructed in the Jewish faith and believed in the one God, they worshipped the idols also. Furthermore, they accepted only the Pentateuch of Moses, and rejected the other books of Holy Scripture. Nonetheless, they thought themselves to be descendants of Abraham and Jacob. Therefore, the pious Jews named these Judaizing and idolatrous peoples Samaritans, since they lived in Samaria, the former leading city of the Israelites, as well as in the other towns thereabout. *The Jews rejected them as heathen and foreigners, and had no communion with them at all, as the Samaritan woman observed, "the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans"* (John 4:9). Therefore, the name Samaritan is used derisively many times in the Gospel narrations.

After the Ascension of the Lord, and the Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the woman of Samaria was baptized by the holy Apostles and became a great preacher and Martyr of Christ; she was called Photini or Photina, and her feast is kept on February 26.

CHRIST IS RISEN In Various Languages:
Chinese: Helisituosi fuhuole! — Qeshi fuhuole!
Japanese: Harisutosu Fukkatsu! — Jitsu Ni Fukkatsu

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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 — (MR) @ 7:00 p.m.
May 13	Feast of the Glorious Ascension — (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
May 21	5 th & Final Universal All Souls Vigil (NS) 6:00 p.m.
May 22	5 th & 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.

The Holy Virgin-Martyr Pelegia — May 4

Saint Pelagia of Tarsus in Cilicia (southeastern Asia Minor) lived in the third century, during the reign of Diocletian (284-305), and was the daughter of illustrious pagans. When she heard about Jesus Christ from her Christian friends, she believed in Him and desired to preserve her virginity, dedicating her whole life to the Lord. Emperor Diocletian's heir (a boy he adopted), saw the maiden Pelagia, was captivated by her beauty and wanted her to be his wife. The holy virgin told the youth that she was betrothed to Christ the Immortal Bridegroom, and had renounced earthly marriage. Pelagia's reply greatly angered the young man, but he decided to leave her in peace for a while, hoping that she would change her mind. She had seen Bishop Linus in a dream, which made a profound impression upon her. The holy bishop told her to be baptized. When she actually met the bishop, she fell at his feet, requesting Baptism. He made the Sign of the Cross



over St Pelagia, Baptizing her and distributed Holy Communion to her. Bishop Linus then offered a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord with her, and then sent her to continue her journey. She then exchanged her expensive clothing for a simple white garment, and distributed her possessions to the poor. She tried to convert her own mother to Christ, but the obdurate woman refused. Pelagia's mother feared the emperor's wrath, so she tied her daughter up and led her to Diocletian. The emperor was captivated by the unusual beauty of the virgin and tried to turn her from her faith in Christ, promising her every earthly blessing if she would become his wife. The holy virgin refused the emperor's offer with contempt and said, "You are insane, Emperor, saying such things to me. I will not do your bidding, and I loathe your vile marriage, since I have Christ, the King of Heaven, as my Bridegroom. I do not desire your worldly crowns which last only a short while. The Lord in His heavenly Kingdom has prepared three imperishable crowns for me. The first is for faith, since I have believed in the true God with all my heart; the second is for purity, because I have dedicated my virginity to Him; the third is for martyrdom, since I want to accept every suffering for Him and offer up my soul because of my love for Him." Diocletian sentenced Pelagia to be burned in a red-hot bronze bull. The holy martyr signed herself with the Sign of the Cross, and went into the brazen bull and her flesh melted like myrrh, filling the whole city with fragrance. During Constantine's reign, a church was built at St Pelagia's burial place.

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General Announcements

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.



PRO-LIFE GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE — PA Primary Elections are just a little more than a week away on **May 18**. 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!



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.

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.

