

Parish Offerings – Palm (Flowery) Sunday — April 10, 2022

“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

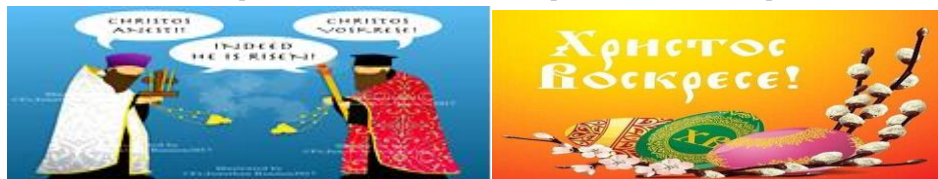
Regular Offering (\$220) YP (\$14)	\$234.00
Palm Sunday	3,710.00
Holy Days (\$120) Easter (\$20)	140.00
Votive Candles	153.50
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	\$4,237.50

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering	\$100.00
Palm Sunday (\$795.50) Great Friday (\$20)	815.50
Utilities (\$5) Improvements (\$35) Décor (\$5)	45.00
Votive Candles (\$1336.50) Eastern European Churches (\$5)	141.50

Church Attendance Last Week \$1,102.00

- (MR) Sat., *3:45 p.m. (35) Sun., (MR) *8:45 a.m. (91); (NS) *10:45 a.m. (44)
- Holy (Passion) Week Vespers — (MR) 3:00 p.m. (6)
- Presanctified Divine Liturgy — **Holy Mon.**, (MR) 7:00 p.m. (6)
- Presanctified Divine Liturgy — **Holy Tue.**, (NS) 6:00 p.m. (3)
- Presanctified Divine Liturgy — **Holy Wed.**, (MR) 7:00 p.m. (16)
- Great Vespers w/Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great — **Holy Thrs.**, (MR) 7:00 p.m. (22)
- 12 Passion Gospels — **Great Fri.**, (MR) 8:00 a.m. (23); Royal Hours (MR) 12 noon (5)
- Entombment Vespers w/Procession — (NS) 5:00 p.m. (45); (MR) 7:00 p.m. (52)



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This space available for ads for wishing someone birthday or anniversary greetings, get-well wishes, etc. Call the office

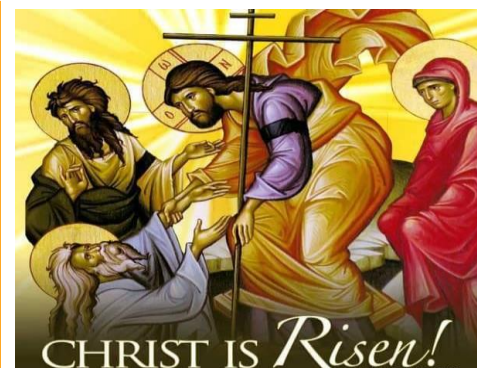
Please patronize our fabulous sponsors! They make it possible to bring you this weekly & informative S.O.T. without an added expense to the Church. New Sponsors please contact Church Office

HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE RADIANT RESURRECTION
 OF OUR LORD, GOD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
 THE GREAT DAY — APRIL 17, 2022**



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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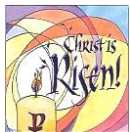
Holy Mystery of Reconciliation: Sat (MR): 3:15 to 3:40 pm & Sun (MR) 8:15 to 8:40 am.; (NS) 10:30 am
Holy Mysteries of Initiation: Contact Church Office for Baptism, Chrismation and Eucharist.
Holy Mysteries of Anointing: Ask especially prior to surgery or any other time.
Holy Mystery of Matrimony: Contact 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

April 17, 2022

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XII Number 16



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
RADIANT RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST			
Easter Sunday — The Great Day — MIROVANJE — Blessing of the Artos			
Proclamation of the Evangelist John's Gospel in 3 languages: Latin, Church Slavonic and English			
SUN., APR 17	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ George Hudanick, Sr. Wife: Dolores & Family	



BRIGHT WEEK

No Simple Abstinence from meat all week in the light of the Radiant Resurrection
 Proclamation of the 4 Resurrectional Gospels at the four corners of the Church
 * The BRIGHT HOURS will be celebrated each day before the Empty Tomb 15 minutes prior

SOLEMN HOLY DAY

BRIGHT MON, APR 18 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Andrew Muska (9th ann of pass 4/5) Bro: Mike
 6:00 p.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes



SIMPLE HOLY DAY

BRIGHT TUE, APR 19 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners from Both Parishes
 6:00 p.m. (NS) + William J. Hrivnak (birthday 4/1) Wife: Joyce & Family

Bright Wed, Apr 20 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Marjorie Preganz (3rd ann of passing 4/4) Anonymous

Bright Thrs, Apr 21 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary (Batko) Firko (37th ann of passing) Grandchildren

MEAT PERMITTED — NO ABSTINENCE

We continue to celebrate the joy of the Radiant Resurrection

Bright Fri, Apr 22 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Marlene Eisenman Sister: Martha & Bob Maletz

Vigil Divine Liturgy of the Holy Great-Martyr & Victory-Bearer, George

6:00 p.m. (NS) + George Kushner Son: Deacon David & Family

SIMPLE HOLY DAY — Feast of St. George, the Wonder-Worker, Great-Martyr & Victory-Bearer
Final Day of Bright Week — Closing of the Royal & Deacon Doors

BRIGHT SAT, APR 23 * 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners from Both Parishes

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Antipasch & St. Thomas – Divine Mercy Sunday

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Mary Stecko (4th ann of passing 4/20) Son: Peter & Barbara

SUNDAY OF THE ANTIPASCH & ST. THOMAS

Divine Mercy Sunday – 2nd Paschal Sunday

Distribution of the Artos at the Mirovanije
 (cf. article on how to obtain a plenary indulgence)



SUN., APR 24 9:00 a.m. (MR) + George Kurtanich (7th ann. of passing) Children
 11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

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 17 – April Krivancak, EDWARD SPONTAK, SR., Hilary Zubritzky; **Apr 18** – Dale Charochak, Denise Wickline; **Apr 19** – LOGAN KALLOP, DIANE VIDA; **Apr 23** – William Kress, ARLENE LATTA, JUNE MITRO.

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, Dolores Kosko, Steve Kosko, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, BETTY LORINC, Irene Muha, Kurt Perschy, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Dan Pikras, Lisa Plutto, Betty Spisak, Anita Wolsko, Nancy (Shanta) Wauthier, Evelyn Yakubik.

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, Margaret Cifrulak, Dorothy Ann Karl, Mildred Terrek.

ENCOMPASS HEALTH REHAB (351 Camp Meeting Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143): Irene Bordas, Timothy Kacsur.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. I have read that when a person is not yet able to receive the sacrament of confession, he can use the act of contrition. What specifically is that, and how does one make an act of contrition? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** Contrition may be either perfect or imperfect. While perfect contrition forgives all sins, it does not relieve us of the obligation to go to confession (cf Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 1452–53). The Byzantine form of an act of contrition outside of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is: “Remit, pardon and forgive O God, my sins committed deliberately or through human frailty, by word or deed, by thought or purpose, by day or night. Forgive all these for you are gracious and the Lover of Mankind.”

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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



Apr. 17 — Apr. 23, 2022

(MR): **In memory of Mary Stecko** (4th ann. of passing 4/20)

offered by Son: Peter & Barbara Stecko

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

(MR) None available 2022 offered by Nieces: Tamara Harding & Michelle (NS) None available 2022

General Announcements

ALL DIVINE LITURGIES THIS WEEK BEGIN EARLIER — Just a reminder that we will be starting each of the Bright Week Divine Liturgies 15 minutes earlier with the **BRIGHT HOURS** at the Tomb. They are beautiful prayers and glorify the Feast of the Radiant Resurrection!

PITTSBURGH BYZANTINE CATHOLIC ARCHEPARCHIAL CHOIR — returns to St. John's Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. on April 24th – Thomas Sunday – for prayer and a program of hymns of the glorious Resurrection of our Lord. The afternoon will begin at 3:00 p.m. with the Moleben for the Living, in celebration and gracious thanks for the much-anticipated return to social events after a 3-year hiatus due to pandemic concerns. The Choir's joyful presentation "*Rejoice and Be Glad!*" will immediately follow, featuring many beloved and seldom-heard renditions of the Paschal greeting, "Christ is Risen! Christos Voskres!" A cake-and-coffee reception will follow the program in the Cathedral's lower level. Members of the Archeparchial Choir, who in 2023 will observe their 25th anniversary year, hope to see you at the Cathedral on Sunday April 24!

GRATITUDE TO OUR PIROHI WORKERS — Special Thanks to all of our determined Pirohi Project workers who took the reins despite this unprecedented time who came out faithfully every week to see this Project through, especially new faces! The financial results will appear in next week's S.O.T. **Don't forget our Pirohi Appreciation Dinner at the Golden Corral The date had to be changed to Bright Thursday, April 21st @ 5:00 p.m.**, since Bright Friday is the eve of St. George's Holy Day. Still not too late to sign up!! You are the best! God bless you for sacrificing your time and effort!



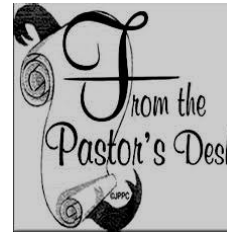
SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO GAVE OF THE THREE T'S — Our pastor extends a heartfelt thank you to all who remembered him this Resurrectional Season with all the prayers, gifts and especially for responding to our liturgical services. Your **TIME**, **TALENT** and **TREASURE** are truly appreciated and important to keep our Holy Ghost Churches alive and active for the continual preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ and dispensing the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments) without interruption for over (NS)120 & (MR) 117 years! A special thank you to our Church Decorators, Flowers and Altar Cover Changers whose unique talent make our Churches fantastically beautiful at this time of the year. Also, to those who contributed by cleaning and arranging the flowers around the Tomb and the Holy Altar; to those who lead the singing and the readings; to the 10 men who stood vigil during the Proclamation of the 12 Passion Gospels on Great Friday; to our altar servers, St. Aquilina ministers and ushers, to those who took care in distributing the processional candles, and especially to our parish secretary who sacrificially keeps both parishes up-to-date with all communications and bills that pass by her desk, and then some; to those who attended and led the singing at the Great Fast Presanctified Divine Liturgies; to all who have been faithful to the additional liturgical services of The Great Fast and Holy Week as well as signing for the Tomb-Vigil; and to everyone else who made this Holy Season a memorable reality! May Our Risen Lord Jesus bless all of you! – CHRIST IS RISEN !!!



Ruthenian (RUSYN) & Ukrainian: Christos Voskres! Voistinnu Voskres!
Church Slavonic: Christos Voskrese! Voistinnu Voskrese!
Hungarian: Feltamadt Krisztus! Valaban Feltamadt!
Slovak: Kristus vstal zmr'tvyoch! Skutoc ne vstal!

PASCHAL RESURRECTIONAL (EASTER) SUNDAY THE RADIANT RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, GOD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

My Dear Parishioners — On the Annunciation Feast, March 25, Pope Francis and the Bishops of the world (as well as our Holy Ghost Church) consecrated Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This request is said to have been more perfectly fulfilled Our Blessed Mother's request at Fatima over 100 years ago. She also requested that we do penance for sins. Her specific plea is that 5 consecutive First Saturdays be established for blasphemies against her Immaculate Heart. This would fulfill the second part of this equation. It consists of: (1) going to Confession, (2) receive the Holy Eucharist, (3) 15 minutes of meditation of the Rosary's Mysteries, and (4) recite the Rosary. She promised that peace would resign if these criteria were kept. We share in today's Resurrection Joy, although war torn countries such as Ukraine are continuing a traumatic Holy & Great Friday. Let us pray for its quick end! More-than-ever, we must heed the Most Holy Theotokos' message by personal participation in her request. Today's victorious celebration of Christ's Radiant Resurrection in which He tramples sin and death is a hopeful time to acknowledge the annihilation of this spiritual decadence that causes sickness and destruction to souls. Christ is awaiting to distribute through the Church the Holy Mysteries of Penance and the Holy Eucharist. Unfortunately, the lines are still small and the concern seemingly left unappreciated. Let us encourage others to humbly return to the Lord even at this late hour. Let us not be fearful, but have great faith and hope in the Living God by proclaiming and witnessing the reality that **CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRISTOS VOSKRESE!** — Fr. Firko



THE GREAT DAY --- VELIK DEN

Today as we commemorate the total and complete triumph of Our Lord's Radiant Resurrection flowing from the Empty Tomb of Christ, our Faith festively echoes and resounds Jesus' message of HOPE for mankind in the "New Life" that He secured for us by His Passion, Death and Resurrection. The founders and benefactors of our Byzantine Catholic Church referred to this day as **THE GREAT DAY** since the Lord Jesus Who is the New Paschal Lamb was victorious in securing for us a **NEW PASSOVER**. From darkness to Light, from death to Life!



PROCLAMATION OF GOSPEL IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES

The New Creation brought forth by Christ (John 1: 1 – 12)

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist John's Gospel Prologue is proclaimed at the Easter Divine Liturgy on each year. It is divided into 12 separate verses indicating that the 12 apostles' mission was to proclaim the Good News throughout the world. These verses may be chanted in several different languages so that all peoples may hear and understand the Good News. The pealing of the bells send forth this jubilant message to the entire universe that Jesus, The Messiah, established the spreading of His Church under the pastoral leadership of Peter and the Holy Apostles. Today, it is the Pope and all Bishops united with him that have this mission. Let us be grateful to Almighty God for all priests who continue this sacred mission & to all Christian faithful who live it!



Calendar of Upcoming Events Of Easter and Bright Week

APRIL 17 – EASTER SUNDAY — THE RADIANT RESURRECTION — THE GREAT DAY
(MR) 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods — (NS) 11:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods in Church.

BRIGHT WEEK

* The Bright Hours will be celebrated at the Empty Tomb 15 minutes before each Bright Week Divine Liturgy

April 18 .. Bright Monday w/procession (Solemn): (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.
April 19 Bright Tuesday (Simple): (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.
April 22 Holy Day Vigil of the St. George, the Wonder-Worker: Divine Liturgy @ (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.
April 23 Feast of Holy Great-Martyr & Victory Bearer, St. George, the Wonder-Worker (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m.
April 30 Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Corporate Communion of our children @ 4:00 p.m. DL.

Sanctified Dinner Today

Following the Solemn Blessing of the Paschal Foods in our Easter Baskets, we take these festive and Sanctified Foods to our homes for our Paschal Meal. The Ruthenian people refer to this meal as the **SANCTIFIED DINNER**. This is a beautiful and meaningful custom passed on to us. May we always cherish it and pass it to future generations as a part of our particular custom so that God's grace bestowed on these bountiful gifts may be received by all.



Traditional 3 Day of Easter

Easter Sunday, Bright Monday and Bright Tuesday marks the customary 3 days of Easter. We refer to this week as BRIGHT WEEK because of the brilliance that flows from the empty-tomb of Christ! The Resurrectional Feast is celebrated throughout these next seven days, the first three days are of special significance. *The Church bestows particular graces to all the faithful who attend and worship God and worthily receive the Holy Eucharist at this time.* The pioneers of our Holy Ghost Parish filled these days with their presence and festively proclaimed CHRISTOS VOSKRESE! Let us follow in their footsteps and imitate their faith and love for the Resurrected Jesus and their Byzantine Catholic Tradition.

Ruthenian (Rusyn) Folklore Remembered

On **Bright Monday** and **Bright Tuesday**, traditional Rusyn Folklore reminds us that Jesus' followers were so overwhelmed with the joy of their Resurrected Savior that they went through the streets of Jerusalem proclaim the news of the Radiant Resurrection. Their opponents tried to squelch their enthusiasm by throwing water from their upstairs window at them. Our Byzantine Catholic ancestors of the Carpathian Mountains developed the "**POLIVANKA**" that is "Water-pouring" on each other. On Bright Monday, the men would pour (actually throw) water upon the women; and the later in turn did the same to the men on Bright Tuesday. As they enacted this tradition from the past they cried out, "**CHRISTOS VOSKRESE!**"



General Announcements

EMPTY TOMB REMAINS VISIBLE FOR 40 DAYS — Over the course of the next 40 days, the Empty Tomb will remain in our midst as a reminder that **CHRIST IS RISEN!** It is meant to motivate us in giving witness to this truth and to bring others to experience Him. The burial shroud (Plasticize) is placed on the altar prior to the Resurrectional Matins signifying that the Resurrected Christ remains with us vicariously as He was with His disciples strengthening them in their Faith. It is a time of over-whelming joy prior to His glorious Ascension into Heaven.



CUSTOM TO PRAY BEFORE THE EMPTY-TOMB — You are encouraged to pray 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 radiant power that flows from it.

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!



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY NEXT WEEK — The Sunday following Easter (Pascha) is a very special Sunday when the Divine Floodgates of God's Mercy 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). *To be eligible to receive this promise of the Lord Jesus Himself, one must seek His Mercy in the Holy Mystery (Sacrament) of Reconciliation, and receive Holy Communion on this day. Approach any Catholic priest avail yourself to this gift!*



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 12)** 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.