

Parish Offerings – 4th Sunday of The Great Fast — March 27, 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 (\$2,153) YP (\$7)	\$2,160.00
Holy Days (\$127) Easter (\$25) Ester Décor (\$40)	194.00
Special Donation	100.00
Votive Candles (\$126) Initial (\$5) B.C.W. (\$14)	145.00
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	\$2,599.00

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$719.25
Holy Day (\$40) Easter (\$300) Easter Décor (\$20)	360.00
Utilities	40.00
Votive Candles	49.30
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	\$1,168.55

Church Attendance Last Week

Sat (MR), 4:00 p.m. (41); Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (50); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (30)

Presanctified Divine Liturgy

V Lenten: Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (16); Friday — (NS) 6:00 pm (12)

Akathistos Saturday — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (7)

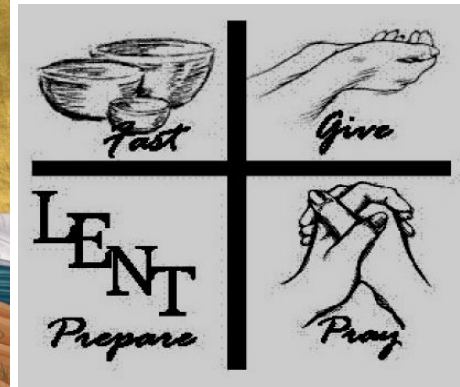
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

**225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE**

**McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212**

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

The Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt — April 3, 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



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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

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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

In you, O Mother Mary the Egyptian, the faithful image of God shone forth; * for you carried your cross and followed Christ. You taught by your deeds how to spurn the body, for it passes away; and how to value the soul for it is immortal. Therefore, your soul is forever in happiness with the angels (Troparion of St. Mary the Egyptian).

April 3, 2022 Seasonal Greeting: Volume XII Number 14



Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!
Slava Isusu Christu!! — Slava Na Viki!



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

The Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

5th Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

SUN., Apr 3 (35) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael P. Harsh (2nd ann of pass. 4/1) Rippole Family

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Mary Sahayda (1st ann of passing 4/1) Dgtr: Marlene "Mimi" Smith

4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. Gregory Nanzianzus Church, Upper St.

Clair, preceded by the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation by a Deanery Priest @ 3:30 p.m.

Mon, Apr 4 (36) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna May Sejka Sejka Family

Tue, Apr 5 (37) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Andrew Latta Wife: Arlene & Family
(9th ann of passing 4/4)

Passing of St. Methodius — REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Wed, Apr 6 (38) 8:00 a.m. (MR) 1st & 3rd Penitential Greatfast Hours

6:30 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

7:00 p.m. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Thrs, Apr 7 (39) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna Hrebenak Dgtr: Maria, Sem Luke & Anita Iyengar
(13th ann of passing 4/12)

FINAL DAY OF THE HOLY & GREAT 40 DAYS FAST — REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

FRI, Apr 8 (40) 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours

6:00 p.m. (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy

LAZARUS SATURDAY

We now walk vicariously with Our Lord throughout the next 8 days

Sat, Apr 9 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen Hopey (1st ann of passing 4/7) Nancy & Michael Ferrell

Sunday anticipated St. John Chrysostom Divine Liturgy of Royal Entry Into Jerusalem — Palm (Flowery) Sunday

*** 3:45 p.m. (MR) + Nicholas Terrek. (17th ann of passing 4/8) Wife: Mildred & Family

ROYAL ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

Palm (Flowery) Sunday — Solemn Blessing of Palms & Willows

SUN., Apr 10 *** 8:45 a.m. (MR) + Mary Fejka Dgtr: Susie

(26th ann of passing 4/6)

*** 10:45 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

3:00 p.m. (MR) Passion Week Vespers commencing Holy Week followed by Confessions

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 3 – Beverly Harsh.

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuas, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, Dolores Kosko, Steve Kosko, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, BETTY LORINC, Irene Muha, 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, Mildred Terrek.

CONCORDIA VILLA OF ST. JOSEPH (1030 W. State St., Baden, PA 15005): Irene Bordas.

CELEBRATION VILLA (2219 Walters Rd., Allison Park, PA 15101): Joseph Mitro

CONCORDIA AT RACHEL RESIDENCE (3746 Cedar Ridge Rd., Allison Park, PA): DOLORES HUNDANICK

UPMC PRESBYTERIAN (200 Lothrop St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213) Tim Kacsur.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Does natural family planning require couples to have as many children as they can afford/handle? A. Answer by Catholic Apologist, Not at all. Couples are free to have as many or as few children as they choose based on their circumstances and their relationship. Obviously, it would be a very good thing if couples were as generous as possible in having children. Yet this generosity has to be measured according to their capabilities and relationship. The point is clear: we are never allowed to use immoral means either to avoid conception or to foster it; rather, we should strive to give our children the best possible upbringing, materially, spiritually, and educationally. There is no way that the use of NFP, even if the couple is not being as generous as they could be, amounts to a grave sin, because the marriage acts undertaken while using it are perfectly moral.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Apr. 3 — Apr. 9, 2022

(MR): In memory of Rose Babin (18th ann of passing 4/6)

offered by Dgtr: Janet Sendro & Family

(NS): In memory of the Kost Family

(MR) None available 2022

offered by Shirley A. Marks

(NS) None available 2022

General Announcements

McKees Rocks



LAST WEEK OF THE PIROHI PROJECT — *This will be the final week of Pirohi, April 8 (no sales on Holy & Great Friday)* We would appreciate more volunteers especially pinchers since we expect the final rush of sales! **Remember, all orders must be placed on the Wednesday prior to the sale date between 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Call: (412) 331-5155.**

ECF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM NEXT WEEK ON PALM SUNDAY — The annual egg hunt will take place on **Palm (Flowery) Sunday, April 10, 2022** in the Church parking lot. If the weather is inclement it will take place in the school basement. All children in grades 5 and under are invited to participate in this event. Participants will gather in the school while the palms and willows are distributed while the eggs are hidden by the Byzantine Youth Group. Commencement will be at app. 10:30 a.m.

BYZAN-TEEN CANDY SALE NEAR THE END — Over the past few weeks, our Youth Group has been raising funds for their presence at the Byzantine Youth Rally in Emmitsburg, Maryland at the beginning of July. This event affords our parish youth of meeting other Byzantine Catholics their age from all over the country. They have enjoyed these gatherings over the years, and have come to make new Byzantine friends. Currently they are selling small bars of chocolate for a \$1.00 each. Please support them so that they will be able to afford this trip along with chaperones.

Northside

NO PARTICULAR ANNOUNCEMENT THIS WEEK

EPARCHY OF MUKACHEVO DONATIONS WIRED TO UKRAINE — Due to the immediate need, the chancery has already wired the first group of monetary donations to the Muchacho Eparchy in Ukraine to help with the basic needs of their country's refugees passing through their area. A great humanitarian need continues with many having only the close on their backs, and need of food, water, and basic needs such as toothpaste and toiletries. **Last week an addition (MR) \$100.00 and (NS) \$10.00 were donated, and will be sent to the chancery this week.** We are no longer collecting donations. If you are still thinking of donating, they are many other agencies that will be able to accommodate your gift. The totals accumulated: (MR): \$4,500.00; (MR) Pirohi Project: \$1,644.13; and the (NS): \$3,240.00. God bless all for serving Christ through those in need.

FINAL DEANERY PENITENTIAL VESPERS TODAY — *The Great Fast Deanery Vespers* will conclude today at 4:00 p.m. **preceded by The Holy Mystery of Reconciliation @ 3:30 p.m. at St. Gregory Church, Upper St. Clair, PA – Homilist: Fr. Andrew Deskovic.** Please make an effort to join us for this final Deanery event. Fellowship of meatless soups and bread will be served following the liturgical services.

EXTRA CONFESSOR NEXT WEEK — On **Palm (Flowery) Sunday, April 10, 2022 following (MR) Passion Vespers** — Our pastor is conscripting another priest to aid him in hearing Confessions. *Please make every effort to make a good and worthy confession of sins as we prepare for the salutary events of Holy Week & Easter!* Use this opportunity to fulfill your Easter Duty Precept! You may also make your confession at the ordinary times listed on the front page of the S.O.T. A *Guide to Confession* is available in the narthex and vestibule of the Church.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

FINAL SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST: Centering our lives on Jesus

For the third time, Jesus spoke of his passion and death (see also Mark 8:31-33; 9:30-32). His cross was to be the climax of his earthly mission. The Lord was clearly trying to impress



upon his closest disciples that this would indeed occur. He was teaching them the doctrine of the cross. Certainly, John and James had heard all that Jesus said about his mission for they were among his closest disciples, the only ones privileged—along with Peter—to witness his transfiguration (see Mark 9:2-13). Despite all they had seen and heard, they asked Jesus to promise that they would sit at his side in places of honor when he came into his kingdom (Mark 10:37). They knew what Jesus was about, yet they still asked this question. What was going on in their

minds at that moment that could make them disregard all they had learned? We often are like James and John when it comes to the things of God. Like these two sons of Zebedee, we have heard and seen much: we have heard the gospel proclaimed; we have pondered God's word in scripture; we understand the nature of our Lord's mission. Our minds can be so entrenched in the ways of this world, however, that what we've seen and heard drifts out of our minds when we must make decisions. The influence of the world is constantly pressing us, relentless in forcing upon us ways and standards which are opposed to what Christ taught. Each day we must center our lives on the truths we have learned in Christ so that they, not the world, can guide our lives. The author of the letter to the Hebrews warned: "We must pay the closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it" (Hebrews 2:1).

St. Mary of Egypt Commemorated Today

St. Mary is commemorated on the Fifth Sunday of The Great Fast. Her feast is on April 1. The Church holds her up as an example to the faithful during these fast days as an incentive for repentance. She died about the year 530 A.D. The biography of this wonderful saint was written by St. Sophron us, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. After living an immoral life, she was converted to the faith in Jerusalem. Having venerated the Cross, she entered the vestibule and, before the icon, gave thanks to the Mother of God. At that very moment she heard a voice saying: "If you cross over Jordan you will find real peace!" Immediately she purchased three loaves of bread and started out for the Jordan where she arrived that same evening. The next day she received Holy Communion in the Monastery of St. John and crossed over the Jordan River. She remained in the wilderness for forty-eight years in great torment, fear and struggle with passionate thoughts as though with wild beasts. She received Holy Communion for the final time from a priest-monk named Zosimus. After her death, Zosimus buried the body of this wonderful saint. When he returned to the monastery Zosimus related the entire history of her life and the miracles which he had personally witnessed. Thus, the Lord knows how to glorify penitent sinners. God doesn't reject anyone who comes to Him with a humble and contrite heart!!! **Do you know where her icon is in our (MR) Church?**



Calendar of Upcoming Events

Including Holy Week & Easter

April 3 Deanery Penitential Great Fast Vespers at St. Gregory Church, Upper St. Clair @ 4:00 p.m.
 April 6 **VI LENTEN WEDNESDAY:** (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.; (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m. — **NO MEAT.**
 April 8 **The Final Day of The Holy & Great 40 Days Fast** & Final Day of Pirohi Sales.
VI Lenten FRIDAY: (MR) 8:00 a.m. 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours.
 (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.
 April 9 Lazarus Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m.
 April 10 Palm (Flowery) Sunday — All weekend Divine Liturgies
 commence 15 minutes earlier for Solemn Blessing of Palms & Pussy Willows.
 ... Passion Vespers inaugurating Holy Week @ 2:00 p.m. followed by Confessions.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE (April 11 through April 16)

Great & Holy Monday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 Great & Holy Tuesday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.
 (NS) Confessions @ 6:15 a.m.
 Great & Holy Wednesday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
Great & Holy Thursday ... (MR) Betrayal Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Vespers & St. Basil Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
Great & Holy Friday . (MR) Passion Matins w/12 Passion Gospels @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR) Royal Hours @ 12:00 noon

(MR) CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 12:00 NOON UNTIL 3:00 pm FOR PRIVATE DEVOTION

(NS) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 5:00 p.m. & (MR) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 7:00 p.m.

ALL NIGHT VIGIL BEFORE THE TOMB (Please Signup)

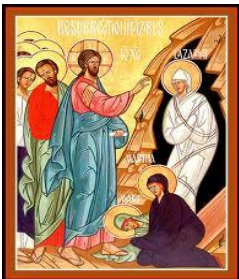
Great & Holy Saturday (MR) Sepulcher (Jerusalem) Matins w/Procession @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR) Great Vespers w/St. Basil Vigil Divine Liturgy @ 2:00 p.m.

Great & Holy Sat. Evening (NS) Resurrectional Matins & Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods @ 5:45 p.m. — (MR) Resurrectional Matins & Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods @ 7:45 p.m.

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.

SPECIAL LITURGICAL SERVICES THIS WEEK

LAZARUS SATURDAY BEGINS THE LAST EIGHT DAYS — This **Palm Friday**,



April 8 terminates the *Penitential Season of the Holy & Great 40 Days Fast*. It was given to us “to bring profit to our souls.” It, however, DOES NOT mean that we terminate our Lenten abstinence efforts! It encourages us to continue the practice for an additional eight days. Beginning with *Lazarus Saturday* the Church points out that we now are given the privilege and opportunity to walk *vicariously* with the Lord. This happens by participating in each of the daily liturgical services offered until Resurrection Sunday. Please use this extraordinary time to be

with Our Lord in as many (if not all) upcoming Church services.

General Announcements

VIGIL TOMB WATCH SIGNUP SHEET NOW READY — It has always been a long standing custom that following the Entombment Vespers on Holy & Great Friday, the



Church remains open up to the Resurrectional Matins Holy Saturday evening to venerate the Most Pure Body of Our Savior in the Tomb. In today's environs, we must be very careful that the Church is protected from vandalism. The McKees Rocks Parish will attempt to carry on this beautiful and solemn practice IF we can get enough of people to keep vigil before the Tomb, especially throughout

the early hours of the morning. A special poster is now available for signatures. This vigil is open and encourages both Parishes to participate. If you select a time slot, and someone else has signed, you may also sign in the same slot. It would be nice if a few individuals and families would share the same slots for safety reasons. If there aren't enough to register throughout the night, the Church will close from midnight until 8:00 a.m. So, please sign early so that we may know if this activity will become a true reality. Parents, please teach your children by your example of this important custom.

MEN NEEDED TO HOLD CANDLES DURING PASSION GOSPELS — On Holy &

Great Friday morning during the Passion Matins w/reading of the Twelve Gospels, the tradition of the Church always had 12 men holding candles as the Passion of the Lord Jesus was being proclaimed. We sure would like to keep this meaningful and sacred custom alive. It is open to all



men of both parishes to participate. **Please register your name on the special sheet in the MR side vestibule or phone the Church Office.** Let us honor Our Lord for all that He endured for our salvation and mankind's redemption. At this point, only 5 have signed the list.

PALM (FLOWERY) SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGIES BEGIN EARLIER — Palms and



Willows will be solemnly blessed prior to next weekend's Divine Liturgy with palms being distributed at the beginning in order to be held in worship. All services will begin 15 minutes earlier. Please reverently discard last year's palms and willows, by burying or burning them and disposing the ashes where they will not be walked on. If you

live in an apartment or an area that you will have difficulty disposing of them, please bring them to the church and place them in the brown paper bag by the holy water container. The church will see that they are properly disposed for you.