

Parish Offerings – Easter Sunday — April 17, 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	\$135.00
Easter (\$6,113) YP (\$37)	6,150.00
Palm Sunday (\$10) Holy Days (\$1,074)	1,084.00
Votive Candles (\$135.50) Initial (\$10)	145.50
	<hr/>
	\$7,514.50

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering	\$100.00
Easter (\$1,398.25) Palm Sunday (\$20) Holy Days (\$202)	1,620.25
Easter Décor (\$1) Improvements (\$10)	11.00
Votive Candles	68.75

Church Attendance Last Week \$1,800.00

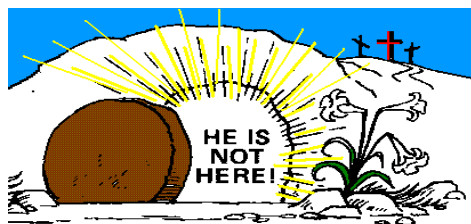
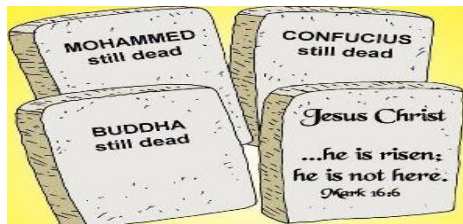
(NS) Sat., 5:45 p.m. (59); (MR) Sat., 7:45 p.m. (85)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (72); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (41)

Bright Monday (MR) 9:00 a.m. (10); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (11)

Bright Tuesday (MR) 9:00 a.m. (3); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (10)

Bright Sat. & St. George — (NS) Friday 6:00 pm (4); (MR) Saturday 9:00 am (9)



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

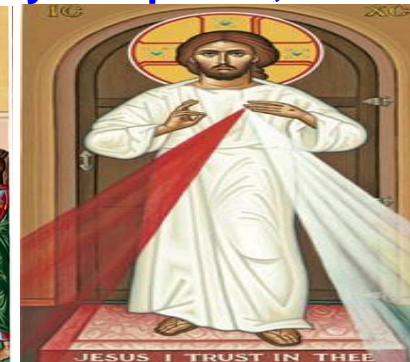
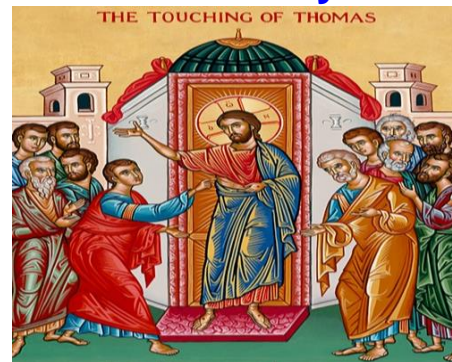
225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

SUNDAY OF THE ANTIPASCH

Sunday of St. Thomas — 2nd Paschal Sunday

Divine Mercy Sunday — April 24, 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

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
Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953

He Is RISEN INDEED!

DESIGNS BY NANCY
235 McCartney Drive,
Moon Township 15108
Phone: (412) 580-1545
Nancde@aol.com
Nancy C. Debranski
Sewing, Alternations, Custom Embroidery and Unique Gifts

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!

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



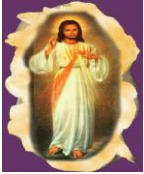
THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

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).

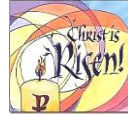
April 24, 2022

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XII Number 17



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
(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



Holy Apostle & Evangelist Mark

Mon, Apr 25 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Stephen Gramata Eleanor Gramata & Son: George
(33rd ann of passing 4/15)

Tues, Apr 26 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Vince Capozzi Zula Family

Weds, Apr 27 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Darko S. Gataric Joshua & Anka Gataric
(2nd ann of passing)



Thrs, Apr 28 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Clarita Weisman Mildred Terrek

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

Fri, Apr 29 8:00 a.m. (MR) + George F. Zula Zula Family
(63rd ann of passing 5/1)



Sat, Apr 30 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) + Debra A. Charochak Lu Consur

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

Joseph of Arithemea & Nicodemus – 3rd Paschal Sunday

SUN., May 1 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna + George Skalyo Dgtr: Joyce & James Walsh Family
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 24 – Olivia Stebbins; **Apr 25** – Audrey Hart; **Apr 28** – Gerald Stebbins.

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, Dolores Kosko, Steve Kosko, ARLENE LATA, KIRK LATA, 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 Cifruk. Dorothy Ann Karl, Mildred Terrek.
CONCORDIA VILLA OF ST. JOSEPH (1030 W. State St., Baden, PA 15005): Irene Bordas.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Is it OK to work on Sunday? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** Rest from work is necessary. We know that even God himself rests: "He rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done" (Gen. 2:2). In recognition of this, the Church obligates us to rest on the Lord's day. The Code of Canon Law states, "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass (Divine Liturgy) unless dispensed by the hierarch or pastor for a legitimate reason. Moreover, they are to abstain from those works and affairs which hinder the worship to be rendered to God, the joy proper to the Lord's Day, or the suitable relaxation of mind and body" (CIC 1247). However, the Church also recognizes that legitimate reasons excuse from this obligation. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains, "Family needs or important social service can legitimately excuse from the obligation of Sunday rest. The faithful should see to it that legitimate excuses do not lead to habits prejudicial to religion, family life, and health" (CCC 2185).

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

Apr. 24 — Apr. 30, 2022

(MR): **In memory of John Zavidny** (12th ann. of passing 4/20)

offered by Wife: Bunny & Family

(NS): **In memory of Anthony Knoll**

(MR) None available 2022

offered by Dgtr: Leslie O'Donnell

(NS) None available 2022



General Announcements

McKees Rocks

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the sudden passing of **Timothy Andrew Kacsur, 63**, of McKees Rocks (Presston), PA, at the Encompass Rehabilitation Center on Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022. He is survived by a Brother, David. He was loved by a nephew: Adam, niece (Brittney (Joseph) and several relatives and friends. The Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home, McKees Rocks, handled the arrangements. A Paschal Funeral Divine Liturgy was offered at our Church on Bright Friday, April 22nd. @ 10:00 a.m. Interment followed at St. Mark Cemetery, Kennedy Township. Our Parish extends its most sincere sympathies to the Kacsur Family. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant Timothy, and remember him forever because CHRIST IS RISEN! Vicnaja Jemu Pamjat' ibo



CHRISTOS VOSKRESE!

OUR PIROHI PROCEEDS FROM THE LENTEN SEASON — Total Proceeds March to April. 2022 \$18,681.00; Minus Pirohi Expenses (\$4,778); Minus Cathedraticum: (\$695.13); Minus Golden Corral Appreciation Dinner (\$266.09); Sent to Pirohi Parish Savings & Share: \$13,207.54; Once again, this project was made possible from the hard-working Pirohi Project Volunteers who sacrificed their time and talent in making this renovation project possible! May God grant to them all many happy and blessed years.



GRATITUDE TO OUR CHANDELIER CLEANER — A special note of thanks is extended to our parishioner chandelier cleaner who had it shinning in time for the Resurrectional season. This several day project took many hours and is an annual event. This is indeed a special ministry, and we are appreciation for this anonymous donor had work. God grant you many happy and blessed years because Christ is Risen!

North Side

No Particular Announcements This Week

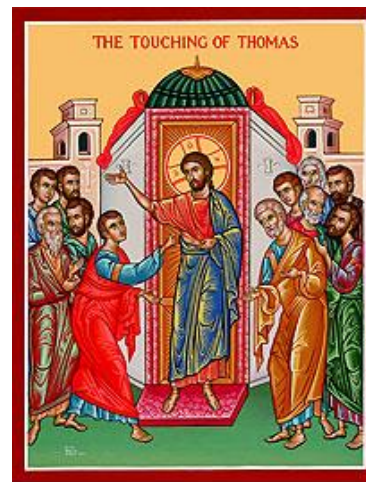
EASTER DUTY PRECEPT — All Christian Faithful are OBLIGED (MANDATED) to receive the Divine Eucharist when in danger of death AND during the Paschal (Easter) Period (Canon 708). In regards to the latter, this is traditionally known as the EASTER DUTY. When one is aware of Mortal (Deadly) Sin, a Sacramental 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.

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

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 30 Practice of those preparing for First Reconciliation in MR Church @ 11:00 a.m.
..... Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Corporate Communion @ 4:00 p.m. DL.
May 8 Annual Mother's Day.
May 11 Feasts of Saints Cyril & Methodius & Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko

Saints of the Week — April 16

THE NINE HOLY MARTYRS OF CYZICUS

The city of Cyzicus is in Asia Minor on the coast of the Dardenelles (Hellespont). Christianity already began to spread there through the preaching of Saint Paul (June 29). During the persecutions by the pagans, some of the Christians fled the city, while others kept their faith in Christ in secret. At the end of the third century Cyzicus was still basically a pagan city, although there was a Christian church there. The situation in the city distressed the Christians, who sought to uphold Christianity. The nine holy martyrs



Thaumasius, Theognes, Rufus, Antipater, Theostichus, Artemas, Magnus, Theodotus, and Philemon were also from Cyzicus. They came from various places and were of different ages: the young like Saint Antipater, and the very old like Saint Rufus. They came from various positions in society: some were soldiers, countryfolk, city people, and clergy. All of them declared their faith in Christ and prayed for the spread of Christianity. The saints boldly confessed Christ and fearlessly denounced the pagan impiety. They were arrested and brought to trial before the ruler of the city. Over several days they were tortured, locked in prison and brought out again. They were promised their freedom if they renounced Christ. But the valiant martyrs of Christ continued to glorify the Lord. All nine martyrs were beheaded by the sword (+ ca. 286-299), and their bodies buried near the city. In the year 324, when the Eastern half of the Roman Empire was ruled by Saint Constantine the Great (May 21), and the persecutions against Christians ended, the Christians of Cyzicus removed the incorrupt bodies of the martyrs from the ground and placed them in a church built in their honor. Various miracles occurred from the holy relics: the sick were healed, and the mentally deranged were brought to their senses. The faith of Christ grew within the city through the intercession of the holy martyrs, and many of the pagans were converted to Christianity. When Julian the Apostate (361-363) came to rule, the pagans of Cyzicus complained to him that the Christians were destroying pagan temples. Julian gave orders to rebuild the pagan temples and to jail Bishop Eleusius. Bishop Eleusius was set free after Julian's death, and the light of the Christian Faith shone anew through the assistance of the holy martyrs.

General Announcements

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY TODAY — The Sunday following Easter is an incredibly 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 unique 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!