

Parish Offerings – Thomas Sunday — April 24, 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

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (32)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (65); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (25)



THE ORIGINAL ROCK

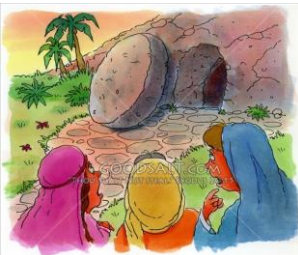


...AND ROLL



HAPPY EASTER

Valerian F. Szal
 238 Helen St.,
 McKees Rocks, PA 15136
 Phone: (412) 331-9713
 Fax: (412) 331-6688
Michael P. Ferrell,
 Supervisor, CFSP
Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953



DESIGNS BY NANCY
 235 McCartney Drive,
 Moon Township 15108
 Phone: (412) 580-1545
 Nancde@aol.com

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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



NWPL offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Tina (412) 859-9597



North Side Parishioner
Alan Valeriano
(412) 638-3417

HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

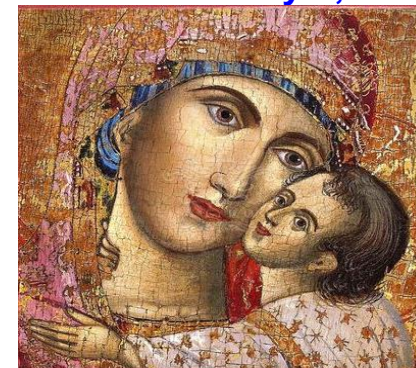
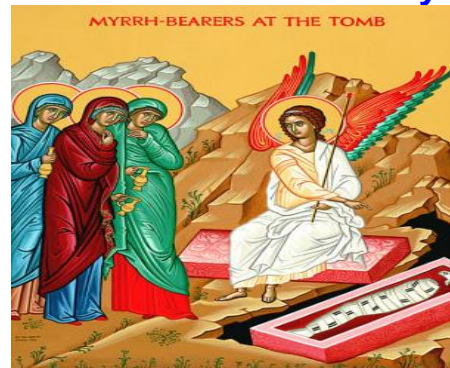
**225 OLIVIA STREET
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE**

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

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

With Joseph & Nicodemus — 3rd Paschal Sunday

Month of the Most Holy Theotokos — May 1, 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: ffa334@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

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 Northwest Pittsburgh Lodge(MR) Contact Tina Burns (412) 859-9597 for membership.

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

Before the sun was up, a group of women sought the true Sun, whom they believed had set in the tomb. Myrrh-Bearers, the radiant angel appeared and said: 'The resplendent Light enlightens those who sleep in the darkness. Go and announce to the radiant disciples that sorrow is now changed into joy.' With a confident heart and clapping of hands cry out with joy: The Pasch of joy now saves us. Christ is Risen and grants great mercy to the world.' (Great Vespers for Myrrh-Bearers Sunday)

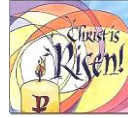
May 1, 2022

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XII Number 18



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
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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	

Mon, May 2	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mark A. Cifrulak	(Wed. Ann.)	Mom: Margaret
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Tues, May 3	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary Susan Dragosh	(3 rd ann of passing)	Anonymous
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Weds, May 4	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Gail LaQuintac		Jackie & Mel Weinstein
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Thrs, May 5	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Fr. Charles M. Yastishock	(birthday)	Fr. Firko
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First Friday of the month in reparation for sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance

Fri, May 6	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen Hopey	(birthday)	Anonymous
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First Saturday of the month in reparation for blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary

9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

6:00 pm. (MR) Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Myrrh-Bearing Women & Joseph & Nicodemus



4:00 p.m. (MR) + Irene Palahunik	Family
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SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN

4th Paschal Sunday — Annual Mother's Day

SUN, May 8	9:00 a.m. (MR) + George Kurtanich	(birthday 5/7)	Children
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11:00 a.m. (NS) + Robert M. Smoley	Sister: Mary Ann Smoley
(44 th day of passing 5/14)	

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 (100).

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.

UPMC SHADYSIDE HOSPITAL (5230 Centre Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15232): Irene Bordas.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Do Catholics believe in the Rapture?. **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:**

The word Rapture is connected to the Latin word rapiemur, which appears in Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians in the Latin Vulgate translation of the Bible. It means to be raised up or caught up: The dead in Christ will rise first; then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so, we shall always be with the Lord. (1 Thess. 4:16–17). Therefore, Catholics believe that those Christians who are still living at the Second Coming of Christ will be gathered together with those who have died in Christ to be forever with the Lord. Catholics do not generally use the term Rapture, nor do they believe in a Rapture that will take place sometime before the Second Coming, as do many Evangelicals.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

May 1 — May 7, 2022

(MR): **In memory of Mark A. Ciruela** (wedding ann. 5/2)

offered by Family

(NS): **In memory of George Hudanick, Sr.**

(MR) None available 2022

offered by Anonymous

(NS) None available 2022

General Announcements

McKees Rocks

FORMER PASTOR HOSPITALIZED — Last Saturday evening, Fr. Robert Karl, a retired priest of the Archeparchy, was taken to a local Pittsburgh hospital due to a fall near his residence. He remains in critical condition and will need plenty of time to recover. Let us remember him in prayer that God may heal him of his afflictions. May God grant to his priestly servant many happy and blessed years in health!

North Side

No Particular Announcements This Week

SURVEY SHEETS DUE TODAY — Just a reminder that the 2023 Survey sheet that had been available to the parishioners for the past few months are now due. They will be reviewed by the pastor and summarized with the results sent to the chancery this week. Thank you for all who have participated in this special project.

SPECIAL FRIDAY & SPECIAL SATURDAY THIS WEEK — This week is the First Friday and First Saturday of the month. The Church has for many years continues to ask us to make reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on First Friday. We do so by worthily approaching and receiving Holy Communion for nine consecutive months; First Saturdays are reserved for making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on five consecutive Saturdays of each month; we must also make a good Confession, receive Holy Communion, meditate on the 15 Mysteries for 15 minutes and to receive Holy Communion. Let us fulfill these requirements and console Jesus and Mary, the Theotokos.



Friday and First Saturday of the month. The Church has for many years continues to ask us to make reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on First Friday. We do so by worthily approaching and receiving Holy Communion for nine consecutive months; First Saturdays are reserved for making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on five consecutive Saturdays of each month; we must also make a good Confession, receive Holy Communion, meditate on the 15 Mysteries for 15 minutes and to receive Holy Communion. Let us fulfill these requirements and console Jesus and Mary, the Theotokos.

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!!!**

5 Reasons Why We Should Try to Attend The Daily Mass (Divine Liturgy)

(The follow article appeared on the web-page from the Roman Rite Diocese of Salina, Kansas. The author is Rev. Steve Heian. He will use the term 'Mass' but it is also to be understood also in the context of Byzantine Rite terminology 'Divine Liturgy.' Please read and ponder.)

I've been going to daily Mass for the greater part of twenty years....I thought I understood God's purpose in allowing that evil day to happen. It seemed the churches were half-full, at daily Masses. I wondered why they were not completely full. Then, as things seem to brighten and



become more stable, the churches gradually emptied again. I guess we really didn't understand... God's love and protection are the only real stability we will ever know in life. So, below are five reasons I go to daily Mass (Divine Liturgy). I believe they are five of the same reasons you, also, might consider.

1. Receiving Christ in the Blessed Eucharist gives us the strength to fight selfish pride and sin. Pride and ego are two of the many demons most of us must battle constantly. We desire pleasure, things, convenience, notice, etc. It's a constant struggle to weaken these impulses... especially when they impact our other priorities and relationships. We cannot win the struggle alone. We were not created perfect. We were born frail and defective so that we might acknowledge that any good which happens in us or through us is from God. It takes supernatural strength to combat ego; and we can get that strength from our Lord present in the Eucharist. The sanctifying grace that pours through us when we receive the consecrated host allows us to stop before uttering a word of anger, or engaging in a selfish sin. Simply put, the Eucharist strengthens us for the daily journey.

2. Praising God first thing in the morning is the most important thing on our daily calendar. "First things first", as they say. And since we've been blessed to be a member of this one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, we should understand that it's a privilege and a gift that we can make God the first and most important person in our day by worshipping Him in His temple. Plus, God asks for the first fruits of our harvest, the first tenth of all our blessings. Going to Mass is offering the first part of our day to the Lord who is the source of all our blessings. It's the best form of Catholic stewardship.

3. The Mass (Divine Liturgy) is my ongoing spiritual formation. One beautiful thing about the Mass is that it is so drenched in scripture. Attending Mass daily allows us to soak in God's Word. Reading and reflecting on the daily scriptures the evening before makes the Mass seem even richer and more fulfilling. The Mass helps us get a full Catholic education in Christ -- stewardship, the sacraments, the saints, and evangelization. It helps us grown in the Lord a day at a time.

4. The Mass (Divine Liturgy) heals. Every Mass (Divine Liturgy) is a healing experience. It heals wounds caused by our sinful nature, it heals our relationship with God and with one another, bringing us closer to our Lord, giving us opportunities to draw near and receive Him not only in the Word, but also in the Blessed Sacrament.

5. You meet your Creator, your friend, your love. It is good to be a friend and lover of God. On the day we see Him face-to-face, we will realize that which we have missed throughout our lives. As Saint Augustine says: "my heart is restless until it rests in You." Find your shelter in the wings of the Lord. Find it, every morning, in His Holy temple. During the day, find it in silent prayer wherever we are. We will come to yearn for the Lord knowing that our day is incomplete without prayer and worship. We will find no greater solace than in His Word, in His sacraments, and in surrendering to His love. In accepting the challenge of meeting Jesus daily in the Eucharist, we will find more joy than ever.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 7 Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary @ 6:00 p.m.
May 8 Annual Mother's Day.
May 11 Feasts of Saints Cyril & Methodius & Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko

Saint of the Week

THE HOLY GREAT VIRGIN-MARTYR IRENE — May 5

Irene lived in the Balkans during apostolic times in the town of Magedon.

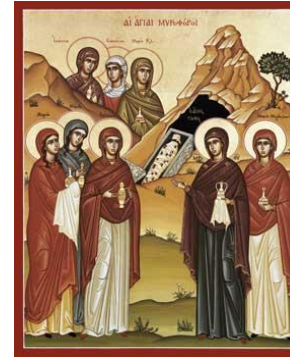


Her father Licinius was of lesser royal nobility. Some think that she was a Slav. Irene was born a pagan of pagan parents. Penelope was her pagan name. She learned about the Christian Faith from her teacher Appelianus. St. Timothy, the disciple of the Apostle Paul, baptized her and her court attendants and provided her with the epistles of the Apostle Paul to read. Refusing to marry, she enraged her father and he wanted to torture her but, in a miraculous manner, she converted her father to

Christianity. Irene was subjected to various tortures by four kings, not counting her father but, God through His angels, spared her. Surviving all tortures, by which she converted a countless number of pagans to Christianity, Irene entered the town of Callipolis [Gallipoli] where she preached the Faith of Christ. The local king Numerian wanted to kill her in this manner: he tossed her into three flaming hot metal oxen; one after the other. But the virgin was saved and remained alive. Many witnessed and believed. The Eparch [governor] Vaudon took her to the town of Constantina where he thought to kill her in this manner: he placed her on red-hot grates. But that did not harm St. Irene and she converted many to the True Faith. Finally, Irene arrived in the town of Mesembria where she was slain by King Sapor but God restored her to life. The king, with many of the people, upon witnessing this, believed in Christ and were baptized. Thus, St. Irene, by her suffering and miracles converted over one-hundred thousand pagans to the Faith of Christ. Finally, she lay down in a grave and ordered Appelianus to close the grave. After four days, when they opened the grave, she was not in the grave. Thus, God glorified forever the virgin and martyr Irene, who sacrificed all and endured all so that God may be glorified among men.

General Announcements

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN — The Third Sunday after Easter is dedicated to the memory of seven of the most dedicated and courageous women of the New



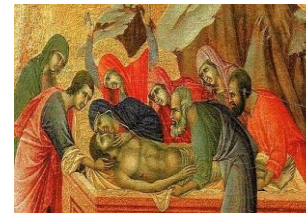
Testament. We know a great deal about the Twelve Apostles of Christ, but we know very little about the Myrrh-Bearing Women who were devoted to Christ equally as much as the Apostles themselves. They were with Jesus as He preached the message of Salvation. They were with Him when He was taken down from Calvary. It was these women who came to anoint His Sacred Body and prepare it for burial. This is why the Church refers to them as the "Myrrh-Bearing Women." Who were they? **1. Mary Magdalene; 2. Salome; 3. Mary, the Mother of James and Joseph; 4. Johanna, the wife of Chuza; 5. Susanna; 6 & 7. Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus.** These glorious ladies of the Church remained steadfast in their faith and brought glory to the Church of

Christ. The Fathers of the Church consider them "equal to the Apostles."

Joseph of Arimathea & Nicodemus

Also Commemorated Today

Little did **Joseph** know that his own tomb would become the Holy Sepulcher? Joseph not only buried Jesus in his tomb, he later became a missionary to England. He was a



member of the Sanhedrin, which was the highest court of the Jewish nation, as well as their supreme religious council. This group voted to put Jesus to death. Joseph, however, abstained from voting. He was chained and imprisoned for burying Jesus. However, Jesus appeared to him after His burial, and so Joseph believed. He was released from prison and exiled from Jerusalem. He traveled with the Apostle Philip and many other apostles to England, winning converts along the way. They were all thrown into prison by the chief, who would only release them if they remained in one area, a reservation, of his choosing. It was swampland, which the Christians all drained and made habitable. The area is now known as Glastonbury. They built a chapel to the Archangel Gabriel, and Joseph is buried in Avalon. Joseph is the Patron saint of Funeral Directors. **Nicodemus** was a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin, who, according to the Gospel of John, showed favor to Jesus. He appears three times in the plot: the first is when he visits Jesus one night to listen to his teachings (John 3:1–21); the second is when he states the law concerning the arrest of Jesus during the Feast of Tabernacles (John 7:45–51); and the last follows the Crucifixion, when he assists Joseph of Arimathea in preparing the corpse of Jesus for burial (John 19:39–42). The discussion with Jesus is the source of several common expressions of contemporary Christianity, specifically, the descriptive phrase born again used to describe the experience of believing in Jesus as Savior, and John 3:16, a commonly quoted verse used to describe God's plan of salvation.

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 Peace in Ukraine, and that our country may return to God-given moral values. God bless all who pray for these causes!