

Parish Offerings – Sunday of St. John Climacus – March 19, 2023

“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 (\$2,387) YP (\$9)	\$2,396.00
Holy Day (\$20) Easter Flowers (\$478)	498.00
Eastern European Churches	85.00
Votive Candles (\$159) B.C.W. (\$14)	173.00
-	\$3,152.00

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering (\$552) YP (\$1)	\$553.00
Easter Flowers	110.00
Votive Candles	36.50

Church Attendance Last Week \$699.50

(MR) Sat., 4:00 pm (29);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (68); (NS) 11:00 am (20)

5th Great Fast Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (13); 5th Great Fast Friday — (NS) 6:00 pm (n/a)
Last week's 4th All Souls Commemoration. — (NS) 6:00 p.m (4); Saturday: (MR) 9:00 a.m. (12)



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Alan Valeriano
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possible to bring you this
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please contact Church 9 til
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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

Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel — The Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt
March 26, 2023



Catholics of the Ruthenian – Byzantine Rite in full communion with the Pope of Rome

The Very Reverend Father Frank A. Firko, Pastor

The Reverend Deacon Michael 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

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.

Sacramental Call to Homebound, Personal Care & Hospitalized: Phone Church Office ASAP.

Sponsor of Christian Initiation: Godparents must be practicing Catholics.

Religious Education Classes: (MR) Coordinator: Steve Puluka (412) 897- 4650.

Carpatho-Rusyn Radio: Internet Sunday afternoon: Rusyn.fm at 3:30 pm. Archive: c-rsmedia.org.

Social Hall Rental: (MR) Contact Church Office.

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).*

Mach 26, 2023

Christian Greeting

Volume XIII, Number 13



Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!

Slava Isusu Christu!! — Slava Na Viki!

Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

ST. MARY OF EGYPT SUNDAY

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

SUN, Mar 26 (35) **9:00 a.m. (MR)** + William H. Bell Irene Bordas & Family

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Andrew Latta (10th Wed. Ann. (4/5) Wife: Arlene & Family

4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at Saints Peter & Paul Church, Tarentum, preceded by the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation by a Deanery Priest @ 3:30 p.m.

Mon, Mar 27 (36) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + Vrabel Family Julia Ann & George F. Mosko

Tue, Mar 28 (37) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + Vince Capozzi Zula Family

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Wed. Mar 29 (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, Mar 30 (39) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** + Andrew Kundrat Theresa Kundrat
(40th day of passing 3/13)

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

Fri. Mar 31 (40) **8:00 a.m. (MR)** 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours

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

LAZARUS SATURDAY

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

Sat, Apr 1 **9:00 a.m. (MR)** For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

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

***** 3:45 p.m. (MR)** + Michael P. Harsh (3rd ann of passing) Wife: Beverly & Family

ROYAL ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

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

SUN, Apr 2 **8:45 a.m. (MR)** + Mary Fejka Dgtr: Susie

(27th ann of passing 4/6)

***** 10:45 a.m. (NS)** + Anna + George Grazorchalk Alice Slagle

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

Mar 26 – James Gunkel, AIMEE HELMS; **Mar 28** – LEAH TRAPL

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

HOME: Margaret Belionas, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, Steve Kosko, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, BETTY LORINC, Irene Muha, Kurt Perschy, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Dan Pikras, Lisa Plutto, Elizabeth Poznak, GERALD SLAGLE, 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.

VETERANS HOSPITAL (1010 Delafield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15215): JOHN VEREB.

THE RESIDENCE AT WILLOW LANE (30 Heckel Rd., McKees Rocks, PA 15136): Helen Best, Margaret Cifrutlak, Dorothy Ann Karl, Mildred Terrek.

LUTHERAN SENIORLIFE (500 Wittenberg Way, Mars PA 16046): A. SHIRLEY KALNAS.

SUNRISE SENIOR LIVING (900 Lincoln Club Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237): Irene Bordas.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. The Church's teaching on the immorality of in-vitro fertilization seems cruel and unfair. Don't married couples have a right to have a child? **A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist:** While the Church's judgment concerning in-vitro fertilization treatments may appear cruel and unfair, it is not. Children are a gift, not an entitlement. The Church teaches that Marriage does not confer upon the spouses the right to have a child, but only the right to perform those natural acts which are per se ordered to procreation. A true and proper right to a child would be contrary to the child's dignity and nature. The child is not an object to which one has a right, nor can he be considered as an object of ownership: rather, a child is a gift, "the supreme gift" (58) and the most gratuitous gift of marriage, and is a living testimony of the mutual giving of his parents. For this reason, the child has the right, as already mentioned, to be the fruit of the specific act of the conjugal love of his parents; and he also has the right to be respected as a person from the moment of his conception. (Instruction: Respect for Human Life 8)

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

March 26 — April 1, 2023

(MR): **In memory of the Vrabel Family**

offered by Julia A. & George F. Mosko

(NS): **In memory of Anna May Sejka** (2nd ann of passing 3/30)

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023

offered by Anonymous

(NS) FEW AVAILABLE FOR 2023

McKees Rocks Announcements

LAST WEEK OF THE PIROHI PROJECT — *This will be the final week of Pirohi, March 31 (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 2, 2023** 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 Byzan-teen 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 San Diego, CA next year of 2024 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 Announcements

No Particular informational announcements for this week

PUSSY WILLOWS NEEDED FOR PALM SUNDAY — We have been receiving harvested Pussy Willows for our Palm (Flowery) Celebration on the **weekend of April 1-2**. We appreciate this donation from parishioners who have dropped them off at the Church. We could use additional. If you can help us out, please phone the MR Church Office and inform us that you will be harvesting this traditional symbol.



EXTRA CONFESSOR NEXT WEEK — On Palm (Flowery) Sunday, April 2, 2023 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. The Church must give a stipend to the visiting priest along with compensation for the milage to be here. Please come and keep him busy making the stipend justifiable. 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. Sophronius, 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!!!



Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 29 **LENTEN WEDNESDAY:** (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 Phone in orders on Wednesday from 9:00 am to 12:00 nn
 March 31 **The Final Day of The Holy & Great 40 Days Fast & Final Day of Pirohi Sales.**
Lenten FRIDAY: (MR) 8:00 a.m. 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours.
 (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.
 April 1 Lazarus Saturday (MR) 9:00 a.m.
 April 2 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 3 through April 8)

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 @ 5:15 p.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.

VIGIL OF THE RESURRECTION FEAST — GREAT & HOLY SAT. EVENING (NS) Resurrectional Matins only & 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.

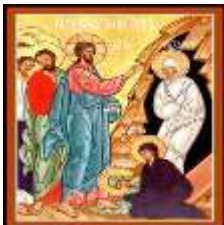
APRIL 9 – EASTER SUNDAY — THE RADIANT RESURRECTION — THE GREAT DAY
 (MR) 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods — (NS) 11:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods.

Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary: Wednesdays during the Lenten Season (MR) @ 6:30 p.m.
Join us in this Byzantine-Ruthenian Tradition to the Theotokos!

PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGIES this week — (MR) Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.; (NS) Friday @ 6:00 p.m.

SPECIAL LITURGICAL SERVICES THIS WEEK

LAZARUS SATURDAY BEGINS THE LAST EIGHT DAYS — This **Palm Friday, March 31** 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

FINAL SUNDAY SCHEDULE OF THE DEANERY PENITENTIAL VESPERS — *The Great Fast Deanery Vespers* will be celebrated, each Sunday during The Great Fast Season at 4:00 p.m. preceded by The Holy Mystery of Reconciliation @ 3:30 p.m. The following churches have been selected to host a week: **(5) March 26 – Saints Peter & Paul Church, Tarentum, PA – Homilist: Very Reverend Fr. Frank A. Firko.** This will be a great penitential practice of prayer & self-denial if you wish to take it upon yourselves. Please make a sacrificial effort to join us. Fellowship of meatless soups and bread will be served following the liturgical services.



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 night. 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/or families would share the same slots for safety reasons. If there aren't enough to register throughout the night, the Church will discontinue this tradition. So, please sign early so that we may know if this activity will become a true reality.



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 redemption. This demonstrates the love for Our Lord Who suffered the Passion & gave His Life for us!



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 located by the holy water container. The church will see that they are properly disposed for you.

