

## Parish Offerings – Palm (Flowery) Sunday — April 2, 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 (\$477) Holy Days (\$290) .....	767.00
Palm Sunday (\$3,410) YP (\$7) Easter (\$135) .....	\$3,552.00
Seminary .....	10.00
Votive Candles .....	145.51
	<hr/>
	\$4,474.51

### Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Palm Sunday (\$942.50) YP (\$1) .....	943.50
Improvements .....	55.00
Votive Candles .....	38.00

## Church Attendance Last Week \$1,036.50

(MR) Sat., \*3:45 p.m. (41) Sun., (MR) \*8:45 a.m. (77); (NS) \*10:45 a.m. (33)

Holy (Passion) Week Vespers — (MR) 3:00 p.m. (9)

Presanctified Divine Liturgy — **Holy Mon.**, (MR) 7:00 p.m. (13)

Presanctified Divine Liturgy — **Holy Tue.**, (NS) 6:00 p.m. (16)

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 (8)

Entombment Vespers w/Procession — (NS) 5:00 p.m. (27); (MR) 7:00 p.m. (62)



**Valerian F. Szal**  
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**Michael P. Ferrell,**  
Supervisor, CFSP  
*Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953*



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North Side Parishioner

**Alan Valeriano**  
**(412) 638-3417**  
**PA #172378**

## 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 9, 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](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org) – E-Mail: [ffaf334@verizon.net](mailto:ffaf334@verizon.net)

**SUNDAY RADIO (9:00 am WEDO 810 AM) & INTERNET DIVINE LITURGY**

**Liturgical Services LIVE: [www.Youtube.com](http://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-Canas 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

April 9, 2023

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIII Number 14



**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 (PASCHA) Sunday — The Great Day — MIROVANIJE**

**SUN., APR 9**      9:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen Hopey (2<sup>nd</sup> ann of pass. 4/7)      Anonymous

11:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes



## 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 10** 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

6:00 p.m. (NS) + Diane Vida (40<sup>th</sup> day of passing 2/25)      Joan Senchyshyn



### SIMPLE HOLY DAY

**BRIGHT TUE, APR 11** 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners from Both Parishes

6:00 p.m. (NS) + Agnes + Anthony Knoll      Son: William

Bright Wed, Apr 12 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Anna Hrebenak (14<sup>th</sup> ann of passing)      Anita, Luke & Maria

Bright Thrs, Apr 13 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Marjorie Preganz (5<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 4/4)      Anonymous

### MEAT PERMITTED — NO ABSTINENCE

We continue to celebrate the joy of the Radiant Resurrection

Bright Fri, Apr 14 8:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

**Final Day of Bright Week — Closing of the Royal & Deacon Doors on the Iconostasis**

**Bright Sat, Apr 15** \*\*\* 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Stephen Gramata      Eleanor Gramata & Son: George  
 (34<sup>th</sup> ann of passing)

\*\*\*\*\*

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

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Nicholas Terrek      Wife: Mildred & Family  
 (18<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 4/8)

## SUNDAY OF THE ANTIPASCH & ST. THOMAS

**Divine Mercy Sunday — 2<sup>nd</sup> Paschal Sunday**

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



**SUN, APR 16** 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Simko + Buchko Families      Peggy & Chuck McCusker

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Mary + Michael Sotak      Dgtr-in-law: Jane

## 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 to be published.

*Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners*

**Apr 10** — ALAN HARPER; **Apr 13** — Margaret Cifrulak; **Apr 14** — Kathe Kress, Elias Stebbins.

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

**HOME:** Geraldine Babin, Margaret Belunas, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, Steve Kosko, Kathe Kress, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, BETTY LORINC, Irene Muha, Kurt Perschy, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Dan Pikras, Elizabeth Poznak, GERALD SLAGLE, Betty Spisak, Monsignor Peter Tay, 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 Cifrulak. 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.** If you plan to marry someone, is it OK to have sex before the wedding? **A.** Answer by a Catholic Apologist: No. There is no good intention that justifies doing an evil act. For example, we could not sell drugs to raise money for the poor, because we know that evil will result from selling drugs. The Bible is very clear on the spiritual fate of those who sin against God (and their own bodies) through premarital sex and who do not repent before they die. St. Paul says, "Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor boy prostitutes, nor practicing homosexuals .... Will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor 6:9-10; Gal 5:19-21; Eph 5:5)... While you may believe that you will be with your boy/girlfriend or fiancé all your life there are no guarantees.

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**April 9 — April 15, 2023**

(MR): **In memory of Andrew J. Drukalsky**

offered by Niece: Eileen & Kevin Finnegan

(NS): **In memory of Mary (38<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 4/21) & Frank Firko, Sr.**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023

offered by Grandchildren

(NS) FEW AVAILABLE FOR 2023





# 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 ARCHIEPARCHIAL CHOIR** — returns to Holy Spirit Church, 4815 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh (Oakland section) PA. on **April 16<sup>th</sup> – Thomas Sunday** – for a program of readings and hymns of the Radiant Resurrection of our Lord. The afternoon will begin at 2:00 p.m. with the choir's joyful presentation of "Sing the Hymn of Victory!" featuring many beloved and seldom heard renditions of the Paschal greeting, "Christ is Risen! Christos Voskres!" A hospitality reception will follow the program in the lower level of the Church. Members of the Archieparchial Choir, who in 2023 will observe their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, hope to see you at Holy Spirit Church on Sunday, April 16!



**GRATITUDE TO OUR PIROHI WORKERS** — Special Thanks to all of our determined Pirohi Project workers who once again took the reins and came out faithfully every week to see this Project through, especially more new faces! The financial results will appear in an upcoming week's S.O.T. **Don't forget our Pirohi Appreciation Dinner at Rockefeller's Restaurant. On Bright Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> @ 12:00 noon.** You are the best! God bless you for sacrificing your time and effort!



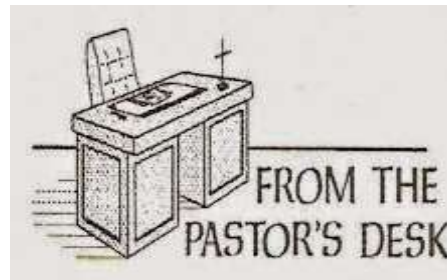
**SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO GAVE OF THE THREE T'S** — Our pastor extends a heartfelt thank you to all who remembered him this Resurrectional Season with all the prayers, gifts and especially for responding to our liturgical services. Your **TIME**, **TALENT** and **TREASURE** are truly appreciated and 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) 121 years & (MR) 118 years! A special thank you to our anonymous Church Illuminator who gave a cleaning shine to our chandeliers and Procession Cross behind the altar, Decorators, Flowers and Altar Cover Changers whose unique talent makes our Churches fantastically beautiful at this time of the year despite the inflationary cost of flowers. 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 11 men who stood vigil during the Proclamation of the 12 Passion Gospels on Great Friday; to the seminarians, 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'tvych! Skutoc ne vstal!**

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

My Dear Parishioners — What a beautiful and meaningful gift that our church imparts to



us each year in The Holy Week Services. It provides us with a vicarious journey with Our Lord Jesus and truly privileges us satisfying us by imparting full meaning to our life and continues to keep us on track to where each of us will finally arrive. His salutary Passion, Death, Entombment and Radiant Resurrection is able to fill us with an indescribable joy if we humbly

acknowledge that we are sinners in need of a Savior. At the same time, 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

### Including Easter & Bright Week

#### 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.

### BRIGHT WEEK

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

April 10 .. Bright Monday w/procession (Solemn): (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.

April 11 ..... Bright Tuesday (Simple): (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.

**Bright Wednesday through Saturday: (MR) All Morning Divine Liturgies in Main Church**

April 16 ..... Feast of St. Thomas & Feast of Divine Mercy.

May 7 ..... (NS) Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Corporate Communion of 1 child @11:00 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** mark 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 (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 to give witness to this truth and to bring others to experience Him. The burial shroud (Plašćanitsa) 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 overwhelming 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! For the next 50 days, it's the GLORIFIED CROSS instead of the CRUCIFIED CROSS!



**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 is the Holy Mystery (Sacrament) of Reconciliation, and receive Holy Communion on this day. Approach any Catholic priest and 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 4)** is the final day to take care of this important spiritual matter without incurring the 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.