

Parish Offerings – Thomas Sunday — April 16, 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 (\$1,517) YP (\$4)	\$1,521.00
Easter (\$505) YP (\$37) Holy Days (\$325)	830.00
Votive Candles	127.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,478.00

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$619.50) YP (\$1)	\$620.50
Easter (\$5) Holy Days (\$90)	95.00
Votive Candles	30.45

Church Attendance Last Week \$745.95

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

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (78); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (24)



THE ORIGINAL ROCK



...AND ROLL



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



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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 9 til 1:00 p.m. Mon-Fri!



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GCU offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Randy (412) 973-1085



North Side Parishioner

Alan Valeriano
(412) 638-3417
PA #172378

HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

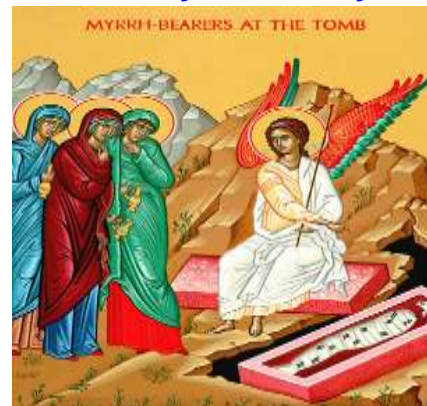
225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

With Joseph & Nicodemus — 3rd Paschal Sunday

Great-Martyr & Victory Bearer, George — April 23, 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

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)

April 16, 2023

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIII Number 16



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

Joseph of Arithemea & Nicodemus – 3rd Paschal Sunday
Holy Great-Martyr & Victory-Bearer George the Wonderworker

SUN., APR 23 9:00 a.m. (MR) + George Kurtanich Children

(8th ann of passing 4/24)



11:00 a.m. (NS) + Mary Stecko Son: Peter & Barbara

(7th ann of passing 4/20)

Mon, Apr 24 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Marlene Eisenman Sister: Martha & Bob Maletz

Holy Apostle & Evangelist Mark

Tues, Apr 25 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Archbishop Judson M. Procyk Anonymous
(22nd ann. of passing 4/24)

Weds, Apr 26 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Health & Welfare Br. Regis, O.F.M.
of Deacon Leo Howitz

Thrs, Apr 27 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Darko Gataric Gataric Family
(3rd ann of passing)



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

Fri, Apr 28 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Josipa Opat Dragica Krcelic & Family
(3rd ann of passing)



Sat, Apr 29 ***8:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes



Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Paralytic Man — 4th Paschal Sunday

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Joseph Mitro Family

SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN

Final Day of the E.C.F. Program — 4th Paschal Sunday

SUN., APR 30 9:00 a.m. (MR) + George Kurtanich Children
(birthday 5/7)

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Diane V. Vida Anonymous

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 23 – William Kress; **Apr 24** – Olivia Stebbins; **April 25** – Audrey Hart;
April 28 – Gerald 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 Cifrukak. Dorothy Ann Karl, Mildred Terrek.

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

UPMC PASSAVANT (Babcock Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15237): 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

April 23 — April 29, 2023

(MR): **In memory of the Zavidny & Pospychala Families**

offered by Bunny Zavidny

(NS): **In memory of Mary Stecko** (7th ann of passing 4/20)

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023

offered by Son: Peter & Barbara

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023



General Announcements

McKees Rocks

OUR PIROHI PROCEEDS FROM THE LENTEN SEASON — Total Proceeds February to March, 2023: Gross Income: \$23,544.50; Minus Supply Expenses (\$3,425.88); Minus 5% Cathedraticum: (\$976.62); Minus Rockefeller Grille Volunteer Luncheon (\$586.19); Sent to Pirohi Parish Savings & Share: \$18,555.81; 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.



GUEST-PRESENTORS TO OUR YOUTH GROUP — On Sunday March 26 Holy Ghost



McKees Rocks Youth Group welcomed Subdeacon Luke Iyengar and Seminarian Nick Krivacs to their ECF class. In a talk that was open to the parish the men explained the road to the priesthood in the Byzantine Catholic Church in America. Coffee and donuts were offered beforehand and questions answered afterwards.

North Side

No Particular Announcements This Week

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!

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 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 (Divine Liturgy) 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 (Divine Liturgies). I wondered why they we 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

April 29 Archieparchial Assembly 2023: Synodal Synthesis: A Mandate, Not an Option — Cathedral @ 10:00 a.m.
April 30 Final Day of the Religious Education Formation Program; Social Event: Bowling at a local facility.
May 7 (NS) Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Corporate Communion of 1 child @11:00 a.m. DL.
May 11 Feasts of Saints Cyril & Methodius & Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko
May 14 Annual Mother's Day.

Saint of the Week — April 23

The Holy Great-Martyr & Victory-Bearer George the Wonder-Worker (Miracle-Worker)

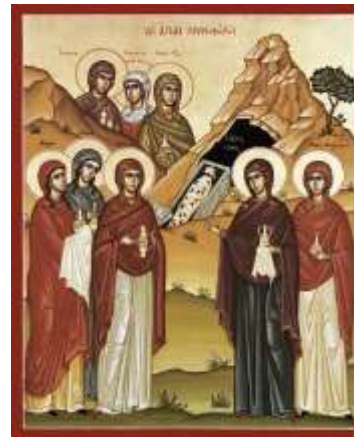
This glorious and victorious saint was born in Cappadocia the son of wealthy and virtuous parents. His father suffered for Christ and his mother then moved to Palestine. When George grew up, he entered the military, where in his twentieth year, attained the rank of a Tribune and as such was in the service of the Emperor Diocletian. When Diocletian began the terrible persecution against Christians, George came before him and courageously confessed that he is a Christian. The emperor had him thrown into prison and ordered that his feet be placed in a stockade of wooden hobbles and that a heavy stone be placed on his chest. After that, the emperor commanded that George be tied to a wheel under which was a board with large nails



and he was to be rotated until his entire body became as one bloody wound. After that, they buried him in a pit with only his head showing above the ground and there they left him for three days and three nights. Then George was given a deadly poison to drink by some magician. But, through all of these sufferings, George continuously prayed to God and God healed him instantly and saved him from death to the great astonishment of the people. When he resurrected a dead man through his prayer, many then accepted the Faith of Christ. Among these also was Alexandra, the wife of the Emperor Athanasius, the chief pagan priest and the farmers: Glycerius, Valerius, Donatus and Therinus. Finally, the emperor ordered George and his wife Alexandra beheaded. Blessed Alexandra died on the scaffold before being beheaded. *St. George was beheaded in the year 303 A.D. The miracles which have occurred over the grave of St. George are without number. Numerous are his appearances, either in dreams or openly, to those who have invoked him and implored his help from that time until today.* Enflamed with love for Christ the Lord, it was not difficult for this saintly George to leave all for the sake of this love: rank, wealth, imperial honor, his friends and the entire world. For this love, the Lord rewarded him with the wealth of unfading glory in heaven and on earth and eternal life in His kingdom. In addition, the Lord bestowed upon him the power and authority to assist all those in miseries and difficulties who honor him and call upon his name.

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 Joses**; 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.

