

Parish Offerings – Easter Sunday — April 9, 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 (\$160) YP (\$22)	\$182.00
Easter (\$5,257) YP (\$37) Palm Sunday (\$581)	5,875.00
Holy Days	1,445.00
Votive Candles (\$222.49) Initial (\$10)	232.49
	<hr/>
	\$7,734.49

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Easter (\$1,039.25) Holy Days (\$155)	1,194.25
Eastern European Churches (\$20) Improvements (\$20)	40.00
Votive Candles	125.25

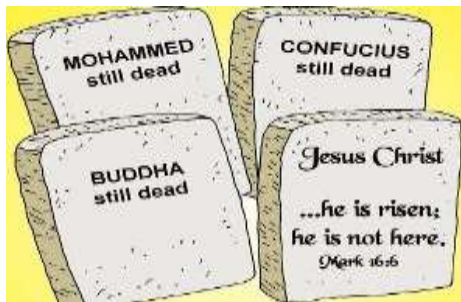
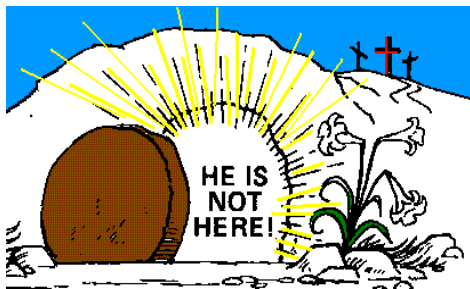
Church Attendance Last Week \$1,359.50

(NS) Sat., 5:45 p.m. (57); (MR) Sat., 7:45 p.m. (91)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (72); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (31)

Bright Monday (MR) 9:00 a.m. (10); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (4)

Bright Tuesday (MR) 9:00 a.m. (8); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (4)



Valerian F. Szal
238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412) 331-9713
Fax: (412) 331-6688
Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
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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 16, 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 Mystery 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

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 16, 2023

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIII Number 15



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 16 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Simko + Buchko Families Peggy & Chuck McCusker
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Mary + Michael Sotak Dgtr-in-law: Jane

Mon, Apr 17 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Timothy Kacsur
(1st ann of passing) Anonymous



Tues, Apr 18 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Beverly Bower Elaine Kurtanich

Weds, Apr 19 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Nicholas Radoycis
(40th day of passing 4/23) Dolores & Ted Babin

Thrs, Apr 20 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Diane V. Vida (birthday) Anonymous

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

Fri, Apr 21 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary (Batko) Firko
(38th ann of passing) Grandchildren



Sat, Apr 22 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) + Lillian Buchko Leyte, Mike & Mikey Tomchak

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

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

SUN., APR 23 9:00 a.m. (MR) + George Kurtanich
(8th ann of passing 4/24) Children

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Mary Stecko
(6th ann of passing 4/20) Son: Peter & Barbara

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 17 – April Krivoniak, EDWARD SPONTAK, SR., Hilary Zubritzky; **Apr 18** – Dale Charochak, Denise Wickline; **April 19** – LOGAN KALLOP.

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 Cifrutlak. 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. If I go to Mass (Divine Liturgy) on Saturday for my obligation, may I work on Sunday? **A. Answer by Catholic Answers:** First, God bless you for working to fulfill your Sunday obligation by participating in the Saturday vigil Mass (Divine Liturgy). However, whether you fulfill your Sunday obligation at the vigil Mass (Divine Liturgy) or on Sunday, there is still the issue of whether the work to be done on Sunday is necessary. In providing for yourself (and your family if you're married), if you can avoid working on Sunday, you should. If you can't, the Church understands and encourages you to look for opportunities with your employer to avoid working on Sunday.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

April 16 – April 22, 2023

(MR): **In memory of Agnes Bialek**

offered by Dgtr: Eileen & Kevin Finnegan

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

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023

offered by Dgtr: Leslie O'Donnell

(NS) FEW AVAILABLE FOR 2023



General Announcements

CHANGE OF RITE & HOLY MYSTERY OF CHRISMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION — On Bright Tuesday, April 11, 2023, **ANYA LOUISE and EUGENE VICTOR Purcell** received the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments) of Chrismation (Confirmation) and First Holy Communion. A few weeks prior their Father, Andrew Purcell had his Rite changed (Roman to Byzantine) on the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25th. His wife Graciela and first child Aria retained their Roman Rite. The Purcell Family are faithful members of our Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks. Also pictured are Seminarian Subdeacon Luke Iyengar (L) and Seminarian Reader Nathaniel Tapsak (R). May God grant to the Purcell, health & salvation for many happy and blessed years, because **CHRIST IS RISEN!**

PITTSBURGH BYZANTINE CATHOLIC ARCHIEPARCHIAL CHOIR PREFORMS — today at Holy Spirit Church, 4815 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh (Oakland section) PA. on **this 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 Voskrese!" 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 25th anniversary year, hope to see you at Holy Spirit Church on Sunday, April 16!



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 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!!!**

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 (Pascha) is blessed on Easter 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 traditional 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 at the Mirovanije. Take a piece home especially for those unable to be present today.



Calendar of Upcoming Events Including Easter & Bright Week

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 a.m. DL.
May 11 Feasts of Saints Cyril & Methodius & Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko
May 14 Annual Mother's Day.

Saints of the Week — April 16

THE HOLY WOMEN-MARTYRS AGAPE, CHIONA & IRENE

All three were sisters from the vicinity of Aquileia. When Emperor Diocletian was staying in Aquileia he ordered that the distinguished spiritual father Chrysogonus be



killed. At that time, an aged Presbyter Zoilus had a vision in which the location of the unburied body of Chrysogonus was revealed. Hurrying, the elder found the martyred body of Chrysogonus, placed it in a sarcophagus and kept it in his home. Thirty days later, St. Chrysogonus appeared to him and informed him that, in the course of nine days, those three maidens would suffer martyrdom and that he, too, would also die at that time. The same news was received in a vision by

Anastasia, [a woman endowed with moral and spiritual insight], who had followed the example of her teacher, Chrysogonus. Indeed, after nine days the Elder Zoilus died and those three sisters were brought to trial before the emperor. The emperor urged these three maidens to worship the idols, but they all refused and confessed their steadfast faith in Christ. Irene said to the emperor: *"How stupid it is to worship things made of stone and wood, which were ordered for an agreed price and made by the hands of a mortal man."* The enraged emperor cast them into prison. When the emperor departed for Macedonia, all slaves and prisoners were taken with him, among whom were these three saintly maidens. The emperor turned them over to a certain Commander Dulcitus for torturing. This commander intended to defile the virgins however, when the commander attempted to enter the prison while the virgins were praying to God he went insane. The emperor upon hearing about this incident ordered that another commander, Sisinius, take over the trial of these sisters. After prolonged torture, the judge condemned the first two sisters to death by burning and he detained Irene for a while longer hoping to defile her. But, when he sent Irene to the brothel with the soldiers, an angel of God saved this chaste virgin and staved off these soldiers and brought her to a hill. The next day, the commander with his soldiers went to this hill and were unable to ascend it. He then ordered that Irene be shot with arrows. St. Anastasia [the disciple of Chrysogonus] gathered the bodies of these three sisters into one place and honorably buried them. They all suffered honorably for Christ the King and Lord about the year 304 A.D.

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! For the next 50 days, it's the GLORIFIED CROSS instead of the CRUCIFIED CROSS!