

Parish Offerings – Palm (Flowery) Sunday — March 24, 2024

“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 (\$933) YP (\$11)	944.00
Palm Sunday (\$2,031) Holy Days (\$265) Easter (\$70)	\$2,366.00
Easter Decor (\$158) Christmas (\$100) Eastern European Churches (\$65)	323.00
Votive Candles (\$193.01) Initial (\$10)	203.01
	<hr/>
	\$3,836.01

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Palm Sunday (\$871.25) YP (\$5) Holy Days (\$35)	911.25
Special Donation (In mem of + Ann Demianczyk by Grand-Dgtr Marie) ...	100.00
Special Donation (In mem of + Theo. Demianczyk & Dgtr: Nicole Ringes by Dgtr & Mom Dawn Ringes)	100.00
Votive Candles (\$71.50) Utilities (\$90)	161.50

Church Attendance Last Week \$1,272.75

(MR) Sat., *3:45 p.m. (47) Sun., (MR) *8:45 a.m. (82); (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. (25); Royal Hours (MR) 12 noon (8)

Entombment Vespers w/Procession — (NS) 5:00 p.m. (33); (MR) 7:00 p.m. (55)





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



In Memory
+ **Anna + Michael Sejka**
+ **Helen + Anna May Sejka**
By Dgtr & Sister: **Alice Sejka**



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



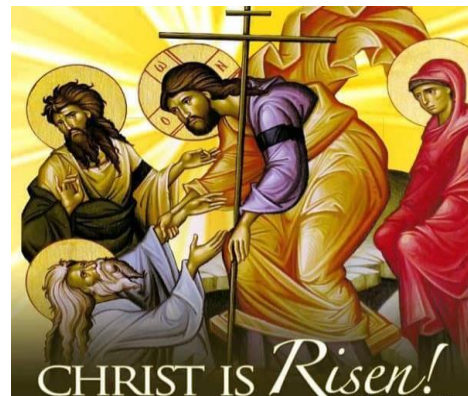
North Side Parishioner
Alan Valeriano
(412) 638-3417
PA #172370

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 — March 31, 2024



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 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.

d. Personal Care & Hospitalized: Phone Church Office ASAP.

Sponsor of Christian Initiation: Godparents must be practicing Catholics.

Religious Education Classes: (MR) Coordinator: Subdeacon Luke Iyengar (412) 863-3285.

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

Social Hall Rental: (MR) Contact Church Office.

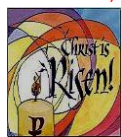
New & Returning Parishioners: Welcome! Please register by phoning the Church Office.

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

March 31, 2024

Seasonal Christian Greeting: Volume XIV, Number 13



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 — Basket Blessing			
SUN., MAR 31	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Anna + George Grazorchalk	Alice Slagle

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 1	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Michael Harsh (4 th ann of passing)	Family
	6:00 p.m. (NS)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	



SIMPLE HOLY DAY

BRIGHT TUE, APR 2	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners from Both Parishes	
	6:00 p.m. (NS)	+ Monsignor Peter P. Tay	Jeno & Chris Lecci

Bright Wed, Apr 3	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Beverly Harsh (birthday)	Podsirdly Family
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Bright Thrs, Apr 4	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ John D. Marks	Bunny Zavidny
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First Friday of month — Receive Holy Communion in reparation for sins against Sacred Heart of Jesus

MEAT PERMITTED — NO ABSTINENCE

We continue to celebrate the joy of the Radiant Resurrection

Bright Fri, Apr 5	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Monsignor Russell A. Duker	Estate
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First Saturday of month — Reparation for sins and blasphemies against Immaculate Heart of Mary

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

The Passing of the Holy Co-Apostle of the Slavs, Methodius

Bright Sat, Apr 6	9:00 a.m. (MR)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
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Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Antipasch & St. Thomas — Divine Mercy Sunday

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

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 7	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Fejka (28 th ann of passing 4/6)	Dgr: Susie
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Ian K. Trapl (birthday 3/8)	Family

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

April 2 — Russell Sidun

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

HOME: Margaret Beliunas, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Bernice Herrick, Steve Kosko, Albert Kovacs, Sr., Kathe Kress, Julia Kutchmark, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, Nancy Lecci, BETTY LORINC, Irene Muha, JOHN NEWPORT, Dorothy Pelescak, Kurt Perschy, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Elizabeth Poznak, Betty Spisak, Anita Wolsko.

HIGHLAND PARK CARE CENTER (745 North Highland Ave., Pgh, PA 15206): Linda Reiger.

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, Mildred Terrek.

FORBES REGIONAL HOSPITAL (2570 Haymaker Rd., Monroeville, PA 15146): Nancy (Shanta) Wurthier.

HERITAGE VALLEY SEWICKLEY (720 Blackburn Rd, Sewickley, PA 15143): Diane Bell.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Why do we believe in indulgences? **A. Answer by Catholic Apologist:** In a nutshell, our belief in indulgences is rooted in the fact that we are sinners in need of God's mercy. We all sin and will incur punishment for our sins, either in the form of eternal punishment or temporal punishment (Isa. 1:18, Rom. 5:9, 2 Sam. 12). When we are absolved of our mortal sins in the sacrament of reconciliation, the eternal punishment is removed, but the temporal punishment remains. The Catechism explains: "Absolution takes away sin, but it does not remedy all the disorders sin has caused" (1459). Thus, the priest imposes a penance on the penitent, which can take the form of "prayer, an offering, works of mercy, service of neighbor, voluntary self-denial, sacrifices, and above all the patient acceptance of the cross we must bear" (1460). Read more from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (1472-1473).

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

March 31 — April 6, 2024

(MR): **In memory of Msgr. Russell A. Duker**

offered by Jodi (Nazak) Hernandez, Marah & Dylan Hernandez

(NS): **In memory of Mary Gifford**

(MR) None AVAILABLE FOR 2024

offered by Tamara Harding

(NS) None AVAILABLE 2024

General Announcements

McKees Rocks & North Side

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!

PIROHI VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEK WEEK — To show our appreciation to all those who worked the last few weeks, a special luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, **April 3, 2024** at **Rockefeller's Grille @ 12:00 noon**. If you are a Pirohi Volunteer and have not signed the signup sheet please phone the Church office (412) 771-3324 by Noon, Monday, April 1. If you have already signed, we hope to see you at Rockefeller's.



SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL (MR) & (NS) 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! A special thank you to our anonymous Church Illuminator who gave a cleaning shine to our chandeliers. Decorators, Special donor for the beautiful bouquet of flowers for the Annunciation Feast. 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 12 men and altar server who stood vigil during the Proclamation of the 12 Passion Gospels on Great Friday; to the deacon and subdeacon, 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 and Holy Week 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 !!!**



SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of North Side Parishioner, **Anna Shirley Kalnas, 94**, at Lutheran SeniorLife, Mars, PA. on Wednesday, March 13, 2024. She was a resident of Bellevue PA. She is survived by a niece, Mary Ann Stefko, and special cousin care-givers, Jim (Kim) Kalnas and Andrea Harbai.. Shirley along with the late Evelyn (Sosnak) Vento were responsible for cleaning and changing the altar covers throughout the year. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home on California Avenue. A Funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated on Monday, March 18, 2024. Interment followed at Highwood Cemetery. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, *eternal* rest to your servant, Anna Shirley, and remember her forever. Vičnaja Jej Pamjat'! because Christ is Risen!

Ruthenian (RUSYN) & Ukrainian: Christos Voskres! Voistinnu Voskres!
Church Slavonic: Christos Voskrese! Voistinnu Voskrese!

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

My Dear Parishioners — What a true privilege it was to make the vicarious walk in the footsteps of Our Lord, God & Savior Jesus Christ this year. The Holy Week liturgical services beginning on Lazarus Saturday through the Resurrectional Matins and Resurrectional Divine Liturgy make it possible each year. The over-abundant mercy of God is reverberated through the sacred words and melodies of our Church. It is truly an uplifting spiritual experience to know that God rejects no one who comes to Him with a humbled and contrite heart no matter what we have foolishly done or committed in our life. Let us share this Good News to those we love, especially those who are estranged from God and wish to be reconciled to Him while it is still day (life). For the night (physical death) will come and then it will be too late. May our Resurrectional Greeting that **CHRIST IS RISEN** be lived so others may see by our example this great mercy of the Most Holy Trinity. May the Radiant Resurrection of Jesus be a blessing to you and those whom you love! **CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRISTOS VOSKRESE!** — Fr. Firko



THE GREAT DAY --- VELIK DEN

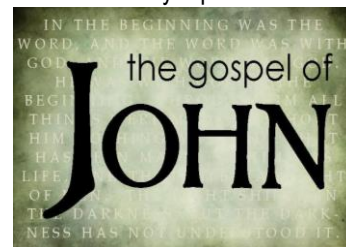
Today as we commemorate the total and complete triumph of Our Lord's Radiant Resurrection flowing from the Empty Tomb of Christ, our Faith festively echoes and resounds Jesus' message of **HOPE** for mankind in the "New Life" that He secured for us by His Passion, Death and Resurrection. The founders 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 sends 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

March 31 – 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 1 .. Bright Monday w/procession (Solemn): (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.

April 2 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 7 Feast of St. Thomas & Feast of Divine Mercy.

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

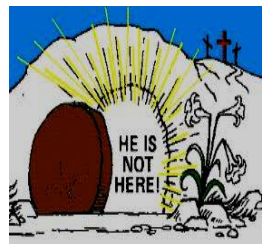


through the streets of Jerusalem proclaim the news of the Radiant Resurrection. Their opponents tried to squelch their enthusiasm by throwing water from their upstairs window at them. Our Byzantine Catholic ancestors of the Carpathian Mountains developed the **"POLIVANKA"** that is "Water-pouring" on 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 (Plaščanitsa) 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. A special prayer is posted near the tomb for your convenience.

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 (May 26)** 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.