

Parish Offerings – Thomas Sunday — April 7, 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 (\$2,716) YP (\$11)	\$2,727.00
Easter (\$155) Holy Days (\$191)	346.00
B.C.W. (\$15) Initial (\$10) Coffee Social (\$39)	64.00
Votive Candles	140.00
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	\$3,277.00

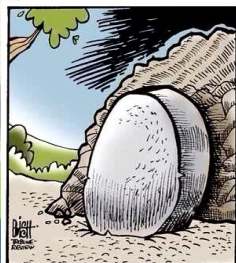
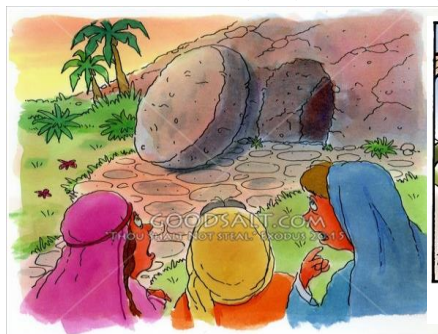
Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$743) YP (\$1)	744.00
Easter (\$30) Holy Days (\$20)	50.00
Votive Candles (\$76.50) Improvement (\$45)	121.50

Church Attendance Last Week \$916.50

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (30)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (70); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (32)



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North Side Parishioner

Alan Valeriano

(412) 638-3417

PA #172370



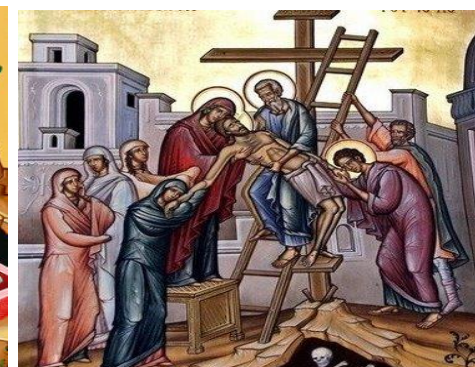
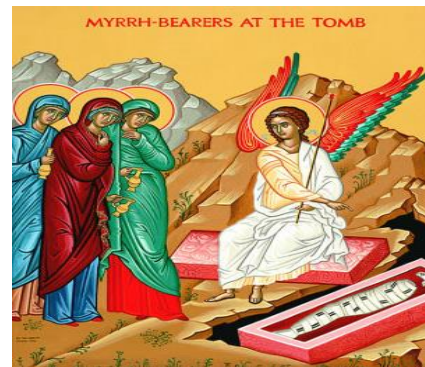
HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN With Joseph & Nicodemus — 3rd Paschal Sunday

April 14, 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.

Carpetho-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 14, 2024 Seasonal Christian Greeting: Volume XIV, 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 MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

Joseph of Arithemea & Nicodemus – 3rd Paschal Sunday

SUN., APR 14 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Deceased Simko + Buchko Families Peggy & Chuck McCusker
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Jay Mowery (birthday 4/15) Dgtr: Babs Mowery

Mon, Apr 15 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Stephen Gramata Eleanor Gramata & Son: George
(35th ann of passing)

Tue, Apr 16 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Geraldine Nazak Dgtrs & Grandchildren
(8th ann of passing)

Wed, Apr 17 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Paul M. Graycar Theresa Kundrat

Thrs, Apr 18 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Francis Eberle Jan Herczak

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

Fri, Apr 19 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Wojciechowicz Family Br. Regis, O.F.M.

Sat, Apr 20 9:00 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) + Mark A. Cifrulak Mildred Terrek

SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN

4th Paschal Sunday

SUN., APR 21 9:00 a.m. (MR) + George Kurtanich Children
(9th ann of passing 4/24)

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Mary Stecko Son: Peter & Barb
(7th ann of passing 4/20)

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 14 – Kathe Kress; April 17 – April Krivoniak EDWARD SPONTAK, Hilary Zubritzky; April 18 – Dale Charochak, Denise Wickline; April 19 – LOGAN KALLOP.

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, 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 Cifrulak, Mildred Terrek.

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

PAM HEALTH SPECIALTY HOSPITAL (7777 Steubenville Pike, Oakdale, PA 15071): Diane Bell.

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 14 — April 20, 2024

(MR): In memory of Gabriel Babin (birthday 4/146)

offered by Dgtr: Janet Sendro & Family

(NS): Health & Welfare of Linda Celedonia (birthday 4/14)

(MR) None AVAILABLE FOR 2024

offered by Mom: Bea

(NS) None AVAILABLE 2024

General Announcements

McKees Rocks

SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of Parishioner, **Dorothy C. Pelescak, 95**, at her McKees Rocks home on Friday, April 5, 2024. She is survived by her children, Donna, Mark and David. Funeral arrangements were handled by the McDermott Funeral Home, Kennedy Township. A Paschal Funeral Panachida was celebrated on Thursday, April 11, 2024. Interment will follow later. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, *eternal* rest to your servant, Dorothy, and remember her forever. Vičnaja Jej Pamjat'! because Christ is Risen!

END OF THE YEAR E.C.F. CELEBRATION — will be held on **April 28 at 11:00 am at Bowlero Lanes on Noblestown Rd.** The day includes 2 hours of bowling, shoes, pizza and pop for all students. This was a lot of fun last year so we hope everyone will participate this year.

NEW COMMERCIAL REFRIGERATOR INSTALLED THIS WEEK — This new unit as stated in a previous S.O.T. was installed this past Monday, April 8, 2024 in the school kitchen. It was purchased from Fountain Products, Bethel Park and was made in the U.S.A. The cost was \$3,695.00 no tax. The delivery and installation charge was an additional \$400.00. This new unit has a 3-year parts and labor warranty, and a standard 5-year compressor warranty. The Pirohi Project has purchased the new unit. Also, the Pirohi Project will pick up the tab to have our school parking lot sealed and fill in the cracks sometime during the summer season. Thank you for our Pirohi Workers.



North Side

No Particular Announcements This Week

CHOIR PASCHAL PROGRAM NEXT WEEK — The Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archdiocesan Choir invites faithful and friends to an inspiring program of Paschal



hymns and songs of the glorious Resurrection of our Lord. Presented at **St. Elias Byzantine Catholic Church in Munhall, Pa. on April 21, the program will begin at 3:00 p.m.**, and will feature many beloved and seldom-heard renditions of the triumphant Paschal greeting, "**Christ is Risen! Christos Voskrese!**" A cake-and-coffee reception will follow the program in the Church social hall. Members of the

Archdiocesan Choir and Father Vitalii Stashkevych, pastor of St. Elias Church, invite everyone to this joyous celebration. St. Elias Church is located at 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road, Munhall, PA 15120.

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 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.

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 were 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 21 Archeparchial Choir Paschal Celebration, St. Elias Church, Munhall @ 3:00 p.m.
April 23 St. George, the Victory-Bearer (Simple): (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.
 April 24 Feast of Mid-Pentecost
 May 8 . Great Vespers w/DL for the Feast of the Glorious Ascension (Holy Day of Obligation) (MR) 7:00 p.m.
 May 9 ... Feast of the Glorious Ascension (Holy Day of Obligation) (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 pm.
 May 11 Feasts of Saints Cyril & Methodius & Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko.
 May 17 & 18 5th Universal All-Souls Saturday – May 17 (NS) 6:00 p.m.; May 18 (MR) 9:00 a.m.
 May 19 Feast of the Decent of the All-Holy Spirit (Pentecost Sunday. Our Patronal Feast Day.

Saints of the Week — April 16

Virgin Martyrs Agape, Irene and Chionia

The Holy Martyrs Agape, Irene, and Chionia were sisters who lived at the end of the third century to the beginning of the fourth century, near the Italian city of Aquileia. They were left orphaned at an early age.

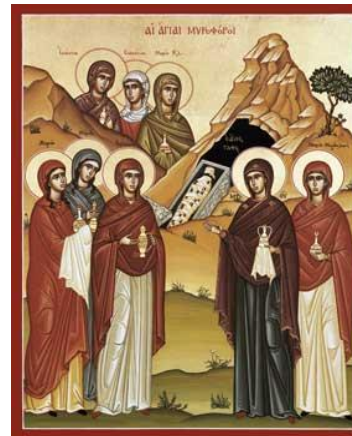


The young women led a pious Christian life and they turned down many offers of marriage. Their spiritual director was the priest Xeno. It was revealed to him in a vision that he would die very soon, and that the holy virgins would suffer martyrdom. Christians in prison, encouraging them and healing them from potions, poisons, and other harmful things. The Great Martyr Anastasia (December 22) visited the sisters and urged them to endure all things for Christ. Soon what was predicted in the vision came to pass. The priest Zeno died, and the three virgins were arrested and brought to trial before the emperor Diocletian (284-305). Saint Chionia ("snow" in Greek) preserved the purity of her baptism according to the words of the Prophet-King David, "You will wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow" (Ps. 50/51:7). Saint Irene ("peace" in Greek) preserved the peace of Christ within herself and manifested it to others, according to the Savior's word, "My peace I give you" (John 14:27). Saint Agape ("love" in Greek) loved God with all her heart, and her neighbor as herself

(Mt.22:37-39). Seeing the youthful beauty of the sisters, the emperor urged them to deny Christ and he promised to find them illustrious bridegrooms from his entourage. The holy sisters replied that their only Bridegroom was Christ, for Whom they were ready to suffer. The emperor demanded they renounce Christ, but neither the elder sisters, nor the youngest, would consent. They called the pagan gods mere idols made by human hands, and they preached faith in the true God. By order of Diocletian, who was leaving for Macedonia, the holy sisters were also to be brought there. And they brought them to the court of the governor Dulcitus. When he saw the beauty of the holy martyrs, he was aroused with impure passion. He put the sisters under guard, and he told them that they would receive their freedom if they agreed to fulfill his desires. But the holy martyrs replied that they were prepared to die for their Heavenly Bridegroom, Christ. When they reported to the emperor Diocletian their unwavering Faith, he became angry of the holy virgins and began to interrogate them at a trial. He began with the youngest sister, Irene. Seeing that she remained unyielding, he sent her to prison and then attempted to sway Saints Chionia and Agape. He also failed to make them renounce Christ, and ordered that Saints Agape and Chionia be burned. On hearing the sentence, the sisters gave thanks to the Lord for their crowns of martyrdom. In the fire, Agape and Chionia surrendered their pure souls to the Lord. One of the soldiers wounded Saint Irene with an arrow. The martyr cried out: "I mock this impotent malice, and I go my Lord Jesus Christ pure and undefiled." Having given thanks to the Lord, she lay down upon the ground and surrendered her soul to God on the very day of Holy Pascha (+ 304). The Great-Martyr Anastasia heard about the end of the holy sisters, and she buried their bodies with reverence.

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.

