

## Parish Offerings – Paralytic Man Sunday — April 21, 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 (\$1,511) YP (\$11) .....	\$1,522.00
Hoy Days (\$75) YP (\$2) .....	77.00
Coffee Social .....	1.00
Votive Candles .....	188.50

\$1,788.50

### Holy Ghost Church, North Side

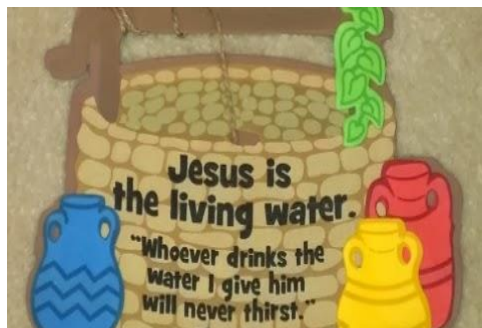
Regular Offering (\$596) YP (\$1) .....	597.00
Hoy Day .....	25.00
Special Donation (contributed by Mary Louise Georgevich) .....	1,000.00
Votive Candles .....	66.50

**Church Attendance Last Week** \$1,688.50

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (28)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (68); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (23)

*Feast of St. George, April 23 — (MR) Tues., 9:00 a.m.(5); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (8)*



**Valerian F. Szal**

238 Helen St.,  
Phone: (412) 331-9713

**Michael P. Ferrell,**  
Supervisor, CFSP

*Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953*



GCU offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than



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



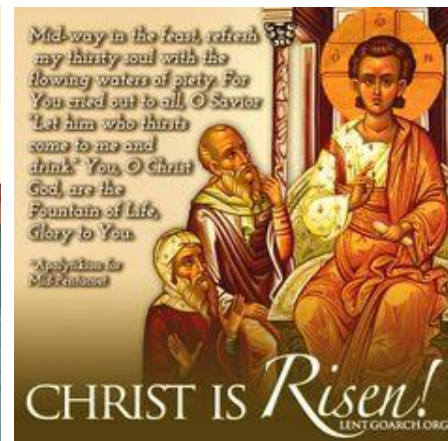
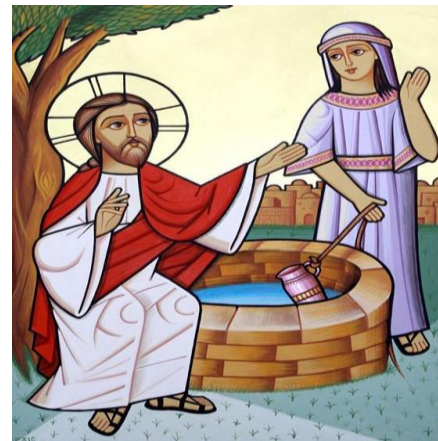
## HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

## SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

**5<sup>th</sup> Paschal Sunday – Mid-Pentecost — April 28, 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](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.

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](http://Rusyn.fm) at 3:30 pm. Archive: [c-rsmedia.org](http://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

The midpoint of the Feast has arrived, the days which begin with the Resurrection of the Savior and are fulfilled in the divine Feast of Pentecost. Truly it unites both Feasts and draws light from their double brightness, giving honor to the Ascension of the Lord, which prefigures our glory! (Great Vespers of Mid-Pentecost)

April 28, 2024

Seasonal Christian Greeting:

Volume XIV, Number 17

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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

### SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

Postfestive of Mid-Pentecost — 5<sup>th</sup> Paschal Sunday

SUN, Apr 28 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Maria Bejdova Bodnarchuk Family

Mon, Apr 29 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Darko S. Gataric Sister: Drazenka  
(4<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 4/27)

Tues, Apr 30 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Marlene Andrascik (birthday 5/1) Anonymous

Wed, May 1 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Ruth + Albert Barnash Son: Albert & Christine  
(24<sup>th</sup> ann of passing)

Thrs, May 2 8:00 a.m. (MR) + George F. Zula Zula Family  
(65<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 5/1)

First Friday of the Month

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

Fri, May 3 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Alice + Michael Charochak Jodi (Nazak) Hernandez & Family  
\*\*\* 6:00 p.m. (MR) The Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary

Sat, May 4 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Man Born Blind

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Geraldine Babin (birthday 5/11) Joe, Maryann & Jim

### SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND

6<sup>th</sup> Paschal Sunday

SUN, May 5 9:00 a.m. (MR) + George Kurtanich (birthday 5/7) Children  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Esther M. Kallop Kallop & Valeriano Families

## 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 28 – Gerald Stebbins; May 4 – Anita Wolsko.

### 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 Cifrutlak, 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. Is it permissible for a Roman-rite Catholic to hold Eastern theological opinions on things like purgatory and original sin? A. Answer by Catholic Answers: Certainly. The tradition of the Church is one. The divisions of East and West are simply questions of culture and different emphases. There is no doctrine held by the universal Church that is purely Eastern or Western. The two traditions are complementary and hardly exhaustive, since even within the Western (or Latin) Church and the Eastern (or Greek) Church there are many different spiritual and theological and liturgical tendencies that show the fullness of the Faith without contradicting it. When you find someone claiming that a doctrine held definitively by the Church—for example, purgatory (although one does not have to use the term itself) or original sin (as in the case of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception)—is meaningless or nonexistent in the Eastern Church, you may be sure that he has not understood the meaning of the theology that teaches these truths. That being said, you are free to avoid the Augustinian emphasis on fallen nature in favor of, for example, a sunnier view like that of St. Gregory of Nyssa, or to emphasize the progressive aspect of the intermediate state before heaven rather than its punitive aspect.

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

April 28 — May 4, 2024

(MR): In memory of Mary Stecko (7<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 4/20)



offered by Son: Peter & Barbara

(NS): In memory of Esther M. Kallop

(MR) None AVAILABLE FOR 2024

offered by Grandchildren

(NS) None AVAILABLE 2024

# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks & North Side

**SACRAMENTAL CALLS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE REQUESTING** — As we continue through the Paschal Season, many still have not returned to Divine Worship over the weekends to participate in the Unbloody Sacrifice of Christ and to glorify His Radiant Resurrection at the Divine Liturgy. This is not only our duty from Baptism, but also a privilege especially on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. For the past 3 decades, there are no longer age restrictions required not to fulfill this requirement. Our pastor is more than willing to come to your home for a sacramental visitation at any time. Also, we are still obligated to fulfill our Easter Duty that is to confess our mortal sins prior to participating in Holy Communion during the Paschal Season.. Please take care of this A.S.A.P. This is a serious obligation, and serves as a means of grace for your immortal soul. Also, and mostly important of all, it demonstrates your love and filial respect to God Who Died and is Resurrected for us!



**SYMPATHY EXTENDED** — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of, **Alice J. (Hudanich) Lamanna, 91**, of Shaler Township on Thursday, April 18, 2024.. She was the sister of the late North Side Parishioner George Hudanick, Sr. She is survived by friends of the parish, her son Gary (Barbara). Alice is survived by several nephews and nieces including parishioner George Hudanick, Jr. The Perman Funeral Home, Shaler Township handled arrangements. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on the Feast of the Holy Great-Martyr and Victory-Bearer, St. George on Tuesday, April 23 at St. Matthew Roman Rite Church of All Saints.. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, *eternal* rest to your servant, Alice, and remember her forever. Vičnaja Jej Pamjat'! because Christ is Risen!



**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.

# THE FIFTH PASCHAL SUNDAY

## Why Samaria was so Controversial to the Jews

(first read John 4: 5-42)

One of the most ancient cities of the Promised Land was Shechem, also called Sikima, located at the foot of Mount Gerazim. There the Israelites had heard the blessings in the days of Moses and Joshua. Near to this town, Jacob, who had come from Mesopotamia in the nineteenth century before Christ, bought a piece of land where there was a well. **This well, preserved even until the time of Christ, was known as Jacob's Well.** Later, before he died in Egypt, he left that piece of land as a special inheritance to his son Joseph (Gen. 49:22). This town, before it was taken into possession by Samaria, was also the leading city of the kingdom of the ten tribes. In the time of the Romans it was called Neapolis, and at present Nablus. It was the first city in Canaan visited by the Patriarch Abraham. Here also, Joshua addressed the tribes of Israel for the last time.



Almost three hundred years later, all Israel assembled there to make Roboam (Rehoboam) king. Concerning the Samaritans, we know the following: In the year 721 before Christ, Salmanasar (Shalmaneser), King of the Assyrians, took the ten tribes of the kingdom of Israel into captivity, and relocated all these people to Babylon and the land of the Medes. From there he gathered various nations and sent them to Samaria. These nations had been idolaters from before. Although they were later instructed in the Jewish faith and believed in the one God, they worshipped the idols also. Furthermore, they accepted only the Pentateuch of Moses, and rejected the other books of Holy Scripture. Nonetheless, they thought themselves to be descendants of Abraham and Jacob. Therefore, the pious Jews named these Judaizing and idolatrous peoples Samaritans, since they lived in Samaria, the former leading city of the Israelites, as well as in the other towns thereabout. *The Jews rejected them as heathen and foreigners, and had no communion with them at all, as the Samaritan woman observed, "the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans"* (John 4:9). Therefore, the name Samaritan is used derisively many times in the Gospel narrations. After the Ascension of the Lord, and the Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the woman of Samaria was baptized by the holy Apostles and became a great preacher and Martyr of Christ; she was called Photini or Photina, and her feast is kept on February 26.

**CHRIST IS RISEN In Various Languages:**

**Chinese: Helisituosi fuhuole! — Queshi fuhuole!**

**Japanese: Harisutosu Fukkatsu! — Jitsu Ni Fukkatsu**

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 1 ..... Final Day of the 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 .... 5<sup>th</sup> 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 — May 3

#### THE HOLY MARTYRS TIMOTHY (READER) & WIFE MAURA

**Saints Timothy and Maura** suffered for the faith during the persecution under the emperor Diocletian (284-305). Saint Timothy came from the village of Perapa (Egyptian Thebaid), and was the son of a priest named Pikolposos. He was made a reader among the church clergy, and also



a keeper and copyist of divine service books. Saint Timothy was denounced as a keeper of Christian books, which the emperor ordered to be confiscated and burned. They brought Saint Timothy before the governor Arian, who demanded that he hand over the sacred books. They subjected the saint to horrible tortures for his refusal to obey the command. They shoved two red-hot iron rods into his ears, from which the sufferer lost his eyesight and became blind. Saint Timothy bravely endured the pain and he gave thanks to God, for granting him to suffer for Him. The torturers hung the saint head downwards, putting a piece of wood in his mouth, and they tied a heavy stone to his neck. Saint Timothy's suffering was so extreme, that even those who tortured him implored the governor to ease up on the torture. About this time they informed Arian that

Timothy had a young wife named Maura, whom he had married only twenty days before. Arian ordered Maura to be brought, hoping that with her present, they could break Saint Timothy's will. Saint Timothy urged his wife not to fear the tortures, but to follow his path. Saint Maura answered, "I am prepared to die with you," and she boldly confessed herself a Christian. Arian commanded that the hair be torn from her head, and to cut the fingers off her hands. Saint Maura underwent the torment with joy and even thanked the governor for the torture, which she endured so that her sins might be forgiven. Then Arian gave orders to throw Saint Maura into a boiling cauldron, but she did not feel any pain, and she remained unharmed. Suspecting that the servants had filled the cauldron with cold water out of sympathy for the martyr, Arian went up and ordered the saint to splash him on the hand with water from the cauldron. When the martyr did this, Arian screamed with pain and drew back his scalded hand. Then, momentarily admitting the power of the miracle, Arian confessed God in Whom Maura believed as the True God, and he ordered her to be released. But the devil still held great power over the governor, and soon he again began to urge Saint Maura to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. Having gotten nowhere, Arian was overcome all the more by a satanic rage and he came up with new tortures. Then the people began to murmur and demand a stop to the abuse of this innocent woman. But Saint Maura, turning to the people, said, "Let no one defend me. I have one Defender, God, in Whom I trust." Finally, after torturing them for a long time, Arian ordered the martyrs to be crucified. For ten days they hung on crosses facing each other. On the tenth day of martyrdom the saints offered up their souls to the Lord. This occurred in the year 286. Later, a solemn celebration of the holy martyrs Timothy and Maura was instituted at Constantinople, and a church was built in their honor.

## General Announcements

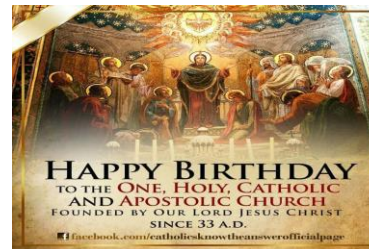
**DEACON NATE TO BE ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD IN JUNE** — This past week, it had been announced that Deacon Nathaniel J. Tapsak will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood here at MR-HGC on **Sunday, June 2, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m. by Archbishop Skurla**. Deacon Nate was temporarily assigned for several months to Holy Ghost during his final year of spiritual formation at Saints Cyril & Methodius. The opportunity to participate in a Presbyterate Ordination is at hand to all who wish to attend. We are extending a signup sheet in both Holy Ghost Churches. until May 26<sup>th</sup>. There is no cost. Following the Divine Liturgy there will be a light refreshment buffet to personally greet the ordinand and perhaps to present him with a congratulatory card. We need to know if you plan to attend to order refreshments.. Please sign the list A.S.A.P. Deacon Nate is one of five that the Archeparchy has to be ordained for Pittsburgh. May God grant him many happy and blessed years!



**MARIAN DEVOTIONS CONTINUE EVERY FRIDAY OF MAY** — In all Rites of the Catholic Church, the month of May is especially devoted to the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary. Come join us at the **HGC-MR on Fridays at 6:00 p.m.** for the offering of the Holy Rosary to the Most Holy Mother of God, especially for peace in Israel and Ukraine. God bless them all!



**PLANS UNDERWAY FOR PATRONAL PENTECOST DINNER** — Following last week's Volunteer meeting, our Patronal Feast Day Dinner at the (MR) school hall is planned for **Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024 @ 1:00 p.m.** All Members of both Holy Ghost Parishes of MR & NS are asked to put this day aside to glorify God the Holy Ghost (Spirit) during these green holy days! The event will be a luncheon. The cost: a free-will offering. There will be no tickets, but you **MUST** sign the sheets placed in the (MR) side vestibule; and the (NS) narthex. Further information, please phone Norma Kacsur (412) 331-4864.



**GRADUATES MUST REGISTER TO BE RECOGNIZED** — Our Holy Ghost Churches would like to honor all of our High School and University/College Graduates on the occasion of our **Patronal Feast, May 19**. All MR & NS graduates will be our guests and receive a gift from the parish congratulating them on their milestone achievement as they commence a new chapter in their lives. All graduates must phone or email the church office with the following information: (1) *University/College of Graduation*; (2) *Date of Graduation*; (3) *Graduating Degree*; (4) *Future plans and employment*; and (4) *if will you be attending the Recognition Luncheon*. Call the Church Office A.S.A.P. **Deadline is May 12.**

