

## Parish Offerings – Easter Sunday — March 31, 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 (\$150) YP (\$2) .....	152.00
Easter (\$7,105) (YP (\$27) Holy Days (\$1,451) YP (\$4) .....	\$8,587.00
B.C.W. (\$14) Initial (\$10) .....	24.00
Votive Candles .....	160.00

\$8,923.00

### Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering .....	40.00
Easter (\$1,236.75) YP (\$6) Holy Days (\$180) .....	1,421.75
Special Donation (In mem of + Anna Shirley Kalnas by Katherine Kutcher) ...	50.00
Votive Candles (\$227.50) Improvement (\$10) Eastern European Churches \$20) ..	257.50

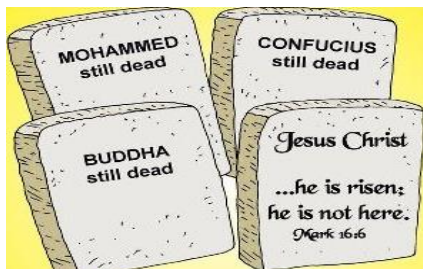
## Church Attendance Last Week \$1,769.25

(NS) Sat., 5:45 p.m. (62); (MR) Sat., 7:45 p.m. (85)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (72); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (39)

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

Bright Tuesday (MR) 9:00 a.m. (8); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (5)



**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

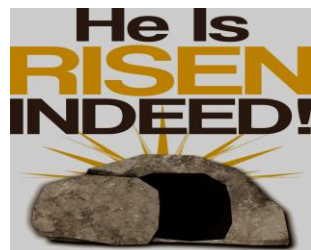


North Side Parishioner

**Alan Valeriano**

**(412) 638-3417**

**PA #172370**



## HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

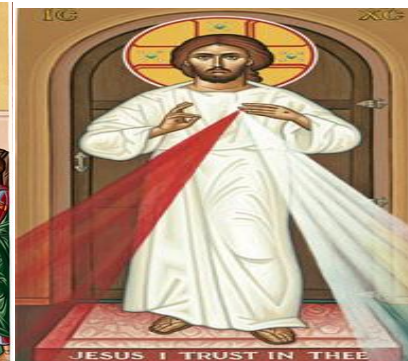
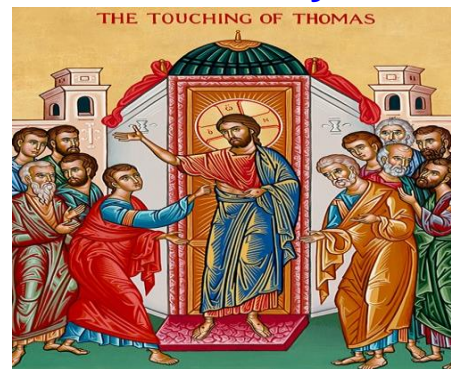
225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

## SUNDAY OF THE ANTIPASCH

**Sunday of St. Thomas — 2<sup>nd</sup> Paschal Sunday**

**Divine Mercy Sunday — April 7, 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 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!

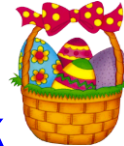
# THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

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 7, 2024

**Seasonal Christian Greeting:**  
**Christ is Risen! — Indeed! He is Risen!**  
**Christos Voskrese!! — Voistinnu Voskrese!**

Volume XIV, Number 14



## Liturgical Services for the Week

**Date**      **Time**      **Intention**      **Requested By**

### SUNDAY OF THE ANTIPASCH & ST. THOMAS



**Divine Mercy Sunday – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 4/6)      Dgtr: Susie  
**11:00 a.m. (NS)** + Ian K. Trapl (birthday 3/8)      Family



Mon, Apr 8      8:00 a.m. (MR) + Vince Capozzi      Zula Family

Tue, Apr 9      8:00 a.m. (MR) + Michael Sotak, Jr.      Wife & Dgtr-in-law: Jane  
+ Mary + Michael Sotak, Sr.

Wed, Apr 10      8:00 a.m. (MR) + Andrew Latta      Wife: Arlene & Family  
(9<sup>th</sup> ann of pass 4/6)

Thrs, Apr 11      8:00 a.m. (MR) + Irene O. Bordas      Mike, Leyte, & Mike Tomchak

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

Wed, Apr 12      8:00 a.m. (MR) + Kenneth M. Shanta      Diane, Alice, Becky, Peggy & Tammy

Sat, Apr 13      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)** + Anna Hrebenak      Dgtr: Maria, Subdeacon Luke & Anita  
(15<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 4/8)

### SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

**Joseph of Arithemea & Nicodemus – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

## 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 10 – ALAN HARPER; April 13 – Margaret Cifrulak**

### 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 Cifrulak, 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.** 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 7 — April 13, 2024**

(MR): **In memory of Mary Fejka** (28<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 4/6)

offered by Dgtr: Susie

(NS): **In memory of Jay Mowery** (birthday 4/15)

(MR) None AVAILABLE FOR 2024

offered by Dgtr: Babs Mowery

(NS) None AVAILABLE 2024



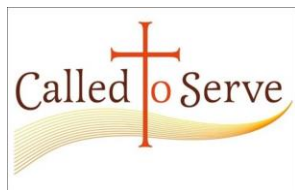


# Additional Announcements

## McKees Rocks

**OUR PIROHI PROCEEDS FROM THE LENTEN SEASON** — Total Proceeds February to March 2024 \$24,357.50. Minus Pirohi Expenses (\$4,788.94-supplies); Minus 5 percent Cathedralicum: (\$944.46; Minus Pirohi Luncheon at Rockefeller's Grille (\$679.46); Sent to Pirohi Parish Savings & Share: \$17,944.64; 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! Our Pirohi Project has made it possible to acquire a new 3-door commercial refrigerator for the school kitchen along with delivery charge, and to have our parking lot sealed and repaved in the next few months. It is greatly appreciated! May God grant to them all many happy and blessed years because CHRIST IS RISEN!

**DEACON NATHANIEL RELIEVED OF HIS HOLY GHOST ASSIGNMENT** — Due to a recent particular need of a Liturgist at Saints Cyril & Methodius Seminary, Deacon Nate has been relieved of his Sunday and Holy Day assignment here at Holy Ghost Church effective, April 7, 2024. We thank him for his assistance and pray that he may be successful in this new endeavor. May God assist him for the good of the Church, grant Deacon Nathaniel health and happiness for many blessed years because CHRIST IS RISEN!



## North Side

### *No Particular Announcements This Week*

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**CHOIR PASCHAL PROGRAM** — 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 Voskresel!" 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.

**CATHEDRAL HOSTS UPCOMING CRAFT SHOW** — A Spring Craft Show. St. John Cathedral Center. April 13, 2024. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Over 30 crafters and vendors will be selling their items. Ethnic foods will be available in addition to the Cathedral Kolache and other baked goods.

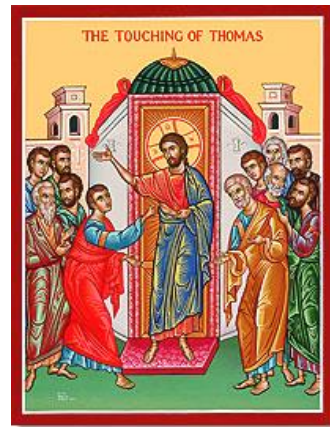


**Hungarian: Feltamadt Krisztus! Valaban Feltamadt!**  
**Slovak: Kristus vstal zmr'tvych! Skutoc ne vstal!**

# 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 Mirovaniye. Take a piece home especially for those unable to be present today.



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**April 7** ..... Feast of St. Thomas & Feast of Divine Mercy.  
**April 21** ..... Archieparchial 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** .... 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 — April 10

### Holy Martyr Terrence & Companions

The Holy Martyr Terrence and his companions suffered under the emperor Decius (249-251). The emperor issued an edict commanding all subjects to offer sacrifice to

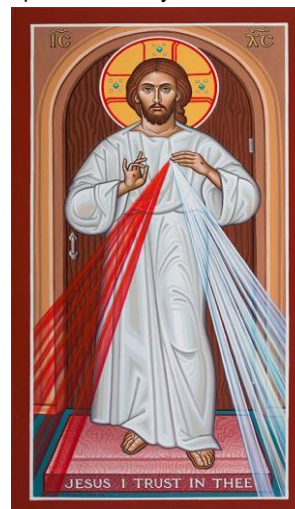


the pagan idols. When the governor of Africa Fortunianus received this edict, he gathered the people into the city square, set out cruel instruments of torture and declared that everyone without exception had to offer the sacrifice to the idols. Many, afraid of torture, complied. However, Saint Terrence and forty other Christians bravely affirmed their faith in the Savior and ridiculed the idols. Fortunianus was amazed at their boldness and he asked how they as rational people, could confess as God, One Whom the Jews crucified as a malefactor. Saint Terrence answered that their belief was in the Savior, Who voluntarily endured death on the Cross and rose on the third day. Fortunianus saw that Terrence inspired the others by his example, and so he ordered him to be isolated in prison with his three closest companions: Africanus, Maximus,

and Pompeius. Fortunianus was determined to force the rest of the martyrs, including Zeno, Alexander and Theodore, to renounce Christ. Neither threats nor terrible tortures could sway the holy martyrs. They burned them with red-hot iron, they poured vinegar on the wounds, they sprinkled on salt, and they raked them with iron claws. Despite their sufferings, the saints did not weaken in their confession of Christ, and the Lord gave them strength. The governor put heavy chains on them, and gave orders to starve them to death. By night, an angel of the Lord removed the martyrs' chains and fed them. The furious Fortunianus gave orders to behead the holy martyrs. Christians took up their holy bodies and buried them with reverence outside the city.

## 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 (Creed & one Our Father) 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**!