

Parish Offerings – 4th Sunday of the Great Fast — March 30, 2025

“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 (\$2,073) YP (\$15)	\$2,088.00
Holy Day (\$170) YP (\$3) Easter Décor (\$30)	203.00
Church in Eastern Europe	10.00
Votive Candles	124.25
	<hr/>
	\$2,425.25

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$645) YP (\$2)	\$647.00
Holy Day \$30) Easter (\$20)	50.00
Utilities (\$5) Improvements (\$10)	15.00
Votive Candles	72.00
	<hr/>

Church Attendance Last Week \$784.00

Sat (MR), 4:00 pm (32);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (79); (NS) 11:00 am (24)

(MR) Wed. Presanctified Divine Liturgy – 7:00 pm (17); (NS) Fri. 6:00 pm. (9)

Akathistos Saturday — (MR) 9:00 am (4)



Valerian F. Szal

238 Helen St.,

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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

Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast

St. Mary of Egypt Sunday — April 6, 2025



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 Father David A. Bosnich

Assistant Pastor (NS), Assigned to Chancery

The Reverend Deacon Michael E. Meaders (NS)

The Reverend Deacon Luke R. Iyengar (MR)

Rectory: (412) 771-3324; Church Fax: (412) 331-1870

MR School Hall Kitchen: (412) 331-5155

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.

Personal Care & Hospitalized: Whenever admitted, Phone Church Office ASAP.

Sponsor of Christian Initiation: Godparents must be practicing Catholics.

Religious Education Classes: (MR) Associate Coordinators: Aimee Helms (412) 463-3002 & Leah Trapl (412) 297-6374.

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.

Divine Liturgy Stipends (\$20) — Sanctuary Lamps (\$10).

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

when the Most High descended and confused tongues, He scattered the people; but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all men to unity. Therefore, with one voice, let us glorify the Most Holy Spirit (Matins of Pentecost Sunday)

April 6, 2025

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XV Number 15



Glory to Jesus Christ — Glory Forever!
Slava Isusu Christu! — Slava Na Viki!



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

ST. MARY OF EGYPT SUNDAY

5th Sunday of The Great Fast — St. Basil Divine Liturgy

SUN., Apr 6 (35) 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Deceased Simko, Buchko & McCusker Peggy & Chuck

11:00 a.m. (NS) *For the Parishioners of Both Parishes*

4:00 p.m. Deanery Penitential Vespers at St. Andrew Church, Gibsonia, PA,
preceded by the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation by a Deanery Priest @ 3:30 p.m.

Mon, Apr 7 (36) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Vince Capozzi (*reschedule from 4/3*) Zula Family

Tue, Apr 8 (37) 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Joseph A. Cehula Mom: Beckey & Sisters

REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Wed, Apr 9 (38) 8:00 a.m. (MR) 1st & 3rd Penitential Greatfast Hours

6:30 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

7:00 p.m. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Thrs, Apr 10 (39) 8:00 a.m. (MR) *For the Parishioners of Both Parishes*

FINAL DAY OF THE HOLY & GREAT 40 DAYS FAST — REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

FRI, Apr 11 (40) 8:00 a.m. (MR) 6th & 9th Penitential Greatfast Hours

6:00 p.m. (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy



LAZARUS SATURDAY

We now walk vicariously with Our Lord throughout the next 8 days

Sat, Apr 12 *** 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Louise Georgevich Jan Herczak

(40th day of passing 4/9)

Sunday anticipated St. John Chrysostom Divine Liturgy of Royal Entry Into Jerusalem — Palm (Flowery) Sunday

*** 3:45 p.m. (MR) + Nicholas Terrek. (20th ann of passing 4/8) Wife: Mildred & Family

ROYAL ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

Palm (Flowery) Sunday — Solemn Blessing of Palms & Willows

SUN., Apr 13 *** 8:45 a.m. (MR) + Geraldine Nazak Dgtrs & Grandchildren

(9th ann of passing 4/6)

*** 10:45 a.m. (NS) + Babin Family Joe Babin

2:00 p.m. (MR) Passion Week Vespers commencing Holy Week followed by Confessions

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 10 — ALAN HARPER

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

HOME: Margaret Beliuas, Dolores & William Boras, Monica Lemesh, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Bernice Herrick, Michael Kachuta, Steve Kosko, Theresa Kundrat, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, BETTY LORINC, DEACON MICHAEL & CINDY MEADERS, Kurt Perschy, Betty Spisak, Anita Wolsko.

MAPLEWOOD PC HOME (461 Maplewood Ave. Ambridge, PA 15003): Doris Naughton.

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

THE RESIDENCE AT WILLOW LANE (30 Heckel Rd., McKees Rocks, PA 15136): Helen Best, Mildred Terrek.

CEDAR HILL REHAB CENTER (951 Broadhead Rd., Coraopolis, PA 15108): Nancy (Shanta) Waurthier.

TAPESTRY SENIOR LIVING (550 Cherrington Parkway, Moon Township, PA 15108): Eliz. Posnak

VANADIUM WOODS VILLAGE (50 Vanadium Rd, Bridgeville, PA 15017): Bea Stempkowski.

CONCORDIA OF BRIDGEVILLE (3560 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017): Flo Charochak.

CARING HEIGHTS RHAB CENTER (234 Coraopolis Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108): Dolores Babin.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. The Church's teaching on the immorality of in-vitro fertilization seems cruel and unfair. Don't married couples have a right to have a child? A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist: While the Church's judgment concerning in-vitro fertilization treatments may appear cruel and unfair, it is not. Children are a gift, not an entitlement. The Church teaches that Marriage does not confer upon the spouses the right to have a child, but only the right to perform those natural acts which are per se ordered to procreation. A true and proper right to a child would be contrary to the child's dignity and nature. The child is not an object to which one has a right, nor can he be considered as an object of ownership: rather, a child is a gift, "the supreme gift" (58) and the most gratuitous gift of marriage, and is a living testimony of the mutual giving of his parents. For this reason, the child has the right, as already mentioned, to be the fruit of the specific act of the conjugal love of his parents; and he also has the right to be respected as a person from the moment of his conception. (Instruction: Respect for Human Life 8)

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

'ontinue to burn before the real presence of our Lord, God & Savior Jesu.

April 6 — April 12, 2025

(MR): **In memory of Mary Fejka** (29th ann. of passing 4/6)

offered by Dgtr: Susie

(NS): **In memory of Rita & John Lasko**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2025

offered by Trapl Family

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2025

McKees Rocks Announcements

PIROHI PROJECT CONTINUES WITH TWO WEERKS REMAINING — The Pirohi Project continues sales on the remaining Friday date: *Apr 11 (no sales on Holy & Great Friday)*. We would appreciate additional volunteers especially pinchers! *Remember, all orders must be placed on the Wednesday prior to the sale date between 9:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon. Call: (412) 331-5155. If you are able to place advertising posters, please take a few by the Church entrances. It will be greatly appreciated!*



BYZAN-TEEN CANDY SALES NOW IN PROGRESS — Our Byzan-TEEN Youth Group are now commencing fund raising event to prepare for the 2024 Youth Rally in California. Sarris Candy bars will now be available following the weekend Divine Liturgies this week for \$2.00. Also, you may purchase candy from their website: www.sarriscandies.com and click on the Fundraising tab. Type in the Group ID # 10-3617. The Organization name is Holy Ghost Youth Group. A packaging fee will be applied. Let's assist them by purchasing candy bars! We are grateful for the raised \$186 with our Christmas fundraiser. The Easter Youth Group Bake Sale is this Sunday! — Maria & Anita, Youth Group Coordinators.



HOLY MYSTERY OF RECONCILIATION FOR ECF STUDENTS - will occur today Sunday April 6 immediately following the 9:00 am Divine Liturgy. For time and scheduling purposes, please make sure your child stays upstairs in church following the Divine Liturgy for confessions. **ANNUAL EGG HUNT** - All parishioners from both parishes are invited to attend the ECF Palm Sunday Celebration. It will be held next Sunday April 13 following the 9am Divine Liturgy in the church basement. We will have coffee, juice and donuts. There will be crafts and an egg hunt for all children grades 5 and under. Weather permitting the egg hunt will be outside or if inclement weather in the school basement. Questions? Reach out to Aimee Helms 412-463-3002. We hope to see you there! **RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES AND SOLEMN COMMUNION** - This year we have three ECF students that will make their First Reconciliation, recite their baptismal promises and receive their First Solemn Communion: Theodore Helms, Emma Usouski and Justin Varga. It will take place at McKees Rocks Church on Saturday May 3 @ the 4:00 pm Divine Liturgy. We welcome all parishioners to attend to show support and encouragement for the students. — Aimee & Leah, E.C.F. Coordinators



VIGIL TOMB WATCH SIGNUP SHEET NOW READY

North Side Announcements

HIGH WATER CONSUMPTION LOCATED — Pittsburgh Water has located the water source causing the leakage. Originally, it was thought to be in the Church. However, the water meter numbers indicted that it was in the Rectory. Both the 2nd floor toilet, sink and shower is where the leakage was coming from. Armstrong Comfort Solutions (formally Matt Mertz Plumbing) was called to rectify the problem by installing shut-off valves for the shower, replace a new toilet and replaced the sink fixture. Total cost was \$1,631.86. Pittsburgh Water is in the process of installing a new analogue Rectory water meter



Special Confessions next Sunday following the Weekend Divine Services

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

FINAL SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST: Centering our lives on Jesus

For the third time, Jesus spoke of his passion and death (see also Mark 8:31-33; 9:30-32). His cross was to be the climax of his earthly mission. The Lord was clearly trying to impress upon his closest disciples that this would indeed occur. He was teaching them the doctrine of the cross. Certainly, John and James had heard all that Jesus said about his mission for they were among his closest disciples, the only ones privileged—along with Peter—to witness his transfiguration (see Mark 9:2-13). Despite all they had seen and heard, they asked Jesus to promise that they would sit at his side in places of honor when he came into his kingdom (Mark 10:37). They knew what Jesus was about, yet they still asked this question. What was going on in their minds at that moment that could make them disregard all they had learned? We often are like James and John when it comes to the things of God. Like these two sons of Zebedee, we have heard and seen much: we have heard the gospel proclaimed; we have pondered God's word in scripture; we understand the nature of our Lord's mission. Our minds can be so entrenched in the ways of this world, however, that what we've seen and heard drifts out of our minds when we must make decisions. The influence of the world is constantly pressing us, relentless in forcing upon us ways and standards which are opposed to what Christ taught. Each day we must center our lives on the truths we have learned in Christ so that they, not the world, can guide our lives. The author of the letter to the Hebrews warned: "We must pay the closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it" (Hebrews 2:1).



St. Mary of Egypt Commemorated Today

St. Mary is commemorated on the Fifth Sunday of The Great Fast. Her feast is on April 1. The Church holds her up as an example to the faithful during these fast days as an incentive for repentance. She died about the year 530 A.D. The biography of this wonderful saint was written by St. Sophronius, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. After living an immoral life, she was converted to the faith in Jerusalem. Having venerated the Cross, she entered the vestibule and, before the icon, gave thanks to the Mother of God. At that very moment she heard a voice saying: "If you cross over Jordan you will find real peace!" Immediately she purchased three loaves of bread and started out for the Jordan where she arrived that same evening. The next day she received Holy Communion in the Monastery of St. John and crossed over the Jordan River. She remained in the wilderness for forty-eight years in great torment, fear and struggle with passionate thoughts as though with wild beasts. She received Holy Communion for the final time from a priest-monk named Zosimus. After her death, Zosimus buried the body of this wonderful saint. When he returned to the monastery Zosimus related the entire history of her life and the miracles which he had personally witnessed. Thus, the Lord knows how to glorify penitent sinners. God doesn't reject anyone who comes to Him with a humble and contrite heart!!!



Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 9...VI Penitential Wednesday: (MR) 1st & 3rd Greatfast Hours @ 8:00 am; (MR) Rosary @ 6:30 p.m.;
 (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 April 11.....The Final Day of The Holy & Great 40 Days Fast & Final Day of Pirohi Sales.
 (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.
 April 12 Lazarus Saturday *** (MR) 9:00 a.m.
 April 13Palm (Flowery) Sunday — All weekend Divine Liturgies
 commence 15 minutes earlier for Solemn Blessing of Palms & Pussy Willows.
*Passion Vespers inaugurating Holy Week @ 2:00 p.m. followed by Confessions*
 (NS) *Special Confessions following the Divine Liturgy.*

HOLY (PASSION) WEEK SCHEDULE

(April 14 through April 19)

Great & Holy Monday (MR). Bridgroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 Great & Holy Tuesday ... (MR) Bridgroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.
 Great & Holy Wednesday (MR) Bridgroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 Great & Holy Thursday (MR) Betrayal Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Vespers & St. Basil Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
 Great & Holy Friday . (MR) Passion Matins w/12 Passion Gospels @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR) Royal Hours @ 12:00 noon

**(MR) CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 12:00 NOON UNTIL 3:00 pm
 FOR PRIVATE DEVOTION**

(NS) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 5:00 p.m. & (MR) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 7:00 p.m.

ALL NIGHT VIGIL BEFORE THE TOMB (Please Signup)

Great & Holy Saturday (MR) Sepulcher (Jerusalem) Matins w/Procession @ 8:00 a.m;
 (MR) Great Vespers w/St. Basil Vigil Divine Liturgy @ 2:00 p.m.

Vigil of the Resurrection Feast — Great & Holy Sat. Evening (NS) Resurrectional Matins only &
 Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods in Church @ 5:45 p.m. — (MR) Resurrectional Matins & Divine
 Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods @ 7:45 p.m.in
 Church Basement

APRIL 20 – 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 in Church Basement.

**Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary: (MR) Wednesdays during the Lent
 PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGIES this week
 (MR) Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.; (NS) Friday @ 6:00 p.m.**

SPECIAL LITURGICAL SERVICE THIS WEEK

LAZARUS SATURDAY BEGINS THE LAST EIGHT DAYS — This Palm Friday, April 11
 terminates the *Penitential Season of the Holy & Great 40 Days Fast*.
It was given to us "to bring profit to our souls." It, however, DOES
 NOT mean that we terminate our Lenten abstinence efforts! It
 encourages us to continue the practice for an additional eight days.
 Beginning with *Lazarus Saturday* the Church points out that we now
 are given the privilege and opportunity to walk *vicariously* with the
 Lord. This happens by participating in each of the daily liturgical services offered until
 Resurrection Sunday. Please use this extraordinary time to be with Our Lord in as many (if
 not all) upcoming Church services.



General Announcements

FINAL SUNDAY SCHEDULE OF THE DEANERY PENITENTIAL VESPERS — *The Great Fast Deanery Vespers* comes to a close today at 4:00 p.m. preceded by The Holy Mystery of Reconciliation @ 3:30 p.m. This afternoon's celebration *April 6 – St. Andrew Church, Gibsonia – Homilist: Fr. Michael Kunitz*. This will be a great penitential practice of prayer & self-denial if you wish to take it upon yourselves. Please make an effort to join us. Fellowship of meatless soups and bread will be served following the liturgical services.



VIGIL TOMB WATCH SIGNUP SHEET NOW READY — It has always been a long-standing custom that following the Entombment Vespers on Holy & Great Friday, the Church remains open up to the Resurrectional Matins Holy Saturday evening to venerate the Most Pure Body of Our Savior in the Tomb. In today's environs, we must be very careful that the Church is protected from vandalism. The McKees Rocks Parish will attempt to carry on this beautiful and solemn practice IF we can get enough of people to keep vigil before the Tomb, especially throughout the night. A



special poster is now available for signatures. This vigil is open and encourages both Parishes to participate. If you select a time slot, and someone else has signed, you may also sign in the same slot. It would be nice if a few individuals and/or families would share the same slots for safety reasons. If there aren't enough to register throughout the night, the Church will discontinue this tradition. So, please sign early so that we may know if this activity will become a true reality.

MEN NEEDED TO HOLD CANDLES DURING PASSION GOSPELS — On Holy & Great Friday morning during the Passion Matins w/reading of the Twelve Gospels, the tradition of the Church always had 12 men holding candles as the Passion of the Lord Jesus was being proclaimed. We sure would like to keep this meaningful and sacred custom alive. It is open to all men of both parishes to participate. Please register your name on the special sheet in the MR side vestibule or phone the Church Office. Let us honor Our Lord for all that He endured for our salvation and redemption. This demonstrates the love for Our Lord Who suffered the Passion & gave His Life for us!



PALM (FLOWERY) SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGIES BEGIN EARLIER — Palms and Willows will be solemnly blessed prior to next weekend's Divine Liturgy with palms being distributed at the beginning in order to be held in worship. All services will begin 15 minutes earlier. Please reverently discard last year's palms and willows, by burying or burning them and disposing the ashes where they will not be walked on. If you live in an apartment or an area that you will have difficulty disposing of them, please bring them to the church and place them in the brown paper bag located by the holy water container. The church will see that they are properly disposed for you.

