

Parish Offerings – 5th Sunday of the Great Fast — April 6, 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 (\$3,057) YP (\$5.60)	\$3,062.60
Holy Day (\$75) Easter (\$55) Palm Sunday (\$1,130)	1,260.00
Easter Décor	70.00
Votive Candles (\$207.50) Coffee Social (\$27)	234.50
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	\$4,627.10

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$551) YP (\$1)	\$552.00
Palm Sunday	345.00
Improvements	65.00
Votive Candles	72.00
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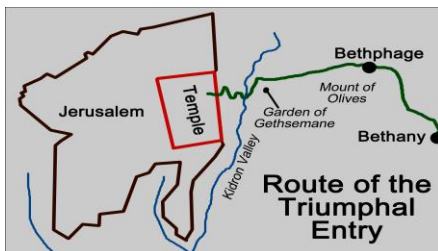
Church Attendance Last Week \$1,034.00

(MR) Sat., 4:00 pm (31);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (76); (NS) 11:00 am (23)

6th & Final Lenten Wednesday (17); Final Lenten Friday, (NS) 6:00 p.m. (8)

Lazarus Saturday — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (4)



Valerian F. Szal

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Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP

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North Side Parishioner

Alan Valeriano
(412) 638-3417
#172370



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE ROYAL ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Palm (Flowery) Sunday — April 13, 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

April 13, 2025



Seasonal Greeting:

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

Volume XV Number 16



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
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 (9 th ann of passing 4/6)	Dgtrs & Grandchildren
	*** 10:45 a.m. (NS)	+ Babin Family	Joe Babin
2:00 p.m. (MR) Passion Week Vespers commencing Holy Week followed by Confessions			

HOLY (PASSION) WEEK

Holy Mon, Apr 14	8:00 a.m. (MR) Bridegroom Matins 7:00 p.m. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy
Holy Tue, Apr 15	8:00 a.m. (MR) Bridegroom Matins 6:00 p.m. (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy
Holy Wed, Apr 16	8:00 a.m. (MR) Bridegroom Matins 6:30 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary; 7:00 p.m. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy



REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)



Institution of the Most Holy Eucharist

HOLY THRS, APR 17	11:00 a.m. (CATHEDRAL) Archbishop Skurla Consecrates Chrism 7:00 p.m. (MR) Great Vespers w/St. Basil Divine Liturgy
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REQUIRED STRICT ABSTINENCE (no meat and dairy products)

HOLY & GREAT FRI, Apr 18	8:00 a.m. (MR) Passion Matins w/12 Passions Gospels 12:00 nn. (MR) Royal 6 TH Hour: Commemoration of Our Lord's Crucifixion 5:00 p.m. (NS) Entombment Vespers & Procession 7:00 p.m. (MR) Entombment Vespers & Procession
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24 Hour Continuous Vigil Before the Tomb — (MR) Church Opened For Devotion

RECOMMENDED Simple Abstinence (no meat) on Holy Saturday

HOLY SAT, APR 19	8:00 a.m. (MR) Sepulcher Matins w/Procession indoors 2:00 p.m. (MR) Great Vespers w/St. Basil Divine Liturgy
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Anticipated Resurrectional (Easter Sunday) Liturgical Services

5:45 p.m. (NS)	Resurrectional Matins & Blessing of Paschal Foods in Church.
7:45 p.m. (MR)	Resurrectional Matins w/ Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Paschal Foods
RADIANT RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST	
Easter (PASCHA) Sunday — The Great Day — MIROVANIJE — Basket Blessing	
SUN., APR 20	9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes 11:00 a.m. (NS) + Michael Sotak, Jr.

Wife: Jane

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 14 — Kathe Kress; **Apr 17** — April Patterson, EDWARD SPONTAK, Hilary Zubritzky; **Apr 18** — Dale Charochak, Denise Wickline; **Apr 19** — LOGAN KALLOP

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

HOME: Margaret Belinas, 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. If parents are in an invalid marriage, can their children be baptized in the Catholic Church? Are there any conditions that would have to be met? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** If parents are in an invalid marriage, their children can be baptized in the Catholic Church provided the following conditions are met: "That the parents, or at least one of them, or the person who lawfully holds their place, give their consent; "That there be a well-founded hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic religion. If such hope is truly lacking, the baptism is, in accordance with the provisions of particular law, to be deferred and the parents advised of the reason for this. An infant of Catholic parents, indeed even of non-Catholic parents, may in danger of death be baptized even if the parents are opposed to it.



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

April 13 — April 19, 2025

(MR): **In memory of Geraldine & Andrew Nazak**

offered by Dgtrs & Grandchildren

(NS): **In memory of Anthony Knoll**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2025

offered by Dgtr: Leslie O'Donnell

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2025



Holy Week Announcements

(MR) 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.



ADDITIONAL 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!



Resurrectional Matins

The Myrrh-Bearers Procession to the Tomb

This is one of the most memorable liturgical celebrations ringing in the joy of Radiant Resurrection. The faithful enter a darkened Church symbolizing the Tomb of Our Lord quietly awaiting in anxious anticipation the promise of the Resurrection. Following the **Myrrh-Bearers Procession** around the Church, the priest declares that **CHRIST IS RISEN** and while rolling back the large stone (the Church Doors) enters a radiant and brilliant Church festively singing Christ's Resurrection! It reminds us of same the joy and wonder of the women disciples who were the first to witness the Empty Tomb and then declaring to the Apostles of Our Lord's Radiant Resurrection!



EXTRA CONFESSIONS THIS AFTERNOON —Our pastor is conscripting an additional Confessor to aid in hearing Confessions Palm Sunday afternoon following the 2:00 p.m. Passion Week Vespers. *Please make every effort to make a good and worthy confession of sins as we prepare for the salutary events of Holy Week & Easter!* Use this opportunity to fulfill your **Easter Duty Precept!** You may also make your confession at the ordinary times listed on the front page of the S.O.T. A *Guide to Confession* is available in the narthex and vestibule of the Church.

PALM (FLOWERY) SUNDAY

Significance of Palms & Pussy Willows in Byzantine Rite *(John 12: 1 – 18)*

The triumphal entry of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem before His Passion was celebrated with particular solemnity since the first centuries of Christianity. In the Byzantine Rite it is considered one of the twelve Major Feasts of the liturgical year. Its official name is the **"Royal Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem."** It is always celebrated on the Sunday before Easter with the solemn blessing of branches (Palms, Willows & Olive Branches). Popularly it was also called Willow Sunday (*Verbna Ned'Ilja*) because in Europe, pussy-willows were blessed instead of palms. It is also known as Flowery Sunday (*Cvitna Ned'Ilja*) since in and near Constantinople they used to distribute early spring flowers, such as branches of lilac or elder, to the faithful, (cf. Constantine Proph. in P.G. 112, 412). From ancient times, **Palm-branches were symbols of victory and triumph.** The Romans used to reward their champions of the games with palm-branches. Also military triumphs, i.e. the celebrations of victory, were observed with palms. It seems that the Jews followed the same custom (Lev. 23:40; 1 Mace. 13:37) of carrying palm-branches on their festive occasions. That is what happened during the solemn entry of Jesus into the Holy City before His last Passover (Jn. 12:13), **Pussy Willows signify 'new life'** and **Olive Branches signify "peace."** In the New Testament, the palm-branches become a symbol of martyrdom (Rev. 7:9) meaning victory over death. For this reason in Christian art martyrs were usually represented with palms in their hands. Thus, since the end of the fourth century, the palm-branch also became a symbol of the Resurrection. (P.G. 33, 1025-1028). Jesus Christ, after raising Lazarus (Jn. 11:1-44), was finally recognized by the Jewish people as their Messiah. When He arrived in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, they greeted Him with a triumphant welcome. The Evangelist, however, hastened to remark that it was done in fulfillment of a prophecy (Mt. 21:4-5).



The Final Days of CHRIST THE BRIDEGROOM

The **first three weekdays of Holy Week** centers its theme upon **Christ the Bridegroom**. In these special Matins services offered a commemoration of the last days in the earthly life of the Lord are recounted. We are vicariously present as Christ presents His last teaching discourse to the disciples. As such, these services incorporate readings and hymns inspiring this theme. The mood of the services is to experience sorrow and to feel Christ's voluntary submission to His passions and highlight the purpose behind the evil that is about to take place against the Lord. The atmosphere is one of mourning (for sins) and is symbolic of the shame the Christian should feel for the Fall of Adam and Eve, the depths of hell, the lost Paradise and the absence of God. The main emphasis of the Bridegroom Matins is metanoia (a complete change of direction in following Christ) and each service has its own particular theme of repentance and watchfulness. One of its primary features is its Troparion: *Behold, the Bridegroom comes in the middle of the night, and blessed is the servant He shall find vigilant; but unworthy is he whom He shall find neglectful. Beware awake therefore, O my soul, lest you be weighed down by sleep, and be given over to death and be closed out from the kingdom; rise up crying out: Holy! Holy! Holy are You our God; through the intercession of the Theotokos, have mercy on us."*



Calendar of Upcoming Events

