

## Parish Offerings – Thomas Sunday — April 27, 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 .....	\$2,350.00
Holy Days (\$243) Easter (\$355) Palm Sunday (\$20) .....	618.00
Initial .....	10.00
Votive Candles .....	175.00

\$3,153.00

### Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$502) YP (\$1) .....	\$503.00
Holy Days (\$30) Easter (\$780) .....	810.00
Utilities .....	40.00
Votive Candles .....	46.00

## Church Attendance Last Week \$1,399.00

Sat., (MR) 4:00 p.m. (34)

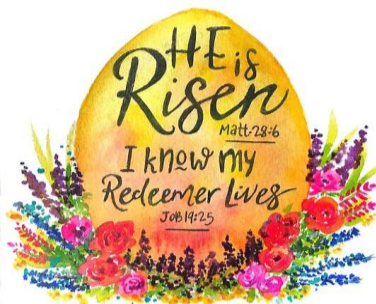
Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (51); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (23)



THE ORIGINAL ROCK



...AND ROLL



**Valerian F. Szal**

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

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

*Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953*



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



## HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

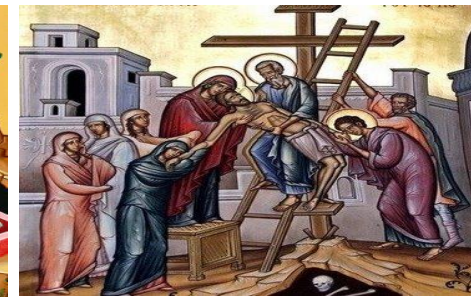
225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA

## SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

With Joseph & Nicodemus — 3<sup>rd</sup> Paschal Sunday

Month of the Most Holy Theotokos — May 4, 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

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

Website: [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.

Carpato-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)

May 4, 2025

Seasonal Christian Greeting: Volume XV, Number 19

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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
<b>SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN</b>			
<b>Joseph of Arithemea &amp; Nicodemus – 3<sup>rd</sup> Paschal Sunday</b>			

SUN., MAY 4	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Geraldine Babin (birthday)	Joe, Mary Ann & Jim
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Diane V. Vida (birthday 4/20)	Anonymous

### Holy Woman-Martyr Irene

Mon, May 5	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Fr. Charles M. Yastishock (birthday)	Fr. Firko
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Tue, May 6	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Pawlowski Family	Bro. Regis, O.F.M.
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Wed, May 7	*** 8:00 a.m. (NS)	Thanksgiving (30 <sup>th</sup> ann of Ordination)	Fr. David Bosnick
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Thrs, May 8	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Helen Kriska	Regina & Karl Riegler
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**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)**

Fri, May 9	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Elsie Eberle	Kathe & Bill Kress
	6:00 p.m. (MR)	Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary	

Sat, May 10	9:00 a.m. (NS)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
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Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Paralytic Man

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Kurt Marks (wed ann. 5/16) Wife: Kathy & Dgtr: Kayla

## SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN

Feasts of Saints Cyril & Methodius & Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko  
Annual Mother's Day — 4<sup>th</sup> Paschal Sunday

SUN., MAY 11	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ George Kurtanich (birthday 5/7)	Children
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Robert M. Smoley (47 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing 5/14)	Sister: Mary Ann

## 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 be published.

Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners

May 4 – Anita Wolsko; May 6 – Anya Louise Purcell; May 7 – LORI SLAGLE, Matthew Zoldos.

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

**HOME:** Dolores Babin, Margaret Beliuinas, 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.

### 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

**May 4 — May 10, 2025**

(MR): **In memory of Geraldine Babin** (birthday 5/4)

offered by Michael, Jon, JT & Alex

(NS): **In memory of Agnes Knoll** (birthday 4/15)

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2025

offered by Dgtr: Leslie O'Donnell

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2025





# Additional Announcements

## McKees Rocks

**OUR PIROHI PROCEEDS FROM THE LENTEN SEASON** — Total Proceeds March to April 2025 \$22,863.50. Minus Pirohi Expenses (\$4,099.30-supplies); Minus 5 percent Cathedraticum: (\$909.23; Minus Pirohi Luncheon at Central Diner & Grille (\$579.70); Sent to Pirohi Parish Savings & Share: \$17,275.27; 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! It is greatly appreciated! May God grant to them all many happy and blessed years because CHRIST IS RISEN!

**(MR & NS) SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR ECF TEACHERS** — Often times we forget the important task that our Eastern Catholic-Christian Formation Teachers accomplish week after week! They are to be commended for their services! The 2024-2025 E.C.F. School Year has come to a close. This past year's Religious Education teachers were: **Co-Coordinators Aimee Helms & Leah Trapl, Peggi Lucas, Rebecca Varga, Maria and Anita Iyengar!** Thank you for the invaluable service rendered to our younger members! They, and their parents, and Godparents are to be commended for making this program possible despite challenging times! May God grant them many Happy and Blessed Years because CHRIST IS RISEN! Also, Catechists and this year's High School & University/College Graduates are invited to a complimentary luncheon on Pentecost Sunday.



**(MR) AN ANONYMOUS FLOWER DONOR PURCHASES FLOWERS FOR THE BLESSED MOTHER ICON** — Once again, an anonymous source has donated beautiful and colorful flowers placed before the Blessed Mother's icon on the iconostasis for all four Fridays during the month. May is the month of the Holy Virgin Mary. We thank whoever you are, and we commend you and your intentions before the feet of the Holy Theotokos. Let us remember that each of us can place a spiritual bouquet before her on all Fridays this month by praying the Holy Rosary.



**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 as we pray for Peace in Ukraine, and that our country may return to God-given moral values. God bless all who pray for these causes!

**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 (June 15)** 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

May 9 ..... (MR) Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:00 p.m.  
 May 11 ..... Feasts of Saints Cyril & Methodius & Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko.  
 May 14 ..... Feast of Mid-Pentecost  
 May 16 ..... (MR) Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:00 p.m.  
 May 23 ..... (MR) Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:00 p.m.  
 May 26 ..... Memorial Day observed.  
 May 28 .... Great Vespers w/DL for Feast of the Glorious Ascension (Holy Day of Obligation) (MR) 7:00 p.m.  
 May 29 ... Feast of the Glorious Ascension (Holy Day of Obligation) (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 pm.  
 June 6 & 7 ..... 5<sup>th</sup> Universal All-Souls Saturday – Jun 6 (NS) 6:00 p.m.; Jun 7 (MR) 9:00 a.m.  
 June 8 ..... Feast of the Decent of the All-Holy Spirit (Pentecost Sunday. Our Patronal Feast Day.

## Saints of the Week

### THE HOLY GREAT VIRGIN-MARTYR IRENE — May 5



Irene lived in the Balkans during apostolic times in the town of Magedon. Her father Licinius was of lesser royal nobility. Some think that she was a Slav. Irene was born a pagan of pagan parents. Penelope was her pagan name. She learned about the Christian Faith from her teacher Appelianus. St. Timothy, the disciple of the Apostle Paul, baptized her and her court attendants and provided her with the epistles of the Apostle Paul to read. Refusing to marry, she enraged her father and he wanted to torture her but, in a miraculous manner, she converted her father to Christianity. Irene was subjected to various tortures by four kings, not counting her father but, God through His angels, spared her. Surviving all tortures, by which she converted a countless number of pagans to Christianity, Irene entered the town of Callipolis [Gallipoli] where she

preached the Faith of Christ. The local king Numerian wanted to kill her in this manner: he tossed her into three flaming hot metal oxen; one after the other. But the virgin was saved and remained alive. Many witnessed and believed. The Eparch [governor] Vaudon took her to the town of Constantina where he thought to kill her in this manner: he placed her on red-hot grates. But that did not harm St. Irene and she converted many to the True Faith. Finally, Irene arrived in the town of Mesembria where she was slain by King Sapor but God restored her to life. The king, with many of the people, upon witnessing this, believed in Christ and were baptized. Thus, St. Irene, by her suffering and miracles converted over one-hundred thousand pagans to the Faith of Christ. Finally, she lay down in a grave and ordered Appelianus to close the grave. After four days, when they opened the grave, she was not in the grave. Thus, God glorified forever the virgin and martyr Irene, who sacrificed all and endured all so that God may be glorified among men.

## General Announcements

**SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN** — The Third Sunday after Easter is

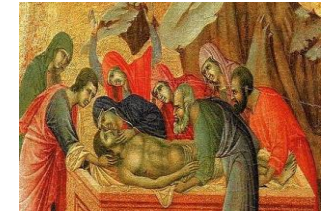


dedicated to the memory of seven of the most dedicated and courageous women of the New Testament. We know a great deal about the Twelve Apostles of Christ, but we know very little about the Myrrh-Bearing Women who were devoted to Christ equally as much as the Apostles themselves. They were with Jesus 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.



**Happy 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Priesthood**  
**Fr. Bosnich — May God you many**  
**Happy & Blessed Years (May 7)!**