

## Parish Offerings – Myrrh-Bearing Women Sunday — May 4, 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 (\$2,477) YP (\$7.75) .....	\$2,484.75
Holy Days .....	25.00
Seminary .....	440.00
Votive Candles .....	149.00

\$3,098.75

### Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$535) YP (\$1) .....	\$536.00
Improvements .....	50.00
Votive Candles .....	65.00

## Church Attendance Last Week \$651.00

Sat., (MR) 4:00 p.m. (52)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (53); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (26)



**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 PARALYTIC MAN

**Annual Mother's Day – 4th Paschal Sunday**

**Month of the Most Holy Theotokos — May 11, 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

O Savior, my Lord and my God, You desired to raise the fallen human race, You walked upon the earth as a man, healing the sick through Your tender compassion, and having come to the pool at the Sheep gate, You found the man who had been sick for thirty-eight years. By Your word alone You restored him to health (Great Vespers of the Paralytic Man)

May 11, 2025

Seasonal Christian Greeting: Volume XV, Number 20



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



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

### 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 Sister: Mary Ann  
(47<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 5/14)

Mon, May 12 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Mary Swayka Madar MaryEllen & John W. Oslick  
(27<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 5/12)

Tue, May 13 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Paraska Gramata Eleanor Gramata & Son: George.  
(19<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 5/11)

### COMMEMORATION OF THE FEAST OF MID-PENTECOST

Wed, May 14 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Fr. Richard F. Zula Zula Family  
(Day of Ordination)

Thrs, May 15 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Helen Hopey (birthday 5/6) Anonymous

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

Fri, May 16 8:00 a.m. (MR) Living & Deceased of Cousin: Dr. John A. Straka, MD  
Eileen Butchko & Family  
6:00 p.m. (MR) Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

Sat, May 17 11:00 a.m. (NS) Paschal Funeral of William D. Spontak

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Samaritan Woman

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Andrew Yakubik Dgtr: Evelyn  
(16<sup>th</sup> ann of passing 5/16)

### SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

5<sup>th</sup> Paschal Sunday

SUN., MAY 18 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Anna Spontak (21<sup>st</sup> ann. of passing 5/22) Son: Robert

## 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 12 – ELIANA TRAPL, Kim Zoldos; May 15 – Karen Krempasky, George Mosko;  
May 16 – NATHANIEL HELMS; May 17 – John W. Oslick, Anita Sidun.

### 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) Wauthier.

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. Is it a more serious sin to receive Communion unworthily than to commit the unconfessed mortal sin? A. Answer by Catholic Answers: To receive communion unworthily is a form of sacrilege. It would be committing another grievous sin in addition to the mortal sin. The Catechism of the Catholic Church: To respond to this invitation we must prepare ourselves for so great and so holy a moment. St. Paul urges us to examine our conscience: "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself." Anyone conscious of a grave sin must receive the sacrament of reconciliation before coming to Communion (1385).

### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

May 11 — May 17, 2025

(MR): In memory of Mary Fejka (birthday 5/15)

offered by Dgtr: Susie

(NS): In memory of Elizabeth (Hrapczak) Seman

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2025

offered by Dgtr: Velma

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2025



## Additional Announcements

### (MR & NS) RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES & CORPORATE COMMUNION LAST



**WEEK** — Three of our Eastern Christian Formation (E.C.F.) students gathered to renew their baptismal promises at the 4:00 p.m. Anticipated Divine Liturgy on Saturday, May 3, 2025 They are **Theodore Harvey Helms, Emma Joy Usowski and Justin Xavier Varga**. They also approached the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Penance) prior to receiving The Holy Mystery of the Eucharist at this meaningful spiritual celebration. This was an important step in

their young lives Children (L-R) Justin, Emma, Theodore, Altar Server: Judd Varga, Dean Luke and the Pastor, Fr. Firko.

### (MR) AN ANONYMOUS FLOWER DONOR PURCHASES FLOWERS FOR THE BLESSED

**MOTHER ICON** — Once again, an anonymous source will be donating beautiful and colorful flowers to be 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.



**(MR) 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, in thanksgiving for our new Pope, and that our country may return to God-given moral values. God bless all who pray for these causes!

### (NS) SYMPATHY EXTENDED — The Spirit of Truth announces the passing of William D.



**Spontak, 72**, of Monroe, WI at the Agrace Hospice, Fitchburg. Prior to moving to Wisconsin, Bill lived on the North Side and was a member of our parish. He is survived by his wife, Lois, and his brothers, Robert and our Cantor Edward (Mary Frances); also by his nephew: parishioner Bradley (Johanna) and Edward (Kelly). A Paschal Funeral Divine Liturgy will be offered on Saturday, May 17, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. followed with interment at Highwood Cemetery on the North Side. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant, William, and remember him forever 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 (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.

## General Announcements

### HABEMUS PAPAM

#### (Latin for WE HAVE A POPE)

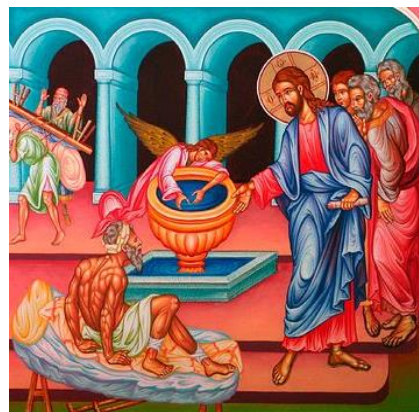
Cardinal Robert F. Prevost, the 69-year-old Chicago-born prefect of the



Dicastery for Bishops under Pope Francis, was elected the 267th pope on Thursday, May 8, 2025 and took the name **Pope Leo XIV**. He is the first North American to be elected pope. When he came out onto the balcony to greet the crowds in St. Peter's Square, he spoke of Christ's peace, the call to be missionary disciples and his commitment to continue to build a more synodal church. On behalf of our Holy Ghost Churches, we offer our new Pope

prayerful support as he becomes the first American Holy Father in 2,000 years. May God grant him many happy and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita because CHRIST IS RISEN!

### THE 4TH PASCHAL SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN & IMPORTANCE OF WATER



The fourth Paschal Sunday is dedicated to Christ's healing of the paralytic (Jn. 5:1-15). The man who had been paralyzed for 38 years is healed by Christ while waiting to be put down into the pool of water. For the next two Sundays, the symbol of water and its importance is indicated. It shows us how imperative Baptism is to remove the paralysis of sin. Through baptism in the church we, too, are healed and saved by Christ for eternal life. Thus, in the church, we are told, together with the paralytic, to "sin no more that nothing worse befall you." (John 5:14). Our baptism is a call to continued repentance.

We have been restored by and through Jesus Christ, and we ought not to turn away from that new level of life to our old sinful ways, because that would be courting disaster. Rather, we must strive to root out all sin. As Saint John Climacus said: repentance is the renewal of baptism. "The font of tears after baptism has become greater than baptism..., though this is a bold idea." Our baptism was a pledge to walk in newness of life. The epistle showed us a good woman. On her behalf others interceded with Peter, showing him the fruits of her labor. He was so moved by this goodness, he raised her to life through God's power. May our lives, ever repentant, move God to raise us to life.

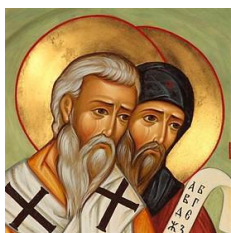
## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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 — May 11

### SS. Cyril & Methodius, Equals to the Apostles

**Saints Cyril and Methodius** were brothers from Thessalonica of distinguished and wealthy parents, Leo and Maria. The older brother Methodius spent ten years as an officer among the Macedonian Slavs and thus learned the Slavic language. After that Methodius withdrew to Mount Olympus and dedicated himself to the monastic life of asceticism. It was here that Cyril (Constantine) later joined him. When the Khazarite king, Kagan, requested preachers of the Faith of Christ from Emperor Michael III then, by command of the emperor, these two brothers were found and sent among the Khazars. Convincing King Kagan of the Faith of Christ, they baptized him along with a great number of his chief assistants and even a greater number of the people. After a period of time, they returned to Constantinople where they compiled the Slavonic alphabet consisting of thirty-eight letters and proceeded to translate ecclesiastical books from Greek into Slavonic. At the request of Prince Rastislav, they traveled to Moravia where they spread and established the devout Faith and multiplied books and distributed them to the priests to teach the youth. At the request of the pope, Cyril traveled to Rome where he became ill and died on February 14, 867 A.D. Then Methodius returned to Moravia and labored to strengthen the Faith of Christ among the Slavs until his death. Following his death - he died in the Lord on April 6, 885 A.D. - his disciples, THE FIVE FOLLOWERS, with St. Clement, the bishop at the head, crossed the Danube River and descended to the south into Macedonia, where from Ohrid they continued their labor among the Rusyn people which was initiated by Cyril and Methodius in the north.



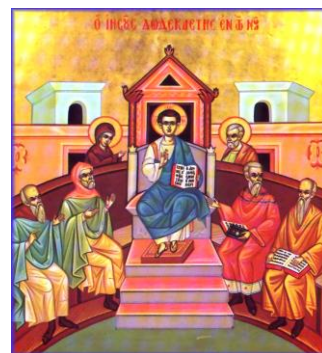
### Feast of Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko

**Basil Hopko** was born on April 21, 1904 in the Rusyn Village of Hrabske near Bardejov, Eastern Slovakia. In 1922 young Basil enrolled into the eparchial seminary in Presov. Following his second year, he was drafted into the army. There he would gather all the Rusyn soldiers together and take them to Sunday services. Upon completing his military service, he completed seminary studies in 1928. He was ordained to the holy priesthood by Bishop Paul P. Gojdic. Fr. Basil served his pastoral assignments faithfully displaying a great love for the poor, workers and Rusyn youth. Foreseeing a political overturn in Czechoslovakia in the autumn of 1946, Bishop Gojdic petitioned Rome that Father Hopko serve as his auxiliary bishop. Bishop Hopko was imprisoned and tortured. He became chaplain to the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate who also took care of him. On Friday, July 23, 1976 following a light lunch, and being helped in an easy chair, he gave up his spirit to the Lord whom he loved and faithfully served. Pope St. John Paul II beatified him on September 14, 2003. His Feast Day is May 11.



## General Announcements

### WEDNESDAY: COMMEMORATION OF MID-PENTECOST —



After our Savior had miraculously healed the paralytic the Pharisees and Scribes were moved with envy, and sought to slay Him, using the excuse that He did not keep the Sabbath, since He worked miracles on that day. Jesus then departed to Galilee. About the middle of the Feast of Tabernacles, He went up again to the Temple and taught. The Jews, marveled at the wisdom of His words. But Christ first reproached their unbelief and lawlessness, then proved to them by the Law that they sought to slay Him unjustly, since He had healed the paralytic on the Sabbath. Since we have already reached the midpoint of the fifty days between Pascha and Pentecost, the Church has appointed this present feast as a bond between the two great feasts, thereby uniting, as it were, the two into one. Come and be with Our Savior at the Divine Liturgy on this day.

**DEACON LUKE RECEIVES DATE FOR PRIESTHOOD —** This past week, Deacon Luke Iyengar made public that he will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood. It will take place on **Sunday, July 6, 2025 at St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall** by Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla. The following day, he will offer his first Divine Liturgy invoking the Aid of the All-Holy Spirit, here at his home Parish, as he embarks on his new and challenging mission in the Holy Priesthood. Additional information will be forthcoming. Many happy & blessed years Deacon Luke because Christ is Risen!



**MOTHER'S DAY COMMEMORATED TODAY—** In its present form, *Mother's Day* was established by **Anna Marie Jarvis**, following the death of her mother Ann Jarvis on May 9, 1905, with the help of Philadelphia merchant John Wanamaker. A small service was held on May 12, 1907 in the Andrew's Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia where Anna's mother had been teaching Sunday school. Anna then campaigned to establish Mother's Day first as a U.S. national holiday. On May 8, 1914, the U.S. Congress passed a law designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day and requesting a proclamation. On May 9, 1914 President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation declaring the first national Mother's Day as a day for American citizens to show the flag in honor of those mothers whose sons had died in war. The Grafton's church, where the first celebration was held, is now the International Mother's Day Shrine and is a National Historic Landmark.



### AUXILIARY VOLUNTEERS CALLED TO PLAN PENTECOST FEAST DAY DINNER —

**Following next Sunday's Divine Liturgy,** all Auxiliary Volunteers are called to meet for a short meeting to discuss the possibility of having a Patronal Dinner slated for Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025. We are a little behind schedule, but we hope to see if this will be a possibility. 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.

