

Parish Offerings – Paralytic Man Sunday — May 11, 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 (\$2,152.72) YP (\$12)	\$2,164.72
Holy Days	30.00
Seminary	100.00
Votive Candles	233.00

\$2,527.72

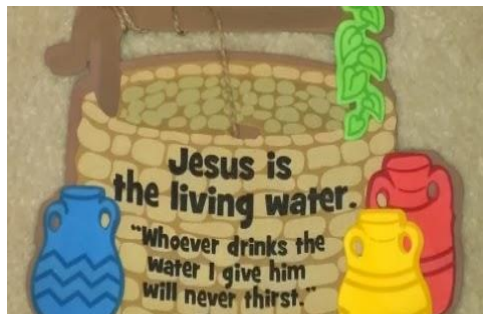
Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$761.50) YP (\$1)	\$762.50
Holy Days	70.00
Utilities (\$20) Improvements (\$50) Seminary (\$45)	115.00
Votive Candles	118.50

Church Attendance Last Week \$1,066.00

Sat., (MR) 4:00 p.m. (27)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (51); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (24)



Valerian F. Szal

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

Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP

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North Side Parishioner

Alan

Valeriano

(412) 638-3417

PA #172370



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

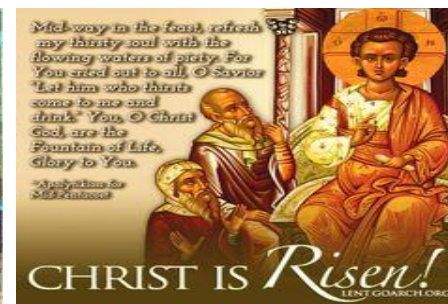
225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

Feast of Mid-Pentecost — 5th Paschal Sunday

Month of the Most Holy Theotokos — May 18, 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 – E-Mail: ffaf334@verizon.net

SUNDAY RADIO (9:00 am WEDO 810 AM) & INTERNET DIVINE LITURGY

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 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

The midpoint of the Feast has arrived, the days which begin with the Resurrection of the Savior and are fulfilled in the divine Feast of Pentecost. Truly it unites both Feasts and draws light from their double brightness, giving honor to the Ascension of the Lord, which prefigures our glory! (Great Vespers of Mid-Pentecost)

May 18, 2025

Seasonal Christian Greeting: Volume XV, Number 21



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN Postfestive of Mid-Pentecost — 5th Paschal Sunday

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

Mon, May 19 8:00 a.m. (MR) + John Horvat Christine & Al Barnash

Tues, May 20 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Dan Pikras Son: Dino & Family

Wed, May 21 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Amelia + Frank T. Firko Firko Family
(ann. of passing)

Thrs, May 22 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Basil P. Gramata Wife: Eleanor & Son: George
(6th ann of passing)

Fri, May 23 8:00 a.m. (MR) + Emory Holowatch Anne Meyers
(7th ann. of passing 5/24)

6:00 p.m. (MR) The Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

Sat, May 24 9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes



Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Man Born Blind

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Rose A. Debranski (birthday 5/28) Dgtr: Nancy C. Debranski-Farrell

SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND Memorial Day Weekend — 6th Paschal Sunday

SUN, May 25 9:00 a.m. (MR) + Eleanor Kulka Children: Kathy & John
(12th ann of passing 5/26)

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Margaret "Peg" Krulac Dgtr: Barbara & Peter Stecko
(9th ann of passing 5/22)

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 18 – Daniel Rowe; May 19 – Paul Shanta; May 21 – Aria Grace Albanese; May 22 – Theresa Hrishenko, John Kutchmark, Jr., Ray Rippole; May 23 – Carl Bates, Janet Herczak.

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) 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.

CARNEGIE PARK POST-ACUTE CARE (1848 Greentree Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15220): Dolores Babin.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. In light of the ecumenism following Vatican II, are Catholics now under serious obligation (that is, binding under pain of sin) to skip Sunday Mass (Divine Liturgy) once in a while and worship instead at non-Catholic churches? A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist: "Required?" "Not allowed," you mean! A Catholic may *not* "worship instead at non-Catholic churches." To do so is to violate the First Commandment. (This is to be distinguished from engaging in, say, an ecumenical prayer service.) It is mandatory, under pain of mortal sin but allowing for exceptions arising from necessity, for every Catholic to attend Mass (Divine Liturgy) every Sunday (or Saturday evening) and on holy days of obligation. Catholics are under *no* obligation to attend non-Catholic services. Such visits are purely voluntary and may be undertaken so long as no scandal is given. Vatican II's *Directory on Ecumenism* allows some participation at such services in common responses or hymns that are not in variance with the Catholic faith.



This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

May 18 — May 24, 2025

(MR): In memory of Margaret "Peg" Krulac (9th ann of passing 5/22)
offered by Dgtr: Barbara & Peter Stecko

(NS): In memory of Anna Spontak (9th ann of passing 5/22)
(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2025 offered by Son: Robert (NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2025



General Announcements

McKees Rocks

(NS) **SYMPATHY EXTENDED** — The *Spirit of Truth* announces the passing of **Harry Richard Broskey, 76**, of Pittsburgh, PA who passed away at Allegheny General Hospital on Saturday, April 26, 2025 following a lengthy illness. He is survived by his beloved wife: Charlene and four children and two grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother George a member of our Parish. The Valerian F.Szal Funeral Home handled arrangements. Interment was at St. Mary Cemetery, Kennedy Township on Thursday, May 1, 2025. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your servant, Harry, and remember him forever because **CHRIST IS RISEN!**



(MR) **AGAIN, 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, especially as we pray for the return of our family, relatives, and friends back to the Church and Holy Mysteries (Sacraments) and that our Country may return to God-given moral values. God bless all who pray for these causes!



(MR) **ANNOUNCING 1 BANNS OF MARRIAGE** — This is the first announcement of the upcoming Nuptial Ceremony on **Saturday, June 14, 2025** of **Brandon Robert Hatton (NC) and Mickayla Elizabeth Poloka (BC – MR- Holy Ghost Church)** to be celebrated at 2:00 p.m. If anyone knows why this couple cannot enter into Holy Matrimony, please inform the Pastor A.S.A.P.



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.

THE FIFTH PASCHAL SUNDAY

Why Samaria was so Controversial to the Jews

(first read John 4: 5-42)

One of the most ancient cities of the Promised Land was Shechem, also called Sikima, located at the foot of Mount Gerazim. There the Israelites had heard the blessings in the days of Moses and Joshua. Near to this town, Jacob, who had come from Mesopotamia in the nineteenth century before Christ, bought a piece of land where there was a well. **This well, preserved even until the time of Christ, was known as Jacob's Well.** Later, before he died in Egypt, he left that piece of land as a special inheritance to his son Joseph (Gen. 49:22). This town, before it was taken into possession by Samaria, was also the leading city of the kingdom of the ten tribes. In the time of the Romans it was called Neapolis, and at present Nablus. It was the first city in Canaan visited by the Patriarch Abraham. Here also, Joshua addressed the tribes of Israel for the last time.



Almost three hundred years later, all Israel assembled there to make Roboam (Rehoboam) king. Concerning the Samaritans, we know the following: In the year 721 before Christ, Salmanasar (Shalmaneser), King of the Assyrians, took the ten tribes of the kingdom of Israel into captivity, and relocated all these people to Babylon and the land of the Medes. From there he gathered various nations and sent them to Samaria. These nations had been idolaters from before. Although they were later instructed in the Jewish faith and believed in the one God, they worshipped the idols also. Furthermore, they accepted only the Pentateuch of Moses, and rejected the other books of Holy Scripture. Nonetheless, they thought themselves to be descendants of Abraham and Jacob. Therefore, the pious Jews named these Judaizing and idolatrous peoples Samaritans, since they lived in Samaria, the former leading city of the Israelites, as well as in the other towns thereabout. *The Jews rejected them as heathen and foreigners, and had no communion with them at all*, as the Samaritan woman observed, "the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans" (John 4:9). Therefore, the name Samaritan is used derisively many times in the Gospel narrations. After the Ascension of the Lord, and the Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the woman of Samaria was baptized by the holy Apostles and became a great preacher and Martyr of Christ; she was called Photini or Photina, and her feast is kept on February 26.

CHRIST IS RISEN In Various Languages:

Chinese: Helisituosi fuhuole! — Queshi fuhuole!

Japanese: Harisutosu Fukkatsu! — Jitsu Ni Fukkatsu

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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 5th Universal All-Souls Saturday – Jun 6 (NS) 6:00 p.m.; Jun 7 (MR) 9:00 a.m.
 June 8 Feast of the Descent of the All-Holy Spirit (Pentecost Sunday. Our Patronal Feast Day.
 June 15 Sunday of All Saints & Final Day for fulfilling your Easter Duty.

Saints of the Week — May 19

Bishop-Martyr Patrick, Bishop of Prusa & his Companions

Saint Patrick lived during the first century and was bishop of the city of Prusa in



Bythnia (Asia Minor). He openly and boldly preached Christ the Savior, and denounced the error of the pagans. Therefore, he and the priests, Acacius, Menander and Polyainus were arrested, and brought to Julius, the prefect of the city for interrogation. Julius was going to the hot springs for treatment, and he ordered that the Christian bishop and the priests be brought along after him, bound in iron chains. After he washed in the hot springs, Julius offered sacrifice to his gods. He had Saint Patrick and the other prisoners brought before him, ordering them to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods, threatening punishment if they refused. Saint Patrick replied, *"I am a Christian and I worship the one true God, Jesus Christ, Who has created the heavens and the earth, and these warm springs for the benefit of all mankind."* Julius had the saint thrown into the hot spring, and with firm faith the martyr prayed, *"Lord, Jesus Christ, help Your servant,"* and he remained unharmed. In an impotent rage, Julius ordered Saint Patrick and his three presbyters beheaded. They received their crowns of unfading

glory from Christ around the year 100.

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**!

General Announcements

DEACON LUKE TO BE ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD IN JULY —



The following is a note by Deacon Luke to be published in our Spitrit Of Truth (S.O.T.) Church Bulletin: *"Deacon Luke Iyengar would like to invite you to his Priesthood Ordination on Sunday, July 6, 22025 at 3:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall as well as his First Solemn Divine Liturgy invoking the Aid of the All-Holy Spirit on Monday, July 7, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks. Both Divine Liturgies will have a party afterwards. If you are able to attend either social event, please inform him by Saturday, June 21 @ (412) 863-3285. You may also sign the list located in the side vestibule and narthex area of both Churches. If you wish, he is also accepting e-mail responses: Liyengar3@gmail.com."*

AUXILIARY VOLUNTEERS CALLED TO PLAN PENTECOST FEAST DAY LUNCHEON — Following today's Sunday's Divine Liturgy,

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



GRADUATES REGISTER TO BE RECOGNIZED — Our Holy Ghost Churches would like to honor all of our High School and University/College Graduates on the



occasion of our **Patronal Feast, June 8**. 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. All graduates must phone or email the church office with the following information: (1) *University/College of Graduation*; (2) *Date of Graduation*; (3) *Graduating Degree*; (4) *Future plans and employment*; and (4) *if will you be attending the Recognition Luncheon*. Call the

Church Office A.S.A.P. Deadline is May 25.

PRO-LIFE GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE — PA Primary Elections are this Tuesday, May 20. You are encouraged to consider those

candidates who are truly dedicated to the Pro-Life position. Let us defend the most vulnerable of God's children and speak for them by our vote when they cannot speak or act for themselves. Imagine yourself in their position. Wouldn't you want someone to defend you when your life is threatened?! Take the non-partisan guide (located in the (MR) side vestibule; (NS) narthex with you to the polls. Jesus came so that we may have life and live it to its fullness!

