

## Parish Offerings – Easter Sunday — April 20, 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 .....	251.00
Easter (\$6,420) (YP (\$27) Holy Days (\$1,244) Palm Sunday (\$140) ..	\$7,833.00
Initial (\$20) Eastern European Churches (\$25) .....	45.00
Votive Candles .....	143.00
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	\$8,272.00

### Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering .....	61.00
Easter (\$1,027) YP (\$5) Holy Days (\$70) Palm Sunday (\$50) .....	1,152.00
Easter Décor (\$20) Utillities (\$20) Improvement (\$20) .....	60.00
Special Donation (In mem of + Ann Demianczak by Maria Ringes) ..	200.00
Votive Candles .....	115.00

## Church Attendance Last Week \$1,588.00

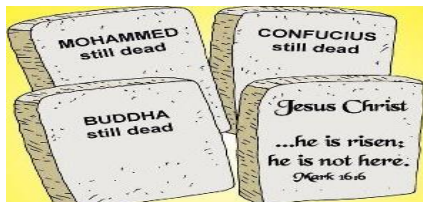
(NS) Sat., 5:45 p.m. (44); (MR) Sat., 7:45 p.m. (85)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (72); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (39)

Bright Monday (MR) 9:00 a.m. (8); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (6)

Bright Tuesday (MR) 9:00 a.m. (6); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (6)

Bright Wednesday — Feast of St. George: (MR) 9:00 a.m. (8); (NS) 6:00 p.m. (8)



**Valerian F. Szal**

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

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

*Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953*

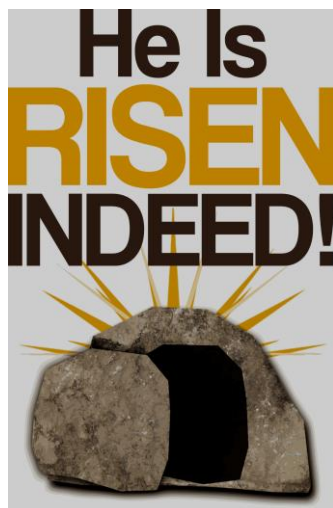


GCU offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Randy (412) 973-1085



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 ANTIPASCH

**Sunday of St. Thomas — 2<sup>nd</sup> Paschal Sunday**

**Divine Mercy Sunday — April 27, 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.

Carpatho-Rusyn Radio: Internet Sunday afternoon: [Rusyn.fm](http://Rusyn.fm) at 3:30 pm. Archive: [c-rsmedia.org](http://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

Eight days after Your Resurrection, O Lord, \* You appeared to Your disciples in the room where they were gathered; You greeted them saying: Peace be with you! Then You showed Your hands and side to the doubting disciple. He, therefore, cried out in an act of faith: My Lord and my God, glory to You! (Great Vespers for Thomas Sunday).

April 27, 2025

**Seasonal Christian Greeting:**  
**Christ is Risen! — Indeed! He is Risen!**  
**Christos Voskrese!! — Voistinnu Voskrese!**

Volume XV, Number 18



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
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### SUNDAY OF THE ANTIPASCH & ST. THOMAS



**Divine Mercy Sunday – 2<sup>nd</sup> Paschal Sunday**

**Distribution of the Artos at the Mirovanije**  
**(cf. article on how to obtain a plenary indulgence)**



<b>SUN, APR 27</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. (MR)</b>	+ George Kurtanich (10 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing 4/24)	Children
	<b>11:00 a.m. (NS)</b>	+ Mary Stecko (7 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing 4/20)	Son: Peter & Barbara

Mon, Apr 28	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Darko S. Gataric (5 <sup>th</sup> ann of pass 4/27)	Bro: Dubravko & Anna
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Tue, Apr 29	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ James Lautenschlager	Wife: Marge & Family
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Wed, Apr 30	8:00 a.m. (MR)	Health & Welfare of Mildred Terrek	Dgtrs: Christine & Monica
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Thrs, May 1	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ George F. Zula (66 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing)	Zula Family
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**First Friday of the Month —Reparation for the sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus**  
**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat) or Equivalent Penance (your choice)**

Fri, May 2	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mark A. Cifrutlak (wed. ann.)	Nancy & Don Worst
	6:00 p.m. (MR)	Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary.	

**First Saturday of the month in reparation for blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary**

Sat, May 3	9:00 a.m. (NS)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
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**Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Myrrh-Bearing Women & Joseph & Nicodemus**  
**Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Corporate Communion of 3 young members**

4:00 p.m. (MR)	+ Irene Muha (birthday 5/1)	Bernadette Gunkel
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### SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

**Joseph of Arithemea & Nicodemus**

**(3<sup>rd</sup> Paschal Sunday)**

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

## 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 28 – Gerald Stebbins**

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

**HOME:** Margaret Beliunas, 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.

**NEW HOPE PERSONAL CARE** (300 Union Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15202): Dolores Babin.

#### Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

**Q.** Do Catholics believe in the Rapture? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** The word Rapture is connected to the Latin word rapiemur, which appears in Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians in the Latin Vulgate translation of the Bible. It means to be raised up or caught up: The dead in Christ will rise first; then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so, we shall always be with the Lord. (1 Thess. 4:16–17). Therefore, Catholics believe that those Christians who are still living at the Second Coming of Christ will be gathered together with those who have died in Christ to be forever with the Lord. Catholics do not generally use the term Rapture, nor do they believe in a Rapture that will take place sometime before the Second Coming, as do many Evangelicals.

### This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**April 27 — May 3, 2025**

(MR): **In memory of Dolores & John Koritsky**

offered by Dgtr: Christine & Al Barnash

(NS): **In memory of George Seman** (birthday 4/15)

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2024

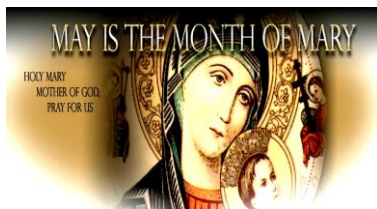
offered by Sister: Velma

(NS) NONE AVAILABLE 2024



## Additional Announcements

**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 a new Holy Father and those ill and afflicted of our families and our parish communities, for those who are dying, and for all to return to Divine Worship and Sacraments. God bless and heal them all!



**SACRAMENTAL CALLS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE REQUESTING** — As we continue through the Paschal Season, many still have not returned to Divine Worship over the weekends. We are obligated to come and participate in the Unbloody Sacrifice of Christ and to glorify His Radiant Resurrection at the Divine Liturgy. Our pastor is willing to come to your home for a sacramental visitation at any time. Remember, we are still obligated to fulfill our Easter Duty and to confess our mortal sins prior to validating our reception of Holy Communion. Please take care of this A.S.A.P. This is a serious obligation, and serves as a means of grace for your immortal soul. Also, and mostly important of all, it demonstrates your love and filial respect to God Who Died and is Resurrected for us!



**THERE ARE STILL CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES THAT HAVE NOT BEEN PICKED UP** — If you still are without a 2025 Church Calendar and Contribution Envelopes, they are available in the Church office. Please give the office a call and to come for them. Your financial support and attendance is needed to keep our Church proclaiming the Holy Gospel, and administering the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments) for our salvation.

**THE PAPAL BUNTING MARKS THE PASSING OF POPE FRANCIS** — Our Holy Francis has passed away on Bright Monday, April 21. We have been instructed by the Chancery office to place white bunting material marking his earthly departure. It is customary in the Byzantine Catholic Church to use the color of "white" for this occasion in the Paschal Season. Our brethren of the western rites of the Catholic Church are instructed to use "black." We wish to extend our gratitude to Nancy and Michael Ferrell for setting up the bunting material for both our MR & NS Parishes. God bless you for your sacrifice.



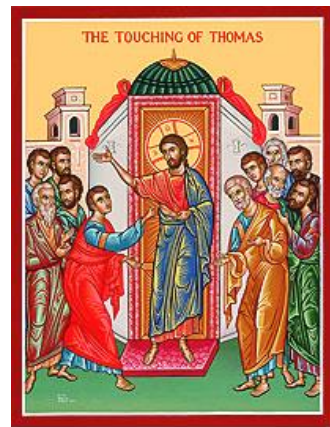
### Christ is Risen

**Hungarian: Feltamadt Krisztus! Valaban Feltamadt!**  
**Slovak: Kristus vstal zmr'tvych! Skutoc ne vstal!**

## SUNDAY OF THE ANTIPASCH

### THE SUNDAY OF ST. THOMAS (John 20: 19 – 31)

The Sunday after Easter is the **Sunday of St. Thomas**, also known as **Second Sunday of the Antipasch** ("instead of the" Pasch, i.e., at the other end of Bright Week). Historically, this day in the early Church was the day that the newly-baptized Christians removed their robes and entered once again into the life of this world. This day is also known as **Antipasch**. This does not mean "opposed to Pascha," but "in place of Pascha." Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord's Resurrection. Sunday is called "Resurrection" in Russian, and "the Lord's Day" in Greek. The Byzantine Catholic Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord's Resurrection starting this Sunday, the eighth day of the paschal celebration. Liturgically, the Church remembers the Apostle Thomas' vision of Christ after eight days. As with all the services until the feast of Ascension the Easter Troparion is sung, and the epistle readings are from the Acts of the Holy Apostles informing us of the first Christians who lived in communion with the Risen Lord. The Gospel of St. John is read since it starts the New Testament as the new creation because of the Risen Christ! Finally, the gospel readings are from the Gospel of John, considered by many to be a gospel written particularly for the newly baptized.



### BLESSED ARTOS DISTRIBUTED TODAY

"Artos" is a Greek word which means bread made with yeast. The Artos (Pascha) is blessed on Easter after the Ambon Prayer which is said at the end of the Paschal Divine Liturgy. The prayer used in the blessing of the Artos then follows. During Bright Week, the blessed bread, covered with an icon of the Resurrection, remains in the church to be venerated until the Sunday after Pascha (Saint Thomas Sunday), when the Artos is distributed to the faithful. According to the traditional custom, the Artos was distributed on the Saturday of Bright Week after the Holy Liturgy with the prayer, "this bread may be for the health and sanctification of the soul of him who eats of it." In the former centuries the faithful would preserve little pieces of bread for those who were seriously ill or in danger of death and unable to receive Holy Communion. Presently, the Artos is generally broken and distributed on Thomas Sunday so that as many of the faithful as possible can partake of this blessing at the Mirovanije. Take a piece home especially for those unable to be present today.



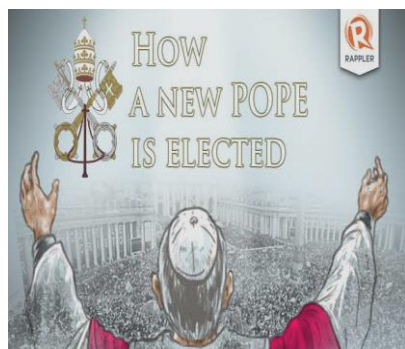
## Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 27 .....	Feast of St. Thomas & Feast of Divine Mercy.
May 3 .....	Renewal of Baptismal Promises & First Corporate Communion 4:00 p.m.
May 11 .....	Mother's Day — Feasts of Saints Cyril & Methodius & Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko.
May 14 .....	Feast of Mid-Pentecost.
May 28 .....	Great Vespers w/DL for the 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 7 .....	5 <sup>th</sup> Universal All-Souls Saturday
June 8 .....	Feast of the Decent of the All-Holy Spirit (Pentecost Sunday. Our Patronal Feast Day.

## The Facts of a Papal Conclave

### By the Staff of Catholic Answers

Cardinals are gathering at the Vatican to prepare to elect the next pope. The preparatory sessions for the next papal conclave have begun. .... A papal conclave is the election

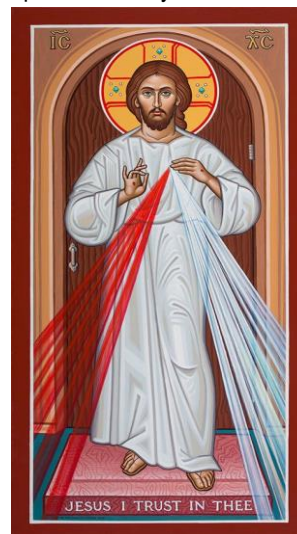


process by which a new pope, the visible head of the Catholic Church is selected. Catholics believe that the pope is the vicar of Christ and successor of St. Peter, the visible leader of the universal Church, against which h Jesus promises the gates of hell will never prevail (Mt. 1'6:18-19). After a pope dies or resigns, a papal conclave commences within three weeks to elect his successor. A conclave is a gathering of the College of Cardinals in which these papal electors choose the next pope. When a pope dies, there are nine days of mourning, as

prescribed in the apostolic constitution that governs the election of a pope. Upon the pope's death, the Church follows a process established over centuries to elect his successor. The period between two popes is called an interregnum (Latin for "between reigns" of two popes. A two-thirds majority of the cardinal electors is needed to elect a pope, no matter how many ballots are required to complete the conclave voting process. The election of his successor must commence after a maximum of twenty days from when the papal see becomes vacant. Despite the absent of a pope for a period of time, the faithful take comfort in knowing that the Church continues, reminding that the Lord Jesus Christ never relinquishes His divine reign over His Catholic Church. The word "conclave" is derived from the Latin words "cum clavis" (meaning "with key"). In a papal conclave, the College of Cardinals are eligible to select the next pope. The college is composed of Catholic bishops from around the world whom a pope had selected or created a cardinal. Electors are eligible to vote for a pope until they reach eighty years of age. The cardinals gather in the Sistine Chapel for a secret election — secretly to thwart outside interference, as papal conclave history has included has included political interference over the centuries. The cardinals pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance before casting their votes. To be elected, a cardinal must receive a two-thirds majority. Once a pope is chosen, and provided he accepts his election, white smoke rises from the Sistine Chapel. The new Roman Pontiff selects a papal name, and subsequently he is announced to the world with the words: **HABEMUS PAPAM**" (we have a pope).

## General Announcements

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY TODAY** — The Sunday following Easter is an incredibly special Sunday when the Divine Floodgates from Heaven are wide-opened and Jesus



offers us the total forgiveness of all sins and punishment to any soul, who goes to Confession and receives Him in Holy Communion on that day. Our Lord's promise to grant complete forgiveness of sins and punishment on the Feast of Mercy is recorded three times in the Diary of Saint Faustina, each time in a slightly unique way: "I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy" (1109). "Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment" (300). "The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion will obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment" (699). Again, **To be eligible to receive this promise of the Lord Jesus Himself, one must seek His Mercy in the Holy Mystery (Sacrament) of Reconciliation (within 8 days prior or after the Feast), and receive Holy**

**Communion on this day, promise to refrain from sinning, and prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father, the Pope (Creed & one Our Father) This will enable you to fulfill your Easter Duty too!**

**CUSTOM TO PRAY BEFORE THE EMPTY-TOMB** — You are encouraged to say a

prayer before the Empty-Tomb of Our Lord as it is set in our presence for the 40 days of Easter. It is a way of manifesting our personal and collective Faith in the Risen Lord Jesus and the power that flows from it. Here is a prayer to pray before it: "Being God, You were present by Your body, and yet in hades by Your soul, in Paradise with the thief, and on the throne, O Christ with the Father and the Holy Spirit, filling all things and encompassed by none. Glory to the Father and to the Son (+) and to the Holy Spirit. O Christ, Your tomb, the font of our resurrection, is indeed a giver of life more splendid than Paradise and more radiant than any royal chamber. Now and ever and forever. Amen. Hail! Holy and divine dwelling of the Most High, for through you O Mother of God, joy has been given to those who cry out: Blessed are you among women, O Lady most pure!"



**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**!