

**Parish Offerings – Thomas Sunday — April 12, 2026**

“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 (1,714.35) YP (\$3) .....	\$1,717.35
Holy Days (\$390) Easter (\$720) YP (\$10) .....	1,120.00
Special Donation (by Anonymous) .....	1,000.00
Votive Candles .....	156.51
	<hr/>
	\$3,993.86

**Holy Ghost Church, North Side**

Regular Offering (\$493.60) YP (\$2) .....	\$495.60
Easter (\$340) YP (\$5) Improvement (\$25) .....	370.00
Votive Candles .....	37.61

**Church Attendance Last Week** \$903.21

Sat., (MR) 4:00 p.m. (25)

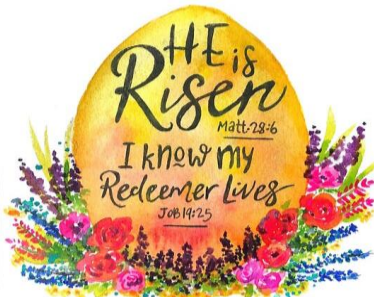
Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (68); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (21)



THE ORIGINAL ROCK



...AND ROLL



**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

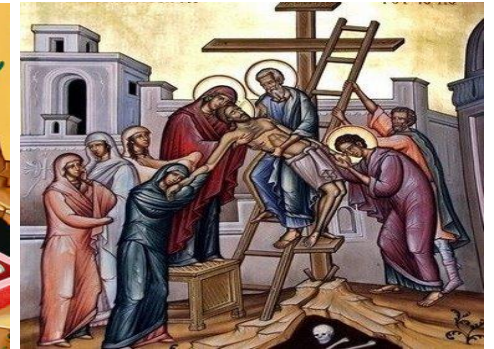
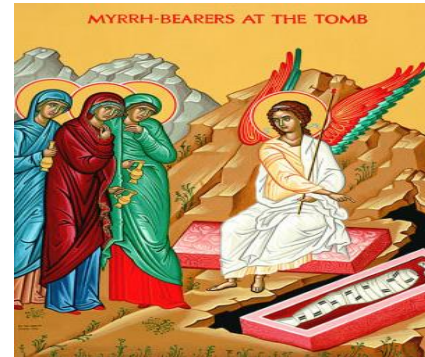
225 OLIVIA STREET  
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
PITTSBURGH, PA

**SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN**

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

**April 19, 2026**



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 Deacon Michael E. Meaders (NS)**

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.

Personal Care & Hospitalized: Phone Church Office ASAP.

Sponsor of Christian Initiation: Godparents must be practicing Catholics.

Religious Education Classes: (MR) Coordinator: Pastor (412) 771-3324.

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 will

If you would like to request a Divine Liturgy (\$20) or Sanctuary Lamp \$10) Please contact the Church Office. Also, Blessed Decorative Sacramental/Easter Basket Candles (\$15).



**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**



# 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)

April 19, 2026

Seasonal Christian Greeting: Volume XVI, Number 16



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., APR 19	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Deceased Simko + Buchko + McCusker Families Peggy & Chuck	
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	+ Mary Stecko (8 <sup>th</sup> ann of passing 4/20)	Son: Peter & Barbara
Mon, Apr 20	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Eleanor Kulka	Timchak Family
Tue, Apr 21	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Firko (41 <sup>st</sup> ann of passing)	Grandchildren
Wed, Apr 22	8:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Maxine Ann Moxie Kulp	Son: John

## Feast of the Holy Great-Martyr & Victory-Bearer George the Wonderworker — Simple Holy Day



THRS, APR 23 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes  
6:00 p.m (NS) + Dolores + George Hudanick, Sr. Children: George, Paul & Janet

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

Fri, Apr 24  8:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare of Jacob Gasser Gasser & Kendrach Families

Holy Apostle & Evangelist Mark

Sat, Apr 25 9:00 a.m. (NS) + Monsignor Peter P. Tay Estate

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Paralytic Man

4:00 p.m. (MR) + Mildred Terrek Nancy & Michael Ferrell

## SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN

SUN., APR 26 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes  
11:00 a.m. (NS) + Marlene Pfeiffer Helen Pyptyk

# 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

Apr 23 – ARLENE LATTA, JUNE MITRO, William Kress; Apr 25 – Audrey Hart.

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

HOME: Ted Babin, Margaret Beliuнас, Dolores & William Boras, Susan Fejka, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Michael Kachuta, Steve Kosko, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, Monica Lemesh, BETTY LORINC, CINDY MEADERS, John W. Oslick, Kurt Perschy, Cindy Saber, Anita Wolsko.  
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): Rosemarie Nazak.  
CEDAR HILL REHAB CENTER (951 Broadhead Rd., Coraopolis, 15108): Nancy Wauthier  
HIGHLAND HILLS POST ACUTE (1105 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15237): Bernice Herrick.  
FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE SOUTH HILLS (1290 Boyce Rd., Upper St. Clair, 15241): Bea Stempkowski.  
CONCORDIA OF CRANBERRY (Mars, PA): Theresa Kundrat.  
PERRY HEALTH & REHAB CENTER (9850 Old Perry Highway, Wexford, PA 15090): Deacon Michael Meaders

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

Q. Why is it so important to go to the Divine Liturgy? A. Answer by a Catholic Apologist: The Eucharist is the supreme act of worshipping God because it is Christ offering Himself to the Father on our behalf (Lk. 22:19-20; I Cor 10:16; CCC 1324, 1365). It is the sacrifice of Calvary made present here and now. By participating at the Divine Liturgy we make Christ's sacrifice our own and receive the grace of salvation anew. When we receive the Eucharist, we receive Jesus Himself (Jn 6: 51-59; CCC 1372, 1391). We have an obligation to worship the Creator (Ps 22:23; Rev 5:16). It would be an insult to receive all the gifts we have received from God (our eyesight, our health, nice home, etc.) and then give Him nothing in return .... Is it not selfish if we do not give Him at least one hour of worship each week (Ex 20:8-11; Heb 10: 23-25; CCC 2177-2178)?

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

April 19 – April 25 2026

(MR): In memory of Joseph Kress, Sr. (birthday 4/25)

offered by Son: Bill & Kathe

(NS): In memory of Mary Stecko (8<sup>th</sup> ann of pass 4/20)

(MR) FEW AVAILABLE FOR 2026

offered by Son: Peter & Barbara

(NS) FEW AVAILABLE 2026

# Additional Announcements

## McKees Rocks

**(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.



**(NS) CHURCH RECEIVES A SPECIAL GRATITUOUS CLEANING** — We are most grateful to Dr. Philip and his Sister, Mary Louise Georgevich for organizing and hiring a janitorial service to clean the Church last week. The Georgevich's picked up the tab for the entire service. We are most grateful for this donation! May God grant them many happy and blessed years because CHRIT IS RISEN.

**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 the World, 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 (May 31)** 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.

**Christ is Risen!  
Indeed, He IS Risen!**

# 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 we 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.

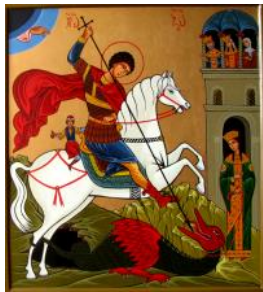
**5. You meet your Creator, your friend, your love.** It is good to be a friend and lover of God. On the day we see Him face-to-face, we will realize that which we have missed throughout our lives. As Saint Augustine says: "my heart is restless until it rests in You." Find your shelter in the wings of 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

April 19.....	End of the Year of Religious Education Program
April 23 .....	Feast of the Holy Great-Martyr & Victory-Bearer, George (Simple Holy Day) (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
May 1 .....	(MR) Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:00 p.m.
May 6 .....	Commemoration of Mid-Pentecost.
May 11 .....	Feasts of Saints Cyril & Methodius & Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko.
May 13 ....	Great Vespers w/DL for Feast of the Glorious Ascension (Holy Day of Obligation) (MR) 7:00 p.m.
May 14 ...	Feast of the Glorious Ascension (Holy Day of Obligation) (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 pm.
May 22 & May 23 .....	5 <sup>th</sup> Universal All-Souls Saturday – May 22 (NS) 6:00 p.m. ; No Rosary this Friday May 23 (MR) 9:00 a.m.
May 24.....	Feast of the Descent of the All-Holy Spirit (Pentecost Sunday. Our Patronal Feast Day.
May 25 .....	Pentecost Monday: Feast of the Most Holy Trinity & Memorial Day observed — (MR) 9:00 a.m. & (NS) 6:00 p.m.
May 29 .....	(MR) Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary @ 6:00 p.m.

## Saint of the Week

### The Holy Great-Martyr & Victory-Bearer George the Wonder-worker — April 23



This glorious and victorious saint was born in Cappadocia the son of wealthy and virtuous parents. His father suffered for Christ and his mother then moved to Palestine. When George grew up, he entered the military, where in his twentieth year, attained the rank of a Tribune and as such was in the service of the Emperor Diocletian. When Diocletian began the terrible persecution against Christians, George came before him and courageously confessed that he is a Christian. The emperor had him thrown into prison and ordered that his feet be placed in a stockade of wooden hobbles and that a heavy stone be placed on his chest. After that, the emperor commanded that George be tied to a wheel under which was a board with large nails and he was to be rotated until his entire

body became as one bloody wound. After that, they buried him in a pit with only his head showing above the ground and there they left him for three days and three nights. Then George was given a deadly poison to drink by some magician. But, through all of these sufferings, George continuously prayed to God and God healed him instantly and saved him from death to the great astonishment of the people. When he resurrected a dead man through his prayer, many then accepted the Faith of Christ. Among these also was Alexandra, the wife of the Emperor Athanasius, the chief pagan priest and the farmers: Glycerius, Valerius, Donatus and Therinus. Finally the emperor ordered George and his wife Alexandra beheaded. Blessed Alexandra died on the scaffold before being beheaded. *St. George was beheaded in the year 303 A.D. The miracles which have occurred over the grave of St. George are without number. Numerous are his appearances, either in dreams or openly, to those who have invoked him and implored his help from that time until today.* Enflamed with love for Christ the Lord, it was not difficult for this saintly George to leave all for the sake of this love: rank, wealth, imperial honor, his friends and the entire world. For this love, the Lord rewarded him with the wealth of unfading glory in heaven and on earth and eternal life in His kingdom. In addition, the Lord bestowed upon him the power and authority to assist all those in miseries and difficulties who honor him and call upon his name.

# 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.

