

Parish Offerings – Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt– March 26, 2023

“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 (\$1,958) YP (\$4)	\$1,962.00
Holy Day (\$320) YP (\$4) Easter Flowers (\$106)	430.00
Eastern European Churches	40.00
Votive Candles	138.50
-	<u>\$2,570.50</u>

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$997.00
Holy Day (\$40) Easter Flowers (\$35)	75.00
Eastern European Churches	25.00
Votive Candles (\$42.50) Utilities (\$60)	102.50

Church Attendance Last Week \$1,199.50

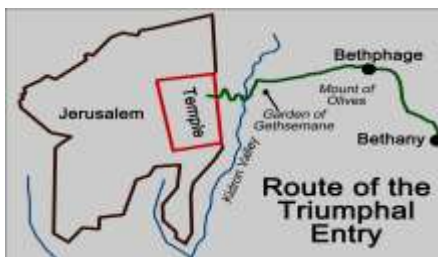
(MR) Sat., 4:00 pm (33);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (74); (NS) 11:00 am (22)

Annunciation Holy Day — Friday, (NS) 9:00 a.m. (10); (MR) 7:00 p.m. (13)

Final Lenten Friday, (NS) 6:00 p.m. (6)

Lazarus Saturday — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (11)



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE ROYAL ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

Palm (Flowery) Sunday — April 2, 2023



Catholics of the Ruthenian – Byzantine Rite in full communion with the Pope of Rome

The Very Reverend Father Frank A. Firko, Pastor

The Reverend Deacon Michael Meaders (NS)

Rectory: (412) 771-3324; Church Fax: (412) 331-1870

MR School Hall Kitchen: (412) 331-5155

Web-site: 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

Valerian F. Szal
238 Helen St.,
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: (412) 331-9713
331-9713
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Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953

HOLY WEEK
THE WEEK THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

DESIGNS BY NANCY
235 McCartney Drive,
Moon Township 15108
Phone: (412) 262-9141
Nancde@aol.com
Nancy C. Debranski
Sewing, Alterations, Custom Embroidery and Unique Gifts

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.

GCU
Greek Catholic Union of the USA
A Fraternal Benefit Society
GCU offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Randy (412) 973-1085

Handyman Services
North Side Parishioner
Alan Valeriano
(412) 638-3417
PA #172378

Please patronize our fabulous sponsors! They make it possible to bring you this weekly & informative S.O.T. without an added expense to the Church. New Sponsors please contact Church 9 til 1:00 p.m. Mon-Fri!

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.
Holy Mystery of Matrimony: Contact pastor one year in advance; Pre-Cana Classes required.
Sacramental Call to Homebound, Personal Care & Hospitalized: Phone Church Office ASAP.
Sponsor of Christian Initiation: Godparents must be practicing Catholics.
Religious Education Classes: (MR) Coordinator: Steve Puluka (412) 897- 4650.
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

April 2, 2023

Seasonal Greeting:

Volume XIII Number 14




Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!
Slava Isusu Christu!! — Slava Na Viki!




Liturgical Services for the Week

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By
ROYAL ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM			
Palm (Flowery) Sunday — Solemn Blessing of Palms & Willows			
SUN, Apr 2	*** 8:45 a.m. (MR)	+ Mary Fejka	Dgtr: Susie
		(27 th ann of passing 4/6)	
	*** 10:45 a.m. (NS)	+ Anna + George Grazorchak	Alice Slagle
	3:00 p.m. (MR)	Passion Week Vespers commencing Holy Week followed by Confessions	

HOLY (PASSION) WEEK

Holy Mon, Apr 3	8:00 a.m. (MR)	Bridegroom Matins	
	6:30 p.m. (MR)	Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary;	7:00 p.m. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy
Holy Tue, Apr 4	8:00 a.m. (MR)	Bridegroom Matins	
	*** 5:15 p.m. (NS)	Special Confession Time	
	6:00 p.m. (NS)	Presanctified Divine Liturgy	
			
Holy Wed, Apr 5	8:00 a.m. (MR)	Bridegroom Matins	
	6:30 p.m. (MR)	Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary;	7:00 p.m. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Institution of the Most Holy Eucharist

HOLY THRS, APR 6	8:00 a.m. (MR)	Betrayal Matins	
	7:00 p.m. (MR)	Great Vespers w/St. Basil Divine Liturgy	
			
			REQUIRED STRICT ABSTINENCE (no meat and dairy products)
HOLY & GREAT FRI, APR 7	8:00 a.m. (MR)	Passion Matins w/12 Passions Gospels	
	12:00 nn. (MR)	Royal 6 TH Hour: Commemoration of Our Lord's Crucifixion	
	5:00 p.m. (NS)	Entombment Vespers & Procession	
	7:00 p.m. (MR)	Entombment Vespers & Procession	

24 Hour Continuous Vigil Before the Tomb — (MR) Church Opened For Devotion

RECOMMENDED Simple Abstinence (no meat) on Holy Saturday

HOLY SAT, APR 8	8:00 a.m. (MR)	Sepulcher Matins w/Procession indoors	
	2:00 p.m. (MR)	Great Vespers w/St. Basil Divine Liturgy	

Anticipated Resurrectional (Easter Sunday) Liturgical Services

	5:45 p.m. (NS)	Resurrectional Matins & Blessing of Paschal Foods in Church.	
	7:45 p.m. (MR)	Resurrectional Matins w/ Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Paschal Foods	

RADIANT RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Easter (PASCHA) Sunday — The Great Day — MIROVANJE

SUN., APR 9	9:00 a.m. (MR)	+ Helen Hopey (2 nd ann of pass. 4/7)	Anonymous
	11:00 a.m. (NS)	For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	

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 2 – Russell Sidun; Apr 3 – Beverly Harsh.

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

HOME: Geraldine Babin, Margaret Beliuinas, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, Steve Kosko, Kathe Kress, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, BETTY LORINC, Irene Muha, Kurt Perschy, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Dan Pikras, Lisa Plutto, Elizabeth Poznak, GERALD SLAGLE, Betty Spisak, Anita Wolsko, Nancy (Shanta) Wauthier.

MAPLEWOOD PC HOME (461 Maplewood Ave. Ambridge, PA 15003): Doris Naughton.
HIGHLAND PARK CARE CENTER (745 North Highland Ave., Pgh, PA 15206): Linda Reiger.
CHIPPEWA PLACE (7005 Stadium Dr., Apt 427, Brecksville, OH 44141): Stephen Katrenich.
VETERANS HOSPITAL (1010 Delafield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15215): JOHN VEREB.
THE RESIDENCE AT WILLOW LANE (30 Heckel Rd., McKees Rocks, PA 15136): Helen Best, Margaret Cifrulak, Dorothy Ann Karl, Mildred Terrek.
LUTHERAN SENIORLIFE (500 Wittenberg Way, Mars PA 16046): A. SHIRLEY KALNAS.
SUNRISE SENIOR LIVING (900 Lincoln Club Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237): Irene Bordas.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. I'd like to help some friends who are having trouble with the faith, but I'm no expert and am afraid to get in over my head. What should I do? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** Jump right in. The biggest mistake is to do nothing. You don't need to be an expert, and you don't need a degree in theology. Normally common sense and your personal testimony of the faith will be your best tools. If you're asked a question you can't answer, admit your ignorance. (The worst thing is to pretend you know the answer when you don't.) Say you'll have to get back to the inquirer—and then go to the library or internet and look up the answer. At Catholic Answers we have to do this all the time, although in our case we have the library right here at our offices.

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

April 2 — April 8, 2023

In memory of Mary Fejka (27th ann of passing 4/6)

offered by Dgtr: Susie

(NS): **In memory of Theodore Demianczyk** (24th ann of passing 4/4)

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023

offered by Dgtr: Dawn Ringes

(NS) FEW AVAILABLE FOR 2023



McKees Rocks Announcements

ECF HOLDS EGG HUNT TODAY — Our Eastern Christian Formation Religious Program is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt today **Palm Sunday, April 2** following the 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy. It is for our children from Pre-Kindergarten to 5th grade. Pysunky Paschal Eggs remind us of the New Life coming forth from the shell symbolizing Christ breaking forth from the tomb!

PIROHI VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON SCHEDULED FOR BRIGHT (EASTER) WEEK — To show our appreciation to all those who worked the last few weeks, a special luncheon is scheduled for **Friday, April 14, 2023 at Rockefeller's Grille @ 12:00 noon**. If you are a Pirohi Volunteer please sign the list now located in the side vestibule or phone the Church office (412) 771-3324 by Noon, Monday, April 10. If you have already signed, please follow through with this commitment so that we won't be charged for absentees.

LAST DAY FOR BYZAN-TEENS CANDY ORDERS — Although the \$1.00 candy bars are all sold out, you may still purchase candy from the website: www.sarriscandies.com and click on the **Fundraising tab. Type in the Group ID # 10-3617. The Organization name is Holy Ghost Youth Group.** Today is the final day. The Youth Group will receive a percentage from the sale of each order. A \$5.00 packaging fee will be applied. Let's assist them by purchasing candy bars! A special thank you is extended to all who have supporting this cause!

Northside Announcements

No Particular informational announcements for this week

EXTRA CONFESSOR THIS AFTERNOON — Our pastor is conscripting an additional Confessor to aid in hearing Confessions Palm Sunday afternoon following the 3:00 p.m. Passion Week Vespers. *Please make every effort to make a good and worthy confession of sins as we prepare for the salutary events of Holy Week & Easter!* Use this opportunity to fulfill your **Easter Duty Precepts (Confession, especially of mortal sins & Holy Communion)**! You may also make your confession at the ordinary times listed on the front page of the S.O.T. **Also, be reminded that there is a special Confession time on the NS Holy Tuesday @ 5:15 p.m.** A *Guide to Confession which lists an examine of sins* is available in the narthex and vestibule of the Church.



SPECIAL GRATITUDE FROM THE PROTOPRESBYTERY (DEANERY) — A special thank you is extended to those who attended our Deanery Penitential Vespers these past five Sundays of The Great Fast. Each Sunday had app. 60-100 faithful from parishes comprising the Greater Pittsburgh Protopresbytery. We are grateful to the clergy and parishes that hosted them.

Sanctification of Paschal Foods

REQUESTING ALL HOUSEHOLDS TO BRING AN EASTER BASKET — Following the Resurrectional Matins/Divine Liturgy on Holy Saturday Evening and Easter Sunday Morning, Paschal Foods will be solemnly blessed. **All households are highly recommended to bring an Easter Basket with some traditional foods. Special Paschal blessings are bestowed upon them** so please do not deprive yourself or your family and friends of God's blessing as you partake of this sanctified food in the joy of the Radiant Resurrection of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. Last week's S.O.T. contained a special insert. If you would like a copy sent to you, call Church Office.



Need more to sign for the Tomb-Watch Holy Saturday late afternoon

PALM (FLOWERY) SUNDAY

Significance of Palms & Pussy Willows in Byzantine Rite (John 12: 1 – 18)

The Triumphal Entry of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem before His Passion was celebrated with particular solemnity since the first centuries of Christianity. In the Byzantine Rite it is considered one of the twelve Major Feasts of the liturgical year. Its official name is the **“Royal Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem.”** It is always celebrated on the Sunday before Easter with the solemn blessing of branches (Palms, Willows & Olive Branches). Popularly it was also called Willow Sunday (*Verbna Ned'Ilja*) because in Europe, pussy-willows were blessed instead of palms. It is also known as Flowery Sunday (*Cvitna Ned'Ilja*) since in and near Constantinople they used to distribute early spring flowers, such as branches of lilac or elder, to the faithful, (cf. Constantine Proph. in P.G. 112, 412). From ancient times, **Palm-branches were symbols of victory and triumph.** The Romans used to reward their champions of the games with palm-branches. Also, military triumphs, i.e., the celebrations of victory, were observed with palms. It seems that the Jews followed the same custom (Lev. 23:40; I Mace. 13:37) of carrying palm-branches on their festive occasions. That is what happened during the solemn entry of Jesus into the Holy City before His last Passover (Jn. 12:13), **Pussy Willows signify ‘new life’** and **Olive Branches signify ‘peace.’** In the New Testament, the palm-branches become a symbol of martyrdom (Rev. 7:9) meaning victory over death. For this reason, in Christian art martyrs were usually represented with palms in their hands. Thus, since the end of the fourth century, the palm-branch also became a symbol of the Resurrection. (P.G. 33, 1025-1028). Jesus Christ, after raising Lazarus (Jn. 11:1-44), was finally recognized by the Jewish people as their Messiah. When He arrived in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, they greeted Him with a triumphant welcome. The Evangelist, however, hastened to remark that it was done in fulfillment of a prophecy (Mt. 21:4-5).



FINAL DAYS OF CHRIST THE BRIDEGROOM

The **first three weekdays of Holy Week** center its theme upon **Christ the Bridegroom.** The special Matins services offered a commemoration of the last days in the earthly life of the Lord are recounted. We are vicariously present as Christ presents His last teaching discourse to the disciples. As such, these services incorporate readings and hymns inspiring this theme. The mood of the services is to experience sorrow and to feel Christ's voluntary submission to His passions and highlight the purpose behind the evil that is about to take place against the Lord. The atmosphere is one of mourning (for sins) and is symbolic of the shame the Christian should feel for the Fall of Adam and Eve, the depths of hell, the lost Paradise and the absence of God. The main emphasis of the Bridegroom Matins is metanoia (a complete change of direction in following Christ) and each service has its own particular theme of repentance and watchfulness. One of its primary features is its Troparion: *Behold, the Bridegroom comes in the middle of the night, and blessed is the servant He shall find vigilant; but unworthy is he whom He shall find neglectful. Beware awake therefore, O my soul, lest you be weighed down by sleep, and be given over to death and be closed out from the kingdom; rise up crying out: Holy! Holy! Holy are You our God; through the intercession of the Theotokos, have mercy on us.*



Calendar of Upcoming Events Including Holy Week & Easter & Bright Week

April 2 Palm (Flowery) Sunday — All weekend Divine Liturgies commence 15 minutes earlier for Solemn Blessing of Palms & Pussy Willows.
... Passion Vespers inaugurating Holy Week @ 3:00 p.m. followed by Confessions by extra Confessor.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

(April 3 through April 8)

Great & Holy Monday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
Great & Holy Tuesday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.
..... (NS) Confessions @ 5:15 p.m.
Great & Holy Wednesday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
Great & Holy Thursday ... (MR) Betrayal Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Vespers & St. Basil Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
Great & Holy Friday . (MR) Passion Matins w/12 Passion Gospels @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR) Royal Hours @ 12:00 noon

**(MR) CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 12:00 NOON UNTIL 3:00 pm
FOR PRIVATE DEVOTION**

(NS) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 5:00 p.m. & (MR) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 7:00 p.m.

ALL NIGHT VIGIL BEFORE THE TOMB (Please Signup)

Great & Holy Saturday (MR) Sepulcher (Jerusalem) Matins w/Procession @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR) Great Vespers w/St. Basil Vigil Divine Liturgy @ 2:00 p.m.

VIGIL OF THE RESURRECTION FEAST — GREAT & HOLY SAT. EVENING (NS) Resurrectional Matins only & Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods @ 5:45 p.m. — (MR) Resurrectional Matins & Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods @ 7:45 p.m.

APRIL 9 – EASTER SUNDAY — THE RADIANT RESURRECTION — THE GREAT DAY
(MR) 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods — (NS) 11:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods.

BRIGHT WEEK

* The Bright Hours will be celebrated at the Empty Tomb 15 minutes before each Bright Week Divine Liturgy

April 10 .. Bright Monday w/procession (Solemn): (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.

April 11 Bright Tuesday (Simple): (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.

Bright Wednesday through Saturday: (MR) All Morning Divine Liturgies in Main Church

April 16 Feast of St. Thomas & Feast of Divine Mercy.

Holy Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday **The Final Presanctified Divine Liturgies**

On the evening of these first three days of Holy Week the Presanctified Divine Liturgy is celebrated. The Church calls us to begin our preparation for the forthcoming passion, death and burial of Our Lord Jesus and to accompany Him to the consummation of the redemptive acts by which salvation was secured for us. Let us use this time wisely and manifest our loyalty to Him Who now approaches the Holy Passion and join Him as He affects our salvation. Of the several parables that we will hear proclaimed in the Gospel, the one concerning the "wise and Foolish virgins is particularly important. It teaches us that we must always be prepared to meet the Bridegroom Christ whenever He decides to come for us!



Explanation of Holy Week Services **Holy & Great Thursday**

Institution of the Most Holy Eucharist at the Mystical Supper

At the Mystical Supper in the Upper Room Jesus gave a radically new meaning to the food and drink of the sacred meal. He *identified Himself with the bread and wine*: "Take, eat; this is my Body. Drink of it all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant" enacts sacramentally the redemptive event of the Cross and participates in its saving grace. This does not suggest that the Eucharist attempts to reclaim a past event. The Eucharist does not repeat what cannot be repeated. Christ is not slain anew and repeatedly. Rather the Eucharistic food is changed concretely and truly into the Body and Blood of the Lamb of God, "Who gave Himself up for the life of the world." Christ continually offers Himself to the faithful through these consecrated Gifts. In the Eucharist we receive and partake of the Resurrected Christ. We share in His sacrificed, risen and deified Body, "for the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting" (Divine Liturgy). Make this an important event to attend rendering thanks for the privilege of receiving the Holy Eucharist in sanctifying grace. How precious our Byzantine Catholic Church truly is! This is a great opportunity to fulfill your Easter Duty Precept!



Holy & Great Friday

The Passion, Death & Entombment of Our Lord

Praying that you will join us for this historical and inspiring salvific event! On this day of **STRICT ABSTINENCE (no meat or dairy products)** is mandated to be observed as we commemorate the sufferings of Christ: the mockery, the crown of thorns, the scourging, the nails, the thirst, the vinegar and gall, the cry of desolation, and all that the Savior endured on the Cross. Great Friday and Holy Saturday direct our attention to the trial, crucifixion, death and burial of Christ. We are placed within the awesome mystery of the extreme humility of our suffering God. Therefore, these days are at once days of deep gloom as well as watchful expectation. The Author of life is at work transforming death into life: "Come, let us see our Life (Jesus) lying in the tomb, that he may give life to those that in their tombs lying dead" (Sticheron of Great Saturday). Near the end of the Entombment Vespers the **Arimathea Procession** occurs with the Burial Shroud (Plasčhaniča) taken in procession around the Church by the priest and faithful. Near its conclusion, it is placed in the tomb near the front of the Church. It remains there for all night veneration.



Holy & Great Saturday

SEPULCHER MATINS & GREAT VESPERS w/ST. BASIL

Holy Saturday morning prayer of the **Sepulcher (Jerusalem) Matins with an inside procession** commemorates Our Lord's descent into Hades to rescue the Holy & Just and takes them to the New Jerusalem (Heaven). The afternoon celebrates **Great Vespers & St. Basil Divine Liturgy** which is the initial commencement of Our Lord's Radiant Resurrection. The dark coverings and Priestly vestments are changed to bright colors announcing the destruction of death and the introduction of New Life. Let us be with our Lord by participating in these moving ceremonies! (cf. liturgical schedule for times). **We need 4 volunteers to help the celebrant.**

Resurrectional Matins

The Myrrh-Bearers Procession to the Tomb

This is one of the most memorable liturgical celebrations ringing in the joy of the Radiant Resurrection. The faithful enter a darkened Church symbolizing the Tomb of Our Lord quietly awaiting in anxious anticipation the promise of the Resurrection. Following the **Myrrh-Bearers Procession** around the Church, the priest declares that **CHRIST IS RISEN** and while rolling back the large stone (the Church Doors) enters a radiant and brilliant Church festively singing Christ's Resurrection! Thus, it reminds us of the same joy and wonder that the women disciples experienced of the Empty Tomb.

