

Parish Offerings – Paralytic Sunday — April 30, 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 (\$1,852) YP (\$4)	\$1,856.00
Easter (\$25) Holy Days (\$130)	155.00
Votive Candles (\$132) Seminary (\$10)	142.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,153.00

Holy Ghost Church, North Side

Regular Offering (\$555) YP (\$1)	\$556.00
Votive Candles	31.00

Church Attendance Last Week \$587.00

(MR) Sat., 4:00 p.m. (28)

Sun., (MR) 9:00 a.m. (64); (NS) 11:00 a.m. (20)



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

225 OLIVIA STREET
1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

5th Paschal Sunday – Mid-Pentecost — May 7, 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
Fax: (412) 331-6688
Michael P. Ferrell,
Supervisor, CFSP
Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953

*Always remember
GOD
loves you even on
your worst days*

DESIGNS BY NANCY
238 McCartney Drive,
Moon Township 15108
Phone: (412) 262-9141
Nandce@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

WINTER HANDYMAN SERVICES
North Side Parishioner
Alan Valeriano
(412) 638-3417
PA #172378

Please patronize those who bring you this weekly Church report without an added expense to the Church. New sponsors are welcome, please contact Church 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

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 7, 2023 Seasonal Greeting: Volume XIII Number 19



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



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

5th Paschal Sunday — Mid-Pentecost

SUN, May 7	9:00 a.m. (MR) + Glee Hart	Family
	11:00 a.m. (NS) + Robert M. Smoley (48 th ann. of passing 5/14)	Sister: Mary Ann
Mon, May 8	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Jeanette + Alexander Zubritzky (78 th wedding ann. 5/14)	Children
	10:00 a.m. (MR) + Paschal Funeral Divine Liturgy of Irene Bordas	
Tues, May 9	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Dolores + John Koritsky	Dgr: Christine & Al Barnash

FINAL DAY OF THE FEAST OF MID-PENTECOST

Wed, May 10	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Paraska Gramata	Eleanor Gramata & Son: George (25 th ann of passing 5/12)
-------------	----------------------------------	---

Feast of SS. Cyril & Methodius & Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko

Thrs, May 11	*** 7:30 a.m. (MR) + Mary (Swayka) Madar	MaryEllen & John Oslick
	*** Seminary Graduation w/ Hierarchial Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 a.m.	

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

Fri, May 12	8:00 a.m. (MR) + Fr. Richard F. Zula	Zula Family
	(Priesthood Ordination 5/14)	
	6:00 p.m. (MR) The Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary	

Sat, May 13	9:00 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes	
-------------	--	--

Sunday anticipated Divine Liturgy of the Man Born Blind – 6th Paschaal Sunday

	4:00 p.m. (MR) + Andrew Yakubik (14 th ann of passing 5/16)	Dgr: Evelyn
--	--	-------------

SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND

6th Paschal Sunday — Annual Mother's Day

SUN, May 14	9:00 a.m. (MR) Health & Welfare of Geraldine Babin (birthday 5/4)	Joe, Mary Ann & Jim
	11:00 a.m. (NS) For Living & Deceased Mothers of the 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 to be published.

Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners

May 12 – ELIANA TRAPL; Kim Zoldos.

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

HOME: Geraldine Babin, Margaret Beliuнас, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Beverly Harsh, Steve Kosko, Kathe Kress, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, Nancy Lecci, BETTY LORINC, Irene Muha, Kurt Perschy, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Dan Pikras, Elizabeth Poznak, GERALD SLAGLE, Betty Spisak, MONSIGNOR PETER TAY, 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.

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 7 — May 13, 2023

(MR): Health & Welfare of Geraldine Babin (Birthday 5/4)

offered by Children: Joe, Mary Ann & Jim

(NS): In memory of Dolores & John Koritsky

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023 offered by Dgr: Christine & Al Barnash (NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2023



General Announcements

McKees Rocks

A REPAIRED AND SAFER STAIRWELL — A few months ago, we had the stairwell entrance doorway repaired due to a crumbling lintel which stopped access to the door entrance. We also had to replace the doors that were rusted and blocking entrance in both directions. It is located on the north entrance of the school building. Also, the surrounding wall was buckling and causing a danger zone to the entrance of the school. Following the reception of three bids, we contracted ARK Basement Services, Pitcairn, PA who installed 2-Steel Beams (8'4""); 2-10' Carbon Fiber Straps (8'5""); and 1-8' Carbon Fiber strap (7"). The contractor offers a lifetime craftsmanship on work performed within the Project Specifications of this contract. The funding used was from the rent capitol from our previous renters. The total cost of this project totaled \$4,450.00.



North Side

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES AND SOLEMN COMMUNION TODAY — For the first time in several years at this special ceremony, *parishioner Eliana Trapl*, will recite her baptismal promises and receive her First Solemn Communion at this morning's Divine Liturgy. An article will appear in next week's S.O.T.

PRO-LIFE GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE — PA Primary Elections are this Tuesday, **May 16**.

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!



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 4)** 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! — Qeshi fuhuole!
Japanese: Harisutosu Fukkatsu! — Jitsu Ni Fukkatsu

Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 7 (NS) Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Corporate Communion of 1 child @11:00 a.m. DL.
May 11 Feasts of Saints Cyril & Methodius & Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko
May 14 Annual Mother's Day.
May 17. Great Vespers w/DL for the Feast of the Glorious Ascension (Holy Day of Obligation) (MR) 7:00 p.m.
May 18 ... Feast of the Glorious Ascension (Holy Day of Obligation) (MR) 9:00 am & (NS) 6:00 pm.
May 22-23 Annual Clergy Days, St. John the Baptist Cathedral
May 28 Pentecost Sunday the Patronal Feast of both Parishes.
..... Patronal Feast Luncheon & honoring our High School & University/College Graduates.

Saints of the Week — May 11

SS. Cyril & Methodius, Co-Equals to the Apostles, Teachers of Slavs

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. Gojdich. 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 Godjich 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

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, May 28, 2023. 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, **May 28**. 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; Date of Graduation;* (2) *Graduating Degree;* (3) *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 21.



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 vanquishing of the Covid-19 Virus, those afflicted, for those who died from it, and for all to return to Divine Worship and Sacraments. God bless 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 to 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 that is to confess our mortal sins prior to validating a worthy 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!

