

## WELCOME TO ASCENSION

SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

**PLEASE KEEP SOCIAL DISTANCE**

### SUN DEC 11 SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

Col 3:4-11 Lk 14:16-24 Tone 2

11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and +Mike Bross by Angela Bross  
After – Hospitality and Let's Keep Our Parish Safe and Secure  
New In Person Training For Our Security Team

Tue Dec 13 8:30am For Our Parishioners and For + Peter Peltier & Family by Paula Peltier

Wed Dec 14 8:30am For Our Parishioners and For + Professor John Williams by Caroline Williams  
**MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS** -Special Intention

Thu Dec 15 8:30am For Our Parishioners and HGB Patricia & Gareth Reeves by Fr. Alex  
After - Bible Study  
6:00pm - ROSARY - Prayer for Protection and Healing of the coronavirus and all serious illnesses by Men's Club

### SUN DEC 18 SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS – OF THE HOLY ANCESTORS

Col 11:9-10 & 17-23 Mt 1:1-25 Tone 3

11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and + John and Monika Ruscus by Fr. Alex  
After – Hospitality

+

**On Wednesday November 30, 2022 Dr. John Williams, our long-time parishioner has been called home to our Lord. A memorial service will be in Wednesday, December 14**

### Eternal Memory

### Prayer to Guardian Angel

ANGEL OF GOD, MY GUARDIAN DEAR, TO WHOM HIS LOVE COMMITS ME HERE: EVER THIS DAY BE AT MY SIDE, TO LIGHT AND GUARD, TO RULE AND GUIDE. AMEN

We have several faithful from Ascension who are in need of special prayer.

Some of those who need special prayer are:

Frank and Chris Janke, Mary Grace Dorsey, Ben Pawers, Betta Labanish, Betty May Hertz, Emma Bernier, Lolly Vinson, William McGraw, June McGraw, Darren and June Hall, Aurora & Jaime Daquilanea, Mary Ann Drumtra, Katharina and Steven Margan  
Thank you. Fr. A

### Candles for December:

Sanctuary Lamp... + John Labanish by Betta Labanish  
Tetrapod... + Elvira & Anthony DeGaspari by Ann Kelly  
Theotokos & Child... + Anna Oberhauser by Elisabeth Branden  
John Baptist... HGB Morgan Kelly by Ann Kelly  
St Nicholas... HGB Merle & Teresa Phillips by MaryAnn Drumtra  
Protection Theotokos... For Our Parishioners  
Christ Teacher... + Anthony DeGaspari by Ann Kelly

### IN THIS CHURCH, WE BELIEVE

IN THE HOLY SPIRIT; THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH; THE COMMUNION OF SAITS; THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS; THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY; AND LIFE EVERLASTING

**If any parishioners plan to visit Edmonton, Canada, please speak with Father Alex regarding picking up a needed item for faith formation.**

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Many unique items come into the shop weekly. We have a great selection of special-occasion gifts and religious items unique to the Williamsburg area, including a wide selection of spiritual books, music, icons and devotional and inspirational articles plus hand-made soaps, local honey.

**SPECIAL ORDERS WELCOMED.**

**FINANCIALS, December 4 2022**

Monthly Dues –1,045.00; Offertory –1,091.00; Candles-41.00;  
Special Gifts – 292.50 Holyday - 0.00 In – 2,468.50; Out –3050.47

Happy DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3rd GwendolynRose Picconi; 4th Robert Sotack; 7th Yaroslava Nicola Collins; 11th Joshua Karlson; 19th Joe Baysura; 20th Kathy Alexander; 29th Abraham Kusno

The Williamsburg **House of Mercy feed and shelter your neighbors?** *This summer, Williamsburg House of Mercy gave food to 208 families in a single a day and has moved 25 households into stable housing. For more information on how to donate or our shopping list, please visit WilliamsburgHouseOfMercy.org. Will you help? Thank you for being the hands and feed of Christ to our community!*

Thank you. God Bless, Larissa

**We will still collect donations for the Ukrainian Humanitarian Cause.** You may place your generous gift in the basket with the Ukrainian Flag. You will find it at the Icon Screen. Thank you for your gift of hope! Fr. Alex

Our **Children's Formation program** has open enrollment. If you would like your child to learn about the faith and have space to have thoughtful conversations about God with peers, reach out to Sasha Kusno, 660-287-1003. Upcoming dates include: December 11 & 18 and January 8, 15, 22, and 29.

**God bless America!!!**

**Do you want to protect the children in your life?**

**On Saturday, January 21st from 9 am - noon, the parish will host a *Stewards of Children* training facilitated by Sasha Kusno and Nick Corsi, who works for Child Development Resources. Through watching videos of first-hand accounts and dynamic dialogue, participants will learn how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. The training is free to parishioners and community members due to a generous grant. Contact Sasha at 660-287-1003 to sign up.**

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**HOSPITALITY -** is in need of volunteers for 2023. Please see Chris Noonan if interested.

AS you are shifting you will begin to realize you are not the same person you use to be.

The things you used to tolerate have now become intolerable. Where you once remained quite you are now speaking truth. Where you once battled and argued you are now choosing to remain silent. You are beginning to understand the value of your voice and there are some situations that no longer deserve your time, energy and focus

**PEIROGI SALE**

**Today - \$10 per dozen. See Ann in the bookstore. Hurry! We already sold nearly half of what was made.**

Lee Alexander

## To Be a Saint - Signs, Part 4 - The Feeding of Five Thousand

Prelude – Aside from the passion and resurrection, the feeding of the five thousand is the only miracle recorded in all four gospels. Here we will focus on John’s account, but I recommend reading all four to gain a full appreciation of this event. (Matt. 14, Mark 6, Luke 9, and John 6).

After Jesus’ healed the lame man on the Sabbath, He departed from Jerusalem and returned north to the Sea of Galilee, in and around the northern shore, in the region of Capernaum. Capernaum had by now become the center of His ministry.

It was nearing the Jewish Passover again. Instead of going to Jerusalem as He did the year before, Jesus stayed in Galilee. John alludes that the crowds followed Jesus to witness the healings and other signs He performed. We know from Matthew 14 that John the Baptist had recently been beheaded by Herod, so it is probable that some of John’s followers swelled the ranks of those who followed Jesus. This fact also would not have been missed by the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem. It is reasonable to suspect that they had also placed their spies among these followers. Jesus would have been seen as a dangerous man.

The word Sanhedrin is Greek for Assembly. There were lesser Sanhedrin’s located in various Jewish cities, but the Sanhedrin we speak of is the great Sanhedrin of Jerusalem. It acted like a supreme court of spiritual leaders in ancient Israel, and included 70 rabbi elders and the high priest. They sat as a council and tribunal of the Jews, having religious, civil, and criminal jurisdiction.

The Location - John says Jesus went to the far side of the sea. Again, we hear in Matthew 14 that Jesus withdrew from the area around Capernaum by boat, to a lonely place on the north eastern part of the sea. The crowds came from various places. They followed Him by watching the course of the boat that Jesus travelled in. Its lone sail readily located and followed from the shore. The area where the boat landed was in the vicinity of a village called Bethsaida. Assuming that Jesus departed from the area around Capernaum, the distance is approximately 20 miles. The area along the route was hilly and mountainous. The crowds would also have had to cross the Jordan River that flows southward into the Sea of Galilee. The going would not have been easy. Many hours might elapse before the crowd had reached the place where Jesus’ boat landed.

Five Thousand men, roughly the size of a Roman Legion. From Matthew we know that besides the men, there were also women and children. All wishing to catch sight of the great prophet. He sat there in that high ground with His disciples to teach and instruct them; possibly to hear of their recent travels. It

was from this place Jesus saw the crowds gathering.

The Sign – It was growing late. According to John, Jesus asked Philip, “How are we to buy bread so that these people may eat?” Jn 6:5. John said this question was a test of Philip. It may also be that Philip was from the nearby settlement of Bethsaida, and would presumably know the availability of food in the area. For whatever the reason, Jesus was quick to recognize the need, as He is quick to recognize the needs of all. From the mighty to the low, Jesus knows our needs even before we do.

Philip replied to his Master saying that even 200 denarii would not suffice to feed all those gathering around. A denarii today would be about .68 cents. The amount is not important. What is important is that Philip, as well as the others, even after seeing the great signs Jesus had performed, still approached the problems of life from a very human perspective. Andrew found a young boy with five barley loaves and two fish; however, in Andrew’s words, “But what are they among so many.” Andrew’s outlook was equally as glum as Philip’s. If we only had the faith of a mustard seed.

Jesus’ compassion was obvious. He told the disciples to have the people sit down. We know from accounts that the place they sat was grassy. For those in the crowd the analogy to Psalm 23:2 could not be escaped: *“The Lord is my Shephard, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me to quiet waters. He restores my soul.”*

Jesus then blessed the bread, giving thanks and distributed it to those seated. He did likewise with the fish, and they ate as much as they wanted, with the disciples gathering 12 baskets of “fragments” left over “that nothing may be lost.” In this we see a correlation to today’s Eucharistic Celebration. Every fragment of the consecrated host is consumed, “so that nothing may be lost.” The blessings of Christ are not to be wasted.

Not since the time of Moses, when Israel was sustained by quail and manna, had such a miracle taken place. The crowd, having seen what had just occurred was about to take Jesus by force and proclaim Him King. Jesus perceived this and slipped away into the hills. His destiny lay elsewhere. Jesus’ public ministry in Galilee had come to an end.

Yours in Christ  
Brother Joseph

## *Nothing but a Number*

*Japanese mountain climber Yuichiro Miura reached the summit of Mount Everest at age 70. George Brunstad was also 70 when he swam the English Channel. Naval officer Grace Hopper became the first female rear admiral of the United States Navy when she was 79. Margaret Haggerty completed her quest to run a marathon on each of the seven continents when she was 84.*

*If stories like these teach us anything, it's that senior adults are capable of amazing things.*

*That was certainly true of Joshua. Even though he was probably nearing the century mark, God had a plan for him. Age didn't matter to God. Rather than telling Joshua to rest, retire or step aside for a younger replacement, God instructed him to get to work.*

*Perhaps we should take a cue from God in our attitude toward older adults. From an early age most of us were taught to respect our elders. However, too often we confuse politeness for respect. What's the difference? Politeness might include offering a hand to senior adults when they struggle with steps or making awkward small talk with aging relatives at family gatherings. Respect, however, would include realizing that with their years of challenges and experiences these adults are a rich, God-given resource.*

*In this age of politically correct labels, perhaps a better name for senior citizens is "ultra-experienced adults." God entrusted Joshua with an important duty a quarter century after Joshua reached retirement age because of his vast military experience and knowledge.*

*Think of the older adults you know. How does God want to use them in your life? What experiences of theirs might benefit you? What life lessons have they learned that might keep you from making a bad decision? And what might you be able to learn from hearing their stories and asking for their advice?*

### ***To Take Away***

- *How would you describe your attitude toward senior adults?*
- *Think of two or three seniors you know. What might getting to know them better add to your life?*
- *What steps can you take this week to build a mutually beneficial relationship with an older adult?*

## **Psalm 1**

**Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.**

Blessed the man who follows not  
the counsel of the wicked  
Nor walks in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the company of the insolent,  
But delights in the law of the LORD  
and meditates on his law day and night.

**Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.**

He is like a tree  
planted near running water,  
That yields its fruit in due season,  
and whose leaves never fade.  
Whatever he does, prospers.

**Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.**

Not so, the wicked, not so;  
they are like chaff which the wind drives away.  
For the LORD watches over the way of the just,  
but the way of the wicked vanishes.

**Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.**

## Psalm 95

**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;  
let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, let us bow down in worship;  
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Oh, that today you would hear his voice:  
“Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as in the day of Messiah in the desert,  
Where your fathers tempted me;  
they tested me though they had seen my works.”

**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

## Psalm 23

**Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;  
Beside restful waters he leads me;  
he refreshes my soul.

**Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.**

He guides me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk in the dark valley  
I fear no evil; for you are at my side  
With your rod and your staff  
that give me courage.

**Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.**

You spread the table before me  
in the sight of my foes;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

**Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.**

Only goodness and kindness follow me  
all the days of my life;  
And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
for years to come.

**Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.**

## Psalm 16

**Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.**

Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge;  
I say to the LORD, "My Lord are you."  
O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup,  
you it is who hold fast my lot.

**Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.**

I bless the LORD who counsels me;  
even in the night my heart exhorts me.  
I set the LORD ever before me;  
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

**Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.**

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices,  
my body, too, abides in confidence;  
Because you will not abandon my soul to the nether world,  
nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption.

**Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.**

You will show me the path to life,  
fullness of joys in your presence,  
the delights at your right hand forever.

**Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.**

## Psalm 138

**Your right hand saves me, O Lord.**

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart,  
for you have heard the words of my mouth;  
in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise;  
I will worship at your holy temple,  
and give thanks to your name.

**Your right hand saves me, O Lord.**

Because of your kindness and your truth,  
you have made great above all things  
your name and your promise.  
When I called, you answered me;  
you built up strength within me.

**Your right hand saves me, O Lord.**

Your right hand saves me.  
The LORD will complete what he has done for me;  
your kindness, O LORD, endures forever;  
forsake not the work of your hands.

**Your right hand saves me, O Lord.**

### Psalm 113

**The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.**

Praise, you servants of the LORD,  
praise the name of the LORD.  
Blessed be the name of the LORD  
both now and forever.

**The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.**

From the rising to the setting of the sun  
is the name of the LORD to be praised.  
High above all nations is the LORD;  
above the heavens is his glory.

**The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.**

Who is like the LORD, our God, who is enthroned on high  
and looks upon the heavens and the earth below?

**The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.**

He raises up the lowly from the dust;  
from the dunghill he lifts up the poor  
To seat them with princes,  
with the princes of his own people.

**The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.**

### Psalm 104

**Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul!  
O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!  
How manifold are your works, O LORD!  
the earth is full of your creatures.

**Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;  
may the LORD be glad in his works!  
Pleasing to him be my theme;  
I will be glad in the LORD.

**Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

If you take away their breath, they perish  
and return to their dust.  
When you send forth your spirit, they are created,  
and you renew the face of the earth.

**Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

### Psalm 11

The LORD is in his holy temple;  
the LORD's throne is in heaven.  
His eyes behold,  
his searching glance is on mankind.

**The just will gaze on your face, O Lord.**

The LORD searches the just and the wicked;  
the lover of violence he hates.  
For the LORD is just, he loves just deeds;  
the upright shall see his face.

**The just will gaze on your face, O Lord.**

### Psalm 103

**The Lord has established his throne in heaven.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul;  
and all my being, bless his holy name.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits.

**The Lord has established his throne in heaven.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he put our transgressions from us.

**The Lord has established his throne in heaven.**

The LORD has established his throne in heaven,  
and his kingdom rules over all.  
Bless the LORD, all you his angels,  
you mighty in strength, who do his bidding.

**The Lord has established his throne in heaven.**

He who walks blamelessly and does justice;  
who thinks the truth in his heart  
and slanders not with his tongue.

**He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.**

Who harms not his fellow man,  
nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor;  
By whom the reprobate is despised,  
while he honors those who fear the LORD.

**He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.**

Who lends not his money at usury  
and accepts no bribe against the innocent.  
He who does these things  
shall never be disturbed.

**He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.**

### Psalm 15

**He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.**

### Exodus 15

**Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.**



I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant;  
horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.  
My strength and my courage is the LORD,  
and he has been my savior.  
He is my God, I praise him;  
the God of my father, I extol him.

**Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.**

The LORD is a warrior,  
LORD is his name!  
Pharaoh's chariots and army he hurled into the sea;  
the elite of his officers were submerged in the Red Sea.

**Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.**

The flood waters covered them,  
they sank into the depths like a stone.  
Your right hand, O LORD, magnificent in power,  
your right hand, O LORD, has shattered the enemy.

**Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.**

### Psalm 69

**Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.**

I am sunk in the abysmal swamp  
where there is no foothold;  
I have reached the watery depths;  
the flood overwhelms me.

**Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.**

But I pray to you, O LORD,  
for the time of your favor, O God!  
In your great kindness answer me  
with your constant help.

**Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.**

But I am afflicted and in pain;  
let your saving help, O God, protect me;  
I will praise the name of God in song,  
and I will glorify him with thanksgiving.

**Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.**

“See, you lowly ones, and be glad;  
you who seek God, may your hearts revive!  
For the LORD hears the poor,  
and his own who are in bonds he spurns not.”

**Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.**

### Psalm 106

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.**

Our fathers made a calf in Horeb  
and adored a molten image;

They exchanged their glory  
for the image of a grass-eating bullock.

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.**

They forgot the God who had saved them,  
who had done great deeds in Egypt,  
Wondrous deeds in the land of Ham,  
terrible things at the Red Sea.

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.**

Then he spoke of exterminating them,  
but Moses, his chosen one,  
Withstood him in the breach  
to turn back his destructive wrath.

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.**

### **Psalm 99**

**Holy is the Lord our God.**

Extol the LORD, our God,  
and worship at his footstool;  
holy is he!

**Holy is the Lord our God.**

Moses and Aaron were among his priests,  
and Samuel, among those who called upon his name;  
they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.

**Holy is the Lord our God.**

From the pillar of cloud he spoke to them;  
they heard his decrees and the law he gave them.

**Holy is the Lord our God.**

Extol the LORD, our God,  
and worship at his holy mountain;  
for holy is the LORD, our God.

**Holy is the Lord our God.**

### **Psalm 95**

**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;  
let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, let us bow down in worship;  
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Oh, that today you would hear his voice:  
“Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as in the day of Massah in the desert,  
Where your fathers tested me;  
they tested me though they had seen my works.”

**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

### Psalm 106

**Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.**

We have sinned, we and our fathers;  
we have committed crimes; we have done wrong.  
Our fathers in Egypt  
considered not your wonders.

**Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.**

But soon they forgot his works;  
they waited not for his counsel.  
They gave way to craving in the desert  
and tempted God in the wilderness.

**Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.**

They forgot the God who had saved them,  
who had done great deeds in Egypt,  
Wondrous deeds in the land of Ham,  
terrible things at the Red Sea.

**Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.**

Then he spoke of exterminating them,  
but Moses, his chosen one,  
Withstood him in the breach  
to turn back his destructive wrath.

**Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.**

### Psalm 97

**The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.**

The LORD is king; let the earth rejoice;  
let the many islands be glad.

Clouds and darkness are round about him,  
justice and judgment are the foundation of his throne.

**The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.**

The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,  
before the LORD of all the earth.  
The heavens proclaim his justice,  
and all peoples see his glory.

**The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.**

Because you, O LORD, are the Most High over all the earth,  
exalted far above all gods.

**The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.**

To his people, and to his faithful ones,  
and to those who put in him their hope.

**The Lord speaks of peace to his people.**

Kindness and truth shall meet;  
justice and peace shall kiss.  
Truth shall spring out of the earth,  
and justice shall look down from heaven.

**The Lord speaks of peace to his people.**

The LORD himself will give his benefits;  
our land shall yield its increase.  
Justice shall walk before him,  
and salvation, along the way of his steps.

**The Lord speaks of peace to his people.**

## Psalm 85

**The Lord speaks of peace to his people.**

I will hear what God proclaims;  
the LORD—for he proclaims peace