

WELCOME TO ASCENSION

SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

PLEASE KEEP SOCIAL DISTANCE

SUN AUG 6

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

After – Bless Fruit – Mirovanya - Hospitality - POT LUCK

2 Pet 1:10-19 Mt 17:1 -9 Tone *

11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and

+ Dr. Kerry Demascus by Dr. Maryjean Sotack

Mon Aug 7

6:00pm Advisory Board Meeting.

Tue Aug 8

8:30am For Our Parishioners and HGB Tom McGraw by

Lee & Kathy Alexander

2:00pm – 6:00pm Church Office hours

5:15pm

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Wed Aug 9

8:30am For Our Parishioners and + John & Monika Ruscus

by Fr. Alex

MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS -Special Intention

Thu Aug 10

8:30am For Our Parishioners and HGB Lisa Branden, Tom

McGraw, Dr. Jeffrey Sotack by Parishioners

6:00pm - **ROSARY** - Prayer for Protection and Healing of the coronavirus and all serious illnesses by Men's Club

SUN AUG 13

11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

After –Hospitality

1 Cor 9:2-12 Mt 18:23 -35 Tone 2*

11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and

HGB Steven & Margan by Fr Alex

News from the Carpathian Kitchen - Pierogi Sale This Sunday. The Kitchen team made 51 dozen pierogi last weekend and they have been bagged, labeled and ready for sale. Advance sales are brisk, so stop by after church and buy a dozen to take home. For those early birds who made their advanced orders last weekend your pierogi is already bagged and ready. You can pay with cash, check or credit card.

Many thanks to those who came out and worked last weekend. It went smoothly and we got to make new friends from outside the parish that we've added to our kitchen family.

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, June Mathews, William McGraw, Thomas McGraw, Darren and June Hall, Aurora & Jaime Daquilanea, Mary Ann Drumtra, Katharina and Steven Margan, Elaine Hampton, Elisabeth Branden Thank you. Fr. Alex

Bible Study: The Gospel of John

It's not too late to join the Bible Study for 2023! Come and grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ by diving deep in the life of Christ according to the beloved disciple John (and eat some great food as well!).

Please Join us on the (1st and 3rd Tuesday) of the month to: Read, Discuss, and Meditate on the Daily Readings, after Divine Liturgy, and (2nd and 4th Tuesday Evening Bible Study of St. John at 5:15pm. in the Social Hall. Fr. Alex

Visitors, family and friends: Are you curious, do you have questions or inquirers about our church, icons, Divine Liturgy, or Byzantine Catholic traditions? Someone will be waiting to answer your questions after Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings in the vicinity of the icon corner at the front of the sanctuary. Don't be afraid to ask, there are no wrong questions.

Attention all Parishioners, Visitors, and Guests: please do your part to help us keep the Social Hall clean. After Sunday Hospitality and Pot Lucks please make sure the table area where you were sitting is wiped clean. **Also, please place your chair on top of the table.** Doing these things will be a big help and save much time in maintaining and keeping the floors clean. Thanks for your help and cooperation Fr. Alex

Circle of Hope update. The first Saint Nicholas Grant has been approved! This week the Men's Club approved a grant to Housing Partnerships Inc. This little volunteer organization which is located across the street from Ascension, has a mighty impact on the local community, providing housing repair and related services to low income, disabled and elderly folks in Williamsburg, James City County and York County. In the upcoming weeks we will discuss Housing Partnership in greater detail along with more details on the grant. **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

Candles for August

Sanctuary Lamp... + John Labanish by Betta Labanish
Tetrapod... HGB Roman Slysh by Dr. Nadia Shockley
Theotokos & Child... HGB Lainie Noonan by Christine Noonan
John Baptist... HGB Mark Noonan by Christine Noonan
St Nicholas... +Michael & Avanelle Bross by Angela Bross
Protection Theotokos... In Love & Gratitude by Jim & Gia Hoolan
Christ Teacher... Madeline Noonan by Christine Noonan

SPECIAL ORDERS WELCOMED.

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.

Ascension Advisory board members.

Alex (Pastor) Property Committee; David Efimizt & Dr. Micheal Lechman: Trustees;
Betty Mae Hertz: Outrage Committee: Reader Adithia Kusno Facebook, Young Adult Education; Patty Duttry: Book Keeper; Don Merkley: Website, Liturgical Committee; Michael Bracelin: Men's Club President, Adult Bible Study; Mike Olson: Security Manager; Sasha Kusno: Children's Christian Formation Director; Ann Merkley Bookstore Manager

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 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

God bless America!!!

Help support our church

scan this code



To make a donation

FINANCIALS, July 30, 2023

Monthly Dues -1400.00; Offertory -1,780.00; Candles-44.00; DDA Reversion - #,240.00 In - 6,464.95; Out -1009.73

Happy August BIRTHDAYS

4th Fr. Alex Shuter; 10th Frank Janke; 11th Adithia Kusno; 17 Sydney Marie Karlson; 21st Loretta Fetsko

Men's Club Social

The Men's team will have their next informal social on the **3rd Tuesday of August (August 15)** at 6:00 PM in St. Philip Hall. **Take note of the new gathering time of 6:00 PM. All members of the men's club, as well as inquiring men, are encouraged to come

August 20 Breakfast Sandwich Sale!!!!

Remember to put your orders in before liturgy on Sunday August 20 for your favorite Men's Club Breakfast foods!!! We will be taking orders, and have plenty of extras for sale after liturgy.

To be a Saint - Synod Update.....

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. Mt.24:35 - Words to remember as the church faces change.

And so, the process of Synod continues in the church. The questions I have received start with;

“What is happening now?” Pope Francis has called for a synod to be held in Rome, starting in October of this year, with another synod scheduled in October 2024. The official name of this year’s synod is the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. The theme for this year is “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission.”

“Why October?” October seems to be a time of interesting events in this papacy. Some pundits will say it is agenda driven. It was October 4th 2019, during the Amazonian congress, that the pachamama idol was honored in the Vatican. It was October 4th when Pope Francis released his encyclical Fratelli Tutti, which dealt with the social ills of the world, touching upon several flashpoints. Interestingly enough, October the 4th is the Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi; Pope Francis’s namesake. Saint Francis was known as a significant reformer in the Roman Catholic Church. October 4th of this year will also mark the beginning of the synod. It is scheduled to run until the 29th of October. Pontiffs choose their name for a reason. Pope Francis appears to be emulating his namesake in some fashion.

October is an auspicious month in other ways. It is the month of the Holy Rosary, and October 1st is the feast day of the Protection of the Holy Theotokos in the Eastern Churches. The 13th of October commemorates the sixth and last appearance of the Blessed Virgin to the children of Fatima. On this day, tens of thousands witnessed the miracle of the sun. During the visions of the Blessed Virgin, she implored the children to engage in prayer, reparation, repentance, and sacrifice, and the abandonment of sin. It seems to me that that message is as relevant now as it was then.

“So, what was the outcome of the diocesan phase of the Synod; what was the participation in the U.S.?” The diocesan phase of the Synod was extended by Cardinal Mario Grech (Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops) from April 2022 to August 15th, 2022. According to a report from the U.S. Bishops Conference, about 700,000 people participated. Seems like a lot, but there are 66.8 million Catholics in the U.S., so that is about 1%.

“Who will represent the United States at the synod?” According to Catholic

World News, the Vatican has released the list of 364 participants which includes the 120 delegates appointed by Pope Francis. I won’t list the names here, but by my count there will be 13 representing the United States’ Roman Catholic Church. Cardinals, Arch Bishops and Bishops, with the notable exception of Father James Martin, a delegate appointed specifically by Pope Francis, and whom I spoke of some time ago. Synod members also include the heads and other representatives of the Eastern Catholic Churches.

“What will happen at these Synods in Rome?” According to a statement from the Secretary General’s consultor, Father Giacomo Costa, this year’s Synod will meet in the Paul VI Audience Hall of the Vatican and the members will be divided into groups of 12. They will work in these groups then gather in plenary sessions to share their input.

“But what happens then?” Certainly, in this year’s synod, groundwork will be laid for the 2024 Synod, and I believe a good indication as to where the church is going. Predicting anything beyond that would be foolish. I believe a fairly reliable compass as to where the church is heading is contained in Pope Francis’ encyclicals; Lumen Fidei, Evangelii Gaudium, Laudato Si’, Amoris Laetitia, Gaudete Et Exsultate, Fratelli Tutti. *“You’re kidding.”* I know a lot of reading. The U.S. Bishops Conference puts out reliable summaries of each of the encyclicals. If you only have time to read a few, I would recommend Laudato Si’, Amoris Laetitia and Fratelli Tutti.

As momentous as it is, do not become overly distracted or consumed by it. What is needed most continues to be what the Blessed Virgin told the children of Fatima; prayer, reparation, repentance, sacrifice and the abandonment of sin. Pray specifically for those clergy who attend the Synod. Ask God to give them the strength and grace needed to guide the church and His flock on earth, according to Christ’s teachings and apostolic tradition. Since October is the month of the Holy Rosary, I recommend that to you. Seek out the Virgin Mary and ask for her intercession before the Throne of God.

Finally remember, whatever happens at the synod, both this year and next, nothing changes with respect to God’s Word and His Love for us. Both are everlasting.

Yours in Christ
Brother Joseph

Nothing but a Number

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.

Psalm 15

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

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.

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.

Psalm 85

The Lord speaks of peace to his people.

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