

## WELCOME TO ASCENSION

SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

PLEASE KEEP SOCIAL DISTANCE

**SUN JULY 23**

**8<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

After – Hospitality

1 Cor 1:10-18 Mt 14:14 -22 Tone 7

**11:00**

**Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and + Anne**

DeMartino by Christine Noonan

**Tue July 25**

**8:30am For Our Parishioners and HGB Gary & Jane Morris by Fr. Alex**

After - Bible Study (Discuss, and Meditate on the Daily Readings)

2:00pm – 6:00pm Church Office hours

**5:15pm ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

**Wed July 26**

**8:30am For Our Parishioners and HGB Emma Barnier by Fr. Alex**

**MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS -Special Intention**

**Thu July 27**

**8:30am For Our Parishioners and HGB Julianna by Fr. Alex**

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

**SUN JULY 30**

**9<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

After – Hospitality

1 Cor 3:9-17 Mt 14:22 -34 Tone 8

**11:00**

**Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and**

HGB John and Clarice Alexander by Lee & Kathy Alexander

**Carpathian Kitchen update...** Many thanks for those who came out to support the pierogi production this weekend. We have them in the freezer now and will be packaging them on Monday. They should be ready for sale next weekend. Anyone wishing to preorder pierogi today may do so after Liturgy in the bookstore, and we will have them ready for you next Sunday. All money raised through sales goes toward the Circle of Hope program which supports local charity in the Williamsburg area. Read below for an important update.

God bless America!!!

**Help support our church**

scan this code  
  
To make a donation

FINANCIALS, July 16, 2023

Monthly Dues -180.00; Offertory -1,079.00; Candles-23.50; In - 1,282.00; Out - 858.89

Happy JULY BIRTHDAYS

1st Tom McGraw; 2nd Ory Stefaniw; 6th Sasha Eckstein Kusno;  
9<sup>th</sup> Nadiya Carden; 13th Steve Margan; 13th Kevin Kelly; 14th John  
Alexander; 15th Hahn Falke; 19th Peter Margan; 28th Isadora Jane Collins

**Speak 5 lines to yourself every morning:**

- 1. I'm the best**
- 2. I can do it**
- 3. God is always with me**
- 4. I'm a winner**
- 5. Today is my DAY**

## To be a Saint - Living a Christian Life

Living a modest Christian life these days does not come easily. In this world of pop stars, glamor and glitz, where the standard of conduct is often set by the most base and provocative amongst us, we would do well to take time and consider the importance of a modest Christian lifestyle. We have a choice, you and I. We can choose the world or choose God. Let the Bible be our guide.

We'll start with Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians "... *to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you.*" *1<sup>st</sup> Th.4:11*

Paul teaches us to use our job to provide for our needs, and those of our family. To work diligently, refraining from boastful confrontation and taking undue pride in what we have. Recognize and use the gifts and talents God gave you. Be quietly confident in them but keep your ambition in check. Always remember that no matter how successful you are in your career, no matter what power you acquire in this life, it is only temporary. Let's stay with Paul for a moment and turn to his letter to the Ephesians.

*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.* Ep.2:10

To live in this world as a Christian we have to always remember our mission. We were created by God for His purpose. We are given gifts and abilities unlike anyone else. We also have access to God's good graces to sustain us in our temporal journey. But what is my purpose? Let's turn to the Gospel of Matthew. "*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*" Mt6:21

This verse encompasses much more than finances and what we spend our money on. "How" we spend our time is also a good indicator of where our treasure is. Do we seek to crowd our life with the diversions of the world, or do we seek God's will? What's that? You don't know what God's will is? God is not speaking to you?

God is most definitely speaking to you. That is not the problem. The key is to listen. Have you ever tried to listen to someone talking to you from across a crowded room of people, each involved in their own conversations? It is impossible to hear, to focus. The same can be said when trying to discern God's voice while we are surrounded by the worldly chatter and commotion that consumes our life. God speaks to us, all of us. Those who hear Him best are those who have removed the noise from their life, those who live a simple life, the meek, the humble, the modest. It is these good people who hear God and understand the work and plans God has for them. This then becomes their

treasure. Let's take our meditation to John's Epistle.

1st John says, *"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever."* 1John 2:15-17

Once again, we see a theme that attempts to separate us from the world, to bring us closer to God. The more attached we are to our possessions and worldly desires, the less attached we are to God.

The world will not last; therefore, choosing to seek worldly gain is a futile endeavor. When we live a modest life that is centered on God, we cast away worldly anxiety and pressure, we find focus and peace. Proverbs shows us the way.

*"Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny You and say, 'Who is the LORD?' or lest I be poor and steal and profane the Name of my God."* Pv.30:8-9

These two proverbs warn against great excess or great poverty. While both conditions may be out of our hands, the intent behind these words is to remain content with the provision God gives us. Hear these words echoed in the Lord's Prayer. "Give us this day our daily bread. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." We ask only for that which we need to sustain us. Notice in the quotation from Proverbs that the request for truth tops the list. For indeed we are in need of God's truth before all else. Let's return to Matthew and sum it up. Matthew quotes Jesus. *Therefore do not be anxious saying "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we wear? For the gentiles seek all these things; and the heavenly Father knows that you need them all, but seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."* Mt.6:31-.33

This is the way then to truly live a modest Christian life. Seek God's plan for you and pursue it. He will give to you all good things necessary to live your life and fulfill His plan.

Yours in Christ  
Brother Joseph

### Candles for July

Sanctuary Lamp... + John Labanish by Betta Labanish  
Tetrapod... HGB Roman Slysh by Dr. Nadia Shockley  
Theotokos & Child... HGB David 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 Efimytz & Dr. Micheal Lechman: Trustees;  
Betty Mae Hertz: Outreach 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**



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. 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 (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday) of the month to: Read, Discuss, and Meditate on the Daily Readings, after Divine Liturgy, and ( 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

**ASCENSION OF OUR LORD BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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**Church 757-220-8098    Rectory 757-585-2787**

**[www.ascensionva.org](http://www.ascensionva.org)    Like us on Facebook**



**V. Rev. Alex Shuter**

**Rev.Alex.Shuter@gmail.com**

**INFORMATION REGARDING THE SACRAMENTS AND  
SACRAMENTALS**

Father Alex is available for the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation before Diving Liturgy o Sunday (10:00 am) or half hour before weekly Liturgy (8:00 am) or by appointment.

**MIROVANJA** is a sacramental blessing with holy oil, which is applied to the forehead in the sign of the cross by the priest while proclaiming the appropriate greeting of the season. After kissing the hand cross, take a piece of the blessed bread. You may offer a donation.

*They All Ate and Were Satisfied*

Our Lord in a desert place changed a few loaves into many, and at Cana turned water into wine. Thus before the time came to give men and women His own Body and Blood to feed on, He accustomed their palates to His bread and wine, giving them a taste of transitory bread and wine to teach them to delight in His Life-giving Body and Blood. He gave them things of little value for nothing to make them understand that His supreme gift would be given yet more freely. He gave them for nothing what they could have bought from Him, what in fact they wanted to buy, to teach them that He asked them for no payment. When it was not permitted them to give Him the price of bread and wine, which they could have

done, they certainly could not pay Him for His Body and Blood.

Moreover, as well as giving freely He lovingly coaxed us, offering us these small things without charge to attract us and cause us to go and receive something greater and beyond all price. He awakened our desire by things pleasing to the palate in order to draw us to that which gives life to the soul. He gave a sweet taste to the wine he created to show how great is the treasure hidden in His Life-giving Blood.

*St. Ephrem the Syrian*

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