

WELCOME TO ASCENSION

SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

PLEASE KEEP SOCIAL DISTANCE

SUN	MAR 5	2nd SUNDAY OF GREAT FAST Heb 1:10-2:3 Mk 2:1-12 Tone 6 11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and + John Labanish by Betta Labanish After – Hospitality - POT LOCK 1:00pm Young Adult Fellowship
Mon	Mar 6	6:00pm Advisory Board Meeting.
Tue	Mar 7	8:30am For Our Parishioners and HGB Christopher Holder by Glut Family 5:15pm ADULT BIBLE STUDY
Wed	Mar 8	8:30am For Our Parishioners and who are in need of special prayer by Fr Alex MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS
Thu	Mar 9	8:30am For Our Parishioners and For USA and Ukraine 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
Fri	Mar 10	5:30pm Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts for Our Parishioners and + Eugene Kokinda by Fr. Alex
SUN	MAR 12	3rd SUNDAY OF GREAT FAST – VENERATION OF THE CROSS Heb 4:14-5:6 Mk 8:34-9:1 Tone 7 11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and + Ralph DeMartino by Christine Noonan After – Hospitality

March 12, 2023, after Divine Liturgy will be Security Team meeting - training.
All parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend. 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, William McGraw, Thomas McGraw, Darren and June Hall, Aurora & Jaime Daquilanea, Mary Ann Drumtra, Katharina and Steven Margan Thank you. Fr. Alex

Adult 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!). We are only a chapter into John, so it's not too late! We meet on the **2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month at 5:15 PM** in St. Philip Hall.

Respectfully, Michael Jack Bracelin

Children's formation is held regularly at 10 am on Sundays. If you would like to enroll a school-age student to learn more about God and faith, please reach out to Sasha or Fr. Alex. Upcoming classes will be on March 12, 19, & 26; and April 16, 23 & 30. Give your child the opportunity to ask questions and grow in community with others!
Sasha Kusno 660-287-1003 (Eastern Standard Time)

Have you noticed that the **ECF Classroom has moved** to the **Conference Room?** To ensure that our children do not have any interruptions, this room will be for **Classroom Use Only on Sundays from 9:50am to 11am. Check back here to learn the New Location for the Copier.**

Also, **Patty** has moved and **her office** is now in the **Old ECF Classroom.** To ensure that Patty can work efficiently and without any distractions. **Please, No Interruptions When the Do Not Disturb Sign is Posted.**

FINANCIALS, February 26 2023

Monthly Dues –375.00; Offertory –795.00; Candles-35.50; ESL-12.00; Flowers-Easter-40.00; Initial Offering/Envelopes-6.00; St. Luke's Icon Guild-60.00; In – 1,323.50; Out –2,588.08

Candles for February - March:

Sanctuary Lamp... + John Labanish by Betta Labanish
Tetrapod... HGB Roman Slysh by Dr. Nadia Shockley
Theotokos & Child... HGB Kyra Noonan by Cristine Noonan
John Baptist... +Michael T. Bross by Angela Bross
St Nicholas... HGB Dr. Ronald & Joan Ruszkowski by David Efimetz
Protection Theotokos... In Love & Gratitude by Jim & Gia Hoolan
Christ Teacher... For Our Parishioners

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.

CALLING ALL MEN OF ASCENSION!

1st Annual Men's Day of Recollection - March 25th! In the Scripture we learn "*iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another*" (Proverbs 27.17). And that as men we are to devote ourselves "*to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers* (Acts 2.42)." The Men's Club is hosting a first-ever **Men's Day of Recollection** on the *Feast of the Annunciation* (March 25). We will have a day of prayer, optional confession, and liturgy, as well as a number of reflections by our distinguished guest speaker **Fr. Mark Morosovich, Dean of Theology at Catholic University of America**. Fr. Alex and the Men's team invite you to come and join us in our shared journey of faith and brotherly love as we move towards the Pascha! For planning, we appreciate that you **RSVP** with your name, and any other guests you would like to bring, **by emailing michael.bracelin@gmail.com**.

BISHOP'S APPEAL: The 2022 Bishop's Appeal is underway. Pledge cards have been mailed out. Please consider giving something. Even a small amount helps Bishop Kurt help parishes in need. Please see David Efimetz if you did not receive a card in your mailbox and you wanted to give.

God bless America!!!

Young Adult will meet at 1pm on these Sundays: **Today, March 5**; March 26; April 16; April 30. Sincerely, Adithia Kusno, Reader

Happy March Birthdays

2nd Myron Kotyk; 14th Bladimir Hunter; 21st Seraphima Joan Collins;
25th Ron Ruszkowski

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

Men's Team Meeting

The Men's team will have their next meeting on the **3rd Tuesday of March (March 21)** at 6:30 PM in St. Philip Hall. *Respectfully, Michael Jack Bracelin*

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**

Would you like to be involved in the discussion that establishes our parish policies to maintain a **safe environment for our children**? If so, join us on March 5th at 10 am in the parish hall. We will work from the eparchy's policies to collaboratively create a mission statement and written policies for our parish volunteers regarding interactions with minors. Please reach out to Sasha if you have feedback but are not able to attend.

Sasha Kusno 660-287-1003 (Eastern Standard Time)

To be a Saint - After School Satan Clubs, and the Satanic Temple.

The After School Satan Club movement continues to grow in our public schools, with chapters in Pennsylvania, New York, Illinois and now Virginia. A chapter recently opened in Chesapeake Virginia at B.M. Williams primary school. Its organizer claiming that Satan is “just an imaginary figure that we look to because he is the eternal rebel, that fought for justice and humanity.”

The After School Satan Club at B.M. Williams was set up in response to an Evangelical Good News Club being hosted at the same school. Since the Satan Club sponsor is designated by the government as a non-theistic religion, the After School Satan Clubs are protected by the first amendment, and allowed to conduct their meetings on school property. If they go, then the Evangelical Group would also have to go.

At the opening meeting, the Satan Club spokesperson said. “We will not accept discrimination from the government.” “We will vigorously defend our rights and the rights of children and families who want to participate.” Noble words that speak of age-old principles. But principles that have been twisted to advocate the Satanic.

The “in your face” approach by club organizers are calculated to provoke a violent reaction. In response to the club’s opening, last week an e-mail threat was made towards a Chesapeake school board member, the Chesapeake School superintendent and the After School Satan Club organizer. This caused the school to be put into a level one lock down. Turmoil, confusion and anger; hear Satan’s laughter? Time will tell what will happen in Virginia.

Seeking a violent confrontation is one trap. A majority of people however are too distracted to focus on it. After all, we are told Satan doesn’t even exist, so what’s the harm? That’s the other trap. I found part of a promotional video done for one of the Satan clubs in another state. Here is an excerpt from one of the melodies played for the children. **“Satan’s not an evil guy, he wants you to learn and question why, he wants you to have fun and be yourself, and by the way there is no hell..”** *“The Devil’s greatest trick was to convince the world he does not exist.”*

The After School Satan Clubs are sponsored by a group called the Satanic Temple. The Temple co-founders, Douglas Mesner, better known as Lucien Greaves, and Malcolm Jarry, claim they do not believe in God, Satan, or anything supernatural. Let’s take a closer look at the Satanic Temple.

The Satanic Temple headquarters is in Salem Massachusetts, located in a former Victorian Era funeral home. The home is painted black inside and out, with pornographic images on the walls, and a giant statue to the pagan goat god Baphomet. They use Satanic imagery to promote their efforts, including the seven fundamental tenants devised to appeal to a modern secular society. On their web site

you can even shop for Satanic gift items under a sub heading of “Bring Satan Home”.

Their corporate persona conveys a worldly, humanistic approach to life, intended to resonate with our modern secular public, who will not bother to dig deeper. Their mission statement reads in part: *“The Satanic temple is a religious organization that encourages benevolence and empathy among all people, rejects tyrannical authority, advocates practical common sense, opposes injustice and undertakes noble pursuits.....”* Well, on the surface those words do not sound Satanic, does it? Let’s take a look at some of their so-called “Noble Pursuits”.

Their spokesperson, Greaves, claims the Temple does not sacrifice babies or serve a secret coven. Yet Greaves claims a right for his followers to have abortions as part of its “Satanic abortion ritual”. During the ritual, the woman having the abortion looks at her reflection in a mirror, before taking deep breaths and reciting two of the Temple’s seven tenets. Once the abortion is complete, the woman must recite the “personal affirmation”: “By my body, my blood, by my will, it is done.” Are these the “noble pursuits” the Temple refers to in their Mission Statement? Pray for these poor women.

The Temple is also the one responsible for putting out Satanic Christmas nativity scenes which show a “Baby Baphomet” in the manger instead of the Christ Child. It frequently holds Black Masses. Typically taking a consecrated host and desecrating it. In a Satanic Temple Black Mass you will also find bloodletting, and chants of Hail Satan. If it looks like a duck, quacks like a duck, and walks like a duck, it’s a duck.

Make no mistake, this group worships Satan and seeks to do his will. They claim Satan does not exist, yet continually invoke him, give praise to him. They strive ardently to convince us, especially our young, that there is no God; there is no Hell. That has been Satan’s prime effort since the creation of man; to separate us from God.

Recognized for what it is, this will be easy for families to avoid. *Changing the law to prevent these clubs from forming?* The situation develops from the freedoms enjoyed in our constitution, in this case the freedom of speech. Restricting that freedom to prevent the Satan Clubs, trusting the government to choose which clubs are allowed, and which are not, would be risking a lot. What if instead of banning just Satan Clubs, they ban all religious clubs? God gave us a free will. Exercise your own free will, and reject Satan in all his forms.

The most powerful thing we can do is to turn to God. Rather than bomb threats and seeking violence, prayer, along with penance and fasting, should be the weapons of choice. As a light shined on roaches causes them to flee, these weapons will cause this evil to flee back to where it came from. Especially prayer for the intercession of the Blessed Virgin, who is the one that crushes the head of Satan.

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.

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.