

WELCOME TO ASCENSION

SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

PLEASE KEEP SOCIAL DISTANCE

SUN MAY 21 SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL
After – Hospitality
Acts 20:16-18 & 28-36 Jn 17:1-13 Festal Tone
11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and + Gloria Hertz
Walasavage by Betty Mae Hertz

Today, May 21, after Divine Liturgy will be Security Team meeting - training.
All parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend. Fr. Alex

Tue May 23 8:30am For + Joseph Lechman by Dr. Mikel & Linda Lichman
2:00am – 6:00pm Church Office hours

5:15pm ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Wed May 24 8:30am For + Donald Noonan by Christine Noonan
MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS -Special Intention

Thu May 25 8:30am For HGB Katharina & Steven Margan by Fr. Alex
6:00pm – ROSARY - Prayer for Protection and Healing of the coronavirus and all serious illnesses by Men's Club

SUN MAY 28 PENTECOST SUNDAY – 5TH ALL SOULS
After – Hospitality
Acts 2:1-11 Jn 7:37-52 & 8:12 Festal Tone
11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and For USA and Ukraine by Fr. Alex

ALL FOOD FOR POTLUCK ON SUNDAY, JUNE 4 IS BEING DONATED BY BETTA LANISH. IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR OUR PARISHINERS TO BRING ANYTHING. COFFEE WILL BE PREPARED BY THE SCHEDULED HOSTESS.

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 made 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
Let's be prepared and proactive for any event that may happen on church property during our Sunday Divine Liturgy and every day.

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
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!). We meet on the **2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month at 5:15 PM** in St. Philip Hall.

Respectfully,
Michael Jack Bracelin

FINANCIALS, May 14, 2023

Monthly Dues –220.00; Offertory –2,552.61; Candles-25.00; Special Gifts -2,100.00
Holyday-10.00 In – 4,907.61; Out –4,329.45

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.

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**

Candles for May:

Sanctuary Lamp... + John Labanish by Betta Labanish
 Tetrapod... HGB Roman Slysh by Dr. Nadia Shockley
 Theotokos & Child... HGB Mark Noonan by Christine 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... +Anna Oberhauser by Lisa Branden

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 Efimetz & Dr. Micheal Lechman: Trustees;
 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

Men's Club Meeting

The Men's team will have their next meeting on the **3rd Tuesday of July (July 18th)** at 6:30 PM in St. Philip Hall.

*Respectfully,
Michael Jack Bracelin*

Happy MAY BIRTHDAYS

20th Larry Drumtra; 29th Jeffrey Sotack;

Pierogi Production Run 26-27 May - Our next pierogi production run is coming

up. On Friday May 26th we will be making filling, and the next day, Saturday 27 May, we will be pressing out pierogi. Both days start at 9am in the church hall. There will be a potluck on Saturday. All money raised by our pierogi sales go towards charity within the parish's Circle of Hope program. Thus far we have raised over \$2,400 that has gone to support humanitarian efforts in Ukraine!. Please consider coming out and giving us a hand one of those two days. Lee

Our Daily Bread – Handling Failure

Within the crucible of life there are many lessons we learn in order to be successful. Learning to love would be the most important. Learning to share and give to others is tied up within that. I would follow that up with learning to accept setbacks and failures. You have heard all this before at various times while growing up, but it bears repeating once more, especially as a new generation starts to grapple with their own setbacks.

Failure at some level in life is inevitable. It is how we handle failure that defines us. It took Edison 10,000 attempts before he perfected the light bulb. It took Dyson 5126 attempts over 25 years before he perfected the bagless vacuum cleaner. Walt Disney was fired from the Kansas City Star because his editor felt he lacked imagination and had no good ideas. Michael Jordan was quoted as saying, *“I have missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I have lost almost 300 games. On 26 occasions I have been entrusted to take the game-winning shot, and I missed. I have failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.”* Jordan’s quote shows the importance of learning how to benefit from our failures to succeed in life. Every individual, yes and each generation, wrestles with this problem.

Individually we struggle to find our niche in life; to find success. Failure can cause us to be hesitant and unsure. It can also become habit forming. We can get ourselves caught up in the failure, and create a self-fulfilling prophecy. Subconsciously we start out expecting to fail. We find ways to stall decisions and action. People who live life like that are beaten before they even get started, and tend to surround themselves with likeminded people, for failure is very contagious.

Generational failure? Each generation struggles with fears of failure. Be it natural catastrophe, war, economic or moral decline. Over time, institutions can become weak and start to decay from within. During these times we seemingly lack a national resolve or will; and without it we start to be tossed about like a rudderless ship on the sea.

When hard times come along, as they will, there will be many that are confused, doubtful, unsure on how to proceed. At a time when common sense is called for, an ability to see things clearly, many folks will fall into societal self-doubt and distracted thought. Collectively we become susceptible to all types of ideas and

schemes. Looking through the pages of history, generations that shrink from hard times and failure, look for someone, or place their trust in some group to take care of them, usually surrendering their freedom in the process, and end up being ruled.

We all know that life is difficult and nothing worthwhile is ever handed to us. Once again, God provides. God wants us to use the gifts he has given us, but we need first to develop them. Study, learn by watching others, find a mentor, ask questions, practice, but most of all apply yourself to it. Laziness, ambivalence, lack of conviction, these are all obstacles to developing the gifts God gave us.

A word on mentors. In past, mentoring was a big part of professional, and social development. Parents and families formed the early part of development, teaching basic life skills. Later, an individual would apprentice to a skilled craftsman or trade, progressing to journeyman and finally to craftsman. In that process a strong personal bond was developed that lasted a life time. Today we rely primarily on a formal education, with possibly a shortened apprentice program immediately afterward. I am not saying that is wrong. What I’m saying here is that we do not spend much time developing life time mentors. In our society, the importance of parents and family are down played, while the importance of social media, celebrities and government intervention is emphasized.

Let’s wrap it up. Rather than shrinking from our failures, let them stimulate us to look at a problem analytically to find solutions. In the process we learn to see difficulties clearly for what they are, not through a haze of self-pity. We develop the quality of persistence, resolution and follow-through. We learn to be creative and confident. We learn to be pro-active, to look ahead to recognize where problems might lie, and then develop strategies to overcome them. These are the qualities of all great managers and leaders. This is the stuff of successful people in all walks of life.

Quitting, and walking away from a problem or adversity is the only sure way to fail, and I do not believe God created us to fail. God loves us, and He gave us talents and gifts to be successful beyond our wildest dream. It is up to us to develop them and use them to the benefit of ourselves and others. And in this journey, we will find true happiness.

Love Dad

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.