

## WELCOME TO ASCENSION

SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

PLEASE KEEP SOCIAL DISTANCE

**SUN MAY 28** **PENTECOST SUNDAY – 5<sup>TH</sup> 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**

**Tue May 30** **8:30am MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS** -Special Intention

**Wed May 31** **8:30am MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS** -Special Intention

**Thu June 1** **8:30am MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS** -Special Intention

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

**SUN JUNE 4** **SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS**  
**After – Hospitality**  
Heb 11:32-12:2a Mt 10:32-33, 37-38 & 9:27-30 Tone 8  
**11:00** **Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners, HGB Betta Labanish & +Jahn Labanish**  
**Knights of Columbus Chalice Ceremony**

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

**June 11**, after Divine Liturgy will be Security Team meeting - training. All parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend. 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 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 21, 2023**

Monthly Dues –250.00; Offertory –609.61; Candles-20.00; Holyday -60.00 Kitchen Income-150.00 In – 1,244.00; Out –275.95

**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**



**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 News!!**

Many thanks to all of our volunteers last Friday and Saturday. As of the time this announcement is submitted we do not know how many dozen was produced, but whatever the count, I am sure they are the best, and the effort by all of our volunteers is much appreciated! Lee

## To Be a Saint - The Dash

George Washington, 22 February 1732 – 14 December, 1799

Sir Isaac Newton, 25 December 1642 – 20 March 1726

Thomas Aquinas, 1225 - 7 March 1274

Florence Nightingale, 12 May 1820 – 13 Aug 1910

Look at the names above and tell me what they have in common? Besides being famous personages in history, what do they have in common? It has to do with their date of birth and their date of death. Well, I guess the title of the letter kind of gives it away. That's right. It's the dash. No, I'm not trying to be funny. Just the opposite. That dash, so insignificant, so often overlooked, is the sum total of that individual's life.

A few years back there was a poem written by Linda Ellis called "The Dash". A beautiful piece that follows the story of a man speaking at a friend's funeral. I recommend reading it. Don't worry, it's short, poignant and the subject of this week's letter.

How often have we've seen those dates in biographies, memorials and on tombstones. For the famous and infamous, the dash will be somewhat clarified for us in the history books. For all the rest, well, we have those two dates and nothing else.

We may be somewhat familiar with our parent's life and maybe our family members and close associates, but even our knowledge there is limited. For everyone else, the dash is an enigma, traveled between those two great eternities of birth and death.

The dash contains all we are, all we have accomplished in life. Our hopes, dreams and ambitions are caught up in that. Our successes and our failures, our loves and our hatreds, our pettiness and our charity toward others. The dash contains the secrets that we would never divulge to a soul. It contains the fears and struggles we faced, overcoming some, learning to live with others. The dash defines our loneliness, and doubts, as well as the joys and accomplishments.

We do not even fully understand and remember our own dash, as our mind cannot contain it all. Over the course of a lifetime our past becomes faded memories. Time heals all wounds as they say, and this is one of the great gifts from God. Emotional pain lessons in intensity as time passes. Remember your first love? Or maybe that great loss you experienced? Sadness, and disappointment gradually subsides and we carry on living in the present and not dwelling on the past. The way God intends us to live, in the present, not the past.

The one being that does understand the dash in its fullness and entirety is Almighty God, and within that His Son Jesus Christ. God understands the dash perfectly and everything contained therein. From the time of conception to the final judgement, God watches, God understands. Be thankful.

Be thankful, for we have a merciful Lord who has allowed us free will to live our live as we choose, making mistakes along the way and allowing us to recover from them. Be thankful that we have been given the intellect to learn from our mistakes and move on. God does not cast judgement on us based on part of the dash, as some of us might be tempted to do. Casting judgement thus would be like evaluating the beauty and artistry of Michelangelo's Pieta', based on viewing the rough base pedestal the Virgin is seated upon and nothing else.

God sees us in our entirety. Past and present, what we were yesterday, what we are today, as well as our potential for tomorrow. It is up to us to choose. For those reading this letter, your dash is still being formed. Know also that God does not merely watch us; He stands ready to help us. Ready to give the grace and direction we need in life. Go then to God. Ask for help and listen. God will not forsake you. No matter what your dash looks like today, God will provide.

So, tell me now, how will you complete your dash?

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.**