

WELCOME TO ASCENSION

SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

PLEASE KEEP SOCIAL DISTANCE

- SUN MAY 7 SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN**
After – Hospitality - Pot Luck
Acts 11:19-26 & 29-30 Jn 4:5-42 Festal Tone
11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and HGB Merle & Teresa Phillips by Larry Drumtra
- Tue May 9 8:30am For Our Parishioners and + Daniel Mc Graw by Tom Mc Graw**
1:00am – 6:00pm Church Office hours
5:15pm ADULT BIBLE STUDY
- Wed May 10 8:30am For Our Parishioners and For + Mary Vicira by Deborah & Myron Kotyk**
MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS -Special Intention
- Thu May 11 8:30am For Our Parishioners and + Man's Club Member's by Fr. Alex**
6:00pm - ROSARY - Prayer for Protection and Healing of the coronavirus and all serious illnesses by Men's Club
- SUN MAY 14 SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND**
After – Hospitality
Acts 16:16-34 Jn 9:1-38 Festal Tone
11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners Our MOTHERS & HGB Britannia Hart by Tom Mc Graw

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.

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

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, April 30, 2023

Monthly Dues –0.00; Offertory –2,281.00; Candles-15.50; St. Luke's Icon Guild-490.00
In – 2,786.50; Out –2,455.98

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

Thank You, Lord, for everything You have done for me. Forgive me of all my sins. Heal me from the hurts from my past. I love You & need You. Cover me with Your protective shield, my family, my friends, my life projects. Give me Your dreams Lord. Bless & protect everyone that seeks You, needs You & believes in You. In 2023 I ask that You heal the world of sickness & bring peace to those in conflict. Amen

God bless America!!!

Help support our church

scan this code



To make a donation

Men's Team Meeting

The Men's team will have their next meeting on the **3rd Tuesday of May (May 16th)** at 6:30 PM in St. Philip Hall.

*Respectfully,
Michael Jack Bracelin*

Happy MAY BIRTHDAYS

20th Larry Drumtra; 29th Jeffrey Sotack; 29th Fr. Bob Choep

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

Our Daily Bread – Don't Be Part of the Crowd

Group think can be dangerous. Group think in a crowd can be disastrous.

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the Israelites became anxious and told Aaron to fashion a false god for them to worship. So, Aaron, the right-hand man of Moses, took their golden rings and other golden objects, and fashioned a golden calf. Yep, the same folks who had just been delivered from Egypt, watched the parting of the Red Sea and then watched Pharaoh's Army be destroyed, these same people set up a false god to worship while Moses received the Ten Commandments from God.

Barely a week after the Jewish crowds welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem, hailing Him as the King, the Sanhedrin brought Jesus before Pontius Pilate. Late in the trial, Pilate sought a way to free Jesus. It was a Passover festival custom that the governor releases a prisoner to the people, so Pilate allowed them to choose between a convicted criminal and revolutionary named Barabbas and Jesus. As related in Mark 15:11, the Chief Priests stirred up the crowd to ask for the release of Barabbas. Of course, in order for God's plan of salvation to be accomplished this had to come to pass, but notice how quickly moods can change (or more properly be swayed).

There are more examples within the bible, but let's look into our own culture. Look at the lynchings in the south during the reconstruction years. Consider the acceptance of the internment of all Japanese civilians after Pearl Harbor. Usually, it is a mistake to apply our moral standards against the standards of a previous age, but wrong is wrong in any age.

What causes this type of group think? I would say fear is the number one cause. An unwillingness to stand apart from the crowd and risk being singled out. A secondary cause is laziness in not wanting to do the work necessary to form your own opinion, and then the courage to stand by it. Like a child dependent on their parents for guidance, we tend to feel comfortable in setting someone up in authority to tell us what to do. There is another aspect to this; that of agenda and control. This phenomenon is studied extensively in war colleges and government, and bet your bottom dollar it is leveraged in order to achieve control and predicted outcomes.

There is also professional group-think. A quick example is the procedure of bloodletting that was practiced from ancient times right up to the beginnings of our Nation. In fact, it was the primary cause of the death of George Washington, as attending physicians basically drained his blood in order to improve his "humors".

What causes this type of professional group think? I would say the same, fear. Fear of professional bullying, intimidation and the perceived need to conform. It's risky

professionally to question too much. To offer a different opinion. Don't misunderstand, there are some brilliant professionals, men and women who are intelligent and sharp. They each have a professional choice to make. Some will stand up for their opinions but many others will not question, or risk losing their standing, their position, their source of funding within the professional community.

Dad, where are you going here?

The importance of critical, individual thought is essential to finding the right course for you and your family. It is why God gave you that intellect. It takes a certain amount of effort to do the homework necessary to find the truth, and then the courage to stand for your belief. To many folks are too willing to listen to someone else, trust someone in authority on how to think, what to do. It takes no effort, no courage and ensures you will not be singled out or ostracized. It also leads to the disastrous group think which we talked about.

So, Dad, do you really believe the Bible story of the parting of the Red Sea?

I do, both as a matter of faith and a matter of fact. Firstly, as a matter of faith. The Bible is the inspired word of God. If "they" can shake your faith in the story of the parting of the Red Sea, "they" will attempt to shake your faith in the rest. Some scientific communities will candidly tell you that Christ did not rise from the dead.... There's no prove. If you believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God. Then have faith in all of it.

Secondly, as a matter of fact. Here I am going to ask you to do some work. Look up and research Nuweiba Beach, located on the east side of the Sinai Peninsula on the Gulf of Aqaba. Look up the pillars of Solomon that were erected some 480 years after the crossing, to commemorate the event. Look at the topography of the sea floor in the area, the gentle grade that allowed the passage on foot. Look at the underwater photo's of the coral encrusted war chariots and implements of war strewn across that area of the sea floor, consistent with the army of Pharaoh from that time period. Go further, look up Jebel Al-Lawz in the ancient land of Median on the Saudi Arabian Peninsula, across from the Nuweiba Beach site. The mountain whose summit rocks are blackened on one side as if scorched from a great fire. Look at the evidence of the altar of worship at the foot of the mountain, the split rock which shows erosion from the gushing forth of water. Then read the bible in Exodus, in Numbers, in Kings and Deuteronomy. Read the commentary of the historians Josephus and Philo. Then form your own opinion.

To much work Dad. We'll take your word for it.....

Just so. If you care, do your homework. Form your own opinion. Then stand by it.

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.

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 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,

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.

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.

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.

Psalms 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.

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 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,

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.