

WELCOME TO ASCENSION

SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

"NOTHING EMBITTERS A PERSON MORE THAN SUFFERING. BUT WHEN IT IS CONSECRATED TO GOD, IT BECOMES HOLY"
THOMAS MERTON

SUN OCT 15 SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 2ND ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Gal1:11-19; Lk 8:5-15 Tone 3

11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and + Andrey Slysh by Keith & Nadia Shockley

After –Hospitality – and Movie, season 1 of The Chosen! Come watch and discuss in the Saint John the Baptist Hall

Tue Oct 17 8:30am For Our Parish + Mary Vieira by Myron & Debora Kotyk

After **Bible Study**

Wed Oct 18 8:30am For Our Parish and +James A. Murphy by Loretta Murphy

After - **MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS** -Special Intention

Thu Oct 19 8:30am For Our Parish and HGB Jerry & Ambar Shuter by Fr. Alex

12:00 – 4:00 – Church **Office** Hours

12:00 – 4:00 – Church **Cleaning** Hours

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

Sat Oct 21 5:00pm The men's club hosts their first "*Octoberfest*" dinner

SUN OCT 22 21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Gal2:16-20; Lk 16:19-31 Tone 4

11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and + Michael T Bross by Angela Bross

After –Hospitality

1:00pm – Young Adults Bible Study in the Saint John the Baptist Hall

Church Cleaning Hours: A change in church cleaning day/hours has been established in order to accommodate schedules. All your time and energy are deeply appreciated and perhaps this schedule will enable you to join with the cleaning of Ascension church. Please help with this very important mission. Thank you. Father Alex.

We have several faithful from Ascension who are in need of special prayer.

Some of those who need special prayer are:

Frank and Chris Janke, Mary Grace Dorsey, Ben Pawers, Betta Labanish, Betty May Hertz, Emma Bernier, Lolly Vinson, June Mathews, William McGraw, Thomas McGraw, Darren and June Hall, Aurora & Jaime Daquilanea, Mary Ann Drumtra, Katharina and Steven Margan, Elaine Hampton, Linda Lechman, Dr. Jeffery Sotack Elisabeth Branden, Merly & Teresa Phillips Thank you. Fr. Alex

Bible Study: The Gospel of John

It's not too late to join the Bible Study for 2023! Come and grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ by diving deep in the life of Christ according to the beloved disciple John (and eat some great food as well!).

Please Join us on the (1st and 3rd Tuesday) of the month to: Read, Discuss, and Meditate on the Daily Readings, after Divine Liturgy, and (2nd and 4th Tuesday Evening Bible Study of St. John at 5:15pm. in the Social Hall. Fr. Alex

Visitors, family and friends: Are you curious, do you have questions or inquirers about our church, icons, Divine Liturgy, or Byzantine Catholic traditions? Someone will be waiting to answer your questions after Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings in the vicinity of the icon corner at the front of the sanctuary. Don't be afraid to ask, there are no wrong questions.

Attention all Parishioners, Visitors, and Guests: please do your part to help us keep the Social Hall clean. After Sunday Hospitality and Pot Lucks please make sure the table area where you were sitting is wiped clean. **Also, please place your chair on top of the table.** Doing these things will be a big help and save much

The Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) is fully operational and located on the wall above the fire extinguisher in St. Phillips Hall. Eight parishioners were certified on the use of the AED on Oct 8, 2023 and other parishioners have been certified in the past. Periodic updates will follow. Dr. Michael Lechman

NEVER REPLY WHEN YOU'RE ANGRY. NEVER MAKE A PROMISE WHEN YOU'RE HAPPY. NEVER MAKE A DECISION WHEN YOU'RE SAD.

Candles for October

Sanctuary Lamp... + John Labanish by Betta Labanish
Tetrapod... HGB Roman Slysh by Dr. Nadia Shockley
Theotokos & Child... HGB Lisa Noonan by Christine Noonan
John Baptist... HGB Mark Noonan by Christine Noonan
St Nicholas... +Michael & Avanelle Bross by Angela Bross
Protection Theotokos... In Love & Gratitude by Jim & Gia Hoolan
Christ Teacher... + Michael Bross by Angela Bross

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.

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

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

Happy OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

4th Abigail Bracelin; 4th Christine Janke; 9th Donna Ross; 10th Gia Hoolan;
10th: Michael Bracelin; 13th Jeff Carden; 13th Katarina Margan; 14th Lily
Olson; 17th: Michael Bracelin 21st Lisa Margan; 22nd Linda Lechman; 25th
Charlene Yackanich; 26th MaryAnn Drumtra; 28th Anna Montgomery

God bless America!!!

Help support our church

scan this code

To make a donation

FINANCIALS, October 1, 2023

Monthly Dues –810.00; Offertory –1,053.00; Candles-37.00; Holyday-60.00
In – 1,940.0; Out –3,126.53

ADULT BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

“How can I understand, unless I have someone to instruct me?” (Acts 8:1) Share the joys of Scripture each Sunday morning prior to Liturgy! Adult Bible Study will meet at 10:00 in the Saint John the Baptist Hall beginning on Sunday, September 10. We will read the Gospel and Epistle for each Sunday, and then reflect on the lessons based on Church teachings. David C. Alan and occasional guests will lead the discussion. No registration necessary—we look forward to seeing you there! Contact David if you have any questions chaim2000@att.net

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**

Young Adults will continue to meditate on the spiritual heritage of desert fathers and saints in Philokalia starting Today, September 24 at 1 pm.Schedule 2023: October 22; November 12 and 26; December 3 Last meeting for Fall semester: Sunday, December 3. Adithia Kusno

To be a Saint – The Wisdom of Humility

"When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom." Prov. 11:2 "The fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom, and before honor comes humility." Prov. 15:33

There is a wisdom unattainable by the prideful. Satan, for all of his power and knowledge, will never attain it. To be a Saint, you must acquire it to some degree. What is it? It is the wisdom brought about by humility. The bible speaks to it in many ways and there are many examples.

Turn your bibles to Luke Chapter 14 and the parable of choosing your place at the table:

Now He began telling a parable to the invited guests when He noticed how they had been picking out the places of honor at the table, saying to them, "Whenever you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him, and the one who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then in disgrace you will proceed to occupy the last place. But whenever you are invited, go and take the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will have honor in the sight of all who are dining at the table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Jesus was a foot washer; Nehemiah a cup bearer; Paul a tentmaker; Moses a shepherd, and accounted a most humble man; Joshua was a servant of Moses; David a harp player for Saul; The servant Elisha put Elijah's hands in cold water; Noah was a herdsman (and a boat builder). John the Forerunner wore camel hair, ate locusts, and felt himself unworthy to unfasten the strap of Jesus' sandal. Among the chosen are humble carpenters, fishermen, tax collectors and hermits. There were virgins; maidens; prostitutes and bigamists. One sinful woman wet the feet of Jesus with her tears and dried them with her hair before anointing them. The prodigal son, lived a life of debauchery, before finding the wisdom of humility, and returned to his father's house and was honored. No one has, or will, surpass the humility of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord. It was Mary's humility in accepting the Will of God that defeated Satan's plan that would have condemned mankind to his own fate. As Mary explains to her kins woman Elizabeth; *"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is*

his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation"; The Magnificat. When we humbly accept God's will, we magnify the Lord, and God provides us abundant graces and mercy.

"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." Jn. 1:29. And thus Jesus, the Son of God, was born of a humble virgin. The word of God made manifest, Jesus came not as a ruler, but as a servant. He was tempted by Satan toward prideful behavior and self-centered interests, just as we are, but rejected Satan outright. He was tempted again in the Garden toward self-preservation, but overcame temptation by placing Himself in the arms of the Father, and His will. Jesus humbled Himself even unto death.

Paul rightly observes in his letter to the Romans, that where sin increases, grace abounds all the more. It is through the wisdom of humility that we can unlock the abundant graces of the Lord. There is great wisdom here. A wisdom akin to that of the early martyrs of the church; who, by their faith and Christ-like humility, remained strong even unto death, thus magnifying the Lord and unlocking a flood of graces from heaven which inspired others all the more. In the end, this wisdom of humility converted a mighty pagan empire to Christianity.

As it was in biblical times, so it is today. In this sinful age, we are called to imitate Christ. Not with arrogance and pride, like Satan, but in meekness and humility will we obtain this wisdom and accomplish God's Will. In the process, we too will unlock abundant graces from heaven. Our cross may be different than the one Jesus bore, but it is through the cross where we find salvation and learn the wisdom of humility.

Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you. Jm. 4:10

Yours in Christ
Brother Joseph

- On Saturday the 21st the men's club hosts their first "Octoberfest" dinner complete with special lighting and decorations.

- On Saturday the 28th we'll run the parish craft show, where the hall will be filled with activity, all sorts of crafts and (Lord willing), our piroshki and pierogi!

Nothing but a Number

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.

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 138

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.

“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 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.

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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.