

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”
ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

SUN SEP 17 SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

10:00 Adult Bible Study will meet in the Saint John the Baptist Hall
Gal 2:16-20 Mk 8:34-9:1 Tone 7

11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and HGB Merly & Teresa
Phillips by Lary & Mary Ann Drumtra

After -Hospitality- breakfast sandwiches available by Men's Club

1:00pm - Young Adults Bible Study

Tue Sep 19 **8:30am** For Our Parishioners HGB St. Luke's Icon Guild by Fr. Alex
After **Bible Study**
2:00pm – 5:00pm Church Office hours
6:00pm - **Men's Club meeting**

Wed Sep 20 **8:30am** For Our Parishioners and HGB Jaime & Aurora Daquilanea by
Fr. Alex
After - **MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS** -Special Intention

Thu Sep 21 **8:30am** For Our Parishioners and HGB Loretta Murphy by Fr. Alex
6:00pm - **ROSARY** - Prayer for Protection and Healing of the coronavirus and all serious illnesses by Men's Club

SUN SEP 24 17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:00 Adult Bible Study will meet in the Saint John the Baptist Hall
2 Cor 6:16-7:1 Lk 5:1-11 Tone 8

11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and + George Makowiec
by Oksana Makowiec

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

Pirogi production run coming up. On **22-23 September** our parish will be making pirogi. On Friday the 22nd we will make the filling, and on the 23rd we will press out about 50 dz. pierogi. We could use help both days, but especially on that Saturday. Please try to come out one (or both) days. There will be a potluck that Saturday when we finish making pirogi.

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

Learn about Our Past, Prepare for Our Future

Everyone is encouraged to attend the Assembly of our Byzantine Catholic Church at St Mary Church in Hillsborough, NJ, on Friday, November 3 through Sunday, November 5, 2023. Byzantine Catholics from across the United States and Canada are invited to attend. Metropolitan Archbishop William said, "Your presence and participation are vital and welcome. Please consider coming and supporting this historic Assembly 2023." The venue includes lectures, discussions, fellowship, and a gala dinner with folk music and dancing. The Assembly cost is \$250 for individuals and \$400 for couples. The Maria Theresa Foundation will underwrite the registration fees of individuals and couples between the ages of 18 and 35. For more information, contact the Assembly coordinators, Fr. Ed Cimballa, at 212-677-0516 or Fr. Yuriy Oros at 609-394-5004. The assembly website is <https://www.byzantineassembly2023.org>, and the email is byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com.

Candles for September

Sanctuary Lamp... + John Labanish by Betta Labanish
Tetrapod... HGB Roman Slysh by Dr. Nadia Shockley
Theotokos & Child... HGB Lainie 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... Madeline Noonan by Christine Noonan

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

Prayer for Strength

"Holy Spirit, I need You more than ever right now. My heart is hurting, and I feel overwhelmed with loneliness. At this moment, I welcome Your presence, Your peace, and Your love. Thank You for filling me with Your overwhelming comfort, holding me in Your arms and surrounding me with Your healing love. Your Word says that because I'm Your child when I hurt, You hurt too. Thank You for caring about every single detail of my life, wiping away my tears, and for always being here for me. I love You, Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen."

God bless America!!!

Help support our church



FINANCIALS, September 10, 2023

Monthly Dues -200.00; Offertory -3,6730.00; Candles-107.00; Holyday-410.00
In - 4,890.0; Out -5,393.94

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 17 at 1 pm.Schedule 2023:September 17 and 24; October 8 and 22; November 12 and 26; December 3 Last meeting for Fall semester: Sunday, December 3. Adithia Kusno

To Be a Saint - Even the Demons Believe in God!

Let's get our bibles out.

You believe in one God. Good! Even the demons believe that ---- and shutter. Jm. 2:19

The Apostle James makes an interesting observation here. We believe in one God, so we state in our profession of faith, but so do the demons. Our profession of faith goes on to list other beliefs. I am certain these beliefs are shared by the demons also. We come by our beliefs through faith in the teachings of Christ, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The demons come by them through firsthand knowledge.

The church teaches us that demons are fallen angels, purely spiritual and immortal. They have intelligence and will power that surpasses ours (CCC330). Satan is their chief. But why do such powerful creatures shutter? Because they know that they are in rebellion to God and condemned for all of eternity. Do not feel sorry for them for they do this by their own hand. Their attempt to corrupt and bring about the downfall of man has also failed through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. So, in addition to the demon's shudder, there is also a tremble, a tremble brought about by the rage and hatred they have for us and our redemption through Christ.

But let's return to James. In pointing out that even demons believe in God, James implies that one who has faith but isn't showing it by his works, is in a practical sense doing nothing more than the demons. In James' perspective, *"faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead."* *Jm. 2:17*. This type of faith is kept hidden under a basket, and is unproductive. This faith does not seek to deliver others from need and want, it does not encourage others to holiness. For Jesus taught us, *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in Heaven."* Mt 5:16

"Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you also are doing." 1Thes.5:11

I quote Saint Paul here for a reason. Too much emphasis has been placed on a supposed contradiction between the writings of Saint Paul and those of Saint James. The issue of being saved by faith alone attributed to Saint Paul, as opposed to faith and good works as attributed to the advocates of Saint James. The issue was so controversial it became a flash point in the Protestant Reformation in the 1500s, and has wasted time at many a bible study. For those who point to Ephesians 2:8-9, read verse 9 carefully. Then I ask you to read the very next verse, Eph. 2:10. We are created in Christ Jesus for good works, but not the boastful sort of works referred to in verse 9. I could point out any number of

Saint Paul's writings, but rather look at the life of Saint Paul. Here is one man whose ministry is based on good works. Better yet, look at the gospels, and imitate Christ. He healed the sick and the lame, fed those who were hungry, showed mercy to those who were in sin and acted out of love, compassion and forgiveness throughout His life, even unto His death. As Saint Paul tells us, *"Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ."* *1 Cor 11.1*. Hmm, there is that Saint Paul again, encouraging others to do good works.

So, do we seek to be justified in God by association only? A Christian life requires more. A Christian life requires action. Consider the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10: 25-37. The first two that passed the injured man were a priest and a Levite. They certainly believed in God. They may have even shuttered upon the thought of an all-powerful God, but that was the extent of their faith. It was the Good Samaritan, who stopped and rendered aid to the poor traveler. It was the Good Samaritan who bore fruit on the vine. Jesus finished the parable of the Good Samaritan by saying *"Go and do likewise"*.

The fruit of our faith, such as that from the actions of the Good Samaritan, is what distinguishes us from demons. Consider the story of the true vine in the gospel of John, Chapter 15:1-11. The symbolism here is very strong. We are branches on the vine which is Christ. A branch is expected to bear fruit. For those branches that do, God, the vine dresser, will prune so that those branches bear even more fruit. For those branches of the vine that bear no fruit, the vine dresser will cut away from the vine to wither and be thrown onto the fire to burn. To my mind much like the demons, who are withered in their very being, and thrown onto the fire for all eternity.

Are we that much like the demons in our faith? In today's world, the faith of many has cooled. We go through the motions of our faith, but it is without passion and conviction. In direct relationship to the cooling of our faith we become barren of good works and Christian action. Our branch may not bear much fruit. But we are not demons, we have no need to shutter! We have a choice. We start by taking up our cross and imitate Jesus Christ. When we fall, we get back up and continue, as Jesus did. The Holy Spirit will guide us, and we will bear much fruit.

Yours in Christ
Brother Joseph

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.

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.