

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 APR 28

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

Acts 11:19-26 & 29-30 Jn 4:5-42:8 Festal Tone

11:00

Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and HGB Vitaliy, Oksana Makowiec and her Family by Oksana Makowiec

After –Hospitality

Tue Apr 30

8: 30am For Our Parishioners and for HGB Katharina Margan by Fr.Alex

Wed May 1

8:30am For Our Parishioners and + James Murphy by Loretta Murphy

MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS -Special Intentions-For Peace in Our Country

Thu May 2

8:30am For Our Parishioners and + John & Monika Ruscus by Fr. Alex

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

Fri May 3

1:00pm Church **Cleaning Hours**

SUN MAY 5

SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND

Acts 16:16-34 Jn 9:1-38 Festal Tone

11:00

Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and HGB Jake Jacklich by Dr. Maryjean Sotack

After –Hospitality - Pot Luck

Ascension Spiritual Retreat. Saturday May 11, 2024 9am-4pm." Receive and Give The Gift That You Are"

We are honored to have, as guest speaker, **Maria Ivaniv Lonchyna**, a Ph.D. candidate at Regis St. Michael's Faculty of Theology in Toronto School of Theology (Canada). She has earned multiple degrees in theology at the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium), and the Ukrainian Catholic University (Ukraine). Maria was a lecturer at the Three Holy Hierarchs Kyiv Theological Seminary (Kyiv, Ukraine) and a teaching assistant in the Theology Department at the Ukrainian Catholic University (Lviv, Ukraine).

Please register for the retreat by filling out a registration form found inside the bulletin. Return forms and \$30 fee by May 1, 2024 by mail to the church or deposit in retreat box. Online registration will also be available. Extra forms can be found in the hall. For further questions please see David Efimitz, Don Merkley or Mary Jean Sotack.

Happy APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2nd William Fetsko; 3rd Adriana Shockley; 5th Anya Bobrinskaya Hunter; 22nd Jim Hoolan; 22nd Aurora DaQuilanea; 24th Nadia Hunter;

Bible Study: The Gospel of John

The next Bible study will be held on Tuesday May 14 from 5:15 to 6:30 PM. The discussion will cover THE BOOK OF GENESIS.

Respectfully, Dr. Michael Lechman

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.

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 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.

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

The 4th Talk on the History of the Byzantine Catholic Church, Sunday April 14, 10AM 2024 Betta Hall. Prior to Liturgy Subsequent Lectures Monthly. **Dr. Ron Ruskowski**

Liturgy and Candle Requests: Often we want to remember someone and offer special prayers for the departure of a loved one, special occasion, birthday, anniversary, etc. with celebration of a Divine Liturgy or lighting of a candle in front of an icon. To request a liturgy or candle, please complete the form in the appropriate envelope which you will find in the rack on the wall as you enter Ascension church and place it in the Sunday offering basket. Thank you. Fr. Alex.

Candles for April

Sanctuary Lamp...+ John & Betta Labanish
Tetrapod... HGB Mark Noonan by Chris Noonan
Theotokos & Child... HGB Merle & Teresa Phillips by Mary Ann Drumtra
John Baptist... HGB Kyra Noonan by Chris Noonan
St Nicholas... For Our Parishioners
Protection Theotokos... In Love & Gratitude by Jim & Gia Hoolan
Christ Teacher... HGB Patrick Alexander & Family by Kathy Alexander

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, Betty May Hertz, Emma Bernier, Lolly Vinson, June Mathews, William McGraw, Myron Kotyk, Darren and June Hall, Aurora & Jaime Daquilanea, Lary, Mary Ann Drumtra & their Family, Katharina Margan, Elaine Hampton, Dr. Micheal & Linda Lechman, Orysia Stefaniv, Elisabeth Branden, Merly & Teresa Phillips, Mary Sullivan, Mary Saupp, Francis Fenderson, Gareth & Patricia Reeves. Abigail Johnson, Don Wilson & his Family. Thank you. Fr. Alex

Young Adults, Children, Adult Bible Study Comity: Subdeacon Adithia Kusno, Dr. Michael Lechman, Sasha Kusno.

Special Event/Retreat Speakers Comity: David Efimetz, Don Merkley, Dr. Mary Jean Sotack

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10 signs you're doing well in life:

- 1.) you have a roof over your head. 2.) You ate today. 3.) You have a good heart.
- 4.) You wish good for others. 5.) You have clean water. 6.) Someone cares for you.
- 7.) You strive to be better. 8.) You have clean clothes. 9.) You have a dream. 10.) You're Breathing.

Be Thankful For The Little Things

How to be a better thinker?

1st Peter 5:7 "Overthinking will kill your Peace. Pray and leave it to God"

God bless America!!!

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



FINANCIALS, April 21, 2024

Monthly Dues –275.00; Offertory –600.00; Candles-14.00; Special Gifts-1, 100.00; In – 2,287.95; Out-5,815.59

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

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. To Be a Saint – The Dangers of Freemasonry

Our Daily Bread – The Burl

With my children grown and on their own, I converted the upstairs into an office and small library. It is there I have on display all the things I've collected along the way in life. Over there is a couple of display cases of challenge coins and other mementos. On the wall are numerous awards, citations, diplomas and photos of long ago. "Been there and done that" certificates abound. There is the Order of King Neptune certificate for crossing the equator, over there is the golden dragon certificate for crossing the dateline, and there is the Magellan certificate for circumnavigating the globe.

The shelves are crowded with all manner of things. There are the katana swords from Japan. Over there are daggers from the middle east and northern Africa. There is a naval pennant from Ukraine, a small elephant carved out of Jade from Thailand, and rough-cut emeralds from Columbia. On the floor is a hand carved wooden chest from Haiti. Mementos come from India, Russia, Vietnam and many other places. I even have a bottle of Vodka from Georgia on the bar, with the picture of Joseph Stalin on it. It was given to me by a former Soviet General who had returned to his home country of Georgia at the end of the cold war to establish that nation's military.

All of these things come with stories and memories. For a moment I thought the General who gave me the vodka was going to take a shot at me. I had been warned he was a bit of a rogue. During a meeting he drew his pistol unexpectedly, pointed it in my direction, but instead of pulling the trigger, he pulled his weapon back, jacked a round from the chamber into his hand and gave it to me as a memento of my visit and work with his countrymen. We went on to drink much vodka that day.

All of that stuff on the shelves and walls, and all of those memories. Which one holds the most value to me? That has evolved over the years. As I write this, I am looking at a small piece of wood, that has formed into a beautiful burl, a woody growth that was formed on a small branch so long ago. It has a magnificent grain pattern that reminds me of a seahorse on one side and a crane on the other.

I found it many years ago in Alaska. We were anchored in a remote inlet in Prince William Sound. The executive officer and I decided to take a walk, and the duty coxswain dropped up off on a small rocky beach. We were well armed, as it was not unusual to encounter bear, but the main threat was from mosquitos, which many consider the state bird of Alaska.

It was an ordeal to move through the dense brush crowded along the shore. Once through it, we were in another world. It was primordial looking, with large old growth

trees consisting of giant hemlock and spruce. There was a dimness. Not quite dark, but far from the bright sunlight we just left. Our way was blocked by all manner of fallen timber and rotting branches, which slowed our progress. Deep in the forest the atmosphere closed in around us, and there was not a sound to be heard, except for our footsteps and labored breathing. The silence was noticeable, an unavoidable presence that became our companion. Through this we made a mile or two, crossed a small stream and it was time for our return.

As the XO called the small boat to return, I walked a little way on, and just as I was turning to go back, I looked down and saw an unusual shape jutting out of a rotting log. I bent over and pulled it out, and found the burl. It didn't really strike me as special at first, but I decided to put it in my pocket. I glanced for a moment into the dark woods ahead. Eastward, deep into the dark Chugach Forest which led to the mountains and glaciers beyond. Oh well, it was time for me to get back to my ship. I let the burl dry out and when we returned to port gave it a coat of shellac, which preserved it well.

Why is it important to me? In this burl I can see the work of God. Who else but God can shape something so simple and yet so beautiful, and then put it in such a remote place to be found by someone like me. Then, through the years, God guided me to understand the beautiful complexity of His creation, and the wisdom of His plan. All of my so-called achievements and mementos amount to little when compared to this burl, touched by the Hand of God.

Love Dad

Men's Club News. Thank you for all those who showed up to help with the breakfast today. It was greatly appreciated. Our next event is May 5th when the OT Grillers will be back in action. The menu will be Pork Loin.

*** By now each club member should have received an e-mail from Mike soliciting for volunteers for the Parish Italian Dinner scheduled for 18 May. Over the years, this has been one of the highlight parish socials. Good food, good music, in a wonderful setting. The request was sent on April 7th. As I write this we have three volunteers. We will need about 12 to carry the event off. Please consider volunteering.

Carpathian Kitchen news. There are still a few dozen piroshki left. Get them while you can for we will not make any more until Christmas.

Our next pierogi production run is scheduled for 3-4 May. Please consider this an invite to help out with this worthwhile cause that helps keep alive parish traditions and raises money for charity. We could really use help on Saturday morning the 4th!. More info to follow... Lee

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.

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.

Psalm 85

The Lord speaks of peace to his people.