Ascension of Our Lord
Byzantine Catholic Church
114 Palace *Lane, Williamsburg, VA 23185-2942*

Church (757) 220-8098 Rectory (757) 585-2787

Website http://www.ascensionva.org; Facebook

Served by Reverend Father Alex Shuter, Pastor

		SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS of the ANCESTORS ***Hebrews 11:9-10 & 32-40 Matthew 1:1-25***	
Sun	**9:45 a.m.**	**Eastern Catholic Formation classes**	Tone 6
Dec 18	**10:00 a.m.**	Adult Education in the church, Prof. John A. Williams	Pg 152
	11:00 a.m.	+ For the blessed repose of the soul of **+ DRAGO MARGAN** requested by Katarina Margan Holy Initiation into the church for **EMMA OCHOLA**. Health and God's blessing for **Emma** and parents **Zachary and Caroline**	
	Afterwards	**Hospitality** **Men's Club selling Breakfast sandwiches**	
Tue	**8:30 a.m.**	+ For the blessed repose of the soul of **+ LORRAINE M. PUGLIESE** requested by Monica Ruscus	
Dec 20	**Afterwards**	**Coffee Hour Discussion Group: Open Discussion Topic**	
Wed	**8:30 a.m.**	Health and God's blessings for **ANNA SHUTER and DANIEL ANDERSON**	
Dec 21	**Afterwards**	**Rosary in church after Liturgy**	
Thu	**8:30 a.m.**	+ For the blessed repose of the soul of **+ GLORIA HERTZ WALASAVAGE** requested by Betty Mae Hertz	
Dec 22	**Afterwards**	**Church and hall cleaning**	
Sat		**SATURDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS - VIGIL** ***Hebrews 1:1-12 Matthew 12:15-21***	
Dec 24	**9:00 p.m.**	**COMPLINE**	
	10:00 p.m.	Health and God's blessings for the **ASCENSION PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS OF ASCENSION**	
Sun		**CHRISTMAS, BIRTH OF OUR LORD** ***Galatians 4:4-7 Matthew 2:1-12***	
Dec 25	**9:00 a.m.**	Health and God's blessings for the **ASCENSION PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS OF ASCENSION**	

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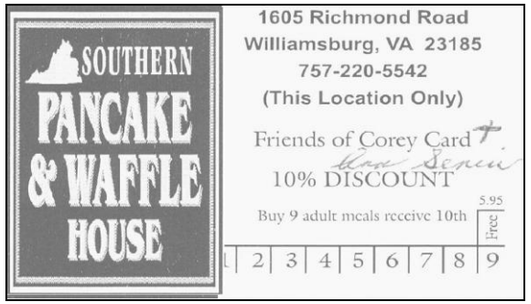

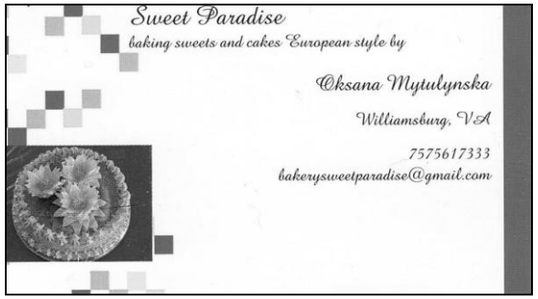

Ascension parish has a monthly mortgage payment of $656.05 based on a $95,000 loan at 3% interest for 15 years. Your monthly pledge helps us plan ahead. Mortgage envelopes are in the vestibule magazine rack.

The annual **BISHOP'S APPEAL** ends on December 31, 2016. Your pledge can be mailed directly to the Diocese office or you can pledge on-line. Our parish goal is again $6.800.00

The **Christmas Cookie** sale for the **St. Jude's Children's Hospital** was another big success, raising $420 so far! Regal Cinema will again double that figure to $840, thanks to you! The children did another superlative decorating job and had fun doing it! Thank you all who supported and helped their efforts.

There are six (6) **small poinsettia's** plants available for sponsorship at $10 each. Forms (yellow or green paper) are on the shelf outside the Gift Shop.

The **Ascension Cleaning Team** is desperately seeking volunteers to join us once a week, usually on Thursday at 9 a.m. to help clean God's House, and all the rooms attached thereto. It is usually a 2 hour job with 4 people working every week. This is an important and rewarding ministry. Look into your heart and find a place where you might share some time with us. Betty Hertz 930-2466 is the contact.

The **Finance Committee** is trying to ensure everyone is properly credited for their donations in the upcoming year. If you have registered as a parishioner this year, a numbered packet of envelopes will be assigned to you for 2017. If you have been attending regularly, please consider becoing a member this month. The Finance Committee needs your help and cooperation to make this a smooth transition into 2017.

Icon candle sponsorship is available for 2017. This is on a first come, first served basis. The Theotokos and Child is completely booked for 2017.

The parish would like a few more volunteers: **USHER** – meet and greet visitors and parishioners, hand out the bulletin before liturgy and to take up the collection. Offertory **COUNTERS** would be most welcomed as would **HOSPITALITY** host/hostess. See one of the Trustees or Bob Linderman, Patty Duttry or Chris Noonan.

THE OLD TESTAMENT GRILLERS are taking their winter vacation during the months of January, February and March. We will have a **Welcome Reception** for new parishionrs in January, and **Parishioners Choice Pot Luck** in February and March. Thank you Grillers for spectacular meals this past year! We appreciate what you do for the parish amd our tummys!

DECEMBER 2016:
Sunday December 18-Men's Club Breakfast sandwiches for sale after Liturgy
Saturday December 24- Christmas Eve Vigil **: Compline at 9 p.m. Divine Liturgy at 10 p.m.**
Sunday December 25-Christmas Day **Liturgy 9 a.m.**
JANUARY 2017:
Tuesday January 3 – LADIES GUILD meeeting 7 p.m. @ home of Monica Ruscus
Friday January 6 – OUTREACH Committee meeting at 11:30 a.m.
Sunday January 8 – WELCOME RECEPTION for parishioners who joined in 2016
Sunday January 8 – **Children's Choir** practice will resume after Liturgy
Tuesday January 10 – ADVISORY BOARD meeting 7 p.m. in St. Philip's hall

Finance: Alex Kaczur, Marc Picconi, Jeffrey Sotack, Myron Kotyk
Ladies Guild: Ann Merkley, Monica M. Ruscus, Donna Ross, Ory Stefaniw
Liturgical: Gloria Flinn-Linderman, Don Merkley, Mary Jean Sotack
Men's Club: Eric Hunter, John Alexander, Alex Kaczur, David Efimetz
Outreach: Betty Mae Hertz
Property: Tom McGraw, Don Merkley, Ory Stefaniw, Mary Jean Sotack
Publicity: Mary Jean Sotack, Betty Mae Hertz
Trustees: Myron Kotyk, Don Merkley, Monica M. Ruscus

Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

Our thanks to all of you who volunteer any day of the week!

	This Week (December 18)	**Next Week (December 25)**
Ushers	Bob Linderman	Adithia Kusno
Lector	Patty Duttry	Gloria Linderman
Hospitality	Ann Kelly	***Merry Christmas!***
Offertory Recorders	Lisa Montgomery & Monica Ruscus	Don Merkley & Myron Kotyk

Thank you for your contributions (December 11, 2016)
Offertory Recorders are reminded to complete an Operating Account (…401) deposit slip to be included in the Bank Bag. Thank you

Offertory & Monthly Dues	6,513.00
Candles	46.00
Christmas Flowers	145.00
Fuel	15.00
Religious Retirement	10.00
Conception of St. Ann	5.00
Christmas	50.00
Building Improvement	46.00
	$6,830.00

$0 Mortgage donations this week

Mortgage donations to date: **$51,511.05**

	Wed.	**Weekly**
ROSARY will be said in church after Liturgy at 9:00 a.m.		
POT LUCK Luncheon and **Bring-A-Friend Sunday**	**1st Sun**	**April**
LADIES GUILD meeting at 6:30 p.m. in St. Philip's Hall	**1st Tue**	**Jan 3**
OUTREACH meeting 11:30 a.m. ***(Alternate months)***	**1st Fri**	**Jan 6**
ADVISORY BOARD meeting in St. Philip's Hall at 7 p.m. ***(Alternate months)***	**2nd Tue**	**Jan 15**
MEN'S CLUB BREAKFAST SANDWICHES after Liturgy ***(Alternate months)***	**3rd Sun**	**Feb 19**
MEN'S CLUB meeting St. Philip's Hall at 7:00 p.m. ***(Alternate months)***	**3rd Tue**	**Jan 17**
ST. LUKE'S ICON GUILD in St. Philip's Hall (3:00-6:00 Sunday, all day Mon & Tue)	**3rd week**	**Jan 15-16-17**

Information Regarding Sacraments and Sacramentals

*Father Alex is available for the ***Holy Mystery of Reconciliation*** before Divine Liturgy on Sundays (10:00 a.m.) or a half hour before weekday liturgies. By appointment as well.

****Mirovanja*** is a sacramental blessing with holy oil, which is applied to the forehead in the sign of the cross by the priest while proclaiming the appropriate greeting of the season. Proclaim the appropriate response and then receive a piece of blessed, leavened bread.

Prayer Intentions for DECEMBER

Sanctuary Lamp—The lamp is burning for the blessed repose of the soul of **+ Lorraine M. Pugliese** requested by Monica Ruscus
Christ the Teacher—The candle burns for health and God's blessing for **Heather Murphy** requested by Josephine and Joe Horvath
Theotokos & Child—The candle burns for health and God's blessing for **Courtney Horvath** requested by Josephine and Joe Horvath
Saint Nicholas—The candle burns for the blessed repose of the soul of **+ Anthony DeGaspari** requested by the Kelly family – Ann, Morgan and Kevin
Saint John the Baptizer—The candle burns for health and God's blessing for **Anna Montgomery** requested by Lisa, Danny and Matt Montgomery
Tetrapod—The candles burn for the blessed repose of the souls of **+ Anna Marie and Jonathan Duttry** requested by Patty Duttry
Protection of the Theotokos—The candles burns for health and God's blessing for **Doyle and Norma Duttry** requested by Patty Duttry

Please keep in your prayers those who are ill and/or infirmed or in need of prayers: Daniel Anderson, Sharon & Shayna Walker, David Quinn, Virginia Henry, Steven Margan, Michelle Park, Joan Chismar, Noah Cross, Judith Stewart, Marie Robredo, June & Darren Hall, Bill McGraw, Col. Ted Mathews, Jr., Kathy Alexander, Myron Kotyk**,** Ray & Pamela Williams, Larry & Mary Ann Drumtra, Mary Sullivan, Joan Griffin, Karen & George Sperry, Monica Ruscus, Janie Young, Brian Hurtig, Don Merkley, Ron Radda, Fr. Bob Chope, Patty & Michael Dunham, Joe & Courtney Horvath, Merle Phillips, Robert Sotack, Prof. John A. Williams. ***Contact Monica Ruscus 259-5890 to add or delete someone from this list*** ***out2seanomore@gmail.com***

For our Military and their Leaders

Lord, please hold our troops in Your loving Hands, especially when they are in harm's way. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our country's time of need. Amen.

Lt. Cmdr. Alexander Kaczur, USN
Captain Jeremy Blascak, USA
Col. Ted Mathews Jr., USAF
Capt. Carol Burroughs, USN
SFC Theodore Cason, USA
Col. Michaella Munger-Dulong, USA
SS Johann Weller, USAF
PvtE2 Jose Ramirez

~~ASCENSION GIFT SHOP ~~
Come in, browse the Merry Christmas shop.
Advent Candles, Christmas Cards, stocking stuffers, books, CD's, decorations, Icons
There are unique items available … some are one-of-a-kind!

Happy <u>DECEMBER</u> Birthday

1	**John Labanish**
3	**Gwendolyn Rose Picconi**
4	**Robert Sotack**
7	**Adam Selassie**
11	**Joshua Karlson**
19	**Joe Baysura**
20	**Kathy Alexander**
20	**Kevin Daignault**
27	**Rebecca (Becky) Kaczur**