

WELCOME TO ASCENSION

SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

We are only allowing **between 22 and 44** people in Church and **20** people in Church Hall

SUN AUG 16 11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Cor 9:2-12 Mt 18:23-35

11:00 Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and + Irene Slysh by Dr. Nadia Shockley

Tue Aug 18 8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB St. Luke's Icon Guild by Fr. Alex

After Bible Study

Wed Aug 19 8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and +Don Cook by Suzanne Cook

After Moleben to the Theotokos -Special Intentions-For Peace in Our Country

Thu Aug 20 8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and + Elvira DeGaspari by Ann Kelly

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

Fri Aug 21 8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB Lois Polansky (wellbeing) by Evgene Kokinda

SUN AUG 23 12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Cor 15:1-11 Mt 19:16-26

11:00 Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB Bishop Basel Losten by Fr. Alex

Keep practicing social distancing and use a mask when out and about as we continue through the "reopening" process.

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

New Information:

Due to the uncertainty of the COVID pandemic, all Yard Sales are postponed until masks are not longer needed to be worn. Only donations of furniture and finer antiques will be accepted due to limited storage space. Please contact Mary Jean Sotack if you have items for donation. Online sales will continue for these items. Thank you for your support!

FINANCIALS

Total Contributions: Monthly Dues -745.00 Holyday 10.00
Offertory - 903.00 Non-Monetary Donation - 0.00 Fuel -25.00 Rainy Day Fund-0.00
Candles -5.00

Are you aware of any organization or church that is selling used church pews? Desired length 12 feet. If so, please speak to Father or a Trustee.

When receiving Holy Communion, closely approach Father Alex, tell him your first name, tilt your head back, widely open your mouth (no need to extend your tongue). Father Alex will say the prayer while dropping the Precious Species into your mouth with a spoon
We use one-time spoon.

Read Full Bulletin online www.ascensionva.org

LIVE-STREAMING DIVINE LITURGY AND PRAYERS

Ascension of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church is providing live broadcasts of Divine Liturgy and prayers on the internet for those who would like to experience our worship and pray with us, but are unable to join us because of limited access due to COVID-19, work, personal illness or distance.

Attending the services via live streaming is an aid to sincere devotion but if you are able, we look forward to having you join us in person.

For easy access to our Facebook, go to our website, ascensionVA.org and link to our Facebook page. Past liturgies are also in an archive of videos on our website.

Schedule

Divine Liturgy: Sundays, 11 AM
 Tuesdays, 8:30 AM
 Wednesdays, 8:30 AM
 Thursdays, 8:30 AM
Rosary: Thursdays, 6 PM

Thank you again for your continued support and your patience as we work through these challenging times together.

Please pray for me and I will continue to pray for you. Let us not forget to pray for our country!
Fr. Alex

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

17th Sydney Marie Karlson
21st Loretta Fetsko
28th Micalah Cook

AUGUST EVENTS

Recommendation from Bishop concerning attending Divine Liturgy and receiving Holy Communion.

1. Should you stay home from Divine Liturgy? Please use your own prudence. If you believe you are sick, or you are in danger, you are dispensed from attending, and God will bless you for praying home.
2. Should you avoid receiving Holy Communion on spoon? St. Paul says about communion, "Let each one examine himself." If you believe you are sick, or that you are in danger because of weak health, and you do not receive, I promise you that God will still bless you with His abundance of graces.

Prayer to Defeat the Work of Satan

O Divine Eternal Father, in union with your Divine Son and the Holy Spirit, and through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg You to destroy the power of your greatest enemy- the evil spirits. Cast them into the deepest recesses of hell and chain them there forever! Take possession of Your Kingdom which You have created and which is rightfully Yours. Heavenly Father, give us the reign of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I repeat this prayer out of pure love for You, with every beat of my heart and with every breath I take. Amen (Imprimatur March 1973, +Richard H. Ackerman, Bishop of Covington)

COMMITTEES

Trustees:	Mike Olson, David Efimetz
Bible Study with Coffee:	Linda Lechman
Liturgical/Church Website:	Don Merkely
Men's Club:	John Alexander
Outreach Cleaning:	Betty Mae Hertz
Property:	Father Alex
Publicity:	Mary Jean Sotack
Security:	Mike Olson
Secretary:	Ann Kelly
Book Keeper	Patty Dutry
Youth:	Sasha Kusno

HOSPITALITY

Please see Bulletin Board at the entrance to St Phillip's Hall for schedule of Lectures, Financial Recorders and Hospitality.

NO Hospitality

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Candles –5.00

Enrollment for children's Eastern Catholic faith formation is still open. Ages 5-17. Please Call Patty or Sasha.

Sanctuary Lamp: **HGB Margan Family**, Requested by Katarina Margan

Tetrapod Lamp: **HGB Morgan and Kevin Kelly** Requested by Ann Kelly

Theotokos & Child Lamp: **HGB Laini Noonan**, Requested by Chris Noonan

Christ Teacher Lamp: **HGB Patrick Alexander**, Requested by Lee & Kathy Alexander

John Baptist Lamp: **HGB John Alexander**, Requested by Lee and Kathy Alexander

Protection Theotokos Lamp: **For Our Parishioners and Pease in Our Country**

St. Nicholas Lamp: **For Our Parishioners and Pease in Our Country**

Spiritual Communion

O Jesus, I turn toward the holy tabernacle where you live hidden for love of me. I love You, O my God, I cannot receive You in Holy Communion. Come, nevertheless, and visit me with Your grace. Come spiritually into my heart. Purify it. Sanctify it. Render it like unto Your own. 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."

Lord, I'm not praying for miracles and visions, **I'm only asking for strength for my days.** Teach me the art of small steps. Make me clever and resourceful, so that I can find important discoveries and experiences among the diversity of days. Help me use my time better. Present me with the sense to be able to judge whether something is important or not. I pray for the power of discipline and moderation, not only to run throughout my life, but also to live my days reasonably, and observe unexpected pleasures and heights.

Save me from the naive belief that everything in life has to go smoothly. Give me the sober recognition that difficulties, failures, fiascos, and setbacks are given to us by life itself to make us grow and mature. Send me the right person at the right moment, who will have enough courage and love to utter the truth!

I know that many problems solve themselves, so please teach me patience. You know how much we need friendship. Make me worthy of this nicest, hardest, riskiest and most fragile gift of life. Give me enough imagination to be able to share with someone a little bit of warmth, in the right place, at the right time, with words or with silence. Spare me the fear of missing out on life. Do not give me the things I desire, but the things I need.

Teach me the art of small steps!

“A Soulful Prayer by Antoine DE Saint-Exupery”

Parishioner to Parishioners

Where are the voices of our men? I remember a time when the church was full, not just full of people but full of voices. The church reverberated with prayer that was anchored strongly with the tenors, baritones and bass voices of men. I still hear the voices of women, but less so the voices of men.

The prayers I hear from most men today are not the prayers of Jesus' Disciples on that Pentecost Sunday long ago. They are surely not the prayers of those who died in the arena in 1st century Rome. They are not the prayers of those who built the great Catholic cathedrals, monasteries and churches, or those who fearlessly spread the Catholic faith throughout the world. In their mind there WAS no other path to follow except that of Jesus Christ. These men prayed with a fire.

Where are the men? Have they forgotten how to pray? No; they may be rusty and self-conscience about it but they have not forgotten. Are they then content to let the women pray for them and that their voices are not needed? No; men will and do speak up when they *feel strongly about something*. Ah then; have men in general become *indifferent* about matters of religion and faith?

There are many things that cause indifference today. If however you are passionate for something, you will not let yourself become distracted and indifferent. What then has happened to the passion of men concerning our Catholic Faith?

The heresy of our times. Relativism is a family of philosophical views. For the purposes of this letter we will use the term moral relativism. Together with materialism, moral relativism is yet another expression of the heresy of modernism. Moral relativism is where truth and morality are subjective, according to the experience and culture of the individual. There are no universal truths in this philosophy. All points of view are equally valid. What was absolute and universally true in a previous time is now questioned, diminished, interpreted in different ways today. Moral relativism is used to "self-justify" whatever we want to do with no sense of guilt.

With no universal truths, moral relativism leaves us open to ambiguity. With ambiguity comes doubt, with doubt there is no passion to make a stand, no fire to stand up for what is true. We become indifferent. Moral relativism practiced through the generations, leads us to utter ignorance of fundamental truths and opens us to everything perverse.

The philosophy of moral relativism has been weaponized against our nation and against our Catholic Church. You can find its proponents among socialist organizations, Marxists, Communists and the Free Masonic Lodge, all of which are enemies of the Catholic faith. You can find its proponents even in organizations that we have come to trust, our school systems, many youth programs, and government. Proponents seductively package their product using terms like fairness, inclusiveness, equality and social justice. Do not be deceived.

Yes; it is present even in our Catholic Church, where we have watered down our faith over the last half century so we might be more open, more accepting, more tolerant, more relevant in this modern age. With all that, tell me do you think the church is stronger for it? Have we flourished

because of it? A Gallup poll published in 2018 shows that between 2014 and 2017, an average of 39 percent of Catholics reportedly attended Mass weekly. This figure contrasts with 45 percent of Catholics from 2005 to 2008 and **75 percent in 1955.**

Moral relativism is being used today to rationalize the defunding of law enforcement and opening our borders, to justify a gross reinterpretation of American history, to promote abortion and assisted suicide, to undermine traditional marriage and the traditional family as well as forming the thought that all religions have equal validity. How does that square with John 3:36 or Acts 4:12?

The problems of relativism was first identified by Pope Leo XIII in 1884. More recently Saint Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI have warned us specifically of its danger. This is surely the work of Satan the master deceiver, the master of confusion and doubt.

Our Catholic Church needs her men and their voices right now, right at this very moment. Men are needed to step up in so many different ways; starting first with prayer, reading the bible, and Christian instruction within the family, and then in our churches. Hold fast to the true faith of our Fathers and fear no darkness. Rekindle the fire of your voice for Jesus Christ.

Dad