

WELCOME TO ASCENSION

VE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITAN

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

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| SUN | AUG 30 | 13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 1 Cor 16:13-24 Mt 21:33-42 11:00 Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and Monika and John Ruskus by Fr. Alex |
| Tue | Sep 1 | 8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and + John Labanish and HGB Betta Labanish by Fr. Alex |
| Wed | Sep 2 | 8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB September Birthdays by Fr. Alex After Moleben to the Theotokos -Special Intentions-For Peace in Our Country |
| Thu | Sep 3 | 8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and + Souls in Purgatory by Eugene Kokinda After Short Bible Reflection 6:00pm “ROSARY” Prayer for Protection and Healing of the coronavirus and all serious illnesses by Men’s Club |
| SUN | SEP 6 | 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 2 Cor 1:21-2:4 Mt 22:1-14 11:00 Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and Monika and John Ruskus by Fr. Alex |

Thank You to my family, to my parish family and friends. Your thoughtful birthday present’s and wishes are simply a reminder of how wonderfully blessed I am. God bless you All

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

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

Coffee will be served by hostesses from the bar in St. Phillip’s Hall. Server will pour the coffee, ask if parishioner wants cream/sugar etc. and hand them the coffee. Any pastries served will be individually wrapped.

Servers will be wearing masks and gloves. Parishioners will be wearing masks. After receiving your coffee, you will head out to the new back patio area where social distancing will be maintained. There will be trash cans to deposit your trash when finished.

No one, except servers, will be allowed to congregate in the Hall or go into the kitchen.

Servers will clean up when finished.

Are you aware of any organization or church that is selling used church pews? Desired length 12 feet. If so, please speak to Thomas (Tom) McGraw.

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](http://www.ascensionva.org)

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!

Schedule

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

Rosary: Thursdays, 6 PM

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!!

2nd Lisa Branden
6th Jacob Cook
8th Jamie DaQuilanea
14th Robert Danny Montgomery
14th Lolly Vinson
20th ~~Patty Piszko-Dunham~~
21st Deborah Kotyk
21st Sr Alphina Chepter
23rd Peyton Karlson
24th Zachary Karlson
27th Lydia Marin
28th Lisa Cifrulak Edwards
29th Christine Noonan
29th David Efimetz

FINANCIALS

**Total Contributions: Monthly Dues -50.00 Holyday 10.00
Offertory – 884.00 Non-Monetary Donation – 0.00 Fuel –0.00 Rainy Day
Fund-0.00 Candles –0.00**

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)

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.

COMMITTEES

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|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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

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: BRS George Makowiec...Requested by Oksana Makowiec

Theotokos & Child Lamp: HGB Morgan & Kevin Kelly...Requested by Ann Kelly

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

John Baptist Lamp: HGB John Alexander...Requested by Lee & Kathy Alexander

Protection of Theotokos...For Our Parish

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

We live in challenging times.....

Consider that statement, so often heard. Changing the tense in one word, I could be referring to the first Christian era during the great persecutions in Rome. I could be referring to the time of the great Arian heresy. I could just as well have been referring to the communist persecutions of the church in the 20th century, or any other period of time where socialism and communism is tried, try China for instance. **In matters of faith, Catholics always live in challenging times.**

In all of the challenging times Christianity has faced, there is one common trait shared by all Saints; perseverance. Perseverance is the continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition. Our ability to endure and persevere is a very Saintly trait.

Consider Saint Athanasius who lived in the fourth century during the time of what used to be considered the greatest crisis of faith ever to befall the Catholic Church, the Arian Heresy. (The Arians denied the Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ). The vast majority of Churchmen fell into this heresy, so much so that Saint Jerome wrote of the period, "*The whole world groaned and was amazed to find itself Arian*". Athanasius was the Bishop of Alexandria in Egypt for 46 years. He was banned from his diocese at least five times and spent a total of 17 years in exile including a time spent with the desert fathers. He even suffered an unjust excommunication from Pope Liberius (325-366) who was under Arian influence. It is a cold fact of history that Athanasius stood virtually alone. In one of his letters he penned "Even if Catholics faithful to Tradition are reduced to a handful, they are the ones who are the true Church of Jesus Christ."

Perseverance in life can take on many forms. Today we are required to persevere through a virus which has drastically changed the way we live and interact, both economically and socially. It has also significantly changed how we practice our Catholic faith. Young families trying to live a Catholic life, in a modern increasingly non-Christian world, are having to find ways to persevere to do what is right for their families. Our cities appear to be descending into anarchy and the rule of law, the bedrock of what has made us feel secure and confident, is under attack. Associated with this, we have seen an increase in attacks on our churches and our faith. These things will try our very soul and will

wear us down emotionally.

In times like these, it is easy to get down, become discouraged and quite trying; or worse, go off in a wrong direction. How nice it would be to just withdraw from life and live in a shell. We were not made for that!

Each generation is tested. Each generation is measured. God chose us to live at this particular time. It was not an accident. We are chosen. It is apparent then that God will provide for us in our time of need. In these times we need above all else to put our faith and trust in God..... "*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*" Jer. 29:11.

Ask the Father for the strength to endure our trials and hardships, and cope with our failures and our fears. Ask Him for guidance in times of confusion and danger. Ask God for the grace to persevere like the Saints.

Yours in Christ
Brother Joseph

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! God bless you
Fr. Alex