

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

SUN	DEC 27	SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS – MEMORY OF DAVID, JOSEPH & JAMES STEPHEN - PROTOMARTYR Gal 1:11-19 Mt 2:13-23 11:00 Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and + Gloria Hertz Walasavage by Betty May Hertz
<u>Tus</u>	<u>Dec 29</u>	<u>8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB Patrick, Marino Alexander by Fr. Alex</u>
<u>Wed</u>	<u>Dec 30</u>	<u>8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and + Shirley Morgan Hertz by Betty Mae Hertz</u> After <u>Moleben to the Theotokos -Special Intentions-For Peace in Our Country</u>
<u>Thu</u>	<u>Dec 31</u>	<u>8:30am Thanksgiving Divine Liturgy for 2020 and coming 2021</u> <u>+ John Labanish by Betta Labanish</u>
Fri	JAN 1	WISHING YOU AND YOURS A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND ABUNDANT 2021 “The beginning is the most important part of the work.”- Plato
SUN	JAN 3	SUNDAY BEFOR THEOPHANY 2Tim 4:5-8 Mt 1:1-8 11:00 Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and + Annaliese Niestroy by MaryJean Sotack

**THANK YOU ALL AGAIN FOR SUCH A THOUGHTFUL GIFTS
AND THINKING OF ME THIS CHRISTMAS. GOD BLESS YOU**
Fr. Alex

Read Full Bulletin online [www. ascensionva.org](http://www.ascensionva.org)

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

We Would Welcome Some Helping Hands to Keep Our Church Clean and Disinfected. Due to Covid 19 We Still Need to Clean the Church Before and After Every Liturgy. If You Would Like More Information, or If You Can Help, especially on a Monday or Wednesday, Please Speak with Kathy Alexander (566-8637) or Linda Lechman (714-3515).

**THANK YOU TO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO DONATED
SUPPLIES FOR CLEANING OF CHURCH. FROM LINDA AND
KATHY, THANK YOU EVER SO MUCH.**

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. Below is how to get notification. This announcement is posted originally on this [link](#) Divine Liturgy live-streaming can be found on YouTube and Facebook using the following links: YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFrYPWRdt-4HCsBpXdxAmhg/> To receive a notification when video is live, please like video, subscribe, and click bell notification button. Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Ascension-Byzantine-Catholic-Church-100862511741107/> To receive a notification when video is live, please like page and click follow. In your service, Adithia Kusno

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.tel: (804) 932-8098

Happy DECEMBER Birthdays

19th Joe Baysura; 20th Kathy Alexander
29th Abraham Kusno

December Candles:

Sanctuary...HGB Roman Slysh...by Nadia Shockley
Tetrapod...HGB Margan Family...by Katarina Margan
Theotokos & Child...HGB Ted, Catherine, Carol, Stephen... by June Mathews
Christ Teacher...HGB Patrick Alexander...by Lee & Kathy Alexander
John Baptist...HGB John Alexander...by Lee & Kathy Alexander
St Nicholas...HGB Morgan & Kevin Kelly...by Ann Kelly
Protection Theotokos...HGB Adriana Shockley...by Nadia & Keith Shockley

Reminder: Hospitality is **SUSPENDED** until the first Sunday in January, 01/03. It will be the first Sunday of the month only, going forward.

FINANCIALS Dec. 13

Total Contributions: Flowers – 20.00 Monthly Dues -20.00 Holyday 135.00
Offeratory –776.00 Non-Monetary Donation – 0.00 Fuel –0.00 Rainy Day
Fund-0.00 Candles –0.00 Religious Education –0.00 Tag/Yard Sale – 225.00
IN – \$ 931.00; OUT – \$ 133.52

“Lord, teach us to pray” Luke 11:1

True Praying involves knowing beforehand what to request from God. Praying is asking for something definite. The mind is given over entirely to God, thinking of him, of what is needed, and of what has been received in the past. The very first step in prayer is a mental step. We must be taught through our intellect. And only as far as the intellect is given over to God in prayer will be able to learn how to pray.

Lord Jesus, just like Your disciples long ago I ask of You today, “teach me (us) to pray.” Amen.

We have several faithful from Ascension who are in need of special prayer. Some of those who need special prayer are: *Ann Harmeyer, Chris Janke, Mary Grace Dorsey, Adithia and Sasha Kusno, Patrick Cook, Betta Labanish*
Thank you. Father Alex

“The invitation to joy is characteristic of the season of Christians: the expectation of Jesus’ birth that we experience is joyful, somewhat like when we await the visit of a person we love a great deal, for example, a friend whom we have not seen for a long time, a relative... We are in joyful anticipation... And what is the reason for this joy?... The closer the Lord is to us, the more joy we feel; the farther away he is, the more sadness we feel. This is a rule for Christians.”

Pope Francis

Parishioner to Parishioners

To be a Saint - A meditation on the Healing Powers of Christ

We read numerous times in the synoptic Gospels, the stories of Jesus healing those who were sick, possessed, and crippled. It has become popular in some circles to believe that the mere touch of Jesus, the "laying on of hands" was enough to cure, and heal. Well, Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus with a kiss. There was no healing for Judas in that kiss. So, there must be more to it.

In Matthew, Chapter 9, again in Mark, Chapter 5, and yet again in Luke Chapter 8 we hear of Jesus on His way to heal the daughter of a leader of the local synagogue. Along the way a crowd is pressing around Jesus. Now, when a crowd presses around an individual they are jostled, moved, sometimes shoved and stepped on. Yet on this occasion a woman, who had suffered years of hemorrhaging blood, forced her way toward Jesus, to touch Him for the sole purpose of being healed. This was not an easy feat, yet she was led by her faith, and desire to get to Jesus and be healed. Jesus was unaware of the woman until he felt power go from Him. After confessing that she was the one who touched Him, Jesus said to the woman "Your faith has made you well". So, we learn there is more to healing than merely touching Jesus. We learn that it must be accompanied by personal faith and desire to come to Jesus. Others must have surely touched Jesus on this occasion, yet we hear from Jesus himself that power went from him to this one person only.

Let us return to the story. Jesus continued his journey to the house of the synagogue leader. Upon arriving they found the girl had died. Jesus proceeds to touch the young girl and told her to rise and walk, which she did. In this case the girl could not come to Jesus on her own account. It is unknown if the girl was even aware of Jesus before she died, much less had faith in Jesus. The girl's father did have faith though, and a great desire to help his daughter. He came to Jesus and interceded passionately, imploring Jesus for help. Jesus took pity on this man and his family. So we can surmise that we, in faith, we can come to Jesus

and intercede on behalf of others for the mercy of the Lord.

Let's look at another Gospel story. In Matthew chapter 20, Mark, chapter 10, and again, in Luke, Chapter 18 we find Jesus outside of Jericho just a few days before His passion. A blind beggar (two blind men in Matthew's account) cried out for mercy as Jesus passed by. Even when the crowd told him to be quiet, the beggar continued to cry out for mercy. Jesus called the beggar over. Once again, the symbolism of coming to Jesus is important. When the beggar stood before Jesus, Jesus asked him what he wanted. When the beggar said he wanted his sight restored, Jesus took pity on him and restored his sight again saying "Your faith has made you well". The pattern is the same.

We do not have to push our way through the crowd to touch His cloak, we have something better. In His wisdom and love, Jesus gave us His body and blood through the Holy Eucharist that we might be healed. In faith then, come asking for mercy, and seek the healing touch of Christ through the Blessed Eucharist. In the Liturgies of the East and the West we acknowledge our faith in the healing power of the Eucharist. In the West the Communion prayer echoes that of the Centurion seeking healing for his servant in Matthew 8:8. "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and I shall be healed". In the East the Communion prayer states; "May the partaking of Your holy mysteries, O Lord, be not for my judgment or condemnation but for the healing of soul and body."

It makes no difference your station in life, rich or poor, humble or powerful, old or young; come to Jesus in sincere faith, ask for His mercy, and healing for yourself and for others. Let not the crowd keep you away, or cause you to be silent. Come to Jesus in faith and be healed.

Yours in Christ
Brother Joseph