

**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

# 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).

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Greetings Everyone. Please pray for Don and Ann Merkley's daughter Noelle Kissell and her family (husband and three children). They have lost their home, as well as, all their belongings and three dogs. Keep them in your prayers as they emerge from this tragedy.

David Efimetz will be the contact person for donations to help the Kissell Family. Gift cards and cash would be a big help so they can purchase clothes and supply other basic needs.

I will keep you posted as I receive further details.  
Thank you and God Bless  
Ann Kelly for Father Alex

Anyone who is interested in learning the liturgical music on their own could take online courses through the Metropolitan Cantor Institute.

The Free courses can be found on their website: <https://mci.archpitt.org/online/>

<b>SUN</b>	<b>OCT 18</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> Gal 1: 11: 19 Lk 8:5:15 <b>11:00</b> <b>Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and + John Labanish by Betta Labanish</b> Afternoon: St. Luke's Icon Guild
Tue	Oct 20	8:30am <b>Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB St. Luke's Icon Guild by Fr. Alex</b> <b>6:30pm</b> <b>Advisory Board Meeting in Church Hall</b>
Wed	Oct 21	8:30am <b>Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and October Birthday's by Fr. Alex</b> After <b>Moleben to the Theotokos -Special Intentions-For Peace in Our Country</b>
Thu	Oct 22	8:30am <b>Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and + Andrew Kokinda(father) by Evgene Kokinda</b> After 6:00pm <b>Short Bible Reflection</b> <b>"ROSARY" Prayer for Protection and Healing of the coronavirus and all serious illnesses by Men's Club</b>
<b>SUN</b>	<b>OCT 25</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> Gal 2: 16: 20 Lk 16:19:31 <b>11:00</b> <b>Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB JuneAnn &amp;Darren Hall by MaryAnn Drumtra</b>

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

**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.

Children's faith formation start last week. There is still time to enroll your family, and we are excited for coming year! Classes will start online due to Covid-19. Please contact Patty Duttry or Sasha Kusno. Enrollment for children's Eastern Catholic faith formation is still open. Ages 5-17.

#### FINANCIALS

Total Contributions: Monthly Dues -125.00 Holyday 0.00

Offertory – 709.00 Non-Monetary Donation – 0.00 Fuel –0.00 Rainy Day Fund-0.00 Candles –57.00 Religious Education –0.00 Special Gifts – 100.00  
IN – \$ 891.50; OUT – \$ 4,385.70

**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 October Birthdays

2<sup>nd</sup> Jane Picconi; 4<sup>th</sup> Christine Janke; 9<sup>th</sup> Donna Ross; 10<sup>th</sup> Gia Hoolan; 13<sup>th</sup> Jeff Carden; 13<sup>th</sup> Katarina Margan; 15 Josephine Picconi; 21<sup>st</sup> Lisa Margan; 22<sup>nd</sup> Linda Lechman; 25<sup>th</sup> Charlene Yackanich; 26<sup>th</sup> MaryAnn Drumtra; 28<sup>th</sup> Anna Montgomery; 30<sup>th</sup> Joann Darling

Sanctuary Lamp: HGB Margan Family... by Katarina Margan

Tetrapod Lamp: HGB Richard Murphy... by Ann Kelly

Theotokos & Child Lamp: HGB Patrick Alexander... by Lee & Kathy Alexander

Christ Teacher Lamp: HGB Lisa Noonan... by Chris Noonan

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

Protection of Theotokos Lamp: HGB Morgan Kelly... by Ann Kelly

St. Nicholas Lamp: HGB Kevin Kelly...by Ann Kelly

#### **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](http://ascensionVA.org) and link to our Facebook page. Past liturgies are also in an archive of videos on our website.

#### 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

## HOSPITALLY

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

### **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.

#### **"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.*

## **Bishop's 2020 Appeal**

By now, everyone should have received a letter from Bishop Kurt outlining all the good things that our Eparchy of Passaic does. To do these good things, obviously takes money. Please be generous to the Bishop's Appeal this year. I am asking everyone to consider a pledge of at least a dollar a week, \$52, which you could spread over a couple of months. If you can pledge two, three, even five dollars a week, \$260, that would be wonderful..If God has blessed you richly, please consider a larger pledge even ten dollars a week, \$520. In any event, please pledge something. I am asking everyone to pledge and contribute to The Bishop's Appeal this year. The goal is 100% participation. Thank you for your consideration. Father Alex

## Parishioner to Parishioners

When God withholds His Grace, His Blessings, and His Protection.

Let's begin by saying that all of us have ups and downs. That is normal, and in and of itself may not mean much. However, there can be periods in our life when our downs are something more. Times when you can discern that there is a clear, possibly willful, separation between you and God. This letter will speak to those times.

So, can God withhold His Grace? Sure, God is omnipotent. God can bestow or withhold His Grace, His blessings and protection on whoever He wants, for whatever purpose He wants; including individuals, groups of people and nations. We see this happen in the Bible frequently. God withdrew His blessing from King Saul and later withheld it from King Ahab along with anyone of the many evil Kings of Israel. He also withdrew His protection from the nation of Israel and allowed Jerusalem and the Holy Temple to be destroyed. God can also test us, like we find in the book of Job.

So why does this happen? Well as in the case of the destruction of the Kingdom of Israel, we find a nation that had forgotten its covenant with God. A nation that sins against God cannot expect to be always protected by God.

In this respect I worry for our nation where we as a whole have embraced the world, and have left God. I worry about our Church where we see our faith perverted and distracted through scandal. The latest incident was the immoral action between an ordained Roman Catholic priest and two prostitutes **on a consecrated altar** in a Roman Catholic Church in Louisiana. How long can we expect God to endure this blasphemy?

Warning: Because these Church scandals and blasphemies appear to be happening mainly in western rite churches does not make it any better for eastern rite Catholics. Remember we are a One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. The eastern rite has had its share of sexual and financial scandal over the past few years, some of it touching close to us. We cannot hide behind our "Rite" and expect to be totally justified. We all should be doing penance for what is happening in our Catholic Church and pray for our clergy and each other.

Similarly to our nation and to our church, an individual who frequently sins,

especially mortal sin, and has not confessed it, repented of it, and continues to live in sin, cannot reasonably hope to keep God's blessing.

When calamity strikes, and we feel we are adrift in chaos without God's blessing; when everything seems to work against us, when our prayers are empty, look first within yourself. Maybe your being tested, maybe not. Look at the life you are leading. If there is something amiss in your personal conduct, if you are living in some type of sin, take steps to fix it, to rectify it, and repent of it to God. Do not continue to live in sin and keep yourself separated from God. Separation from God will lead to eternal death.

You may have a spiritual counselor or someone you implicitly trust; however, you must do this mainly yourself, with help from your Guardian Angel. In our pride, we will tend not listen to others who try to point out what is happening. The prophets of the Bible often pointed out the sins of Israel hoping to correct the ways of the people and their Kings. How often were these prophets listened to? Read Matthew 23:37.

Be careful of pride which is called the first sin. Do not let pride keep you from doing what is right. Do not make excuses or self-justify your actions and then continue to sin. Remember your goal is to get back into the good graces of God.

Dad