

WELCOME TO ASCENSION

SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

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

**SUN APR 18 SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARERS**

Acts 6:1-7 Mk 15:43-16:8

9:30 **BIBLE STUDY**, led by Mike Bracelin

11:00 Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners  
+ John, George and Bob Labanish by Betta Labanish

Afterward Hospitality

Tus Apr 20 **8:30am** Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and  
HGB Betta Labanish by Fr. Alex

4:15 -6:00pm Office hours in Church (Fr. Alex)

Wed Apr 21 8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and  
HGB Lois Polansky (sis) by Eugene Kokinda

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

Thu Apr 22 8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and  
HGB Vitale and Oksana Makoweic by Oksana Makoweic

After Short Bible Reflection

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

**SUN APR 25 SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN**

Acts 9:32-42 Jn 5:1-15

9:30 **BIBLE STUDY**, led by Mike Bracelin

11:00 Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and  
HGB Gabriel Kusno (Baptism) and his Family

Afterward Potluck after Liturgy

**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

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**Happy APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

2nd William Fetsko; 3rd Adriana Shockley;  
5th Anya Bobrinskaya Hunter; 13th Angela Bracelin; 22nd Jim Hoolan  
22nd Aurora DaQuilanea; 24th Nadia Hunter  
28th Betta Labanish; 28th Oksana Makowiec

**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.**

## BIBLE STUDY

1. The Liturgical Bible Study ministry surveying the weekly readings, led by Michael Bracelin, will resume starting March 21st at 9:30 am in the Hall. All are welcome to participate as one is able. Simply bring yourself and a bible if you have one!

2. Beginning later this Spring we will launch a new bible study following the Adventure Bible Series created by Ascension Press. It will take place during a weekday on a manageable semi-monthly basis. We hope to offer food, community, and of course an easy to understand exploration of the Holy Scriptures! If interested please contact Michael Bracelin ([michael.bracelin@gmail.com](mailto:michael.bracelin@gmail.com)) or Dr. Mike Lechman ([maclech@aol.com](mailto:maclech@aol.com)) via email or at Church.

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If you are interested in attending a bi-weekly Bible study that takes place during a weekday late afternoon/evening, which teaches you how to understand the “grand story of the Bible,” please find out more by finding Dr. Mike Lechman or Mike Bracelin at church on Sunday, or email us at [Michael.bracelin@gmail.com](mailto:Michael.bracelin@gmail.com).

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, Betty May Hertz*

Thank you. Fr. Alex

**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**

DEAR HEAVENLY FATHER, HELP ME KNOW YOU BETTER SO THAT WHEN I PRAY FOR OTHERS, I CAN FILTER MY REQUEST THROUGH MY KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR WILL.

## Candles for April:

Sanctuary...HGB Margan Family... by Katarina Margan  
Tetrapod...+ George Makoweic... by Oksana Makoweic  
Theotokos & Child...HGB Mark Noonan... by Chris Noonan  
Christ Teacher...HGB Patrick Alexander & Family... by Lee & Kathy Alexander  
John Baptist...HGB John Alexander...Lee & Kathy Alexander  
St Nicholas...HGB Makoweic, Bulakh, Savarsky Families... by Oksana Makoweic  
Protection Theotokos... + Bill Kelly...Requested by Ann Kelly

*Dear God, I pray that Your divine guidance will lead me in such a way that I too, will be able to experience the Spirit's gracious touch upon my life. Amen.*

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Today - April 25: Potluck after Liturgy (encourage folks to bring food that the men's team will serve)

May 2: Potluck after Liturgy (encourage folks to bring food that the men's team will serve)

May 15: Spaghetti Dinner (Saturday).

FINANCIALS Apr. 4, 2021

Total Contributions: Monthly Dues -700.00 Offertory -@,186.00 Candles -62. 00  
Easter Offering - 520.00 Playground - 500.00 Special Gifts - 300.00  
IN - \$ 3,448. 00; OUT - \$ 451. 20

### The Lesson of the Trees

I suspect most of us like trees. We all have an idea of what a tree should look like. Big, tall, full of leaves. The kind of tree that the poet Joyce Kilmer wrote about. “A tree that looks at God all day and lifts her leafy arms to pray;”... I wonder; do kids still have to memorize that in school?

Anyway, I've always been fascinated with the tenacity of how plants and animals survive in nature. While working in Alaska, I remember spotting here and there, along the rugged coast line, a variety of conifer tree, clinging to the rocky cliffs along the sea shore, their roots exposed for the most part to the wind and salt spray. They were stunted and misshapen from all the storms that batter the coast, never reaching more than a few feet in height. They stood silent and persevered during the winter, at times covered in icy salt spray, churned up from the sea from winter storms that lashed the coast. Even so, they were green and alive, somehow managing to keep their balance in life.

A very short distance away, up into the narrow fiords and located along a fresh water stream, you could see another variety of conifer tree, tall, stately looking, with their branches spread wide, full of foliage. Eagles would perch in the limbs looking down into the stream for a catch. These trees are located in what we would consider perfect conditions, protected from the storms and harsh weather. They were well rooted, strong, healthy and thriving.

Between the stunted trees along the coast and the magnificent tall trees inland, most would consider the tall trees to be the more worthy. To me, both types of trees were beautiful in their own right. Each tree adapted perfectly to their conditions. The one for reaching the peak of perfection and health. The other for surviving, despite the environment it found itself in. If the situation were reversed, I suspect the trees would die off quickly. The tall stately looking tree would have no place for its roots to hold its massive structure and it surely be blown over in the next storm. Even if somehow its roots were to hold, the tree would die quickly for lack of nutrients to sustain it. No, it would not fit in. On the other hand, the dwarf tree would not have the developed root structure to take in nutrients for it to grow any better than it already is. More importantly the tree would be quickly starved for sunlight among all the other tall trees around it. God's plan? Most assuredly. God loves diversity in nature. Look at the different plants and animals on earth. So much variation. Each one a creation of God, and exists according to God's Will. God provides for each of us according to our circumstances. Spiritually speaking, a few of us may be like the stately trees. Tall and strong, with good roots to keep them anchored in life, seemingly unblemished with temptation or sin. Like the stately trees, they are a joy to behold and be around. These souls live with the grace God has freely given them, in the spiritual location God has ordained for them, and they are surly beautiful in the eyes of God.

For most of us, myself included, we live in the seemingly imperfect world God has ordained for us, surrounded by temptation and sin. These souls have to struggle and persevere continually to keep their balance. Like the stunted trees along the Alaskan coastline, these souls are not going to catch and hold the eye of the casual observer. They are likely to go unnoticed, or even rejected. These souls are battered and torn from spiritual battles that beat upon them daily, but in these storms of the soul, they are also sustained by God's love, and freely given God's Grace, and with it, they find a way to survive. In this survival, they are also made beautiful in the eyes of God.

Just like the trees of Alaska...Love Dad

**“Jesus extended Mary’s maternity to the entire Church when He entrusted her to his beloved disciple shortly before dying on the cross. From that moment on, we have all been gathered under her mantle... It is true that Christian piety has always given her beautiful titles, as a child gives his or her mamma: how many beautiful things children say about their mamma whom they love so much!... But we need to be careful: the things the Church, the Saints, say about her, beautiful things, about Mary, subtract nothing from Christ’s sole Redemption. He is the only Redeemer. They are expressions of love like a child for his or her mamma – some are exaggerated. But love, as we know, always makes us exaggerate things, but out of love.”**

*Pope Francis*

### Psalm 1

**Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.**

Blessed the man who follows not  
the counsel of the wicked

Nor walks in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the company of the insolent,  
But delights in the law of the LORD  
and meditates on his law day and night.

**Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.**

He is like a tree  
planted near running water,  
That yields its fruit in due season,  
and whose leaves never fade.  
Whatever he does, prospers.

**Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.**

Not so, the wicked, not so;  
they are like chaff which the wind drives away.  
For the LORD watches over the way of the just,  
but the way of the wicked vanishes.

**Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.**

## Psalm 95

**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;  
let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, let us bow down in worship;  
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.

For he is our God,  
and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Oh, that today you would hear his voice:  
“Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as in the day of Messiah in the desert,  
Where your fathers tempted me;  
they tested me though they had seen my works.”

**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

## Psalm 23

**Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;  
Beside restful waters he leads me;  
he refreshes my soul.

**Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.**

He guides me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk in the dark valley  
I fear no evil; for you are at my side

With your rod and your staff  
that give me courage.

**Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.**

You spread the table before me  
in the sight of my foes;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

**Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.**

Only goodness and kindness follow me  
all the days of my life;  
And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
for years to come.

**Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.**

## **Psalm 16**

**Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.**

Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge;  
I say to the LORD, "My Lord are you."  
O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup,  
you it is who hold fast my lot.

**Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.**

I bless the LORD who counsels me;  
even in the night my heart exhorts me.  
I set the LORD ever before me;  
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

**Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.**

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices,  
my body, too, abides in confidence;  
Because you will not abandon my soul to the nether world,  
nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption.

**Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.**

You will show me the path to life,  
fullness of joys in your presence,  
the delights at your right hand forever.

**Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.**