

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 25 SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN

Acts 9:32-42 Jn 51-15

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

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

Afterward Potluck after Liturgy

Tue Apr 27 **8:30am** Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB Carmen Edwards by Fr. Alex

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

Wed Apr 28 8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and + Diane McNamee by Chris Noonan

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

Thu Apr 29 8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB Ms. Katharina Margan and her Family by Fr. Alex

After Short Bible Reflection

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

SUN MAY 2 SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

Acts 11:19-26 & 29-30 Jn 4:5-42

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

11:00 Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB Lisa Edwards and her Family by 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

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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

Pew books are available to parishioners on temporary loan during the pandemic. One can check out a book (or books) as you would check out a library book. It will be the person's responsibility to return the book in good condition when we are able to once again have the books in the pews for general use. If you are interested, see Don Merkley.

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) or Dr. Mike Lechman (maclech@aol.com) via email or at Church.

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.

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. 18, 2021

Total Contributions: Monthly Dues -60.00 Offertory -1,019.00 Candles -10.00
IN - \$ 1,089.00; OUT - \$ 500.40

To be a Saint - The Three Great Gifts

We receive so many gifts from God. Some specific to us individually, others are universal, given to all men who believe in the message of Christ. This letter will cover three of the greatest. Three gifts that are essential for us to recognize and understand; to give us strength to cope in this present age. They were given to us so long ago, by design; knowing that we would have need of them.

The First Great Gift - Holy Eucharist: Before suffering the passion, Jesus gifted us the Holy Eucharist; His Body and Blood in the form of Communion, so that He might dwell within us. “Do this in remembrance of Me.”; were His words. Holy Communion strengthens our union with Christ. “He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me and I in him” (Jn6:57). When worthily received, “Holy Communion separates us from sin.” (CCC1393). Consider that Holy Eucharist cannot unite us to Christ, who is sinless, without at the same time cleansing us from past sin and preserving us from future sins. Jesus knew we would need this sacrament of the Holy Eucharist to preserve us from evil; to keep us part of the vine, which is Christ. We are hearing today that Catholics are falling away from the belief that the bread and wine are truly the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Is there any doubt where this heresy is coming from? Satan knows that the mystery and partaking of the Holy Eucharist on the part of the faithful is standing in his way of subverting the Church. It keeps him from souls that he so eagerly desires to corrupt and take away from God. “.....*Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar....*” *From the Devine Praises.*

The Second Great Gift - The Holy Spirit: Once again, Jesus lets us know of the gift and foretells of the Holy Spirit; “And I will ask the Father and He will give you another counselor to be with you forever; the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you.” (Jn 14:16-17). Jesus knew that in order to establish His Church on earth, the disciples would need the guidance and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Church teaches of seven gifts provided by the Holy Spirit; Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord. Through these gifts the moral life of Christians is sustained even unto this day. Think about it, without the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Church would have long ago become disoriented and lost her way. It would have been corrupted by Satan and we would live in a far different world. “*Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth! You are everywhere present and fill all things. Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life, Come and dwell within us, cleanse us of all stain, and save our souls, O gracious One.*” *Prayer to the Holy Spirit.*

The Third Great Gift - The Blessed Virgin as Mediatrix: “All generations shall call me Blessed.” Lk 1:48. The Blessed Virgin Mary is invoked in the Church under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix (CCC969) As the Mother of God she continues her role in Heaven as a powerful support for us. Both East and West acknowledge this in their liturgical calendar, and have designated special feast days and prayers to commemorate Mary’s role in her Son’s Church. In Mary, we see the perfection of mankind. In order to become the Theotokos, Mary was created without the stain of sin. Her life on earth was sinless and devoted to God, especially through her Son, Jesus. A great Saint of the church indeed, but God’s plan for Mary had an even greater purpose, known only to God. Mary was to become our Mother in Heaven. As such, Satan is thwarted once again. The Eve easily tempted in the Garden of Eden, was now replaced by the “New Eve”, who stands before the throne of God; an advocate for those who call upon her name. “*Remember O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession, was left unaided...*” *Memorare.*

We have received other Heavenly gifts to be sure; however, these three gifts we we’re given specifically to sustain us in our constant battle with Satan and his evil. Gifts that should not be ignored, put aside for emergencies only, or worse yet forgotten. They are so relevant to us today.

Yours in Christ Brother Joseph

“As far as God is concerned, no one is useless, discredited or a castaway. Today Jesus also tells us, “Peace be with you! You are precious in my eyes. Peace be with you! You are important for me. Peace be with you! You have a mission. No one can take your place. You are irreplaceable. And I believe in you.””

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.