

WELCOME TO ASCENSION

SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

PLEASE KEEP SOCIAL DISTANCE

SUN DEC 12

SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

Col 3:4-11 Lk 14:16-24 Tone 4 10:40 3rd Hour reading

11:00

Divine Liturgy For HGB All Our Parishioners and HGB Lawrence and Mary Ann Drumtra and there Family by Fr. Alex
After – Hospitality

SUN DEC 19

SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Heb 11:9-1 & 32-40 Mt 1:1-25 Tone 5 10:40 3rd Hour reading

11:00

Divine Liturgy For HGB All Our Parishioners and + George Nicholas Hertz by Betty May Hertz
After – Hospitality

CLOSING HYMN: Liturgy is not over until the closing hymn is complete, please refrain from conversation in the church.
Remember we are live streaming. Thank you

Many unique items come into the shop weekly. We have a great selection of special-occasion gifts and religious items unique to the Williamsburg area, including a wide selection of spiritual books, music, icons and devotional and inspirational articles plus hand-made soaps and local honey.

SPECIAL ORDERS WELCOMED.

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

Office Manager: Adi Kusno (Deacon Candidate) will be acting as the Ascension Office Manager under Fr. Alex. He will be responsible for organizational duties with scheduling activities as well as a contact person if Father is unavailable.

PARISH ACTIVITIES: All activities should be recorded on the main calendar in the office. Please write in the activity you are responsible for and let Fr. Alex know the details so he can include it in the bulletin

Happy DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3rd Gwendolyn Rose Picconi; 4th Robert Sotack; 7th Yaroslava Nicola Collins; 7th Ann Harmeyer; 11th Joshua Karlson; 19th Joe Baysura; 20th Kathy Alexander; 29th Abraham Kusno

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Join us as we journey through the Bible! The Ascension Bible Study will now take place on the **1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month** in the church hall. It will begin at 4:30pm and run no later than 6:00 pm.
See Dr. Michael Lechman and Michael Bracelin for questions.

Youth faith formation please contact Sasha Kusno at sashaeckstein@gmail.com (4th grade and up).

9:15 am Sunday, December 12 (No ECF on December 26 due to Christmas); 9:15 am Sunday, January 9. Students and parents are encouraged to sit with catechists at potlucks when possible to stay connected and up-to-date. Families may also contact Sasha Kusno at 660-287-1003 or sashaeckstein@gmail.com with any questions or suggestions. Parents are also welcome at monthly catechist meetings.

We also ask parents to pray for the fruit of their student's learning, especially during class time.

Catechist Meetings:

Sunday, December 19; 1 pm Sunday, January 16; 1 pm Sunday, February 20 ; 1 pm Sunday, March 20

Children's faith formation will follow the COVID precautions in place at the parish. Any person experiencing symptoms, under quarantine due to an exposure, or in isolation is asked to remain home out of charity for others. Make-up catechesis sessions are available on request in person or through Zoom. We look forward to learning, praying, and worshipping together!

Attention Advisory Board, Security Team, Ushers, and Church

Volunteers: Catholic Mutual (our insurance company) has developed on line training courses. Please see Mrs. Linda Lechman for information on how to access these training courses.

MAY GOD GRANT YOU ALWAYS A SUNBEAM TO WARM YOU, A MOONBEAM TO CHARM YOU, A SHELTERING ANGEL SO NOTHING CAN HARM YOU. LAUGHTER TO CHEER YOU, FAITHFUL FRIENDS NEAR YOU, AND WHENEVER YOU PRAY HEAVEN TO HEAR YOU. (An Irish blessing)

If you are interested in being an Usher, Greeter, or helping with Security please contact Mike Olson at mikeo23608@gmail.com.

If you are interested in serving the church by leading 3rd Hour before Divine Liturgy please email Michael Bracelin at Michael.bracelin@gmail.com

It takes a lot of strength and courage to put the past behind you and stand up and say: "I will not let it define me." To push forward and create the life that you truly deserve and not focus on bad things that life handed you in the past.

Candles for DECEMBER:

Sanctuary...HGB Margan Family...by Katarina Margan
Tetrapod...HGB Joel Hampton & Family by Elaine & Joe Hampton
Theotokos & Child...HGB Michael Noonan by Christine Noonan
Christ Teacher...HGB Patrick Alexander & Family...by Lee & Kathy Alexander
John Baptist...HGB Olson Family...by Lee & Kathy Alexander
St Nicholas... HGB Merly and Teresa Phillips...by Mary Ann Drumtra
Protection Theotokos... HGB Morgan and Kevin Kelly by Ann Kelly

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, Ben Pawers, Betta Labanish, Betty May Hertz, Emma Bernier, Thank you. Fr. Alex

FINANCIALS, Dec 5

Monthly Dues –1,330.00; Offertory – 4,198.46; Candles-32.00; Fuel –0.00; Holyday – 80.00; In – 6, 650.00; Out – 5, 247.86

The Immaculate Conception

As we progress through the season of Advent, and the preparations for the coming of our Lord and Savior, the church commemorates certain feast days and observances to help us prepare for the coming of Jesus. Perhaps none is more important than the one we celebrated this week.

On December 8th, both the Eastern and Western Catholic Church celebrated the feast day of the Immaculate Conception. Commemorating the conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a relatively recent feast day, established by Pope Pius IX on December 8th 1854. None the less, the Immaculate Conception has been a long-standing tradition and is an article of belief. There is a typicon composed by Saint Sabbas, commemorating the Immaculate Conception under the title of the Conception of Saint Anne, dating back to 485AD. As this typicon is a revision of an earlier work, we can see that this belief was well established in the early Church.

Mary is known by many titles. In the east, we see Greek words of Panagia (Most Holy) and Theotokos (God Bearer). In the West we see similar terms such as Mother Most Pure, Mother Most Chaste and Mother Inviolable, and so on. We see the term “Hail full of grace”, in the Gospel. These titles denote a special importance to the Blessed Virgin. An importance maybe best summed up on the feast day of the Immaculate Conception. With that said, the Immaculate Conception remains one of the least talked about, and possibly misunderstood dogmas of the church.

So why is this holyday so important as to set it apart and give it status akin to other major feast days? Mary is referred to frequently as the “New Eve”. She is the most perfect of God’s creations. Like Eve, Mary was created without original sin. Unlike Eve, Mary never fell to temptation.

Mary was born of Saint Anne, a devout woman, but none the less tainted with original sin. However, Mary was redeemed at the moment of her conception. Redeemed by God free of original sin, and bestowed with graces to prepare her for her role as God bearer. Why? For the redeemer, Jesus Christ, could not enter this world through one born with the sin of Adam.

Whereas Eve, who was also created sinless and pure of heart, eventually fell to sin, through pride, and the deception of Satan, Mary remained pure and humble in heart, a virgin to both man and sin. Indeed, she remained pure and free of sin throughout her whole life. This was necessary in order to provide a perfect vessel through which Jesus was to be born. One untainted by sin.

So, we have in Mary a pure vessel, one worthy of carrying the word of God incarnate. One other thing was required. Mary had to freely consent to this role as Theotokos. As she was full of grace, she more than likely had premonitions of the sacrifice and suffering that was to come if she consented. She had a choice. Without hesitation Mary responded to the Angel Gabriel; “Behold the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me

according to your word.” Lk 1:38.

As Mary became the new Eve, so too, Jesus, the son of God, who was born to a woman pure in every way, became the “New Adam”. In this wonderful plan of God, Jesus was able to make atonement for the original sin of Adam, and opened to us the possibility of eternal salvation. Without the Immaculate Conception of Mary, this would not have happened.

Mary also plays a continuing role in the plan of man’s salvation. That as Queen of Heaven and earth and as our Mediatrix before the throne of God. As foretold in the Book of Genesis, according to the Latin vulgate and the teachings of the Catholic Church, it is the woman, the pure and humble Blessed Virgin, who through her Son, will crush the head of the serpent, which is Satan. It is the Blessed Virgin Mary who became one of the three great gifts to mankind that was given to us when she assumed her mantle in Heaven. The other two being the Holy Spirit and the gift of Holy Eucharist. It is Mary who is the “Refuge of Sinners” and Queen of all Saints.”

The dogma of the Immaculate Conception lends itself to fruitful study and private meditation for all who would know and understand the nativity, and indeed God’s plan for eternal salvation. To study the Immaculate Conception, one should properly start with the doctrine of original sin, and the effects on mankind down to this day.

As a prelude to the Nativity, the Immaculate Conception should be studied in Adult Bible Study, and made part of every youth study program. It should be a prominent part of our Advent season of preparation.

Yours in Christ
Brother Joseph

Never regret a day in your life. Good days give you happiness, bad days give you experience, worst days give you lesson and **the best days** give you memories

Nothing but a Number

Japanese mountain climber Yuichiro Miura reached the summit of Mount Everest at age 70.

George Brunstad was also 70 when he swam the English Channel. Naval officer Grace Hopper became the first female rear admiral of the United States Navy when she was 79. Margaret Haggerty completed her quest to run a marathon on each of the seven continents when she was 84.

If stories like these teach us anything, it's that senior adults are capable of amazing things.

That was certainly true of Joshua. Even though he was probably nearing the century mark, God had a plan for him. Age didn't matter to God. Rather than telling Joshua to rest, retire or step aside for a younger replacement, God instructed him to get to work.

Perhaps we should take a cue from God in our attitude toward older adults. From an early age most of us were taught to respect our elders. However, too often we confuse politeness for respect. What's the difference? Politeness might include offering a hand to senior adults when they struggle with steps or making awkward small talk with aging relatives at family gatherings. Respect, however, would include realizing that with their years of challenges and experiences these adults are a rich, God-given resource.

In this age of politically correct labels, perhaps a better name for senior citizens is "ultra-experienced adults." God entrusted Joshua with an important duty a quarter century after Joshua reached retirement age because of his vast military experience and knowledge.

Think of the older adults you know. How does God want to use them in your life? What experiences of theirs might benefit you? What life lessons have they learned that might keep you from making a bad decision? And what might you be able to learn from hearing their stories and asking for their advice?

To Take Away

- *How would you describe your attitude toward senior adults?*
- *Think of two or three seniors you know. What might getting to know them better add to your life?*
- *What steps can you take this week to build a mutually beneficial relationship with an older adult?*

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.

Psalm 138

Your right hand saves me, O Lord.

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart,
for you have heard the words of my mouth;
in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise;
I will worship at your holy temple,
and give thanks to your name.

Your right hand saves me, O Lord.

Because of your kindness and your truth,
you have made great above all things
your name and your promise.
When I called, you answered me;
you built up strength within me.

Your right hand saves me, O Lord.

Your right hand saves me.
The LORD will complete what he has done for me;
your kindness, O LORD, endures forever;
forsake not the work of your hands.

Your right hand saves me, O Lord.

Psalm 113

The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.

Praise, you servants of the LORD,
praise the name of the LORD.
Blessed be the name of the LORD
both now and forever.

The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.

From the rising to the setting of the sun
is the name of the LORD to be praised.
High above all nations is the LORD;
above the heavens is his glory.

The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.

Who is like the LORD, our God, who is enthroned on high
and looks upon the heavens and the earth below?

The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.

He raises up the lowly from the dust;
from the dunghill he lifts up the poor
To seat them with princes,
with the princes of his own people.

The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.

Psalm 104

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!
How manifold are your works, O LORD!
the earth is full of your creatures.

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD be glad in his works!
Pleasing to him be my theme;
I will be glad in the LORD.

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

If you take away their breath, they perish
and return to their dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Psalm 11

The LORD is in his holy temple;
the LORD's throne is in heaven.
His eyes behold,
his searching glance is on mankind.

The just will gaze on your face, O Lord.

The LORD searches the just and the wicked;
the lover of violence he hates.
For the LORD is just, he loves just deeds;
the upright shall see his face.

The just will gaze on your face, O Lord.

Psalm 103

The Lord has established his throne in heaven.

Bless the LORD, O my soul;
and all my being, bless his holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.

The Lord has established his throne in heaven.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he put our transgressions from us.

The Lord has established his throne in heaven.

The LORD has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom rules over all.
Bless the LORD, all you his angels,
you mighty in strength, who do his bidding.

The Lord has established his throne in heaven.

Psalm 15

He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

He who walks blamelessly and does justice;
who thinks the truth in his heart
and slanders not with his tongue.

He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Who harms not his fellow man,
nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor;
By whom the reprobate is despised,
while he honors those who fear the LORD.

He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Who lends not his money at usury
and accepts no bribe against the innocent.
He who does these things
shall never be disturbed.

He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Exodus 15

Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant;
horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.
My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and he has been my savior.
He is my God, I praise him;
the God of my father, I extol him.

Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

The LORD is a warrior,
LORD is his name!
Pharaoh's chariots and army he hurled into the sea;
the elite of his officers were submerged in the Red Sea.

Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

The flood waters covered them,
they sank into the depths like a stone.
Your right hand, O LORD, magnificent in power,
your right hand, O LORD, has shattered the enemy.

Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

Psalm 69

Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

I am sunk in the abysmal swamp
where there is no foothold;
I have reached the watery depths;
the flood overwhelms me.

Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

But I pray to you, O LORD,
for the time of your favor, O God!
In your great kindness answer me
with your constant help.

Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

But I am afflicted and in pain;
let your saving help, O God, protect me;
I will praise the name of God in song,
and I will glorify him with thanksgiving.

Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

“See, you lowly ones, and be glad;
you who seek God, may your hearts revive!
For the LORD hears the poor,
and his own who are in bonds he spurns not.”

Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

Psalm 106

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Our fathers made a calf in Horeb
and adored a molten image;
They exchanged their glory
for the image of a grass-eating bullock.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

They forgot the God who had saved them,
who had done great deeds in Egypt,
Wondrous deeds in the land of Ham,
terrible things at the Red Sea.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Then he spoke of exterminating them,
but Moses, his chosen one,
Withstood him in the breach
to turn back his destructive wrath.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Psalm 99

Holy is the Lord our God.

Extol the LORD, our God,
and worship at his footstool;
holy is he!

Holy is the Lord our God.

Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
and Samuel, among those who called upon his name;
they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.

Holy is the Lord our God.

From the pillar of cloud he spoke to them;
they heard his decrees and the law he gave them.

Holy is the Lord our God.

Extol the LORD, our God,
and worship at his holy mountain;
for holy is the LORD, our God.

Holy is the Lord our God.

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 Massah in the desert,
Where your fathers tested me;
they tested me though they had seen my works.”

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

Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.

We have sinned, we and our fathers;
we have committed crimes; we have done wrong.
Our fathers in Egypt
considered not your wonders.

Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.

But soon they forgot his works;
they waited not for his counsel.
They gave way to craving in the desert
and tempted God in the wilderness.

Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.

They forgot the God who had saved them,
who had done great deeds in Egypt,
Wondrous deeds in the land of Ham,
terrible things at the Red Sea.

Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.

Then he spoke of exterminating them,
but Moses, his chosen one,
Withstood him in the breach
to turn back his destructive wrath.

Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.

Psalm 97

The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

The LORD is king; let the earth rejoice;
let the many islands be glad.
Clouds and darkness are round about him,
justice and judgment are the foundation of his throne.

The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
before the LORD of all the earth.
The heavens proclaim his justice,
and all peoples see his glory.

The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

Because you, O LORD, are the Most High over all the earth,
exalted far above all gods.

The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

Psalm 85

The Lord speaks of peace to his people.

I will hear what God proclaims;
the LORD—for he proclaims peace
To his people, and to his faithful ones,
and to those who put in him their hope.

The Lord speaks of peace to his people.

Kindness and truth shall meet;
justice and peace shall kiss.
Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven.

The Lord speaks of peace to his people.

The LORD himself will give his benefits;
our land shall yield its increase.
Justice shall walk before him,
and salvation, along the way of his steps.

The Lord speaks of peace to his people.