

WELCOME TO ASCENSION

VE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

We are only allowing **between 22 and 44 people in Church**
and 20 people in Church Hall

SUN	JAN 10	SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY Eph 4:7-13 Mt 4:12-17 Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and + Don Noonan by Ghris Noonan
	11:00	
Tus	Jan 12	8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and + Rosemary Lechman Him by Dr. Mike & Linda Lechman 6:00pm Advisory Board Meeting
Wed	Jan 13	8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and + Criselda Duran by Lolly Vinson After Moleben to the Theotokos -Special Intentions-For Peace in Our Country
Thu	Jan 14	8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB Seamus Kearney (Business Success) by Eugene Kokinda After Short Bible Reflection 6:00pm “ROSARY” Prayer for Protection and Healing of the coronavirus and all serious illnesses by Men’s Club
SUN	JAN 17	SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS 1 Tim 4:9-15 Lk 19:1-10 Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and + Don Noonan by Ghris Noonan
	11:00	

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 JANUARY Birthdays

23rd Lee Alexander; 24th Ryan Collins; 30th Joan Ruskowski

JANUARY Candles:

Sanctuary...HGB Margan Family...Requested by Katarina Margan
Tetrapod...BRS Bill Kelly...Requested by Ann Kelly
Theotokos & Child...HGB...Morgan & Kevin Kelly Requested by
Ann Kelly
Christ Teacher...HGB Patrick Alexander & Family Requested by
Lee & Kathy Alexander
John Baptist...HGB John Alexander Requested by Lee & Kathy
Alexander
St Nicholas...For Our Parish
Protection of the Theotokos...For Our Parish

Reminder: Hospitality is **SUSPENDED**

FINANCIALS Jan. 1, 2021

Total Contributions: Flowers –0.00 Monthly Dues -270.00 Holyday 10.00
Offertory –791.00 Non-Monetary Donation – 0.00 Fuel –0.00 Rainy Day
Fund-0.00 Candles –25.00 Labanish Religious Education Fund–50.00
IN – \$ 1133.00; OUT— \$ 2200.00

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. Fr. Alex

“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.*

HRAMOTY

There is an envelope for the 5 All Souls Saturdays (which we
celebrate on Sunday mornings) in your pack of
envelopes. Please write on the card all changes to the list of
deceased members of your family to be remembered in
prayer. If there are no changes, please write "*no changes*". The
offering should be for Father Alex Shuter, not Ascension.

ENVELOPES

There is a large box of offering envelopes at the back of the
church. If you have not yet picked up your envelopes, please
ask the ushers to give you an package of envelopes

Parishioner to Parishioners

To Be a Saint - Keeping Watch

There is another theme we see over and over again in scripture. It is stated so many times, and in so many different ways; we ignore it at our own peril. Let's pull out our Bibles.

When scripture tells us to "watch," it is usually the translation of one of two Greek words to "stay awake" and to "be sleepless." These terms are usually meant in the metaphorical and spiritual sense—to be vigilant and on guard, fully awake, aware, alert and intently focused.

For those who have stood watch, perhaps in military service, you will be able to relate to this. While standing a watch, you are fully awake, your mind is clear. You use all of your senses to gather information and assemble it to determine what is going on around you, and then being prepared to use that information to take action.

In both old and new testament, we hear the word to watch or be watchful along with similar language. In Proverbs we hear about the need to keep your heart with all vigilance, Pro.4:23. We hear about the need to take heed, both in Deut. 11-:16; and Josh. 23:11. In the new testament, we hear the words to awake from sleep, Rom. 13:11.

Often the connection is made between being watchful and praying. Jesus told His disciples to "watch and pray" in Lk. 21:36 when discussing the end times. Once again Jesus said to "watch and pray" during His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, Mt. 26:41. Many of Jesus' parables echo this thought. Consider the parable related in Mat. 25:1-13, of the 10 virgins. Later, in the Epistles, the Apostle Paul takes up this theme; consider Eph. 6:18, Col. 4:2. Reading these passages we see clearly that watching and prayer are linked in a way so that we are prepared spiritual to do battle with the enemy. This is an important take away. In the first Epistle of Peter, we see another spiritual corollary used. Watching is connected with staying spiritually *sober*, meaning sober-minded. We see this repeated throughout the first Epistle of Peter; 1 Pet. 1:13; 1 Pet. 4:7; and once again in 1 Pet. 5:8. It is echoed and addressed in varying ways in Paul's writings; 1 Thess. 5:6-8; Rom.12:3, 1 Cor. 15:34; Tit. 2:2, 2 Tim. 4:5. The Apostles were very consistent in their teaching.

Let's return to Matt. 26:41. What Jesus said to Peter had a deeper, spiritual meaning: "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak." It is *spiritual watching* coupled with prayer that

prepares us, and gives us the strength to survive temptations and difficult situations. A lot of biblical quotes? I just scratched the surface in this letter.

As Jesus' disciples today, we must also watch and pray. We are easily distracted by this world, due to our our fleshly needs and desires, and the schemes of the enemy, 2 Cor. 2:11. When we take our eyes from Jesus, our values begin to shift, our attention wanders, and soon we are living in the world, 1 John 2:16-17, and bearing little fruit for God's kingdom. We must be ready at any moment to stand before Him and give an account of our lives (Rom. 14:12; 1 Pet. 4:5; Matt. 12:36).The message is clear and consistent. Keep a good watch and pray. Indeed, these are watchful times.

"Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong." 1Cor16:13.

Yours in Christ

Brother Joseph

"Brothers and sisters, let us seek to remain always in the joy of encountering Jesus. Let us cultivate joyfulness. The devil, instead, after having deluded us – with whatever temptation – always leaves us sad and alone. If we are in Christ, there is no sin and no threat that can ever prevent us from continuing joyfully on our way, together with many other companions on the road."

Pope Francis