

WELCOME TO ASCENSION

SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

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

On March 23,2021, John Labanish (the Late Husband of Betta Labanish) received posthumously the James City County Historical Commission Preservation Award. John served for two terms as chairperson of the Historical Commission and also facilitated the publication of “A History of James City County.” He was specifically honored for his many years of dedicated service and contribution to the organization, development and on-going relocation/restoration of the Norge Depot Museum in Norge, Virginia.

Happy APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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

FINANCIALS Mar. 21, 2021

Total Contributions: Monthly Dues -65.00 Offertory -970.00 Candles -2. 00
IN - \$ 1,107. 00; OUT- \$ 745. 11

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

SUN	MAR 28	PALM SUNDAY Phil 4:4-9 Jn 12:1-18
	9:30	BIBLE STUDY , led by Mike Bracelin
	11:00	Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and + Posey Jim by Dr. Michael and Linda Lechman
		HOLY WEEK
Holy Tus	Mar 30	4:15 -6:00pm Office hours in Church (Fr. Alex)
	6:00 pm	Confessions
	7:00pm	Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with Holy Anointing for Our Parishioners and HGB Betta Labanish by Fr. Alex
Holy Wed	Mar 31	8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB Maureen Black by Fr.Alex
	After	Moleben to the Theotokos -Special Intentions-For Peace in Our Country
Holy Thu	Apr 1	8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB APRIL Birthdays 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
	7:00pm	Vespers and Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners
Good Fri	Apr 2	8:00pm GOOD FRIDAY BURIAL VESPERS
Holy Sat	Apr 3	9:00am – 2:00pm VISITATION AT THE TOMB
SUN	APR 4	RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD - PASCHA Acts 1:1-8 Jn 1:1-17
	10:00	MATINS OF THE RESURRECTION
	11:00	Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners
	Afterward	Blessing of EASTER baskets

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

EASTER BRINGS FUN, EASTER BRINGS HAPPINESS, EASTER BRINGS
GOD'S ENDLESS BLESSINGS, EASTER BRINGS LOVE AND THE
FRESHNESS OF SPRING. HAPPY EASTER TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!
FR. ALEX

Candles for April:

Sanctuary...HGB Margan Family...Requested by Katarina Margan
Tetrapod...HGB Our Parish Family
Theotokos & Child... HGB Morgan and 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...Helen & Merrill LeBlanc by Peter & Lisa Margan

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.

"Do not forget that God always forgives, always, if we humbly ask for forgiveness. It is enough just to ask for forgiveness, and he forgives. In this way we will find true joy and be able to rejoice in God's forgiveness, which regenerates and gives life. May Mary Most Holy help us not to be afraid of letting ourselves be “thrown into crisis” by Jesus. It is a healthy crisis, for our healing: so that our joy may be full."

Pope Francis

To Be a Saint

Prayer - Part 6. Learn How to Listen

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” Mat. 11:15;

Listening is another biblical theme we could easily discuss. From Genesis to Revelation, we hear about the importance of listening. For me, it culminates in the Gospels, within the teachings of Christ. This theme is there for us to read in the Bible not by happenstance. We need to heed the message. Rather than list and discuss the examples, let's apply this theme to our prayer life. For it is in the listening that we begin to be made into Saints of God.

Our prayers are a personal dialog with God. Instead of a dialog; however, some may find themselves in a monolog, a one-sided conversation, where we are doing all the talking. I'll venture to say that at some point in our life, all of us have experienced this.

Listening is the distinguishing quality of any fruitful conversation. Listening has become a lost art in today's society. We often simply do not make the effort to listen; to contemplate what God is telling us. For most assuredly God is speaking to us. His voice is there if we listen. God speaks to us first and foremost through scripture. The bible is literally the word of God. How many times a day, a week, or a month, do you take time and listen to God through reading holy scripture? Do we listen intently to the scripture readings on Sunday and during the week? With the advent of the internet, the word of God has never been so available, yet we have never been more distracted from it. I believe this is by design. We know also from the Bible that God speaks to us through visions, such as Saul's vision on the road to Damascus. Sometimes He speaks to us in our dreams, like the dreams of Saint Joseph. The Bible gives examples of God speaking through objects, and even animals, such as through a burning bush in the Exodus story of Moses on Mount Horeb, and through the donkey to Balaam in the Book of Numbers.

Sometimes, God answers us through experiences. On occasion, this is how I understand what God is saying to me. He will let me know through a particular experience, or set of experiences. At the end of which

there is no doubt in my mind that God has spoken to me. It is humbling, and upon reflection, it could be that I was slow to hear His answer through other means. God is very patient with me.

But how do I know it is actually God's voice?

Learn to recognize God's voice. We should be as familiar with God's voice as we are with the voices of our own family. We must belong to God. Jesus said, “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” [John 10:27](#). If you cannot hear God's voice and are struggling to know what to listen for, ask Him to teach you. God wants you to hear Him. God will never contradict Himself. If the voice you are hearing contradicts God's written word, reject the voice, and seek spiritual guidance from your Pastor. Jesus explained in John 16:13 that the Holy Spirit would never bring His own message, or a different message. Rather, it would always be the same message of Christ. When you ask God to answer a question or a request, look for the answer. If you ask and do not look, you may miss it. Don't anticipate what the answer will be, or you may miss His response entirely. We often ask of God, believing we know what the answer should be, only to find the answer is something completely different. Remember, God's answer to our prayers will always be in concert with His Devine Plan. His Will Be Done!

Be patient, God may not answer you directly, or in what we consider to be a timely fashion. God answers you in His time. Remember, God loves all of us; Saints and sinners. God offers His guidance to us today just as He offered it to the greatest Saints of the Church. God's love is the same for everyone. So, what is the difference between us and the Saints? It may be, in part, how the Saints profited from their dialog with God. How well do we put to use what God has told us? Could this be the difference? If we try to put into practice what God has told us, how much more likely is it that our dialog with God will flourish?

God is speaking to us, even now. Will we listen?

Yours in Christ
Brother Joseph

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 Massah 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.

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.