

## WELCOME TO ASCENSION

SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

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

### 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  
Potluck after Liturgy

Tus May 4 8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and  
HGB Pr. John and Caroline Williams by Fr. Alex  
4:15 -6:00pm Office hours in Church (Fr. Alex)

Wed May 5 8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and  
HGB Emma Bernier by Fr. Alex

Afterward MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS -Special Intentions-For Peace in Our Country

Thu May 6 8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and  
+ Justina Lestishock 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 MAY 9 SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND

Acts 16:16-34 Jn 9:1-38

9:30 BIBLE STUDY, led by Mike Bracelin

11:00 Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners 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

## Nothing valuable in live comes FREE!!!

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## Happy MAY BIRTHDAYS

20th Larry Drumtra; 29th Jeffrey Sotack; 29th Fr Bob Chope

*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](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 May:

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

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 - 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 -50.00 Offertory -670.00 Candles -12. 00 Special Gifts St. Luke's Icon Guild - 260.00 IN - \$ 732. 00; OUT- \$ 3,280. 55

## Our Daily Bread - Skip a Rope

Skip a rope, skip a rope, Oh listen to the children while they play, Now ain't it kinda funny what the children say, Skip a rope - Henson Cargill

These words are from an old country song about young children and what they were learning from their parents and from the world around them. Things like cheating, and various forms of hatred and anger.

Growing up in the 1950s and 60s in rural America was a world away from where we are today. Communication and entertainment back then were fairly simple. I always remember the radio being close by. We were one of the first in the area to get a television. Glorious black and white with two channels to choose from. It worked out well, because the networks went off the air about bedtime. Believe it or not, Bishop Fulton Sheen had the top-rated program on television. We had an old-style telephone, Chestnut 1-4334...; it was a party line, which meant you could pick up and here saintly ladies talking about recipes for making apple butter and other vital information. That was about as close as we came to an internet.

We had our “fears” and challenges. I remember having to practice ducking under a desk to protect myself from a nuclear explosion; remember now, turn your head away from the bright flash... Oh yes, we were exposed to typical family fighting, alcoholism and the use of tobacco. I still remember that most Doctors smoke Camel cigarettes, and other misleading ads. For the most part though, we led sheltered lives compared to what I see happening today. Was I naïve? You bet I was; and thank the Lord I was. Through work, school and church, I was allowed to learn a strict value system before I was exposed to much of the seedier side of life.

Today is so different. That telephone you carry on you, connects you instantly too virtually everything. Our life is built around it. We are as dependent on that, and similar “devices” as we are on the air we breathe or the water we drink. Go ahead, try it. Put it down for a day or two. Put all the “devises” down and turn them off. But Dad, my business depends on it. Our livelihood revolves around it. I need the information. I need ALL the information..... Just so.

Our collective dependence on being connected, means we are exposed to everything. This exposure is being transferred down to our children at a much younger age. Earlier than any generation of Americans in our nation's history. An age at which most children are not prepared to process rightly what they hear and see. An age before they have a well-defined set of internal values with which to judge and make good decisions. Our children are being exposed daily to things unimaginable from what kids experienced back in my childhood. Society throws everything out there, and it is all presented as normal, right, no big deal, everybody does it. Without the intervention of family, there are seemingly no filters. Worse yet, this being connected with everything is addictive. The more you do it, the more you want it.

How well are our children protected from this? We are careful to put masks on them. We train them to wash and sanitize and live as clean as they can to protect them from a virus. How about protecting them from the outright violence and perversion shown on almost every form of media out there. How well do we control what they being forced fed through entertainment and media? Do we approach it the same way we teach them to protect against COVID?

There is no way we can shield them from everything. So, it is up to us to train them quickly. Instill in them, as soon as we can, the moral values they need to defend themselves. This is a responsibility not only for parents and grandparents, but for uncles and aunts, all family members play a role. The teachings of our faith play a big part, but requires the family, especially parents, to set the tone. Remember, if its not important to you, it will not be important to them... It does not take long to have an influence on them, but the influence needs to be as consistent and persistent as the constant messaging they are receiving from forces that seek to mislead them.

We can't go back to a simpler time. Even those who go “off the grid” to escape, will only do so for a short period of time. We have to live in this world, in these times. What we can do is recognize the danger that works against our families and traditional values. Everything we do with our children should be done with a view to instruct and reinforce good values. For we will indeed reap what we sow. Love Dad

**“How beautiful and consoling it is to know that Jesus knows us one by one, that we are not unknown to Him, that our name is known to Him!... We are unique individuals, each with his or her own story, He knows us with our own story, each with his or her own value, both because they have been created and have been redeemed by Christ. Each of us can say: Jesus, knows me!... Only He knows what is in our hearts, our intentions, our most hidden feelings. Jesus knows our strengths and our defects, and is always ready to care for us, to heal the wounds of our errors with the abundance of His mercy.”**

*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.**

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 16

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