

WELCOME TO ASCENSION

SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

PLEASE KEEP SOCIAL DISTANCE

SUN FEB 20 SUNDAY OF MEATFARE ((1ST ALL SOULS))
1 Cor 8:8-9:2 Mt 25:31-46 Tone 6 10:40 3rd Hour reading
11:00 **Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners** and HGB Dr. Nadia Shockley and her Family by Fr. Alex
After – Hospitality

Tue Feb 22 **8: 30am For Our Parishioners** and +Icon Gild by Fr. Alex

Wed Feb 23 **8:30am For Our Parishioners** and Margan Family by Fr. Alex
MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS -Special Intentions-For Peace in Our Country

Thu Feb 24 **8:30am For Our Parishioners** + Andrew Kokinda by Eugene Kokinda
After - Bible Study
6:00pm – ROSARY - Prayer for Protection and Healing of the coronavirus and all serious illnesses by Men's Club

SUN FEB 27 SUNDAY OF CHEES-FARE
Rom 13:11-14:4 Mt 6:41-21 Tone 7 10:40 3rd Hour reading
11:00 **Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners** and + Mary Joanne Mayens by Dr. Mike and Linda Lechman
After – Hospitality

HARAMOTY

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.

Happy FEBRUARY Birthdays

1st Mabel Picconi; 4th Angela Bross; 4th MaryJean Sotack;
6th Julian Picconi; 9th Greg Pula; 16th Don Merkley; 17th Nadia Shockley
17th Mike Olson; 19th Claudia Cochran

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, Lolly Vinson
Thank you. Fr. Alex

FINANCIALS, Feb 13, 2022

Monthly Dues –70,00.00; Offertory – 578.00; Candles-45.00; Fuel –10.0;
Initial Offering/Envelopes –0.00 In –578.00; Out – 3,259.06

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

Glory to Jesus Christ! To watch livestreaming: <https://www.facebook.com/AscensionOfOurLord/>

Click both "Follow" (blue button) on Facebook Page and hit "Like" button to get notification

and/or Click both "Subscribe" (red button) on YouTube Channel and hit "Bell" button to get notification

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFrYPWRdt-4HCsBpXdxAmhg>

Each time new video is live streaming there will be notification on Facebook and/or YouTube

Please let me know if there is other technical difficulty

In your service, Adi : +1 (757) 332-8173

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.

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

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.

WHERE THERE IS LOVE, THERE IS LIFE. WHERE THERE I LIFE, THERE IS HOPE. WHERE IS HOPE, THERE IS FAITH. WHERE THERE IS FAITH, MIRACLES HAPPEN. WHERE THERE IS PEACE, THERE IS GOD. AND WHEN YOU HAVE GOD, YOU HAVE EVERYTHING.

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

Candles for February:

Sanctuary...For Our Parishioners
Tetrapod... For Our Parishioners
Theotokos & Child... HGB Kyra Noonan by Christine Noonan
Christ Teacher... HGB Mary, John, Patrick Alexander by Lee and Kathy Alexander
John Baptist... For Our Parishioners
St Nicholas... For Our Parishioners
Protection Theotokos... HGB June and Darren Hall by Mary Ann Drumtra

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

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, I am so sorry For the way I complain about my circumstances. Please forgive me for my bad attitude when things don't go my way. I know you have a beautiful plan for my life and have already showered me with more blessing than I can count. Amen!

PARISH ACTIVITIES: All activities should be recorded on the main calendar **2022** 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

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Did you miss the Bible Study this Fall, but you want to still participate? It's not too late! The Bible Study will restart on Tuesday January 18th at 5:15 pm and we will do a complete review of everything we learned in Fall. Please join us for great food and a wonderful conversation-based journey through Scripture! See Dr. Michael Lechman and Michael Bracelin for questions.

We are Chosen

Consider, chapter one of the Acts of the Apostles. The apostles along with the other disciples present at the Ascension, returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. The first act of the Apostles was to pray, and select a replacement for Judas. Notice that Jesus had not directly told them who the replacement of Judas was to be before He ascended. The cup of responsibility was handed to the Apostles. Two men were considered, Matthias, and Joseph, called Barsabbas.

We know that both of these men had been with Jesus throughout His ministry, beginning with the Baptism of John and through the Ascension. They both knew the teachings of Christ. They both were qualified. Which one should be selected? So, they asked the Lord to guide them, they threw lots and selected Matthias.

Matthias is only mentioned by name in the Bible twice, in Act1:23 and Acts 1:26, yet when we speak of the Apostles after the Ascension, and when we discuss Apostolic Tradition, Matthias is included in the group. We know little else, but consider, Matthias received the Holy Spirit as an Apostle on Pentecost. His voice was considered as that of an Apostle. He played a role during the formulation of the Apostles Creed and other seminal teachings of the Apostles. He dispersed with the other Apostles throughout the world with a great zeal to preach the Gospel of Jesus. I believe we can also be sure he suffered and Apostle's death as a martyr.

There are many traditions to be found surrounding the life of Saint Matthias. Saint Clement of Alexandria, who lived about 100 years later, provides us his version that has general acceptance. What is striking and fruitful about Saint Clement's commentary though, is his assertion that Matthias, like all the other apostles, was not chosen by Jesus for what he already was, but for what Jesus foresaw he would become. He was elected not because he was worthy, but because he would become worthy.

Here is the fruit we should take away. Jesus sees us not as we are, with our faults and weaknesses, with our petty selfishness and appetites. Jesus rather sees us as to what we can become. What we were created for. Jesus chooses all of us in the same way.

Jesus tells us this in the Gospel of John. *"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you."* Jn15:16

I wonder. Did we see this quote from Jesus in the Gospel of John play out in the selection of Matthias? Without previous guidance from Jesus before He

ascended, did not the Apostles ask for guidance from the Father in the name of Jesus in the selection of Matthias?

Know this then, that God chose us even before the creation of the world. Saint Paul tells us in his letter to the Ephesians. *"Blest be God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blest us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him."* EP1:3-4

Can we reject this call? Most certainly. God gave us the free will to walk away from this calling. Satan uses this to distract us and divert us, to keep us from fulfilling the will of God. Matthias, after witnessing the brutal crucifixion of Jesus could have most certainly walked away from the group of disciples, and denied the previous three years of Christ's ministry. Several disciples probably did, but Matthias did not. His reward was to see firsthand the resurrected Jesus. To sit in His midst, and hear the Master speak, and to witness His Ascension.

Be comforted then. God has a plan for our salvation. *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."* JE29:11

So, follow the example of the Apostles and ask God for guidance in the Name of Jesus. Then, be like Saint Matthias, and answer God's calling.

Yours in Christ
Brother Joseph

Saturday, 2 April 2022, 2:00 - 5:00 pm

Holy Lent Day of Reflection

As we prepare for Great & Holy Week and Pascha (Easter), Fr. Brad Guillory (Chaplain, United States Navy) will lead us in an afternoon of prayer and reflection on the Liturgical Season. It will include an opportunity to celebrate the Mystery of Penance (Confession). The afternoon will flow into an evening Potluck Dinner in accordance with the Great Fast; i.e., exclusion of meat, dairy, eggs, etc. (it is a Saturday so seafood & wine are permitted, get out those old family recipes!). Fr. Brad will also preach at Divine Liturgy on Sunday 3 April, linking our themes and concluding our time of reflection. Please extend the invitation to your family, friends, and wider community.

*Every day is a new beginning. Take a deep breath, smile and begin again.
God woke you up today for reason. Trust in His plan, His timing is perfect.
He will make a way. Amen.
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.