

WELCOME TO ASCENSION

SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

“NOTHING EMBITTERS A PERSON MORE THAN SUFFERING. BUT WHEN IT IS CONSECRATED TO GOD, IT BECOMES HOLY”

THOMAS MERTON

SUN MAY 12

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1st ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Acts 10:16-18 & 28-36 Jn 17:1-13 Festal Tone

The 5th Talk on the History of the Byzantine Catholic Church Dr. Ron

11:00 TYPIKA WITH HOLY COMMUNION For All Our Parishioners and

Our MOTHERS

After –Hospitality

Tue May 14 8: 30am **MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS** For Peace in Our Country For Our Parishioners
5:15pm - Bible study

Wed May 15 8:30am **MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS** For Peace in Our Country & Our Parishioners

Thu May 16 8:30am **MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS** For Peace in Our Country & Our Parishioners
6:00pm - **ROSARY** - Prayer for Protection and Healing of the coronavirus and all serious illnesses by Men's Club

Fri May 17 1:00pm Church **Cleaning** Hours

Sat May 18 **5:00pm Italian Dinner** “Cena Italiana”

SUN MAY 19

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Acts 2:1-11 Jn 7:37-52&8:12 Festal Tone

11:00 TYPIKA WITH HOLY COMMUNION For All Our Parishioners

After –Hospitality

THANKS FOR BEING AN INCREDIBLE MOTHER AND ROLE MODEL TO ME DURING MY CHILDHOOD. I AM SO THANKFUL TO HAVE YOUR SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE AS I NAVIGATE THROUGH LIFE. HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

+

JOSEPH BAYSURA PASSES AWAY ON MAY 2, 2024.

In blessed repose, grant, O Lord, eternal rest to Your departed servant, Joseph Basura, and remember him forever.

Eternal memory, blessed repose and eternal memory.

Bible Study: The Gospel of John

The next Bible study will be held on May 14 from 5:15 to 6:30 PM and will cover John Chapter 21, "Simon, Do You Love Me?". This is Lesson 28 in the study manual and will be the last session on the study of John's Gospel. There will also be a brief introduction to our next subject, The Book of Genesis, which will start in June on a date to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Lechman

Please Join us on the (1st and 3rd Tuesday) of the month to: Read, Discuss, and Meditate on the Daily Readings, after Divine Liturgy, and (2nd and 4th Tuesday Evening Bible Study of St. John at 5:15pm. in the Social Hall.

Visitors, family and friends: Are you curious, do you have questions or inquirers about our church, icons, Divine Liturgy, or Byzantine Catholic traditions? Someone will be waiting to answer your questions after Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings in the vicinity of the icon corner at the front of the sanctuary. Don't be afraid to ask, there are no wrong questions.

Attention all Parishioners, Visitors, and Guests: please do your part to help us keep the Social Hall clean. After Sunday Hospitality and Pot Lucks please make sure the table area where you were sitting is wiped clean. **Also, please place your chair on top of the table.** Doing these things will be a big help and save much time in maintaining and keeping the floors clean. Thanks for your help and cooperation Fr. Alex

Let's be prepared and proactive for any event that may happen on church property during our Sunday Divine Liturgy and every day.

The Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) is fully operational and located on the wall above the fire extinguisher in St. Phillips Hall. Eight parishioners were certified on the use of the AED on Oct 8, 2023 and other parishioners have been certified in the past. Periodic updates will follow. Dr. Michael Lechman

The 5th Talk on the History of the Byzantine Catholic Church, Sunday June 9, 10AM 2024 Betta Hall. Prior to Liturgy Subsequent Lectures Monthly. Dr. Ron Ruszkowski

Liturgy and Candle Requests: Often we want to remember someone and offer special prayers for the departure of a loved one, special occasion, birthday, anniversary, etc. with celebration of a Divine Liturgy or lighting of a candle in

front of an icon. To request a liturgy or candle, please complete the form in the appropriate envelope which you will find in the rack on the wall as you enter Ascension church and place it in the Sunday offering basket. Thank you. Fr. Alex.

Candles for May

Sanctuary Lamp...+ John & Betta Labanish
Tetrapod... HGB Mark Noonan by Chris Noonan
Theotokos & Child... HGB Merle & Teresa Phillips by Mary Ann Drumtra
John Baptist... HGB Kyra Noonan by Chris Noonan
St Nicholas... HGB Hampton Family Nicole, Alex Allyson by Eleine & Joe Hampton
Protection Theotokos... In Love & Gratitude by Jim & Gia Hoolan
Christ Teacher... HGB Larry Drumtra, Merle & Teresa by Mary Ann Drumtra

Happy MAY BIRTHDAYS
20th Larry Drumtra; 29th Jeffrey Sotack;

We have several faithful from Ascension who are in need of special prayer.

Some of those who need special prayer are:

Frank and Chris Janke, Mary Grace Dorsey, Ben Pawers, Betty May Hertz, Emma Bernier, Lolly Vinson, June Mathews, William McGraw, Myron Kotyk, Darren and June Hall, Aurora & Jaime Daquilanea, Lary, Mary Ann Drumtra & their Family, Katharina Margan, Elaine Hampton, Dr. Micheal & Linda Lechman, Orysia Stefaniv, Elisabeth Branden, Merly & Teresa Phillips, Mary Sullivan, Mary Saupp, Francis Fenderson, Gareth & Patricia Reeves. Abigail Johnson, Don Wilson & his Family, Johnny Morris, Mary Faith West. Thank you. Fr. Alex

Young Adults, Children, Adult Bible Study Comity: Subdeacon Adithia Kusno, Dr. Michael Lechman, Sasha Kusno.

Special Event/Retreat Speakers Comity: David Efimetz, Don Merkley, Dr. Mary Jean Sotack

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10 signs you're doing well in life:

- 1.) you have a roof over your head. 2.) You ate today. 3.) You have a good heart.
- 4.) You wish good for others. 5.) You have clean water. 6.) Someone cares for you.
- 7.) You strive to be better. 8.) You have clean clothes. 9.) You have a dream. 10.) You're Breathing.

Be Thankful For The Little Things

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



FINANCIALS, May 5, 2024

Monthly Dues -370.00; Offertory -1,762.00; Candles-9.00; In - 2,146.00; Out-4,595.12

We will still collect donations for the Ukrainian Humanitarian Cause. You may place your generous gift in the basket with the Ukrainian Flag. You will find it at the Icon Screen. Thank you for your gift of hope! Fr. Alex

SPECIAL ORDERS WELCOMED.

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, local honey.
To Be a Saint – The Dangers of Freemasonry

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.

Our Daily Bread - Is Your Mind Ready?

All things are ready if our minds be so. Shakespeare, Henry V, Act 4, Scene 3. So closes the speech of King Henry V before the Battle of Agincourt. It is a brilliant example of the importance of having your mind right in your approach to life. The King's speech rallied the vastly outnumbered English Army facing the fierce French heavy cavalry charge that day near the French town of Agincourt.

I was never a great reader of Shakespeare. In school I was made to read the Greek tragedies and a good amount of Shakespeare, along with other English playwrights, Marlowe, Johnson, etc. Thank heaven for Cliff notes. Later in life I discovered that Shakespeare was not meant to be read from a book, but to be seen performed. I have since grown very fond of the Bard. Enough of that. The quote from Henry V above is what I really want to talk about, for in it there is wisdom for all times, and all situations.

Life comes at you fast. The struggle of holding a job and making a living, the pressures of marriage and raising a family and, well, keeping your balance in life. Then there is a constant barrage from the 24-7 news cycle. The terrible wars, the violence on our college campuses, the open border, the fear of another pandemic, crime, inflation, and oh yes, the politics of an election year.

We process all of this and more during our daily life, and I would say on the whole do a good job of keeping things in perspective. Our responses are for the most part measured and balanced. But as we process these things, they also illicit emotion from us. Frustration, worry, anger, fear, a sense of hopelessness and more. After a while, emotions build and start to play a greater role in our thought process. When many things are happening all around you, rational thought becomes difficult. We then rely on instinct, or just "check out". The military recognizes this and works hard to instill core values in its members, reinforced with training, muscle memory and a strict discipline and organization to mitigate this. This gets back to what King Henry said. *All things are ready if our minds be so.* Get your mind right. As best possible, keep your emotions off the playing field, and never make decisions based purely on emotion.

Set your priorities in life. Put God and your faith first, not second, not third. Look clearly around you, as faith in God declines, our problems mount, our confusion gets worse. As we turn our back on our faith, to follow personal pursuits, we only sink deeper

into the abyss. You can see it happening all around us.

With your priorities set, practice them. Don't put them on a shelf or behind a piece of glass which reads break in case of emergency. You must practice your faith to understand it, otherwise it will be of little use to you when the time comes and you need it. With your priorities set and well-practiced, then take stock when facing challenges. Clearly measure strength and weakness and make decisions accordingly. As you have heard me say before, setbacks are not failures. Learn from them and adjust.

Let's look at Shakespeare's battle of Agincourt again. The English were outnumbered about 5 to 1, but their defensive position was strong, the muddy fields would greatly reduce the effect of the French charge, and in fact became a death trap. The English had in their army perhaps the best archers in the world at that time. They had developed volley fire techniques that were devastating to mounted armor, but there were many negative factors. The English were fatigued from many months of battle, wet, hungry and the very sight of the large army amassed against them stole what little courage was left. By in large the English thinking was purely on an emotional level, and it is likely their ranks would have been easily broken, with their army devastated by the heavy cavalry charge of the French that day. They had the right weapon and the right tactics, and were on good ground, still, the English first had to get their minds right in order to employ all of it effectively. In this, the moral encouragement and example of the King supported by his officers was sufficient to hold the English Army steady to face the challenge.

Love Dad

Carpathian Kitchen. Pierogis continue on sale. We have potato and cheese along with bacon and cream cheese. They are selling fast so be sure to get yours soon.

Men's Club. The members of the Men's Club want to wish all of our mothers a happy Mother's Day, and thank you for what you do everyday of the year, along with the joy you bring to your family! Please accept the flowers this Sunday, on behalf of a grateful parish in honor of the occasion.

A thank you to those members who helped with the recent breakfast, potluck luncheon and the Mother's Day flower project! Well Done.

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.

Psalm 106

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.

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.

Psalm 85

The Lord speaks of peace to his people.