

## 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 5**

#### **SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND**

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

11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and HGB Jake Jacklich by Dr. Maryjean Sotack

**After –Hospitality - Pot Luck**

Tue May 7

8:30am **MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS** For Peace in Our Country For Our Parishioners  
After - Bible study

Wed May 8

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

Thu May 9

#### **ASCENSION OF OUR LORD**

8:30am **TYPIKA WITH HOLY COMMUNION** 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 10

1:00pm Church **Cleaning Hours**

**SUN MAY 12**

#### **SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1<sup>st</sup> ECUMENICAL COUNCIL**

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

11:00 The 5<sup>th</sup> Talk on the History of the Byzantine Catholic Church Dr. Ron TYPIKA WITH HOLY COMMUNION For All Our Parishioners + Gloria Hertz

Walasavage by Betty Mae Hertz and **For Our MOTHERS**

**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!

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

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.

## 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 (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday) of the month to: Read, Discuss, and Meditate on the Daily Readings, after Divine Liturgy, and ( 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> Talk on the History of the Byzantine Catholic Church, Sunday May 12, 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.

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

**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. 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

How to be a better thinker?

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:7 "Overthinking will kill your Peace. Pray and leave it to God"

**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, April 28, 2024**

Monthly Dues -350.00; Offertory -356.00; Candles-27.00; Icon Guild-40.00; Retreat for Parish-390.00; In - 1,163.00; Out-1,288.86

**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

## To be a Saint – Holy Mary; Most Indispensable, Pray for Us

She was the first disciple of Christ. The first one to minister to His needs. Indeed, the first one to kiss His face. She nourished Him, protected Him, she was the first to love Him as only a mother can. She never deserted Him, even at the foot of the cross. She knew Him better than Peter, better than James or John, better than any human who has lived or will ever live.

Easter has come and gone, Ascension is upon us, to be followed by the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Consider now, the role the Blessed Virgin played at these seminal moments in Church history.

Mary was not at the tomb that Easter Sunday for she knew He would not be there. Instead, she waited for Him to come to her. She knew and believed her Son would rise from the dead. In this we see her unwavering faith. How often Jesus came to Mary during the 40 days is not recorded. Perhaps not often, for Mary was strong, full of grace, and with that, full of understanding, for the Holy Spirit was upon her.

According to Apostolic tradition, Mary was present at the Ascension. And why not? Had not Jesus turned over her protection to John the Apostle at the foot of the cross? Would she not accompany John? Would not Jesus want to have His mother, the only one who never deserted Him, present at His Ascension? An Ascension by the way that brought Mary's humanity, by way of her genetic makeup, into the kingdom of God through her Son (CCC665), and oh, how the angels rejoiced at God's Plan. Wistfully I wonder, as Jesus ascended on high, if it was not Mary that caught His eye and caused Him to smile.

But with Jesus ascended, the Apostles were without their Master once again. The situation was still dangerous, for the Sanhedrin were trying mightily to stamp out the followers of Christ. But were His followers without a guide? To the Apostles, and those gathered in the upper room, the promise of the paraclete was still that, a promise. But to Mary the Paraclete was real and was with her still.

Mary had no need of a Pentecost. Her Pentecost came 34 years earlier during the Annunciation. For that is when the Holy Spirit descended upon her and she was filled of grace. Consider, in the absence of her Son, it was Mary that the Apostles turned to for strength and comfort; for validation of their work and efforts. Peter was in charge as Christ had directed, and as we note in the selection of Judas' successor, but it was Mary that softly sustained the church those nine days. Those nine days became the model for our nine-day novenas.

The apostles were not idle during that time. In addition to selecting Matthias as the 12th apostle, they also prepared for the Feast of Weeks, (Shavuot\*) a major Jewish Holiday that required all adult males to be present in Jerusalem, Ex23:14-17. But there was something more going on, something truly remarkable in this "Upper Room" were 120 disciples gathered, all of one accord. Imagine 120 individuals from your parish together in a large room for nine days and remaining of one accord. Perhaps they only gathered during the day, but even so. Think about it. How could this be brought about, unless within this setting, we have the Blessed Virgin, who Saint Maximillion Kolbe, and Saint Francis of Assisi refer to as the Spouse of the Holy Spirit. In her quiet, thoughtful way, Mary guided the others toward prayer and contemplation, preparing them for what was to come.

Should we wonder at this? Mary's whole life was an intimate relationship with her Son Jesus, and a profound communication with the Holy Spirit, the second and third persons of the Holy Trinity. Her understanding of God is unmatched by any mortal. From this intimate understanding she was able to guide others, including those waiting in the upper room, toward the plan of God.

Consider, how often Mary reaches out to us even in our modern times. She is our spiritual mother and our unfailing advocate before the Throne of God. She guides us and counsels us in much the same way as she counseled those who waited those nine days. It is up to us to listen to her wise council.

Yours in Christ  
Brother Joseph

Carpathian Kitchen News. Thanks to all those who came out last Friday and Saturday to help with the pierogi production. What we made is in the freezer today, and will be packaged next week, ready for sale next Sunday.

Men's Club News. Thanks to the OT Grillers for another fine effort today. We will now gear up toward our next big event, the Italian Dinner on 18 May. We still need workers. Members, please contact Mike Olson to sign up. Lee

## 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.**