

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. Nov 2 **21th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Gal 2:16-20; Lk 8:26-39 Tone 4

11:00 Divine Liturgy For Our Parishioners and HGB Lisa Noonan by Christine Noonan

After – Hospitality - Pot Luck

1:00pm - 3:00pm Young Adults Fellowship

Tue. Nov 4 8:30 Liturgy For Peter and Lisa Margan by Fr. Alex

5:00pm - Moleben to the Theotokos (Subdeacon Adithia Kusno)

Wed. Nov 5 8:30 Liturgy For + Peter Nicholas Peltier by Paula Peltier

After - Moleben to the Theotokos

Thu. Nov 6 8:30 Liturgy For + Antonia Culjak by Peter & Lisa Margan

6:00pm – ROSARY- Prayer For Peace in Our Country & **for Protection and Healing** of all illnesses by Men’s Club

Sat. Nov 8 **1:00pm Church Cleaning Hours**

Sun. Nov 9 **22th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Gal 6:11-18; Lk 8:41-56 Tone 5

11:00 Divine Liturgy For Our Parishioners and + Marta Garret by Orysia Stefaniw

After – Hospitality

Ascension of Our Lord Advent Retreat Preparing us for the Nativity of Our Lord

November 15, 2025

8 am Divine Liturgy

9am to 3 pm Retreat and Lenten Lunch

Retreat Master: Fr. Jerome Wolbert

Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM, will help us prepare to celebrate the Birth of Our Lord, exploring Scripture, hymns and carols, and the prayers of the Byzantine Catholic Church. Fr. Jerome grew up in St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church in Flushing, Michigan, and has served Byzantine parishes in Pennsylvania. He currently lives at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land of America in Washington, DC.

Registration forms can be found on our website or with the Retreat Posters in the St. Phillip's Hall

Forms are due back by November 9, 2025. For further questions please contact Dr. Mary Jean Sotack

at left-handed-tooth-fairy@yahoo.com Save your seat now and bring a friend!

Ascension Young Adults Fellowship on Sunday after Potluck 1pm to 3pm: TODAY - November 2, and December 7. Subdeacon Adithia Kusno

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

Today we still grapple with security, and we live in a time where we should all be sensitive to the threats and danger brought about by terrorism and incivility of our society. As the situation develops in the Middle East, there is a potential for spillover here in the States. We are tracking the situation closely, and will take steps as necessary to provide for the safety and security of the parish. With that said, we would welcome volunteers to help augment our security teams. In the mean time I ask all to help us as you can. If you see something amiss please say something to security. Father Alex...

Advisory Bord: Fr. Alex (Pastor)-Security; David Efimizt & Dr. Micheal Lechman-Trustees; Betty May Hertz-outreach; Michelle Massie- Property; Sb. Dicon Adithia Kusno-Facebook-Young Adult Education; Patricia Duttry-Book Keeper; Don Merkley, Website; Lee Alexander-Men’s Club President; Dr. Micheal Lechman-Adult Bible Study; Lisa Edwards-Children’s Christian Formation Director-Liturgical Committee; Ann Merkley-Bookstore Manager

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

Some of those who need special prayer are:

Frank Janke; Mary Grace Dorsey; Ben Pawers; Betty May Hertz; Emma Bernier; Lolly Vinson; William McGraw; Myron Kotyk; Darren and June Ann Hall; Aurora & Jaime Daquilanea; Lary & Mary Ann Drumtra & their Family; 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; Hazel Reeres; Richard Bapst; Adzima & John Adzima; Michael Derkacz; Retha Williams; Michael & Michaela Bross; Halyna & Micheal; Caroline and Vince Spinella; Sharon & Steve Guethe; Christopher Berkery; Desiree & Brandon Hartlaub; Peter & Lisa Margan; Sasha Kuno: Thank you. Fr. Alex

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.

Young Adults, Children, Adult Bible Study Comity: Subdeacon Adithia Kusno, Dr. Michael Lechman, Lisa Edwards. **Special Event/Retreat Speakers Comity:** David Efimetz, Don Merkley, Dr. Mary Jean Sotack

Parish Activities: All activities should be recorded on the main calendar. Please write in the activity you are responsible for and let Fr. Alex know the details so he can include it in the bulletin.

Bible Study: the Book of Genesis

The study of The Book of Genesis has been completed. We will start a ten week course on The Book of Exodus in January 2026. Please let me know if you are interested in attending these sessions so that we can order an adequate number of study materials.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Michael Lechman

maclech@aol.com

Happy NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st Eric Hunter; 3rd Daisy Olson; 6th Bill Lech; 16th Leah Fuccella; 16th Ann Kelly; 16th Delores Clinton; 18th Natalie Collions; 20th Michael Yackanich; 22nd Morgan Kelly;

3 Ways to Reignite Your Passion for the Lord When Your Heart Is Hardened

Have you ever found yourself abnormally impatient, or more commonly short-tempered, or acting more arrogantly than normal and you're unsure why? None of us are perfect, and we all have our less-than-proud moments in life that keep us close to the cross, but if you've noticed these tendencies increase for a prolonged period of time, chances are you're suffering from a hardening heart.

A hardened heart is unmoved by things others would be compassionate about. It is a heart that is rebelling against God.

In Mark 8:17-18 Jesus accused his disciples of having hardened hearts when they did not believe or understand how Jesus could use a small batch of bread to feed a massive crowd, saying, "Have ye your heart yet hardened? Having eyes, see ye not? And having ears, hear ye not? And do ye not remember?"

A hard heart is characterized by an inability to perceive spiritually. When people are hardhearted toward God, they are spiritually blind and deaf—they can't see spiritual truth or hear the Lord speak to them.

So how can we ensure our hearts remain "soft" and open to the things of God, and how can we regain closeness with Him after realizing our hearts have become hardened?

Parish Activities: All activities should be recorded on the main calendar. Please write in the activity you are responsible for and let Fr. Alex know the details so he can include it in the bulletin.

Church Cleaning: We have a very dedicated team at Ascension who cleans God's house weekly generally on Saturdays. However, sometimes schedules run thin and so we are in need of a few more helping hands. Please find it in your heart to help us with this very important ministry for only one hour a week. Thanks to all of you for your hard work and time. Betty Mae Hertz

Welcome Back ECF Students!

Welcome Back, Children and teachers! Our children's ECF classes will meet weekly at 10am before Divine Liturgy. All children are welcome to attend! If you have any questions, please reach out to Lisa Edwards at LisaCVoice@yahoo.com.

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

Help support our church



OCTOBER 26, 2025

Monthly Dues –0.00; Offertory –1,135.00; Candles -18.56; Bake Sale – 119.00; Retreat for Parish - 60:00; Icon Guild – 60,00 In –1,392.56; Out- 2,979.35

Candles for October

Sanctuary Lamp...+ Merrill & +Holen Le Blanc by Lisa Margan

Tetrapod... For + Steven & + Katarine Margan by Peter Margan

Theotokos & Child... + Steven & + Katarina Margan by Peter Margan

John Baptist... For +Katharine Smith & + Marie Mc Gvckin by Peter Margan

St Nicholas... For Nicholas Yacknich by Evelyn Yackanich

Protection Theotokos... For + Steven & + Katarine Margan by Peter Margan

Christ Teacher... HGB June ann & Darren Hall by M.A. Drumtra

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 and local honey. Special orders welcomed.

Our Daily Bread – Gates

This has been a very busy week for me, so a short one today. Let's talk about gates.

It's common on a farm to have gates of one sort or another. Gates restrict the movement of livestock, mark boundaries, and so forth. Many farms have a system of gates running through it. When traveling from one place to another on a large farm it could take some time to work through the gates. I remember riding shotgun on the tractor, helping speed up this gate clearing process. As the tractor would approach a gate I would hop off, run ahead, unlatch the gate, swing it open for the tractor to go through, then close the gate up, running to catch up and hop back on. Do this for two or three gates and suddenly riding on the tractor was not so much fun. There are many other gates on the farm. The gate to the chicken coop, to the pig sty and feedlot, all served an important purpose, and needed to be kept in good repair. A carelessly closed or maintained gate could be costly.

Gates and doors are important in our lives. They signify thresholds, boundaries, restrict movement and help keep us safe. They help us control what, and who we let into our home, our place of work, our schools, churches and so on. They can be inviting to look at and often welcoming, but stand guard just the same. Once the gate is left open, either by accident or by intention, we lose control of that boundary.

We surround ourselves with mental and moral doors and gates too. One I see a lot in younger folks is the absence of any gates or fences. They are young, restless, ready to experience life, and everything in it. Free rangers at heart, and they are not too particular as to what might come in, or get out. A lot of life lessons were discovered by this group by leaving the gate opened. Then there is another type of gate, a mental gate. This one affects all ages and is sad to see. This gate traps us and prevents us from leaving, from progressing through life. In many cases, it comes from a false sense of fear, which leads to a mental stagnation in their life, preventing them from developing socially, professionally or spiritually.

Similarly there are spiritual gates in our life. We see them referred to time and again in scripture. After the fall in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were cast out and not allowed to return. To prevent returning, God stationed a cherubim and a flaming sword which turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life. It was the blood of the lamb placed on the door posts that provided the spiritual protection to the Israelites from the destroyer during that first Passover. In the Gospel of John Jesus refers to Himself as the "door, and if anyone enters by Me he shall be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture." John 10:9.

And so we are back at pastures again, and time for me to get back to mine. Mind your fences well, and keep the gates in good repair....

Love Dad.

Men's Club - As part of the effort to fix our parking lot problems, the club has voted to fund the initial repairs to the failed part in front of the walk leading to the hall. The club will also be helping raise funds for the rest of this important project. (See the parking lot announcement below..). Proceeds from events like the Octoberfest will go into this effort. Please support them as you can.

Saturday – Octoberfest was awesome thanks to you all. The \$\$\$ when added up look like we took in a little over \$1,800.00, but for me the most important thing we accomplished was putting on an event that brought so much joy to those who attended. Great effort, great cooperation on the part of all. So grateful to be at Ascension....
Best Regards. Lee

Carpathian Kitchen. Pierogies and Piroshki remain on sale after Sunday Liturgy.

Craft Show/Food Tasting...The Kitchen is also planning to sell ready to eat products at the annual craft show scheduled for 25 October. The menu will also include kielbasa sandwiches and more of your ethnic favorites! Shop your favorite crafters and join us in the food court. There is no better way to spend the day!

Operation Christmas Child is up and running in the Fellowship Hall. Boxes and tags are on the table with all instructions. Please have boxes ready and returned to the table the week of **November 17th - 24th.** Don't forget a **\$10.00** shipping donation with each box. Let's spread God's love to the children around the world. Any questions please contact Michelle Massie. Thank you and God Bless!
Email: michmassie@gmail.com

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

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.

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.

Psalms 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.

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.