

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 APR 13 PALM SUNDAY

Phil 4:4-9 Jn 12: 1-18 Festal Tone

11:00 Divine Liturgy For Our Parishioners & + Hnat Stefaniv by Orysia Stefaniv
After – Hospitality and **Advisory Board Meeting**

HOLY Mon Apr 14 5:30pm Chant Camp

HOLY Tue Apr 15 6:00pm Confession
7:00pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with Holy Anointing

**HOLY Wed Apr 16 6:00pm - ROSARY - Prayer For Peace in Our Country & for
Protection and Healing of all serious illnesses by Men's Club**

HOLY Thu Apr 17 7:00pm Divine Liturgy with Vespers For Our Parishioners

GOOD Fri Apr 18 8:00pm Burial Vespers

HOLY Sat Apr 19 9:00am – 2:00pm Church Open For Adoration / Private Devotion

SUN APR 20 RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD - PASCHA

Acts 1:1-8 Jn 1:1-17 Festal Tone

10:00 Resurrection Matins and Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners followed by
blessing of Easter Baskets

DON'T BE AFRAID! I AM THE FIRST AND LAST. I AM THE LIVING ONE.
I DIED, BUT LOOK—I AM ALIVE FOREVER AND EVER! - Revelation 1:17b-18a

*Through His death and resurrection, Jesus Christ has given us the gift of reconciliation with
God. May we never take this gift for granted and strive to live in a way that honors His
sacrifice. Easter is a time of joy and celebration, as we remember the victory that Jesus Christ
has won for us. May this joy fill your heart and inspire you to live with purpose and passion.
Happy Easter!*

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.

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

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.

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;
William McGraw; Myron Kotyk; Darren and June Ann Hall; Aurora & Jaime Daquilanea; Ann, 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; 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.

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.

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

Ascension Young Adults will continue Byzantine spiritual studies Spring 2025: May 4. at 12:30 pm. Come and pray together. In Christ Adi

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

Bible Study: the Book of Genesis

The next Adult Bible Study will be held on Tuesday, **May 13** from 5:15 to 6:30 PM. The session will cover Genesis, Chapter 31: Jacob and Laban, Lesson 18 in the workbook. Respectfully submitted, Dr. Michael Lechman

Please Join us on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday Evening Bible Study of St. John Hall at 5:15pm. in the Social Hall.

Happy April Birthdays

2nd William Fetsko; 3rd Adriana Shockley; 5th Anya Bobrinskaya Hunter; 22nd Jim Hoolan; 22nd Aurora DaQuilanea; 24th Nadia Hunter;

NEEDED!!! We will continue to ask for a few more volunteers to help out with photography needs. Please see Father Alex if you are interested in helping with this important ministry.

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

Join us Fridays during Lent for Presanctified Divine Liturgy followed by a series of micro discussions on “Finding Youn Inner Desert” to help make the most out of your Lenten journey as we prepare ourselves for Pascha! **Lisa Edvards**

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

scan this code



To make a donation

FINANCIALS, April 6, 2025

Monthly Dues –20.00; Offertory –877.75; Candles-14.50; Holyday – 10.00; Flowers-Easter -00.00; Men’sClub-1,000.00 In – 1,933.75; Out- 782.22

Candles for April

Sanctuary Lamp...+ Drago Margan by Peter Margan
Tetrapod... + Steven Margan by Peter Margan
Theotokos & Child... For Our Parishioners
John Baptist... For Our Parishioners
St Nicholas... For Our Parishioners
Protection Theotokos... For Our Parishioners
Christ Teacher... + Katharina Margan by Peter Margan

Offertory Recorders are needed for tracking contributions to the parish. Volunteers would work with the bookkeeper, Patty Duttry, after Divine Liturgy to organize and record donations each Sunday. Volunteer for the Sundays you want; multiple volunteers can be put into a schedule to spread the work. Computer data entry experience welcome but it's possible to help with no computer data entry required.

Thank you, Patty

Our Daily Bread – Protecting Your Home

How much time do we spend making sure our homes are safe and secure? We have locks on our doors, and our windows are latched. Many of us have some type of security system in place, including motion detectors, cameras, automatic light sensors and so on. Today's devices can be activated and managed from your cell phone, or we pay people to monitor these detection systems for us. Then we have fire alarms, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, along with generators and emergency lighting. Yep, safe and secure in our home. Nothing can threaten us there, right?

What have you done to protect your home from spiritual threats? These threats do not show up on the monitor. They will not set motion detector lights off. Yet evil enters the home just as sure as a thief. Often times through those that we know and love, or through things we bring home with us.

I remember when many people did not bother to lock their doors at night. It was a different time. But even in those days, families still prayed together. They had holy water in their home, and crucifixes on the wall. There were holy cards taped or wedged into the dressing mirror in the bedrooms. Priests would make visits, and every home had been blessed. We said grace before meals and gave thanks afterwards. Sunday was the Lord's Day and treated as such, both at church and when we got home. Family Bibles were not just on display but used. Sacraments were frequently received. Rosaries were well worn from daily use. We said prayers to protect us during the day, night, during storms or any other times we were threatened. We had statues or icons of Christ and the Saints, notably the Holy Family, and had blessed candles at the ready. When a family emergency came up the candle was lit and prayers started just as swiftly as you would dial 911 today. There was a discipline here that made it hard for demons to gain entry.

Some will laugh, some will ascribe it to superstition or being backwards in our thinking. What I am saying is true. Look around you; collectively we do little if anything to protect our home and our family spiritually, and the damage to our families over the years is catastrophic. Do not believe that just because you cannot see the threat it is not there. That seemingly harmless set of tarot cards, Ouija board and pagan paraphernalia is a magnet attracting evil, even when they are lying idol or packed away. The content of what we watch on television or stream on the internet can be another direct line for evil.

Anyone can be made use of to bring evil unknowingly into the home. Want some examples? OK, alcohol, drugs, occult practice, envy, etc.; evil attaches itself to people through this and much more. It is brought right through the door, often in the guise of a family member, and once in the home it will seek to dig into the family. Don't believe me? Ask the family of an

alcoholic. Ask the spouse who has to endure it and the children who cannot understand why someone that means the world to them is destroying themselves and the family. Many of us have seen it firsthand.

Demons are real. They are spiritual creatures that seek to destroy that which is of God. They do their work through temptation, vexation, oppression, infestation, and sometimes possession. From the beginning the family and the family home has been a prime target, for the traditional family is of God, and oh how many homes have the demons been able to destroy. They enter our home and find us unprepared and defenseless, then slowly and surely weak their havoc. Quarrels, fights, bitterness, distrust; need I say more? Recognize the threat.

Understand how evil gains entry into the home and get rid of those entry points. Get involved with your faith and understand it. Fathers, Mothers and children each have a specific role. Receive the sacraments which brings us necessary grace for personal protection. Start family prayer, maybe first around the supper table, but expand it to include evening prayer. Have your home blessed. Learn the uses of holy water. Have a cross, icon or religious statue at entry points. Shut off perverse entertainment and get rid of pagan influence. Study scripture, and make sure your Bible is not just on a display case. Have a blessed candle at the ready. Develop a strong personal habit of prayer. Start with this: *“Visit we beseech thee Oh Lord this dwelling and drive far from it all the snares of the enemy. Let thy holy angels dwell herein to keep us in peace. And may thy Mercy be always upon us now and ever and forever. Amen.”*

Love Dad

Men's Club News. Many thanks to the Old Testament Grillers for the delicious smoked Salmon. We need volunteers to help with Good Friday and Easter processions. See Don Merkley to sign up and help....The club will be serving breakfast once again on Sunday 27 April.

Carpathian Kitchen News – TODAY we are selling Easter Kolache. Don't forget to take YOURS.

Hospitality - One of the many things that makes Ascension special is our coffee and hospitality service after Liturgy's on Sunday. The parish would have a completely different feel and character without this time of community. Chris Noonan and her volunteers do an amazing job in the set up and operation. Take a moment to let them know how much they are appreciated.

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.

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.

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;

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.

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.