

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 19 Sunday of the Ointment - Bearers

Acts 6:1-7 Mk 15:43-16:8 Festal Tone

11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and HGB Andrey & Julianna by Fr. Alex
After -Hospitality

Tue Apr 21 8:30 Divine Liturgy + Eric Koerner by Emma Bernier

Wed Apr 22 8:30 Divine Liturgy + William Henry Kelly by Ann Kelly

Thu Apr 23 8:30 Divine Liturgy HGB Yerry and Ambar by Fr. Alex

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

Sat Apr 25 1:00pm Church Cleaning Hours

Sun Apr 26 Sunday of the Paralytic Man

Acts 9:32-42 Jn 5:1-15 Festal Tone

11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and HGB Eric West by Dr. Jeffrey Sotack
After -Hospitality

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

Thank you all again for PRAYERS, such a thoughtful gift and thinking of
me this Easter. God bless you ALL. Fr. Alex

Happy April Birthdays

2nd William Fetsko; 3rd Adriana Shockley; 22nd Aurora DaQuilanea;

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

April 12, 2026

Monthly Dues – 825.00; Offertory – 388.00; Candles - 71.00; ECL – 0.00; Holyday
Easter – 50.00; Special Gifts-1,00.00;
In – 2,2334.00; Out- 4,025.05

Candles for February

Sanctuary Lamp... For Fr. John Ridgell by Peter & Lisa Margan
Tetrapod... For + Drago & Katarina Margan by Peter Margan
Theotokos & Child... For Merrill & Helen Le Blanc & Peter by Lisa Margan
John Baptist... For Debra Gilray by Peter & Lisa Margan
St Nicholas... For Margan Family by Peter Margan
Protection Theotokos... For + Steven Margan by Peter & Lisa Margan
Christ Teacher... For HGB Le Blanc & Culjak Familys by Lisa Margan

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.

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.

To Be a Saint – Saint Mark

Lent concluded, Easter has passed, and we find ourselves in the midst of that special 40-day period between the Resurrection and the Ascension of our Lord. So much to contemplate and absorb, yet the yearly cycle of remembrances and feast days continue. Let's break from the Easter cycle and consider an important feast day we celebrate in both the East and West, on 25 April. It is the feast day of Saint Mark the Evangelist.

Most of what we know about Saint Mark comes to us through the Acts of the Apostles and in the letters of Saint Paul and Saint Peter. Mark the Evangelist is believed to be the 'John Mark' referred to in the Acts of the Apostles. He was not part of the first group of Apostles, but was an early follower. He is believed to be the son of the widow Mary, whose house in Jerusalem was used as a gathering place for the first Christians. It was here that Peter went when he escaped from prison, Acts 12:12.

Mark joined St. Paul and his cousin St. Barnabas on their first missionary journey to Antioch in 44 A.D. When the group reached Cyprus, Mark, who is identified in the text as John, left them and returned to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13). This incident may have caused Paul to question whether Mark could be a reliable missionary. This created a disagreement between Paul and Barnabas, and may have led Paul to refuse Mark's accompaniment on their second journey to the churches of Cilicia and the rest of Asia Minor, Acts 15-18. However, it can be assumed the troubles between Paul and Mark did not last long, because when Paul was first imprisoned, Mark, who was at the time in Rome, visited him, and is identified by Paul as one of his trusted companions, Col 4:10.

Later Mark visited Asia Minor on a mission entrusted to him by Paul. It was during this mission, Paul wrote to Timothy at Ephesus advising him to "take Mark and bring him with you [to Rome], for he is profitable to me for the ministry" 2 Tim, 4:11. If Mark returned to Rome at this time, he was probably there when Paul was martyred.

According to Christian tradition, Mark also held a close relationship with St. Peter, who referred to Mark as 'his son' in his letter addressed to a number of churches in Asia Minor, 1 Pt. 5:13. Clement of Alexandria, Irenaeus and Papias all indicate that Mark was an interpreter for Peter.

Although Papias states Mark had not personally heard the Lord speak firsthand, many believe Mark was likely speaking of himself when he wrote the description of Jesus' arrest in Gethsemane. "Now a young man followed him wearing nothing but a linen cloth about his body. They seized him, but he left the cloth behind and ran off naked" Mk. 14:51-52.

Let's stay with his Gospel for a moment. Mark is credited by many scholars as writing the first of the four Gospels, sometime between 50 and 60 A.D. It was written in Greek and shaped on the teachings and testimony of Peter. He starts with Jesus' encounter with John the Baptist, and then narrates the ministry of Christ. Termed by some scholars as a "Action Gospel", Jesus doesn't actually say much, but He is very

active. We don't have long sermons and only four parables. On the other hand, Jesus "does things". Depending on who is doing the counting, the number of miracles attributed to Christ in Mark's Gospel ranges between 17 and goes as high as 38.

Sources state that Mark eventually went to Egypt, evangelized the country, became Bishop and then died a martyr in Alexandria around 68-72 AD. Another version says that before reaching Egypt, he evangelized Aquileia, the area on the northeastern coast of Italy which would later see the rise of Venice.

This may explain why some of his relics are preserved in Cairo, in the Cathedral of St. Mark, while other relics of his body are interred in the Basilica of St. Mark's in Venice. There is also a tradition that Saint Mark's remains were secretly brought from Alexandria to Venice in 828, with the Venetians hiding the relics under pork, thereby deceiving the vigilance of the Muslim guards as they left Egypt.

True or not, even in death, Saint Mark has an unwavering commitment to spreading the Gospel.

Yours in Christ
Brother Joseph

Men's Club - Each week during the summer several members get together to mow grass and do other work around the church. If you would like to get involved with that see Lee after Liturgy. The club will be resuming its grill activities in May, and also has a breakfast sandwich sale scheduled soon. Next Meeting will be May 19th.

Carpathian Kitchen - Our Kolachi sale was a big success. We made 31 loaves and as of this writing only have 4 left. We also have bagged 6 dozen of beef/pork Piroshki and they are available for purchase until we run out. This limited run features a new style yeast breading.

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

Ascension Young Adults Fellowship on Sunday after Potluck 1pm to 3pm: April 12 Sunday of Saint Thomas, and May 3 Sunday of Saint Photini of Samaria. In Christ, Adithia Kusno

Advisory Bord: Fr. Alex (Pastor)-Security; Don Merkley & Michelle Massie - Trustees; David Efimizt – Fundraising; Dr. Micheal Lechman-Investment & Adult Bible Study; 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; Lisa Edwards-Children's Christian Formation Director-Liturgical Committee; Ann Merkley-Bookstore Manager-Security.

Ascension prayer list - Kindly remember in your prayers our parishioners and friends who struggle with sickness, pain, hardship, or any special need:

Frank Janke; Mary Grace Dorsey; Betty May Hertz; Emma Bernier; Lolly Vinson; Myron Kotyk; Darren and June Ann Hall; Aurora & Jaime Daquilanea; Lary & Mary Ann Drumtra & their Family; Elaine Hampton; Dr. Micheal & Linda Lechman; Elisabeth Branden; Merly & Teresa Phillips; Mary Sullivan; Michael & Michaela Bross; Peter & Lisa Margan; Wayne Smith & his Family: If you would like to add your name or name of a loved one to this list, please contact Fr. Alex. Thank you.

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 Committee: Subdeacon Adithia Kusno, Dr. Michael Lechman, Lisa Edwards. Special Event/Retreat Speakers Committee: David Efimetz, Don Merkley, Dr. Mary Jean Sotack

Bible Study

The next evening Bible study will be held on Tuesday April 28 from 5:00 to 6:30 PM. The session will cover Exodus. For questions, please text 757-880-5093.
Respectfully submitted, Dr. Michael Lechman

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.

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.

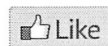
Enjoy Hospitality after Sunday Liturgy? Please give prayerful consideration to joining Committee. Interested, **SEE Chris Noonan** after liturgy in the Parish Hall.

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**INFORMATION REGARDING THE SACRAMENTS AND
SACRAMENTALS**

Father Alex is available for the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation before Diving Liturgy on Sunday (10:30 am) or half hour before weekly Liturgy (8:00 am) or by appointment.

MIROVANJA is a sacramental blessing with holy oil, which is applied to the forehead in the sign of the cross by the priest while proclaiming the appropriate greeting of the season. After kissing the hand cross, take a piece of the blessed bread. You may offer a donation.

The Myrrh-Bearing Women

The Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women ... reminds us that the love and faithfulness of a few individuals shone brightly in the midst of hopeless darkness. It calls us to ensure that in this world love and faithfulness do not disappear or die out. It judges our lack of courage, our fear, our endless and servile rationalizations. The mysterious Joseph and Nicodemus, and these women who go to the grave at dawn, occupy so little space in the gospels. Precisely here, however, is where the eternal fate of each of us is decided.

Today, I think, we are especially in need of recovering this love and basic human loyalty. For we have entered a time when even these are being discredited by harmful concepts of the person and human life now prevailing in this world. For centuries, the world still had the weak, but still

flickering and shining, glow from that faithfulness, love and co-suffering which was silently present at the sufferings of the Man cast aside by all. And we need to cling, as if to a last thread, to everything in our world that still thrives on the warm light of simple, earthly, human love. Love does not ask about theories and ideologies, but speaks to the heart and soul. Human history has rumbled along, kingdoms have risen and fallen, cultures have been built and bloody wars fought, but what has remained unchanging on earth and in this troubled and tragic history is the bright image of the woman. An image of care, self-giving, love, compassion. Without this presence, without this light, our world, regardless of its successes and accomplishments, would be a world of terror.

Father Alexander Schmemmann