

## 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 June 7 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Rom 2:10-16 Mt 4:18-23 Tone 1

11:00 Divine Liturgy For Our Parish and + Bernard Lechman by Adithia & Sasha Kusno  
After –Hospitality- **Pot Luck**

**Tue June 9 8:30 Liturgy.** For HGB Austin James Shuter by Fr. Alex  
**5:00 - 6:30 PM. - Bible study**

**Wed June 10 8:30 Liturgy** For HGB Don Merkley & Michele Massie by Fr. Alex

**Thu June 11 8:30 Liturgy** HGB our parishioners and friends who struggle with sickness, pain, hardship, or any special need: by Fr. Alex

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

**Sat June 13 1:00pm** Church Cleaning Hours

### **Sun June 14 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Rom 5:1-10 Mt 6:22-34 Tone 2

11:00 Divine Liturgy For Our Parish and + Jeffrey Allums by Dr. Mary Jean Sotack  
After –Hospitality- **Advisory Board Meeting**

### Happy JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1<sup>st</sup> Melissa Karlson; 9<sup>th</sup> Ann Merkley; 11<sup>th</sup> Patty Duttry; 12<sup>th</sup> Anna & Sofia Carden; 14<sup>th</sup> Lisa Montgomery; 25<sup>th</sup> Mary Olson; 27<sup>th</sup> Keith Shockley; 28<sup>th</sup> Dr. Michael Lechman

### **Thank You for your generosity and giving spirit!**

This year, because your support to the Bishop’s 2025 Stewardship Campaign, we were able to raise \$7,800. We exceeded our goal of \$6,800 by \$1,000! Your generous donations to the campaign will assist Bishop Kurt in providing much needed resources to the Eparchy, to Parishes not as fortunate as us at Ascension, and the Ukraine Relief Fund.

Our Parish will receive a check from the Bishop’s Office in the amount of \$3,120. The 40% reinvestment to our Parish for meeting and exceeding our goal. I cannot help but think of the founding members of our Parish and how proud they must be of us for continuing the legacy they began.

**Thank you again. Ascension Of Our Lord Advisory Board**

### **Bible Study**

The next evening Bible study will be held on Tuesday June 9 from 5 to 6:30 PM. The session will cover Exodus Chapters 32- 34: Rebellion at Sinai: Session Nine in the workbook. Respectfully submitted, Dr. Michael Lechman

**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; 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: Austin and his Family; Ron Gracik & Family; Mary Soupp; 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

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.

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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V. Rev. Alex Shuter

Rev.Alex.Shuter@gmail.com



**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.

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

### **A Prayer to the Holy Spirit**

Holy Spirit, You are God. I praise you because you are holy, and I thank you for dwelling in my heart. Thank you for working in my life. You guided me into salvation, renewed my dead spirit, and you opened my eyes to the Truth. Thank you.

Help me to see you more clearly – to recognize your movement in my life. Make me more sensitive to you so I can follow you more closely. Still, I know that I am selfish and rebellious. I need you to help me be obedient when I recognize your leading. I need you. I ask you for your help and comfort today. You know my pain and anxieties very well. Thank you for praying over me. Help me to rest in your comfort today.

Help me to walk in you, the Spirit of God. Grow good fruit in my life. You are the one who produces these in me: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. I cannot live out these things on my own; I need you.

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of joy that comes from your goodness. Life often becomes busy and serious, and I admit that I sometimes forget how to slow down and enjoy the simple opportunities you have given me to play. Please restore a sense of fun in my life. Let me be able to laugh like the people described in [Psalm 126](#).

Help me rediscover the wonder and freedom of childlike play. Teach me that not every moment needs to be productive in order to be meaningful. Help me notice and appreciate the wonderful blessings you’re pouring into my life every day. Fill my life with playful experiences that lead to [joy that points back to you](#).

Let my life reflect the goodness you’ve shown me, so that others can see and say that you have done great things. Amen.

**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**



May 31, 2026

Monthly Dues –400.00; Offertory – 288.00; Candles - 2.00; Special Gifts-400.00; In – 1,090.00. 00; Out- 638. 98

### **Candles for February**

Sanctuary Lamp...For Fr. John Ridgell by Peter & Lisa Margan  
Tetrapod... For + Drago & Katarina Margan by Peter Margan  
Theotokos & Child... For HGB Norma Duttry by Patty Duttry  
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 Doyle Duttry by Patty Duttry

### **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.

## Our Daily Bread – Saint Joseph - Mirror of Patience

Let's see now... "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb." Nope.

"A sunshiny shower won't last half an hour." That's not it either.

"If the rooster crows on the manure pile, the weather will change; if he crows on the chicken coop, the weather will last the week." Now I'm just being silly.

"It's a barn burner." Closer...

"A swarm of bees in May is worth a rick of hay." Only if you catch the swarm...

"Rain rain go away, come again another day." Hoo-Boy, I give up.

Try as I might, there is just no almanac wisdom or folklore that can describe the weather we have had the last two months. July temperatures in April, were tough for early cool weather crops. I installed shade sails in April for the first time to salvage some crops. The warm temperature brought things out of dormancy too soon, making them vulnerable to a freeze. Sure enough, this warm pattern was punctuated by a late April freeze that took out the early grape set in the vineyard. Then right back to record high temps. We went from the normal dry weather to an exceptional regional drought in a matter of weeks. The rain gauge out by the greenhouse recorded a grand total of less than 1 inch of rain over a two-month period. Then, as if a light switch was turned on, we got the rain. Boy did we get the rain. By mid-May I was almost 8 inches short on the annual rain fall average, by the end of May I had nearly erased that deficit; climaxed with 5 inches of rainfall in just one night, which also washed out newly planted seed!

Just a farmer complaining about the weather? I suppose so. I find myself complaining about a lot of stuff. Too much of this and not enough of that. I do a lot of wishing too. Boy, if only -fill in the blank-, and then I'd be set, I'd be happy. But for all of that wishing and hoping life goes on.

We get through it. Sometimes it's a struggle and you wonder where it will end. Sickness, disease, work piling up, too many things that need fixing, calamities of all types; one after another, seemingly never ending. I look in the mirror each morning before shaving and I see doubts and worries staring back at me. Too many questions and not enough answers. What was that phrase in the Litany to Saint Joseph? Mirror of Patience? Well with me it's more like Mirror of Doubts.

But then one day, on a hot afternoon you stop work, sit in the shade with a cup of ice water, a cool breeze kicks up and you feel it's going to work out after all; you're going to make it. Then the phone rings and it's a grandchild taking the time to call you and just talk. Nothing in particular, they just wanted to hear your voice, I guess. That problem you've been stewing over suddenly becomes clear; you just were over thinking it. You look in the morning mirror before that shave, and you see a renewed confidence, for you have remember the virtue of Saint Joseph,

patience will help you endure life's trials and problems. In the end you realize that God provides. God always provides. He will see you through.

And so, take nothing for granted. Be thankful for the good times, watchful and prepared for the bad times as you can, and always practice patience. God has ordained specific times for every event in our lives. For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under Heaven...

There, that's it. That's the saying I'm looking for...

Love Dad

**Men's Club** - Our next event will be a cook out at the 7 Jun Potluck. Our next social gathering will be at Ale works on Tuesday, 16th of June, starting at 6pm.

**Carpathian Kitchen** - We have pierogi and piroshki for sale every Sunday after Liturgy. Proceeds go to support the Circle of Hope outreach program which in turn supports community charities.

**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

**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.

## 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.**

**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.**