

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 10 Sunday of the Man Born Blind – **Mother's Day**

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

11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parish and Our MOTHERS

After –Hospitality

Tue May 12 8:30 Divine Liturgy For HGB Dr. Nadia Shockley & Her Family by Fr. Alex

5:00PM to 6:30PM BIBLE STUDY

Wed May 13 8:30 Divine Liturgy For Our Parishioners by Fr. Alex

Thu May 14 ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

8:30 Divine Liturgy HGB Peter & Lisa Margan by Fr. Alex

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

Sat May 16 1:00pm Church Cleaning Hours

Sun May 17 Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

Acts 20:16-18 & 28-38 Jn 17:1-13 Festal Tone

11:00 Divine Liturgy For HGB Larry Drumtra and Merle & Teresa Phillips by MaryAnn Drumtra

After –Hospitality- **Advisory Bord meeting**

Happy MAY BIRTHDAYS

20th Larry Drumtra; 29th Jeffrey Sotack

Dear God, Bless All Mothers...

"Dear God, we thank you for the gift of mothers and for the unique love and care they offer. On this Mother's Day, we lift up our mothers and all mothers to you, asking for your blessings of strength, peace, and joy. May they feel your love and grace as we celebrate their dedication and sacrifice. Help us to honor them with love and gratitude, and to show them the depth of our appreciation for all they do. We ask for your guidance and support for them as they navigate the challenges of motherhood. In your name, we pray. Amen."

New playground mulch has been spread. Thank you Tom McGraw, Nick Towers, Michelle Massie and Clifford Collier for making our playground beautiful! Fr. Alex

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: Austin; 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 May 12 from 5:00 to 6:30 PM. 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.

10 Things Christian Parents Should Pray Over Their Children Every Day

We live in a wild and crazy world, and our kids go out in it every day. It can be hard when you want to be with them all the time, even though you can't because you have other responsibilities. The best thing you can do is pray over your children throughout the day. What should you pray for your children? Here are ten suggestions.

1. Faith

SLIDE 1 OF 10

It's always important to pray for your child's faith. We live in a world where people would much rather live by their own rules than God's rules. Kids are no different. They can be very cruel to each other. Their peers and friends who aren't believers as well can easily lead teenagers off track.

Ask God to help your child have faith in him in every situation and for them to bolster their faith in him. To help this, you can encourage your child to study the Bible or even have a Bible study with them every morning or evening. Pray with them every night and before they leave for school in the morning.

2. Wisdom

SLIDE 2 OF 10

Pray for God's wisdom to be imparted to your children. Ask him to help them make wise decisions and pray for their discernment in hearing his voice. Peer pressure runs rampant in our society, both in school, after school, and online.

Sit down with your children and talk to them about wisdom and making wise decisions. Remind them that if they aren't sure what to do, they should ask God, and he will lead them in the right direction.

3. Protection

SLIDE 3 OF 10

The world is rife with crime in all forms. Kids kill and do things to one another. People lure and kidnap kids for human trafficking. People do things to each other for various reasons and the list goes on. Then there are the everyday things that can happen like car accidents, fires, and other things. These are all things that can make a parent anxious about the world their child is living in, but we remember God is in control.

Sit down with your kids and talk about different situations that they could get into and how to handle them. Teach them how to protect themselves. Pray and ask God to cover them and keep them safe as they go about their day.

4. Health

SLIDE 4 OF 10

Illness can hit our kids any time of the year, from sinus infections to colds and flu. Pray over your child's health and ask God to keep them healthy. Ask him to help you stay alert so that if something is amiss, you will catch it right away and be able to take your child to the doctor.

In the meantime, while they are healthy, thank God and praise him for that. Remind yourself to be thankful because there are other parents who are dealing with worse issues than a cold or sinus infection, things like cancer, and other diseases. The next time you are home with a sick child, thank him it is something simple and not life-threatening.

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

May 3, 2026

Monthly Dues –1,750.00; Offertory – 2,525.00; Candles - 15.00; Special Gifts GCU-1000.00; In – 5, 290.00; Out- 3,409. 13

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 – In the Image of God

Who is like unto my God; who created man in His Image and sent His only Son to redeem it. - From the Patriarch's Prayer

When we grow older, we sometimes forget things that were once clear to us as children. In the course of life, this forgotten wisdom opens us to confusion and perversion. It is an unfortunate reality that many of us lose the innocence of youth and harden in a way where the image of the Creator is blurred. For some, that image becomes very hard to discern indeed. Also notice that as that image of God is distorted, we can find it more difficult to discern the image of God within others. It can get to a point where we don't even make the effort to try anymore. In societies where this is prevalent, you will find they will ultimately reject God completely and eventually collapse.

On the last day of creation God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness...' So, God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." Gn. 1:16-27

This was not an afterthought, it was a determined action, and it is fundamental in understanding humanity's unique status in creation. Being formed "in God's image" speaks to a special resemblance between humanity and God that sets people apart from every other created being.

We can reason; we can choose. This is a reflection of God's intellect and freedom. He gifted that to us. Anytime someone invents a product, writes a poem, paints a landscape, enjoys music, grows a plant, calculates a sum, or names a pet, he or she is proclaiming the fact that we are made in God's image. We should respect this gift and take joy from it. Yet how often do we find those who never develop their God-given talents, or worse, use those talents for evil purposes.

Morally, humanity was created in righteousness with perfect innocence, a reflection of God's holiness. God saw all He had made, including humanity, and called it "very good". Our conscience or "moral compass" is a vestige of that original state. Whenever someone writes a law, recoils from evil, praises good behavior, makes peace, or feels guilty, he or she is confirming the fact that we are made in God's own image. But how often do we see those who disregard law, live immorally, or pursue evil as if it were good.

Socially we were created for cooperation with God's plan. For the first time in His creation, God declared something was not good. He said, "it is not good for the man to be alone...". He saw fit to create a woman from a different substance than man. The woman was fashioned from man's rib, not as man's inferior, but as an equal image bearer of the Creator. This is the natural state of mankind. By instructing humanity to "be fruitful and multiply," God invites us to participate in the ongoing act of creation. Set within the order of a traditional family, we are

cooperating with God's plan of creation, called to bring forth life, nurture it, and cultivate the world around us. Yet, in our clouded thinking, this fundamental order which God has ordained, is being bent to promote goals apart from the enduring truth of a Divine Plan.

Sorry evolutionist; for all the talk of evolutionary development, modern research supports humanity's distinct cognitive and linguistic capabilities. Unlike other living creatures, people possess complex language structures and abstract thought processes, consistent with the idea of being created in God's likeness.

What happened? Genesis 3 narrates the entrance of sin into the human experience, and with this sin came death, Rom. 5:12. Still, although sin distorts, it does not utterly destroy-the divine image. Humanity remains in God's image. We are urged in scripture to restore the image. Eph. 4:24 instructs us "to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness," affirming that the original design can be renewed.

Today, we still bear the image of God, but we also bear the scars of sin. Mentally, morally, socially, and physically, we show the effects of sin. Through the salvation brought by Jesus Christ and the institution of the Church, we are given the opportunity to restore and maintain that image. We also have to try and find that same image in others. Do not be one that judges what they do not know or understand, like the Pharisees and scribes who judged the Son of God.

Love Dad

Men's Club. Next meeting is May 19th 6pm in the Hall.

Carpathian Kitchen - Fresh potato and cheese pierogi on sale this week. All proceeds go to the Circle of Hope charity program.

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

2025 – 2026 Annual Bishop Appeal

The Annual Bishop Appeal for this year is soon ending. The last day to make your donation is June 1, 2026. As was mentioned at Sunday Liturgy we are close to reaching the parish goal of \$6,800 but still need your help. If you plan to make your contribution for this year's Bishop Appeal, please do so online through the Eparchy of Passaic web site or by mailing your donation directly to the Bishop's Office. There are pre-addressed envelopes for the Appeal by the front door of the Church. Be sure to put the parish number and name in the memo line on your check (216 – Ascension, Williamsburg, VA). Thank you again for your generosity and help to make this year's appeal a success.

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.