

## 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 17 Sunday of the Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council

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

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

After –Hospitality- **Advisory Bord meeting**

Tue May 19 8:30 Liturgy. For HGB Dr. Anthony T Carter by Fr. Alex

**6:00pm** Men's Club meeting

Wed May 20 8:30 Liturgy For HGB Larry (90 BD) & Marray Ann Drumtra by Betty May Hertz

Thu May 21 8:30 Liturgy HGB Jaime & Aurora Daguilanea 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 23 1:00pm Church Cleaning Hours

### Sun May 24 **PENTECOST SUNDAY** (5<sup>th</sup> All Souls)

Acts 2:1-11 Jn 7:37-52 & 8:12 Festal Tone

11:00 Divine Liturgy For Our Parish and + Donald Noonan by Christine Noonan

After –Hospitality- **Mirovanya**

### Happy MAY BIRTHDAYS

15tn John Adzima; 20th Larry Drumtra; 29th Jeffrey Sotack

### 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.*

**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 26 from 5:00 to 6:15 PM. The session will cover Chapters 24 - 31, 35-39: The Tabernacle, Session Eight in the Workbook. 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.

### 5. Character

SLIDE 5 OF 10

*Pray for your child's character. You do your best as a parent to raise them well and teach them right from wrong. Pray that they will keep the morals and values you have taught them close to heart.*

*As they get older, pay close attention to them and how they are acting. If you notice something seems off, sit down and see if they want to talk about it. If not, don't push; they may open up to you eventually. All kinds of situations in life affect a person's character and behavior.*

*Ask God to help them keep their character intact and be a good person all around.*

### 6. Friendships

SLIDE 6 OF 10

*Your kids will have all kinds of friends throughout their lives, some good and some bad. Pray for God to bring the right friends into their lives all throughout their lives.*

*If you notice your child is not acting normal, take stock of their friends and who they have been hanging out with. Sometimes you will know who the bad influences are, sometimes you won't. Be active in welcoming your child's friends into your home to get to know them a little. I'm not saying to be overbearing and embarrass your teenagers, but at the very least, know first names, maybe a little family background, and their interests. This may give you a better idea of who your kids are hanging out with.*

*If you are very concerned about someone, sit down and have a talk with your child about them. Point out what you are seeing and state your opinion and then let them make the choice whether to continue hanging out with this person. This can go for both your young, teenage, and adult children.*

### 7. Purpose

SLIDE 7 OF 10

*God created everyone with a purpose, and sometimes, it's hard to figure out what that purpose is. We often try different occupations, trying to figure out what we are supposed to do. What's even crazier is that we expect our teenagers and young adults to know their whole career path at eighteen. No one knows that one hundred percent for sure.*

*Pray for your child's purpose to be revealed to them. Ask God to clarify what they are supposed to be doing with their life, whether it's working a specific job, going into ministry, or being a stay-at-home parent. Or even something else. God creates all of us to do different things to bring joy and enrich the world and people around us. You don't want your child to spend their lives doing the wrong thing, so start praying over them when they are young to reveal their calling.*

**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



May 10, 2026

Monthly Dues –145.00; Offertory – 336.25; Candles - 25.00; Rental of Facilities - 1,800.00; In - 2, 306. 25; Out- 3,372. 60

### 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.

## To Be a Saint – The Riddle of the Cross

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Mt.16:24

Said the self-indulgent Christian, “I’ll gladly carry my cross when I see it come my way.” From boy to man, he grew this way. And so he went through life, living for himself alone; never causing much harm, living a life seemingly charmed; forsaking all challenges and anything that would cause stress. His motto was to walk away and live for another day; ignore and pretend he had no problems to address. So he lived a life content, surrounding himself with comfort and ease, and waited for the day his cross would come of which he would seize. According to his way of thinking his cross never came, and all too soon judgment day called his name. He was asked what crosses he bore, and this is what he said standing at Heavens door. “I was blessed Lord to have no cross to carry, and with that time I made merry.” From Heaven’s gate came the words clear. “This is true, you spoke well; and for your earthly work your heavenly inheritance you did sell.”

Well, I know that may seem a little extreme, yet the example above illustrates just one of the riddles surrounding the cross. Yes, we can live a life that can make us blind to our cross. It is the nature of the “world” to condition us so. But unless we are like our self-indulgent friend, and blinded by the world, our crosses will be shown to us. In fact, it is my experience, that they fairly scream at us to be carried. Shut out the world and look into yourself carefully and they will be easy to see.

For me, crosses are never truly convenient things, they never ever come at the right time, our in a way that is seemly. Handling them can be confusing, yes even overwhelming. To top it all off, we are to carry our cross with humility and generosity. These are things many of us struggle with. Yet when you accept the cross for what it is, embrace it, there is a grace that comes to help you cope. For God is working through us not only to redeem our souls but to rebuild his kingdom. Carrying our cross doesn’t mean just learning to put up with the problems and frustrations of this broken world, but rather to face them with strength and virtue.

The weight of our crosses throws us off balance. We stumble and fall frequently. We look up and see others with crosses seemingly far heavier than ours. They appear to be succeeding. They seemingly never stumble. It’s as though they have no burden at all. They are respected, even looked up to. But no one seems to care about the crosses we bear. We feel unjustly treated. Why should I stand back up? Why should I try to pick up my cross

again? What difference would it make as no one cares? But something urges us on, and with no fanfare we grasp hold of the cross, somehow put it back on our shoulder and continue on.

A few more feet and we fall again. This time hard. A voice somewhere tells us to stay on the ground; you cannot carry this cross; it is too heavy for you. It is unfair and was never meant for you. After all, you have carried it so far already, what have you got for it. You recognize the voice of Satan in this, and reject it. So once again, somehow, we manage to pick it back up and continue on.

And the cycle continues. Depending on the type of cross we carry, after a while the weight of it can break us. Some may find a way to leave it and simply walk away. They may come back to it in time. It is ours to choose.

I can only offer this. Carry your cross with this in mind. Do not let the world and its noise distract you; for you shall surely lose your footing again. Center yourself. Find a balance between your life and the cross. Don’t focus on rushing through it. When you hurry you lose balance. Be patient, take small steps, looking for ways that help you cope, friends and family can provide support. This is a time to strengthen your spiritual life with prayer and the sacraments. Through this you will gradually find that you are not walking alone. For ultimately, we are united to Jesus Christ through the cross we bear. In time, the cross will teach the meaning of being Christ-like; in carrying it we are imitating Christ, His sufferings, sorrow, and pains in a sense become ours, indeed, Christ walks beside us; and with this the riddle of the cross is solved.

Yours in Christ

Brother Joseph

Men's Club - The next Club meeting will be Tuesday May 19th at 6pm in the hall. Anyone wishing to help out with lawn care and keeping up the parish grounds see Lee to get added to the list.

Carpathian Kitchen - We are currently selling potato and cheese pierogi and beef/pork/vegetable piroshki after Sunday Liturgy. Proceeds from sales go to the Circle of Hope charity.

**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

## 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.**