WELCOME TO ASCENSION

God bless America!!!

Sun Nov 15 26 25st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Eph 4:1:6; Lk 10:25-37 Tone 8
10:00am Eastern Christian Formation each Sunday before the Divine Liturgy
11:00 Divine Liturgy For HGB Vera and Michael Derkacz by Kusno Family
After –Hospitality-Security team Meeting

Mon Nov 16 26 5:00 pm Liturgy For HGB Delores Clinton by Fr. Alex

Tue Nov 17 26 8:30 Liturgy For HGB Joe & Elaine Hampton by Fr. Alex
6:00pm – Men's Club meeting

Wed Nov 18 26 8:30 Liturgy For "Ascension prayer list" by Fr. Alex

Thu Nov 19 26 8:30 Liturgy For "Ascension prayer list" by Fr. Alex
6:00pm – ROSARY- Prayer For Peace in Our Country & for Protection and Healing of all illnesses by Men's Club

Sat Nov 21 26 12:30pm Church Cleaning Hours

Sun Nov 22 26 26st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Eph 5:9:19; Lk 12:16-21 Tone 1
10:00am Eastern Christian Formation each Sunday before the Divine Liturgy
11:00 Divine Liturgy For Our Parish Fr. Alex
After –Hospitality

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; Lary & Mary Ann Drumtra & their Family; Joe & Elaine Hampton; Dr. Micheal & Linda Lechman; Elisabeth Branden; Merly & Teresa Phillips; Mary Sullivan; Michael, Maureen & Michaela Bross; Peter & Lisa Margan; Wayne Smith & his Family; Austin and his Family; Ron Gracik & Family; Mary Soupp; Yvette Louviere; Steve Guethe; Leila Asmar; John & Terri Adzima; Delores Clinton; If you would like to add your name or name of a loved one to this list, please contact Fr. Alex. Thank you.

Thank you to David Efimitz, Donald Merkley and Dr. Mary Jean Sotack for organizing the Parish Advent retreat and finding our Retreat Master. The retreat was a great success.

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.

Young Adults, Children, Adult Bible Study Committee: Deacon Adithia Kusno, Dr. Michael Lechman, Special Event/Retreat Speakers Committee: David Efimetz, Don Merkley, Dr. Mary Jean Sotack

Here is the announcement for the Adult Education class. This should be printed in every church bulletin through November 22: Oct. 18, Oct. 25, Nov. 1, Nov. 8, Nov. 15, Nov. 22
NEW ADULT EDUCATION VIDEO SERIES - OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER
Join us on four Tuesdays for dinner and video discussion. The Byzantine nuns at Christ the Bridegroom Monastery have produced an excellent series of short (average 20-minute) videos with reflections and commentary on a variety of spiritual topics. The format is similar to Bible Study—we will meet at 5:15 for dinner, watch the video, and have a discussion, ending around 6:30 or 6:45. No advance preparation necessary—just show up and enjoy the fellowship and learning, from a perspective within our Ruthenian Byzantine-Rite Catholic denomination.
Nov. 24: Be Poor With Me: Reflections on Poverty
If you have questions, inquire with David C. Alan (chaim2000@att.net); or Mike Lechman and Linda Lechman (maclech@aol.com).

Please note that this program is NOT "Bible Study", as you said today during the church announcements. If the program is going to be a success, we need to describe it accurately and completely.

Also, it is not true that this is "for parishioners only, not the general public." If parishioners want to bring friends and family, they are welcome to do so. We want to attract new people to the church, not exclude them.

Have a good evening.
David C. Alan

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Church 757-220-8098 Rectory 757-585-2787
www.ascensionva.org Like us on Facebook
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.
The Bible's Best Wisdom for Setting Goals That Actually Glorify God

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.

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; Dicon Adithia Kusno--Children's Christian Formation Directo -Young Adult Education; Don Merkley, Website-Facebookh; Lee Alexander-Men's Club President; Lisa Edwardsr-Liturgical Committee; Ann Merkley-Bookstore Manager-Security

Happy NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st Eric Hunter; 3rd Daisy Olson; 6th Bill Lech; 16th Leah Fuccella; 16th Ann Kelly; 16th Delores Clinton; 18th Natalie Collions; 20th Michael Yackanich; 22nd Morgan Kelly;

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.

The Bishop's Annual Appeal 2026–2027

The Bishop's Annual Appeal has begun! Our parish goal for the 2026–2027 campaign is $6,800.

Our success has always been made possible through the generosity and giving spirit of our parishioners. We are deeply grateful for your continued support and participation.

You can make your donation online by visiting www.eparchyofpassaic.com and making your pledge directly to the Eparchy, or by mailing your completed pledge card to the Bishop's Office.

For your convenience, additional Bishop's Appeal envelopes are available at the front of the church.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate! Once our parish reaches its goal, 40% of the donations will be returned to our parish to support our local needs.

Thank you for your generosity, faith, and continued support of our parish. May God bless you abundantly!

Advisory Board of Ascension of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church

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



November 8 2026

Candles -0.00; Monthly Dues –100.00; Offertory –821.00. In –921.00; Out- 1,981.52

Operation Christmas Child is up and running in the Fellowship Hall. Boxes and tags are on the table with all instructions. Please have boxes ready and returned to the table the week of November 17th - 24th. Don't forget a $10.00 shipping donation with each box. Let's spread Gods love to the children around the world. Any questions please contact Michelle Massie. Thank you and God Bless!

Email: michmassie@gmail.com

Thank you to David Efimitz, Donald Merkley and Mary Jean Sotack for organizing the Parish Advent retreat and finding our Retreat Master. The retreat was a great success.

Bible Study

The next BIBLE study in January to continue on the Prophets, cost $25 to $30 for book guide and video lectures. Respectfully submitted, Dr. Michael Lechman

To be a Saint – The Interplay of Light and Darkness in Leading a Christian Life.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. Gen 1:3-4

Across various cultures and traditions, light has traditionally symbolized goodness, truth and virtue, a divine presence; whereas darkness has represented evil, ignorance and moral corruption. We find the analogy used not only in Christianity. It occurs in Greek culture and philosophy. The Greek philosopher Plato wrote about the concept in his Allegory of the Cave. In a broader sense, the concept of this dualism is found in Buddhism, Zoroastrianism and Taoism, with its Yin-Yang concept. Each teach the principle of two opposing forces and the interplay they have in our life.

It is found in both the Old and New Testaments. In Exodus, Chapter 13, we read about how a pillar of fire guided Israel through the desert at night. Isaiah, Chapter 5, warns against those who turn darkness into light and light into darkness. In the Gospel of John, Chapter 8, we hear Jesus say He is the light of the world. This concept becomes another one of the themes found throughout scripture. Together they become part of the human experience.

Recently I came across a passage attributed to the statesman-philosopher Francis Bacon. It gives us another take on this co-existence. He writes, "In order for the light to shine so brightly the darkness must be present." Let's develop on that, and relate it to our own experience as we walk the way of faith.

Many who seek to develop a relationship with God go into it with the expectation that their lives should instantly take a change for the better, and for a short time, this is normally how it works. In the opening bloom of faith, their life becomes peaceful and more ordered. They make great progress and naturally anticipate spiritual growth without resistance. There is a point when this changes. Whenever the light of God appears, darkness reacts. Not because the darkness is stronger, but because it cannot stand still when the presence of God draws near.

For many, when they feel the pushback and resistance of darkness, their instinct is to retreat. Some walk away, often in frustration, others will naturally seek an easier path to follow; one not so challenging. In effect, they seek a way to co-exist with the darkness; to live in harmony with it. For its part, darkness has little reason to resist this type of compromise, so this individual becomes comfortable in this type of life, and in the process become spiritually stagnant. Darkness will harbor itself snugly into the soul, patiently manipulating, patiently waiting for each opportunity to cause us to stumble.

Now let's apply this to our own journey. Spiritual opposition is not always evidence that you are going the wrong direction. In many cases, it confirms we are on the right track. Like walking into the wind, resistance often increases when you begin to move forward. In contrast, the enemy has no reason to resist a life that stays spiritually stagnant.

What does that resistance look like? Old temptations flare up, circumstances feel heavier than usual, there is growing doubt, and you often feel failure in not progressing as fast as you think you should. Instead of assuming God has stepped away, consider the possibility that His presence is stirring something deeper in you. Light exposes what darkness works hard to hide, and that exposure can feel uncomfortable even when it is healthy. Darkness feeds on reaction, the light of reason sends it running. Evil, ignorance, or suffering cannot be countered by more of itself; instead, it must be met with truth, love, and illumination.

In pursuing a spiritual life, what feels like sudden opposition may actually be a sign that God is working in ways you cannot yet see. Do not be overly troubled. Be persistent, be patient. Seek advice from a spiritual advisor or your pastor. Apply the words of Francis Bacon, and remember that in order for your light to shine brightly, the darkness must be present. Anchor yourself in the light of God's truth such that your light shines forth brightly in an otherwise dark world.

Yours in Christ
Brother Joseph

Men's Club - Our next meeting will be this Tuesday, November 17th at 6pm. We will have officer elections and vote on this years Saint Nickolas Grant, to be presented at the December potluck.

Carpathian Kitchen - Our recent Eastern European food tasting raised $267. Another $156 was raised from the bake sale, for a total of $423. Thanks to all who worked the event!

Safety and Security. One of the first jobs of the early church was assigned to designated "door keepers" , who were called "Porters" and were responsible for maintaining security. References to the doorkeeper's duties still exist within the life of the Church. For example, before the recitation of the Creed, the deacon or priest says, "The Doors! The Doors! In wisdom let us be attentive." Traditionally, at that point in the service, any unbelievers or catechumens were ushered out, and was direction to the doorkeeper to seal the church. We still maintain that tradition in the form of our safety and security team. If you would like to be a part, training is held monthly. See Ann Merkley or David Efimetz.

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.