

WELCOME TO ASCENSION

VE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

We are only allowing **between 22 and 44 people in Church**
and 20 people in Church Hall

SUN	DEC 20	SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS – OF THE ANCESTORS Heb 11: 9-10 & 32-40 Mt 1:1-25 11:00 Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and + James Peter Hertz by Betty May Hertz
Tue	Dec 22	8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB Marino, Emma, Leo, Patrick Alexander
Wed	Dec 23	8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and + Cecelia Kokinda (wife) by Eugene Kokinda After Moleben to the Theotokos -Special Intentions-For Peace in Our Country
Thu	Dec 24	CHRISTMAS EVE 9:00pm Compline 10:00pm Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners by Fr. Alex
Fri	DEC 25	CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM! MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!
SUN	DEC 27	SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS – MEMORY OF DAVID, JOSEPH & JAMES STEPHEN - PROTOMARTYR Gal 1:11-19 Mt 2:13-23 11:00 Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and + Gloria Hertz Walasavage by Betty May Hertz

**MAY THE WONDER OF THAT FIRST CHRISTMAS, THE JOY
OF GOD'S ABUNDANT BLESSINGS, AND THE PEACE OF
JESUS PRESENCE BE WITH YOU ALWAYS. Fr Alex**

Read Full Bulletin online [www. ascensionva.org](http://www.ascensionva.org)

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

We Would Welcome Some Helping Hands to Keep Our Church Clean and
Disinfected. Due to Covid 19 We Still Need to Clean the Church Before
and After Every Liturgy. If You Would Like More Information, or If You
Can Help, especially on a Monday or Wednesday, Please Speak with Kathy
Alexander (566-8637) or Linda Lechman (714-3515).

**THANK YOU TO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO DONATED
SUPPLIES FOR CLEANING OF CHURCH. FROM LINDA AND
KATHY, THANK YOU EVER SO MUCH.**

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LIVE-STREAMING DIVINE LITURGY AND PRAYERS

Ascension of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church is providing live
broadcasts of Divine Liturgy and prayers on the internet for those who would like
to experience our worship and pray with us. Below is how to get notification. This
announcement is posted originally on this [link](#) Divine Liturgy live-streaming can be
found on YouTube and Facebook using the following links: YouTube
channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFrYPWRdt-4HCsBpXdxAmhg/> To receive
a notification when video is live, please like video, subscribe, and click bell notification
button. Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/Ascension-Byzantine-Catholic-
Church-100862511741107/](https://www.facebook.com/Ascension-Byzantine-Catholic-Church-100862511741107/) To receive a notification when video is live, please like page
and click follow. In your service, Adithia Kusno

Are you aware of any organization or church that is selling used church pews? Desired length 12 feet. If so, please speak to Thomas (Tom) McGraw.tel: (804) 932-8098

Happy DECEMBER Birthdays

19th Joe Baysura; 20th Kathy Alexander
29th Abraham Kusno

December Candles:

Sanctuary...HGB Roman Slysh...by Nadia Shockley
Tetrapod...HGB Margan Family...by Katarina Margan
Theotokos & Child...HGB Ted, Catherine, Carol, Stephen... by June Mathews
Christ Teacher...HGB Patrick Alexander...by Lee & Kathy Alexander
John Baptist...HGB John Alexander...by Lee & Kathy Alexander
St Nicholas...HGB Morgan & Kevin Kelly...by Ann Kelly
Protection Theotokos...HGB Adriana Shockley...by Nadia & Keith Shockley

Reminder: Hospitality is **SUSPENDED** until the first Sunday in January, 01/03. It will be the first Sunday of the month only, going forward.

FINANCIALS Dec. 13

Total Contributions: Flowers – 10.00 Monthly Dues -25.00 Holyday 30.00
Offertory –1, 078.00 Non-Monetary Donation – 0.00 Fuel –0.00 Rainy Day
Fund-0.00 Candles –0.00 Religious Education –0.00
IN – \$ 1,143.00; OUT— \$ 731.29

“Lord, teach us to pray” Luke 11:1

True Praying involves knowing beforehand what to request from God. Praying is asking for something definite. The mind is given over entirely to God, thinking of him, of what is needed, and of what has been received in the past. The very first step in prayer is a mental step. We must be taught through our intellect. And only as far as the intellect is given over to God in prayer will be able to learn how to pray.

Lord Jesus, just like Your disciples long ago I ask of You today, “teach me (us) to pray.” Amen.

We have several faithful from Ascension who are in need of special prayer. Some of those who need special prayer are: *Ann Harmeyer, Chris Janke, Mary Grace Dorsey, Adithia and Sasha Kusno, Patrick Cook, Betta Labanish*
Thank you. Father Alex

"We are well aware that life is made up of highs and lows, of lights and shadows. Each one of us experiences moments of disappointment, of failure and being lost. Moreover, the situation we are living in, marked by the pandemic, generates worry, fear and discouragement in many people; we run the risk of falling into pessimism, the risk of falling into closure and apathy. How should we react in the face of all this?... Advent is a continuous call to hope... The Lord does not abandon us; He accompanies us through the events of our lives to help us discover the meaning of the journey the meaning of everyday life, to give us courage when we are under duress or when we suffer. In the midst of life's storms, God always extends His hand to us and frees us from threats."

Pope Francis

Parishioner to Parishioners

Thoughts on Temptation and Spiritual Warfare

So why does God permit us to be tempted? Why does God allow demons to torment and persecute us?

As with so many things in life, it is through adversity and struggle that we develop strength and virtue. This is true in the physical world. It is also true in the spiritual world. Demons cannot do anything that God does not permit. God permits demons to influence us, to tempt us, in order that we may develop spiritually according to God's plan.

Everyone has certain weaknesses. The very area in which we continually fall into sin and struggle with, is the very area in which God wants us to be purified, to develop perfection and virtue. Lust, anger, pride, blasphemy; all of these and more are areas God wants us to be purified of. In the struggle to avoid a particular sin we become stronger. We develop virtue, and fulfill God's calling.

If we were never put to the test in some way or another. If we did not have adversity in some form or another, we would never develop our senses, we would never develop our muscles, we would never develop our mind. We did not learn to walk without struggle. We did not learn to reason without developing our minds. Similarly, we would never develop virtue if we were not put to the test.

God allows demons into our life to move us one way or another, to force us to fight back and strengthen our virtue. When we fight back against sin, when we resist temptation, we are following God's plan for us; a plan which includes our eternal salvation.

So why are some tempted in a certain way and others are tempted in another? God likes variety. Consider God's creation on earth. Look around you at the variety in God's creation. There are no two things exactly alike. In this variety, God finds perfection. Similarly, we are each called to spiritually develop in different ways according to the virtues God wants us to have. We each have our road to travel. We each have our cross to bear and no two roads or crosses are exactly the same.

Spiritual warfare extends beyond attacks on individuals to nations, societies, cultures, and even Holy Church. Why would God allow the Church to be attacked? For the same reasons he allows us to be attacked. So that we may strive together that we may be purified. For in the struggle, we will by necessity put on the full armor of Christ and strengthen our Christian virtue.

The struggle is never easy and can be lifelong. Consider; in the making of tempered steel, iron is heated in a crucible nearly to its melting point to remove impurities. It is then plunged into water and hammered to strengthen it. In the making of steel the metal is pushed to its limits by the master craftsman. The craftsman is wise and knows well what the limits of the metal are, and is careful never to push the metal beyond its limits. In the end the steel is strong and resilient. It is useful for its intended purpose. We are in our crucible now, but have courage because we are in the hands of God. He will not push us beyond our limits.

Dad