

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	SEP 20	SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS Gal 2:16-20 Mk 8:34:9:1 Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and For + Alda Smith by Oksana Mackowicz
	11:00	
Tue	Sep 22	8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB St. Luke's Icon Guild by Fr. Alex After Moleben to the Theotokos -Special Intentions-For Peace in Our Country 7:00pm Men's Club Meting
Wed	Sep 23	8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and + George Molnar (uncle) by Eugene Kokinda
Thu	Sep 24	8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and + Michael Molnar (uncle) by Eugene Kokinda After Short Bible Reflection 6:00pm "ROSARY" Prayer for Protection and Healing of the coronavirus and all serious illnesses by Men's Club
SUN	SEP 27	17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 2 Cor 6:16-7:1 Lk 5:1:11 Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and For + George Mackowicz by Oksana Mackowicz
	11:00	

**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**

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

- * Taking advanced orders for Pulled Pork BBQ for pick up first
Sunday in October (10/04) after liturgy. Your order can be
placed through the link on the parish website or by contacting
Mike Olson at mike_o23608@gmail.com

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).

**Keep practicing social distancing and use a mask when out
and about as we continue through the "reopening" process.**

Coffee will be served by hostesses from the bar in St. Phillip's Hall. Server will
pour the coffee, ask if parishioner wants cream/sugar etc. and hand them the
coffee. Any pastries served will be individually wrapped.
Servers will be wearing masks and gloves. Parishioners will be wearing masks.
After receiving your coffee, you will head out to the new back patio area where
social distancing will be maintained. There will be trash cans to deposit your
trash when finished.

**No one, except servers, will be allowed to congregate in the Hall or go into
the kitchen.** Servers will clean up when finished.

Children's faith formation starting this week. There is still time to enroll your family, and we are excited for coming year! Classes will start online due to Covid-19. Please contact Patty Duttry or Sasha Kusno. Enrollment for children's Eastern Catholic faith formation is still open. Ages 5-17.

Anyone who is interested in learning the liturgical music on their own could take online courses through the Metropolitan Cantor Institute. The

Free courses can be found on their website: <https://mci.archpitt.org/online/>

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

New Information:

Due to the uncertainty of the COVID pandemic, all Yard Sales are postponed until masks are no longer needed to be worn. Only donations of furniture and finer antiques will be accepted due to limited storage space. Please contact Mary Jean Sotack if you have items for donation. Online sales will continue for these items. Thank you for your support!

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!!

2nd	Lisa Branden
6th	Jacob Cook
8th	Jamie DaQuilanea
14th	Robert Danny Montgomery
14th	Lolly Vinson
20th	Patty Piszko-Dunham
21st	Deborah Kotyk
21st	Sr Alphina Chepter
23rd	Peyton Karlson
24th	Zachary Karlson
27th	Lydia Marin
28th	Lisa Cifrulak Edwards
29th	Christine Noonan
29th	David Efimetz

FINANCIALS

Total Contributions: Monthly Dues -220.00 Holyday 10.00
Offertory – 1,169.00 Non-Monetary Donation – 76.98 Fuel –0.00 Rainy
Day Fund-0.00 Candles –62.00 Religious Education – 20.00 Special Gifts –
1,070.00
IN – \$1,529.00; OUT— \$3,285.50

Recommendation from Bishop concerning attending Divine Liturgy and receiving Holy Communion.

1. Should you stay home from Divine Liturgy? Please use your own prudence. If you believe you are sick, or you are in danger, you are dispensed from attending, and God will bless you for praying home.
2. Should you avoid receiving Holy Communion on spoon? St. Paul says about communion, “Let each one examine himself.” If you believe you are sick, or that you are in danger because of weak health, and you do not receive, I promise you that God will still bless you with His abundance of graces.

Prayer to Defeat the Work of Satan

O Divine Eternal Father, in union with your Divine Son and the Holy Spirit, and through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg You to destroy the power of your greatest enemy- the evil spirits. Cast them into the deepest recesses of hell and chain them there forever! Take possession of Your Kingdom which You have created and which is rightfully Yours. Heavenly Father, give us the reign of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I repeat this prayer out of pure love for You, with every beat of my heart and with every breath I take. Amen (Imprimatur March 1973, +Richard H. Ackerman, Bishop of Covington)

HOSPITALITY

Please see Bulletin Board at the entrance to St Phillip's Hall for schedule of Lectures, Financial Records and Hospitality.

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, but are unable to join us because of limited access due to COVID-19, work, personal illness or distance.

Attending the services via live streaming is an aid to sincere devotion but if you are able, we look forward to having you join us in person.

For easy access to our Facebook, go to our website, ascensionVA.org and link to our Facebook page. Past liturgies are also in an archive of videos on our website.

COMMITTEES

Trustees:	Mike Olson, David Efimetz
Bible Study with Coffee:	Linda Lechman
Liturgical/Church Website:	Don Merkely
Men’s Club:	John Alexander
Outreach Cleaning:	Betty Mae Hertz
Property:	Father Alex
Publicity:	Mary Jean Sotack
Security:	Mike Olson
Secretary:	Ann Kelly
Book Keeper	Patty Dutry
Youth:	Sasha Kusno

Sanctuary Lamp: HGB Margan Family...Requested by Katarina Margan

Tetrapod Lamp: BRS George Makowiec...Requested by Oksana Makowiec

Theotokos & Child Lamp: HGB Morgan & Kevin Kelly...Requested by Ann Kelly

Christ Teacher Lamp: HGB Patrick Alexander...Requested by Lee & Kathy Alexander

John Baptist Lamp: HGB John Alexander...Requested by Lee & Kathy Alexander

Protection of Theotokos Lamp: HGB JuneAnn and Darren Hall by MaryAnn Drumtra

Spiritual Communion

O Jesus, I turn toward the holy tabernacle where you live hidden for love of me. I love You, O my God, I cannot receive You in Holy Communion. Come, nevertheless, and visit me with Your grace. Come spiritually into my heart. Purify it. Sanctify it. Render it like unto Your own. Amen.

Prayer for Strength

"Holy Spirit, I need You more than ever right now. My heart is hurting, and I feel overwhelmed with loneliness. At this moment, I welcome Your presence, Your peace, and Your love. Thank You for filling me with Your overwhelming comfort, holding me in Your arms and surrounding me with Your healing love. Your Word says that because I’m Your child when I hurt, You hurt too. Thank You for caring about every single detail of my life, wiping away my tears, and for always being here for me. I love You, Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Lord, I’m not praying for miracles and visions, **I’m only asking for strength for my days.** Teach me the art of small steps. Make me clever and resourceful, so that I can find important discoveries and experiences among the diversity of days. Help me use my time better. Present me with the sense to be able to judge whether something is important or not. I pray for the power of discipline and moderation, not only to run throughout my life, but also to live my days reasonably, and observe unexpected pleasures and heights.

Save me from the naive belief that everything in life has to go smoothly. Give me the sober recognition that difficulties, failures, fiascos, and setbacks are given to us by life itself to make us grow and mature. Send me the right person at the right moment, who will have enough courage and love to utter the truth!

I know that many problems solve themselves, so please teach me patience. You know how much we need friendship. Make me worthy of this nicest, hardest, riskiest and most fragile gift of life. Give me enough imagination to be able to share with someone a little bit of warmth, in the right place, at the right time, with words or with silence. Spare me the fear of missing out on life. Do not give me the things I desire, but the things I need. **Teach me the art of small steps!’**

“A Soulful Prayer by Antoine DE Saint-Exupery”

Parishioner to Parishioners

Count our Blessings

We are good at counting our problems, it is important that we also take a count of our blessings.

Recently, we had a Chinese national visit our parish. When asked why he was visiting the United States he replied “to hear the mass”. Think about that for a moment. In China, there are two Catholic Church’s. One is the official State church that teaches the “parishioners” the communist party line. The clergy of this government church is selected by the Chinese Communist Party. The other Catholic Church in China is the authentic Catholic Church. It’s clergy is selected and ordained by Catholic Bishops. It is an increasingly underground church. Catholics have to meet in private homes called “House Churches” in secret to celebrate the sacraments. Early on in the COVID pandemic Beijing used the crisis as an excuse to tighten its grip on religious activities, bulldozing some churches and placing others under heavy surveillance.

This February, the Religious Affairs Bureau of the northeastern province of Jilin issued a document calling on authorities to “rectify” house churches, which are considered illegal by the government. The document instructed local officials to investigate house churches and collect information on “when they were established, who is in charge of them, and how large the congregations are” as a first step to shutting them down altogether. Now, imagine that situation in the United States.

This past April, a Cuban Christian couple was arrested for home schooling their family to train them in their Christian faith and keep them out of the State-run Cuban schools where they were bullied for being Christian. The couple were convicted under a Cuban law entitled, “Other Acts Contrary to the Normal Development of the Minor.” Prosecutors argued that homeschooling “is not allowed in Cuba because it has a capitalist base,” and that only teachers are trained “to inculcate socialist values,” Now, imagine that situation in the United States.

There are other examples of how socialist styled governments persecute Christians, but my purpose is to show how blessed we are, even with all of our problems, to live in a country where we have protection of religious freedom contained in our constitution .

Be thankful we have an active parish with an assigned pastor. Take a look around you. In this country the Catholic Church as a whole is consolidating, and shutting down parishes. Congregations are forced to travel to another parish if they want to hear Mass, or need the services of a priest. Other parishes have a rotation of visiting priests that only come on Sunday to offer Mass. These visiting priests will never get to know the people of that parish, or be able to tend to their spiritual needs beyond offering Mass. We on the other hand, have a parish that offers Sunday services as well as weekly services, Bible Study, Rosary and other prayer services. Our pastor knows his congregation. He makes sick calls at our home and visits us when we are in the hospital. He calls us by our first name and has baptized our children.

Be thankful that we have the opportunity to train our children in their Catholic faith, supervise their moral upbringing, and not rely on socialist government run schools to do it. Many take this blessing for granted. A majority of the problems we have in our society today stems from a lack of religious training and moral upbringing.

Do not take your religious freedom, or your parish for granted. Protect them; use them. They are blessings from God. If we take our blessings from God for granted, we could find them taken away from us one day.

Dad

Thank you again for your continued support and your patience as we work through these challenging times together.

Please pray for me and I will continue to pray for you. Let us not forget to pray for our country! God bless you. Fr. Alex

