

## WELCOME TO ASCENSION

WE LOVE 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**

<b>SUN</b>	<b>SEP 6</b>	<b>14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> 2 Cor 1:21-2:4 Mt 22:1-14 <b>Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and Monika and John Ruskus by Fr. Alex</b>
	<b>11:00</b>	
<u>Tue</u>	<u>Sep 8</u>	<u>Birth of the Theotokos (solemn)</u> <u>8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and</u> <u>+ za vsix pomerlix u rodini Savaryn by Vira Savaryn</u>
<u>Wed</u>	<u>Sep 9</u>	<u>8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and</u> <u>HGB Angle Cook by Suzanne Cook</u> <u>After Moleben to the Theotokos -Special Intentions-For Peace in Our Country</u>
<u>Thu</u>	<u>Sep 10</u>	<u>8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and</u> <u>HGB Evgene Kokinda by Evgene Kokinda</u> <u>After Short Bible Reflection</u> <u>6:00pm "ROSARY" Prayer for Protection and Healing of the coronavirus and all serious illnesses by Men's Club</u>
<b>SUN</b>	<b>SEP 13</b>	<b>SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS</b> Gal 6:11-18 Jn 3:13-17 <b>Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and For Katarina Vitaliya Samson by Fr Alex</b> <b>After Blessing Cross</b>

# 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

**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 will be starting next 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.

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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 not 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!

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#### Schedule

**Divine Liturgy:** Sundays, 11 AM  
                                    Tuesdays, 8:30 AM  
                                    Wednesdays, 8:30 AM  
                                    Thursdays, 8:30 AM  
**Rosary:**                    Thursdays, 6 PM

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#### **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 -50.00 Holyday 10.00**

**Offertory – 884.00 Non-Monetary Donation – 0.00 Fuel –0.00 Rainy Day Fund-0.00 Candles –0.00**

#### **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)

#### **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

HOSPITALITY

Please see Bulletin Board at the entrance to St Phillip's Hall for schedule of Lectures, Financial Records and Hospitality.  
NO Hospitality

Enrollment for children's Eastern Catholic faith formation is still open.  
Ages 5-17. Please Call Patty or Sasha.

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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...For Our Parish

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

### Chastisement and the need for Repentance

There are many themes in the Bible. The one that is most remembered and discussed is the unconditional, everlasting love God has for each of us. There is another not too often discussed, and when it is, it seems to be quickly forgotten.

Over and over again from Adam and Eve's expulsion from the garden, to the great deluge, to Sodom and Gomorrah, there is a pattern. Man separates himself from God through sin, God visits a chastisement, man repents and is reconciled to God. The cycle then repeats; over.... and over..... and over.....

Further on in the bible we see the Israelites turning from God. At the time they were to receive the 10 commandments they were found worshiping a golden calf, breaking the first commandment. Now this is the same group that saw the parting of the Red Sea, and then saw the sea consume the Egyptian army! All of this, and they still turned away from God to worship a golden calf. Later the nation of Israel was chastised again because they had strayed from God, and Jerusalem, including their holy temple, was destroyed by the Babylonian Empire. The bible is full of examples. God would always send warnings in the form of prophets, but they were seldom heeded; such is the blinding power of man's arrogance.

The religious leaders of Israel could not even recognize the Son of God. Less than 30 years after the crucifixion the nation of Israel was destroyed by pagan Rome, and its people scattered for the next 19 centuries. A chastisement from God? I don't know, but there are few examples of a people persecuted as much for so long of time.

The cycle has not stopped. Remember the Marion prophesies we discussed. The Virgin Mary has come to us several times asking for repentance and warning of chastisement. She predicted World War II during the Fatima revelations. Some of her predictions are seemingly taking place today. Like the prophets of old, the warnings have gone largely unheeded.

That man strays from God is due to our fallen nature, caused by the original sin of Adam, and by which death was brought about. Our Savior Jesus' death on the cross redeems us and opens to us the possibility of eternal life, but we are still accountable for the sins we commit. The fallen nature of mankind combined with

our free will is the flaw in us that Satan continually exploits to divide us from God.

Repentance is essential to reconcile ourselves to God. Repentance looks clearly at the sin with a recognition, a regret and detestation of that sin. It then looks ahead with a sincere determination to avoid sin. Beware though; we are masters at deceiving ourselves to sin, and self-justification. Remember the absurdity of the Israelites who worshiped the golden calf? Make sure we have not set up and justified golden calves of our own. Ah, but God would never forgive my sin; it's too big; it's too late.... This is the handiwork of Satan again to keep us from God. God is always ready to forgive. Remember the main biblical theme I mentioned at the beginning of this letter? God's love is unconditional.

Start repentance with yourself. It may sound selfish, but our first thought should be to save our immortal soul. It would be the height of hypocrisy to start trying to save others before you save yourself. Time is short. Remember, there is no chance to repent after death.

Repentance beyond ourselves??? The sins of a nation or a society are but the sum total of the sins of individuals within it. We can pray for inspired leadership and a re-awakening to return to God and His law. We can ourselves do what we can to set a good example by living our life in imitation of Christ. After that it is in the hands of God.

But have we gone too far? Is it inevitable that a chastisement will come? History would indicate yes, but no one outside of heaven truly knows, and it will not prosper you to speculate on it. All we can do is pray for mercy for ourselves, our family and our country, live a righteous life, and trust God.

There is hope. Read of Sodom and Gomorra in Genesis 18:23-32? This passage ends with the words "For the sake of ten (*Righteous Men*) I will not destroy it." There are many takeaways from the reading. The two that stand out to me is that God is merciful, and God listened to the prayer of a righteous man, Abraham. Although it did not work out for Sodom and Gomorrah, God would have kept His word. Take courage in this, pray and repent your sins.

Dad

**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.**

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