

WELCOME TO ASCENSION

SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

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

SUN	APR 11	THOMAS SUNDAY Acts 5:12-20 Jn 20:19-31
	9:30	BIBLE STUDY , led by Mike Bracelin
	11:00	Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners + Richard Falke by Hahn Falke
	Afterward	Hospitality
	Tue Apr 13	8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and + John and Monika Ruszkus by Fr. Alex
	4:15 -6:00pm	Office hours in Church (Fr. Alex)
	Wed Apr 14	8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB Martha Beline by Eugene Kokinda
	Afterward	Moleben to the Theotokos -Special Intentions-For Peace in Our Country
	Thu Apr 15	8:30am Moleben to the Theotokos for Our Parishioners After Short Bible Reflection
	6:00pm	"ROSARY" Prayer for Protection and Healing of the coronavirus and all serious illnesses by Men's Club
SUN	APR 18	SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARERS Acts 6:1-7 Mk 15:43-16:8
	9:30	BIBLE STUDY , led by Mike Bracelin
	11:00	Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners + John, George and Bob Labanish by Betta Labanish
	Afterward	Hospitality

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

On March 23,2021, John Labanish (the Late Husband of Betta Labanish) received posthumously the James City County Historical Commission Preservation Award. John served for two terms as chairperson of the Historical Commission and also facilitated the publication of "A History of James City County." He was specifically honored for his many years of dedicated service and contribution to the organization, development and on-going relocation/restoration of the Norge Depot Museum in Norge, Virginia.

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Happy APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2nd William Fetsko; 3rd Adriana Shockley;
5th Anya Bobrinskaya Hunter; 22nd Jim Hoolan
22nd Aurora DaQuilanea; 24th Nadia Hunter
28th Betta Labanish; 28th Oksana Makowiec

FINANCIALS Apr. 4, 2021

Total Contributions: Monthly Dues -700.00 Offertory -@,186.00 Candles -62. 00
Easter Offering - 520.00 Playground - 500.00 Special Gifts - 300.00
IN - \$ 3,448. 00; OUT- \$ 451. 20

BIBLE STUDY

1. The Liturgical Bible Study ministry surveying the weekly readings, led by Michael Bracelin, will resume starting March 21st at 9:30 am in the Hall. All are welcome to participate as one is able. Simply bring yourself and a bible if you have one!
2. Beginning later this Spring we will launch a new bible study following the Adventure Bible Series created by Ascension Press. It will take place during a weekday on a manageable semi-monthly basis. We hope to offer food, community, and of course an easy to understand exploration of the Holy Scriptures! If interested please contact Michael Bracelin (michael.bracelin@gmail.com) or Dr. Mike Lechman (maclech@aol.com) via email or at Church.

If you are interested in attending a bi-weekly Bible study that takes place during a weekday late afternoon/evening, which teaches you how to understand the “grand story of the Bible,” please find out more by finding Dr. Mike Lechman or Mike Bracelin at church on Sunday, or email us at Michael.bracelin@gmail.com.

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, Betty May Hertz

Thank you. Fr. Alex

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

EASTER BRINGS FUN, EASTER BRINGS HAPPINESS, EASTER BRINGS GOD'S ENDLESS BLESSINGS, EASTER BRINGS LOVE AND THE FRESHNESS OF SPRING. HAPPY EASTER TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

FR. ALEX

Candles for April:

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

Tetrapod...HGB Our Parish Family

Theotokos & Child... HGB Morgan and Kevin Kelly...Requested by Ann Kelly
Christ Teacher...HGB Patrick Alexander & Family Requested by Lee & Kathy Alexander

John Baptist...HGB John Alexander Requested by Lee & Kathy Alexander
St Nicholas...For Our Parish

Protection of the Theotokos...Helen & Merrill LeBlanc by Peter & Lisa Margan

Dear God, I pray that Your divine guidance will lead me in such a way that I too, will be able to experience the Spirit's gracious touch upon my life. 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.

To Be a Saint

Wisdom! Be attentive! “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge...”
Prov-1:7

My last letter dealt with the Biblical theme of listening in the context of our prayer life. In this letter we'll return to that theme, but focus on one of the books of the Old Testament; the Book of Proverbs. For me, the Book of Proverbs along with the Gospel texts, has always been one of those books I can open on short notice, and find treasure immediately. If you remember in the last letter, I wrote we must learn to recognize the voice of God. Well, Proverbs is one of those texts where I can hear God speaking to me directly. It is where I learned to recognize God's voice.

Proverbs properly belongs to a group of books within the Hebrew Bible called Sapiential Books, defined as Hebrew Wisdom Literature. These include The Book of Job, some of the Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Wisdom, and Sirach.

Most scholars acknowledge King Solomon as the primary author of Proverbs; however, Proverbs contains wisdom from other writers. Chapter 30 are the words of Agur, son of Jakeh of Massa. Chapter 31 is identified as being written by King Lemuel of Massa containing lessons his mother taught him. Chapters 1-9 serve as an introduction, mostly in the form of a father teaching his son. Chapters 10-29 are identified specifically as the Proverbs of Solomon and then Chapter 30 and 31 conclude with the sayings of Agur and Lemuel.

It is safe to say that Proverbs is a generational accumulation of Hebrew wisdom. Wisdom that is still relevant today. Topics include marriage, work, family, character, forgiveness, generosity, and so much more.

Proverbs contains wisdom that teaches us how to live well in this world. It guides us toward a moral mindset. It teaches us to humble ourselves before the Lord and embrace God's definition of right and wrong, an unchanging value system. A value system that is seemingly being torn asunder in this modern age.

In the church we find the Psalms interwoven in the tapestry of our liturgical life. In a former day, Proverbs were similarly woven into the tapestry of our everyday life. Alas, no more. Moral values are currently in a free fall and have been for many years. Even the very definition of right and wrong are now subject to individual interpretation. An interpretation that changes to best fit circumstances. Even the definition of male and female is being changed, or rather perverted, to fit an agenda. With all that in mind, it is good to have the

anchor of Proverbs and the other biblical works to hold us steadfastly to God. Remember the Bible is God's spoken word to us. God's voice is there if we listen. So, what is God saying to us in Proverbs? Here are three examples pulled at random.

Proverbs 3:5-7: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eye's; fear the Lord and turn away from evil.”

Proverbs 3:11-12: “My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be wary of His reproof, for the Lord reproves him who He loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

Proverbs 27:1-2: “Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what the day may bring forth. Let another praise you and not your own mouth; a stranger and not your own lips.”

This is the wisdom that our ancestors learned and followed. A wisdom that is being largely shunned and ignored by modern society. I believe "cancelled" may be the correct term.

If we long for a return to a clear set of values, then we must turn away from the false wisdom of the world, and return to the Wisdom of God. Starting with yourself, and then your family, especially your children. I recommend opening your Bible occasionally and reading from Proverbs. Yes my friend, there is great treasure there.

Yours in Christ
Brother Joseph

“Jesus Christ is risen!” – “He is truly risen!” Dear brothers and sisters, indifference, self-centredness, division and forgetfulness are not words we want to hear at this time. We want to ban these words for ever! They seem to prevail when fear and death overwhelm us, that is, when we do not let the Lord Jesus triumph in our hearts and lives. May Christ, who has already defeated death and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, dispel the darkness of our suffering humanity and lead us into the light of His glorious day, a day that knows no end.”

Pope Francis

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.