

WELCOME TO ASCENSION

SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

PLEASE KEEP SOCIAL DISTANCE

SUN	DEC 19	SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS Heb 11:9-1 & 32-40 Mt 1:1-25 Tone 5 10:40 3 rd Hour reading Divine Liturgy For HGB All Our Parishioners and + George Nicholas Hertz by Betty May Hertz After – Hospitality
Tue	Dec 21	8: 30am For Our Parishioners and + Peter Nicholas Peltier by Paula Peltier
Wed	Dec 22	8:30am For Our Parishioners and + Anthony DeGaspari by Fr. Ann Kelly MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS -Special Intentions-For Peace in Our Country
Thu	Dec 23	8:30am For Our Parishioners and HGB Frank Fritz and + Nicholas Fritz by Elaine and Joe Hampton After - Bible Study
6:00pm - ROSARY - Prayer for Protection and Healing of the coronavirus and all serious illnesses by Men's Club		

Fri Dec 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

9:00 pm Compline 10:00 pm DIVINE LITURGY For Our Parishioners

Sat Dec 25 CHRISTMAS BIRTH OF OUR LORD

Gal 4:4-7 Mt 2:1-12

8:00 DIVINE LITURGY For Our Parishioners

SUN DEC 26 SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAVID, JOSEPH AND JAMES

Gal 1:11-19 & Heb 2: 11-18 Mt 2:13-23 Tone 6 10:40 3rd Hour reading

11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and + Gloria Hertz by Betty May Hertz
After – Hospitality

To those we love and see each day and other loved ones far away, to all good friends who mean so much and those with whom we're out of touch... Wishing you every happiness this CHRISTMAS season and throughout the coming 2022 year. Fr. Alex

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

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.

Office Manager: Adi Kusno (Deacon Candidate) will be acting as the Ascension Office Manager under Fr. Alex. He will be responsible for organizational duties with scheduling activities as well as a contact person if Father is unavailable.

PARISH ACTIVITIES: All activities should be recorded on the main calendar in the office. Please write in the activity you are responsible for and let Fr. Alex know the details so he can include it in the bulletin

Happy DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3rd Gwendolyn Rose Picconi; 4th Robert Sotack; 7th Yaroslava Nicola Collins; 7th Ann Harmeyer; 11th Joshua Karlson; 19th Joe Baysura; 20th Kathy Alexander; 29th Abraham Kusno

Father Alex NEVER emails or texts anyone asking for gift cards or money. If you have received any communication like this please do not respond and let Father know you have received requests. These are a scam!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Did you miss the Bible Study this Fall, but you want to still participate? It's not too late! The Bible Study will restart on Tuesday January 18th at 4:30 pm and we will do a complete review of everything we learned in Fall. Please join us for great food and a wonderful conversation-based journey through Scripture! See Dr. Michael Lechman and Michael Bracelin for questions.

Youth faith formation please contact Sasha Kusno at sashaeckstein@gmail.com (4th grade and up).

9:15 am Sunday, January 9. Students and parents are encouraged to sit with catechists at potlucks when possible to stay connected and up-to-date. Families may also contact Sasha Kusno at 660-287-1003 or sashaeckstein@gmail.com with any questions or suggestions. Parents are also welcome at monthly catechist meetings.

We also ask parents to pray for the fruit of their student's learning, especially during class time.

Catechist Meetings: Sunday, December 19; 1 pm Sunday, January 16; 1 pm Sunday, February 20 ; 1 pm Sunday, March 20

Children's faith formation will follow the COVID precautions in place at the parish. Any person experiencing symptoms, under quarantine due to an exposure, or in isolation is asked to remain home out of charity for others. Make-up catechesis sessions are available on request in person or through Zoom. We look forward to learning, praying, and worshipping together!

Attention Advisory Board, Security Team, Ushers, and Church

Volunteers: Catholic Mutual (our insurance company) has developed on line training courses. Please see Mrs. Linda Lechman for information on how to access these training courses.

MAY GOD GRANT YOU ALWAYS A SUNBEAM TO WARM YOU, A MOONBEAM TO CHARM YOU, A SHELTERING ANGEL SO NOTHING CAN HARM YOU. LAUGHTER TO CHEER YOU, FAITHFUL FRIENDS NEAR YOU, AND WHENEVER YOU PRAY HEAVEN TO HEAR YOU. (An Irish blessing)

If you are interested in being an Usher, Greeter, or helping with Security please contact Mike Olson at mikeo23608@gmail.com.

If you are interested in serving the church by leading 3rd Hour before Divine Liturgy please email Michael Bracelin at Michael.bracelin@gmail.com

Candles for DECEMBER:

Sanctuary...HGB Margan Family...by Katarina Margan
Tetrapod...HGB Joel Hampton & Family by Elaine & Joe Hampton
Theotokos & Child...HGB Michael Noonan by Christine Noonan
Christ Teacher...HGB Patrick Alexander & Family...by Lee & Kathy Alexander
John Baptist...HGB Olson Family...by Lee & Kathy Alexander
St Nicholas... HGB Merly and Teresa Phillips...by Mary Ann Drumtra
Protection Theotokos... HGB Morgan and Kevin Kelly by Ann Kelly

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, Ben Pawers, Betta Labanish, Betty May Hertz, Emma Bernier, Thank you. Fr. Alex

FINANCIALS, Dec 12

Monthly Dues –260.00; Offertory – 324.00; Candles-5.00; Fuel –0.00; Flowers-Christmas – 10.00; Refunds – 46. 60 In –645.60; Out – 5, 513.32

Find Peace and Be Comforted

It was Christmas Eve. The humming of the ship's engines had become a constant in the crew's life. An ambient noise that became soothing to hear, much like rain hitting a tin roof. The first stars had just come out as the ship was making its way north through the Bab-el-Mandeb channel, which led into the Red Sea. Her assignment in the Middle East was coming to an end, and she had been directed to "out-chop" for further operations in the Med. The deployment was starting to wind down.

The seaman lay on top of a three high rack in a 35-man berthing bay, which had served as his home for nearly six months. He had exactly 18-inches of clearance above his head. His reading light illuminated the little Gideon Bible he always carried, along with a well-read letter he received last month from home. The pages of both were covered with grimy finger prints from constant use. He opened the Bible to Luke Chapter Two. This page was exceptionally worn. He pondered the shepherds keeping watch. That was what he was doing now. Keeping watch; and the young seaman found peace and was comforted.....

The little mining camp was hidden deep in a long fiord along the south coast of Alaska. There were only five prospectors in the camp. Hermits and outcasts from society; one of them was on the run from authorities. The mountains crowded in around them and they had no reliable communications with the outside world. They would occasionally barter with passing fishing vessels that stopped to harvest ice for their catch from the nearby glacier. The miners would exchange what little gold they found for food and supplies, and oh yes, the all-important magazines and newspapers that kept them connected in some fashion to the outside world.

The men had just finished a Christmas Eve supper of canned beef stew and dried smoked salmon. It was a clear night, and the aurora-borealis was dancing above their heads. It was a common sight to them, so they paid little attention. One of them had a small, worn-out bible, and on this bitterly cold night he read aloud the passages from Isaiah Chapter 42, and its message of hope and redemption. Each man, unbeknown to the other, silently prayed a short prayer in their own fashion. These rough, forgotten men, found peace that night, and were comforted.....

The little family of six gathered closely around the table by the pot-bellied stove on that same Christmas Eve. The back of the stove was cherry red, and the little one room tar paper shack was warm. Outside they could hear the wind rushing down from the ridge. The pine trees swayed and made a mournful sound. Pages of old newspapers lined the walls and were stuffed up in the eaves of the shack for extra insulation, but somehow the wind found a way through them, and the candles would flicker and dance, casting great shadows on the walls.

The two oil lanterns provided enough light to enjoy a good meal. Fried squirrel, grits, hand ground from the dried corn hung in the barn, along with biscuits and gravy. Oh

yes, just enough home cured bacon to put a smile on the kids faces. The leftovers would serve as breakfast the next morning along with eggs gathered from the chicken coop. After supper the family gave thanks and then sang Silent Night. The father then pulled out the old family bible. It carried the names of each of the three generations that had read from it. This night, which seemed so bleak, he read the words from Matthew Chapter 28; "For behold, I am with you always, even until the end of the age"; and the little family found peace and was comforted.....

It was late that Christmas Eve. Two police investigators were in a hurry to go home to their families. They had just wrapped up their investigation of the crime scene. Outside, an ambulance was taking away the body of a middle-aged man that had committed suicide by hanging himself. He had been a wealthy, successful business man, socially well connected, with everything one could want.

The investigators found a note by the body. It simply read, "No one should feel this lost, no hope left, so why pretend." Photos showed a spacious well-appointed living room, a large Christmas tree with stacks of gifts addressed to no one. By the tree was an inlaid book case. On the top shelf was a Bible, still in its original wrapping. Inside the front cover of that unopened Bible was inscribed a short hand written note. It was dated five years earlier. It read, "You are never alone. Find peace, and take comfort in that. Love Mom.".....

Four little Christmas vignettes. Yes, the last one may be a little disturbing, but sadly played out all too often. True peace and comfort can only be found through our Lord, and the gifts and graces He bestows on us. The rest? Well, it's merely a passing illusion. Take time this Christmas to spend with the Lord. Find peace, and be comforted.

Love Dad

Never regret a day in your life. Good days give you happiness, bad days give you experience, worst days give you lesson and **the best days** give you memories

Psalm 1

Nothing but a Number

Japanese mountain climber Yuichiro Miura reached the summit of Mount Everest at age 70.

George Brunstad was also 70 when he swam the English Channel. Naval officer Grace Hopper became the first female rear admiral of the United States Navy when she was 79. Margaret Haggerty completed her quest to run a marathon on each of the seven continents when she was 84.

If stories like these teach us anything, it's that senior adults are capable of amazing things.

That was certainly true of Joshua. Even though he was probably nearing the century mark, God had a plan for him. Age didn't matter to God. Rather than telling Joshua to rest, retire or step aside for a younger replacement, God instructed him to get to work.

Perhaps we should take a cue from God in our attitude toward older adults. From an early age most of us were taught to respect our elders. However, too often we confuse politeness for respect. What's the difference? Politeness might include offering a hand to senior adults when they struggle with steps or making awkward small talk with aging relatives at family gatherings. Respect, however, would include realizing that with their years of challenges and experiences these adults are a rich, God-given resource.

In this age of politically correct labels, perhaps a better name for senior citizens is "ultra-experienced adults." God entrusted Joshua with an important duty a quarter century after Joshua reached retirement age because of his vast military experience and knowledge.

Think of the older adults you know. How does God want to use them in your life? What experiences of theirs might benefit you? What life lessons have they learned that might keep you from making a bad decision? And what might you be able to learn from hearing their stories and asking for their advice?

To Take Away

- How would you describe your attitude toward senior adults?*
- Think of two or three seniors you know. What might getting to know them better add to your life?*
- What steps can you take this week to build a mutually beneficial relationship with an older adult?*

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.

Psalms 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.

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.