

WELCOME TO ASCENSION

VE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITAN

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

SUN	FEB 28	2nd SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST (2nd ALL SOULS) Heb 1:10-2:3 Mk 2:1-12 Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and + Rush Limbaugh by MaryJean Sotack
	11:00	
Tus	Mar 2	8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB Betty Mae, Mary Ann, Linda, Kathy by Fr. Alex Office hours in Church (Fr. Alex)
	4:15 -6:00pm	
Wed	Mar 3	8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB Parish Trosti David Efimetz by and Mike Olson and their Family by Fr. Alex Moleben to the Theotokos -Special Intentions-For Peace in Our Country
	After	
Thu	Mar 4	8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB Maureen Black by Fr. Alex After Short Bible Reflection
	6:00pm	“ ROSARY ” Prayer for Protection and Healing of the coronavirus and all serious illnesses by Men’s Club
Fri	Feb 5	5:30pm Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts for Our Parishioners and + Cecelia Kokinda (wife) by Eugene Kokinda
SUN	MAR 7	3rd SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST VENERATION OF THE CROSS (3rd ALL SOULS) Heb 4:14-5:6 Mk 8:34:9-1 Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and + Daniel Gavulich by Donna Ross and Greg Pula
	11:00	

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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Happy March Birthdays
2nd Myron Kotyk; 21nd Josiah Cook; 14th Bladimir Hunter
21st Seraphima Joan Collins; 25th Ron Ruszkowski

FINANCIALS Feb. 21, 2021
Total Contributions: Monthly Dues -0.00 Offertory -853.00 Fuel -10.00
Candles -25.00 ECL - 12.00 IN - \$ 900.00; OUT- \$ 370.46

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

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.

HRAMOTY

There is an envelope for the 5 All Souls Saturdays (which we celebrate on Sunday mornings) in your pack of envelopes. Please write on the card all changes to the list of deceased members of your family to be remembered in prayer. If there are no changes, please write "*no changes*". The offering should be for Father Alex Shuter, not Ascension.

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

February Candles:

Sanctuary...HGB Margan Family...Requested by Katarina Margan
Tetrapod...HGB Morgan and Kevin Kelly...Requested by Ann Kelly
Theotokos & Child...HGB...Kyra Noonan Requested by Chris Noonan
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

"Fasting, prayer and almsgiving, as preached by Jesus (cf. Mt 6:1-18), enable and express our conversion. The path of poverty and self-denial (fasting), concern and loving care for the poor (almsgiving), and childlike dialogue with the Father (prayer) make it possible for us to live lives of sincere faith, living hope and effective charity."

Pope Francis

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.

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

To be a Saint - Of Saints and Sainthood

I recently had a good question, and a request. First the question: What is the Church's process for making someone a Saint? And the request: If laity are to learn from Saints and imitate them, then give names of some Saints that came from the laity.

First the question. During the first several centuries of the Church, the title of Saint was freely given to all those who were publicly known for their holiness, primarily martyrs. It wasn't until 1588 that the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes was officially created to regulate this. This "formulization" of the process is roughly summarized as follows: Servant of God: After a person dies, people must consider that that person possessed what is known as "*heroic virtue*", and is now in heaven. People can petition the bishop of the diocese in which the "candidate" lived to begin an investigation of their life. Venerable: If approved by the Bishop, the investigation goes to the Congregation of the Causes of Saints, located in Rome. They oversee the rest of the process. This group conducts further investigation and, if approved, the candidate takes the title of "Venerable" and people may seek their intercession in prayer. Blessed: If a confirmed miracle occurs in response to the intercession of the candidate, the process moves forward, and the individual is proclaimed to be "Blessed." Sainthood: The final requirement is one more confirmed miracle. Once the miracle has been confirmed, the person may be named a Saint. The pope may choose to waive the requirements for one or both miracles.

Fortunately for us we do not have to wait on the church to declare someone a Saint. Jesus judges each of us, and His judgement is infallible. The Church's process is elaborate, sometimes taking years, even centuries to complete. It takes time, it takes a good deal of resources, and it takes advocates to push the process along. For those wanting to find out more about the process I recommend reading the book, Making Saints, by Kenneth L. Woodward. For myself, I believe there are far, far more Saints in Heaven than the church could ever; or would ever declare.

Let's move on to the request. Names of Saints that were ordinary laity in life.

This is a good request for a number of reasons. Of those Saints canonized by the Church, we find many more Saints who were members of religious life than we do ordinary laity. This is understandable in that the members of the religious life have made vows and publicly devoted their life to God, and as such, many of these stand out publicly for their love and devotion to Jesus Christ.

Yet there are so many other groups of God-fearing souls living a Saintly life. We may meet these future Saints every day and never know it. Men and women of all backgrounds and walks of life, who either marry, or live a solitary life in love of Jesus Christ, and obedience to God. Sacrificing quietly, making little to no public display of their own "*heroic virtue*". In fact, shunning recognition as much as possible. Ah, now; these are the Saints for me. They fight their battles with evil, temptation, and suffering in silence. They are known only to God. It is my belief there are so many of these unknown Saints in heaven it would make us cry in joy and hope.

Let's focus on a group many readers may identify with, a group that also takes vows. I'm speaking of married couples, specifically parents. The first example is Saints Joachim and Anna. the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who without doubt is the greatest Saint of the Church. By all accounts, Saints Joachim and Anna are the role models for parenthood. Hard working, pious and generous, they lived their life for God in their chosen roles as husband and wife. They instilled this love of God into their daughter Mary.

In the same vein of Joachim and Anna we have another set of parents that were canonized by Pope Saint John Paul II. Saints Louis and Zelie Martin, the parents of Saint Theresa of Lisieux, the Little Flower. When Louis and Zelie were married, they made a vow to serve God first. They poured out their love on their nine children, creating a loving home that placed God at the center. When Theresa was only four, Zelie became very ill and died. The family was heartbroken, but they remembered that their mother had prayed with them to help them understand that her illness and death was part of God's plan. Louis lovingly raised his daughters keeping the family firmly centered on Christ.

Everyone is called to holiness. For parents, there is no more important call to holiness than raising and providing for your family, all while putting God at the family center. The most important fruit you bear on the vine of life, which is Christ Jesus, are your own children. Indeed, family becomes the prime environment for creating Saints. Start by teaching your young Saints the love of God, both by word and example.

"All ye holy men and women, Saints of God. Make intercession for us."

From the Litany of all Saints.

Yours in Christ
Brother Joseph

