

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	JAN 24	<b>SUNDAY OF PUBLICAN &amp; PHARISEE</b> 2 Tim 3:10-15 Lk 18:10-14 11:00 Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and + William E Sotack by MaryJean Sotack
Tus	Jan 26	8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB Martha Beline (sis) by Eugene Kokinda 4:15 -6:00pm Office hours in Church (Fr. Alex)
Wed	Jan 27	8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB Sue, Bob, Dana Calabro by Chris Noonan After Moleben to the Theotokos -Special Intentions-For Peace in Our Country
Thu	Jan 28	8:30am Moleben to the Theotokos -Special Intentions- For Peace in Our Country After Short Bible Reflection  6:00pm “ROSARY” Prayer for Protection and Healing of the coronavirus and all serious illnesses by Men’s Club
SUN	JAN 31	<b>SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON</b> 1 Cor 6:12-20 Lk 15:11-32 11:00 Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB Betty May Hertz by Oksana Makowiec

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

**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

**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).**

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**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 JANUARY Birthdays

23<sup>rd</sup> Lee Alexander; 24<sup>th</sup> Ryan Collins; 30<sup>th</sup> Joan Ruskowski

**“Holy Water:** Fresh and newly blessed Holy Water is now  
available in the church to take home with you and bless your home  
or drink some  
. Father Alex.”

We will bless candles on Tuesday, 2 February, at 8:30 Liturgy.  
“Lord, teach us to pray” Luke 11:1

JANUARY Candles:

Sanctuary...HGB Margan Family...Requested by Katarina Margan  
Tetrapod...BRS Bill Kelly...Requested by Ann Kelly  
Theotokos & Child...HGB...Morgan & 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...For Our Parish

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Reminder: Hospitality is **SUSPENDED**

**FINANCIALS Jan. 17, 2021**

Total Contributions: Monthly Dues -119.00 Holyday 0.00 Offertory –  
792.00 Non-Monetary Donation – 0.00 Fuel –0.00 Rainy Day Fund-0.00  
Candles –157.00 Initial Offering/Envelopes-6.00  
IN – \$ 1074.00; OUT— \$ 183.60

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, Elizabeth “Betty”  
Basarab*  
Thank you. Fr. Alex

**Tuesday, 2 February, 2021, is Solemn Holy Day of the Meeting of Our Lord with Simeon and  
Anna. Tradition is to bless candles on this Feast Day.**

True Praying involves knowing beforehand what to request  
from God. Praying is asking for something definite. The mind  
is given over entirely to God, thinking of him, of what is  
needed, and of what has been received in the past. The very first  
step in prayer is a mental step. We must be taught through our  
intellect. And only as far as the intellect is given over to God in  
prayer will be able to learn how to pray.

*Lord Jesus, just like Your disciples long ago I ask  
of You today, “teach me (us) to pray.” Amen.*

**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.

**ENVELOPES**

There is a large box of offering envelopes at the back of the  
church. If you have not yet picked up your envelopes, please  
ask the ushers to give you an package of envelopes

## Parishioner to Parishioners

To be a Saint –

Saint Maria Faustina Kowalski of the Blessed Sacrament

Let's return to the Saints. This is a relatively new Saint. One which found her purpose in life early, and pursued it steadfastly with great humility. Saint Maria Faustina was born in Poland on August 25, 1905. She was the third of 10 children to a poor but religious family. After finishing just three years of schooling, Faustina wanted to immediately join a convent, however, her parents refused to let her. Instead, Faustina became a housekeeper to help her parents and support herself. In 1924, Faustina experienced her first vision of Jesus. While at a dance, Faustina saw a suffering Jesus. According to Faustina, Jesus instructed her to leave for Warsaw immediately and join a convent.

Faustina packed her bags at once and departed; however, no convent would take her. She was judged on her appearances and poverty. Finally, the mother superior for the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy decided to take in Faustina on the condition that she could pay for her religious habit. Working as a housekeeper, Faustina began to save her money and make deposits to the Convent.

On April 30, 1926, at age 20, she finally received her habit and took the religious name of Sister Maria Faustina of the Blessed Sacrament and in 1928, she took her first religious vows as a nun. Faustina traveled convents as a cook. In May 1930 she arrived in Plock, Poland where she began to show the first signs of tuberculosis. On February 22, 1931, Faustina was visited by Jesus, who presented himself as the "King of Divine Mercy" wearing a white garment with red and pale rays coming from his heart. In her diary, Faustina writes: "In the evening, when I was in my cell, I became aware of the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand was raised in blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast. From the opening of the garment at the breast there came forth two large rays, one red and the other pale. In silence I gazed intently at the Lord; my soul was overwhelmed with fear, but also with great joy. After a while Jesus said to me, 'paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the inscription: Jesus, I trust in You.'"; Faustina, not knowing how to paint, asked around her convent for help but was denied. During her first confession with a Father Sopocko, Faustina told him about her conversations with Jesus. He insisted she be evaluated by a psychiatrist. Faustina passed all the required tests leading Father Sopocko to support her religious efforts. In Faustina's diary we see recorded her conversations with Jesus. She told no one else and went on with her work with great humility. It was Father Sopocko who arranged to have the first painting of the image of Jesus in Sister Faustina's vision to be painted.

According to Faustina's diary, on Good Friday, April 19, 1935, Jesus told her he wanted the Divine Mercy image publicly honored. On April 26, 1935, Father Sopocko delivered the very first sermon on the Divine Mercy. In September 1935, Faustina wrote about her visions of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, used to obtain mercy, trust in Christ's mercy and to show mercy to others. During the following year, Faustina attempted to set up a new congregation for Divine Mercy, but was told she was perpetually vowed to her current order. She reported Jesus said to her, "My Daughter, do whatever is within your power to spread devotion to My Divine Mercy, I will make up for what you lack." Faustina's health significantly deteriorated by the end of 1937. Her visions intensified and she was said to be looking forward to the end of her life. On October 5, 1938, Faustina passed away. She was buried on October 7 in Krakow, Poland. It was Pope Saint John Paul II while still Arch Bishop of Krakow, that started the cause for canonization, and St. Faustina was beatified on April 18, 1993, and canonized on April 30, 2000, by Pope St. John Paul II. Saint Faustina was the first Saint of the new millennium. We know that God creates each of us for a purpose. Saint Faustina found her purpose early in life but met many obstacles; however, she would not be put off. She did not brag or boast of her visions. She did not seek to draw attention to herself. She did what the Lord requested; that is, whatever was in her power. The Lord supplied the rest.

Dear Lord give me the grace to know my purpose in life, and the strength and resolve to follow it like

Saint Faustina. Amen.

Yours in Christ

Brother Joseph

***"We cannot let our weariness; our falls and our failings discourage us. Instead, by humbly acknowledging them, we should make them opportunities to progress towards the Lord Jesus. Life is not about showing off our abilities, but a journey towards the One who loves us. We are not to show off our virtues in every step of our life; rather, with humility we should journey towards the Lord. By keeping our gaze fixed on the Lord, we will find the strength needed to persevere with renewed joy."***

*Pope Francis*