

WELCOME TO ASCENSION

SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

SUN	JUNE 6	2ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Rom 2:10-16 Mt 4:18-23 Tone 1 Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners After - Potluck!
	Tus June 8	8:30am For Our Parishioners and + John and Monica Ruscus by Fr. Alex
	6:00pm	<u>ADVISORY BOARD MEETING IN CHURCH HALL</u>
	Wed June 9	8:30am For Our Parishioners and HGB Betta Labanish by Fr. Alex MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS -Special Intentions-For Peace in Our Country
	Thu June 10	8:30am For Our Parishioners and + Michael Molnar by Eugene Kokinda After Bible Study
	6:00pm	“ROSARY” Prayer for Protection and Healing of the coronavirus and all serious illnesses by Men’s Club
SUN	JUNE 13	3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Rom 5:1-10 Mt 6:22-34 Tone 2 Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners

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

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

God bless America!!!

Dear Lord, I need more energy and strength. Change my thoughts to be in harmony with your divine power. Keep me in close contact with you, the source of energy that never runs down. I accept this great new energy now and give you thanks. Amen.

*“They will soar on wings as eagles; they will run and not grow weary.”
(Isaiah 40:31)*

“Judge me when you are perfect”
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Happy JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1st Michael Dunham; 1st Melissa Karlson; 2nd Micah Cook;
9th Ann Merkley; 9th Matthew Montgomery; 11th Patty Duttry
12th Anna & Sofia Carden; 14th Lisa Montgomery;
23rd Marc Picconi; 25th Mary Olson; 27th Keith Shockley
28th Michael Lechman

Tonight, Go to sleep with a prayer. Pray about everything, talk to God. Just let it out, all the good, all the bad. He’s always listening, prayer does change things. Even if you think God isn’t listening, let me tell you He always is. He’s always working on something for you. Breathe and ask for forgiveness and also forgive others. Remember, tomorrow is a new day. Start fresh and clean.

BIBLE STUDY

Beginning in September, a new bible study will begin on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month before Divine Liturgy. It will walk through the major elements of the bible and tie them together in an easy to understand format. This will be accomplished through small groups, discussion, and short professional videos. This small commitment will unlock your understanding of God's Word! If interested, please contact Dr. Mike Lechman or Mike Bracelin (michael.bracelin@gmail.com).

*The **deadline** for responding is August 15th, as the associated bible study materials must be ordered and delivered (under \$30 for required booklet; If you would like the optional bible that goes with it, that is an additional \$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, 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

“When we pray we must be humble, so that our words are actually prayers and not just idle talk that God rejects... I go to pray but You, Lord, convert my heart so that it asks for what is convenient, for what will be best for my spiritual health... On some occasions, therefore, the solution to the problem is not immediate... Then, over time, things have worked out but in God’s way, the divine way, not according to what we wanted in that moment. God’s time is not our time.”

Pope Francis

Candles for June:

Sanctuary...HGB Margan Family...by Katarina Margan
Tetrapod...HGB Morgan & Kevin Kelly...by Ann Kelly
Theotokos & Child...HGB Madeline Noonan...by Chris Noonan
Christ Teacher...HGB Patrick Alexander & Family...by Lee & Kathy Alexander
John Baptist...HGB John Alexander...by Lee & Kathy Alexander
St. Nicholas...For Our Parishioners
Protection of the Theotokos...For Our Parishioners

DEAR LORD, THANK YOU FOR THE NIGHT’S REST YOU GAVE ME. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE RENEWED ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM IT HAS BROUGHT. ACCEPT MY GRATITUDE FOR BRINGING ME TO THE BEGINNING OF THIS NEW DAY. I ACCEPT IT AS A PRECIOUS GIFT FROM YOU. MAY I USE IT MINUTE BY MINUTE TO DO YOUR WILL. GUIDE ME IN EVERY PROBLEM I FACE, EVERY DECISION I MAKE THIS DAY. HELP ME TO TREAT EVERYONE KINDLY, FAIRLY AND THOUGHTFULLY. IF I SHOULD FORGET YOU DURING THIS DAY, PLEASE DO NOT FORGET ME. AMEN

FINANCIALS May - 30, 2021

Total Contributions: Monthly Dues - 25.00 Offertory – 632.00 Candles –10. 00 Fuel –0.00
IN – \$ 667.00; OUT— \$ 5, 578. 00

DEAR HEAVENLY FATHER, HELP ME KNOW YOU BETTER SO THAT WHEN I PRAY FOR OTHERS, I CAN FILTER MY REQUEST THROUGH MY KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR WILL.

To Be a Saint - The Ape of God

Saint Augustine, named the devil, Simius Dei – **Ape of God**. This term has been used by several theologians over the course of history. Why? Was it a term Augustine used in jest, or an intended insult? Far from it.

Of the names used to describe the devil, i.e. the great deceiver, the serpent, the great dragon, the tempter, the enemy, and so on, the Ape of God in my mind comes closest to accurately describing this formidable creature of God. For God’s created creature he is, and all the while, wanting to BE God himself.

Simply put, apes are known to mimic what they see, and Satan mimics or copies God in many ways. The difference is that Satan’s mimicry is a cheap imitation only; completely counterfeit, perverted and devoid of good. However, the end result of his imitations has purposely wrought havoc throughout the course of mankind.

Satan’s ultimate plan is to establish a rival to God’s kingdom right here on earth. A kingdom that resembles God’s kingdom and creation, but does neither. Many will be deceived. Following is an excerpt from a book by J. Oswald Sanders. It sums up how the devil will set up his counterfeit kingdom. “...*Everything about him is false. He uses false and counterfeit instruments to achieve his purpose. He employs false teachers (Acts 20:30; II Peter 2:1) who specialize in his theology and “bring in damnable heresies. “They “creep in privily” into the churches and subtly mix truth with error. He enlists the support of false prophets (II Peter 2:1; Matt. 24:11). Professing to have a message from God, they in reality draw their inspiration from hell. He promotes false Christs (Matt. 24:4-5), self-constituted messiahs and deliverers. He is aided by false apostles, deceitful workers (II Cor. 11: 13), and false brethren (Gal. 2:4-5) who steal in to spy out the liberty of believers, in order to draw them back into legal bondage...*” (Excerpt from Cultivation of Christian Character, Moody Press, Chicago, 1965) So, what are the signs of the diabolic at work? Disruption, disunity and discord; will replace cohesiveness, unity and peace. Distraction and confusion will be the order of the day. Add to this list, general permissiveness, and a lack of personal responsibility, leading to a desire to satisfy our appetites no matter how perverse. Finally, a blinding concern over the temporal world, distracting us from the spiritual world. So, does any of this sound familiar? As the god of this age, Satan attempts to set up a complete counterfeit of Holy Church.

In 1947, the Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen forewarned us. “. . . *The third temptation in which Satan asked Christ to adore him and all the kingdoms of the world would be His, will become the temptation to have a new religion without a Cross, a liturgy without a world to come, a religion to destroy a religion, or a politics which is a religion; one that renders unto Caesar even the things that are God’s. In the midst of all his seeming love for humanity and his glib talk of freedom and equality, he will have one great secret which he will tell to no one: he will not believe in God. Because his religion will be brotherhood without the fatherhood of God, he will deceive even the elect. He will set up a counter church which will be the ape of the Church, because he, the Devil, is the ape of God. It will have all the notes and characteristics of the Church, but in reverse and emptied of its divine content. It will be a mystical body of the Antichrist that will in all externals resemble the mystical body of Christ. . . .*” (Taken from a radio broadcast on 26 January 1947.)

A prophesy of our times? All is in the hands of God. The Church has always been under attack. What I do know is that these are watchful times. Times that require discernment and understanding. Understanding of the true gospel and teachings of Christ, so that we may not succumb to lies and treachery. Times that require us to pass along this knowledge to our children, carefully, diligently, so that they will not be led astray. Above all, these times require much prayer, fasting and penance.

Penance? Yes. Penance for our sins and the sins of others including the sins of our nation. We do not hear much about penance these days, outside of Lent. Read chapter 9 in the Book of Daniel. Did not Daniel first do penance in the eyes of God, and beseech forgiveness for the people of Israel, before God forgave and restored the nation of Israel?

Finally, remember the two great Commandments given to us by Jesus in the Gospels. To love God with your whole heart, soul and mind, and to love each other as you love yourself. Ah, now, this is something the Ape of God cannot do. Keeping these Commandments will surely separate us from Satan, and bring us firmly into the camp of the Saints, with our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ
Brother Joseph

“To love like Christ means saying ‘no’ to other ‘loves’ that the world offers us: love of money, love of success, vanity... These deceptive paths of “love” distance us from the Lord’s love and lead us to become more and more selfish, narcissistic, overbearing. And being overbearing leads to a degeneration of love, to abuse others, to making our loved ones suffer... To love as the Lord loves us means to appreciate the people beside us, to respect their freedom, to love them as they are, not as we want them to be, gratuitously. Ultimately, Jesus asks us to abide in His love, to dwell in His love, not in our ideas, not in our own self-worship. Those who dwell in self-worship live in the mirror: always looking at themselves... Opening our heart to others, this is love, giving ourselves to others.”

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.

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.