

1963 WELCOME TO ASCENSION

VE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

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

SUN	MAR 21	5th SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST Heb 9:11-14 Mk 10:32-45
	9:30	BIBLE STUDY , led by Mike Bracelin
	11:00	Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB Betta Labanish by Betty Mae Hertz
Tue	Mar 23	8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB Aleksandra, Ivanna, Julianna and Jerry by Fr. Alex
	4:15 -6:00pm	Office hours in Church (Fr. Alex)
Wed	Mar 24	8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB Betta Labanish by June Mathews
	After	Moleben to the Theotokos -Special Intentions-For Peace in Our Country
Thu	Mar 25	<u>ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS</u> 8:30am Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and HGB March Birthdays by Fr. Alex
	6:00pm	<u>After Short Bible Reflection</u> "ROSARY" Prayer for Protection and Healing of the coronavirus and all serious illnesses by Men's Club
Fri	Feb 26	5:30pm Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts for Our Parishioners and Seamus Kearney by Eugene Kokinda
SUN	MAR 28	PALM SUNDAY Phil 4:4-9 Jn 12:1-18
	9:30	BIBLE STUDY , led by Mike Bracelin
	11:00	Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners and + Posey Jim by Dr. Michael and Linda Lechman

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

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; 14th Bladimir Hunter; 21nd Josiah Cook;
21st Seraphima Joan Collins; 25th Ron Ruszkowski

FINANCIALS Mar. 14, 2021

Total Contributions: Monthly Dues -250.00 Offertory -2,022.00
Candles -55. 00 ECL -0.00 Non-Monetary Donation - 0.00
IN - \$ 2327. 00; OUT- \$ 639. 72

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

Candles for March:

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

"Indeed, the search for wisdom has always attracted men and women. Often, however, those with more means can acquire more knowledge and have greater opportunities, while those who have less are sidelined. Such inequality – which has increased in our time – is unacceptable. The Book of Wisdom surprises us by reversing this perspective. It tells us that “the lowliest may be pardoned in mercy, but the mighty will be mightily tested” (Wis 6:6). In the eyes of the world, those with less are discarded, while those with more are privileged. Not so for God: the more powerful are subjected to rigorous scrutiny, while the least are God’s privileged ones."

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.

Of Woodpeckers and Bees – God's Plan

March is a time of change. Lengthening days alternate between warm and cold. Life starts to awaken in the tops of the trees, and on the ground. Bees are coming out now to gather pollen and nectar from blooming trees and dandelions, and the hives will soon be exploding. The winter pruning of the vines and fruit trees is all but complete, and ground will be tilled soon to hold the plants growing in the greenhouse. Promise is in the air. A promise of life.

With this seasonal change however, comes the promise of storms and the damaging winds of spring and summer. The return of insects, and beasts of all manner to eat what I grow. Of course, plant disease will come with the warmer temperatures. There will also be the droughts and heatwaves which scorch everything and leave you feeling empty at the end of the day. Everything in balance I suppose. We accept the good with the bad. Take things in stride, as they say.

Still, in the balance of things, we can see a plan if we take the time to observe and understand. I have a tall red maple tree that woodpeckers love to attack during the winter looking for insects. They systematically peck uniform holes around the girth of the tree and feed on the insects they find.

In the spring, when the sap of the tree starts to rise, the tree oozes sap through these holes. It creates a black sheen of sap running down the side of the tree. Apparently, it does not hurt the tree much, but pollinators, especially bees, who are generally in a very weak state at this time of year, descend on the tree in the thousands to get the nourishing sap. God provides.

In the most complex way you can imagine; God's plan provides for even the smallest creatures. How much more will God provide for us? Look at the benefits and blessings he has given our families. Of course, it seems much harder to discern God's plan for us; however, always trust that there is a plan there. Ask God for understanding.

There is another lesson here. When I saw the hundreds of holes up and down the tree, I considered doing something to keep the woodpeckers away. They were doing the same damage to fruit trees. I approached the problem as I would deer coming along in the spring and

stemming new shoots from the grape vines in the vineyard. That's right, I freely confess I have found no value yet in deer stemming the vines.

However, in the case of the woodpeckers and bees, I was given to see the benefit before I had time to intervene. The lesson? Be careful about reaching judgement. There is purpose in everything that happens. Even the storms we will face this year has purpose. Pray God spares us from the worse, and trust in His plan for you and your family.

Love Dad

"We can ask ourselves: how do we react to situations that are not right? In the face of adversity, there are always two temptations. The first is flight: we can run away, turn our backs, trying to keep aloof from it all. The second is to react with anger, with a show of force... Jesus, on the other hand, changed history. How? With the humble power of love, with His patient witness. This is what we are called to do; and this is how God fulfils His promises... God's promises guarantee unrivalled joy and never disappoint. But how are they fulfilled? Through our weaknesses. God makes blessed those who travel the path of their inner poverty to the very end."

Pope Francis

"We may wonder: if I live as Jesus asks, what do I gain? Don't I risk letting others lord it over me? Is Jesus' invitation worthwhile, or a lost cause? That invitation is not worthless, but wise. Jesus' invitation is wise because love... even if it seems weak in the world's eyes, in fact always triumphs. On the cross, it proved stronger than sin, in the tomb, it vanquished death... Love is our strength, the source of strength for those of our brothers and sisters who here too have suffered prejudice and indignities, mistreatment and persecutions for the name of Jesus. Yet while the power, the glory and the vanity of the world pass away, love remains."

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 Massah 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.