

WELCOME TO ASCENSION
SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

SUN MAY 23 **PENTECOST SUNDAY** (5th All Souls)

Acts 2:1-11 Jn 7:37-52 & 8:12

9:30 BIBLE STUDY, led by Mike Bracelin

11:00 Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners

Tus May 25 8:30am For Our Parishioners and HGB Larry Drumtra and Theresa Phillips
by MaryAnn Drumtra

9:00 – 11:00am Office hours in Church (Fr. Alex)

Wed May 26 8:30am For Our Parishioners and + Don Noonan by Chris Noonan

MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS -Special Intentions-For Peace in Our Country

Thu May 27 8:30am For Our Parishioners and + Mary Ellen Simchak 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 MAY 30 **SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS**

Heb 11:32-12:2 Mt 10:32-33, 37-38 & 19:27-30

9:30 BIBLE STUDY, led by Mike Bracelin

11:00 Divine Liturgy for Our Parishioners

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

Nothing valuable in live comes FREE!!!

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Happy MAY BIRTHDAYS

20th Larry Drumtra; 29th Jeffrey Sotack; 29th Fr Bob Chope

*Pew books are available to parishioners on temporary loan during
the pandemic. One can check out a book (or books) as you would
check out a library book. It will be the person’s responsibility to
return the book in good condition when we are able to once again
have the books in the pews for general use. If you are interested, see
Don Merkley.*

**THANK YOU TO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO DONATED SUPPLIES FOR
CLEANING OF CHURCH. FROM LINDA AND KATHY, THANK YOU EVER
SO MUCH.**

BIBLE STUDY

A new bi-weekly Bible Study, led by Michael Bracelin and Dr. Michael Lechman, will follow the Adventure Bible Series and likely begin with the new Liturgical year in early September. It would walk through how the Old Testament foreshadows the New Testament, and how the New Testament sheds light on the Old Testament. In essence, we will explore how the bible fits together in a way that is understandable even to the novice! If interested, please find us at church, or email one of us (michael.bracelin@gmail.com) directly if interested in learning more

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 May:

Sanctuary... HGB Margan Family...by Katarina Margan
Tetrapod...BRS Bill Kelly...by Ann Kelly
Theotokos & Child HGB Morgan & Kevin Kelly by Ann Kelly
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 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 - 16, 2021
Total Contributions: Monthly Dues - 10.00 Offertory – 2,165.00 Candles –5. 00 Fuel – 10.00
IN – \$ 2,180; OUT— \$ 625.51

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.

The Continuing Attacks on the Catholic Church.

Thursday 13 May 2021 – “Vandals toppled a statue of Jesus and burned an American flag outside a Catholic church in Brooklyn, N.Y.. The suspect then tipped over a statue of Jesus’ crucifixion, smashing it to pieces, and set an American flag hanging outside the rectory aflame, police said.” - National Review News Report

It has been about a year since we last visited this topic. So, what is the current situation with attacks on the church? Has it calmed down? We do not hear about it much in the news.

According to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, at least 68 incidents occurred across 25 states since May 2020. Incidents include arson, statues beheaded, limbs cut, smashed, and painted, gravestones defaced with swastikas and anti-Catholic language, and American flags next to them burned, along with other destruction and vandalism.

Surprised? Except on a local level, this will not be covered widely by the national news media. Why? I’ll leave it to the reader to answer that.

Isolated attacks or systematic? My thought is that these are isolated in the sense there is not one organization directing individuals in their attacks. Rather the cultural climate has been steadily and purposely changed over the course of many years to trigger these attacks. Society as a whole has become disinterested in matters of faith, morals, respect, and personal responsibility. Simply put, as a nation, we don’t care.

Statistics show that from 1937 through 1976, fully 70% of Americans identified themselves as active members of a church community. The number fell slightly to 68% in the 1970s through the 1990s. The past 20 years has seen an acceleration in the drop-off, with a 20-percentage-point decline since 1999, with more than half of that change occurring in the last decade. Weekly church attendance for the Catholic community is down to 36% as measured from 2008-2017.

The decline in church membership is consistent with larger societal trends. We live in a fast-changing world. Once upon a time our society valued Christian principles. Now, society is largely apathetic, or even anti-Christian. Once upon a time it was socially acceptable to be an active member of a parish. Now, it is socially acceptable to avoid all religion. Why should I go to church? It is not relevant to me any more. We have replaced science and reason with relativism. We ignore what our ancestors found to be true. The old values and institutions are meaningless in today’s world. WAIT!! Was it not Karl Marx who said, “There are, besides, eternal truths, such as Freedom, Justice, etc., that are common to all states of society. But Communism abolishes eternal truths, it abolishes all religion, and all morality, instead of constituting them on a new basis; it therefore acts in contradiction to all past historical experience.” Excerpt from Chapter 2 of the Communist Manifesto.... I digress.

So, what is there to do. Take to the streets with weapons and forcibly confront anarchists? How has that worked out for those who tried this?

We should not be intimidated or apathetic about what is happening. Protect what you cherish. We do have a legal right and obligation to defend our homes, our families and our churches under the guidance of the clergy. Train our families in their faith, and

instill in them a moral compass so they may defend themselves. If we take to the streets, let it be with prayers, with our rosaries, and with faith.

Take note of the first century Christians. They set the tone for living in today’s world. They were not intimidated by the Roman authorities. Indeed, their conduct in life inspired many others to join them. They won over even their most ardent enemies through their steadfast love and Christian example. Yes, there is much we could do to emulate these early saints.

I spoke recently of the three great gifts the Lord gave us. Three gifts He wanted us to have. Gifts that will sustain us in this ungodly world. The gift of Holy Eucharist, instituted by Jesus at the last supper. The powerful gift of the intercession of the Virgin Mary. Our mother who is destined to crush the head of the serpent. Finally on this feast day of Pentecost we should invoke the gift of the Holy Spirit. The same Spirit that sustained and nurtured the early church will sustain us today in the face of the enemy.

We were made by our Creator to live in these times. Let us not be dismayed or cowered, worse yet, become apathetic to what is happening. Protect what you cherish, and others will come to cherish it too.

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.