

WELCOME TO ASCENSION

SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

“NOTHING EMBITTERS A PERSON MORE THAN SUFFERING. BUT WHEN IT IS CONSECRATED TO GOD, IT BECOMES HOLY”

THOMAS MERTON

SUN AUG 11 12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

After+ – Hospitality

1 Cor 15:1-11 Mt 19:16-26 Tone 3

11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners & HGB Subdeacon Adithia Kusno by Betty Maa Hertz

Tue Aug 13 8:30 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners + Mary Faith West by Fr. Alex

5:15pm Bible study

Wed Aug 14 8:30 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and Alexandra & her Family by Fr. Alex

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

5:30pm Chant Camp - a summer music offering

Thu Aug 15 DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

8:30 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners HGB & Some of those who need special prayer

6:00pm - ROSARY - Prayer for Protection and Healing of the coronavirus and all serious illnesses by Men's Club

Sat Aug 17 1:00pm Church Cleaning Hours

SUN AUG 18 13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

After – Hospitality

1 Cor 16:13-24 Mt 21:33-42 Tone 4

11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners & HGB Elisabeth Branden by Fr. Alex

Let's be prepared and proactive for any event that may happen on church property during our Sunday Divine Liturgy and every day.

11 August 2024: Today we bid farewell to Elisabeth Branden as she is departing for her new residence in Portland, Oregon. We wish Lisa God's blessings for good health, joy and happiness.

We have several faithful from Ascension who are in need of special prayer.

Some of those who need special prayer are:

Frank and Chris Janke, Mary Grace Dorsey, Ben Pawers, Betty May Hertz, Emma Bernier, Lolly Vinson, June Mathews, William McGraw, Myron Kotyk, Darren and June Hall, Aurora & Jaime Daquilanea, Lary, Mary Ann Drumtra & their Family, Katharina Margan, Elaine Hampton, Dr. Micheal & Linda Lechman, Orysia Stefaniv, Elisabeth Branden, Merly & Teresa Phillips, Mary Sullivan, Mary Saupp, Francis Fenderson, Gareth & Patricia Reeves. Abigail Johnson, Don Wilson & his Family, Johnny Morris, Mary Faith West, Hazel Reeres, Richard Bapst; Joan Ruszkowski and her Family. Thank you. Fr. Alex

Bible Study: the Book of Genesis

The next Bible study will be held on August 13 from 5:15 to 6:30 PM. The discussion will cover Chapter 4,5 and 6 in Genesis.

Dr. Michael Lechman

Please Join us on the (1st and 3rd Tuesday) of the month to: Read, Discuss, and Meditate on the Daily Readings, after Divine Liturgy, and (2nd and 4th Tuesday Evening Bible Study of St. John at 5:15pm. in the Social Hall.

Visitors, family and friends: Are you curious, do you have questions or inquirers about our church, icons, Divine Liturgy, or Byzantine Catholic traditions? Someone will be waiting to answer your questions after Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings in the vicinity of the icon corner at the front of the sanctuary. Don't be afraid to ask, there are no wrong questions.

Attention all Parishioners, Visitors, and Guests: please do your part to help us keep the Social Hall clean. After Sunday Hospitality and Pot Lucks please made sure the table area where you were sitting is wiped clean. Also, please place your chair on top of the table. Doing these things will be a big help and save much time in maintaining and keeping the floors clean. Thanks for your help and cooperation Fr. Alex

The Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) is fully operational and located on the wall above the fire extinguisher in St. Phillips Hall. Eight parishioners were certified on the use of the AED on Oct 8,2023 and other parishioners have been certified in the past. Periodic updates will follow. Dr. Michael Lechman

Liturgy and Candle Requests: Often we want to remember someone and offer special prayers for the departure of a loved one, special occasion, birthday, anniversary, etc. with celebration of a Divine Liturgy or lighting of a candle in front of an icon. To request a liturgy or candle, please complete the form in the appropriate envelope which you will find in the rack on the wall as you enter Ascension church and place it in the Sunday offering basket. Thank you. Fr. Alex.

We will still collect donations for the **Ukrainian Humanitarian Cause**. You may place your generous gift in the basket with the Ukrainian Flag. You will find it at the Icon Screen. Thank you for your gift of hope! Fr. Alex

Young Adults, Children, Adult Bible Study Comity: Subdeacon Adithia Kusno, Dr. Michael Lechman, Sasha Kusno. **Special Event/Retreat Speakers Comity:** David Efimetz, Don Merkley, Dr. Mary Jean Sotack

Happy August BIRTHDAYS

4th Fr. Alex Shuter; 10th Frank Janke; 11th Adithia Kusno; 17 Sydney Marie Karlson;
21st Loretta Fetsko

2023 – 2024 Bishop's Appeal - August Update

Our Parish received a check from the Bishop's Office in the amount of \$2,854. The 40% return to our Parish for meeting and exceeding our goal for the annual Bishop's Appeal. The funds will be used to help offset the costs of replacing the county water line to the Church and replacing of one of our Church's main air conditioning units.

Thank You for your generosity and giving spirit!
Ascension Of Our Lord Advisory Board

Security Team Recruitment

Fr. Alex is seeking additional volunteers to be part of the Ascension Security Team. All able-bodied adults (Men and Women) are welcome to participate. We need Greeters at the front entrance outside the church from 10:30am to the end of Divine Liturgy and Greeters inside the church from 10:30am to the end of the Divine Liturgy. Training and security updates will be provided once a month after Sunday Divine Liturgy at a scheduled Security Team meeting. To sign up for this important Church ministry please see Ann Merkley (Security Team Secretary) in the gift shop before or after Sunday Divine Liturgy.

Job descriptions will be available for each role.

SPECIAL ORDERS WELCOMED.

Many unique items come into the shop weekly. We have a great selection of special-occasion gifts and religious items unique to the Williamsburg area, including a wide selection of spiritual books, music, icons and devotional and inspirational articles plus hand-made soaps, local honey.

THIS BIRTHDAY, I AM ONCE AGAIN REMINDED OF THE BOUNTIFUL JOYS THAT I HAVE REAPED FROM MY FRIENDS, FAMILY MY PARISH FAMILY, AND HOW BLESSED I AM TO HAVE SO MUCH LOVE FROM EVERYONE AROUND ME. THANK YOU, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART. GOD BLESS YOU ALL. FR. ALEX

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



FINANCIALS, Aug 4, 2024

Monthly Dues –350.00; Offertory –533.75; Candles-3.00; Special Gifts 1,000.00; St.
Luke's Icon Guild-80.00
In – 1,966.75; Out-7,168.61

Candles for July

Sanctuary Lamp...+ John & Betta Labanish
Tetrapod... HGB Lainie Noonan by Chris Noonan
Theotokos & Child... HGB Andrey by Keith & Nadia Shckly
John Baptist... + Jonathan Duttry by Patty Duttry
St Nicholas... HGB Hampton Family Nicole, Alex Allyson by Eleine & Joe Hampton
Protection Theotokos... In Love & Gratitude by Jim & Gia Hoolan
Christ Teacher... HGB Irene Slysh by Keith & Nadia Shockly

To be a Saint – Conversion

What do these famous people have in common? Hall of Fame baseball player Hank Arron, frontiersman and showman Buffalo Bill Cody, frontiersman Jim Bowie, movie stars Gary Cooper, John Wayne, Vincent Price, Diana Dors, and Lola Falana, politician Jeb Bush, Senator J.D. Vance and Governor Greg Abbott?

Answer - They are all Catholic Converts.

At times we take our Catholic faith for granted. It’s always been there for us, like our eyes or hands. We do not consider the importance and we lose interest, or we wait to pull it out only when we are going through a crisis in our life. It’s worth taking some time to consider the importance of our faith through the eyes of those who found their faith after much searching. Let’s consider a few. Listen to them in their words.

G. K. Chesterton. 20th century author and philosopher. *"It is impossible to be just to the Catholic Church. The moment men cease to pull against it, they feel a tug toward it. The moment they cease to shout it down, they begin to listen to it with pleasure. The moment they try to be fair to it, they begin to be fond of it."* Born and raised a Unitarian, Chesterton later converted to Anglicanism through the influence of his wife. Later, through much consideration, both he and his wife converted to Catholicism.

The Right Rev. Richard Pain, former Anglican Bishop of Monmouth, and presently a Roman Catholic Priest. Father Pain was received into the faith Sunday, July 2, 2023. He commented, “I have much to be grateful for the experience gained over a lifetime as an Anglican. Yet the call to Catholicism seems natural and spiritual at the same time. To start afresh will be a welcome challenge and I come — as we all do — as a learner and a disciple.

Do not think all converts enter only into the Roman Rite of the Church. There are 24 different Rites. Each of them equally valid. Let’s look at the story of Jessica Rider.

Jessica Rider was a former Evangelical. She entered the Catholic Church through the Byzantine Ruthenian Rite at Easter 2019. Rider said she grew up attending various “Christian” services. *“I fell in love with Jesus Christ when I went to the Byzantine church.”* She described the experience with the Byzantine Rite as both intimate and engaging. *“It set a fire in me when I became a part of the Byzantine church. I never experienced so much longing to want to know as much as I possibly can.”*

Converts come to the faith from various backgrounds and traditions. I have been reading recently of many who come from Islam. Let’s consider one.

Zubair Simonson was raised Muslim, and converted to Catholicism in 2007. In his words; *“Hatred consumes. The loathing of a perceived enemy can be so consuming that one would rather see that enemy harmed than see a so-called ‘friend’ be saved.”* Recalling his childhood, deeply affected by an upbringing that taught him to viscerally hate the Jews. *“I heard it reinforced, time and again, at the mosque. I’d heard it reinforced, time and again, in the homes of family and friends.”* Simonson said he found a balance that led him to a much humbler view of life. He then began to recognize himself as a sinner, as a fallible man

who needs God’s mercy, like everyone else. *“Who were we, or who is anyone for that matter, to consider ourselves so ‘good,’ and the other so ‘evil,’ with an authority due to God alone?”*

Actor Shia LaBeouf, Jewish born and self-described agnostic. He made headlines after playing the role of Padre Pio in 2022, by converting to Catholicism. In an interview, LeBeouf commented on receiving Communion, *“I start feeling a physical effect from it, I start feeling a reprieve and it starts feeling, like, regenerative, and I start enjoying it to such a degree I don’t want to miss it, ever.”*

Candice Owen, conservative American commentator. Owen converted April 22, 2024. She had been long identified as a Reformed Evangelical Protestant, but in recent years Owens began speaking more frequently about Catholicism. *"There is of course so much more that went into this decision and that I plan to share in the future. But for now, praise be to God for His gentle, but relentless guiding of my heart toward Truth."*

Each one of these converts came to the Catholic faith by different means, but note the commonality. They each describe a new found peace. They describe finding truth, and share a profound love of Jesus Christ. By their words you find that there is a fire within them. They want more. Do not ever take your faith for granted, it is the most important treasure you have.

Yours in Christ

Brother Joseph

Today, Sunday 11 after Liturgy the Men’s Club will be selling pulled pork at \$8 per pound. Slow smoked, and packed to take home for your Sunday afternoon enjoyment. Money raised will help club projects ion support of the parish.
Lee

10 signs you’re doing well in life:

- 1.) you have a roof over your head. 2.) You ate today. 3.) You have a good heart.
- 4.) You wish good for others. 5.) You have clean water. 6.) Someone cares for you.
- 7.) You strive to be better. 8.) You have clean clothes. 9.) You have a dream. 10.) You’re Breathing.

Be Thankful For The Little Things

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

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.

Psalm 15

He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

He who walks blamelessly and does justice;
who thinks the truth in his heart
and slanders not with his tongue.

He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Who harms not his fellow man,
nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor;
By whom the reprobate is despised,
while he honors those who fear the LORD.

He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Who lends not his money at usury
and accepts no bribe against the innocent.
He who does these things
shall never be disturbed.

He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Exodus 15

Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant;
horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.
My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and he has been my savior.
He is my God, I praise him;
the God of my father, I extol him.

Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

The LORD is a warrior,
LORD is his name!
Pharaoh's chariots and army he hurled into the sea;
the elite of his officers were submerged in the Red Sea.

Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

The flood waters covered them,
they sank into the depths like a stone.
Your right hand, O LORD, magnificent in power,
your right hand, O LORD, has shattered the enemy.

Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

I am sunk in the abysmal swamp
where there is no foothold;
I have reached the watery depths;
the flood overwhelms me.

Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

But I pray to you, O LORD,
for the time of your favor, O God!
In your great kindness answer me
with your constant help.

Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

But I am afflicted and in pain;
let your saving help, O God, protect me;
I will praise the name of God in song,
and I will glorify him with thanksgiving.

Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

“See, you lowly ones, and be glad;
you who seek God, may your hearts revive!
For the LORD hears the poor,
and his own who are in bonds he spurns not.”

Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

Psalms 69

Psalms 106

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Our fathers made a calf in Horeb
and adored a molten image;
They exchanged their glory
for the image of a grass-eating bullock.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

They forgot the God who had saved them,
who had done great deeds in Egypt,
Wondrous deeds in the land of Ham,
terrible things at the Red Sea.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Then he spoke of exterminating them,
but Moses, his chosen one,
Withstood him in the breach
to turn back his destructive wrath.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Psalm 99

Holy is the Lord our God.

Extol the LORD, our God,
and worship at his footstool;
holy is he!

Holy is the Lord our God.

Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
and Samuel, among those who called upon his name;
they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.

Holy is the Lord our God.

From the pillar of cloud he spoke to them;
they heard his decrees and the law he gave them.

Holy is the Lord our God.

Extol the LORD, our God,
and worship at his holy mountain;
for holy is the LORD, our God.

Holy is the Lord our God.

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 tested me;
they tested me though they had seen my works.”

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Psalm 106

Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.

We have sinned, we and our fathers;
we have committed crimes; we have done wrong.
Our fathers in Egypt
considered not your wonders.

Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.

But soon they forgot his works;
they waited not for his counsel.
They gave way to craving in the desert
and tempted God in the wilderness.

Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.

They forgot the God who had saved them,
who had done great deeds in Egypt,
Wondrous deeds in the land of Ham,
terrible things at the Red Sea.

Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.

Then he spoke of exterminating them,
but Moses, his chosen one,
Withstood him in the breach
to turn back his destructive wrath.

Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.

Psalm 97

The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

The LORD is king; let the earth rejoice;
let the many islands be glad.
Clouds and darkness are round about him,
justice and judgment are the foundation of his throne.

The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
before the LORD of all the earth.
The heavens proclaim his justice,
and all peoples see his glory.

The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

Because you, O LORD, are the Most High over all the earth,
exalted far above all gods.

The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

I will hear what God proclaims;
the LORD—for he proclaims peace
To his people, and to his faithful ones,
and to those who put in him their hope.

The Lord speaks of peace to his people.

Kindness and truth shall meet;
justice and peace shall kiss.
Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven.

The Lord speaks of peace to his people.

The LORD himself will give his benefits;
our land shall yield its increase.
Justice shall walk before him,
and salvation, along the way of his steps.

The Lord speaks of peace to his people.

Psalm 85

The Lord speaks of peace to his people.