

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 MAR 24 PALM SUNDAY

Phil 4:4-9 Jn 12:1-18 Festal Tone

11:00 Divine Liturgy For Parish, USA, Ukraine & + Estell Williams by
Dr. MaryJean Sotack

After –Hospitality

1:00pm - Young Adults Bible Study in Betta Hall

HOLY Mon Mar 25 Annunciation of the THEOTOKOS

8:30 For Our Parish, USA & Ukraine by Fr. Alex

Holy Tue Mar 26 **6:00pm** Confession

7:00pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with Holy Anointing

Holy Thu Mar 28 **7:00pm** Divine Liturgy with Vespers For Our Parishioners

Good Fri Mar 29 **8:00pm** Burial Vespers

Holy Sat Mar 30 **9:00am – 2:00pm** Church Open For Adoration / Private Devotion

SUN MAR 31 RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD - PASCHA

Acts 1:1-8 Jn 1:1-17 Festal Tone

10:00 Resurrection Matins

11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners followed by blessing
of Easter Baskets

But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus” [Ephesians 2:4-6](#).

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, Linda Lechman, Orysia Stefaniv, Elisabeth Branden, Merly & Teresa Phillips, Mary Sullivan, Mary Saupp, Francis Fenderson, Gareth & Patricia Reeves. Thank you. Fr. Alex

Bible Study: The Gospel of John

The next adult Bible study will be held on Tuesday April 10 from 5:15 to 6:30 :PM. The discussion will cover Lesson 24, John 19: 1-16 - "The Lamb King".

Respectfully submitted, 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 make 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

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

2024 Ascension Advisory board members.

Fr. Alex (Pastor)-Property; David Efimetz & Dr. Micheal Lechman: Trustees; Subdeacon Adithia Kusno-secretary; Patty Duttry-Book Keeper; Betty Mae Hertz-Outrage: Don Merkley: Website, Facebook, Lisa Edwards-Liturgical Committee; Lee Alexander-Men’s Club President, Dr. Micheal Lechman-Adult Bible Study; Mike Olson-Security Manager; Ann Merkley-Bookstore Manager

Young Adult's 2024: March 24, April 7, and April 21.

In Christ, Adithia Kusno

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**

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.

Candles for March

Sanctuary Lamp...+ John & Betta Labanish
Tetrapod... HGB Katherine, Mary & Ann Efimetz by David Efimetz
Theotokos & Child... HGB Merle & Teresa Phillips by Mary Ann Drumtra
John Baptist... HGB Kyra Noonan by Chris Noonan
St Nicholas... For Our Parishioners
Protection Theotokos... In Love & Gratitude by Jim & Gia Hoolan
Christ Teacher... HGB Patrick Alexander & Family by Kathy Alexander

The Metropolitan Cantor Institute (MCI) is offering classes for all parishioners interested in learning more about our church and its musical history. These include an Introduction to Divine Liturgy, Church Singing and Reading in Church. These self-paced courses are FREE to registered parishioners our church and are between 4 and 8 weeks and online, where you will learn about what makes our church unique - our Prostopinija, or 'simple chant'. Join other parishioners or study solo to gain knowledge about the ancient melodies of our beautiful rich traditions. If you have any questions please ask Lisa Edwards (Cantor/Choir Director) or visit <https://mci.archpitt.org/online/> for more information.

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

God bless America!!!



FINANCIALS, March 17, 2024

Monthly Dues –250.00; Offertory –681.00; Candles-47.00; In – 978.00; Out-441.89

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

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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.
To Be a Saint – The Dangers of Freemasonry

Our Daily Bread – God’s Creation and God’s Order

*“All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.”*

Cecil Frances Alexander (From the poem All Things Bright and Beautiful)

Spring is a time of regrowth, regeneration, beginning anew. Where once stood a barren field, brown and withered by the winter winds, now emerges all manner of life, transferring the landscape into a sea of color. Endless flowers seem to celebrate the change of seasons, daffodils, lilies, tulips, and yes dandelions, violas and wild pansies too. A tree, once bare to the winter winds, now shows off swelling buds and new shoots, that holds the promise of a thick covering of green leaves.

Spring is a time of transition from inside activity to living outdoors again. We open up our homes seeking to capture the freshness and scent. Daylight increases and we are invigorated by it. Spring is a time for pollinators and birds, a time for yard work and the farmers plow, a time for the laughter of children running outside and climbing trees, a time of growing, a time of hope. The death that seemed to grip everything during winter is now overcome by life. Picnics, cook outs, family vacations and more. We revel in it, but do we ever ponder the deeper meaning.

Everywhere you look you will see purpose, power, complexity and balance. There is a Divine Will at work here. God did not just create all things to leave them to chance. Our God is a loving God, and orders all things so that we might prosper. This is essential to understand. And in this order, we see His Love. For me, the first few lines of Alexander’s poem capture the exuberant feeling of spring, with its recognition and appreciation of not only God’s creation, but the order God has established. Season to season, spring is a promise kept. The crucifixion and resurrection occur according to the Jewish Calendar, and is associated with Passover, however the symbolism of the life of Christ from birth to the resurrection with the four seasons is remarkable.

“Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit.” Is. 11:1. Isaiah makes a prophesy of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ in terms of spring. Was it not King Harrod that tried to prune the new shoot to keep it from developing into fulfillment? But develop it did, in accordance with the Plan of God. The shoot developed into the vine that became the pathway to our salvation. Thirty years of development, a further three years of ministry, through the summer and into the Autumn, the vine

bore much fruit, as Isaiah foretold. Within the hearts of His disciples there was a building of hope and tremendous anticipation, yet Jesus warned of the coming of winter and His impending death that was to be followed by a bodily resurrection. Even so, imagine now the shock of the disciples in losing their Lord to the crucifixion. As the first bitter winds of winter drive away thoughts of spring, so to the promise of the resurrection which Jesus made seemed so far away.

But Jesus did rise from the dead just as surely as spring follows winter; and by His resurrection, He conquered death for all time. From the shoot described in Isaiah until the glorious resurrection, spring time to spring time, the heavenly cycle was fulfilled, and in this, God plan of salvation accomplished. A salvation in which spring will be eternal, for in it there will be no more death and decay.

I sit and ponder the analogy and God’s grand design, and in this I sense a Father’s love.

“He gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell, How great is God Almighty, Who has made all things well.” Conclusion of All Things Bright and Beautiful.

Love Dad

Men's Club News - **Security.** Father Alex requests that the security program fall under the Men's Club umbrella. Mike Olson will head it up. With that said all members of the parish are encouraged to join the program if they wish. Please see Mike and/or sign up on the security schedule. **Potluck news...** The OT Grillers have a traditional post Easter menu scheduled for April, ham and kielbasa!

Carpathian Kitchen. Many thanks to those who helped out with the Kolache and Piroshki this weekend. Kolache will be on sale today after liturgy and pre-orders will be taken for piroshki. Best Regards
Lee

The 4th Talk on the History of the Byzantine Catholic Church, Sunday April 14, 10AM 2024
Betta Hall. Prior to Liturgy Subsequent Lectures Monthly. Dr. Ron Ruszkowski

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.

Psalms 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.

Psalm 69

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.

Psalm 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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

Psalm 85

The Lord speaks of peace to his people.

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.