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 APR 20 RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD - PASCHA

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

10:00 Resurrection Matins and Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners followed by blessing of Easter Baskets

Bright Mon Apr 21 8:30 Divine Liturgy For USA and Ukraine by Fr Alex

Bright Tue Apr 22 8:30 Divine Liturgy For HGB Lisa & Peter Margan by Fr. Alex

<u>Bright Wed Apr 23</u> 8:30 Divine Liturgy For USA and Ukraine by Fr Alex Moleben to the Theotokos -Special Intentions-For Peace in Our Country

Bright Thu Apr 24 8:30 Divine Liturgy HGB Myron Kotyk by Fr. Alex 6:00pm – ROSARY- Prayer For Peace in Our Country & for Protection and Healing of all illnesses by Men's Club

Sat Apr 26 1:00pm Church Cleaning Hours

Sun Apr 27 Thomas Sunday

Acts 5:12-20 Jn 20:19-31 Festal Tone

11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners + Karl Joss by Tom McGraw After –Hospitality

DON'T BE AFRAID! I AM THE FIRST AND LAST. I AM THE LIVING ONE. I DIED, BUT LOOK-I AM ALIVE FOREVER AND EVER! - Revelation 1:17b-18a

Through His death and resurrection, Jesus Christ has given us the gift of reconciliation with God. May we never take this gift for granted and strive to live in a way that honors His sacrifice. Easter is a time of joy and celebration, as we remember the victory that Jesus Christ has won for us. May this joy fill your heart and inspire you to live with purpose and passion. Happy Easter!

Parish Activities: All activities should be recorded on the <u>main calendar</u>. Please write in the activity you are responsible for and let Fr. Alex know the details so he can include it in the bulletin.

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

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 and local honey. Special orders welcomed.

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; William McGraw; Myron Kotyk; Darren and June Ann Hall; Aurora & Jaime Daquilanea; Ann,Lary, Mary Ann Drumtra & their Family; 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; Hazel Reeres; Richard Bapst; Adzima & John Adzima; Michael Derkacz; Retha Williams; Michael & Michaela Bross; Halyna & Michael Thank you. Fr. Alex

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.

<u>Liturgy and Candle Requests</u>: 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

<u>Ascension Young Adults will continue Byzantine spiritual studies</u> Spring 2025: May 4. at 12:30 pm. Come and pray together. In Christ Adi

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

Bible Study: the Book of Genesis

The next Adult Bible Study will be held on Tuesday, May 13 from 5:15 to 6:30 PM. The session will cover Genesis, Chapter 31: Jacob and Laban, Lesson 18 in the workbook. Respectfully submitted, Dr. Michael Lechman

Please Join us on the 2^{nd} and 4^{th} Tuesday Evening Bible Study of St. John Hall at 5:15pm. in the Social Hall.

Happy April Birthdays

2nd William Fetsko; 3rd Adriana Shockley; 5th Anya Bobrinskaya Hunter; 22nd Jim Hoolan; 22nd Aurora DaQuilanea; 24th Nadia Hunter;

NEEDED!!! We will continue to ask for a few more volunteers to help out with photography needs. Please see Father Alex if you are interested in helping with this important ministry.

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

ADVICE

WHEN PEOPLE THROW YOU STONES, IT'S BECAUSE YOU ARE A GOOD TREE FULL OF FRUITS. THEY SEE A LOT OF HARVEST IN YOU. DON'T GO DOWN TO THEIR LEVEL BY THROWING THEM BACK THE STONES, BUT THROW THEM YOUR FRUITS SO THE SEEDS OF YOURSELF MAY INSPIRE THEM TO CHANGE THEIR WAYS.

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, April 13, 2025

Monthly Dues –225.00; Offertory –1,599.95; Candles-31.50; Holyday – 10.00; Flowers-Easter -100.00; In – 1,955.95; Out- 3,703.65

Candles for April

Sanctuary Lamp...+ Drago Margan by Peter Margan Tetrapod...+ Steven Margan by Peter Margan Theotokos & Child... For Our Parishioners John Baptist... For Our Parishioners St Nicholas... For Our Parishioners Protection Theotokos... For Our Parishioners

Christ Teacher... + Katharina Margan by Peter Margan

Offertory Recorders are needed for tracking contributions to the parish. Volunteers would work with the bookkeeper, Patty Duttry, after Divine Liturgy to organize and record donations each Sunday. Volunteer for the Sundays you want; multiple volunteers can be put into a schedule to spread the work. Computer data entry experience welcome but it's possible to help with no computer data entry required.

Thank you, Patty

To Be a Saint – Easter Traditions

A discussion of the Easter Processions of the Ruthenian Byzantine Rite, and the Roman Catholic Rite.

There are simply too many Easter traditions to do justice to them within this format; each of them beautiful and profound. So, I am going to focus on the tradition that initiates the Resurrection season for the Byzantine Ruthenian tradition of the East, and the Roman Catholic tradition of the West. Interestingly, each begins with a procession.

The Resurrection Procession and Service of the Ruthenian Byzantine Rite - This joyous procession and service is in contrast with the somber service and procession on Good Friday. On Good Friday an embroidered Holy Shroud of the Crucified Christ, called a Plaschanitsa, is carried around the church by candle light, to the somber sound of wooden clackers, in Latin called Crotalus. The burial cloth is installed at a tomb display assembled in the front of the church by the altar. Church lighting remains subdued to fit the mood. Holy Saturday is then conducted with visitation of the tomb and veneration of the Plaschanitsa.

The Resurrection Services are then celebrated shortly after midnight, or early in the morning. The church lighting is still subdued, and the service begins with the removal of the Plaschanitsa from the tomb display. The celebrant, vested in his festive robes, incenses the Holy Shroud, takes it from the grave and places it on the altar where it remains until Ascension Day. Having prepared the altar, the priest, deacons and faithful, with lighted tapers, walk around the church carrying an Icon of the Resurrection of our Lord and chanting "Your resurrection, 0 Christ our Savior, is praised with the angelic voices in heaven; make us also worthy here on earth to praise You and to glorify You with a pure heart."

After the faithful leave in procession, the main doors of the church are closed as a tomb would be closed. The procession symbolizes the Myrrh-bearing Women who came to the tomb to anoint the sacred Body of Christ, and found the tomb empty. The procession is made once around the church, then stops before the closed doors at the main entrance. Here the celebrant, after having incensed the doors and the people, begins the Matins of Resurrection, and the church bells ring loudly. The celebrant then strikes the church door 3-times loudly, and the doors are opened as the tomb of Christ had been opened, and the procession proceeds in singing "Christ is risen from the dead, by death He conquered death, and to those in the graves He granted life." When the congregation enters the church, they find it is fully transformed and bright. The Icon of the Resurrection of our Lord is placed on the display which once held the Plaschanitsa, and the display along with the Iconostasis is covered with flowers. The service continues with a series of Resurrection Odes, each followed by litanies. During the singing of the nine Odes, the priest or deacon joyfully incenses the church and people, while proclaiming "Christ is Risen!". The Divine Liturgy begins as an unbroken continuation of the Matins Service.

Easter Vigil of the Roman Rite - The Easter Vigil was called "The Mother of all Vigils" by Saint Agustine. It begins after nightfall on Holy Saturday outside the church with the kindling of the Easter fire. The church itself is dark, as dark as that night when Jesus lay in the tomb. In the evening chill a light is kindled. This holy fire is called the Lucernarium and the liturgy begins with the celebrant blessing the fire. The fire symbolizes Christ who is not dead, but very much alive, burning brightly. From the

Lucernarium, coals are taken out to light the incense, and the fire is also used to light the new Paschal candle, which the celebrant will carry in solemn procession into the darkened church. The congregation will follow behind the celebrant in procession: this symbology has deep spiritual meaning, as Israel was led by the column of fire from Egyptian slavery to freedom. Once inside the flame of the Paschal candle is shared with the congregations carrying smaller tapers, symbolizing the spread of Christ's light to believers.

Readings from Scripture recounts salvation history; from creation to the exodus, to prophecies of renewal, culminating in the Gospel of the resurrection. Often catechumens and those joining the Church from other Christian denominations receive the sacraments of initiation: baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist. The congregation renews their baptismal promises, and holy water is blessed, often sprinkled on attendees as a reminder of their own baptism. The Litany of the Saints is sung, invoking heavenly intercession for the newly initiated.

Two Easter processions from two beautiful Catholic traditions. There are 22 other Catholic rites with their own beautiful traditions. Each one capturing the timeless truth found in the one true faith.

Yours in Christ Brother Joseph

Men's Club News. The club will be serving breakfast once again on Sunday 27 April.

<u>Carpathian Kitchen News — TODAY we are selling Easter Kolache.</u> Don't forget to take YOURS.

Hospitality - One of the many things that makes Ascension special is our coffee and hospitality service after Liturgy's on Sunday. The parish would have a completely different feel and character without this time of community. Chris Noonan and her volunteers do an amazing job in the set up and operation. Take a moment to let them know how much they are appreciated.

Ascension Advisory board members.

Alex (Pastor)Security; David Efimizt & Dr. Micheal Lechman: Trustees; Michelle Massie- Property Committe; Sb. Dicon Adithia Kusno-Facebook-Young Adult Education; Patricia Duttry-Book Keeper; Don Merkley, Website; Lee Alexander-Men's Club President; Dr. Micheal Lechman-Adult Bible Study; Lisa Edwards-Children's Christian Formation Director-Liturgical Committee; Ann Merkley-Bookstore Manager

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.