

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 July 20 **6th SUNDAY after Pentecost – ELIJAH – great prophet**

Rom 12:6-14 & James 5:10-20 Mt 9:1-8 Lk 4:22-30 Tone 5

11:00 Divine Liturgy For Our Parishioners & HGB Julianna Shuter by Fr. Alex
After – Blessing Cars – Hospitality - **Security team meeting**

Tue July 22 8:30 Liturgy For + June Mathews by Erich Novak

5:00pm - Moleben to the Theotokos (Subdeacon Adithia Kusno)

5:15pm - Adult Bible study

Wed July 23 8:30 Liturgy For +Anne & Ralph De Martino by Chris Noonan

After - Moleben to the Theotokos

Thu July 24 8:30 Liturgy For + Judith Diane Smith by Dr. MJ Sotack

6:00pm – ROSARY- Prayer For Peace in Our Country & **for Protection and Healing** of all illnesses by Men’s Club

Sat July 26 1:00pm Church Cleaning Hours

Sun July 27 **7th SUNDAY after Pentecost**

Rom 15:1-7 Mt 9:27-35 Tone 6

11:00 Divine Liturgy For Our Parishioners & HGB Patricia & Gareth Reeves by Fr. Alex
After – Hospitality

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It is with deepest sympathy that Ascension Parish Family express their condolences to the Janke Family. July 16 Christine Janke passed away peacefully. Funeral services are as follows: Saturday August 16, 10:00am Funeral Liturgy at our parish. Blessed repose and eternal memory.

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.

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

Today we still grapple with security, and we live in a time where we should all be sensitive to the threats and danger brought about by terrorism and incivility of our society. As the situation develops in the Middle East, there is a potential for spillover here in the States. We are tracking the situation closely, and will take steps as necessary to provide for the safety and security of the parish. With that said, we would welcome volunteers to help augment our security teams. In the mean time I ask all to help us as you can. If you see something amiss please say something to security. Father Alex...

Advisory Bord: Fr. Alex (Pastor)-Security; David Efimetz & Dr. Micheal Lechman-Trustees; Betty May Hertz-outreach; Michelle Massie- Property; 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

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

Some of those who need special prayer are:

Frank and 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 & Micheal; Caroline and Vince Spinella; Sharon & Steve Guethe; Christopher Berkery; Desiree & Brandon Hartlaub 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.

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.

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

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

Bible Study: the Book of Genesis

The next adult Bible study will be held on Tuesday, July 22 from 5:15 to 6:30 PM. The session will cover Genesis Chapter 38 - Lesson 23 in the workbook-Tamar and Potiphar's Wife. Respectfully submitted, Dr. Michael Lechman
Please Join us on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday Evening Bible Study of Betta Hall at 5:15pm.

Happy July BIRTHDAYS

1st Tom McGraw; 2nd Ory Stefaniw; 6th Sasha Eckstein Kusno; 14th John Alexander; 15th Hahn Falke; 19th Peter Margan;

6 Ways to Guard Your Heart from Manipulative People

Not every person is safe. We must use wisdom when choosing and navigating the people in our lives. Unfortunately, it's not easy to find ways to be loving and maintain healthy boundaries when people we interact with and often love are manipulative.

Luke 6:31 says, "And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them."

We must keep this in mind as we interact with others. We aren't to exact revenge, we are to let go of judgment and show others the kindness that we are looking for. Yet, healthy boundaries are a part of God's love.

Proverbs 4:23 says, "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life."

God wants us to guard our hearts so that they remain a source of his life for others. Thankfully, His Word guides us to keep our hearts safe when encountering unsafe people.

SLIDE 1 OF 6

1. Be Wise with How and What We Share with Manipulative People

Proverbs 29:11 says, "A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back."

A fool shares everything and anything with others without consideration of whether the recipient is a safe place for this information. Wise people are discerning about how they share sensitive information. When interacting with a person you see has unhealthy tendencies, don't feel obligated to overshare with them.

I am a people pleaser, so this is hard for me! I want to reach out even when the other person has completely ghosted me. I'm often inclined to share our story freely because I desire connection. Including others is my superpower, but I've learned that being selective, thoughtful, and kind is a good way to guard your heart and calendar. I only have space for a limited number of safe, invested people. I have to prioritize them. People who don't know me well don't need to know everything about me or my family. If you are an extraverted empath, you will struggle with this, but the older I get, the more I see that my heart is precious and deserves to be cared for.

Proverbs 18:7 warns, "A fool's mouth is his ruin, and his lips are a snare to his soul." Don't be a fool, control your mouth to remain safe in your relationships.

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, July 13, 2025

Monthly Dues –552.00; Offertory –1,397.00; Fund Raisers Incom-203.20; Candles - 31.25; Special Gifts – 1,000.00; In –3,183.45; Out- 2,272.29

Candles for July

Sanctuary Lamp...+ Drago Margan by Peter Margan
Tetrapod... + Steven Margan by Peter Margan
Theotokos & Child... For Family by Oksana Makowiec
John Baptist... For Our Parishioners
St Nicholas... For Nicholas Yacknich by Evelyn Yackanich
Protection Theotokos... For Our Parishioners
Christ Teacher... + Katharina Margan by Peter Margan

Church Cleaning: We have a very dedicated team at Ascension who cleans God's house weekly generally on Saturdays. However, sometimes schedules run thin and so we are in need of a few more helping hands. Please find it in your heart to help us with this very important ministry for only one hour a week. Thanks to all of you for your hard work and time. **Betty Mae Hertz**

To Be a Saint - The Difficulty with Truth

Would you choose truth over lies and deception? How about truth over personal feelings; personal conviction? Which would you choose? Some will have a problem with the last question, but of course you choose truth. Consider though, on the whole, so would a satanist, so would a thief or a murderer. On a personal level, given a choice, we all seek the truth of things.

We seek to understand so that we can choose the right path, make the best decision, to gain enlightenment. All too often we seek like blind men, feeling, groping and grasping onto something that feels right, that aligns with what we think truth should be, or what is popular at the moment; and it is comfortable. And so, we grasp at it and call it truth. Eve sought this enlightenment, and in the process, grasped the one thing she and Adam was forbidden to have, which led to the downfall of mankind.

Truth often comes in a package that we do not understand or appreciate. The Sanhedrin could not accept Jesus Christ as the Messiah. Despite the many wonders and signs Jesus provided in the course of His ministry, it did not move them. Jesus simply was not what they were expecting; He was not what they wanted in a Messiah. In their blindness they crucified the one they had been waiting so long for.

Truth is not easy to come by, and we always are quick to look for the easy way to find it. We rely on others to show us the way. Scripture is perhaps the best example. After all it is God's word. But who has time to read and comprehend Scripture? We are looking for an easier way, so we seek truth from those who profess to have read and know Scripture. We then place complete trust in them without studying it for ourselves. In this way many are misled. Some others go in a different direction and place their trust in those who profess to know the stars and can read signs. They seek truth through spells, witchcraft, magic charms and incantations.

Today is arguably worse than any time in history. We have so many diversions and distractions from reality, each peddling their brand of truth. Some people spend their life consumed in games of make believe. Then there are those who follow celebrities and seek to mimic everything they do. Then there are the false political philosophies. How many countless souls have followed the siren's cry of socialism only to find ruin and destruction.

Truth never changes, but our understanding of truth does. When we were young, we believed in Santa Claus and the tooth fairy. For that time in our life that was true to us. As we grew older, we came to realize the truth of it, and learned to separate truth from legend and lore. This time is a great awakening for us, we learn to question what we think is true. A beautiful time of forming moral values and truth finding; it is also a vulnerable time. Without the daily guidance of loving parents, family structure, and traditional institutions like the church, the young will naturally develop their truth and moral compass from other sources, and along the lines of what is popular in our society. For despite the natural rebellion of youth, they are after all looking for acceptance, and will find their truth in that which seems attractive, easiest, and popular.

There is an interplay between truth and love. The concept is a foundational principle in Christian theology, emphasizing the harmonious relationship between truth and love in the life of a believer. This principle is rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ. Truth without love can become legalistic and harsh, while love without truth can lead to compromise, relativism and social breakdown.

Let's sum it up. Those who seek truth, and live by truth, are often misunderstood, and feel out of place in a world where truth holds little value. To follow truth sometimes is to go against our very nature. We need to practice our truth to be sure of it; for the weak minded, truth can be fragile and easily manipulated. To speak the truth can be life threatening. That is why whenever you find truth, you find uncommon courage, uncommon love. Consider these last few lines. Do they not define what it means to be Christian? Substitute the word faith for truth to see what I mean. Are we not called to be truth seekers? We find our truth in Jesus Christ; Who is the way, the truth and the life.

Yours in Christ

Brother Joseph

"Like Heaven, a Catholic parish is comprised of family, there are no strangers."

For new members of the parish, the Men's Club and Carpathian Kitchen events are among the many ways to be involved and become family.

Men's Club. Mid-Summers Night Chicken dinner recap. A good size crowd filled the hall last Tuesday evening to enjoy some excellent fried chicken, and listen to our guest speakers who told us the story behind the charitable organization of FISH in Williamsburg. Many thanks to the Men's Club for putting this event on the schedule, and funding the evenings meal. Also happy 12th anniversary Men's Club!

Carpathian Kitchen. The Carpathian Kitchen also played a role at Tuesday's chicken dinner. After the presentation by FISH, Father Alex presented a check for \$200.00 to FISH to help with their charitable work. The money comes from the Parish's Circle of Hope charitable outreach program, which is funded directly from the sale of products produced by our Carpathian Kitchen volunteers. Your purchase of pierogis, kolache, piroshky from the Kitchen is what funds the Circle of Hope. So you see, like everything good parish activity, it is all wonderfully interconnected.

Speaking of the Carpathian Kitchen products, we have a good selection available for purchase now after Liturgy on Sundays.

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

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.

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.

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;

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.