

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 June 22 **2nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Rom 2:10-16 Mt 4:18-23 Tone 1

11:00 Divine Liturgy For Our Parishioners who are in need of special prayer.
After –Hospitality and Security Team Meeting

Tue June 24 8:30 D.L HGB Sharon & Steve Guethe by Fr. Alex

5:15pm – BIBLE STUDY

Wed June 25 8:30 D.L HGB Lisa & Peter Margan by Myron & Debora Kotyk

After - Moleben to the Theotokos

Thu June 26 8:30 D.L For HGB Dr. Nadia Shockley by Fr. Alex

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

Sat June 28 1:00pm Church Cleaning Hours

Sun June 29 **3rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST PETER & PAUL PRIME APOSTLES**

Rom 5:1-10 & 2 Cor 11:21-12:9; Mt 6:22-34 & Mt 16:13-19 Tone 2

11:00 Divine Liturgy For Our Parishioners who are in need of special prayer.
After –Hospitality and Security Team Meeting

Let’s pray:

Lord, I thank you for the gift of salvation. Forgive me for the times I have ignored this gracious offering of eternal life to me, a sinner who is undeserving. God, I ask that you give me a heart to see neighborhoods, counties, schools, and homes radically changed for you. I ask that you give me the strength, boldness, and courage to want to see people know you. Let revival start with me so that I may encourage others. Give me eyes to see those who need you and wisdom to connect with other believers who want to spread the gospel.

Tonight, Go to sleep with a prayer. Pray about everything, talk to God. Just let it out, all the good, all the bad. He’s always listening, prayer does change things. Even if you think God isn’t listening, let me tell you He always is. He’s always working on something for you. Breathe and ask for forgiveness and also forgive others. Remember, tomorrow is a new day.

Fr. Alex (Pastor)-Security; David Efimizt & 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

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 & Micheal; Caroline and Vince Spinella. 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.

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, 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 June 24 from 5:15 to 6:30 PM.
The session will cover Genesis Chapters 35 and 36-Lesson 21 in the workbook-
Israel Says Goodbye to Rachel.
Respectfully submitted, Dr. Michael Lechman
Please Join us on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday Evening Bible Study of Betta Hall at 5:15pm.

Happy JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1st Melissa Karlson; 9th Ann Merkley; 9th Matthew Montgomery; 11th Patty Duttry; 12th Anna & Sofia Carden; 14th Lisa Montgomery; 25th Mary Olson; 27th Keith Shockley; 28th Dr. Michael Lechman

5 Prayers to Trust God with a Difficult Health Journey

Believers can lean on God’s presence, promises, and peace through fear, pain, and uncertainty, offering heartfelt prayers to help navigate physical suffering with unwavering faith and hope.

1. Prayer to Trust God with Questions and Doubts

SLIDE 2 OF 5

“So **do not fear**, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;

I will uphold you with my **righteous** right hand.” **Isaiah 41:10**
*Lord, I’m so afraid. Afraid of the pain. Afraid of the unknown. Afraid of what the future might hold. Afraid for my family. Afraid of the treatment. Afraid the treatment won’t work. Afraid of the recovery process. Help me, Lord, to put all my trust in You and stop trying to lean on my own understanding. I know you created me, and you knew this would happen to me before I did. Remind me that You haven’t left my side and that You tell me I’m the apple of Your eye. You love me with an endless, encompassing, compassionate love. When I feel alone, I can trust that You will NEVER leave me or forsake me. You’re always there. Even though I’ve not always been faithful to You, You’re always faithful to me. Calm my heart, Lord. Even though I might walk through the darkest valley, I trust You’re right there with me, so how could I fear? Remind me that you love me dearly, and in **1 John 4:17**, you say that “Such love has no fear. Your perfect love expels all fear.” So I will **fear not**. Amen*

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

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.

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, June 15 2025

Monthly Dues –112.00; Offertory –356.00; Rental-600.00Candles-17.00; Fuel-0.00;
Holyday-0.00; In –1,085.00; Out- 352.97

Candles for June

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

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 – The Observances of June

Aah, June! Right on time, there's chaos on our American streets, war continues unabated in Ukraine, and it busts wide open once again in the middle east for about the umpteenth time during my life. Honestly, I've been praying for peace in the middle east almost continuously since I was a child. Oh well, in God's time, not mine.

But let's lighten the subject just a bit. Let's talk about other observances in the month of June. June is a time of memorials, solemnities, and uniquely American celebrations. Among the better-known observances are Father's Day, Flag Day and the commemoration of the D-Day landings. Then there's the seemingly non-sensical observances, and each day in June is crammed with them. Let's see, national pen pal day (June 1st), national hug your cat day (June 4th) and National Ice Cream Cake Day (June 27th). If you don't care for one of these, there is always another one that you could celebrate. For example, if you're not into celebrating Ice Cream Cake on June 27, you could join those who are celebrating "National Bingo Day"!

Other observances are crafted so as to bring situational awareness to a topic. Some are useful, but some are crafted seemingly to bring about more confrontation. In my mind the LGBTQ+ movement's "Pride Month" is one. Notice the name chosen was Pride. Pride, the sin of Satan, one of the seven deadly sins, and with that name, this observance has pushed the most sordid forms of that lifestyle over the years. It is the "pride of life", and to see where that leads read 1John 2:16. But let's move on from the non-sensical and sordid, to the sublime...

June is also arguably one of the most important months in the Church calendar. We begin this year with Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came down upon the Apostles in the upper room and set their ministry on fire. To Jews at that time Pentecost was observed as Shavuot, a celebration of the first fruits and new grain; it was the Feast of Harvest. Is it any wonder that God chose this day to set the Apostles aflame with the Holy Spirit and start a heavenly harvest?

On June 13th we commemorate the second vision of the Blessed Virgin at Fatima. It was this day where our Lady tells the children that God wants to establish in the world a devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The feast of Corpus Christi falls on the 16th this year, many dioceses will wait until Sunday to give the day a proper celebration. After Mass, the Host is ornately processed around outside for all to see, either around the block or around the church. I remember growing up, that parishes would come together around the diocese and parade in a public place. This was a very impressive display of faith.

Then we have a pair of holydays, the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the Immaculate heart of Mary. Actually, the entire month of June is devoted to the Sacred Heart, and it was on August 31, 1670, that Rennes, France celebrated the first Feast of the Sacred Heart. It wasn't until 1856 that the devotion received its modern place of honor in the Liturgical Calendar, the Friday after Corpus Christi. Our Lord told Sr. Margret Mary, that anyone who is devoted to His Sacred Heart will receive peace, consolation,

blessings, fervor, and so much more.

Following the Feast of the Sacred Heart, we celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This feast day was officially established by Pope Pius XII in 1942 during the height of World War II (after Our Lady's request at Fatima in 1917). The original feast day was on August 22nd, but Pope Paul VI moved the celebration of the Immaculate Heart of Mary to the day immediately after the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The main difference between the devotions to the hearts of Jesus and Mary is that the Sacred Heart of Jesus emphasizes his divine heart as being full of love for mankind, but with this love for the most part being ignored or rejected, while devotion to Mary's heart is essentially concerned with the love that her heart has for God. Her heart is an example to us of how we should love God.

For me, I am drawn to the timeless beauty and rich traditions of the Church's feast days. What about you? I mean this is America after all, and you are free to walk barefoot, watch a turtle race, and kiss a Wookiee, June 1st, June 5th and June 15th respectively. Be thankful to live in such a country.

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

SAVE A DATE FOR ... The Men's Club presentation of - *A Mid-Summer's Night Chicken Dinner!* Tuesday, July 15th, 6pm in the church hall. Dinner starts at 6pm followed by a presentation from Ms. Jill Holroyd concerning the 50 years of service of FISH in the Williamsburg area. Best of all, its free !!! Fried chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, corn on the cob, etc...

In order to determine what to plan for we will ask for those coming to sign up after liturgy on Sunday leading up to the event.

Carpathian Kitchen -

The Kitchen will be back in action soon. We could use volunteers for our next pierogi production run scheduled for 27-27 June. That Friday will be preparing the filling. On Saturday we will press out the pierogi (potato and cheese this time). It is on Saturday we will need the most help. There will also be a potluck after work on Saturday. All proceeds go to local charity.

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.