

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Easter : April 21, A.D. 2019

Sing Alleluia!

Have you ever heard the phrase, “We are Easter People and Alleluia is our song”. It is a concept fundamental to Christian theology and Bishop of Rome John Paul II expressed it eloquently in a sermon. He prefaced that statement with the words, “do not despair.”

As if our own lives have not provided us with too many occasions of despair, we are reminded in the entire scriptural record that human beings suffer greatly if not from their own works then from those of others. The Gospel record of the time before Easter that we call Holy Week gave us a roster of narrative events of despair that could sink a ship. The pile up of sins of corruption, betrayal, thievery, cowardice, cluelessness of the disciples of yore and, yes, too often, of today probably makes the outsider of Christianity wonder how our faith ever made it to the twenty-first century. The disciples either ran away when the time of arrest came or made clueless attempts to violently protect Jesus. Judas immediately left the supper table to sell out Jesus. Peter denied Jesus three times. Most of the disciples ran away in terror. The temple priests orchestrated Jesus’ arrest, condemnation and crucifixion with Pilate. Yet the women of the cross, the famed “Marys” courageously stayed with Jesus at his feet. Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Temple Council, bravely went to Pilate to ask for Jesus’ body. The women stayed to see where Jesus was and returned to care for his body after the Sabbath was over. From these days of terror and humiliation, came rebirth. A woman, Mary Magdalene, became the first apostle, because she announced the resurrection to the others. From that day forward, Jesus appeared to finish his work among his followers to console them, to forgive them, to teach them, to build their faith, to strengthen them and to embolden them to go out into the world to fearlessly tell the story of Jesus’ victory over death and despair. At the resurrection and throughout the post resurrection period, the disciples became an Easter People. They were transformed by joy, by hope, by love, by endurance and by fearless courage, the opposite of what they were before Jesus returned to them and stayed with them through the Holy Spirit. Through the resurrection, the victory of eternal life, the victory of the presence of God among the people of the first century through today and for all time forward we, too, are the Easter People. See, taste, feel, trust and know the joy of life...know you are the Easter People and sing Alleluia.

Amen.

The Rev. Nan Hildebrand

TO OUR VISITORS, NEWCOMERS, AND SEEKERS

We thank you for joining us today and hope you will return often.

At Ascension, our mission is to represent Jesus Christ wherever we may be. We welcome you to our church family and invite you to fill out a welcome card (located in the rack at the ends of each pew).

TODAY AT ASCENSION

Preacher: The Rev. Rev. Javier G. Ocampo

Refreshments and conversation follow every service in the lower atrium.

A place of peace for parents and a beginners Sunday School is available in Room 4.

Please feel free to bring your child.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Ascension invites all children, from toddlers to 5th grade, to our annual Easter egg hunt. We will gather in front of the church and the egg hunt will start as soon as families come out of the 10:00 service (probably around 11:30). Spanish service families are encouraged to arrive by 11:20 and children can participate in an egg-and-spoon race and chalk drawing until the egg hunt starts.

Men's Shelter Lunch Preparation

The Men's Shelter lunch program provides bagged lunches for homeless men; they are assembled in the Undercroft once a month. Supplies are donated by Ascension members. Depending on the season, we provide 40 to 80 lunches each month. The program is today, 9:30 a.m. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

A Joyful Path

No Joyful Path on Easter. We have child care available in the Place of Peace.

A Joyful Path—12:00 p.m.

We will use the story of Harriet Tubman's life. We will learn willpower using the story of the life and times of Harriet Tubman. She overcame many obstacles in her life and world and prospered and succeeded.

Godly Play

No Godly Play on Easter. We have child care available in the Place of Peace.

Spanish Class

Come and take part in Ascension's Spanish class on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the library. You don't need to know Spanish to come, we get together to learn and/or practice. For more information, contact Fr. Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org. No class tomorrow.

Wednesday Morning Book Group

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24th, at 10:00 a.m. in Ascension's library. Please read chapters 9 and 10 of "Enlightenment Now" for this meeting.

Thursday Morning Yoga

Yoga classes are offered on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel, taught by Lucia Pires. The class is multilevel, with an emphasis on gentle yoga, and is appropriate for beginners. Props are offered, but the students are encouraged to bring their own yoga mats.

Tai Chi

Tai Chi class is at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday afternoons in the Chapel, a good time of peace and balance in a lovely place. Please come and join us. Tai Chi is cancelled any Thursday that schools are closed for bad weather. Contact Claire Rosser at Cjrosser@aol.com or 301.275.0617 for information.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

2019 Lenten Offering (Rice Bowl Recipient)

A Lenten tradition since the tenure of Rector Harry Dalzell (1970-1980), our offerings go toward an outreach ministry. Typically, we alternate between local and domestic or international causes. This year the offering is destined toward ending hunger.

Summer Work Camp for Youth

Work camp is from July 21st to 26th in Philadelphia, PA. Transportation, food and materials are provided in the \$350 fee. Scholarships are available! We need commitments to attend ASAP!

The North Montgomery County Discovery Session

The North Montgomery County Discovery Session will be held Thursday, April 25, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. here at the Church of the Ascension. Dinner will be served and English/Spanish interpretation services will be available. Please let the Diocese know whether you will be able to attend the Discovery Day on April 25 at the following link: <https://goo.gl/forms/u5x5t8LUjPqcuxWD3> and encourage others from our parish to attend and RSVP. For our meeting on April 25, one of the key objectives is to get our best understanding on how the individual parishes are doing and how that is currently impacting the health of the region. Candid input will be instrumental in determining how the Diocese sets its course and vision for the next five years. Together, we want to be more effective and focused to have a greater impact on our collective mission.

We need to Update your Information

2019 Church Directories are available on the table in the Narthex. Please check your information and if there is any change let the church office know so it can be updated. Thank you.

Sacred Waters Workshop

On Sunday 4/28 at 11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. a "Sacred Waters Workshop" will be held here at the Church of the Ascension. Learn about the local waters of our watershed and what our faith teaches about care for God's creation. Guest speaker will be Kolya Braun-Greiner, MDiv, Religious Educator with Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake; she will discuss how our church is taking action to heal and restore our waters to good health for all life.

Eagle Project

Dear members of Ascension, I'm pleased to inform you I have completed my Eagle service project renovating Room 2! I would like to thank everyone who has supported my project, especially the following persons who donated: Danielle Allen, Shirley Allen, Alice Benson, Kevin Blanc, Anne Brink, Monica Koenig Caphart, Nancy Carman, Megan Didavi, Ashley Dunn, Phyllis Eddy, Gerald FitzPatrick, Kathy Froelich, Sarah Gallagher, Ron Hauber, Howard Holland, David Johnson (Mt. Vernon, WA), Avin Lalmansingh, Elizabeth Lennon, Tom Lionetti, Barbara Mansfield, Don Marks, Johnetta Mars-Gibson, Pete Minderman, Marcia Noble, Winsome Palmer, Jerry Pfadenhauer, Arturo Rodriguez, Peggy Ruppel, Frank Sanya, Ruth Anna Skowronski, Fran Spina, Suzanne Vliestra (Chino, CA), Kathy Walker (Mt. Baldy, CA), Angie and Trevor Walker, Bob Waters, Chris and Joan Watson (Upland, CA), Lovetta Willie, Anonymous, and anyone else I may have inadvertently left out. Thank you again for all of your warm wishes and generous support, and have a blessed day!

Sincerely,
Matthew Watson

Amazon Smile

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon. When you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to our church.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you are prompted -

- ◆ To login with your Amazon account.
- ◆ Then search for "Church of the Ascension" and select Church of the Ascension from the list with location "Gaithersburg MD"
- ◆ That 's all. It will be connected to your account; every time you shop, and when you go to smile.amazon.com, your selection will be there and will track your purchases.

Just make sure you select the right "Church of the Ascension" at Gaithersburg MD as this:

Church of the Ascension Gaithersburg MD

About: -- Christian

12-Month Evaluation for Father Javier

It has been 12 months since Javier accepted the position of Priest-in-Charge at Ascension. Therefore, it is time for the second formal evaluation between Father Javier and the Church. This time, the Vestry will start the process by hosting a series of small meetings to review what we've been working on over the last year, progress made, and to answer your questions. Hopefully this information will help you to fill out an honest and complete evaluation for Padre Javier. The first meeting was at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday March 31. More meetings are taking place throughout April, times and locations to be announced. For Javier's evaluations, we are using a paper form that you may fill out and return to the green and gold box in the narthex. As before, they will be absolutely confidential and used to make Ascension stronger for all of us. Please participate in this important process for Ascension. Thank you.

Betsy Hasegawa, Senior Warden

Creation Care in the Episcopal Church

The online address for Presiding Bishop Curry's Creation Care project is <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/creation-care>. There is a brief video by Bishop Curry about his vision for this project. It includes resources for expanding our awareness of and engagement with environmental issues. There is also an opportunity to pledge to greater service in environmental stewardship. There are several questions associated with the pledge. Please consider taking the pledge. If the suggested responses don't seem to fit your vision, consider using local projects as a starting point.

Help Wanted!

We are accepting applications from friendly folks to serve on the Welcome Teams at the 10:00 a.m. service. We will reveal everything you need to know, and you will work with practiced parishioners who enjoy their duties. The teams serve twice in each 13-week quarter. Speak to a current Welcome Team member to be part of something that is very rewarding.

The Literacy Council of Montgomery County

The Literacy Council of Montgomery County is in need of English tutors to help adult learners gain a better understanding of the English language and improve their skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Volunteers are asked to commit to two hours of tutoring each week and should plan on two hours of preparation each week as well. No experience is necessary. [Click](#) here for more information.

Ascension T-shirts

If you are interested in getting an Ascension T-shirt, please call or email Berenice at 249-281-3736 or berenice.rodriguez.84@gmail.com. T-shirts are \$10.

CONTACT US

205 S. Summit Ave., Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20877
www.ascensionmd.org

- ◆ Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Friday 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
- ◆ Phone: 301.948.0122 ☒ Fax: 301.926.9012
- ◆ Fr. Javier's cell: 202.903.6426
- ◆ Prayer requests: Fill out a prayer request card (pink or yellow, on the table in the narthex) or e-mail the office at office@ascensionmd.org.

Bishop of Washington - The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde
mebudde@edow.org, 202.537.6550

Priest in Charge —The Rev. Javier García Ocampo
ocampoj@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 12

Pastoral Associate—The Rev. Nan Hildebrand
hildebrandnan@gmail.com, voice mailbox 13

Deacon—Eugene Wright

Minister of Music—Andrew Kullberg
music@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 11

Parish Administrator - Lin Keene
office@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 10

Communications — Jesse Velazquez
comm@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 14

Altar Guild Directors, Sari Stoddard, sari.stoddard@verizon.net;
Mardia Dennis, mard908@gmail.com, Dotty Pfadenhauer, dot-
typfa@aol.com and Georgana Maines, mainesgnh@verizon.net

LEADERSHIP AT ASCENSION

Senior Warden: Betsy Hasegawa
Junior Warden: Zadinga Ogada

Vestry:

2020: Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Luis Pedrón
2021: Berenice Rodriguez, Bob Waters, Susan McLaughlin
2022: James Black, Kristen Keating, Wadai Dennis
Danielle Allen, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Avin Lalmansingh, *Treasurer*

Christian Formation for Children: Megan Didavi
Christian Formation for Youth: Angie Hight-Walker
Christian Formation for Adults: Peg Ruppel
Facilities: Ted Bedell & John Pruessner
Finance: Avin Lalmansingh
Mission: Paul Boynton
Pastoral Care: The Rev. Javier Garcia &
The Rev. Nan Hildebrand
Personnel: Jean Cohn
Worship: Gary McLaughlin & Curt Lindsay

Delegates to Diocesan Convention:

Mardia Dennis, Gary McLaughlin, Sue Snay
Alternate: Fredy Diaz

Cycles of Prayer

Prayers for those whose lives are closely linked with ours:

All Parishes in the Diocese of Washington
All Parish Altar Guilds of the Diocese
International Earth Day (April 22); Pray for the Good Stewardship of the Earth

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, April 22, 2019

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

7:00 a.m. Mobile Med
11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting—Library
6:30 p.m. Ensemble—Main Church
7:00 p.m. Stillwater Mindfulness Group—Chapel
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
8:30 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

Wednesday, April 24, 2019

10:00 a.m. Book club— Library
1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
7:30 p.m. Spanish Bible Study-
7:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee - Library
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Room 2

Thursday, April 25, 2019

10:00 a.m. Yoga—Chapel
4:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel
6:00 p.m. Strategic Planning - Parish Hall
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish—Room 1

Friday, April 26, 2019

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

Saturday, April 27, 2019

9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 2
11:00 a.m. Al-Anon—Parish Hall
11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish- Room 1

Sunday, April 28, 2019

Preacher: The Rev. Javier G. Ocampo

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Main Church
9:00 a.m. Vestry Conversation Q & A—Room 1
10:00 a.m. Bible School for 3+ year olds and under - Room 4
10:00 a.m. Godly Play- Room 6
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Main Church
10:00 a.m. Joyful Path - Room 2
10:00 a.m. St. Barnabas - Chapel
11:00 a.m. "Sacred Waters Workshop"
10:00 a.m. St Barnabas- Room1
12:00 p.m. Escuela Dominical Para Niños - Room 2
12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (Spanish) - Main Church
1:30 p.m. Dia del niño- Parish Hall
6:00 p.m. Youth Group- Parish Hall

| Attendance | March 31 | April 7 | April 14 |
|------------|----------|---------|----------|
| 8:00 am | | 30 | 44 |
| 10:00 am | 161 | 125 | 157 |
| 12:00 pm | | 33 | 45 |
| Total: | 161 | 188 | 246 |