

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Second Sunday of Easter : April 28, A.D. 2019

Think Easter Is Over? - It's Not!

For me, the celebration of Easter 2019 has been quite wonderful. It was my first Easter as Priest in Charge of a wonderful, vibrant community that had really participated in the fast of Lent and the solemnity of Holy Week. Come Easter day, it was like an elaborate birthday party—music, decorations and flowers, high emotions, feasting, and lots of people we see infrequently. And then it seemed to be finished; like fireworks, it was over.

But no, Easter is not over! For the Church, this is a season, not a single day, and we are called to continue the celebration for a full 50 days, until Pentecost. We are called during this season to find some way—every day— to celebrate and feast and remember the central truth of our religion: Jesus lived, really lived, like every one of us. Jesus died, exactly as every one of us must. But then unimaginably, Jesus was alive again, physically and spiritually; recognized as Jesus by members of the community. Christ was alive in a way that he can never die again.

The Resurrection is proof that Jesus' life and love defeat the forces of hatred, violence and division; of sickness, suffering and death. If we commit to belief in the resurrection of Jesus, all the trials and difficulties of daily life are transformed. The Resurrection is now the light by which we live our lives, and sharing the good news of it is the main reason we do all that we do in this church.

I have observed that we do a pretty good job of observing Lent. In its 40 days of fasting and reflection we know how to examine the ways we fall short of what God expects of us, and we seem to be able to figure out what we need to change to make things right in our lives. But I think the boundless joy of Easter is harder for us to process. Perhaps this is because we know well that we cannot save ourselves or the world, and it is incomprehensible for us, even in the 50 days of Easter, for us to be riveted and transformed by the realization that God can save and transform all creation.

As we worship during the Easter season, notice that the collects continue to reference the joy and thanksgiving that we offer to God for the gift of his only Son. Here, for example is the collect for yesterday, Saturday in Easter week:

Thank you, heavenly Father, that you have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death and brought us into the kingdom of your Son; and we pray that, as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

When our own lives shine with joy and hope, it is easier to convince others to follow Jesus. Let this Season of Easter take hold in your heart. Celebrate and feast for 50 days! In the words of the Rev. Nan last week, "We are the Easter people, and this is our celebration!"

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. 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.

All children are welcome!

Sacred Waters Workshop

Today 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.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

A Joyful Path—10:00 a.m.

The 10:00 Joyful Path class will learn about Mildred Norman Ryder who answered Jesus's call to leave family and friends and follow him by becoming a "peace Pilgrim". She walked across the United States several times in the 1950's, 60's and 70's teaching people about peace. For this service, all children will meet in the place of peace located in room 4 each week, and then separate by age groups.

A Joyful Path—12:00 p.m.

We will use the story of Harriet Tubman's life. We will learn about 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

Godly Play will explore the Parable of the Mustard Seed. Jesus told this story when asked to describe the Kingdom of Heaven. In it Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to the smallest of all seeds that grows into a large bush-like tree.

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.

Wednesday Morning Book Group

Ascension's book group is discussing the book, "Enlightenment Now" by Steven Pinker. This book claims that reason, science, and humanism have brought progress in the sense that health, prosperity, safety, peace, and happiness have tended to rise worldwide. We invite you to participate in our discussions. We meet on Wednesday's at 10:00 a.m. in Ascension's library. Please read chapters 10 and 11 for this coming Wednesday.

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

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!

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.

Baptisms on the Day of Pentecost June 9

Are you interested in receiving the Sacrament of Baptism for yourself, your baby or other family members young or old? Speak with Fr. Javier during coffee hour, or contact him at the office at 301.948.0122.

Ascension T-shirts

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

Mother’s Day Food Drive: May 12

In honor or in memory of our mothers and those who mothered us on Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 12, we invite you to donate a bag of groceries to replenish the food pantry at Gaithersburg HELP. There are forms/envelopes available on the welcome desk in the narthex where you can designate your contribution in honor of your mother. That person will receive a letter notifying them of your gift. For donations in memory of your mother, we will add those names to a list for special prayers.

Men’s Shelter Lunch Program

The Men’s Shelter lunch program provides bagged lunches for homeless men. Lunches are assembled in the Undercroft once a month. Generous Ascension members donate the supplies. Depending on the season, we provide 40 to 80 lunches each month. The next program is on May 19 at 9:30 a.m. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help.

SAVE THE DATE

Flower Mart ECW Booth

Washington National Cathedral

Friday May 3 and Saturday May 4

Starting at 10:00 a.m.

BACKED GOODS AND VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

Contact: Karen Cassedy at (301) 675-9990 or kcassedy@yahoo.com

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:



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. 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 always, 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. For more information, visit <http://www.literacycouncilmcmd.org/>.

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
ocampo@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; 8 a.m. Mardia Dennis, mard908@gmail.com, 10 a.m. Dotty Pfadenhauer, dottypfa@aol.com and Georgana Maines, mainesgh@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:
St. Mark's Church, DC
St. Mark's Church, Fairland
St. Monica and St. James, DC
St. Philip's Church, Laurel
St. Philip the Evangelist Church, DC
St. Philip's Child Development Center, DC
St. Philip's Church, Baden
National Day of Prayer (May 3)

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, April 29, 2019

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
6:00 p.m. Spanish Class—Room 2
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

Tuesday, April 30, 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, May 1, 2019

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

Thursday, May 2, 2019

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

Friday, May 3, 2019

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
8:00 p.m. Couples 12-Step Program - Library

Saturday, May 4, 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, May 5, 2019

Preacher: Ms. Barbara Mansfield

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Main Church
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
10:00 a.m. St Barnabas- Room1
10:30 a.m. Immigration Consultations - Library
12:00 p.m. Escuela Dominical Para Niños - Room 2
12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (Spanish) - Main Church
2:00 p.m. Enid Cole - Chapel
2:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting - Rm. 1

Attendance	April 7	April 14	April 21
8:00 am	30	44	47
10:00 am	125	157	300
12:00 pm	33	45	56
Total:	188	246	403