

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The First Sunday of Advent: 3 December A.D. 2017

Christmas Service Schedule



Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with the 11:15 Ensemble: Main Church

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

- 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist for Families and Children: Main Church
- 7:00 p.m. Festival Eucharist with the Great Choir of Ascension: Main Church
- 7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist in Spanish: Chapel
- 9:00 p.m. Festival Eucharist with the Great Choir of Ascension: Main Church

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Organ and Ensemble: Main Church

The First Sunday After Christmas, Sunday, December 31

"One Ascension Sunday"

10:00 a.m. Bilingual Lessons & Carols: Main Church

***There will be no Christian Formation on Sunday,
December 24 or December 31.***

What is a "Contemplative Eucharist?"

As you may know we are trying this out at 5:00 p.m. on Sundays in the Chapel. It features meditative easy to sing a capella chants (think 'Taize'), and moments of silence. Rather than a full length sermon the celebrant offers a reflection on the biblical readings of the day and invites a response from the congregation. Intercessions and Communion complete the service.—RAL

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Youth Group

The Northern Montgomery County (NoMoCo) Episcopal Churches will have a bowling activity on Sunday December 3rd from 4:00 p.m.—5:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 with unlimited cheese pizza and soda, shoe rental and 1.5 hours of bowling included. Contact Angie if you want to go at angela.hightwalker@gmail.com

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 become "ambassadors of Christ," so we welcome you to this community of resident aliens. We invite you to fill out a welcome card (located in the rack at the ends of each pew).

TODAY AT ASCENSION

Preacher: Enid Cole

We Welcome to Ascension Today

Refreshments and conversation follow every service, in the lower atrium.

The Nursery is open today from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It is in Room 2, in the rear hallway of the annex at the high school end of the building. Ask a welcome team member for directions.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Tai Chi

Tai Chi classes are offered 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.

There will be no Tai Chi on December 21st and 28th. We will resume in January. Tai Chi will be cancelled any Thursday that schools are closed for bad weather this winter.

Contact Claire Rosser at 301.275.0617 or Cjrosser@aol.com if you have any questions.

Godly Play

We are now in the Advent season. The Godly Play Advent lessons help us prepare for the Mystery of Christmas. We move toward Bethlehem, guided by the pointing prophets, with the Holy Family, the shepherds and the Magi. We arrive at the birth of Jesus and the lighting of the Christ Candle in the church. This month we remember the prophets who pointed the way to Bethlehem and the Holy Family and their journey to Bethlehem.

Joyful Path

Members of A Joyful Path will be learning that the whole world is home and we are a divine family.. We use the following passage from Galatians to start: *"Galatians 3:26-28 - For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."*

A craft project and a great seasonal story will complete our lesson for the day, Please come and join us in Rm 11 downstairs after the 9am service. See you there.

No Spanish Class on December 4

There will be no Spanish class this week. We will resume on December 11.

Worship Roster

The next worship roster is underway, for the first three months of 2018. If you have any dates you are not available, please email let me know by e-mail at sari.stoddard@verizon.net. Thank you to all who assist in our services

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers for the church office from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Contact Lin at office@ascensionmd.org

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Zumba

We have Zumba classes at Ascension every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Undercroft. Zumba is a dance fitness program created by Colombian dancer and choreographer Alberto "Beto" Perez during the 1990s. Zumba involves dance and aerobic movements performed to energetic music. The choreography incorporates hip-hop, soca, samba, salsa, meringue and mambo.

Lady of Guadalupe Day

Join us on Saturday, December 16th to celebrate the Lady of Guadalupe Day at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Church. After the service we will have a Mariachi Band to sing "Las Mañanitas" to the Virgin. If you want to experience more about the Latino Traditions, this would be a great opportunity to do it. After the service we would continue the celebration in the Undercroft with more Mariachi songs and Latin-American food.

Master the Calendar!

Did you know that Ascension keeps a master calendar, managed by our Parish Administrator Lin Keene, that organizes and displays all uses of all our space all the time? It's true. As you and your group decide to meet, reach out to Lin or check the calendar on the website to find a room you can use on the date you prefer. To book the room, contact Lin by phone: 301-948- 0122 or by e-mail : office@ascensionmd.org. and she will add you to the calendar. If there's a conflict, she will let you know and help you find an alternative space, day, or time.

It makes meeting easy. If you have any questions, please contact Lin.

Thanks all,
Betsy Hasegawa

One Ascension Sunday—December 31st

One Ascension Sunday is fast approaching. We are going to celebrate the end of one year and the start of another. Please join us after the service and bring a dish to share. The main course will be spiral cut ham. We need side dishes such as mac and cheese, potatoes, green beans, salads, desserts or your favorite dish. Please plan on joining in on the fun. A clipboard will again be passed around in the church so that we can have a rough idea of who is coming and what people are bringing.

Janet King, for the Parish Life Committee

Raffle



Crochet Queen Size Bed Cover

Donation will be used for the sound equipment for the Chapel.

Handmade and donated by Maria Estela Rodriguez

Tickets \$10

Raffle ends on Dec 16, 2017 - drawing will be done after the Virgen de Guadalupe celebration on December 16, 2017.

If you want a ticket, please ask Berenice or Javier. Berenice 240-281-3736
or berenice.rodriguez.84@gmail.com /
ocampo@ascensionmd.org

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Blessing of the Cars

As we celebrate the beginning of the Christian year we pray that God be with us wherever we go. For that reason we will have the blessing of the cars on December 10 after the 11:00 a.m. services in the parking lot. If you want you can decorate your car with flowers.

Latino Ministry Posada

At 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 9th, Ascension will host the Posada of the Latino Ministry of the Diocese of Washington. Members of all the Latino congregations will be visiting Ascension and everybody is welcome to join us.

Pledge

The Pledge Campaign has been extended into December 2018 to reach all congregation members who have not yet pledged.

Epiphany Pageant - The King's Birthday

Wanted - Participants young and old; for speaking and non-speaking parts in our Epiphany Pageant. Needed-Assistant Director(s), Piano Accompanist, Greeter, 4 Narrators, Innkeeper, Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Inn Workers, Stars, Angels, Kings, and Stable Animals. We have the scripts and the costumes we just need you. The pageant will tentatively be on Sunday January 7th. at the 5:00 p.m. service. Rehearsals on Saturday December 23, 30th and January 6th. from 9:00-10:30 a.m. Please contact Gordon Donnelly. I sing in the choir at 9:00 a.m., teach in Room 11 at 10:15 a.m., in the instrumental ensemble for the 11:15 a.m. My e-mail is vagordon1@yahoo.com

PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF NOVEMBER 28, 2017

96 Pledges for the total of \$252,170

Thanks to those below who have pledged to the annual giving campaign:

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|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ◆ Ron & Jan Hauber | ◆ Gerlinda Somerville + FRF | ◆ Richard & Susan Snay | ◆ Ronald & Sharon Hayden |
| ◆ Mary H Waldron | ◆ Fran Spina | ◆ Escobar Vergel | ◆ Adeline Hedd-Williams |
| ◆ Jake & Ophelia Yalley-Ogunro | ◆ Sari Stoddard | ◆ Robert & Linda Waters | ◆ Suzanne E Hood |
| ◆ Christopher & Susan Ahalt | ◆ John & Kelly Ten Hagen | ◆ Russell E Weber | ◆ Swithin & Ama Kwamena-Poh |
| ◆ James & Antoinette Babcock | ◆ Thomas & Dorothy Thiele | ◆ Natalie Lois Wilson | ◆ Melanie Mitchell |
| ◆ Roy Bevington & Connie Finch | ◆ Paul Whitmore | ◆ Fe Wlotzko | ◆ Claire Rosser |
| ◆ Levin B Broughton | ◆ William & Delores Finister | ◆ Sarah Gallagher | ◆ Beverly Stennett |
| ◆ Jennie B Cargill | ◆ Betty Knight | ◆ Kristen Keating | ◆ Esther & Robert Taylor |
| ◆ Nancy Carman | ◆ Luis Pedron & Ruth Skowronski | ◆ Lauren Kingsland | ◆ Anne Brink |
| ◆ Jemima Carr | ◆ Monteath Petersen | ◆ Carleton MacDonald | ◆ Monica Koenig Caphart |
| ◆ Raymond & Doris Chin | ◆ Hallie Porter | ◆ Arturo & Maria Rodriguez | ◆ Andrew & Venice Greene |
| ◆ Don & Jean Cohn | ◆ Lavina & Stewart Williams | ◆ David & Stephanie Mitchell | ◆ Pete & Ellen Minderman |
| ◆ Wadia Dennis | ◆ Rose Buck | ◆ Frank & Leslie Sanya | ◆ Ceda & Zadinga Ogada |
| ◆ Margaret Donnellon | ◆ Phyllis Eddy & Joseph Defenbaugh | ◆ Florence Sasu | ◆ Esther & Archie Sawyer |
| ◆ Elaine T Dunn-Johnson | ◆ Gordon L Donnelly | ◆ Michelle Wood & Steve Heinig | ◆ Lovetta F Willie |
| ◆ Betsy Hasegawa | ◆ Lisa Murdock & Herald Douglas | ◆ Alice Benson | ◆ Martha Page Beach |
| ◆ Meredith Louise Horan | ◆ Thomas Hall + FRF | ◆ Georgana Maines | ◆ James A Black |
| ◆ Janet King + FRF | ◆ Howard & Margaret Holland | ◆ Johnetta Mars-Gibson | ◆ Mary (Kay) & Clay Kolle |
| ◆ Avin & Anika Lalmansingh | ◆ Curt Lindsay | ◆ Laurie Yelle | ◆ Donald & Martha Marks |
| ◆ Elizabeth Lennon | ◆ M Mackert | ◆ Arturo & Maria Rodriguez | ◆ Dotty & Jerry Pfadenhauer |
| ◆ Gary & Susan McLaughlin | ◆ Cynthia Perley | ◆ Francisco Balicao | ◆ John Pruessner |
| ◆ Janet M Rhoads | ◆ Bernice Rodriguez | ◆ Sciou & Jacob Broderick | ◆ Esther Tellu |
| ◆ Peggy Ruppel | ◆ Maria E Rodriguez | ◆ Enid Cole | ◆ Margaret Tellu |
| ◆ Laura Shay | ◆ Chris & Rachel Ruggeri | ◆ Kirk Davies | |
| | | ◆ Charles Ofori Dickson | |
| | | ◆ Kathleen Foley | |

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Men's Shelter Lunch Program

The Men's Shelter Lunch program provides bagged lunches for homeless men, assembled in the Undercroft once a month. Supplies are donated by Ascension members. Depending on the season, we provide forty to eighty lunches a month.

The next program is December 17 at 10:15 a.m. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help, or sign up at <http://bit.ly/1VAKEz8>.

Gaithersburg HELP

This organization provides emergency food and other support to needy families in Gaithersburg. Non-perishable food collected at Ascension every week, and during specific holiday in-gatherings, helps to stock the pantry. Donations may be brought to church at any time and left in the narthex. For more information, contact Melanie Mitchell at 301.519.1074 or melanie.mitchell@verizon.net

Mobile Med

Starting from Tuesday November 14, Mobile Med will resume the service and with the cooler weather, we will again remain open until 3:00 p.m. If there are questions, contact us at spangle1@comcast.net or 240.372.3652.

Ministerio Felicidad

Ascension members prepare lunches and send love and prayers to day laborers in the neighborhood of the church. Join Javier at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 23 in the church kitchen. If you have any questions, Contact Javier at ocampoj@ascensionmd.org

CONTACT US

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

- ◆ Office Hours: Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ Phone: 301.948.0122 ◆ Fax: 301.926.9012
- ◆ Randy's Cell: 301.801.4347
- ◆ Javier's Cell: 202.903.6426
- ◆ Prayer requests: Fill out a yellow prayer request card on the table outside the office, in the Chapel or e-mail the office at office@ascensionmd.org.

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

Rector - (The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson
ral@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 12

Assistant to the Rector—The Rev. Javier Garcia Ocampo
ocampo@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 16

Interim Ministers of Music
9:00 a.m. Clarice Snyder
11:15 a.m. Karina Gomez McCarty

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

Media Specialist—Eleni Hailu
comm@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 14

Altar Guild Directors, Mardia Dennis, 301.540.4499
mard908@gmail.com, Dotty Pfadenhauer, dottypfa@aol.com
and Georgana Maines, mainesgnh@verizon.net

Nursery Attendant—Brenda Alvarez,
brendaalvarezduque@hotmail.com

LEADERSHIP AT ASCENSION

Senior Warden: Betsy Hasegawa

Junior Warden: Janet King

Vestry:

2018: Berenice Rodriguez, Avin Lalmansingh,
Gary McLaughlin

2019: Rose Buck, Zadinga Ogada, John Pruessner

2020: Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Luis Pedron
Sari Stoddard, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Howard Holland, *Treasurer*

Christian Formation for Children: Megan Didavi ~ Christian
Formation for Youth: Angie Hight-Walker ~ Facilities: Ted Bell
Finance: Howard Holland ~ Mission: Paul Boynton ~ Pastoral
Care: Randy Lord-Wilkinson Personnel: Jean Cohn ~
Worship: Carleton MacDonald

Delegates to Diocesan Convention:

Kristen Keating, Carleton MacDonald, Sue Snay
Alternate: Mardia Dennis

Cycles of Prayer

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for
St. Nicholas' Parish, Germantown
Diocesan Latino Ministry

Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington
Pray for all Jewish people as they celebrate Chanukah
(December 3-10)

Deacons Retreat (December 1-2) - Pray for all deacons and
those in formation for the diaconate

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, December 4

- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 6:00 p.m. Ensemble Rehearsal—Main Church
- 6:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 4
- 7:00 p.m. Listening Hearts Community—Library

Tuesday, December 5

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting—Library
- 6:00 p.m. Spanish Bible Study—Ascension House
- 7:00 p.m. Codependents Anonymous—Room 1
- 7:00 p.m. Stillwater Mindfulness Group—Chapel
- 8:30 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

Wednesday, December 6

- 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Book Group—Library
- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
- 8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Chapel

Thursday, December 7

- 10:00 a.m. Yoga—Chapel
- 6:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
- 7:30 p.m. Zumba—Undercroft

Friday, December 8

- 1:00 p.m. Al Anon—Room 1

Saturday, December 9

- 9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. Al-Anon—Undercroft
- 11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
- 7:00 p.m. Posada- Undercroft

Sunday, December 10

Preacher: Javier Ocampo

- 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
- 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
- 10:00 a.m. Latin Choir—Room 1
- 10:15 a.m. Adult Class—Library
- 10:15 a.m. Godly Play—Room 6
- 10:15 a.m. Joyful Path—Room 10
- 10:15 a.m. Service for Young Children—Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. Eucaristia en Espanol—Chapel
- 11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
- 1:00 p.m. Pastoral Care Team Meeting—Library
- 5:00 p.m. Contemplative Eucharist—Chapel
- 6:00 p.m. NoMoCo Youth Consortium

Attendance	November 12	November 19	November 26
7:45 a.m.	24	35	25
9:00 a.m.	91	76	71
10:15 a.m.	0	10	9
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	25	53	36
11:15 am	33	69	36
5:00 p.m.	8	8	5
Total:	181	251	187