

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Third Sunday of Advent: 16 December A.D. 2018

Church of the Ascension Schedule of Christmas Celebration December 23-25, 2018

There are just enough minor differences from last year that this notice may help to keep all the joyous events straightened out for your calendar.

Sunday, Dec., 16 — 3rd Sunday of Advent

The 12 noon service will be followed by a traditional Latino Christmas feast at 1:30 pm. Everyone is welcome, and Santa will be visiting. Plan on music, dancing and fun.

At 4pm there will be a concert by the Popov family in the Main Church. No charge, with free will offerings in the rice bowl.

Sunday, Dec. 23 — 4th Sunday of Advent All services will be held at their normal times. 8:00am; 10:00am; 12 noon.

Monday, Dec. 24—Christmas Eve Two services.

5:00pm The Eucharist for families with children.

9:00pm Traditional Christmas service with carols

Tuesday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day A single service at 10am.

Sunday, Dec. 30 — 1st Sunday after Christmas One Ascension Sunday. A single bilingual service at 10am. Join us to celebrate the New Year after the Eucharist.

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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: Susan McLaughlin

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.

Two Bows and Eight Strings At Ascension

Please join us for the violin and cello concert today at 4 pm. Our guest artists are cellist Vasily Popov and young violinist Yuri Popov. The artists will present a program of baroque and classical music by Corelli, Bach, Vivaldi, Telemann, Popper, Tchaikovsky, and Claire Rosser. Our guest musicians plan on including a selection of Christmas melodies from the world's continents on the program.

Ascension Youth Christmas Party—Today

Where?: Rockin Jump
18620 Woodfield Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20879
<https://rockinjump.com/gaithersburg/>

When?: Jump from 6 pm to 7:30 pm and then have dinner in their “events room” from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

Cost?: \$20 and includes jumping and dinner! Scholarships are available. Also, Please bring an unwrapped toy for a middle schooler at St. James.

For our college youth home on break please come by even if you do not want to jump! We would love to see everyone and catch up! I do need a head count so please let us know if you are coming to any part of the evening. Text is fine 3016932399

Don't forget to fill out the waiver if you are under 18 We know is all very last minute and we do apologize.

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 40 to 80 lunches each month. The next program is today at 9:30 a.m. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help, or sign up at <http://bit.ly/>

LIFE LONG LEARNING

A Joyful Path—10:00 a.m.

The members of A Joyful Path will make discoveries about Vietnamese peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh. He believed sharing his beliefs in practicing inner peace and mindfulness would bring peace to others and the world. Come join us in Room 2 during the 10 a.m. service.

A Joyful Path—12:00 p.m.

Escuela Dominical Para Nin@s. The members of A Joyful Path will be learning how to concentrate our energy. We will use memory games and our story of the week “Sam digs a well.” Come join us in Room 2 during the 12noon service.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Godly Play

For the 10:00 service, all children and teachers will meet in room 4, the “place of peace” and then go to their respective classes (Joyful Path and Godly Play).

Wednesday Morning Book Group

Ascension's book group is discussing the book, “Sapiens: A Brief History of Humanity”, by Yuval Noah Harari. This book explores the ways in which biology and history have defined us and enhanced our understanding of what it means to be human. We meet every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in Ascension's library. Please read Chapter 12 for Wednesday, December 19th.

Spanish Class

Come and take part in Ascension's Spanish Class on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Ascension House. You don't need to know Spanish to come, because we get together to learn and/or practice. For more information, contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org.

Thursday Morning Yoga

Yoga classes are offered on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in Room 6, 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 this winter. Contact Claire Rosser at 301.275.0617 or Cjrosser@aol.com if you have any questions.

No class on December 20th and 27th.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

What? No Angels?

It is again the holiday season and time to think about the Epiphany Pageant. Epiphany is Sunday, January 6th and the plan is to present it at 1:30 p.m. in the Main Church. The pageant this year (new) is titled “What? No Angels?” The story is about a flamboyant TV producer who returns home to produce a flashy Christmas pageant and show off how talented s/he is. The members of the cast teach the producer things that are more important. There are parts for ages 3 and up. There are 12 speaking parts that include Lisa, a young girl; Paula/Paul Powers, a top NY TV executive; a character named Trouble; a church pastor; Mary and Joseph; shepherds; 3 wise folk; stable animals; and angels. Times considered for rehearsal are: Sunday December 16th 11:30-12:30; Sunday December 23rd 11:30-12:30; Saturday January 5th 10-12; and of course Sunday January 6th. Please contact Gordon Donnelly after the 10 a.m. service in room 2 at 11:50 a.m. or at vagordon1@yahoo.com and 571-275-6637. Come join the fun.

Coffee Supplies

During one of my Colleague Group meetings, I shared with the others the success of our coffee hour at Ascension. We have had an average of 50 to 60 people per Sunday. In light of the popularity of the coffee hour, I am asking people to volunteer to bring coffee cups, dessert plates, and cream for coffee. Please bring your donation on Sunday or during the week at office hours. Thank you! Padre Javier

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Ascension's Giving Tree

This advent season, the Giving Tree will again be in the Narthex. We will join Ascension's youth group in supporting the wonderful work done by Comfort Cases, Inc. This excellent organization provides support and dignity to all children entering a foster home.

Each ornament on the tree will consist of two cards which will be color-coded by age group and item. Separate the cards, hang one on the tree and take the other card with you for reference. When you have purchased your item, place the unwrapped item in the collection box located in the Narthex. Eventually, we hope the tree will be covered with many brightly colored cards. If you have any questions, contact Sue and/or Richard Snay at 301.977.5259 or email subarsy@aol.com.

Help decorate the church for Christmas!

The Altar Guild and anyone else who would like to join in will be decorating the church for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services and the rest of the Christmas season. We'll meet in the nave on Sunday December 23 at 3:00 p.m. to beautify the church with poinsettias, greenery and more. Come and join in! Contact Sari Stoddard at sari.stoddard@verizon.net or 301-325-8791 for information or if you have questions.

Christmas Flowers

If you would like to donate toward our beautiful Christmas poinsettias, there are Flower Offering envelopes on the table in the Narthex. If you are paying by check, please annotate the check "Christmas flowers"

iRest Guided Meditation Holiday Offering

This is a healing, deeply relaxing, guided meditation. In honor of the season, meditations will be Christ-centered. Thursdays @ Church of the Ascension, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. December 20 with Dr. Tina Lightner-Morris, LCPC

Cost: canned food & if you can, a love offering for Ascension

All are welcome.
Please bring your blanket to stay warm.

PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 12, 2018

113 pledges for a total of \$263,180 and 2 Facilities Reserve Fund donations for \$504 have been received to date.

Thanks to those below who pledged last week to the annual giving campaign:

- ◆ Margaret Mirin
- ◆ Peter Maroulis
- ◆ Kristin & Terry Johnsen

One Ascension Sunday

December 30th will be One Ascension Sunday. We will celebrate the end of one year and the start of another with a single service at 10 a.m. and a celebratory meal. Please join us after the service and bring a dish to share. Plan on joining in on the fun! A sign-up form is available (see below) so that we can have a rough idea of how many are coming and what people will bring.

Please sign-up using this link: <https://bit.ly/2C56IPJ>

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

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 29 in the church kitchen. If you have any questions, Contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

Montgomery Hospice

Montgomery Hospice is a nonprofit hospice that has been serving the residents of Montgomery County for 36 years. We provide professional end-of-life care in homes, extended care facilities and at Casey House, our acute care facility. We are looking for new volunteers. Our greatest need is for volunteers to visit patients. These volunteers provide companionship for patients, respite for family members, lavender oil hand massages, music by the bedside or help with practical matters. Many provide the gift of "presence" by simply being with a patient. All volunteers go through an application process.

Send Your Photos

Have you taken any pictures of any events held here at Ascension? Please share them with us!. We are compiling a collection of photos taken throughout 2018 and will continue collecting them throughout the coming years.

Continuing the Collection of Items for ComfortCases

The inspiring sermon in September by Robert Scheer, founder of ComfortCases, has prompted many congregants to ask what more we can do to help this local non-profit organization bring dignity and hope to youth entering foster care. We will continue to have a bin in the narthex for collecting additional travel-sized toiletry items. Further information on ways to help the organization—from donating pajamas to helping pack comfort cases—can be found at www.comfortcases.org. The organization is housed at 15825 Shady Grove Road, Suite 60, Rockville, MD 20850; phone: 202-253-0402.

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
- ◆ Javier’s cell: 202.903.6426
- ◆ Prayer requests: Fill out a yellow prayer request card 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

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

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

LEADERSHIP AT ASCENSION

Senior Warden: Betsy Hasegawa
Junior Warden: Zadinga Ogada

Vestry:

2019: Rose Buck, Janet King, John Pruessner
2020: Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Luis Pedron
2021: Berenice Rodriguez, Robert Waters,
Susan McLaughlin
Sari Stoddard, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Avin Lalmansingh, *Treasurer*

Christian Formation for Children: Megan Didavi
Christian Formation for Youth: Angie Hight-Walker
Facilities: Ted Bedell & John Pruessner
Finance: Avin Lalmansingh
Mission: Paul Boynton
Pastoral Care: 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. Thomas’ Church, DC
St. Thomas’ Church, P.G. County, and the Chapel of the Incarnation

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, December 17

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon–Room 1
6:00 p.m. Spanish Class–Ascension House
7:00 p.m. Listening Hearts Community–Library
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous–Room 1

Tuesday, December 18

7:00 p.m. Stillwater Mindfulness Group–Chapel
7:30 p.m. Spanish Bible Study–Library
8:30 p.m. Al-Anon–Room 1

Wednesday, December 19

10:00 a.m. Wednesday Book Group–Library
11:00 a.m. Sandy Ridge Holiday Performance–Undercroft
1:00 p.m. Al-Anon–Room 1
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous–Room 1
7:30 p.m. Worship Committee–Library
8:00 p.m. Gamblers’ Anonymous–Room 2

Thursday, December 20

10:00 am. Yoga–Room 6
6:30 p.m. Yoga Nidra (iRest) - Chapel
6:30 p.m. Al Anon/Spanish–Room 1
6:30 p.m. Ensemble–Main Church
7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop–Room 2
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 21

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon–Room 1
6:00 p.m. Couples 12-Step Program–Room 1
8:00 p.m. Couples 12-Step Program–Library

Saturday, December 22

9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous–Room 2
11:00 a.m. Al-Anon–Undercroft
11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous–Room 1
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish- Room 1

Sunday, December 23

Preacher: Tina Lightner

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist –Main Church
10:00 a.m. Bible School for 3 year olds & under – Room 4
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist –Main Church
10:00 a.m. Godly Play–Room 6
10:00 a.m. Joyful Path–Room 2
10:00 a.m. St. Barnabas–Chapel
12:00 p.m. Escuela Dominical Para Nin@s–Room 2
12:00 p.m. Eucaristia en Espanol–Main Church

Attendance	November 25	December 2	December 9
8:00a.m.	31	39	29
10:00 a.m.	123	144	111
12:00p.m.	35	45	50
Total:	189	228	190