

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The First Sunday of Advent: 2 December A.D. 2018

Church of the Ascension

Schedule of December Celebrations 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. Everyone is welcome. Santa will be visiting Ascension.

Sunday, Dec. 23 — 4th Sunday of Advent

All services will be held at their normal times. 8:00am; 10:00 a.m.; 12 noon.

Monday, Dec. 24—Christmas Eve

Two services:

5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist for families with children.

9:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Service with carols

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

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AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that 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 is 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:

A screenshot of the Amazon Smile search results for Church of the Ascension. The search bar contains "Church of the Ascension" and the location is set to "Gaithersburg MD". A "Select" button is visible next to the search results.

Church of the Ascension	Gaithersburg MD	Select
About ▾		
Christian		

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: Javier 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.

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.

Godly Play

This week, the Godly Play and Joyful Path classes will meet together downstairs in room 6 for bread baking. The bread we make will be used for Communion on a future week.

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 weekly at 10:00 a.m. in Ascension's library on Wednesdays. All people are invited to participate. Please read Chapter 11 for Wednesday, December 5th.

Spanish Class

Come and take part in Ascension's Spanish Class on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 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.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Two Bows and Eight Strings At Ascension

Please join us for the violin and cello concert on December 16, 2018, at 4 p.m. 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.

Call for folk and Christmas music from your countries! Our guest musicians invite you to participate in the repertoire selection for this performance by sending music scores or links to sound/video recordings of the favorite Christmas songs from your countries. They would like to include a selection of Christmas melodies from the world's continents on the program. Please send the music or the links before the end of November via email to celloworld@hotmail.com. More information online: vasilypopov.com.

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 so much! Javier

Yoga Nidra (iRest) Holiday Offering

Yoga Nidra 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 pm

December 6, 13, 20

with Dr. Tina Lightner-Morris, LCPC
Pastoral Psychotherapist & Yoga Teacher

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

All are welcome. Please bring your blanket.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Ascension's Giving Tree

This advent season, the Giving Tree will again adorn 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. Simply separate the cards, hang one on the tree, take the other card with you for reference, and 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 fellow parishioners Sue and/or Richard Snay at 301.977.5259 or email subarsy@aol.com.

Sermon Series: Sharing your Faith in the 21st Century

For the season of Advent, our preachers will be presenting a sermon series on the "Call to Evangelism of the 21st Century". Each Sunday, we will address the topic of spreading the Gospel according to our Lord Jesus Christ within the context of the Advent collects and readings. We look forward to a dialogue about Episcopal evangelism with you as the series progresses. The series starts on Advent I (December 2nd) and ends on Advent IV (December 23rd.) Parishioners may wish to look over the readings for those Sundays in advance of the sermon series to prepare. They can be found on the Internet on "The Lectionary Page" or in advance in the Sunday bulletins published on our website .

Blessings, Javier and Nan

Lady of Guadalupe Day

Join us on December 8 to celebrate the Lady of Guadalupe Day at 6:00 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 so. After the service, we will continue the celebration in the Undercroft with more mariachi songs and Latin-American food.

Attention all Worship Leaders (and those interested in becoming a Worship Leader)

I will be preparing the new worship schedule for the months of January, February, and March shortly; if you have any black-out dates for that period, or any changes specific to those months, please let me know as soon as possible. I won't be able to make any changes to the schedule after December 9th. My email is sari.stoddard@verizon.net, and my cell phone is 301-325-8791 (call or text).

Thanks,

Sari Stoddard

PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF NOVEMBER 28, 2018

106 pledges for a total of \$247,932 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:

- ◆ Ivan Flores
- ◆ Julio Cesar Flores
- ◆ Thomas Hall
- ◆ Fayemi & Christina Johnson
- ◆ Emmanuel & Gloria Nwankwo
- ◆ Russell E. Weber

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 clipboard will be passed around in the church so that we can have a rough idea of how many are coming and what people will bring.

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 40 to 80 lunches each month. The next program will be December 16 at 9:30 a.m. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help, or sign up at <http://bit.ly/>

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 22 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.

Bethlehem Christmas Simulcast Service

On Dec. 16, 2017, share the heart of Christmas with the people of Bethlehem.

Palestinian Christians, whose ancestors date back to the first followers of Christ, continue to bear witness to their faith in Bethlehem at Christmas.

Join with congregations at Washington National Cathedral and Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem for this 11th annual simulcast Christmas service celebrating the birth of the Prince of Peace. Readings, prayers, and carols in both English and Arabic alternate between Washington, D.C. and Bethlehem via live simulcast. Open to the public and to people of all faiths. Contact: jerusalem@edowmail.org for additional information.

Join us onsite

Washington National Cathedral
3101 Wisconsin Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20016

Watch live online

cathedral.org/youtube.com/wncathedral

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, Mardia Dennis,
mard908@gmail.com, Dotty Pfadenhauer, dottydfa@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. Nicholas' Parish, Germantown
Diocesan Latino Ministry
Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington
Pray for all Jewish people as they celebrate Chanukah
(December 2-10)

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, December 3

- 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 4

- 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 5

- 10:00 a.m. Wednesday 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—Room 2

Thursday, December 6

- 10:00 am. Yoga—Room 6
- 4:00 p.m. Tai Chi—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
- 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 7

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

Saturday, December 8

- 9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 2
- 11:00 a.m. Al-Anon—Undercroft
- 11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
- 6:00 p.m. Lady of Guadalupe Celebration—Undercroft
- 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish- Room 1

Sunday, December 9

Preacher: Nan Hildebrand

- 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 1
- 12:00 p.m. Eucaristia en Espanol—Main Church
- 1:00 p.m. Pastoral Care Team—Library
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group—Undercroft

Attendance	November 18	November 22 (Thanksgiving)	November 25
8:00a.m.	28	—	31
10:00 a.m.	120	40	123
12:00p.m.	22	—	35
Total:	170	40	189