

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Fourth Sunday of Advent: 23 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. 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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Church of the Ascension Gaithersburg MD Select

About v
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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: Tina Lightner

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.

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 TODAY 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.

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

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. Our next meeting will be in Ascension's library at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 2nd. All are welcome to participate. Please read Chapters 13 and 14 for this meeting.

Spanish Class

Spanish Classes will restart after January 21st. 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.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

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 27th.

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 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.

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. Email your photos to office@ascensionmd.org.

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>

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 consists of two cards, color-coded by age group and item. Separate the cards, hang one on the tree and take the other card with you as a reminder of what to purchase. When you have purchased your item, place the unwrapped item in the collection box located in the Narthex. Eventually 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.

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

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". Today is the last Sunday for the collection.

Baptism Day is January 13th

Anyone desiring the Sacrament of Baptism for themselves, for babies, or for family members young or old, should speak with Fr. Javier during coffee hour, or contact him at the office (301-948-0122).

Three Kings Day (Dia de los Reyes) is January 6th

Everyone is invited for this special gathering after the 12 o'clock service on January 6th. Traditional treats will be served including the King's cake which contains tiny figures of the baby Jesus. Tradition says that anyone who gets a slice with the baby Jesus inside must bring food to the next big celebration, Candlemas (Dia de la Candelaria), which we will observe on Sunday, February 3rd after the 12 o'clock service.

Call for Volunteers! Our cleaning service is off for Christmas. We need volunteers to take the trash out to the dumpster after coffee hour today, Christmas eve and Christmas day. If you see a full trash can, go for it!

PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2018

116 pledges for a total of \$272,960.00, 8 Facilities Reserve Fund donations for \$4,848.00, and 1 Music Ministry for \$500.00 have been received to date.

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

- ◆ 1. Melanie Mitchell
- ◆ 2. Christopher & Rachel Ruggeri
- ◆ 3. Robert, Roberta, & Esther Taylor

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 January 20th 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, January 26 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.

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<http://bit.ly/2tHzJuT>



<http://bit.ly/2sYC8UV>



<http://bit.ly/2tC0Ysa>



<http://bit.ly/2paseJO>

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—John Pruessner and Jesse Velazquez
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. John's Church, Georgetown
St. John's Preschool, Georgetown
St. John's Church, Lafayette Square
St. John's Church, Norwood
St. John's Church, Olney
St. John's Episcopal School, Olney

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, December 24

OFFICE CLOSED

- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
- 7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
- 9:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church

Tuesday, December 25: CHRISTMAS DAY

OFFICE CLOSED

- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
- 7:00 p.m. Stillwater Mindfulness Group—Chapel
- 8:30 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

Wednesday, December 26

OFFICE CLOSED

- 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 27

- 7:00 p.m. Al Anon/Spanish—Room 1

Friday, December 28

- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

Saturday, December 29

- 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 30

Preacher: The Rev. Javier Garcia

- 10:00 a.m. One Ascension —Main Church
- 10:00 a.m. Bible School for 3 year olds & under — Room 4
- 10:00 a.m. Godly Play—Room 6
- 10:00 a.m. Joyful Path—Room 2

Attendance	December 2	December 9	December 16
8:00a.m.	39	29	30
10:00 a.m.	144	111	113
12:00p.m.	45	50	65
Total:	228	190	208