

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany : February 17, A.D. 2019

Lent--Then and Now

Somehow, we all imagine that what we recall from our childhood is the way things ALWAYS were. In the case of the season we call Lent, you might be surprised to know that there is a long history of varied rules and observances.

It took more than three hundred years for the early Church to move beyond a two day fast before the feast of Pascha. The fast was gradually lengthened to six days. Eventually this fast, or “season of penitence and fasting”, became attached to, or overlapped another fast of forty days (in imitation of Christ’s fasting in the wilderness.) Today, the forty days of Lent extend from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, OMITTING Sundays. Yes! This is really true.

We are invited, rather than commanded, to participate in a holy season of self examination and repentance; of prayer, fasting and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s Holy Word. (BCP 265) The tone here is much more an active attempt to revive and deepen our faith, than a passive “giving up” of some small pleasure. Certainly, self denial has a place in Lenten devotions. But I am asking you to consider something more sophisticated and difficult –and possibly more rewarding–than what you have done in the past.

Our Lenten Season will be shaped like this: In recognition that we are about to do something difficult and important, we will party the night before our Lenten season officially begins. (Shrove Tuesday) From 6:00 to 8:00pm, we will have indulgently rich pancakes and sausage, party favors, music, strong coffee and a spirit of abandon! Whew!! Next Day (Ash Wednesday) I will distribute ashes at 12 noon and 7:30 pm in the Main Church. This presents a strong visual clue and reminder to us that formed from dust, we are shortly to return to dust. Preparation for God’s Kingdom is a must.

This year, we will begin something new. Each Wednesday evening in Lent, I invite you to a midweek Eucharistic service in the chapel, at 7:00 pm. Music will be basic, and we will talk about some of the forgotten people in the Bible, its women! The service will be preceded by a simple soup and bread supper at 6:00pm, so you can come right from work, and dinner will be waiting for you! I expect that there are cooks among us who will rise to the challenge of making soup and/or bread for a small number of people. In order to plan for the simple, contemplative service and the attendant meal, I would like you to indicate your interest in being a part of this Lenten program. A clipboard is circulating.

Just as you would not consider hosting a major personal celebration without research, planning and contracting, we at Ascension are looking closely into what we must personally do to be ready for the solemn feast of Easter. Lent gives us time and spiritual guideposts for the journey. And by journeying together, we build our trust and joy in the community of Ascension. Please consider being an active Lenten participant, not someone trudging alone.

Blessings,

Javier

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. Deacon Eugene

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 10:00 Joyful path 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.

Feb. 17th The Greedy Gambler God provide all that we need. This week's lesson is about a gambler and a trickster who covets others. We will learn what happens and the consequences of their actions. A Joyful Path 12noon Rm 2 Escuela Dominical Para Nin@s

Godly Play

The Parable of the Sower and the Parable of the Leaven. The Parable of the Sower, which is found in all three synoptic gospels, describes Jesus' promise of abundant harvest. Come and join us!

For the 10:00 service, all children will meet in the place of peace located in room 4 each week, and then separate by age groups.

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 Fr. Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org. No class on February 18th

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 are welcome to participate. Please read Chapter 18 for this coming Wednesday.

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

Ash Wednesday is March 06

We will celebrate the Holy Eucharist and offer the Imposition of Ashes at 12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m. in the Main Church. The evening service will be bilingual. The Labyrinth will be available for meditation in the Chapel from 10:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m. "Ashes to Go" will be offered again this year for morning commuters at the Shady Grove Metro Station between 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. We need volunteers to come and help with prayers and administering the Ashes.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

This fun annual event will be held on Tuesday, March 05, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Undercroft Commons. Come join us to celebrate Mardi Gras, Carnival, Fat Tuesday or Martes Gordo...or a good excuse to have pancakes and sausage! This fun event needs lots of helpers AND lots of attendees, 'the more, the merrier!' If you have an instrument you would like to play or if you have a fun activity or games, contact Padre Javier at frjavier@ascensionmd.org or Andrew at music@ascensionmd.org.

Annual Meeting

Our annual parish meeting will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 10 in the Parish Hall. We'll begin with a potluck lunch. Our primary business will be to elect new Vestry members and to have a time for shared reflection on the ministry and mission of Ascension. The Vestry candidates will be available for dialog on the preceding Sunday after the each service in the Parish Hall.

One Ascension Sunday

On March 31, 2019 the Youth group will be leading the One Ascension Sunday. There will be one service for everyone at 10:00am. This will be followed by a luncheon in the undercroft. All are asked to bring a favorite salad, some fruit, or a dessert for all to share. Come one, come all, to enjoy the Youth group's One Ascension Sunday.

Attention all Worship Leaders

(and those interested in becoming a worship leader):

I will be preparing the new worship roster for the months of April, May and June 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 roster after March 12th. My email issari.stoddard@verizon.net, and my cell phone is 301-325-8791 (call or text).

Thanks for your generous support of our wonderful church, Sari Stoddard

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Immigration Consultations

Lucelia R. Justiniano worked at several immigration law firms as a law clerk assisting clients in removal defense cases and family-based applications before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Lucelia interned at the Executive Office of Immigration Review in Baltimore, Maryland drafting decisions for three of the immigration judges. She also interned at the Board of Immigration Appeals in Falls Church, Virginia where she worked alongside Board Attorney Advisors in drafting Board decisions. She has been part of Ascension for a long time. She is exceptionally dedicated to giving back to the community. Now, she is offering immigration consultations every first Sunday of the month. If you have question or know anybody who would need some legal advice she will be at the Library on February 03, from 10:30 to 11:45 AM Contact Lucelia Justiniano at lucelia@jezicfirm.com or Cell phone (240)565-5590

Midweek Eucharistic Service

During Lent, we will have a Holy Eucharist in the Chapel every Wednesday at 7:00 PM. It would be a Contemplative Eucharist featuring alternative Eucharistic prayers, Taizé music and from a variety of sources. During these services we will have conversations about some of the important and famous women in the Bible. If you have questions feel free to contact Padre Javier at frjavier@asceionmd.org

Classical Violin Concert at Ascension

Come enjoy a free classical violin concert in the main church on Sunday, March 10, at 2:00 p.m. The musician is Vijeta Sathyaraj a violinist in the National Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Sathyaraj is a highly accomplished performer who has given solo recitals in Denmark, India, Hong Kong, and the United States. A reception will follow the concert.

This concert is a gift from Julie Yelle to Ascension in honor of the 75th birthday of her mother, Laurie Yelle. Ms. Sathyaraj donated the concert as a silent auction item for the Family & Youth Initiative, a Washington DC nonprofit organization that creates community and lasting relationships for teen and young adults in foster care.

PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF FEBRUARY 12, 2019

155 pledges for a total of \$356,660.00, as well as 11 Facilities Reserve Fund donations of \$7,648.00, and one Music Ministry donation of \$500.00 have been received to date.

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

- Fariborz & Sabastiana Hakimi
- Albert N Hammond II
- Mafoi Metzger

LIFE AT ASCENSION

2019 Lenten Rice Bowl Recipient

A Lenten tradition since the tenure of Rector Harry Dalzell (1970-1980), your offering, placed in the wooden bowl in the font as you come forward for Communion, goes toward an outreach ministry. Typically, we alternate between local and domestic or international causes.

Vestry Candidates Forum

We have a complete slate of three excellent candidates for next year's Vestry class. Please join us Sunday, March 3rd for a Vestry Candidate Forum after each service.

Ascension's Room 2 Renovation

Dear members of Ascension,

My name is Matthew Watson. I am a Boy Scout in Troop 207 in Gaithersburg. I am currently working on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Scouting. For my service project, I will be renovating Ascension's Room 2 (also known as the Classroom) in March with brand new wooden shelving, building new cubby storage units, and painting the walls. I am seeking donations to help the church pay for supplies for the renovation. Your donation can help make Ascension's Room 2 a more calm, warm, and welcoming environment for both youths and adults. Thank you for your consideration and have a blessed day!

Sincerely, Matthew Watson

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Ministerio Felicidad

Once a month, Ascension members prepare lunches and send love and prayers to day laborers in the neighborhood of the church. Join Fr. Javier at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 23 in the church kitchen. For more information, contact Fr. Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org.

Montgomery Hospice

Montgomery Hospice is a nonprofit that has been serving the residents of Montgomery County for 36 years. They provide professional end-of-life care in homes, extended care facilities, and at Casey House, their acute care facility. They are looking for new volunteers. The 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.

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 March 17th at 9:30 a.m. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help.

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 *me-budde@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 —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
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:

Chapel of the Episcopal Center for Children
Rosemont Center

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, February 18, 2019

Office Closed Presidents' Day

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
7:00 p.m. Listening Hearts Community—Library
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

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
7:30 p.m. Curso de Oración- Room 2
7:30 p.m. Spanish Bible Study—Library
8:30 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

10:00 a.m. Book Club- Library
1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
7:00 p.m. Worship Committee—Library
8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Room 2

Thursday, February 21, 2019

10:00 a.m. Yoga—Room 6
4:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish—Room 2
7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting—Room 1

Friday, February 22, 2019

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

Saturday, February 23, 2019

6:00 a.m. Misnisterio Felicidad
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, February 24, 2019

Preacher: The Rev. Javier Garcia

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist —Main Church
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist —Main Church
10:00 a.m. St. Barnabas —Chapel
10:00 a.m. Bible School for 3 year old's & under — Room 4
10:00 a.m. Godly Play—Room 6
10:00 a.m. Joyful Path—Room 2
12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Spanish—Main Church
12:00 p.m. Escuela Dominical para Niños- Room 2
6:00 p.m. Youth Group- Undercroft

Attendance	Jan 27	Feb. 3	Feb. 10
8:00 am	37	34	32
10:00 am	130	116	112
12:00 pm	32	55	37
Total:	199	205	181