

# WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

*Seventh Sunday after Epiphany : February 24, A.D. 2019*

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## Why Do We Use Holy Oil, --and What is It?

If you search, you will discover dozens of references to oil in the Bible, particularly as a metaphor for the Holy Spirit's presence and action. In the Old Testament, there are many references to the anointing of prophets, priests and kings. The primary purpose of anointing with Holy Oil in the Old Testament was to sanctify, to set apart the anointed person as holy.

### **Isaiah 61:1**

*"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners."*

In Exodus, we find many mentions of the use of oil to produce light in temple oil lamps. And in the first book of Samuel, David was anointed with oil to be the new king of Israel. He notes next that "the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward." I Samuel 16:13. The anointing with oil points to the idea that the Spirit is working within the individual, even for the Son of God baptized by John.

In the New Testament, the use of oil—the visible and tangible liquid poured on and absorbed by a human being—is a metaphor for the invisible presence of the Holy Spirit. In the early church, no oil or fat was more important than olive oil. It was widely used in daily life as an emollient, a fuel for lamps, for nutrition, and for religious and political ceremonies. Its religious continued for centuries old and its production was tightly controlled.

### **Acts 10:38**

*"You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and about how he went about doing good and healing all those who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."*

There is a high level of importance attached to the use of oil in the Episcopal Church, and it has a place in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Unction (or the anointing of the sick) and the ordination of priests. It is also used at the consecration of Bishops and in the consecration of certain items set apart for worship. When we use oil to anoint people in church it is both a symbol and a channel for God's blessing in the world. Oil, which we can see and feel, reminds us of God's abundant generosity and never ending love.

Today, the two different oils prepared for churches in the Diocese of Washington are specially blessed by Bishop Mariann during Holy Week. The particular oils included are the oil of the sick for those unwell in mind or body, about to undergo surgery, or at the point of death. Secondly, there is the oil of catechumens which is used in the sacrament of Baptism, which is called Holy Chrism, the oil is also used to anoint people at their Confirmation, and priests at their ordination. It differs from the other oil in that a scented balsam is mixed with the oil. Unused Holy Oil cannot just be dumped down the drain; it must be respectfully burned.

Holy Oil is almost always applied using the right thumb, usually in the form of a cross— or occasionally it may be poured on. When anointing accompanies Baptism, the cross is marked in oil on the baptized person's forehead. In this way, he is 'sealed' with the Holy Spirit as a reminder of the book of Revelation 7:3 in which the servants of God are "sealed upon their foreheads". Confirmation candidates and the sick are anointed on the forehead for the same reason. In the Sacraments of Confirmation and Ordination, the anointing is in addition to the action of "Laying on of Hands".

When we observe the use of Holy Oil in the Church, we can be sure that we are participating in a solemn ritual in which the Holy Spirit is present, and we are to perceive the metaphor of oil as light, healing and consecration.

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. Javier Garcia

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 24th Nothing Fancy We are invited along to a fancy party. The host and hostess only invite the most important and popular people. The most important person who was not invited is a most surprising individual. They get hastily invited and teaches everyone a great lesson. A Joyful Path 12noon Rm 2 Escuela Dominical Para Nin@s

#### Godly Play

This week in Godly Play we study the Parable of the Great Pearl from the Gospel of Mathew (13:45), In this Parable Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a merchant who goes in search for the great pearl, and exchange everything for the great pearl when it is found The children and teachers will explore questions about the parable after hearing the story. 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](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org).

#### Wednesday Morning Book Group

Starting in mid-March, Ascension's book group will be discussing the book, "Enlightenment Now" by Steven Pinker. This book claims that reason, science, and humanism have brought progress in the sense that health, prosperity, safety, peace, and happiness have tended to rise worldwide. We invite you to participate in our discussions. We meet weekly at 10:00 a.m. in Ascension's library. Please read Chapter 18 of the book, "Sapiens: A Brief History of Humanity", 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](mailto: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](mailto:frjavier@ascensionmd.org) or Andrew at [music@ascensionmd.org](mailto:music@ascensionmd.org).

#### Annual Meeting

Our annual Parish meeting will take place in the Parish Hall after the service on March 10th. We will only have one service at 10 a.m. We will 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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 21, 2019

158 pledges for a total of \$358,060.00, 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:

1. Aaron Boyce
2. Emma Boyce
3. Kaifa Boyce

## LIFE AT ASCENSION

### 2019 Lenten Offering (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, March 23rd in the church kitchen. For more information, contact Fr. Javier at [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto: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](mailto: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** — 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:

St. David's Church, DC

## THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

### Monday, February 25, 2019

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1  
7:00 p.m. Spanish Class- Ascension House  
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

### Tuesday, February 26, 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 27, 2019

10:00 a.m. Book Club- 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, February 28, 2019

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

### Friday, March 1, 2019

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1  
8:00 p.m. Couple 12 step program-Library

### Saturday, March 2, 2019

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, March 3, 2019

**Preacher:** The Rev. Javier Garcia

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist —Main Church  
9:15 a.m. Candidate Forum  
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  
10:00 a.m. Immigrant Consultations Library  
11:15 a.m. Candidate Forum  
12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Spanish—Main Church  
12:00 p.m. Escuela Dominical para Niños- Room 2  
1:15 p.m. Candidate Forum  
2:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting- Room 1

Attendance	Feb. 3	Feb. 10	Feb. 24
8:00 am	34	32	38
10:00 am	116	112	112
12:00 pm	55	37	32
Total:	205	181	182