

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Baptism of our Lord : January 13, A.D. 2019

Why Do We Baptize?

The first Sunday after Epiphany we commemorate the baptism of Jesus Christ. Aside from the reasonable question about why Jesus needed a baptism, we must turn our attention to what was reported at that event. In the incarnational and cosmic sense, the texts report that Jesus was identified as God's own by John's baptism and by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit embodied as a Dove fell upon Jesus and the words from the heavens, "this is my Son with whom I am well pleased".

Jesus was baptized by John and affirmed by the Holy Spirit as God's own. Mika Ella Justiniano will be anointed, prayed over, and washed with Holy water and baptized in the Name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The prayer following baptism thanks God for bestowing upon the newly baptized the forgiveness of sin and that through baptism they have for them from God the new life of grace. We pray for their strength, for a discerning heart, for courage to will and to persevere, and a spirit to know and to love the Lord, so that this gift of joy and wonder in all God's works are known.

Finally, the priest will place a hand on the head of the baptized, mark her forehead with the sign of the cross and say, "You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever". Amen.

We know that all of us will be pleased and we can be guaranteed that God will be well pleased. As Jesus walked his path among God's people healing, teaching, celebrating, sharing gifts and sorrows, he gave us the example of how to live the life of unity with God and with each other. As Jesus endured his suffering on the cross and revealed to us the joy of resurrection, we may be so bold to pray that all our sufferings and of the newly baptized flower in resurrection as well. Today, January 13th, 2019, we will remember once again, that Christ was marked as God's own and we will remember that Mika Ella Justiniano was marked as Christ's own forever. Amen.

Rev. Nan Hildebrand

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. Nan Hildebrand

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.



The Baptism of our Lord

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

A Joyful Path—10:00 a.m.

The class of Joyful Path at 10:00 will be studying The Baptism of our Lord, Come and join us! 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.

Escuela Dominical Para Niños. The members of A Joyful Path at 12:00 are learning how to concentrate energy. We use memory games and the story of the week. Come join us in Room 2 during the noon service.

Godly Play

The class of Godly Play will be studying The Baptism of our Lord. 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.

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 15 for this coming Wednesday.

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 Fr. 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.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

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.

Mobile Med Temporary Location

During January and February, the Mobile Med Van does not come to the Ascension House site. The van is not warm enough to see patients comfortably and often it is unsafe to drive the van to our location. During this time, the Tuesday clinic will be held at 981 Rollins Avenue Rockville, MD 20852. For more information contact Jean Cohn 301-493-2400

Diocesan Convention

Diocesan Convention is the yearly legislative meeting presided over by the bishop and consisting of the clergy and elected representatives of its congregations. It considers the diocesan budget and other matters regarding the mission and ministry of the diocese. The 124th Convention will be held on January 26, 2019 at Washington National Cathedral, located at 3101 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington, DC 20016. Information on registration and attending Convention will be available on the Diocese's website.

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 during office hours. Money contributions are also welcome. Thank you! Padre Javier.

Envelopes are ready for pickup.

Please find your envelopes located in the Narthex

Ascension Youth Group

- Ascension Youth Group typically meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 6 pm - 8 pm in the undercroft of the church, unless otherwise noted.
 - Ascension YG is open to all Youth in 6th grade and beyond. They need not attend Ascension.
 - Typical YG includes dinner, provided by two families, a spiritual lesson and fun games. "Food, Fellowship & Fun"
- The YG meets on Sunday, January 13



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



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



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



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

Día de la Candelaria

February 2nd may be Groundhog Day in the United States, but in Mexico, there is a completely different celebration on this date. This is the religious holiday known as Día de la Candelaria (or Candlemas in English). Throughout Mexico on this date, people dress up figures of the Christ Child in special outfits and take them to the church to be blessed, and they also get together with family and friends to eat tamales, as a continuation of the festivities of Three Kings' Day on January 6. Come and join us to celebrate Dia de la Candelaria after the 12:00 p.m. services.

Calendar of Altar Flowers

At Ascension our altar flowers are provided primarily through the goodness of members who provide for their purchase. A donation to the flower fund is a beautiful way to remember, honor or give thanks for loved ones. Your gift of flowers not only provides the adornment of our Altar and proclamation of resurrection, it also serves as a pastoral blessing to those who receive the flowers delivered to them after our worship - typically those who are shut-in by virtue of illness or crisis. Truly it is a multi-faceted gift. If you want to donate the Altar flowers for a specific Sunday, please write your name in the Calendar or fill-out one of the forms located in the Narthex. Many blessings, Javier.

We have Gone Digital

In this day and age we must keep up with technology. We have updated Servant Keeper (Ascension's database) to allow parishioners to update their own information on the church's database. The link below will allow you to access it by entering your email address and creating a password. You will be able to upload your own photo, update your current information, and also view your contributions and print your own statements. Of course those who wish us to provide them with their statements, we will be happy to do so. You will be able to share your interests in severing and tell us where you are serving now. If you have any difficulties, please contact Lin Keene at office@ascensionmd.org

<https://servantkeeper.com/member-portal/ECOTA/registration/email>

PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2019

133 pledges for a total of \$310,272.00, as well as 10 Facilities Reserve Fund donations of \$6,448.00, 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:

- ◆ Major & Hawa Clemens
- ◆ Debbie Garcia
- ◆ Andrew & Venice Greene
- ◆ Ronald & Sharon Hayden
- ◆ Edna A, Leake
- ◆ Chris & Vivian Rennie
- ◆ Trevor Walker & Angie Hight Walker
- ◆ Dorothy Thiele

Send Your Photos!

Have you taken pictures of any events held here at Ascension? Please share them with us! We are compiling a collection of photos taken throughout 2018 for a digital album. We will continue collecting photos throughout the coming years. Email your photos to comm@ascensionmd.org

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 January 20th at 9:30 a.m. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com

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, January 26 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.

Amazon Smile

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same 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:



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
mebudde@edow.org, 202.537.6550
Priest in Charge —The Rev. Javier Garcia 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
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:

Christ Church, Washington Parish
Christ Church Parish, Kensington
Christ Church Accokeek (St. John's Parish) and St. John's
Chapel
Christ Church, Georgetown

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, January 14, 2019

- 11:30 a.m. Living with a Chronic Illness- Room1
- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

Tuesday, January 15, 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. Spanish Bible Study—Library
- 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 8:30 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

Wednesday, January 16, 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, January 17, 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, January 18, 2019

- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 6:00 p.m. Couple 12-steps program-room1
- 8:00 p.m. Couple 12-steps program-Library

Saturday, January 19, 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, January 20, 2019

Preacher: The Rev. Ken Howard

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist —Main Church
- 9:30 a.m. Men's Shelter Lunches
- 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 Niñas- Room 2
- 1:30 p.m. Maryland Uke Jam—Chapel

Attendance	Dec. 23	Dec. 24	Dec. 25	Dec. 30	Jan. 6
8:00 am	37	5:00 p.m. 70			42
10:00 am	137	9:00 p.m. 135	41	192	128
12:00 pm	39				35
Total:	213	205	41	192	205