

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Wedding at Cana: January 20, A.D. 2019

The Shutdown

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,

At the urging of several parishioners, I have begun to watch the news on TV each night. I learned quickly to check out multiple outlets in both English and Spanish for balance and completeness. Even still, I am left with many questions, and a host of new worries. The U.S. government partial shutdown is particularly troublesome. I have learned that there are nearly 2 million federal workers nationwide, of which about 800,000 are affected by the shutdown. The Washington suburbs are disproportionately home to federal workers, with 147,000 residing in Maryland. I know that some of our parishioners are currently at home, not being paid. Others are forced to go to work, and they are not being paid. Still others do work for the government as contractors, and they will never be paid for the time that the government is shutdown. This is immoral, and it touches all of us, eventually.

For almost a month, some of our brothers and sisters have been on edge, worried about bills, child care, and the realities of employment security. But the anxiety spreads as all of us contemplate the anxiety of sudden cessation of employment, and the agony of a job search in most uncertain times. What can we do for ourselves and others?

First, we must pray. Pour out your fear, doubt and anxiety to God, and ask for His help. This is not a formulaic ritual. It will organize your mind, reduce your negative thinking, and increase the chances that God will make the right path known to you. Pray for others who are suffering or afraid. Pray for our leaders, who need God's help.

Next, we must reach out to people who are suffering. Perhaps they are friends or neighbors. Perhaps there is a community drive asking for donations of food, money, clothing, child care or other service. Reach out where you can. And, if you are one of the furloughed workers, try to accept these offers graciously. Your neighbors NEED to offer help to affirm their humanity and connection with you. Some of you who are affected by the shutdown have told me that you feel somehow guilty for being out of work, but this is not your fault! Of course, all of us could be more foresightful, could have saved more, could have kept our resume up to date, and on and on. But those insights are best left for another time. Now is the time to treasure our community, our congregation, our brothers and sisters.

On Sunday, Jan.20, I will be in the Library after the 8:00 AM and before 10:00 AM services (Connection hour) to discuss your feelings and suggestions about this situation. Whatever you would like to explore, bring your coffee and treat to the Library. We will see what we can do, with God's help.

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. Ken Howard

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.

A Joyful Path—10:00 a.m.

The Wedding at Cana



Turning water into wine is the first miraculous “sign” in John’s gospel. It confirms that Jesus is the Messiah promised in Scripture, while pointing to the glory that will be revealed when Jesus pours out his life in love through crucifixion.

fixion.

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 program is at 9:30 a.m. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com for more information.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

at 10:00 will be studying The Wedding at Cana, 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 Nin@s. 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 on January 28. 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.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ascension Youth Group

Ascension YG is open to all Youth in 6th grade and beyond. They need not attend Ascension. Next meeting will be January 27th from 6:00 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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 Día 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 or would like to serve. If you have any difficulties logging in, 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

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:

**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

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 Pfenhauer,
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:

St. Peter's Church, Poolesville
Church of the Ascension and St. Agnes, DC
Washington Interfaith Network (WIN)
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, January 21, 2019

Martin Luther King Day—Office Closed

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

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting—Library
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, January 23, 2019

10:00 a.m. Book Club- Library
1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
7:30 p.m. Worship Committee—Library
8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Room 2

Thursday, January 24, 2019

10:00 a.m. Yoga—Room 6
4:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel
6:30 p.m. Ensemble—Main Church
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish—Room 1
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 25, 2019

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

Saturday, January 26, 2019

6:30 a.m. Ministerio Felicidad
8:15 2019 Diocesan Convention
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 27, 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
2:00 p.m. Christian Counseling Network/CCN—Room1
6:00 p.m. Youth Group - Undercroft

Attendance	Dec. 24	Dec. 25	Dec. 30	Jan. 6	Jan. 13
8:00 am	5:00 p.m. 70			42	5
10:00 am	9:00 p.m. 135	41	192	128	11
12:00 pm				35	
Total:	205	41	192	205	16