

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Jesus Begins His Ministry: January 27, A.D. 2019

Thank You, All Pledgers

We are at the end of the 2019 Annual Giving Campaign. If you have intended to put in a pledge, either on paper or electronically, but never quite got to it, now is the time. Here's why: When you make a pledge, you let everyone on the Ascension team know how much of the 2019 plan they will be able to accomplish. The Music minister knows how much music he will be able to purchase, the Parish Life Committee can ascertain what sort of Ascension Sundays they can plan for, and I will know how many hours of supply staff I can count on. Every department works this way—and with the energy we're feeling this year, every department is eager to give more of their services, include more people in the mission and develop new programs for children and adults. Of course, if we were a tiny country church, we could simply pass the plate and live week to week with whatever generous folks gave that wee, but realistically today we need to plan for our current activities, and dream about how we can spread the Word of God to people who haven't heard it.

Will you make a pledge this week if you haven't already?

You will be pleased to know that we have received fewer than 150 pledges to date. Together with projected plate revenue, this represents a very sparse budget of somewhat over \$390,000.00, but it is only enough to do the minimum of what we have said we would do. There is no deficit. But there is no room for emergencies, special events, or unmet need of any kind. That is why we have included FRF (Facilities Reserve Fund) on the pledge form. Those of you who are homeowners have a good idea of how expensive (and uncomfortable!) a plumbing, electrical, or structural emergency can be. We are trying to be responsible stewards of our facility by creating a modest fund to cover these things, and to plan for their renewal. We experience joy when we receive these pledges, for it indicates enduring care for our church in a tangible way. Thank you for every dollar you have given, and continue to give.

I thank you, too, for all the personal comments and kind words you have included on your pledge forms. It is humbling to be aware of the burdens and challenges so many of our community must face, things that are invisible to the world, but very real to the bearer. I pray for you daily, and encourage you to pray for each other.

Finally, if there is something that you feel I should be aware of, that bothers you about our current direction, or strikes you as unjust or unfair, please let me know.

I will work with you.

Blessings,
Javier

TO OUR VISITORS, NEWCOMERS, AND SEEKERS

We thank you for joining us today and hope you will return often.

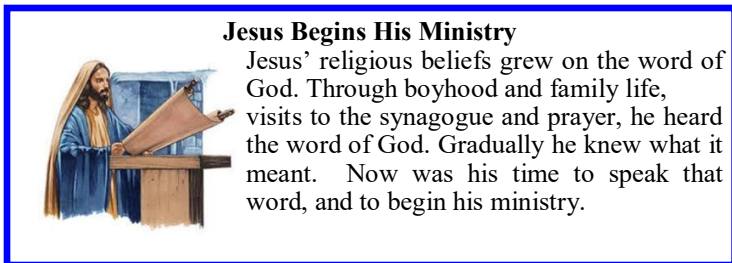
At Ascension, our mission is to "Represent Jesus Christ wherever we may be." We welcome you to our church family and invite you to fill out a welcome card (located in the rack at the ends of each pew).

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.



Jesus Begins His Ministry

Jesus' religious beliefs grew on the word of God. Through boyhood and family life, visits to the synagogue and prayer, he heard the word of God. Gradually he knew what it meant. Now was his time to speak that word, and to begin his ministry.

Ascension Youth Group

Ascension YG is open to all Youth in 6th grade and beyond. They need not attend Ascension. Today's meeting is from 6:00 p.m. to 8 p.m.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

A Joyful Path—10:00 a.m.

The class of Joyful Path at 10:00 will be studying "Jesus Begins His Ministry", 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 16 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.

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.

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

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.

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@ascensionmd.org

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.

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

PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF JANUARY 21, 2019

149 pledges for a total of \$344,580.00, 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:

- ◆ Robert & Cynthia Bonsib
- ◆ Rose Buck
- ◆ Brad Clark
- ◆ Georgette Dennis
- ◆ Amy Duncan
- ◆ George Eng
- ◆ Gerald FitzPatrick
- ◆ Geraldine Gil
- ◆ Lucia Pires
- ◆ Pamella Irons-Forth
- ◆ Erin Martinko
- ◆ Karen Olsen
- ◆ Lucille Roberson
- ◆ Maura Ryan
- ◆ Laura Shay
- ◆ Joyce Thompson
- ◆ Amy Van Dalinda
- ◆ Marybeth Daucher

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>

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

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

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 2019 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
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. Paul's Church, Baden and St. Mary's Chapel, Aquasco
St. Paul's Church, Rock Creek
St. Paul's Church, K Street
St. Paul's Church, Piney
Diocesan Convention: The Bishop, Diocesan Convention
Officers, Clerical and Lay Delegates,
Pray for the Mission and Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese
of Washington

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, January 28, 2019

- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 6:00 p.m. Spanish Class- AH
- 7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

Tuesday, January 29, 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 30, 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 31, 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, February 1, 2019

- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 8:00 p.m. Couples 12 Step Program—Library

Saturday, February 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, February 3, 2019

Preacher: The Rev. Nan Hildebrand

- 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. Vestry Meeting- Room 1

Attendance	Jan. 6	Jan. 13	Jan. 20
8:00 am	42	5	32
10:00 am	128	11	111
12:00 pm	35		73
Total:	205	16	216