

# WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

*Second Sunday in Lent: March 17, A.D. 2019*

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## Why the desert?

Last week, when I gave out small bags of sand at the conclusion of the service, I noticed looks of confusion as people peered at them wonderingly. I decided that it was either because you're not used to getting little presents from your priest, or possibly because I didn't do quite well enough about explaining what I was up to!

We know that Jesus began his ministry in the desert, not in Jerusalem. Further, he didn't seek signs of approval from scholars, religious or political figures. Taken together, this would be an inauspicious beginning for a new career. But the desert had some powerful aspects for Jesus. It provided time and space for the Holy Spirit to strengthen him in his true identity—the Beloved. It removed distractions and provided stillness and quiet. This was something that prophets and holy men had done for centuries in this part of the world. In the desert, after all, life is stripped to basics and everything, including weakness, is exposed. In the desert, Jesus was first tempted by the devil to turn stones into bread. Jesus was tempted because he was HUNGRY—and fully human.

Not many of us are truly hungry, but we can easily understand what true hunger might tempt us to do. Our suburban temptations are typically a little different: pursuit of worldly goods and excitements, status, and privilege; or worse, intolerance, unkindness and injustice. Perhaps this Lenten season will give us the time and opportunity see how tempted we may become by over reliance on our STRENGTHS as parents, caregivers, professionals, and community leaders. It is easy to feel exhausted from all this competence, to be tempted to push God aside in favor of ordinary struggles and concerns. This Lent, let us turn to God for identity and strength.

This week's little present is a small stone to bring to mind Jesus' temptation to turn stones into bread. I will be interested to know what you do with your little reminders. Take a picture and show me! I got an idea... You can post your picture on social media with the hashtag #AscensionMDLent

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.

#### Rock

While in the wilderness, Jesus was tempted by the devil to transform stone into bread. He knew he was not called to do this by God. He didn't change the rock into food. Later, Jesus became known for doing amazing things. He fed the hungry, offered encouragement, and healed people. When you are angry or sad, it may feel like your heart has become a rock. How does that feel? How can you help someone who has a "rock" heart? How does it feel to help others? Pray for a "tender heart!"

Read the story of Zacchaeus. (Luke 19) Jesus transform Zacchaeus. Jesus transform us and helps us make better choices. Is there a place in your life where you could make a better choice, with Jesus help?

#### 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](mailto:esekasi@gmail.com) if you would like to help.

## LIFE LONG LEARNING

### A Joyful Path

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.

We will use the story of Harriett Tubman's life. We will learn willpower using the story of the life and times of Harriett Tubman. She overcame many obstacles in her life and world and prospered and succeeded.

### Godly Play

This week's in Godly Play lessons. The Faces of Easter III and IV, continue to help us prepare for the Mystery of Easter. We move toward the Mystery of Easter by hearing the stories of Christ's journey toward the cross and resurrection. This week we focus on the face of Christ who was baptized and blessed as well as Christ's temptations in the desert.

## Wednesday Morning Book Group

Ascension's book group is 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 the first two chapters for this coming Wednesday.

## 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).

## 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

### 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 10:00 AM. 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.

### 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 March 24

### 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. This year the offering will be destined to end hunger.

**Midweek Eucharistic Service**

Wow, we had a very successful first Wednesday service! Our Bread and Soup was presented in Room 1, with our Eucharist beginning at 7 in the Chapel. We had a total of 31 attendees, and everyone went home with awe and joy. Great food and even better conversation. Next week, we will meet in Room 2 beginning at 6 pm and go to the Chapel by 7. And, by the way, there was a drawing of a Lenten gift and there will be one each week. So make plans to participate. It's fun! Contact Gary McLaughlin for any questions or clarifications. 301 340-7139 or [garymclaughlin100@gmail.com](mailto:garymclaughlin100@gmail.com). Bless and thank you for your contributions.

**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 April 7th, from 10:30 to 11:45 AM Contact Lucelia Justiniano at [lucelia@jezicfirm.com](mailto:lucelia@jezicfirm.com) or Cell phone (240)565-5590

“For I was hungry and you gave me food ...”



**Ending Hunger and Homelessness  
in Montgomery County**

A Social Justice Brunch & Panel Discussion  
**Sunday, March 31, 2019, 12:00-1:30 PM**

Join us in the Parish Hall after the 10:30 service for homemade soup, bread, and dessert, and a discussion with local leaders who will share insights into poverty and homelessness, what their organizations are doing to effect change, and how faith communities like ours can help.

Jacki Coyle

*Executive Director, Shepherd's Table*

Lynn Rose

*Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MCCH)*

Pamela Luckett

*Montgomery County Community Action Board*

*Suggested brunch donation \$20 per family*

*All proceeds to benefit Shepherd's Table and MCCH!*

**Good Shepherd Episcopal Church**

818 University Blvd. West, Silver Spring, MD 20901 [www.gsecmd.org](http://www.gsecmd.org)

**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

**Connection Hour Bible Study on The Women of the Cross**

From the Sundays of Lent from March 17th to April 7th, Reverends Eugene Wright and Nan Hildebrand will facilitate a bible study on the steadfast and courageous women who stayed with Jesus during the hours of his crucifixion. Our study and conversation will be a meditation on the role of their caregiving, prayer and their courageous love which led to their revelatory leadership. Our study will direct our thoughts to the anticipatory joy of Easter. Help yourself to some coffee and a treat at the 9am coffee hour and meet us in the library. Prayer and discussion will be from 9:10am to 9:50 am.

**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).

**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](http://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](http://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 *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:

2020: Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Luis Pedron  
2021: Berenice Rodriguez, Robert Waters, Susan McLaughlin  
2022: James A. Black, Kristen Keating, Wadai Dennis  
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. Patrick's Church, DC  
St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School, DC

## THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

### Monday, March 18, 2019

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1  
6:00 p.m. Spanish Class- Ascension House  
7:00 p.m. Listening Hearts Community- Library  
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

### Tuesday, March 19, 2019

7:00 a.m. Mobile Med  
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, March 20, 2019

10:00 a.m. Book Club- Library  
1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1  
7:00 p.m. Midweek Eucharistic Service—Main Church  
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1  
8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Room 2

### Thursday, March 21, 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 22, 2019

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

### Saturday, March 23, 2019

6:00 a.m. Ministerio Felicidad  
9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 2  
10:00 a.m. NoMoCo/ Vestry Retreat-Parish Hall  
11:00 a.m. Al-Anon—Parish Hall  
11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1  
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish- Room 1

### Sunday, March 24, 2019

Preacher: Peggy Ruppel

8:00 a.m. HE- Main Church  
9:10 a.m. Bible Study/ Women of the Cross- Library  
10:00 a.m. Bible School for 3+ year olds and under - Room 4  
10:00 a.m. Godly Play- Room 6  
10:00 a.m. HE - Main Church  
10:00 a.m. Joyful Path - Room 2  
10:00 a.m. St. Barnabas - Chapel  
12:00 p.m. Escuela dominical para niños- Room 2  
12:00 p.m. Euscaristia en español- Main Church  
6:00 a.m. Youth Group- Parish Hall

Attendance	Feb. 24	March 3	March 10
8:00 am	27	38	
10:00 am	114	104	134
12:00 pm	40	35	
Total:	181	177	134