

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Fifth Sunday of Easter : May 19, A.D. 2019

Love thy Neighbor

When I first came to the Church of the Ascension I felt almost invisible. I had a few friends, but no family, and very little English. The first time I had to introduce myself to the congregation, I took the precaution of writing my name and the fact that I came from Mexico City on a piece of paper. It was a lonesome time, made more difficult by my lack of clarity about what I was supposed to be doing.

I met a few people at the coffee hour and they were very nice. They seemed to be very quiet, and somehow, they appeared to be all related. I laugh when I think of this now, because I know that you are certainly not quiet, and definitely not related.

Many things have changed over the time I've been here. I've sensed a greater involvement between you and me, and between all of you with each other. And perhaps there's a growing sense of concern for the wider community, too. This fills me with joy, for it mirrors the ministry of Jesus. Living in a way that expresses awareness and concern for our neighbor is clearly what Jesus exhorted us to do—but this way of living goes against the dominant culture which values individuality and self-sufficiency. In truth, no matter how capable, healthy, or financially secure we are as individuals today, the day will come when the facade crumbles, and we need some sort of help or connection. Have you ever experienced this?

I have seen how generous you are as a group, my brothers and sisters. When the suffering of others has been pointed out, you can absolutely be counted on to respond. As an example, I mention your willingness to support our Rise Against Hunger initiative most recently. But now I urge you to do something harder: really SEE your neighbor; notice His painful gait; be aware that She hasn't been to church in a few weeks; ask after the absent Children; pray for them intentionally. By acting out the curiosity, kindness, and love that we have for each other, we are building the kind of community that we always say we want to live in—one where everyone is acknowledged, valued, and equally as likely to be helped in the community as to be a helper of others. This is the way of Love, and Presiding Bishop Michael Curry pointed it out to all of us.

If we accept the way of Love as superior to personal gratification we are not asked to be intrusive in others' lives. We need only show our interest and concern, our willingness to listen, our desire to make something a little easier for someone else. And, dare I say it?—we show up at the funerals of deceased parishioners to mourn with family and friends, showing by our presence alone that we valued this beloved soul.

Indeed, this is difficult. It takes initiative. But the results are magnificent, because the fibers that bind us become so strong that nothing from outside can break them. Everyone is included in the support, and that will include you, too.

So, if there is an emergency of some sort, call 911, then call me! Because I want to be included, too.

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. 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.

All children are welcome!

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 today at 9:30 a.m. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help today or in the future.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

A Joyful Path—10:00 a.m.

Since we have had such a small group of children attending Sunday School at 10:00 this year, we have been keeping everyone (preschool-5th grade) together in the Godly Play class, rather than offering both Joyful Path and Godly Play. We always meet in Room 4, the Place of Peace which is also our infant/toddler class. Our last day of 10:00 Sunday school will be June 9th. Hope all the kids can join us as we celebrate our year of learning together.

A Joyful Path—12:00 p.m.

Using the story of Harriet Tubman's life, we are learning about willpower. She overcame many obstacles in her life and world and prospered and succeeded.

Godly Play

The lesson of the Crosses is an enrichment lesson in which we explore with the children many different crosses: A Greek cross, a Latin cross, a Celtic cross, a budded cross, a St. Andrew's cross, an Egyptian cross and an anchor cross. We wonder about the shape and the story of each type of cross.

Spanish Class

Come and take part in Ascension's Spanish class on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Room 2. You don't need to know Spanish to come, we get together to learn and practice. For more information, contact Fr. Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org.

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 on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in Ascension's library. Please read chapters 16 and 17 for this coming Wednesday.

Thursday Morning Yoga

Yoga classes are offered on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in room 2, 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 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. Contact Claire Rosser at Cjrosser@aol.com or 301-275-0617 for more information.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Summer Work Camp for Youth

Work camp is from July 21st to 26th in Philadelphia, PA. Transportation, food and materials are provided in the \$350 fee. Scholarships are available. We need commitments to attend ASAP!

We need to Update your Information

2019 Church Directories are available on the table in the narthex. Have you moved? Had an addition to your family? Please check your information and if there is any change let the church office know so our records can be updated. Thank you.

Baptisms on the Day of Pentecost June 9

Are you interested in receiving the Sacrament of Baptism for yourself, your baby or other family members young or old? Speak with Fr. Javier during coffee hour, or contact him at the office at 301-948-0122.

Ascension T-shirts

If you are interested in getting an Ascension T-shirt, please call or email Berenice at 249-281-3736 or at berenice.rodriquez.84@gmail.com. T-shirts are \$10.

Get your Food Handlers card from eFoodhandlers

An eFoodhandlers card or certificate means you have been trained to properly handle and prepare food. Study and take the test for free; you'll get your printed food handlers card and certificate when you complete the program. Please provide a copy of your certificate to the office. To take the course click the link below.

<https://www.mdfoodhandlers.com/Register3.aspx>

Yard Sale & Car Wash - June 1

Put our Annual Summer Yard Sale and Car Wash on your calendar for Saturday, June 01, 2019 from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you have furniture or clothes to donate, bring them to the office. Come find treasure and have your car washed too! We also need help. If you are available, come join us. Contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org or at 202-903-6426 or at the Ascension Office.

Service Project June 9th from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

We are holding an Ascension-wide service project on June 9th for the benefit of the nonprofit Rise Against Hunger, <https://www.riseagainsthunger.org/>. We will be packing 10,000 meals. This is a family friendly event where everyone can contribute. We are still a bit short of our financial goal and are seeking monetary donations. Please arrive at 3:30 p.m.; the event will last for two hours or until completion. Please sign up in one of the clipboards in the back of the nave.

12-Month Evaluation for Father Javier

If you haven't filled out an evaluation form yet, please do so today! We need everyone to give an honest and complete evaluation of Padre Javier. Blank forms are on the table in the narthex; fill one out and put it in the green and gold box there.

2019 Survey of the Congregation regarding Service Satisfaction

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension has a long and storied past, with our white steeple chapel as a monument to the love and effort of those who have gone before. This past year has seen significant changes to the Sunday services of Ascension. Our goal is to expand the number of members of our Church, while staying in touch and in tune with the current congregation. As we approach the first-year anniversary of our three-service Sundays, we need clear, concrete input from our members to ascertain how well we might be achieving that goal. So, take a moment to look over this survey form and give us the benefit of your assessment of our progress. Be as frank as you can be and help us shore up the foundation of this wonderful house of worship. The survey will be totally anonymous, but if you would like to speak personally with Father Javier, or any member of the Vestry or Worship Committee, say so, and we will get in touch with you. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6MKNHRW>. Thank you and God bless you for being at Ascension.

Creation Care in the Episcopal Church

The online address for Presiding Bishop Curry's Creation Care project is <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/creation-care>. The project includes resources for expanding our awareness of and engagement with environmental issues. This includes an opportunity to pledge to greater service in environmental stewardship. Please consider taking the pledge. If the suggested responses don't seem to fit your vision, consider using local projects as a starting point.

Are you already a Worship Leader? Would you like to Become One?

The schedule for July, August and September is under development. Now is a great time to explore offering your services on an occasional Sunday morning.

For those currently on the service list, please *submit your black-out dates for the quarter before June 15*. Contact Sari Stoddard at sari.stoddard@verizon.net or 301-325-8791.

Help Wanted!

We are accepting applications from friendly folks to serve on the Welcome Teams at the 10:00 a.m. service. We will reveal everything you need to know, and you will work with practiced parishioners who enjoy their duties. The teams serve twice in each 13-week quarter. Speak to a current Welcome Team member and join in!

The Literacy Council of Montgomery County

The Literacy Council of Montgomery County needs English tutors to help adult learners gain a better understanding of the English language and improve their skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Volunteers are asked to commit to two hours of tutoring each week and should plan on two hours of preparation each week as well. No experience is necessary. For more information, visit <http://www.literacycouncilmcmd.org/>.

Pentecost Day Sunday Jun 9

The Christian holiday of Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles. Many believe this is the birth of the Church. We will be celebrating Pentecost on Sunday Jun 9. Wear something red, the color of the celebration! We need Gospel Readers in different languages.

Summer Bible Study: Parables

Some of Jesus's most picturesque but curious teachings are found in the Parables. Please join us in June and July for a friendly discussion and reflection upon some of Jesus's most valuable lessons. We will be meeting in room 2 at 6:30 on June 11, 18, 25, and July 2, 9, 16. Come join us for some or all of the meetings! Contact Fr. Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org to obtain a discussion guide or further questions.

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 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; 8 a.m. Mardia Dennis, mard908@gmail.com, 10 a.m. Dotty Pfadenhauer, dottypfa@aol.com and Georgana Maines, mainesgh@verizon.net

LEADERSHIP AT ASCENSION

Senior Warden: Betsy Hasegawa
Junior Warden: Zadinga Ogada

Vestry:

2020: Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Luis Pedrón
2021: Berenice Rodriguez, Bob Waters, Susan McLaughlin
2022: James 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:

Seabury Resources for Aging
Friendship Terrace
St. Mary's Court
Collington Episcopal Life Care Community
Pray for all Seniors and their Ministries in the Church

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, May 20, 2019

- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 6:00 p.m. Spanish Class—Room 2
- 7:00 p.m. Listening Heart Community—Library
- 7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

Tuesday, May 21, 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
- 8:30 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

Wednesday, May 22, 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. Spanish Bible Study-
- 7:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee - Library
- 8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Room 2

Thursday, May 23, 2019

- 10:00 a.m. Yoga—Room 2
- 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, May 24, 2019

Javier's Day Off

- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 2
- 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, May 26, 2019

Preacher: The Rev. Javier G. Ocampo

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Main Church
- 10:00 a.m. Bible School for 3 years old and under - Room 4
- 10:00 a.m. Godly Play Room 4
- 10:00 a.m. Joyful Path Room 4
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Main Church
- 10:00 a.m. St. Barnabas - Chapel
- 12:00 p.m. Escuela Dominical Para Niños - Room 2
- 12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist in Spanish - Main Church
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group—Parish Hall

Attendance	April 28	May 5	May 12
8:00 am	25	35	32
10:00 am	109	109	136
12:00 pm	20	32	55
Total:	154	176	223