

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Last Sunday after Pentecost: 25 November A.D. 2018

Advent 2018

Sunday, December 02—Monday, December 24

Do you remember the excitement you felt about Christmas when you were a child? The WAITING...the lists...the secret plans....the cooking and decorating that Mom did.....the coming of the Baby Jesus.....and the presents!!!! We still enjoy seeing that excitement in children, don't we? But it is a little bit bittersweet, because it reminds us that as we have aged, our excitement has abated. We have lost the sense of waiting for something wonderful, and are burdened by an awareness of all that needs to be done, managed and provided.

Happily, if we really get into the spirit of the Season of Advent, we can reconnect with the joy and purpose we used to feel at this time of year—and maybe spread a little more of the joy we can come to feel ourselves. Remember, Christmas is not just a giant party with excesses of all kinds, it is a chance to participate in a renewal of our Christian faith. This renewal is not given to us like a singular gift; it is the fruit of preparation, of getting our mind in the right channel, of waiting for Jesus. Every major holiday has certain preparations, decorations and expectations. Christmas can get us tied in knots over these preparations, sapping energy and enjoyment.

Let's have this Christmas season be different! I am proposing a simple, short retreat for this year's Advent Season. Our retreat is not supposed to be a magic potion or lengthy period of silence; instead, it will be a brief period of reflection and self examination. Before we are too bound up in obligations, we can experience the original Latin meaning of Retreat—to “pull back” in restful preparation for future activities. I expect that creativity and inspiration will flower when we take time away from our daily distractions. It will be good to get in touch with how much we need a Savior. It will be helpful to remember that our hope is in God—and to be refreshed by that hope. And it is valuable to experience more of God's peace in the hectic season prior to Christmas.

Our Retreat for Advent 2018 will be held here at Ascension on Dec.1, from 9am to 12 noon. We will serve a light lunch at its conclusion, and you are welcome to contribute any extras you may wish to bring.

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- ◆ That is all. It will be connected to your account and every time you want to shop and when you go to smile.amazon.com, your selection will be there and will track your purchases.

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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 become “Represent Jesus Christ Whatever We May be,” so we welcome you to this family of resident aliens. We invite you to fill out a welcome card (located in the rack at the ends of each pew).

TODAY AT ASCENSION

Preacher: Katie Beth Mikasa

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.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

A Joyful Path—10:00 a.m.

The members of A Joyful Path will make discoveries about Vietnamese Peace Activist Thich Nhat Hanh. He believed sharing his beliefs in practicing inner peace and mindfulness would bring peace to others and the world. Come join us in Room 2 during the 10 a.m. service.

A Joyful Path—12:00 p.m.

Escuela Dominical Para Nin@s. The members of A Joyful Path at noon will learn about the most important source of our tradition- The Bible. We will learn about some sayings which are biblical and others attributed to the Bible which are not. Come join us at 12:00 pm. (noon) in Room 2.

Godly Play

There will be no Godly Play today in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

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. There will be no meeting on the day before Thanksgiving. Please read Chapters 9 and 10 for Wednesday, November 28th.

Spanish Class

Come and take part in Ascension's Spanish Class on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 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 Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

Thursday Morning Yoga

Yoga classes are offered on Thursdays at 10:00 AM 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 will be 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.

Escuela Dominical Para Nin@s 12pm

The members of A Joyful Path will be learning how to concentrate our energy. We will use memory games and our story of the week "Sam digs a well." Come join us in Room 2 during the 12noon service.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Two Bows and Eight Strings At Ascension

Please join us for the violin and cello concert on December 16, 2018 at 4 p.m. Our guest artists are cellist Vasily Popov and young violinist Yuri Popov. The artists will present a program of baroque and classical music by Corelli, Bach, Vivaldi, Telemann, Popper, Tchaikovsky and Claire Rosser.

!Call for Folk and Christmas Music from your countries! Our guest musicians invite you to participate in the repertoire selection for this performance by sending music scores or links to sound/video recordings of the favorite Christmas songs from your countries. They would like to include a selection of Christmas melodies from the world's continents on the program. Please send the music or the links before the end of November via email to celloworld@hotmail.com. More information online: vasilypopov.com.

What? No Angels?

It is again the Holiday Season and time to think about the Epiphany Pageant. Epiphany is Sunday January 6th and the plan is to present it at 1:30pm in the Main Church. The pageant this year (New) will be titled "What? No Angels?" The story is about a flashy TV producer whom returns home to produce a flashy Christmas pageant and show off how talented they are.. The members of the cast teach them what is more important. There are parts for ages 3 and up. there are 12 speaking parts that range from Lisa a young girl. Paula /Paul Powers a top NY TV executive , a character named trouble; Church pastor, Mary and Joseph, Shepherds, 3 Wise folk, Stable animals, to angels. Times considered for rehearsal are : Sunday December 16th 11:30-12:30; Sunday December 23rd 11:30-12:30; Saturday January 5th 10-12 and of course Sunday January 6th. Please contact Gordon Donnelly after the 10am service. In rm 2 11:50am and at vagordon1@yahoo.com and 571-275-6637
Come join the fun.

Diocesan Latino Ministry Posada

As part of the Christmas celebration, traditional fiestas called Mexican Posadas (inns) are held for family, friends, and neighbors. A posada is the reenactment of the Census pilgrimage to Bethlehem by Mary and Joseph (los peregrinos) in search of a room. From December 16th through December 24th, Mexican families customarily hold a posada party one evening in each of their homes. The Latino Ministry Traditional Posada will be held on November 30, at 7:00 PM at St Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, located at 3820 Aspen Hill Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20906. Everyone is welcome to join us!

Coffee Supplies

During one of my Colleague Group meeting I shared with them the success of our "coffee hour" at Ascension. We have had on average of 50 to 60 people per Sunday. In light of the popularity of the coffee hour I am asking for people to volunteer to bring coffee cups, desert plates and cream for coffee. Please bring you donation on Sunday or during the week at office hours.

Thank you so much! Javier

Attention all Worship Leaders (and those interested in becoming a worship leader)

I will be preparing the new worship roster for the months of January, February and March shortly; if there you have any black-out dates for that period, or any changes specific to those months, please let me know as soon as possible. I won't be able to make any changes to the roster after December 9th. My email is sari.stoddard@verizon.net, and my cell phone is 301-325-8791 (call or text). Thanks, Sari Stoddard

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Ascension's Giving Tree

This advent season, a "Giving Tree" will adorn the Narthex, whereby we will join Ascension's youth group in supporting the wonderful work done by Comfort Cases, Inc. This excellent organization provides support and dignity to all children entering a foster home.

The ornaments on the tree will consist of two cards which will be color-coded for each age group and item. Simply separate the cards, hang one on the tree, take the other card with you for reference, and place the unwrapped item in the collection box located in the Narthex. Eventually, we hope the tree will be covered with many brightly colored cards. If you have any questions, feel free to contact fellow parishioners Sue and/or Richard Snay (tel: 301.977.5259; email: subarsy@aol.com).

Sermon Series: Sharing your Faith in the 21st Century

For the season of Advent, our preachers will be presenting a sermon series on the "Call to Evangelism of the 21st Century". Each Sunday, we will address the topic of spreading the Gospel according to our Lord Jesus Christ within the context of the Advent Collects and Readings. We look forward to a dialogue about Episcopal Evangelism with you as the series progresses. The series starts Advent I on December 2nd and ends on Advent IV December 23rd. Parishioners may wish to read the readings for those Sundays in advance of the sermon series to prepare. They can be found on the internet on "The Lectionary Page" or, in advance in the Sunday Bulletins published on our website .

Blessings, Javier and Nan

Ascension Retreat

This year for Advent, Ascension will host a half-day retreat of spoken reflection and contemplative prayer. It will take place in the Main Church on December 1, 2018 from 9 AM - 12 PM. We welcome you for a special "time-out" from all the hustle and the bustle of the holidays to remember the true purpose of Christmas. If you would like to sign up, here is the link: <https://bit.ly/2DR8k1z>

Javier & Nan

Blessing of the Cars

As we celebrate the beginning of the Christian year we pray that God be with us wherever we go. For that reason we will have the blessing of the cars on December 2 after the 12:00 pm services in the parking lot. If you want you can decorate your car with flowers.

Lady of Guadalupe Day

Join us on December 8 to celebrate the Lady of Guadalupe Day at 6:00 pm in the Main Church. After the service we will have a Mariachi Band to sing "Las Mañanitas" to the Virgin. If you want to experience more about the Latino Traditions, this would be a great opportunity to do it. After the service we would continue the celebration in the Undercroft with more Mariachi songs and Latin-American food.

PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF NOVEMBER 20, 2018

100 Pledges for the total of \$238,872.00 and 2 FRF donations for \$504

Thanks to those below who have pledged last week to the annual giving campaign:

- ◆ James A Black
- ◆ David & Stephanie Mitchell
- ◆ Monteath (Monty) Petersen
- ◆ Beverly Stennett

One Ascension Sunday

On December 30th, it will be the One Ascension Sunday. We are going to celebrate the end of one year and the start of another. Please join us after the service and bring a dish to share. Please plan on joining in on the fun. A clipboard will be passed around in the church so that we can have a rough idea of who is coming and what people are bringing.

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Men's Shelter Lunch Program

The Men's Shelter Lunch program provides bagged lunches for homeless men, assembled in the Undercroft once a month. Supplies are donated by Ascension members. Depending on the season, we provide forty to eighty lunches a month. The next program will be December 16 at 9:30 a.m. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help, or sign up at <http://bit.ly/>

Ministerio Felicidad

Ascension members prepare lunches and send love and prayers to day laborers in the neighborhood of the church. Join Javier at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 22 in the church kitchen. If you have any questions, Contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

Montgomery Hospice

Montgomery Hospice is a nonprofit hospice that has been serving the residents of Montgomery County for 36 years. We provide professional end-of-life care in homes, extended care facilities and at Casey House, our acute care facility. We are looking for new volunteers. Our 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.

Bethlehem Christmas Simulcast Service

On Dec. 16, 2017, share the heart of Christmas with the people of Bethlehem.

Palestinian Christians, whose ancestors date back to the first followers of Christ, continue to bear witness to their faith in Bethlehem, Palestine, this Christmas.

Join with congregations at Washington National Cathedral and Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem for this 11th annual Simulcast Christmas Service celebrating the birth of the Prince of Peace.

Readings, prayers and carols in both English and Arabic alternate between Washington, DC and Bethlehem via live simulcast • Open to the public and to people of all faiths • For additional information, please contact: jerusalem@edowmail.org

join us onsite

Washington National Cathedral
3101 Wisconsin Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20016

watch live online

cathedral.org/youtube.com/wncathedral

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
- ◆ Javier's Cell: 202.903.6426
- ◆ Prayer requests: Fill out a yellow prayer request card 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, voice mailbox 13
hildebrandnan@gmail.com

Deacon–Eugene Wright

Minister of Music–Andrew Kullberg
music@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 11

Parish Administrator - Lin Keene
office@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 10

Media Specialist–Eleni Hailu
comm@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 14

Altar Guild Directors, 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
Sari Stoddard, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Avin Lalmansingh, *Treasurer*

Christian Formation for Children: Megan Didavi ~ Christian
Formation for Youth: Angie Hight-Walker ~
Facilities: Ted Bedell ~ John Prussener
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, Chaptico, Christ Church, Clinton
Parish, Christ Church, Port Tobacco Parish
Christ Church, Prince George's Parish
Christ Church, Wayside Parish, Christ Episcopal School
St. Andrew's Church, College Park, St. Andrew's Church,
Leonardtown, St. Andrew's Episcopal School and St.
Andrew's Lower School, Potomac
Church of the Holy Comforter, St. Andrew's Parish
Daughters of the King

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, November 26

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

Tuesday, November 27

- 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, November 28

- 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Book Group—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, November 29

- 10:00 am. Yoga—Room 6
- 4:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Room 6
- 6:30 p.m. Al Anon/Spanish—Room 1
- 6:30 p.m. Ensemble—Main Church
- 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout—Room 2
- 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, November 30

- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

Saturday, December 1

- 9:00 a.m. Ascension Retreat—Main Church
- 9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 2
- 11:00 a.m. Al-Anon—Undercroft
- 11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
- 6:30 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish- Room 1

Sunday, December 2

- Preacher:** Javier Ocampo
- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist —Main Church
 - 10:00 a.m. Bible School for 3+ year olds & under — Room 4
 - 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist —Main Church
 - 10:00 a.m. Godly Play—Room 6
 - 10:00 a.m. Joyful Path—Room 2
 - 10:00 a.m. St. Barnabas—Chapel
 - 12:00 p.m. Escuela Dominical Para Nin@s—Room 1
 - 12:00 p.m. Eucaristia en Espanol—Main Church

Attendance	November 4	November 11	November 18
8:00a.m.	53	26	28
10:00 a.m.	150	129	120
12:00p.m.	40	32	22
Total:	243	186	170