

# WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

*Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost : 16 September A.D. 2018*

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## Why Do We Exchange the Kiss of Peace?

During our Sunday service we spend quite a bit of time “passing the peace” and I wouldn’t be surprised if you wondered why. Certainly, this is not some new-fangled hippie inclusion. In fact, the “kiss of peace” is an ancient traditional Christian greeting, sometimes called the “holy kiss”. It has been part of the Eucharistic liturgy from at least the 2nd century. Greeting in this way signifies a wish and blessing that peace be with the recipient. In ancient times, men and women worshipped in separate places, and the kiss they exchanged was mouth to mouth, not mouth to cheek. This seems strange to us, but was a common Middle Eastern convention of the day. By the Middle Ages, the custom had changed, and the peace would be exchanged by kissing a crucifix that was then handed around among those assembled. The source of the peace greeting is probably from the common Hebrew greeting shalom.

The purpose of this part of the liturgy is to recognize that we are reconciled in Christ Jesus, and that we should also be reconciled with each other. If you look into the Book of Common Prayer (p.409) you will discover that “when the priest sees that there is hatred between members of the congregation, he shall speak privately to each of them, telling them that they may not receive Communion until they have forgiven each other.” Ideally, we should go to anyone with whom we have a problem and offer them peace.

Giving the sign of peace, then, is not simply a time for friendly hellos and a quick exchange of news. Rather, it is for the serious business of participation in the reconciling love of God. All members of the Church help bring down the walls of division and bring forgiveness, even in the darkest situations. Just think of it: we are being totally rebellious against all the forces of hate, division and enmity in our world when we turn to friend or stranger and say “May the Peace of the Lord be With You!” Think of the power of those words!

Of course, I want to encourage all forms of friendly discourse. And I’ll bet that if you decide to come downstairs for the coffee hour after the service, you’ll find that coffee and pastry makes stories told at leisure even more pleasurable than a hurried comment in the aisle. Since you know that I love to talk, that goes for me, too! so you’ll see me in the Undercroft!

Javier

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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: The Rev. Javier G. Ocampo

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

### 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.

### A Joyful Path

#### Sunday September 16th

If you are in Grades 3-5 we welcome you on Sunday mornings at 10 to join A Joyful Path. We begin this year Searching for understanding and asking questions. As I ask questions and try to understand, my heart and mind stay open. Join us in Room 2 at 10 and share the Christian Path.

We will join the 10:00 service for Communion.

#### Sunday September 23

We welcome all 3rd to 5th graders to come and join A Joyful Path in Rm2 during the 10:00 service. This week we will continue to search for understanding by using the Bible as a tool.. Come join us on the path for fellowship and learning.

### Wednesday Morning Book Group

Around October 10th, we will start 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". For this coming Wednesday, please read Chapters 17, 18, and 19 of the book, "Take This Bread", by Sara Miles.

### 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 ocampoj@ascensionmd.org

### Thursday Morning Yoga

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

## LIFE AT ASCENSION

### Are you interested in helping someone in need of transportation get to church?

We have members at Ascension that are looking for a ride to Sunday service. Are you available, are you interested in giving them a lift? If you live in Gaithersburg and would like to assist please contact the parish administrator Lin Keene at office@ascensionmd.org

### 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 in severing and tell us where you are serving now. If you have any difficulties, please contact Lin Keene at office@ascensionmd.org

<https://servantkeeper.com/member-portal/ECOTA/registration/email>

### Healing Prayer Ministers

We are in desperate need of volunteers to provide this special function at our 8 o'clock service. Training and assistance will be provided to you on a one-on-one basis. Give your name to Father Javier, or call Lin at 301 948-0122.

### Parishioner with Cancer in Need of Transport to Doctors

Leslie Pool has cancer and is in need of help getting to her numerous medical appointments. Ascension is not her only source of help, but we are looking for a few people who can assist. Please contact Bubba Pflantzbaum at bubbashalom@gmail.com

### Ascension Youth Group Kicks off 2018-2019 Program!



Youth Group will begin on Sept 24th with a Cook-Out at the Hight Walkers @ 9701 Breckenridge Place in Montgomery Village. Please arrive by 6 pm for games, food and fellowship which will end at 8 pm. Meat, buns, and serving items will be provided. Please bring a dish or item to share.

All Youth in the 6th grade and older are encouraged to participate in the Ascension Youth Group Program!

The Group meets on 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings of each month from 6 pm to 8 pm, and typically in the Church undercroft. There will be signup sheet to provide dinners for Youth Group nights. We are one of the most active Youth Programs in Montgomery County-so come and see what all the excitement is about! We have fun and serve others, especially during our annual Mission Trip which occurs in the summer. As there will no longer be a morning education component for Youth in this age group, please plan to attend our Sunday evening program!

Text Angie 301.693.2399 with any questions.

### Continuing the Collection of Items for ComfortCases

The inspiring sermon last Sunday by Robert Scheer, founder of Comfort-Cases, has prompted many congregants to ask what more we can do to help this local non-profit organization bring dignity and hope to youth entering foster care. We will continue to have a bin in the narthex for collecting additional travel-sized toiletry items. Further information on ways to help the organization—from donating pajamas to helping pack comfort cases—can be found at [www.comfortcases.org](http://www.comfortcases.org). The organization is housed at 15825 Shady Grove Road, Suite 60, Rockville, MD 20850; phone: 202-253-0402.

## Invitation for Enid's Ordination

My dear friends,

Attached is an invitation to my ordination. I look forward to seeing you all, but if you cannot make it, I ask you to please keep me in your prayers. I also, want to inform you that I have received my parish assignment from Bishop Mariann. Unfortunately, I'm not returning to Ascension. I have been assigned to St. Nicholas in Germantown and St. Peter's in Poolesville. I will return to Ascension on Sunday, September 23rd, the day after ordination to serve and preach my first sermon as a deacon. After that, I will be moving on to my new church homes.

As sad as it is for me to leave Ascension, I'm grateful and thankful to our Lord for calling me to start a new journey in my life of service to all God's people. Service has no church boundaries, so although I may not be within the walls of Ascension, I am still a servant of all the people of God, including Ascension.

Thank you for all the love and support.

With love, joy, and grace, Enid



By the Grace of God and the people consenting  
The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop of Washington  
will ordain to the Sacred Order of Deacons in Christ's One Holy  
Catholic and Apostolic Church

Sandra Russline Bramble  
Enid Omodele Cole  
Joan Marie Crittenden  
Anne Elizabeth Derse  
Elizabeth Lovette Dixon  
Martha Josephine Eldredge  
Susan Cheryl Fritz  
Janice Marie Hicks  
Lesley Werner Krauland  
Kathryn Evans McMahon  
Steven Eugene Seely  
Eugene Nat Wright

on Saturday, September 22, 2018, 10:00 a.m.  
at the Cathedral Church of St. Peter and St. Paul  
3101 Wisconsin Avenue, NW,  
Washington, District of Columbia

Your prayers and presence are requested.  
Clergy: Red Stoles

Reception to follow in the Bishop's Garden. Clergy planning to  
process please rsvp to [www.edow.org/ordinationrsvp](http://www.edow.org/ordinationrsvp)  
by September 14, 2018.

## Request for Updating your Email Address

We are in the process of updating your information in our system. Please make sure we have your correct email address.

## Fill the Bin for Comfort Case

Ascension's Youth Group has been supporting the important work of a local non-profit organization—Comfort Cases, that provides services to children as they head into foster care. We are delivering the Comfort Cases today leading the 10 a.m. service. If you bring supplies to donate, a bin is still available at Narthex.

## Fiesta de las Americas

In some Latin American countries, in September we celebrate our Independence. For this reason, we are organizing a party in the Undercroft Commons on Sunday, September 16, after the 12:00 p.m. service. We invite everyone to attend!

## Bishop's Visit and One Ascension Sunday

Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde spends much of her time out and about in the congregations of the diocese. In addition, she makes an official visitation to each of the diocese's 88 congregations once every three years. These visits occur on Sunday mornings, and the schedule is typically announced each summer. In years in which the bishop does not visit, a member of her senior staff visits instead. This year she will come to Ascension on Sunday September 30th, since it is also One Ascension Sunday we will have just one service at 10:00 a.m. After the service we will have a potluck. Please sign up if you want to bring any food or drink.

## Healing Prayer Ministers

We are in desperate need of volunteers to provide this special function at our 8 o'clock service. Training and assistance will be provided to you on a one-on-one basis. Give your name to Father Javier, or call Lin at 301 948-0122.

## 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 September 16 at 11:15 a.m. Contact Edith at [esekasi@gmail.com](mailto: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, September 29 in the church kitchen. If you have any questions, Contact Javier at [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto: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.

## 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

**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, dotty@pfad@aol.com  
and Georgana Maines, mainesgnh@verizon.net

## LEADERSHIP AT ASCENSION

**Senior Warden:** Betsy Hasegawa

**Junior Warden:** Janet King

### Vestry:

2019: Rose Buck, Zadinga Ogada, 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: St. Matthew's Church/San Mateo, Hyattsville  
St. Matthew's Day School, Hyattsville  
United Nations International Day of Peace (September 21) -  
Pray for peace and benevolence among all nations  
Remember and pray for all Jewish people during the holy  
time of Yom Kippur (September 19)  
Deacons Ordination Service (September 22) - Pray for those  
who are to be ordained to the diaconate

## THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

### Monday, September 17

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

### Tuesday, September 18

- 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, September 19

- 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Book Group—Library
- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 4:00 p.m. Stuffing Party—Room 2
- 7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
- 7:30 p.m. Worship Committee—Library
- 8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Room 2

### Thursday, September 20

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

### Friday, September 21

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

### Saturday, September 22

- 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, September 23

- Preacher: Enid Cole
- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist —Main Church  
Bible School for 3+ year olds & under — Main Church
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist —Main Church
- 10:00 a.m. Godly Play—Room 6
- 10:00 a.m. Joyful Path—Room 2
- 12:00 p.m. Escuela Dominical Para Niños - Room 2
- 12:00 p.m. Eucaristia en Espanol—Main Church
- 1:30 p.m. Maryland Uke Jam—Chapel
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group—Undercroft

Attendance	August 26	September 2	September 9
8:00a.m.	29	28	24
10:00 a.m.	104	83	103
12:00p.m.	30	40	25
Total:	163	151	152