

This Week at Ascension

Resurrection: Dying into Life

"The Resurrection is not a one-time miracle that proved Jesus was God. Jesus' death and resurrection name and reveal what is happening everywhere and all the time in God and in everything God creates. Reality is always moving toward resurrection. As prayers of the Catholic funeral Mass affirm, "Life is not ended but merely changed." This is the divine mystery of transformation, fully evident in the entire physical universe. This is why I believe in the physical resurrection of Jesus, even if it is a new kind of physicality, which Paul struggles to describe (see 1 Corinthians 15:35).

"Resurrection is not an isolated miracle as much as it is an enduring relationship. The best way to speak about the Resurrection is not to say "Jesus rose from the dead"—as if it was self-generated—but to say "Jesus was raised from the dead" (as many early texts state). The Eternal Christ is thus revealed as the map, the blueprint, the "promise," "pledge," and "guarantee" (Paul's metaphors) of what is happening everywhere, all summed up in one person so we can see it in personified and singular form.

"I think this is why Jesus usually called himself "The Son of Man," as in the Archetypal Human. His resurrection is not so much a miracle that we can argue about, believe, or disbelieve, but an invitation to look deeper at the pattern of death and rising in all that is human. Jesus, or any member of "the Body of Christ," cannot really die because we are all participating in something eternal—the Universal Christ that has existed "from the beginning."

"Death is not just the death of the physical body, but all the times we hit bottom and must let go of how we thought life should be and surrender to a Larger Power. And in that sense, we all probably go through many deaths in our lifetime. These deaths to the small self are tipping points, opportunities to choose transformation early. Unfortunately, most people turn bitter and look for someone to blame. So their death is indeed death for them, because they close down to growth and new life.

"But if you do choose to walk through the depths—even the depths of your own sin and mistakes—you will come out the other side, knowing you've been taken there by a Source larger than yourself. Surely this is what it means to be saved. Being saved doesn't mean that you are any better than anyone else or will be whisked off into heaven. It means you've allowed and accepted the mystery of transformation here and now. And as now, so later!

"If we are to speak of miracles, the most miraculous thing of all is that God uses the very thing that would normally destroy you—the tragic, sorrowful, painful, or unjust—to transform and enlighten you. Now you are indestructible; there are no dead ends. This is what we mean when we say we are "saved by the death and

resurrection of Jesus.” This is not a one-time cosmic transaction, but the constant pattern of all growth and change. Jesus is indeed saving the world by guiding us through all would-be deaths to a life that is always bigger than death.”

- Richard Rohr

Drawing from his own Franciscan heritage and other wisdom traditions, Richard Rohr reframes neglected or misunderstood teachings to reveal the foundations of contemplative Christianity and the universe itself: God as loving relationship.

HEADLINERS

Spring Party

A flyer for a Spring Party. The background is a light orange color with a subtle pattern of small circles. On the left side, there is a vertical branch with several black leaves and three birds: one light blue bird flying at the top, and two black birds perched on the branch. At the bottom of the flyer, there is a decorative border of green shamrocks. In the top right corner, there is a green rectangular box with the text "Spring is here Let's celebrate!". In the center, there is text providing details about the event. In the bottom right corner, there is a red circular badge with the text "\$15 Dinner & 1 drink".

**Spring is here
Let's celebrate!**

Church of the Ascension invites you to our
Spring celebration.

When: Saturday, April 14th 2018
Where: 205 South Summit Ave
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
Party Room
Time: 7:30 pm

Admission is free to children 12 & under

There will be music,
food, drinks and desserts sold
separately for children
don't miss out!

\$15
Dinner &
1 drink

For more information contact Berenice at berenice.rodriquez.84@gmail.com, Luis at lrpedron@gmail.com or Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org.

April Service Schedule

April 8th :

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

April 15th & 22nd:

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
11:00 a.m. Eucaristia en Espanol
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

April 29 :

10:00 a.m. One Ascension/Youth Sunday - Holy Eucharist

Thank you!

Last Sunday was not only a great celebration of thanksgiving for my decade here but a real celebration of Ascension! Thank you all for your companionship on the Way and for your many kind words - written and spoken - and gifts.

Love, Randy

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Wednesday Morning Book Group

We are reading Brian McLaren's latest book entitled *The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion is Seeking a Better Way to be Christian*. Here's a description from Amazon.com (<http://amzn.to/2nGabwg>): "Brian McLaren, a leading voice in contemporary religion, argues that— notwithstanding the dire headlines about the demise of faith and drop in church attendance—Christian faith is not dying. Rather, it is embarking on a once-in-an-era spiritual shift. For millions, the journey has already begun." The group meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in Ascension's library. Read Chapters 4 and 5 for this coming Wednesday.

Tai Chi

Tai Chi classes are offered 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.

Thursday Morning Yoga

There is yoga class every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in Chapel. These are gentle, entry level classes anyone may enjoy. No props are needed. There are some mats, blocks and blankets for those who want them. If you have your own mat, bring it. Wear loose fitting, comfortable clothing.

Beginning April 12, Tina Lightner-Morris will be teaching this class, also at 10:00 a.m. on Thursdays (except 4/19). We will begin with the Joint Freeing Series, move into some Sun Salutations and finish with an iRest/yoga nidra guided mindful meditation. Please join us for this amazing practice of embodied prayer!"

Godly Play & A Joyful Path

Godly Play and Joyful Path will not meet on March 25 due to the observance of Easter Sunday.

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

There is no class on Monday April 2nd.

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Make a difference for someone facing the end of life

JSSA Hospice and Transitions Volunteer Training May 6 and 7, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Rockville, MD.

JSSA, a non-sectarian community agency, is seeking volunteers over the age of 18 to help enhance the quality of life of individuals and families facing life-threatening or terminal illness. JSSA offers specialized training for prospective volunteers for its Hospice and Transitions programs. Following the training,

volunteers are asked to commit to a minimum of 2 hours a week visiting patients in the Hospice or Transitions programs. If you're interested please fill out the application. Or contact Carrie Myatt, Volunteer Coordinator, at 301-816- 2611 or cmyatt@jssa.org

Prison Ministry

Bubba Pflantzbaum has been writing to an inmate in Cumberland for about 10 years, providing friendship and access to information. His name is Jim, and he may be released in the next year or so. Jim is always looking for people to correspond with, so if you are interested in getting involved with this ministry, please email Bubba at bubbashalom@gmail.com

2018 Lenten 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 Rice Bowl offering goes to Gaithersburg HELP, an agency that provides material support to struggling residents of all kinds. Ascension's food offering goes to the HELP food pantry on Muddy Branch Rd. Parish member Melanie Mitchell has been heavily involved with HELP board for many years. Former Rector Joe Clark served two terms as president of the HELP board.

This Sunday is the last day to submit an offering.

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, April 29 in the church kitchen. If you have any question, Contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

Men's Shelter Lunch Preparation

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 is April 15 at 10:15 a.m. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help, or sign up at <http://bit.ly/1VAKEz8>.

Gaithersburg HELP

This organization provides emergency food and other support to needy families in Gaithersburg. Non-perishable food collected at Ascension every week, and during specific holiday in-gatherings, helps to stock the pantry. Donations may be brought to church at any time and left in the narthex. For more information, contact Melanie Mitchell at 301.519.1074 or melanie.mitchell@verizon.net

Mobile Med

Mobile Med: Ascension hosts the Mobile Med van on Tuesday at Ascension House (where the van parks) and the Chapel (where the patients wait). We have volunteers that man the waiting room from 7a-3p. You do NOT need medical knowledge or training - we act as hosts to the patients as they wait. We welcome new volunteers!

Jean Cohn
spangle1@comcast.net
240.372.3652.

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 and a three-day training. For more information, call 301-921-4400 or visit www.montgomeryhospice.org/volunteer

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Zumba at Ascension

We will have Zumba classes at Ascension every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Undercroft Commons. Zumba is a dance fitness program created by Colombian dancer and choreographer Alberto "Beto" Perez during the 1990s. Zumba involves dance and aerobic movements performed to energetic music. The choreography incorporates hip -hop, soca, samba, salsa, merengue and mambo.

Notes for Randy

You may still leave notes for Randy and place them in the gold box in Narthex.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers For Those Whose Lives are Closely Linked With Ours: All the Parishes in the Diocese of Washington, All the Parish Altar Guilds of the Diocese, Pray in thanksgiving for the life and witness of Martin Luther King, Jr.

We pray for comfort, healing, courage and hope for Harriette Eleanor Cooper, Mike Darracott, Juan Ernesto Escamilla, Delores Finister, Sally and William Glick, Margaret Joseph, Ophelia Yalley-Ogunru, Sarah Olsen, Easton Pool, Fran Spina, Ruthie Swain, Suzanne Winterhalter, Sharon Wood, and all those who, in this tran

sitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

QUICK LINKS

[Link to Service Leaflets for Easter and Holy Week Services](#)

[Link to Podcast of Randy's Sermon on Sunday, March 18: "The Spectrum of Love"](#)

[Link to Sermon and Other Videos page](#)

[Link to the Episcopal Diocese of Washington's Website](#)