



"We are ambassadors who represent Christ." – 2 Corinthians 5:20

# THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

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## Our Columbarium at the Church of the Ascension

The Advent Season reminds us of the duality of life; the good news and the bad news, you might say. While looking forward to the promise of new life and the expectation that it will bring hope and joy, we are also reminded that there will come a last day for all of us. Advent is a time of preparation for the next chapter; for the infant Jesus, also for the last judgement, and for our own passing.

Thanks to a generous gift from the Grey Harman Froelich family, longtime members of the Church of the Ascension, we are fortunate to have our own columbarium. Have you heard this word before? It comes from the Latin "columba", meaning dove, and "columbarium" connoting a birdhouse, or dovecote for the doves. If you look out the windows of the nave into the peaceful garden below, you will see our columbarium. It is an attractive brick structure with multiple niches to contain the cremated remains of Ascension clergy or parishioners. It is a respectful way to contain the remains of a loved one in a peaceful, permanently maintained environment. Perhaps you have noticed the names engraved on the niches. This indicates the family or individual interred in the niche (as each niche can contain up to three separate urns within). A few parishioners have told me that they find it comforting to know that they will remain in such a peaceful place among people from the church. Others have said that they appreciate the modest cost of the columbarium, its decorum and resource sparing.

Niches in the columbarium can be reserved by a one-third payment of the subscription fee, currently set at \$1,250.00 per niche, or \$250.00 per in-ground interment. The per niche fee includes an interment container, an engraved slate niche cover and perpetual care of the area. More information is available from members of the vestry, or from me, Padre Javier, at [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org).

This is the season for announcements of scary possibilities: a new baby, a new king, a new world order. But the angel always says: “Be not afraid!” Instead, consider, plan, and trust in the Lord.

Many Blessings,

Javier

## HEADLINERS

### Schedule of December Celebrations 2018

There are just enough minor differences from last year that this notice may help to keep all the joyous events straightened out for your calendar.

#### **Sunday, Dec. 16 — 3rd Sunday of Advent**

The 12 noon service will be followed by a traditional Latino Christmas feast. Everyone is welcome. Santa will be visiting Ascension.

#### **Sunday, Dec. 23 — 4th Sunday of Advent**

All services will be held at their normal times. 8:00 a.m.; 10:00 a.m.; 12 noon.

#### **Monday, Dec. 24—Christmas Eve—Two services:**

5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist for families with children.

9:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Service with carols

**Tuesday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day** - A single service at 10 a.m.

### Ascension Youth Group

NO Youth Group December 9th, but the Youth Holiday party will be on December 16th. Youth—please vote of your preference of location to Angie and Trevor in text!

## **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).

## **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.

## **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

## **One Ascension Sunday**

On December 30th, it will be 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.

There will be an insert sign-up in the Sunday Service Bulletin so that we can have a rough idea of who is coming and what people are bringing.

## **Christmas Flowers**

If you would like to donate toward Christmas Flowers, please use the "Flower Offering" envelopes on the table in the Narthex. Thanks, Sari

## **Send Your Photos**

Have you taken any pictures of the event held here at Ascension? We would like it if you would share those photos with us. We are compiling a folder of photos take through out 2018 and throughout the coming years.

## **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](mailto:celloworld@hotmail.com). More information online: [vasilypopov.com](http://vasilypopov.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

## **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.

## **Our Choir is Recruiting New Members!**

A new and exciting musical opportunity awaits you! The Ascension Choir is currently recruiting new members. Singers of all ages, abilities, and voice parts are welcome to participate. If you're interested, come visit our weekly choir rehearsals on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm in the Choir Room- no audition required and no strings attached.

We'd love to see you there!

Questions? Contact Andrew Kullberg, [music@ascensionmd.org](mailto:music@ascensionmd.org)

## **Continuing the Collection of Items for ComfortCases**

The inspiring sermon in September by Robert Scheer, founder of ComfortCases, 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.

## LIFE LONG LEARNING

### **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. We will not be meeting in the library on December 12th. Please read Chapter 12 for Wednesday, December 19th.

### **iRest Guided Meditation: Holiday Offering**

This is a healing, deeply relaxing, guided meditation.  
In honor of the season, meditations will be Christ-centered.  
Thursdays @ Church of the Ascension, 6:30 – 7:30 pm  
December 6, 13, 20  
with Dr. Tina Lightner-Morris, LCPC

Cost: canned food & if you can, a love offering to Ascension

All are welcome.  
Please bring your blanket to stay warm.

### **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](mailto:Cjrosser@aol.com) if you have any questions.

## **Thursday Morning Yoga Class**

Yoga classes are offered on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel, 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.

Lucia Pires is from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She is a 500-hour Pranakriya Yoga School of Healing Arts certified yoga teacher. Her training focuses on cultivating and enhancing the relationship of the student with his or her life force through yoga postures, breath work and meditation, in order to create change in awareness and help the student move towards wholeness and greater aliveness. She completed her professional training in 2015.

Lucia is the mother of two boys, ages 14 and 10, and when they give her a little break she enjoys reading, writing, long walks in nature and dancing.

## **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 Javier at [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org)

# **LIFE AT ASCENSION**

## **Servant Keeper—We see the Change**

Thank you for updating your information and becoming familiar with Ascension's database, Servant Keeper. We can see the changes you've made to your addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses; we can also see that some of you have uploaded pictures of yourselves. This is amazing. Let me encourage you to continue to spread the word to others on how easy it is to get into the database and navigate it. I'm sure you've discovered how to see your contributions and print statements as needed. I hope you have found this to be a valuable tool and continue finding yourself entering the portal. If you have not had the opportunity to log into Servant Keeper or are having difficulties logging in, please let me know.

If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me at [office@ascensionmd.org](mailto:office@ascensionmd.org) or stop by the office. Lin Keene

## Godly Play

This week we begin the Advent season. The Godly Play Advent lessons help us prepare for the Mystery of Christmas. We move toward Bethlehem, guided by the pointing prophets, with the Holy Family, the shepherds and the Magi. We arrive at the birth of Jesus and the lighting of the Christ Candle in the church. This week we remember the prophets who pointed the way to Bethlehem.

This is the second week of Advent. The Godly Play Advent lessons help us prepare for the Mystery of Christmas. We move toward Bethlehem, guided by the pointing prophets, with the Holy Family, the shepherds and the Magi. We arrive at the birth of Jesus and the lighting of the Christ Candle in the church. This week, we focus on the Holy Family and their journey to Bethlehem.

## A Joyful Path

### **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 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.

# CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

## 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](http://www.montgomeryhospice.org/volunteer)

### **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 question, Contact Javier at [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto: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 will be on December 16 at 9:30 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/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](mailto:melanie.mitchell@verizon.net)

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# PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers For Those Whose Lives are Closely Linked With Ours: Episcopal Church Women, United Thank Offering, International Human Rights Day (December 10)

We pray for comfort, healing, courage and hope for Sciou Broderick, Harriette Eleanor Cooper, Fredy Diaz, Peggy Donnellon, Cynthia Dorssett, The Rev. Jorge Garcia, Patricia Griffith, Tana Hight, Marcia Nobel, Daniel and Aileen Pagan, Olive Rivera, Ruthie Swain, Fran Spina, Michelle Tapia, Samuel Tellu, Douglas Wasikye, Suzanne Winterhalter, Christine Yankus-Eng, and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, as well as for all those on our extended healing prayer list.

## QUICK LINKS

[Link to Katie's Sunday November 25 Sermon: "He Is Not Safe But He Is Good"](#)

[Link to the Service Bulletin](#)

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

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



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