

# *This Week at Ascension*

## Christmas Service Schedule



### Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with the 11:15 Ensemble: Main Church

### Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist for Families and Children: Main Church  
7:00 p.m. Festival Eucharist with the Great Choir of Ascension: Main Church  
7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist in Spanish: Chapel  
9:00 p.m. Festival Eucharist with the Great Choir of Ascension: Main Church

### Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Organ and Ensemble: Main Church

### The First Sunday After Christmas, Sunday, December 31

*"One Ascension Sunday"*

10:00 a.m. Bilingual Lessons & Carols: Main Church

*There will be no Christian Formation on Sunday,  
December 24 or December 31.*

## HEADLINERS

### **Latino Ministry Posada**

At 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 9th, Ascension will host the Posada of the Latino Ministry of the Diocese of Washington. Members of all the Latino congregations will be visiting Ascension and everybody is welcome to join us.

### **One Ascension Sunday—December 31st**

One Ascension Sunday is fast approaching. 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. The main course will be spiral cut

ham. We need side dishes such as mac and cheese, potatoes, green beans, salads, desserts or your favorite dish. Please plan on joining in on the fun. A clipboard will again be passed around in the church so that we can have a rough idea of who is coming and what people are bringing.

Janet King, for the Parish Life Committee

### **Master the Calendar!**

Did you know that Ascension keeps a master calendar, managed by our Parish Administrator Lin Keene, that organizes and displays all uses of all our space all the time? It's true. As you and your group decide to meet, reach out to Lin or check the calendar on the website to find a room you can use on the date you prefer. To book the room, contact Lin by phone: [301-948- 0122](tel:301-948-0122) or by email : [office@ascensionmd.org](mailto:office@ascensionmd.org). and she will add you to the

calendar. If there's a conflict, she will let you know and help you find an alternative space, day, or time.

It makes meeting easy. If you have any questions, please contact Lin.

Thanks all,

Betsy Hasegawa

### **Lost and Found**

Lost and found is located on the shelf above the coat area by work room 5. Items found will kept for a period of three weeks.

### **Volunteers Needed**

We are looking for volunteers for the church office from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Contact Lin at [office@ascensionmd.org](mailto:office@ascensionmd.org)

## LIFE LONG LEARNING

### **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.

There will be no Tai Chi on December 21st and 28th. We will resume in January. Tai Chi will be cancelled any Thursday that schools are closed for bad weather this winter. Contact Claire Rosser at [301.275.0617](tel:301.275.0617) or [Cjrosser@aol.com](mailto:Cjrosser@aol.com) if you have any questions.

### **Wednesday Book Group: *Christ Actually: Reimagining Faith in the Modern Age***

Read the conclusion in preparation for Wednesday's discussion. The book group meets in the Library from 10:00—11:30 a.m.

### **Godly Play**

We are now in 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 month we remember the prophets who pointed the way to Bethlehem and the Holy Family and their journey to Bethlehem.

### **Joyful Path**

Members of A Joyful Path will be learning that the whole world is home and we are a divine family.. We use the following passage from Galatians to start: "Galatians 3:26-28 – For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and

female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

A craft project and a great seasonal story will complete our lesson for the day, Please come and join us in Rm 11 downstairs after the 9am service. See you there.

### **No Spanish Class on December 4**

There will be no Spanish class this week. We will resume on December 11.

## CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

### **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 23 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 Lunches program provides bagged lunches, assembled in the Undercroft Commons once a month. Supplies are donated by Ascension members. Depending on the season, we provide forty to eighty lunches a month.

[Read more](#)

### **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](tel:301.519.1074) or [melanie.mitchell@verizon.net](mailto:melanie.mitchell@verizon.net)

## LIFE AT ASCENSION

### **Epiphany Pageant - The King's Birthday**

Wanted - Participants young and old; for speaking and nonspeaking parts in our Epiphany Pageant. Needed-Assistant Director(s), Piano Accompanist, Greeter, 4 Narrators, Innkeeper, Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Inn Workers, Stars, Angels, Kings, and Stable Animals. We have the scripts and the costumes we just need you. The pageant will tentatively be on Sunday January 7th. at the 5:00 p.m. service. Rehearsals on Saturday December 23, 30th and January 6th. from 9:00-10:30 a.m. Please contact Gordon Donnelly. I sing in the choir at 9:00 a.m. , teach in Room 11 at 10:15 a.m., in the instrumental ensemble for the 11:15 a.m. My e-mail is [vagordon1@yahoo.com](mailto:vagordon1@yahoo.com)

Thanks,

Gordon

### **What is a "Contemplative Eucharist?"**

As you may know we are trying this out at 5:00 p.m. on Sundays in the Chapel. It features meditative easy to sing a capella chants (think 'Taize'), and moments of silence. Rather than a full length sermon the celebrant offers a reflection on the biblical readings of the day and invites a response from the congregation. Intercessions and Communion complete the service.—RAL

## 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 10 after the 11:00 am services in the parking lot. If you want you can decorate your car with flowers.

## Lady of Guadalupe Day

Join us on Saturday, December 16 to celebrate the Lady of Guadalupe Day at 7:00 p.m. 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

The Pledge Campaign has been extended into December 2018 to reach all congregation members who have not yet pledged.

## Yourh Group

The Northern Montgomery County (NoMoCo) Episcopal Churches will have a bowling activity on Sunday December 3rd from 4:00 p.m.—5:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 with unlimited cheese pizza and soda, shoe rental and 1.5 hours of bowling included. Contact Angie if you want to go at [angela.hightwalker@gmail.com](mailto:angela.hightwalker@gmail.com)

## Worship Roster

The next worship roster is underway, for the first three months of 2018. If you have any dates you are not available, please email let me know by e-mail at [sari.stoddard@verizon.net](mailto:sari.stoddard@verizon.net). Thank you to all who assist in our services

# PRAYER REQUEST

Prayers For Those Whose Lives are Closely Linked With Ours: St. Nicholas' Parish, Germantown, Diocesan Latino Ministry, Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington, Pray for all Jewish people as they celebrate Chanukah (December 3-10), Deacons Retreat (December 1-2) - Pray for all deacons and those in formation for the diaconate

Pray for Comfort, Healing, Courage, and Hope: Harriette, Mike, Sall & William, Sue, Melanie, Mitchell, Fran, Suzanne and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

We pray for peace in the world and all who are serving our country here and abroad, especially those in harm's way, and their families.

We pray for all special intentions, and those on our extended Healing Prayer List.

# Quick Links

[Link to Service Leaflets for December 3](#)

[Link to Podcast of Randy's Sermon on Sunday, November 26: " The Kind of King"](#)

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