



THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

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.



HEADLINERS

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.

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

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. 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.

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.

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 to volunteer, here is the link: <https://bit.ly/2DR8k1z>

Javier & Nan

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

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.

Thanksgiving Day Eucharist

We will celebrate Thanksgiving in the spirit of gratitude for creation and how the earth God has given us supports our lives. Join us tomorrow in the main church at 10:00 a.m. for a Eucharist that will reconnect us to a sense of the goodness of creation, and creation as the body of God.

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

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.

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

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

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.

There is no Tai Chi class tomorrow.

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 lifeforce 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.

There is no Yoga class tomorrow.

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

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 or stop by the office.

Lin Keene

Godly Play

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

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 Niños. 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.

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

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, November 24 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 will be on 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/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

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

We pray for comfort, healing, courage and hope for Fran Spina, Suzanne Winterhalter, Harriette Eleanor Cooper, Samuel Tellu, Fredy Diaz, Peggy Donnellon, Cinthya Dorssett, Wendy Jo Perkins, Daniel and Aileen Pagan, Jim and Carol Keenan, Ruthie Swain, Olive Rivera, Genia Saniul-Heinig, Ashley Alford, Kathy Bainbridge, Simon James Mwamba, Sciou Broderick, Tana Hight, Bubba Pflantzbaum, Patricia Griffith, Michelle Tapia, Douglas Wasikye, and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

QUICK LINKS

[Link to Nan's Sunday November 11 Sermon: "Love Your Neighbors"](#)

[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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