

# WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

*The Second Sunday of Advent: 9 December A.D. 2018*

## 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 judgment, 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 [ocampoj@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampoj@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

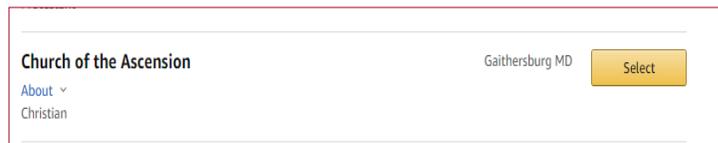
### Amazon Smile

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to our church.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)), you are prompted -

- ◆ To login with your Amazon Account.
- ◆ Then search for “Church of the Ascension” and select Church of the Ascension from the list with location “Gaithersburg MD”
- ◆ That is all. It will be connected to your account; every time you shop, and when you go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), your selection will be there and will track your purchases.

Just make sure you select the right “Church of the Ascension” at Gaithersburg MD as this:



The screenshot shows a search result for "Church of the Ascension" in Gaithersburg MD. The text "Church of the Ascension" is displayed in blue, with "Gaithersburg MD" in grey to its right. Below the text, there is a small dropdown menu with "About" and "Christian" options. A yellow "Select" button is positioned to the right of the search results.

**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 “Represent Jesus Christ wherever we may be.” We welcome you to our church family and invite you to fill out a welcome card (located in the rack at the ends of each pew).

## TODAY AT ASCENSION

**Preacher: Nan Hildebrand**

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

### 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.

### Godly Play

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.

### 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 every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in Ascension's library. This week, on Wednesday, December 12, we will have our Christmas party instead of the usual meeting. Please read Chapter 12 for Wednesday, December 19th.

### 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).

### Thursday Morning Yoga

Yoga classes are offered on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in Room 6, 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.

### 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 is 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.

No class on December 20th and 27th.

## LIFE LONG LEARNING

### 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 p.m.

December 6, 13, 20

with Dr. Tina Lightner-Morris, LCPC

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

All are welcome.

Please bring your blanket to stay warm.

## LIFE AT ASCENSION

### 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. Our guest musicians are hoping to include a selection of Christmas melodies from the world's continents on the program, and have asked parishioners to send music scores or links to sound/video recordings of favorite Christmas songs from their countries of origin. More information online can be found at [vasilypopov.com](http://vasilypopov.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 1:30 p.m. in the Main Church. The pageant this year (new) is titled "What? No Angels?" The story is about a flamboyant TV producer who returns home to produce a flashy Christmas pageant and show off how talented s/he is. The members of the cast teach the producer things that are more important. There are parts for ages 3 and up. There are 12 speaking parts that include Lisa, a young girl; Paula/Paul Powers, a top NY TV executive; a character named Trouble; a church pastor; Mary and Joseph; shepherds; 3 wise folk; stable animals; and 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 10 a.m. service in room 2 at 11:50 a.m. or at [vagordon1@yahoo.com](mailto:vagordon1@yahoo.com) and 571-275-6637. Come join the fun.

### Christmas Flowers

If you would like to donate toward our beautiful Christmas poinsettias, we have Flower Offering envelopes in your bulletin and on the table in the Narthex. If you are paying by check, please annotate the check "Christmas flowers"

### 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.

### Ascension Youth Group

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

**Ascension's Giving Tree**

This advent season, the Giving Tree will again be in the Narthex. 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.

Each ornament on the tree will consist of two cards which will be color-coded by age group and item. Separate the cards, hang one on the tree and take the other card with you for reference. When you have purchased your item, 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, contact Sue and/or Richard Snay at 301.977.5259 or email subarsy@aol.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 on Advent I (December 2nd) and ends on Advent IV (December 23rd.) Parishioners may wish to look over 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

**Coffee Supplies**

During one of my Colleague Group meetings, I shared with the others the success of our coffee hour at Ascension. We have had an average of 50 to 60 people per Sunday. In light of the popularity of the coffee hour, I am asking people to volunteer to bring coffee cups, dessert plates, and cream for coffee. Please bring your donation on Sunday or during the week at office hours. Thank you! Padre Javier

**Church of the Ascension**

**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.**

**PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 4, 2018**

110 pledges for a total of \$260,112 and 2 Facilities Reserve Fund donations for \$504 have been received to date.

Thanks to those below who pledged last week to the annual giving campaign:

- ◆ Margaret Donnellon
- ◆ Brenda Gumula
- ◆ Howard & Margaret Holland
- ◆ Pamela Novel

**One Ascension Sunday**

December 30th will be One Ascension Sunday. We will celebrate the end of one year and the start of another with a single service at 10 a.m. and a celebratory meal. Please join us after the service and bring a dish to share. Plan on joining in on the fun! A sign-up form will be passed around in the church so that we can have a rough idea of how many are coming and what people will bring.

**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 40 to 80 lunches each month. The next program will be 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/>

**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 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.

**Bethlehem Christmas Simulcast Service**

**On Dec. 16, 2017, share the heart of Christmas with the people of Bethlehem.**

Palestinian Christians, whose ancestors date back to the first followers of Christ, continue to bear witness to their faith in Bethlehem at Christmas.

Join with congregations at Washington National Cathedral and Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem for this 11th annual simulcast Christmas service celebrating the birth of the Prince of Peace. Readings, prayers, and carols in both English and Arabic alternate between Washington, D.C. and Bethlehem via live simulcast. Open to the public and to people of all faiths. Contact: [jerusalem@edowmail.org](mailto:jerusalem@edowmail.org) for additional information.

**Join us onsite**

Washington National Cathedral  
3101 Wisconsin Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20016

**Watch live online**

[cathedral.org](http://cathedral.org) [youtube.com/wncathedral](https://www.youtube.com/wncathedral)

## 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

**Pastoral Associate**—The Rev. Nan Hildebrand  
hildebrandnan@gmail.com, voice mailbox 13

**Deacon**—Eugene Wright

**Minister of Music**—Andrew Kullberg  
music@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 11

**Parish Administrator** - Lin Keene  
office@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 10

**Media Specialist**—Eleni Hailu  
comm@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 14

**Altar Guild Directors**, Sari Stoddard sari.stoddard@verizon.net;  
Mardia Dennis, mard908@gmail.com, Dotty Pfadenhauer,  
dottypfa@aol.com and Georgana Maines,  
mainesgnh@verizon.net

## LEADERSHIP AT ASCENSION

**Senior Warden:** Betsy Hasegawa  
**Junior Warden:** Zadinga Ogada

### Vestry:

2019: Rose Buck, Janet King, 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 Pruessner  
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: Episcopal Church Women  
United Thank Offering  
International Human Rights Day (December 10)

## THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

### Monday, December 10

- 11:30 a.m. Living with a Chronic Illness—Room 1
- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 6:00 p.m. Spanish Class—Ascension House
- 7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

### Tuesday, December 11

- 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, December 12

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

### Thursday, December 13

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

### Friday, December 14

- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

### Saturday, December 15

- 9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 2
- 11:00 a.m. Al-Anon—Undercroft
- 11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
- 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish- Room 1

### Sunday, December 16

- Preacher:** Susan McLaughlin
- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist —Main Church
  - 9:30 a.m. Men's Shelter Lunches
  - 10:00 a.m. Bible School for 3 year olds & under — Room 4
  - 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist —Main Church
  - 10:00 a.m. Godly Play—Room 6
  - 10:00 a.m. Joyful Path—Room 2
  - 10:00 a.m. St. Barnabas—Chapel
  - 12:00 p.m. Escuela Dominical Para Nin@s—Room 1
  - 12:00 p.m. Eucaristia en Espanol—Main Church
  - 1:00 p.m. Pastoral Care Team—Library
  - 12:30 p.m. Christmas Party—Undercroft
  - 1:30 p.m. Maryland Uke Jam—Chapel
  - 4:00 p.m. Popov Cello Concert—Chapel

Attendance	November 18	November 25	December 2
8:00a.m.	28	31	39
10:00 a.m.	120	123	144
12:00p.m.	22	35	45
Total:	170	189	228