



WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost: October 13 A.D. 2019

St Francis: Patron Saint of Animals - and Activism?

[October 4th] on the liturgical calendar is the Feast of St. Francis (1181/1182 - 1226), the day the Church honors a great friar from Assisi, Italy. He is the patron saint of the environment and animals because he loved all creatures and allegedly preached to even the birds. In recent years, many congregations have started to bless pets and other animals as a way to mark this day and honor his spirit. This has upped the saint's popularity rating church-going Americans.

St. Francis was also among his country's rich and powerful. He was born into a one-percent family, the son of a prosperous silk merchant. But on a pilgrimage to Rome, he joined the poor in begging at St Peter's Basilica and went on to live a life of poverty as a friar.

Holy Women, Holy Men is a recent revision of the Episcopal Church's calendar of saints. This resource's description of St Francis begins: "One of the boldest and most spirited figures in history, it is a shame that Francis is sometimes dismissed as simply a quiet bird-watcher. Actually he was an outspoken and controversial social activist."

Indeed, why is it that a statue of him is sometimes found in quiet gardens? Where the Episcopal Church is arguing he belongs is in a more public, visible space. We at Bread for the World might argue that he even belongs in the political sphere - somewhere near or on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. The religious order that Francis founded - the Franciscans - has a reputation closely associated with poverty, simplicity of life and care for the poor.

St. Francis identified so closely with people who are poor that he gave up all of his wealth to become one of them. While none of us in the 21st century U.S. might do that today, we as American Christians are still called to identify with people who are poor because God has special concern for this group. One way we can do this is to speak for and with them before our government. So many other special interests have powerful lobbying groups in our nation's capital - big oil, big ag, gun owners, and others. But who will lobby for people who are hungry and poor? Who lobbies for them in Congress? It's up to us as Christians to do it.

Perhaps we as hunger activists can adopt St Francis as our patron saint as well. And there's no better time than now to advocate for ways to end hunger and extreme poverty. We are in the midst of election season, and candidates are listening. They want to know what voters want. Candidates are making promises and plans for their time in office. Tell them to end hunger. And when you speak to them tell them you're following the way of St. Francis.

Stephen H. Padre (managing editor for Bread for the World.)

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: The Rev. Javier G. Ocampo

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.

All children are welcome!

Blessing of the Animals, Today, Sunday October 13

In observance of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we will be blessing your feline, avian, canine, bovine, equine, porcine, reptilian, and arachnid friends at 5:00 p.m. today, Sunday, October 13, in the Chapel. Please invite your friends to bring their pets too!

By-Laws Update Open Forum - October 13th.

The By-Laws committee will be available in Room 1 today, October 13th, to take comments in person after both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services. Final voting will take place on Sunday October 27; there will be only one service, at 10:00 a.m., that day.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Sunday School

This week in Godly Play, we examine the story of the great flood and the ark that Noah built. We move beyond the creation of the world to its re-creation and begin to see the gift of water as a symbol of cleansing, redemption and forgiveness. We also learn about God's promise, through Noah, to all of us.

Wednesday Morning Book Group

We are discussing the book, "The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe", by Richard Rohr. For this coming Wednesday please read Chapter 15. We meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays in Ascension's library. All people are welcome to participate.

Thursday Morning Yoga

Yoga classes are offered on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in room 2, 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 time of peace and balance in a lovely place. Please come and join us. Contact Claire Rosser at cjrosser@aol.com or 301-275-0617 for more information.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

REALM is almost here!!!

Our fabulous new database program is arriving imminently. Watch your email - you'll be getting an announcement when it goes live. REALM is a very powerful program that allows us to sort and network so much information and allows you, the parishioner, to contribute your pledge, enter your data, put your picture in it, keep it up to date, and check your tax information. You'll be able to join a committee, sign up to be a Worship Leader, lodge a concern, see who's on the vestry or who is running for the vestry. It's so user-friendly! We urge you to try it out as soon as you can, and let the office know what you think.

Shining Our Light

Our 2020 Annual Giving Campaign

It is autumn and that means it's time to begin the annual Ascension Giving Campaign. Pledge forms have been mailed out but will also be available IN THE PEWS for your convenience. (Why did we not think of that before?) The theme this year is Shining Our Light, which says in a few words what Ascension has been doing so well. After all, light allows you to see what's important, it helps new things grow, and it keeps on going. That's us! According to our mission statement, at Ascension we strive to represent the true Light of the World - in all we do and wherever we may be. Thank you for taking part and supporting the light that is One Ascension.

Betsy Hasegawa, Senior Warden

Sightlines: The spirituality of aging

Sightlines is a program that provides a space and a structure for exploring the challenges and rewards of aging within a spiritual context. The program combines guided discussion with contemplative practices. It is sponsored by Seabury Resources for Aging and the Diocese. There will be an information night held here at Ascension next week on Sunday, October 20 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. A light supper will be served. Free, but registration is required by 10/14. www.edow.org/calendar-event-details/232

The elevator is operational

Our elevator is fully functional and has passed all inspections. Please use it as you wish/need.

Where oh where is the key?

The key to the kitchen is missing. Someone borrowed it from the office and has forgotten to return it. The office will be eternally grateful for its return!

First Aid Kits

Two of the first aid kits are not in their assigned "homes" in the building. Presumably, someone needed one and forgot to put it back. If you know where either of them might be, please return it/them to the church office.

HeartSong Workshop

Registration is open for the Saturday, October 26, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. HeartSong Workshop in our sanctuary with Ana Hernandez of Kingston, NY. This workshop promises to enrich the imagination, develop listening skills, lift singing confidence, and broaden spiritual practices. Adults: \$25, under 18 free. Bring a bag lunch. For an example of Ana's music: <http://anahernandez.org> Info on the workshop: Meredith Horan 301-926-1054 evenings. To register: <http://ascensionmd.org/heartsong-workshop-registration-form/>

Ascension Adventurers to visit the National Zoo

Now that the weather is getting cooler, it is the perfect time for visiting the Zoo, and Sue Snay is offering one last tour before she retires next spring after 32 years as a FONZ tour guide. With two new clouded leopard cubs to add to all its other recent births, things at the Zoo are never dull. The tour will be on Saturday, October 19th. Since we need to limit that number of participants to 15, please contact Sue or her husband, Richard as soon as possible. If you would like to carpool, meet us at 8:00 a.m. in Ascension's parking lot or, if you choose to take the Metro, you can meet us at 9:00 at the welcome desk in the Zoo's Visitor Center. For more details, e-mail Sue at subarsy@aol.com, Richard at rssnay@aol.com, or call us (301) 977-5259.

Altar Flowers

We have beautiful flowers on the Altar every Sunday. They're often given in Honor of someone, in Memory of someone, or in Celebration of something. Have you ever thought of giving flowers for a loved one's birthday, a new baby in the family, a graduation or other event - and had no idea of how to make it happen? There is a sign-up poster in the narthex on the wall to the right when you enter from outside. Save the date there, then take an envelope from the rack next to the poster. Fill it out, put a check inside (suggested amount - \$50) and drop it in the offering plate. Then look for your name and wishes in the service bulletin. Even if there isn't an event to commemorate, it's always nice to donate the flowers in support of Ascension or to the glory of God.

Amazon Smile

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon. 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), 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's all. It will be connected to your account; every time you shop, and when you go to 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:



MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL
 Celebrating diversity
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2019
 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
WHEATON REGIONAL PARK PAVILLIONS
 2000 Shorefield Road
 Silver Spring, MD

FAITH, FAMILY, FOOD, FIESTA
 Bring your instruments, singers & dancers.
ALL AGES ARE WELCOME
 Sponsored by MAGI
 Multi-Cultural Awareness of Gifts Incorporated
 The Episcopal Diocese of Washington

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church
 "A PLACE TO BELONG. A PLACE TO BECOME"

St. Nick's Lunch Bunch
 welcomes you to its monthly
Potluck Luncheon
 at the Church
 on
Tuesday, October 15th, 2019, 11:30 am to 2:00 pm.

This Month's Feature
You Could Save a Life!

First Aid and CPR:
 discussion and demonstration

Presented by
Bozena Skraban,
 Adventist Healthcare



This gathering is sponsored by St. Nicholas Episcopal Church. Come and join us in thanksgiving and fellowship and enjoy a delicious lunch. Meet your neighbors. Bring a friend. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

The entrance to the Church is through our common entrance with Seneca Academy (school). Please drive slowly and carefully as children may be moving about. Turn right to the Church parking lot.

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church,
 15575 Germantown Road,
 Germantown, Maryland 20874.
 Church Office Phone: 240-631-2800

Worship Sundays 10:00 AM
 ST. NICHOLAS
 A PLACE TO BELONG. A PLACE TO BECOME
 All are Welcome

Contact: Audrey Thompson/Andy Aviles
 Email : audreyt58@gmail.com
 Tel. 1-301-972-1852

CONTACT US

205 S. Summit Ave., Gaithersburg, MD, 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
- ◆ Fr. Javier’s cell: 202-903-6426
- ◆ Prayer requests: Fill out a prayer request card (yellow, 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

Deacon—The Rev. Deacon Eugene Wright
genenatwright@gmail.com

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

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

Communications – Jesse Velazquez
comm@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 14

Altar Guild Directors, Sari Stoddard,
sari.stoddard@verizon.net; 8 a.m. director Mardia Dennis,
mard908@gmail.com; 10 a.m. directors Dotty Pfadenhauer,
dottypfa@aol.com and Georgana Maines,
mainesgnh@verizon.net

LEADERSHIP AT ASCENSION

Senior Warden: Betsy Hasegawa

Junior Warden: Zadinga Ogada

Vestry:

2020: Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Luis Pedrón

2021: Berenice Rodriguez, Bob Waters, Susan McLaughlin

2022: James Black, Kristen Keating, Wadai Dennis

Danielle Allen, *Clerk of the Vestry*

Avin Lalmansingh, *Treasurer*

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:

St. Luke’s Church, Bethesda
St. Luke’s House, Bethesda
St. Luke’s Church, Brighton
St. Luke’s Parish, DC

World Food Day (October 16) Pray for all who are hungry, especially children.

Attendance	September 22	September 29	October 6
8:00 am			26
10:00 am	181	133	143
12:00 pm			20
Total:	181	133	189

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, October 14, 2019

Columbus Day Office Closed

- 9:30 AM Quilters- RM 1
- 11:30 AM Living with a Chronic Illness - RM 2
- 1:00 PM Al-Anon—RM 1
- 2:00 PM English Tutoring—RM 2
- 6:00 PM Spanish Class - RM 2**
- 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous—RM 1

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

- 7:00 AM **Mobile Med**
- 9:30 AM Quilters - RM 1
- 11:00 AM **Staff Meeting—Library**
- 6:30 PM Parables Bible Study—Room 2**
- 7:00 PM Stillwater Mindfulness Group—Chapel
- 8:30 PM Al-Anon—RM 1

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

- 9:30 AM Quilters - RM 1
- 9:30 AM Quilters - RM 4
- 10:00 AM Book group— Library**
- 1:00 PM Al-Anon—RM 1
- 6:00 PM English Tutoring—RM 2
- 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous—RM 1
- 7:30 PM Spanish Bible Study**
- 8:00 PM Gamblers Anonymous—RM 2

Thursday, October 17, 2019

- 9:30 AM Quilters - RM 1
- 10:00 AM Yoga- RM 2
- 4:00 PM Tai Chi—Chapel
- 6:30 PM Ensemble - Main Church**
- 7:00 PM Al Anon/Spanish - RM 1
- 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Friday, October 18, 2019

Javier’s Day Off

- 9:30 AM Quilters - RM 1
- 1:00 PM Al-Anon—Room 1
- 6:00 PM Couples 12-Step Program - Room 1
- 8:00 PM Couples 12-Step Program - Library

Saturday, October 19, 2019

- 8:00 AM **National Zoo Visit - Meet at Ascension**
- 9:00 AM Overeaters Anonymoues-RM2
- 11:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous—RM 1
- 11:00 AM Al Anon - Parish Hall
- 7:00 PM Al Anon/Spanish - RM 1

Sunday, October 20, 2019

Preacher: The Rev. Deacon Eugene Wright

- 8:00 AM **Holy Eucharist- Main Church**
- 9:30 AM **Men’s Shelter Lunches**
- 10:00 AM **Bible School for 3 year olds and under -RM 4**
- 10:00 AM **Holy Eucharist - Main Church**
- 10:00 AM **St. Barnabas - Chapel**
- 12:00 PM **Eucaristia en español- Main church**
- 1:30 PM **Maryland Uke Jam - Chapel**
- 5:00 PM **Sight Lines- UC NoMoCo**