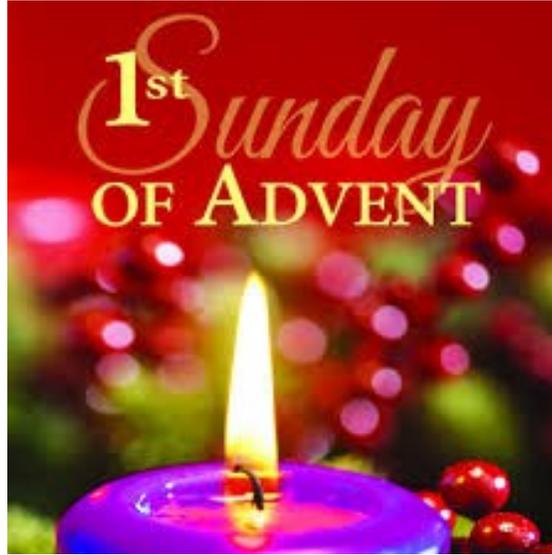




# WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

*First Sunday of Advent: December 1 A.D. 2019*



## Advent Practices

Welcome to the beginning of the new liturgical year—the first Sunday of Advent. This is a very special time in the life of Ascension, and I invite you to our season of “expectant waiting” for the birth of Jesus. Advent is a time limited season—it begins of the fourth Sunday before Christmas, and ends on the day before Christmas.

No one knows when special attention to fasting, celebration, and daily devotions began, though it can be traced back to around 480 B.C. The fasting aspect of the season was originally something that monks were bound to do every day during Advent. Later, the practice spread to the laity, though they typically fasted three times a week. By the Middle Ages, fasting had practically disappeared as a spiritual discipline. The waiting, and the expectation of the holy birth began to be marked by celebratory elements that we still see today.

Perhaps you have an Advent wreath in your home, as we do here in the church. One candle is lit each Sunday to keep in mind the several meanings of the “coming” that we await: the coming of Jesus in the flesh, the coming of Jesus into our hearts daily through prayer and meditation, and the eventual coming of Jesus in power and glory at the end of time. Many of us keep a “countdown” to Christmas through the help of an Advent calendar. There are many pretty calendars, and I am VERY fond of the ones with little bits of chocolate behind every numbered door! There is even a special hymn most appropriate for Advent; it is “O come, O come Emmanuel!” and I feel sure you will be hearing it soon.

Finally, be sure to pick up one of the daily devotional booklets located by the front door. The meditative selections are short, but very pertinent to the Advent season. Reading them, or attending the Ascension Retreat on December 7 (9am-1pm) will refresh your spirit, and clear your mind of non-essential Christmas bustle.

Blessings,

**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 Garcia 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!

### What does the first Sunday of Advent mean?

Advent is the period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas (or sometimes from the 1st of December to Christmas Day!). Advent means 'Coming' in Latin. This is the coming of Jesus into the world. Christians use the four Sundays and weeks of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas. Advent only starts on the 1st December when Christmas Day is on a Wednesday (which will happen in 2019)!

### Blessing of the Cars

As we celebrate Advent, 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 after the 12:00 noon service in the parking lot. If you want you can decorate your car with flowers.

## LIFE LONG LEARNING

### Sunday School

A note to parents: There will be no Godly Play December 1<sup>st</sup> in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

### Wednesday Morning Book Group

This Wednesday, we will continue discussing the book, "Brief Answers to the Big Questions", by Stephen Hawking. Please read Chapter 3 for this discussion. 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](mailto:cjrosser@aol.com) or 301-275-0617 for more information.

## LIFE AT ASCENSION

### Schedule of December Celebrations 2019

- **Saturday, Dec. 14**— Lady of Guadalupe Day. Service at 5:30 followed by a celebration in the Undercroft.
- **Sunday, Dec. 15** — 3rd Sunday of Advent. All services will be held at their normal times. 8:00a.m.; 10:00 a.m.; 12 noon.
- **Sunday, Dec. 22** — 4th Sunday of Advent. All services will be held at their normal times. 8:00a.m.; 10:00 a.m.; 12 noon.
- **Tuesday, Dec. 24**—Christmas Eve. Two services: 5:00p.m. Holy Eucharist. 9:00p.m. Traditional Christmas Service with carols
- **Wednesday, Dec. 25**—Christmas Day. A single service at 10 a.m.

### REALM has Arrived

Our new database program is up and running. REALM is a very powerful program that allows us to sort and network lots of 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, 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 now at <http://ascensionmd.org/realm-sign-up/>

### Lady of Guadalupe Day

Join us on December 14th to celebrate the Lady of Guadalupe Day at 5:30 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. We will continue the celebration in the Undercroft with more mariachi songs and Latin American food.

### Next Baptism

The next baptism date will be January 12th. If you want to be baptized or know someone who would like to be, please contact Javier at [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org)



**Please help us with your pledge!**

Thank you all for your continued support of Ascension. We are having glitches with our new system while breaking it in. So we ask you to do a couple of extra things this year.

- If you have submitted your pledge online, please *fill out a pledge card* also.
- If you are an EFT donor, please *fill out a new EFT authorization form* and submit it to the office.

We apologize for the inconvenience. As we move forward with our new database we will need to resubmit your information.

**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 Ascension House on December 7, 2019 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please join us for a special "time-out" from all the hustle and the bustle of the holidays to remember the true meaning of Christmas.

**Coffee Supplies**

I was so happy that several generous donors had brought in coffee supplies! With an average of 50 to 60 people per Sunday, we always need things. With the popularity of our coffee hour, please continue your generous gifts. In particular, right now we need *more small paper plates*. Please bring your donation on Sunday or during the week during office hours.

Thank you! Padre Javier

**Ascension Youth Group**

Ascension Youth Group typically meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the undercroft of the church, unless otherwise noted.

-Ascension YG is open to all Youth in 6th grade and beyond. They need not attend Ascension.

-Typical YG includes dinner, provided by two families, a spiritual lesson and fun games. "Food, Fellowship & Fun" -

-The YG meets next on December 8 in the Parish Hall (undercroft).

**Popov Family Concert at Ascension**

Please join us for a chamber concert on December 15, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Our guest performers are a musical family—cellist Vasily Popov, pianist Ralitzza Patcheva and their two sons, young violinist Yuri Popov and cellist Vladislav Popov. The artists will present a program of baroque and classical music by Bach, Beethoven, Vivaldi, Sarasate and Claire Rosser. More information can be found at [vasily.popov.com](http://vasily.popov.com)

**All Worship Leaders:**

The schedule for January, February and March Worship Leader assignments will be underway very soon. If you know of any Sundays that you will be unavailable to serve, please contact Sari Stoddard at [sari.stoddard@verizon.net](mailto:sari.stoddard@verizon.net) or 301-325-8791 as soon as possible. Thank you.

**PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF NOVEMBER 25, 2019**

Total Number of Pledges to date: 115 for a total of \$299,806.

Total Number of Facilities Reserve Fund Donations to date: 11 for a total of \$ 7,020.

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

- |                                  |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Kathy Bainbridge                 | Edna Leake         |
| David Burton                     | Barb Mansfield     |
| Carolyn Dowling &<br>John Bjerke | Pamela Novel       |
| Gina Fera & Olive Rivera         | Peg Ruppel         |
| Ron & Sharon Hayden              | Florence Sasu      |
| Andrew Kullberg                  | Richard & Sue Snay |
|                                  | Lovetta Willie     |



**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 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

**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; 8:00 a.m. director Mardia Dennis,  
mard908@gmail.com; 10:00 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: Fredis Diaz

**Cycles of Prayer**

Prayers for those whose lives are closely linked with ours:

St. Nicholas' Parish, Germantown  
Diocesan Latino Ministry  
Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington

**THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION**

**Monday, December 2, 2019**

- 1:00 PM Al-Anon—RM 1
- 2:00 PM English Tutoring- RM 2
- 6:00 PM Spanish Class - RM 2
- 7:00 PM Listening Hearts Community - Library
- 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous—RM 1

**Tuesday, December 3, 2019**

- 7:00 AM Mobile Med
- 3:30 PM Staff Meeting—Library
- 6:30 PM Parables Bible Study-RM 2
- 7:00 PM Stillwater Mindfulness Group—Chapel
- 8:30 PM Al-Anon—RM 1

**Wednesday, December 4, 2019**

- 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, December 5, 2019**

- 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, December 6 2019**  
**Javier’s Day Off**

- 1:00 PM Al-Anon—RM 1
- 8:00 PM Couples 12-Step Program - Library

**Saturday, December 7, 2019**

- 9:00 AM Advent Retreat - Ascension House
- 9:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous-RM 2
- 11:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous—Parish Hall
- 11:00 AM Al Anon - RM 1
- 7:00 PM Al Anon/Spanish - RM 1

**Sunday, December 8, 2019**

**Preacher:** The Rev. Ken Howard  
**Youth Group - Holiday Party - UC**

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist- Main Church
- 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
- 2:00 PM Vestry Meeting - RM 1

Attendance	November 10	November 17	November 24
8:00 am	24	37	29
10:00 am	123	120	148
12:00 pm	33	20	38
Total:	180	177	215