



WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

First Sunday after Christmas : December 29 A.D. 2019

Dear Ascension Family,

A Happy New Year to you all.

Last week I was getting the house ready for the New Year 2020 (I am amazed every time I say 2020). I like to clear the house of things that I haven't worn or used during the year or several years even though, sometimes it is difficult to say good bye to some material things, you have to.

The celebration of the New Year is a good time for us to take stock of our lives past and present. Christians are called to continually ponder on the events in their lives and to understand what God is revealing through them. This is the time when we count the blessings we have received in the past year and contemplate on the coming year.

For our blessings, we are thankful, but to God, we must be grateful, for He is the source of all blessings. The tendency in many of us is to focus on our present struggles while not remembering the, wonderful things we have experienced. Instead, Christians should be blessed with the memory of God's providence and faithfulness in times of hardship.

Yes, when reflecting on the past year, we must also recall our mistakes and bad choices. For these, we ask God for forgiveness, and seek wisdom from God to draw life lessons. This new year should be a time for personal growth.

We need to be empowered to take initiative and to assume our roles in our parish, in our homes, and in our workplaces - to address our personal challenges and our shared concerns for our society.

I will continue praying for all of you and I would like to ask you to pray for me, as well.

I look forward to collaborating with all of you. Let us make this parish community a place where we can all draw strength and nourishment.

In 2020 let's see you and I grow, and bring about positive changes in our world.

May God shower His blessings on you and your loved ones this new year!

With Love,
Javier+

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: Andrew Kullberg

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!

One Ascension Sunday

New Years Party 1A!!! after the One Ascension service we will gather in the undercroft to celebrate the coming 2020 New Year. Be there for the traditional count-down (well, count down to noon rather than midnight) Bring your holiday spirit and good cheer to help start to bring in 2020 New Year.

The Parish Life Committee

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Sunday School

There will be no Godly Play on December 29 for One Ascension, but we will have a class for all ages in the Place of Peace. We will have a story, songs, prayers, crafts and games. The children will rejoin their families for communion.

Wednesday Morning Book Group

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8th, when we will continue discussing the book, "Brief Answers to the Big Questions", by Stephen Hawking. Please read Chapter 5 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 or 301-275-0617 for more information.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

REALM has Arrived

Our new database program is up and running. REALM 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. Try it out at <http://ascensionmd.org/realm-sign-up/>

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 ocampoj@ascensionmd.org

Vestry/Convention Delegates Candidates' Forum

The Candidates' Forum will be held on January 12th in the Undercroft after each service.

Annual Meeting

Our annual parish meeting will take place at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 19th in the Undercroft. We'll begin with a potluck lunch. Our primary business will be to elect new Vestry members and to have a time for shared reflection on the ministry and mission of Ascension. The Vestry candidates will be available for dialogue on the preceding Sunday, January 12th, after each service in the Undercroft (see article above).

Ascension's Giving Tree

This Advent season, our traditional Giving Tree will once again be standing in the Narthex. This is a wonderful opportunity to support the work being performed by Comfort Cases in bringing dignity and necessities to foster children. Detailed instructions may be found in the Narthex.

Memorial Service

There will be a memorial service for Elaine Dunn, mother of Eliane Dunn Johnson, in the main church on Saturday, January 4th at 11:00 a.m. All parishioners are invited to attend in support of Eliane and the family.

Stitchers Wanted!

Ascension is blessed in having priestly garments and hangings in most liturgical colors—but we don't have a set of the dark red ones used in Holy Week. We are interested in seeing if we can make them ourselves, maybe in a weekly sewing circle. Please email Fr. Javier if you are interested in being part of this group effort. He will set up an informational meeting to kick the project off.

PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 17, 2019

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.

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 *coffee, dinner plates and paper tablecloths*. Please bring your donation on Sunday or during the week during office hours.

Thank you! Padre Javier

MLK Choral Evensong on January 19, 2020
at 5:00 p.m.

The Ascension Music Ministry is presenting an evening prayer service in honor of the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the main church. This service will be led by the Ascension Choir and will feature new service music composed by our former Minister of Music, Paul Kelley. If you are interested in taking part in the service by singing with our choir or reading scripture, please contact Andrew Kullberg at music@ascensionmd.org.



Total Number of Pledges to date: 134 for a total of \$334,647.
Total Number of Facilities Reserve Fund Donations to date: 12 for a total of \$ 7,424.

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

Anthony, Florence &
Emmanuel Chukwurah
Josephine & Isaac Clarke
Kate Foley

Gerry Gil
Kate & Ben Heacock
Matilda Chimbela Muyangwa
Bendu Toe

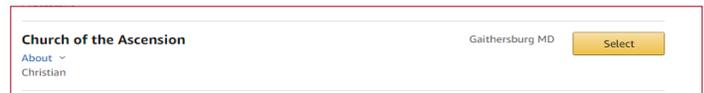
Amazon Smile

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:



AmazonSmile is now in the Amazon Shopping App

You can now support your favorite charity when you shop using the Amazon Shopping App on your Android device. See below for instructions to turn on AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping App.

Instructions:

 Open the newest version of the Amazon Shopping App
Make sure you have updated to the latest version (instructions below)



Go to AmazonSmile Settings

1. Tap the Main Menu (see left)
2. Tap Settings
3. Tap AmazonSmile



Follow the instructions on the screen to turn on AmazonSmile

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. John’s Church, Georgetown
- St. John’s Preschool, Georgetown
- St. John’s Church, Lafayette Square
- St. John’s Church, Norwood
- St. John’s Church, Olney
- St. John’s Episcopal School, Olney

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, December 30, 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 Overeaters Anonymous—RM 1

Tuesday, December 31, 2019

Office closed

- 8:30 PM Al-Anon—RM 1

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

New Year’s Day

Office Closed

- 1:00 PM Al-Anon—RM 1
- 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous—RM 1
- 8:00 PM Gamblers Anonymous—RM 2

Thursday, January 2, 2020

Tai Chi- Chapel

Ensemble - Main Church

- 7:00 PM Al Anon/Spanish - RM 1
- 7:00 PM Stillwater Mindfulness Practice Group - Chapel
- 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 3, 2020

Javier’s Day Off

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

Saturday, January 4, 2020

- 9:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous-RM 2
- 11:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous—RM1
- 11:00 AM Al Anon - Parish Hall- Cancelled
- 11:00 AM Elaine Dunn-Johnson Memorial Service MC/UC
- 7:00 PM Al Anon/Spanish - RM 1

Sunday, January 5, 2019

Preacher: The Rev. Javier G. Ocampo

- 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
- 10:30 AM Immigration Consultations - Library
- 12:00 PM Eucaristia en Espanol - Main Church
- 2:00 PM Vestry Meeting - RM 1

Attendance	December 8	December 15	December 24	December 25
8:00 am	26	28	5:00 PM	
			62	
10:00 am	113	127	9:00 PM	35
			159	
12:00 pm	24	18		
Total:	163	173	221	35