



WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Second Sunday of Advent: December 8 A.D. 2019



CARING SEASON

I'm sure that you noticed this week that there was a lot of media attention paid to the concept of "Giving Tuesday". I don't know what was in your mailbox, newsfeed, and social media, but I received dozens of heartfelt appeals for worthy causes, most of which I had never heard of before this week. Certainly, the Christmas Season is a good time to think of others. The sudden cold weather alone reminds us of the suffering of the poor, and the relentless advertising for glittery consumer goods stands in stark contrast to their needs.

I confess that I planned to write a note in the bulletin this week that would mention my favorite worthy cause: The Church of the Ascension! I wanted to remind you that if you have not yet sent in your pledge of support, and plan to, I hope you will do it very soon so that the finance committee can make a budget for the mission of Ascension in 2020.

But something happened this week that made me see things a little differently. I name no names, but I saw one parishioner who, unasked, was seen raking and tidying in the Columbarium area; another was fixing something that had gone unattended for a long time; a third sent me a picture of a problem with the HVAC, worrying that perhaps no one knew about it. Finally, one parishioner wrote on Facebook about a terrifying event that left her shaken—and multitudes of Ascension folks sent messages of love, concern, and willingness to help if needed. These are quiet acts of caring. These are people invested in each other, the church, and society.

I hope you do support a worthy cause or two; that you make contributions that will relieve suffering or enhance wellness. This is something we should see as a year round commitment to balance and fairness. But when we talk about Caring, I have something else to suggest. A check is not enough, no matter how large or how welcome. Instead, consider how Jesus cared for others, gently and without judgement. Be truly present for those you might care for. In fact, Try Giving Yourself! This is hard, but this makes a difference every day of the year.

Blessings,
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: The Rev. Ken Howard

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!

Today's Gospel



John the Baptist came as a preacher in the Judean desert: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" Many people flocked to him for baptism and conversion to prepare for the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Sunday School

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

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 18th, when we will continue discussing the book, "Brief Answers to the Big Questions", by Stephen Hawking. Please read Chapter 4 for this discussion. We meet at 10 am on Wednesday's 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

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.
- **Sunday, Dec 29**—New Years Party 1A

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/realmsign-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 J.



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 *more small paper plates*. Please bring your donation on Sunday or during the week during office hours.

Thank you! Padre Javier

One Ascension Sunday

New Years Party 1A!!! On December 29th after the 10:00 a.m. OneAscension service we will gather in the undercroft to celebrate the coming 2020 New Year. Please bring a dish to share. Salads, appetizers, and desserts are always needed. Bring your holiday spirit and good cheer to help start to bring in 2020 New Year.

The Parish Life Committee

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.

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 Ralitz 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

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 or 301-325-8791 as soon as possible. Thank you.

Ascension’s Giving Tree

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

PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF NOVEMBER 25, 2019

Total Number of Pledges to date: 120 for a total of \$307,836.

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:

- Esther Allotey-Taylor
- Brenda Gumula
- Dotty & Jerry Pfadenhauer
- John Pruessner
- Frank & Leslie Sanya



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:

Episcopal Church Women

United Thank Offering

International Human Rights Day (December 10) - Pray for international human rights and all organizations and individuals that promote peace and justice worldwide.

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, December 9, 2019

- 11:30 AM Living with a Chronic Illness - RM 1
- 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 10, 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 11, 2019

- 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 12, 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 13 2019

Javier’s Day Off

- 1:00 PM Al-Anon—RM 1

Saturday, December 14, 2019

Virgen de Guadalupe

- 9:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous-RM 2
- 11:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous—Parish Hall
- 11:00 AM Al Anon - RM 1
- 5:30 PM Virgen Guadalupe - Main Church
- 7:00 PM Al Anon/Spanish - RM 1

Sunday, December 15, 2019

The Rev. Javier G. Ocampo

- 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
- 4:00 PM Vasily Popov Concert MC
- 6:00 PM Youth Group - Parish Hall

Attendance	November 17	November 24	December 1
8:00 am	37	29	32
10:00 am	120	148	108
12:00 pm	20	38	20
Total:	177	215	148