



WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ: January 12 A.D. 2020

Love is the Answer

Today, we are privileged to participate in one of the major strengths of the Episcopal Church: discernment for guidance and governance. Over the last four to six weeks, the nominating committee sought to discover willing and able candidates to fill openings on the vestry. From an initial field of eleven, individuals thought carefully about schedules, obligations, and personal matters. The final slate now stands at four. You may know all of these people very well; or perhaps you don't know any of them at all. But today, I urge you to be an active participant in one feature of the discernment process. This is the candidates' forum, during which you can listen to their prepared statements, and ask whatever questions are important to you.

Are these perfect people who are certain to make no mistakes? Probably not; and since I am not perfect either, I feel sure that all will be well. What's wonderful about the Episcopal tradition is that it is a decision-making process that is both personal AND communal. It is an education of a whole parish about ministry, governance and faith development. We have done this together, striving for consensus at each step. If you participate in the process, you will learn of the gifts of these fine people, and perhaps may see how you can also enlarge the knowledge and understanding of the whole assembly yourself.

In several important ways, discernment as practiced at the Church of the Ascension diverges from ordinary American political, business, and social conventions. Consider how American political decisions rely on 'winner take all' strategies, negating or marginalizing large portions of the electorate. Think about how American corporate governance relies heavily on the power and influence of relatively few wealthy people, leaving most people completely out of the decision-making process. Even American consumers value 'quick', 'easy', and 'cheap' to their detriment. This is NOT the Episcopalian way.

Now, of course you have probably noticed that considering all the possibilities in every situation is not especially quick. Expanding your own perspective to allow for alternate views takes time (and, let's face it, a certain generosity). Imagining your place in this untidy mix may be hard to see at first. But working this way creates space for the direction of the Holy Spirit and ensures that everyone is included. And respected. And most especially, loved. It is my fervent desire that the governance project that began with the revision of the Bylaws last summer will continue to bear fruit in January with energetic new vestry members who will bring new views and skill to the vestry. Take time to see who they are; offer them the best of yourself. Make them and all the vestry successful and insightful. How? Read the title of the Bulletin!

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. 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!



The Holy Spirit descended on him like a dove, and a voice from the heavens said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Sunday School

This week in Godly Play we study Holy Baptism, the full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into the Church. For Christians, this rite is the gateway into the family of families we call the Church. We ask the children to remember or look forward to the day of their baptism by lighting candles from the light of the Christ Candle, since this is also the day they receive their "light."

Wednesday Morning Book Group

During our next meeting, we will be discussing Chapter 6 of the book "Brief Answers to the Big Questions" by Stephen Hawking. 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, after the upcoming baptisms on January 19, will be **April 11, 2020**. If you want to be baptized or know someone who would like to be, please contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

Vestry/Convention Delegate Candidates Named

Many, many thanks to everyone who took part in this year's nomination process. The process was made even better by everyone who took the time to think about their vision for Ascension and how they or someone they knew could serve our community. By the end of the nominating period, ten names had been put forward and each potential candidate was asked to consider standing for election.

Today, we are very pleased to announce the following slate for the vestry:

Danielle Allen

Adoma Baffoe

David Mitchell

Wendy Quijada

In addition, Ruth Anna Skowronski has agreed to become Ascension's Alternate Delegate to the Episcopal Diocese of Washington's annual convention.

You can learn more about the candidates on January 12th when they will be available after each service at the Candidate's Forum.

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).

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.

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.

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.

Lenten Devotional

The first Sunday of Lent will include a gift of a small daily devotional pamphlet titled, "Living Well through Lent ". The booklet provides a foundation for seeking a deeper experience of Lent, an experience that will help prepare us for the true meaning of Easter. An English or Spanish version can be downloaded for free at <https://shop.livingcompass.org/collections/advent-and-lent-resources> in PDF format. We have ordered a number of paper copies, but they are not free - so we encourage you to get your copy at the above website.

Youth Group Work Camp Dates Selected for 2020

Ascension Youth Group will once again go to Philadelphia to work with the St. James School. Please mark your calendars! **The dates are July 12-17, 2020.**

Our Virginia friends at St Ivy will also join us that week. We need approximate numbers of attendees by **March 1st**. This is truly a life changing experience. Please encourage youth-who will have finished 6th grade by the end of this school year and older-to contact us with any questions! - Angie and Trevor

Jan 12th Youth Group Outing at Zava Zone

This Sunday Jan 12th Ascension Youth Group will meet at Zava Zone in Rockville (<https://www.zavazone.com/rockville/>) starting at 3:45 p.m. and ending at 6 p.m. Jumping will occur from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and dinner will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$20 per youth although scholarships are available!

Can You Help?

One of our members donated about 25 bags of clothing for our yard sale. We need to sort through the bags and we are asking you to please donate large plastic containers so that we can put the clothes in order. Also we will need help sorting the clothes when we have a good number of containers. Please contact the office if you are able to help and what your available day(s) and time(s) are. Thank you for your usual kindness.

Art Show

"Inspire Your Heart With Art" at National Lutheran's Village at Rockville (9701 Veirs Dr, Rockville, MD 20850). Attend the Opening Reception Thursday Jan 30 from 4 - 6 p.m. Submit your own art to be in this show by contacting Brittany McKee bmckee@thevillageatrockville.org or call her 301-354-8447. Photo submissions of art work need to be submitted by January 20.

Many thanks to the People of Ascension!

Thank you for your tremendous outpouring of support for the Giving Tree this holiday season. Because of your generosity, Comfort Cases will be able to provide the following items to children in foster care:

40 pairs of infant pajamas	30 child's blankets
60 pairs of child's pajamas	52 stuffed animals
12 pairs of teen pajamas	108 baby washcloths
20 infant blankets	78 bibs

Thank you for making a wonderful difference in the lives of foster children.

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, dottydfa@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:

Christ Church, Washington Parish

Christ Church Parish, Kensington

Pray for mission and ministry of North, Central, and South
Montgomery County Regions of the Diocese

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, January 13, 2019

- 1:30 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 Vestry Meeting - RM 2
- 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous—RM 1

Tuesday, January 14, 2019

- 3:30 PM Staff Meeting-Library
- 6:30 PM Ensemble - Main Church
- 6:30 PM English Bible Study - RM 2
- 7:00 PM Stillwater Mindfulness Practice Group - Chapel
- 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
- 8:30 PM Al-Anon—RM 1

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

- 10:00 AM Wednesday Morning Book Group - Library
- 1:00 PM Al-Anon—RM 1
- 6:00 PM English tutoring-Rm 2
- 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous—RM 1
- 7:00 PM Stewardship Committee - Conference Room
- 7:30 PM Spanish Bible Study
- 8:00 PM Gamblers Anonymous—RM 2

Thursday, January 16, 2020

- 10:00 AM Yoga- RM 2
- 4:00 PM Tai Chi- Chapel
- 7:00 PM Al Anon/Spanish - RM 1

Friday, January 17, 2020

Javier’s Day Off

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

Saturday, January 18, 2020

- 9:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous-RM 2
- 11:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous—RM1
- 11:00 AM Al Anon - Parish Hall
- 7:00 PM Al Anon/Spanish - RM 1

Sunday, January 19, 2019

**Preacher: The Rev. Ken Howard
Annual Meeting**

- 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
- 1:30 PM Maryland Uke Jam - Chapel
- 5:00 PM MLK Choral Evensong MC

Attendance	December 24	December 25	December 29 1A Service	January 5
8:00 am	5:00 PM 62	N/A	N/A	26
10:00 am	9:00 PM 159	35	175	156
12:00 pm		N/A	N/A	41
Total:	221	35	175	223