



"We are ambassadors who represent Christ." – 2 Corinthians 5:20

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Why Do We Exchange the Kiss of Peace?

During our Sunday service we spend quite a bit of time “passing the peace” and I wouldn’t be surprised if you wondered why. Certainly, this is not some new-fangled hippie inclusion. In fact, the “kiss of peace” is an ancient traditional Christian greeting, sometimes called the “holy kiss”. It has been part of the Eucharistic liturgy from at least the 2nd century. Greeting in this way signifies a wish and blessing that peace be with the recipient. In ancient times, men and women worshipped in separate places, and the kiss they exchanged was mouth to mouth, not mouth to cheek. This seems strange to us, but was a common Middle Eastern convention of the day. By the Middle Ages, the custom had changed, and the peace would be exchanged by kissing a crucifix that was then handed around among those assembled. The source of the peace greeting is probably from the common Hebrew greeting shalom.

The purpose of this part of the liturgy is to recognize that we are reconciled in Christ Jesus, and that we should also be reconciled with each other. If you look into the Book of Common Prayer (p.409) you will discover that “when the priest sees that there is hatred between members of the congregation, he shall speak privately to each of them, telling them that they may not receive Communion until they have forgiven each other.” Ideally, we should go to anyone with whom we have a problem and offer them peace.

Giving the sign of peace, then, is not simply a time for friendly hellos and a quick exchange of news. Rather, it is for the serious business of participation in the reconciling love of God. All members of the Church help bring down the walls of division and bring forgiveness, even in the darkest situations. Just think of it: we are being totally rebellious against all the forces of hate, division and enmity in our world when we turn to friend or stranger and say “May the Peace of the Lord be With You!” Think of the power of those words!

Of course, I want to encourage all forms of friendly discourse. And I’ll bet that if you decide to come downstairs for the coffee hour after the service, you’ll find that coffee and pastry makes stories told at leisure even more pleasurable than a hurried comment in the aisle. Since you know that I love to talk, that goes for me, too! so you’ll see me in the Undercroft!

Javier

HEADLINERS

Bishop's Visit and One Ascension Sunday



Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde spends much of her time out and about in the congregations of the diocese. In addition, she makes an official visitation to each of the diocese's 88 congregations once every three years. These visits occur on Sunday mornings, and the schedule is typically announced each summer. In years in which the bishop does not visit, a member of her senior staff visits instead. This year she will come to Ascension on Sunday September 30th, since it is also One Ascension Sunday we will have just one service at 10:00 a.m. After the service we will have a potluck. Please sign up if you want to bring any food or drink.

Ascension Youth Group Kicks off 2018-2019 Program!



Youth Group will begin on Sept 24th with a Cook-Out at the Hight Walkers @ 9701 Breckenridge Place in Montgomery Village. Please arrive by 6 pm for games, food and fellowship which will end at 8 pm. Meat, buns, and serving items will be provided. Please bring a dish or item to share.

All Youth in the 6th grade and older are encouraged to participate in the Ascension Youth Group Program! The Group meets on 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings of each month from 6 pm to 8 pm, and typically in the Church undercroft. There will be sign up sheet to provide dinners for Youth Group nights. We are one of the most active Youth Programs in Montgomery

County-so come and see what all the excitement is about! We have fun and serve others, especially during our annual Mission Trip which occurs in the summer. As there will no longer be a morning education component for Youth in this age group, please plan to attend our Sunday evening program!

Text Angie 301.693.2399 with any questions.

A Joyful Path

Sunday September 16th

If you are in Grades 3-5 we welcome you on Sunday mornings at 10 to join A Joyful Path. We begin this year Searching for understanding and asking questions. As I ask questions and try to understand, my heart and mind stay open. Join us in Room 2 at 10 and share the Christian Path. We will join the 10:00 service for Communion.

Sunday September 23

We welcome all 3rd to 5th graders to come and join A Joyful Path in Rm2 during the 10:00 service. This week we will continue to search for understanding by using the Bible as a tool.. Come join us on the path for fellowship and learning.

Continuing the Collection of Items for ComfortCases

The inspiring sermon last Sunday by Robert Scheer, founder of ComfortCases, has prompted many congregants to ask what more we can do to help this local non-profit organization bring dignity and hope to youth entering foster care. We will continue to have a bin in the narthex for collecting additional travel-sized toiletry items. Further information on ways to help the organization—from donating pajamas to helping pack comfort cases—can be found at www.comfortcases.org. The organization is housed at 15825 Shady Grove Road, Suite 60, Rockville, MD 20850; phone: 202-253-0402.

Introducing Ascension's Music Minister



Andrew Kullberg began his ministry at Church of the Ascension in September 2018. He grew up in Silver Spring, Maryland and developed an interest in music at a very young age. Through musical opportunities in his church and school, Andrew developed his musical abilities and learned to play multiple instruments fluently. He attended Eastern University outside of Philadelphia and majored in music education with a concentration in piano. While attending undergrad, Andrew grew as a church musician by singing in various

choirs and playing piano and organ for numerous worship services in and out of state. After graduating, Andrew returned to his hometown to start a career in teaching Montgomery County Public Schools and working part-time at Colesville Presbyterian Church. At Colesville, he served various music positions for six years including Children's Choir Director, Director of Contemporary Worship, Organist, and eventually, Director of Music. Andrew currently teaches a diverse population of over 400 students at Meadow Hall Elementary School in Rockville and is the Conductor of the Montgomery County Central Honors Chorus. Additionally, he serves on occasion as Piano Accompanist for Bet Aviv, a Reform Jewish Congregation in Columbia, MD. Andrew lives in Bethesda and is currently working towards his Masters of Music in Education at University of Maryland.

Invitation for Enid's Ordination

My dear friends,

Attached is an invitation to my ordination. I look forward to seeing you all, but if you cannot make it, I ask you to please keep me in your prayers. I also, want to inform you that I have received my parish assignment from Bishop Mariam. Unfortunately, I'm not returning to Ascension. I have been assigned to St. Nicholas in Germantown and St. Peter's in Poolesville. I will return to Ascension on Sunday, September 23rd, the day after ordination to serve and preach my first sermon as a deacon. After that, I will be moving on to my new church homes.

As sad as it is for me to leave Ascension, I 'm grateful and thankful to our Lord for calling me to start a new journey in my life of service to all God's people. Service has no church boundaries, so although I may not be within the walls of Ascension, I am still a servant of all the people of God, including Ascension.

Thank you for all the love and support.

With love, joy, and grace, Enid



By the Grace of God and the people consenting
The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde
Bishop of Washington
will ordain
to the Sacred Order of Deacons
in Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church

*Sandra Russline Bramble
Enid Omodele Cole
Joan Marie Crittenden
Anne Elizabeth Derse
Elizabeth Lovette Dixon
Martha Josephine Eldredge
Susan Cheryl Fritz
Janice Marie Hicks
Lesley Werner Krauland
Kathryn Evans McMahan
Steven Eugene Seely
Eugene Nat Wright*

*on Saturday, September 22, 2018
10:00 a.m.*

*at the
Cathedral Church of St. Peter and St. Paul
3101 Wisconsin Avenue, NW,
Washington, District of Columbia*

*Your prayers and presence are requested.
Clergy: Red Stoles*

*Reception to follow in the Bishop's Garden.
Clergy planning to process please rsvp to www.edow.org/ordinationrsvp
by September 14, 2018.*

Fiesta de las Americas

In some Latin American countries, in September we celebrate our Independence. For this reason, we are organizing a party in the Undercroft Commons on Sunday, September 16, after the 12:00 p.m. service. We invite everyone to attend!

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Summer Sunday School

Children and Families are welcome! We are offering Summer Sunday School, in room 4 (also called the "Place of Peace", during the 10:00 service. Similar to the Families with Young Children Service, we sing, have a simple lesson, pray and play and then go to church for communion. Parents may come to Sunday school with their little ones or leave their children to us while they enjoy the church service. Over the past few weeks we have seen some beautiful interactions between older and younger children. Come hang out with us sometime! Questions? text or call: Megan Didavi 703-626-7199

Wednesday Morning Book Group

Around October 10th, we will start discussing the book, "*Sapiens: A Brief History of Humanity*", by Yuval Noah Harari. This book explores the ways in which biology and history have defined us and enhanced our understanding of what it means to be "human". For this coming Wednesday, please read Chapters 17, 18, and 19 of the book, "*Take This Bread*", by Sara Miles.

Tai Chi

Tai Chi class is at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday afternoons in the Chapel; a good time of peace and balance in a lovely place. Please come and join us. Tai Chi will be cancelled any Thursday that schools are closed for bad weather this winter. Contact Claire Rosser at 301.275.0617 or Cjrosser@aol.com if you have any questions.

Thursday Morning Yoga Class

Yoga classes are offered on Thursdays at 10:00 AM in the Chapel, 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.

Lucia Pires is from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She is a 500-hour Pranakriya Yoga School of Healing Arts certified yoga teacher. Her training focuses on cultivating and enhancing the relationship of the student with his or her life force through yoga postures, breath work and meditation, in order to create change in awareness and help the student move towards wholeness and greater aliveness. She completed her professional training in 2015.

Lucia is the mother of two boys, ages 14 and 10, and when they give her a little break she enjoys reading, writing, long walks in nature and dancing.

Spanish Class

Come and take part in Ascension's Spanish Class on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Ascension House. You don't need to know Spanish to come, because we get together to learn and/or practice. For more information contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Parishioner with Cancer in Need of Transport to Doctors

Leslie Pool has cancer and is in need of help getting to her numerous medical appointments. Ascension is not her only source of help, but we are looking for a few people who can assist. Please contact Bubba Pflantzbaum at bubbashalom@gmail.com

Healing Prayer Ministers

We are in desperate need of Volunteers to provide this special function at our 8 o'clock service. Training and assistance will be provided to you on a one-on-one basis. Give your name to Father Javier, or call Lin at 301 948-0122.

WE HAVE GONE DIGITAL

In this day and age we must keep up with technology. We have update Servant Keeper (Ascension's database) to allow parishioners to update their own information on the church's database. The link below will allow you to access it by entering your email address and creating a password. You will be able to upload your own photo, update your current information, and also view your contributions and print your own statements. Of course those whom wish us to provide them with their statements, we will be happy to do so. You will be able to share your interests in severing and tell us where you are serving now. If you have any difficulties, please contact Lin at office@ascensionmd.org

<https://servantkeeper.com/member-portal/ECOTA/registration/email>

Are you interested in helping someone in need of transportation get to church?

We have members at Ascension that are looking for a ride to Sunday service. Are you available, are you interested in giving them a lift? If you live in Gaithersburg and would like to assist please contact the parish administrator Lin Keene at office@ascensionmd.org

Personnel Committee Seeks Volunteers!

Do you have Human Resource Management or Managerial experience? Do you have a keen eye for detail? Are you gifted at conflict resolution? Well if so, then the personnel Committee is looking for volunteers. We are looking for help with the following areas of personnel: reviewing the personnel policies and guidelines, establishing salary structures, creating and performing annual reviews, and reviewing benefits packages for the staff and clergy. If any of the above sounds interesting, Ascension could use your help. Please contact the Vestry Liaison, Rose Buck, at rose.buck2@gmail.com or at 301.325.6291 or email Lin Keene at office@ascensionmd.org.

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Montgomery Hospice

Montgomery Hospice is a nonprofit hospice that has been serving the residents of Montgomery County for 36 years. We provide professional end-of-life care in homes, extended care facilities and at Casey House, our acute care facility. We are looking for new volunteers. Our greatest need is for volunteers to visit patients.

These volunteers provide companionship for patients, respite for family members, lavender oil hand massages, music by the bedside or help with practical matters. Many provide the gift of “presence” by simply being with a patient. All volunteers go through an application process and a three-day training.

For more information, call 301-921-4400 or visit www.montgomeryhospice.org/volunteer

Ministerio Felicidad

Ascension members prepare lunches and send love and prayers to day laborers in the neighborhood of the church. Join Javier at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 29 in the church kitchen. If you have any question, Contact Javier at ocampoj@ascensionmd.org

Men's Shelter Lunch Preparation

The Men's Shelter Lunch program provides bagged lunches for homeless men, assembled in the Undercroft once a month. Supplies are donated by Ascension members. Depending on the season, we provide forty to eighty lunches a month. The next program will be on September 16 at 11:15 a.m. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help, or sign up at <http://bit.ly/1VAKEz8>.

Gaithersburg HELP

This organization provides emergency food and other support to needy families in Gaithersburg. Non-perishable food collected at Ascension every week, and during specific holiday in-gatherings, helps to stock the pantry. Donations may be brought to church at any time and left in the narthex. For more information, contact Melanie Mitchell at 301.519.1074 or melanie.mitchell@verizon.net

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers For Those Whose Lives are Closely Linked With Ours: St. Matthew's Church/San Mateo, Hyattsville, St. Matthew's Day School, Hyattsville, United Nations International Day of Peace (September 21) - Pray for peace and benevolence among all nations, Remember and pray for all Jewish people during the holy time of Yom Kippur (September 19), Deacons Ordination Service (September 22) - Pray for those who are to be ordained to the diaconate

We pray for comfort, healing, courage and hope for Jean Cohn, Harriette Eleanor Cooper, Fredy Diaz, Peggy Donnellon, Jim & Carol Keenan, Rudi Miksa, Ann Mitchell, Daniel/Aillen Pagan/Henandez, Wendy Jo Perkins, Leslie Pool, Olive Rivera, Fran Spina, Ruthie Swain, Samuel Tellu, Suzanne Winterhalter and all

those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, as well as for all those on our extended healing prayer list.

We give thanks for the Altar Flowers were given by Mafoi Metzger in celebration of her son's, Albert N. Hammond, birthday which was on Sunday, September 9th.

QUICK LINKS

[Link to Nan's Sunday, September 9 Sermon Podcast: "The Vine of Jesus Has No Boundaries"](#)

[Link to Services Bulletin](#)

[Link to Sermon and Other Videos page](#)

[Link to the Episcopal Diocese of Washington's Website](#)



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