

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Church of the Ascension Schedule of Christmas Celebration December 23-25, 2018

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There are just enough minor differences from last year that this notice may help to keep all the joyous events straightened out for your calendar.

Sunday, Dec. 23 — 4th Sunday of Advent All services will be held at their normal times.
8:00am; 10:00am; 12 noon.

Monday, Dec. 24—Christmas Eve Two services.
5:00pm The Eucharist for families with children.
9:00pm Traditional Christmas service with carols

Tuesday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day A single service at 10am.

Sunday, Dec. 30 — 1st Sunday after Christmas One Ascension Sunday. A single bilingual service at 10am. Join us to celebrate the New Year after the Eucharist.

HEADLINERS

Help Decorate the Church for Christmas!

The Altar Guild and anyone else who would like to join in will be decorating the church for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services and the rest of the Christmas season. We'll meet in the nave on Sunday December 23 at 3:00 p.m. to beautify the church with poinsettias, greenery and more. Come and join in! Contact Sari Stoddard at sari.stoddard@verizon.net or 301-325-8791 for information or if you have questions.

Ascension's Giving Tree

This advent season, a "Giving Tree" will adorn the Narthex, whereby we will join Ascension's youth group in supporting the wonderful work done by Comfort Cases, Inc. This excellent organization provides support and dignity to all children entering a foster home.

The ornaments on the tree will consist of two cards which will be color-coded for each age group and item. Simply separate the cards, hang one on the tree, take the other card with you for reference, and place the unwrapped item in the collection box located in the Narthex. Eventually, we hope the tree will be covered with many brightly colored cards. If you have any questions, feel free to contact fellow parishioners Sue and/or Richard Snay (tel: 301.977.5259; email: subarsy@aol.com).

What? No Angels?

It is again the Holiday Season and time to think about the Epiphany Pageant. Epiphany is

Sunday January 6th and the plan is to present it at 1:30pm in the Main Church. The pageant this year (New) will be titled "What? No Angels?" The story is about a flashy TV producer whom returns home to produce a flashy Christmas pageant and show off how talented they are.. The members of the cast teach them what is more important. There are parts for ages 3 and up. there are 12 speaking parts that range from Lisa a young girl. Paula /Paul Powers a top NY TV executive , a character named trouble; Church pastor, Mary and Joseph, Shepherds, 3 Wise folk, Stable animals, to angels. Times considered for rehearsal are : Sunday December 16th 11:30-12:30; Sunday December 23rd 11:30-12:30; Saturday January 5th 10-12 and of course Sunday January 6th. Please contact Gordon Donnelly after the 10am service. In rm 2 11:50am and at vagordon1@yahoo.com and 571-275-6637

Come join the fun.

Coffee Supplies

During one of my Colleague Group meeting I shared with them the success of our “coffee hour” at Ascension. We have had on average of 50 to 60 people per Sunday. In light of the popularity of the coffee hour I am asking for people to volunteer to bring coffee cups, desert plates and cream for coffee. Please bring you donation on Sunday or during the week at office hours.

Thank you so much! Javier

One Ascension Sunday

On December 30th, it will be One Ascension Sunday. We are going to celebrate the end of one year and the start of another. Please join us after the service and bring a dish to share. Please plan on joining in on the fun.

There will be an insert sign-up in the Sunday Service Bulletin so that we can have a rough idea of who is coming and what people are bringing.

Please sign-up using this link: <https://bit.ly/2C56IPJ>

Christmas Flowers

If you would like to donate toward Christmas Flowers, please use the “Flower Offering” envelopes on the table in the Narthex.

Thanks,
Sari

Send Your Photos

Have you taken any pictures of the event held here at Ascension? We would like it if you would share those photos with us. We are compiling a folder of photos take through out 2018 and throughout the coming years.

Continuing the Collection of Items for ComfortCases

The inspiring sermon in September 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.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Wednesday Morning Book Group

Ascension’s book group is 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”. Our next meeting will be in Ascension’s library at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 2nd. All are welcome to participate. Please read Chapters 13 and 14 for this meeting.

iRest Guided Meditation: Holiday Offering

This is a healing, deeply relaxing, guided meditation.
In honor of the season, meditations will be Christ-centered.
Thursdays @ Church of the Ascension, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
December 20
with Dr. Tina Lightner-Morris, LCPC

Cost: canned food & if you can, a love offering to Ascension

All are welcome.
Please bring your blanket to stay warm.

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.

No class on December 20th and 27th.

Thursday Morning Yoga Class

Yoga classes are offered on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. 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

Spanish Classes will restart after January 21st. Come and take part in Ascension's Spanish Class on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 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

Godly Play

For the 10:00 service, all children and teachers will meet in room 4, the "place of peace" and then go to their respective classes (Joyful Path and Godly Play).

A Joyful Path

A Joyful Path—10:00 a.m.

The members of A Joyful Path will make discoveries about Vietnamese peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh. He believed sharing his beliefs in practicing inner peace and mindfulness would bring peace to others and the world. Come join us in Room 2 during the 10 a.m. service.

A Joyful Path—12:00 p.m. Escuela Dominical Para Niños. The members of A Joyful Path will be learning how to concentrate our energy. We will use memory games and our story of the week “Sam digs a well.” Come join us in Room 2 during the 12noon service.

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, January 26 in the church kitchen. If you have any questions, Contact Javier at ocampo@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 40 to 80 lunches each month. The next program is January 20th at 9:30 a.m. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help, or sign up [here](#)

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. 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.

We pray for comfort, healing, courage and hope for Sciou Broderick, Harriette Eleanor Cooper, Fredy Diaz, Peggy Donnellon, Cynthia Dorssett, The Rev. Jorge Garcia, Patricia Griffith, Tana Hight, Marcia Nobel, Daniel Pagan, Olive Rivera, Ruthie Swain, Fran Spina, Michelle Tapia, Samuel Tellu, Douglas Wasikye, 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.

QUICK LINKS

[Link to the Service Bulletin](#)

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

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



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