



CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: WE JOYFULLY PROCLAIM, CELEBRATE,
WITNESS, AND SERVE JESUS CHRIST

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday: 4:30 p.m.
Sunday: 8:15 a.m., 10:00 a.m.,
11:45 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday-Friday:
6:45 a.m., 12:00 noon
Saturday: 8:30 a.m.

RECONCILIATION

Tuesday: 6:15 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
Thursday: 7:00 p.m.
Saturday: 3:15 p.m.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

1st Thursday of the Month:
6:30 p.m.

ROSARY

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
Monday-Friday: 6:20 a.m.
Saturday: 8:00 a.m.

BAPTISMS

Please contact the parish office
or website for information and
scheduling

MARRIAGE

Couples should contact one of
the parish priests at least six
months prior to the wedding
date
Annulments: Contact Fr. Tom or
Fr. Michael

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday:
8:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

SECOND SUNDAY

OF Advent

A voice cries out:
In the desert prepare the way of the Lord!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!
Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill shall be made low.

Isaiah 40:3-4



DECEMBER 10, 2017

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RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE & CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Sunday, Dec. 10
 Cure of Ars - 3:00PM
 Queen of the Holy Rosary - 3:00PM
 St. Agnes - 3:00PM
 St. Paul (Spanish and English) - 7:30PM

Monday, Dec. 11 - 7:00PM
 Holy Trinity
 Holy Spirit
 St. Michael the Archangel

Tuesday, Dec. 12 - 7:00PM
 Good Shepherd (Spanish and English)
 Prince of Peace
 St. Joseph

Thursday, Dec. 14 - 7:00PM
ASCENSION
 Divine Mercy (Gardner/Edgerton)
 Sacred Heart (Shawnee)
 St. Pius X
 St. John Paul II

Sunday, Dec. 17
 Queen of the Holy Rosary - Wea - 3:00PM
 St. Ann - 3:00PM
 Nativity - 7:30PM

Christmas Mass

DEC 24
4 PM
6 PM
8 PM
10 PM
DEC 25
9 AM
11 AM

ASCENSION THIS WEEK

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 10

Angel Tree, Gathering Area, Gifts due back by 5:00PM
 Catholic Charities Food Drive, Parking Lot, Before All Masses
 Christ the Shepherd, Gathering Area, After Masses
 Blood Drive, Parish Hall, 9:00AM-1:00PM
 Sunday Scripture, St. Luke Rm., 9:15AM
 K4C, 10:00AM
 New Parishioner Informational Mtg., St. Mark Rm., 11:15AM
 Baptism Class, St. Luke Rm., 1:00PM
 Baptisms, Church, 1:00PM
 AA Mtg., St. John Rm., 1:00PM
 Al Anon Mtg., St. John Rm., 4:00PM
 S&L, Youth Ctr., 6:30PM
 Year I, Parish Hall, 6:30PM

Monday, December 11

RCIA, St. Mark Rm., 6:00PM
 School of Faith Christianity, Church, 7:00PM
 Men's Basketball Age 21+, Gym, 8:30PM

Tuesday, December 12

Consoling the Heart of Jesus, St. Luke Rm., 9:30AM
 Women of Ascension Advent Bible Study, St. Mark Rm., 9:30AM
 Consoling the Heart of Jesus, St. Luke Rm., 7:00PM
 Liturgy Committee Mtg., Conf. Rm., 7:00PM
 True Reformers, St. Mark Rm., 7:00PM
 Fathers of St. Joseph, St. Luke Rm., 8:30PM

Wednesday, December 13

Ascension Book Club, Conf. Rm., 1:00PM
 Youth Faith Formation, 5:30PM
 Zoom-HS Youth Group, Youth Ctr., 6:00PM
 AA Mtg., St. John Rm., 7:00PM

Thursday, December 14

Jesus, Java, and Juice, Church, 6:45AM Mass
 Catholicism 101, St. Mark Rm., 9:30AM
 American Heritage Girls, Parish Hall, 6:15PM
 Catholicism 101, St. Mark Rm., 7:00PM
 Communal Penance Service, Church, 7:00PM

Friday, December 15

Men of Ascension, St. Luke Rm., 6:00AM

Saturday, December 16

Legion of Mary, St. Luke Rm., 6:15AM

Sunday, December 17

Donuts, Parish Hall, After 8:15AM and 10:00AM Masses
 Sunday Scripture, St. Luke Rm., 9:15AM
 K4C, 10:00AM
 Candidate/Sponsor Session, Gathering Area, 1:00PM or 3:00PM
 AA Mtg., St. John Rm., 1:00PM
 Al Anon Mtg., St. John Rm., 4:00PM
 Fathers of St. Joseph, Conf. Rm., 6:30PM
 Year I, 6:30PM

STEWARDSHIP

"Prepare the way of the Lord..." - Mark 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, does just that – it puts us on the path to holiness and it invites others to be holy, too.

Weekly Offertory: December 3	\$114,638.40
Monthly Autodebit: November	\$197,153.26
680 Families on Autodebit	
Fiscal YTD: November, 2017	\$2,436,411.12
Registered Families	3,193

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR PRISON INMATES AVAILABLE AFTER MASSES THIS WEEKEND

Bring Christ to someone who rarely receives Christmas cards. After Mass please stop by the table in the gathering area and pick up a name of a prison inmate with instructions. You will be anonymous. Please submit your card by December 14. Call John Stanley at 913-488-8448 with questions.

MASSES FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Even though these are celebrated very close to each other, the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas are celebrated separately. Masses for Sunday are 4:30pm (Saturday), 8:15am, 10:00am and 11:45am. Masses for Christmas only will be at 4:00pm, 6:00pm, 8:00pm and 10:00pm December 24 and 9:00am and 11:00am December 25. Christmas blessings!

DECEMBER BULLETIN DEADLINES

Due to the holidays, please make note of the accelerated December bulletin deadlines. Thank you.

Bulletin	Information due to Maggie Wright*
Dec. 24 & 31	Dec. 14 @ noon
Jan. 7	Dec. 27 @ noon

*Please get staff approval prior to submitting and email to mwright@kcascension.org.

**BLOOD DRIVE
 December 10, 9:00AM-1:00PM
 Parish Hall**

ASCENSION THIS WEEK (Continued)

ASCENSION BOOK CLUB

December 13, 1:00PM
Conference Rm.

Our book for December is Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi. We will meet on Wednesday, December 13, at 1:00pm in the conference room. For details call Linda Cook at 913-897-3201. Come join our discussion!

ZOOM HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

December 13, 6:00PM
Youth Ctr.

Zoom (high school youth group) is Wednesday, December 13. Our theme this week is Prepare the Way (for finals). We will begin the night with a light dinner and homemade hot chocolate! Are you studying for finals? Need a coloring break? Just want to see your friends but also accomplish things? Join us for this delightfully quiet evening! All high school students are welcome!

JESUS, JAVA, AND JUICE

December 14, 6:45AM, Beginning with Mass
Church

JJJ (Jesus, Java, and Juice) is for all high school students! We begin with 6:45am Mass and morning prayer in the church and then head to the youth center for breakfast together!

MATRIMONY AND HOLY ORDERS

December 14, 9:30AM or 7:00PM
St. Mark Rm. All are welcome! Free!
No registration required



Adults - Join us this week in Catholicism 101 as we watch a DVD and explore the catholic faith. Each week's session stands alone so you can come whenever it works for you. Each session is 1 1/2 hours. Stop by and check it out. Bring a friend!

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

December 14, 7:00PM
Church

For other reconciliation times in the archdiocese, please see Page 2.

FAMILY OUTING

December 15
Offsite

The youth office would like to invite all families for a night out at the movies! We will be attending a viewing of "Wonder" at a local theater. Tickets will be available at a discounted rate through the youth office. Please contact us at findithere@gmail.com for more information.

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE/SPONSOR SESSION

December 17, 1:00PM or 3:00PM
Gathering Area

Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Session will be Sunday, December 17, at 1:00pm or 3:00pm (depending on the time you signed up for). We will begin in the gathering area.

SPLENDID THINGS RETREAT

Attn: All High Schoolers
Sign Up Today!
January 15

Splendid Things is a retreat for all high school students. Registration is currently open! You do not want to miss this retreat! Early bird pricing (\$60.00) runs through December 23, after that the price increases to \$75.00. This would be a fantastic Christmas present for your high school student! For more information, check out our website at kcascension.org and click on the Splendid Things Retreat on our Home Page for more details.

FAITH AMONG US



FAITH AMONG US

Faith Among Us is an addition to our bulletin as "We Joyfully Proclaim, Celebrate, Witness and Serve Jesus Christ" and live as disciples of Jesus Christ. FAITH AMONG US highlights the wonderful acts of faith and works being done by fellow parishioners with their pure trust in God. Church of the

Ascension is a vibrant community filled with amazing people and we want to share how God has impacted your life or your family's or how you are using your God given talents to give back to others.

Acts of faith and acts of mercy are being completed each and every day by Church of the Ascension parishioners like yourself. If you have a faith story you wish to share or know someone that others would love to hear about, please submit an article with 250 words or less to Dawnlee Maurer at dmaurer@kcascension.org. Feel free to send a picture to accompany your submitted article!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for organized, detail-oriented volunteers to work on the Parish Mission in January and Lent Small Groups in February! This is a great way to donate your skills to your parish! This group of volunteers will work on this project from now until late February. If interested contact Liz Willman, Director of Adult Faith, lwillman@kcascension.org or 913-681-3348 ext. 139. Call today!!

Catholicism 101-Refresher Course-Ongoing Adults-Please drop in to one (or all!) of our weekly classes.



Are you new to your faith? Has it been a while since you have refreshed your knowledge of the Catholic faith? Are you up-to-date but looking for more? If you answer yes to any of these questions, this course is for you! Utilizing the Symbolon DVD series, we will explore the Catholic faith. Each week's session stands alone so you do not have to worry if you miss a class! This course runs now until January 18, 2018, on Thursdays from 9:30am-11:00am or 7:00pm-8:30pm. (class does not run 12/21 or 12/28). Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

This week we will be showing Matrimony and Holy Orders
Location is in the St. Mark room. **All are welcome! Free! No registration required.**
Each session is 1 ½ hours. Stop by and check it out. Bring a friend!



Open Hearts ... Open Homes
Calling for Lent
Small Group Leaders!



We are looking for parishioners who are willing to lead a small group (8-10 people) in your home this Lent (Feb.-March) please reply today!



Materials and training will be provided to leaders in January. We would really love to have some "family friendly" homes.... Ones where participants can bring their kids with them.

We would like the homes lined up before Christmas. Please call or email Liz Willman, Director of Adult Faith at lwillman@kcascension.org or 913-681-3348 ext. 139 today!

UPCOMING EVENTS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

ARTS AND ENVIRONMENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Beginning December 18, 3:30PM
Gathering Area

Do you ever wonder how the Church becomes so beautiful?
Join us to help!

-December 18, 3:30pm-6:30pm (setting up manger and trees in the gathering area).

-December 21, 8:00am-12:00pm and after noon Mass if needed, (finish setting trees and overflow Mass set up).

-December 20 flowers will be delivered and we will put them in place Saturday, December 23, after the morning Mass around 9:00am.

NEW LADIES BRIDGE GROUP (5 Card Major) December 20, 12:30PM St. John Rm.

Have you always wanted to learn how to play bridge or have not played in a while? We have just the bridge group for you! Join us on December 20 from 12:30pm-2:30pm in the St. John room for an afternoon of playing bridge and having the opportunity to meet other women of the parish and community! This newly created bridge group will continue to meet on the third Wednesday of each month and you are sure to have a good time! Contact Patty Schmitt at 402-618-7569 with questions.

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION NATIVITY PLAY December 20, 5:30PM Parish Hall

Weekly Youth Faith Formation Nativity Play will be at 5:30pm in the parish hall on December 20.

ZOOM HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP December 20, 6:00PM Youth Ctr.

Zoom (high school youth group) is Wednesday, December 20. All high school students are invited to attend as we sweeten the end of finals with a cookie decorating competition! The night will begin with a light dinner at 6:00pm and other activities to follow.

JESUS, JAVA, AND JUICE December 21, Noon, Beginning with Mass Please Note Different Start Time Church

JJJ (Jesus, Java, and Juice) is for all high school students! We will start with Mass at noon and then finish with lunch in the youth center.

ADDICTED TO JESUS (A2J)

Attached to Jesus (A2J) will resume on January 16. Have a Merry Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year!



YEAR-END GIVING

With the Advent season upon us and the year coming to a close, it is an ideal time to give thanks for the many wonderful blessings received and to consider an additional gift to our parish community.

Five Simple "Gift" and Year-End Tax Strategies:

1. Gift of Appreciated Stock - Gifts of stocks, bonds and mutual funds can be made to our parish or any Catholic entity on a tax favored basis.
2. Donor Advised Fund (DAF) - Was this a particularly good year financially or did the sale of a business, or an inherited IRA bump you into a higher tax bracket? Consider starting a family giving account (DAF) at the Catholic Foundation of Northeast Kansas (CFNEK). Lock in your deduction this year and spread your giving to our parish and multiple charities for years to come. Using appreciated stock to fund your DAF can maximize tax savings. The minimum to start your family's new DAF is \$5,000.00.
3. Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) - Increase your lifetime income while making a gift to our parish. A CGA through the CFNEK gives you and/or your spouse income for life, and your gift helps our parish today. Turn under-performing CDs, cash or low dividend stock into reliable, tax-favored, lifetime income.
4. Life Insurance - Do you have a paid up policy or a policy with a cash value that you no longer need. Consider giving unneeded policies to our parish to help build God's everlasting kingdom during your lifetime.
5. Year-end giving ideas - Jesus reminds us to "render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's" but there is no obligation to pay more taxes than required by law. Take advantage of tax strategies available to you to keep money in your pocket and to help the charitable causes you care about the most.

Contact Dawnlee Maurer in the parish office 913-681-3348 for more information on year-end giving as well as planned giving.

2018 ANNUAL APPEAL

If you have not yet returned your 2018 stewardship commitment form, kindly return your completed form in the offertory collection or directly to the parish office. You may also place your completed form in the wooden box at the welcome desk. Commitment forms can be found at the welcome desk as well.



THE MARRIAGE SHIELD

FAITH DEVOTION

By Ray Martin based on Steve Bollman's *The Choice Wine*

If there was a simple solution out there that relieved anxiety, fear, depression, and was known to strengthen a marriage to the point that it was less likely to break down, people would bottle it up and sell it! The truth is that it is not a pill or product, but rather an uncomplicated thing that we all can do: pray. Prayer is a powerful tool.

The third F of The Marriage Shield is Faith Devotion. We previously covered fidelity and fiscal stewardship, but faith is the magic ingredient that has such a profound influence on our behavior that it guides our choices to be faithful to our marriage and responsible stewards of our finances.

Time For Family

Bollman's father-in-law, Riley Leggett, told him to sit with his family in church every Sunday. This wisdom has a profound impact on a family. Couples attending weekly church services have a divorce rate 60% lower than those who never attend church services. Why? Because going to church changes the behaviors that lead to divorce: infidelity, using money foolishly, and substance abuse which all decrease significantly when you regularly worship with your community.

Shielding Your Relationship

The Marriage Shield covers sex, money, and religion, three topics people do not like to talk about, but that is because they are the leading causes of problems in a relationship.

The *Choice Wine* by Steve Bollman says that nailing these three areas of your life will nearly divorce proof your marriage because they substantially lower the probability of a marital breakdown. In our first discussion on The Marriage Shield, we covered that married people are generally happier, healthier, and wealthier than average. Spending time at the dinner table proved to be a huge benefit to our children which is why protecting marriage is so critical to the future of our community making it all the more important to protect following the three F's: **Fidelity, Fiscal Stewardship, and Faith Devotion.**

Resources: *The Choice Wine* by Steve Bollman of Paradisus Dei

Benefits of Mass & Daily Prayer

- Prayer reduces anger, fear, and anxiety.
- Prayer makes one more empathetic and compassionate.
- Strengthens a person's sense of self.
- Leads to lower levels of loneliness, depression, anxiety; less substance abuse.
- Prayer changes you, which changes your marriage. Attending weekly worship reduces the likelihood of divorce.

Statistically Protecting Your Marriage

1. Couples who do not cohabitate prior to marriage and are faithful reduce the likelihood of marital breakdown from around 30% down to only 11%. This is why infidelity is the greatest threat to a relationship.
2. Attending weekly worship decreases the divorce rate to 9% and praying daily takes it down to 5.9%.
3. Many who are fiscally responsible have earned a certification or bachelor's degree and combining that with fidelity and faith brings the probability down to nearly zero. Considering that the foolish use of money is the second leading cause of marital breakdown it makes sense.

MARDI GRAS

February 10, 2018



Go to our parish website for more details on:

Buy Now Items...just in time for **CHRISTMAS!**

Corporate Sponsorships

VIP Tables

RSVP

Raffle

Items Needed for Silent & Oral Auction

Gift Cards for Grab A Good Time

Donation Forms

20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

MARDI GRAS 2018



Business & VIP Sponsorship Tables

Limited Number ~ Reserve Yours Today!

Mardi Gras Catalog Ads Available Too!

Great Donation & Tax Write-off!

Deadline for reservations: December 31, 2017

For more information on how your business can support the parish & be a corporate sponsor, please contact:

Julie Stoll at 913-269-7124 or Julie@juliestoll.net

****Contact Julie for Details!****



MARDI GRAS 2018 *20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!*

Going Christmas Shopping?

Add Mardi Gras Items To Your List!

Mardi Gras Donations as well as
New Gift Cards Are Wanted!



Looking for Silent Auction Items for

Sports & Leisure * Home & Garden * Religious Items
His & Her Pamper Yourself Items * Children's Items * Grab A Good Time

And Experiences & Events like

Tickets to Sporting Events * Airline and Hotel Points or Vouchers
Concert Tickets * Vacation Destination Accommodations

Monetary and Gift Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Office
before December 31.

Your donations are greatly appreciated for the success of Mardi Gras 2018!

Questions? Contact Dawnlee Maurer at 681-3348 or via email at dmaurer@kcascension.org



MARDI GRAS 2018 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

MARDI GRAS 2018 Raffle

Grand Prize

\$5,000



Seller of Winning Ticket Wins \$1,000

Drawing will be held February 10, 2018 during the Oral Auction!

Tickets available at the Parish Office, at Parish Events and the evening of Mardi Gras.

Suggested donation is \$50 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$100.

Need not be present to win. No purchase necessary. Proceeds benefit Church of the Ascension.



MARDI GRAS 2018 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

WEEKLY PRAYER

Mass Intentions For The Week



NOTE: Please let us know when your loved one is better. Names are removed after six months. Contact Jean with questions or to return name to sick list
jhinman@kcascension.org

Monday 6:45AM 12:00PM	December 11 +Deidre Sechi by Rich & Linda Sizemore +Louis Astuto by Rose & Millie
Tuesday 6:15AM 6:45AM 8:00AM 11:30AM 12:00PM	December 12 Reconciliation +Pat Lough by Rose & Millie +Lisa Rhodes by Wright Family Reconciliation +Pat Ward by Catherine Ward
Wednesday 6:45AM 12:00PM	December 13 Richard & Linda Fortune by Catholic Cemeteries +Patricia Hall by Molly & Rick Peterson
Thursday 6:45AM 12:00PM 6:30PM 7:00PM	December 14 +Jerry Hill by Keith & Molly Johnson Gerald Snyder Family by Mike Lessin Weekly Rosary Reconciliation
Friday 6:45AM 12:00PM	December 15 +Chris Winger, +Kay Snyder by Knights of Columbus +Jim Schaus by Mari MacCallum
Saturday 8:00AM 8:30AM 3:15PM 4:30PM	December 16 Weekly Rosary +Joan O'Reilly, +John Boehm by Bereavement Ministry Reconciliation +B. J. Mayer by Mayer Family
Sunday 8:15AM 9:30AM 10:00AM 11:45AM 5:00PM	December 17 +Marie Mouser by Henson Family Weekly Rosary +Mary Jane Clarkin by Family +Ila Martin by Handley Family Ascension Parishioners

Please let us know when your loved one is better!

Parishioners:
Kathleen Baldwin, Millie Bock, Jamie Boos, Chloe Boudreaux, Jerry Brown, Joyce Burns, Heather Cardin, Roseann Copeland, Vince Costello, Bill Culpepper, Hunter Cussigh, Chelsea Dalbey, Mike Delaney, Bryan Dickerson, Toni Dillane, Bob Dinneen, Stephanie Dolak, Rick Doran, Karen Elliott, Maggie Fiddes, Doug Geck, Lynn George, Jack Gessler, Sharon Gilworth, Scott Graham, Phyllis Grieder, Ray Hamilton, Virginia Hermes, Burry Hinman, Jackson Hirt, Barb Hughes, Corky Jacobs, JoAnn Jeannet, Jeff, Dave Jones, Dorothy Kapler, Carrie Kilgore, Jerry & Pat Klimas, August Larson, Mary Lausten, Butch Lawrence, David Long, Joann Mader, Dale Marti, Jose Martinez, Kelly Mayer, Lynne Minelli, Forrest Mistler, Mike Mullen, Mary Nail, John O'Donnell, Jeff Palmer, Lisa Palmer, Wayne Parsons, Carmen Porterfield, Anna Punswick, Kay Raab, Charlie Regan, Karen Schemmel, Chris Schmidt, Celeste Sharp, Mary Shriver, George Shore, Elisa Smith, Jill Smith, Ana Sosa de Alonzo, Patricia Spinler, Wanda Stepanich, Sheila Strecker, Carol Stump, Fr. Tom Tank, Cindy Taylor, Mary Tira, Ron Ullmann, Hilde Virgilio, Dolores Wadawik, Collin Warrender, Dave Watson, Griffin Weyforth, Becky Wright.

Relatives & Friends of Parishioners:
David Akins, Paul Armijo, Demetra Arvanitakas, Brenda Ball, Colleen Barbour, Gaby Beckstrom, Marlene Belik, Sandra Boring, Chloe Boudreaux, Betsy Brothers, Cameron Burroughs, Bob Butters, Ann Castrop, Brian Cavanaugh, Lisa Copen, Tim Curtis, Paula Darling, Daphe, Corry DeRee, MaryNell Donoho, Lisa Dougherty, Mary Ann Dougherty, Blair Dryden, Jessica Eggleston, Walter Feuerborn, Jan Frahm, Helen Franken, Kathleen Fredrickson, Tom Fry, Drew Gabriele, Jerry Gates, Andy Geohegan, Emma Gibbar, Michael Glover, Jim Gottardi, Delores Graves, Connor Green, Sandra Grimes, Lori Hatton, Janie Herting, Henry and Tyler and Laura Higginbotham, Linda Hopfinger, Marie Jewett, Jerry Jirkovsky, Luke Paul Joseph, Terry Kauffman, Virginia Kierl, Connie King, Beth Kneib, Wilma Lambert, Marisa Leonardelli, John Lichiello, Jerome Lodermeier, Bob Long, Logan Lowrey, Pat Mahoney, Colby Martin, Mike Martin, Paschal Mascaux, Dennis McGrane, Lynn Morton, Kevin O'Grady, Virginia O'Neill, Jacque Pfeifer-Moffitt, Jim Quinn, Bobby Reed, Julia Reitzes, Carol Reilly, Jean Riley, Claudia Roche, Rafaela Rodriquez, Cindy Romito, Greg Scott, Presley Shelman, Sharon Smart, Pat Sonnenschein, Bob & T Stockman, Jason Sturdevant, John Sunderbruch, Frank Tripicchio, Kim Turner, Diane Underwood, Gary VanLeeuwen, Michele Vigil, Beverly Virgo, Michael Ward, Tom Weishaar, Hope Wellinghoff, Michael Wellinghoff, Helen Wiedle, David Wiltgen, Jim Wiltgen.

Unforeseen circumstances may require a change in the priest schedule.

WEEKLY PRAYER

**Second Sunday of Advent
Prepare the Way of the Lord**


Saint Peter shows us a characteristic of God that we normally do not think about. He tells us that for God, "a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day" (1 Peter 3:8). Somehow, God is not restricted by time as we are.

Taken literally, that seems to violate the laws of physics. Of course, God made those laws, so if anyone can ignore them, God certainly could. More likely, because early Christians sometimes complained that Jesus' second coming had been delayed, Peter is trying to tell us that what seems like a long time to us is nothing to God.

Like the early Christians, we may wonder how long it will take for God to answer our prayers. We may be praying for someone who is looking for a job, a sick relative, an end to abortion, or world peace. Some prayers just take time to be answered, especially if a large number of people need to change their hearts to make it happen. Some prayers require us to change, and we may not be ready.


What Peter means is that a thousand years is not too long for God if someone needs that long to repent. God is far more patient than we are. If someone had been fighting me for months or years, I would probably give up on them. But God can wait till we are mature enough to face our sins and be sorry for them. In the same way, God has been "waiting" over two thousand years for us to preach the gospel to all nations. God has been waiting for millennia for people to give up war as a means for solving our problems. God has been waiting since the beginning of the human race for us to learn how to love our neighbor.

We might not be as patient as God but we can help. Saint Peter says that we are not just waiting for the Lord's return, we are hastening it. When we make a choice that is based on faith rather than selfishness, we make it a little easier for people to believe in God. Jesus is the light of the world; he asks us to let our light shine, so that people can see Jesus in us. May our light "prepare the way of the Lord" (Mark 1:3).



Prayer Partners Intention
Voicemail Number
1-888-684-6555
Thank you!

Please pray for our active duty service members:



Lance Corporal Jonathan Scavuzzo USMC.
Lt. Jake Morin, USAF; LCDR TJ Dierks, USN
Larry Homan; 1st Lt Stephen Cuff, Army
Airborne; Corporal Luke Talken, USMC
Tech Sergeant Gregory Jeffery, USAF
Cpt. Brian Knipp, US Army

New Parishioners

Ms. Ruthie Bresette
Mr. Adrian Dsouza
Ms. Sara Drummond
Mr. George Trinastich

Baptisms

Grace Renée Friebele
Ryan Forrest Friebele, Jr.
Lila Jane Ruether
Riley Peterson

Together for Life

Lauren Simpson and Curtis Yonke

Banns of Matrimony

Anna Plum and Joseph Lower

From Death to New Life

Father Jerry Spencer
Dorothy Jeanne Williams, Mother of Mary Jeanne Byrd
John B. Williams, Brother of Mary Jeanne Byrd
Pat Murphy, Father of Matt
Mary Dinneen, Wife of Bob
Betty Ledet, Sister of Kay Boudreaux

December 11-17

- Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of The Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
- Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
- Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19;
Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54;
1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

MINISTRY NEWS

BASKETBALL MEN'S (AGE 21+)

For those who participate in men's basketball on Monday evenings from 8:30pm-10:30pm in the school gym, this group is limited to adult parishioners who are 21 years of age or older. Children and minors are not allowed in the gym or school during this scheduled gym time as supervision is minimal.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Men's Fraternal organization open to all Catholic men ages 18 and over. Interested in joining the Knights? Contact Desi O'Grady at desiogrady@yahoo.com or 913-485-1114.

Knights Christmas Social: The Advent and Christmas season is upon us, already! Time for the Knights Christmas Social December 10 at Cinzetti's Italian Market Restaurant at 91st and Metcalf. Cost is \$20.00 per person. Knights and their guest(s) are invited. Social hour starting at 5:30pm with dinner starting at 6:30pm.

Salvation Army: The Knights of Columbus are assisting in helping bring the season of Christmas to those who are in need. Two volunteer opportunities are available for Knights, wives and children over 12. If interested, please contact Ralph Vosters at 244-5071, ralph.vosters@gmail.com. Carpooling is available.

Christmas volunteer opportunity #1 - We need 30 volunteers to help pack 4,500 food boxes for Salvation Army on Saturday, December 16. Volunteers needed from 8:00am-1:30pm with lunch provided. This is a busy but enjoyable assembly line activity.

Christmas volunteer opportunity #2 - We need 16 volunteers (2 shifts of 8) to help hand out toys and food at a Salvation Army location on Wednesday, December 20. Volunteers to be divided into shifts, 8:30am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-4:00pm. See smiles on families less fortunate than us.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Sign up on our website www.ascensionkofc.com for activities).

- Knights Mass each Friday morning 6:45am.
- Christmas Social, Sunday, December 10, at Cinzetti's starting at 5:30pm.
- Salvation Opportunity #1, Saturday, December 16, 8:00am-1:30pm.
- Council Meeting, Monday, December 18, at 7:00pm in the parish hall.
- Salvation Opportunity #2, Wednesday, December 20.

MOTHERS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

January 4 at 7:00pm in the parish hall the Mothers of Young Children (MOYC) monthly meeting will be held. Join us and enjoy fellowship, prayer and strengthen your faith. Questions? Contact Anna Schuster at 785-541-1154 or ksu_rock@hotmail.com.

Mothers of Young Children (MOYC) provides expectant moms through moms with second grade age children spiritual enrichment and fellowship. For more information, please contact Anna Schuster at 785-541-1154 or ksu_rock@hotmail.com. It is not too late to join!

OUR COMMON HOME MINISTRY



The season of Advent is an invitation to renewal, to starting over, and to conversion. In the readings this Sunday, Peter speaks of the new heavens and the new earth that we await, and this new earth will be characterized by righteousness. When Pope Francis released his encyclical *Laudato si'* he applied this theme of renewal to our relationship with God, with our neighbors, especially those who suffer injustice, and with the Earth itself. In this new heaven and earth proclaimed in our readings, no one is excluded; all enjoy the bounty of creation, and all work for its flourishing. In *Laudato si'* Pope Francis repeatedly calls on us to rededicate ourselves to the common good, reminding us that the goods of the earth are meant for everyone. The Pope makes it abundantly clear that justice is a key element of this new Earth we await.

While we may be familiar with the call to heed the cry of the poor, especially at this time when we are to prepare the way of the Lord, we may not have considered how care for the Earth is integral to this mandate. When the Earth is degraded, the wealthy can more easily insulate themselves from harm and suffering, but the poor cannot. Pope Francis thus asks us, do we hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor? As we call upon God to renew the Earth, are we open to being instruments of that renewal? During this Advent may God instill in us His Spirit of healing and of hope. Catholic Climate Covenant



PERPETUAL ADORATION

These Holy Hours need partners:

Sunday	4:00pm and 6:00pm
Friday	10:00am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 6:00pm* and 11:00pm
Saturday	11:00am, 3:00pm, 4:00pm, 5:00pm, 6:00pm*, 7:00pm, 8:00pm and 9:00pm

(*needed ASAP)

Advent is a great time to spend more quality time with Jesus; feel free to visit Him in our beautiful chapel any time!

Please contact Debbie Engel at debora.suzanne@gmail.com or 913-485-8918 for more information. If you can assist weekly at one of these Holy Hours, please let me know. Also, please go to our website kcascension.org and go to "Quick Links/Current Volunteer Sign Ups," on the Home Page to substitute for an hour.

A View of Ascension Catholic School

This is why we do Catholic school

CATHOLIC – COMMUNITY

WITNESS of FAITH



For most, November 21st was an ordinary Tuesday before Thanksgiving. At Ascension Catholic School, November 21st was EXTRAORDINARY.

CATHOLIC Seventh grader, Jazzy Martin, **CHOSE** to share her faith by receiving her First Holy Eucharist at this Mass. Yes, a teenage witness for Christ.

COMMUNITY Weekly all school Mass prepared by our 2nd graders who are preparing for Holy Eucharist this year. Preschool students witnessed their teacher, Lynnette Rempel, share our faith by singing 'How Beautiful' for the Mass.

THIS is why you should consider Ascension Catholic School.
“ How Beautiful is the Body of Christ” is VISIBLE and REAL.

Ascension Catholic School invites all families to explore what our school offers. LIKE our Facebook page –“Ascension Catholic School Eagles” or visit www.aceagles.org

ASCENSION CATHOLIC SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL
913- 851-2531

MINISTRY NEWS (Cont'd.)**YOUTH FAITH FORMATION**Sunday, December 10

K4C at 10:00am in the school.

Year I at 6:30pm in the parish hall.

Year II (S&L) at 6:30pm in the youth center.

Wednesday, December 13

Weekly Youth Faith Formation will meet at 5:30pm in their classrooms. (practice for the Nativity Play will be at 6:45pm in the parish hall).

COMMUNITY NEWS**CHRISTMAS CAROLING****December 16, 10:00AM****Planned Parenthood, Overland Park, KS.**

"Peace in the Womb" Christmas caroling will be on Saturday, December 16. Join us from 10:00am-11:00am at 4401 W. 109th Street on the sidewalks outside of Planned Parenthood. Women who get abortions at Christmas time suffer a special kind of pain, as they begin to associate all the trappings of the season with the day they made that horrible choice. Invite all your pro-life contacts to join you sharing the Christmas message of peace by singing carols, one day during Advent. Babies have been saved from abortion when their mothers were waiting for abortion appointments and heard pro-lifers singing carols outside. One mother told us that "Silent Night" made her think of how Mary said "Yes" to being a mother, and she could not go through with the abortion. There is a nationwide event sponsored locally by Planned Parenthood Exposed.

RESPIRE CARE EVENT**December 16, 4:00PM****Holy Cross School, Overland Park, KS.**

The Special Needs Ministry of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas is happy to announce the Respite Care Program, which offers families who have a child with a disability a break from caregiving! There is a registered nurse on staff as well as a program coordinator, and coordinators for art, music and recreation activities.

For more information and/or to register, go to www.archkck.org/specialneeds or call Audrey Amor, our Respite Care Program Coordinator at 816-739-1197. Audrey can fill out the registration form over the phone and visit with them about the specific needs of your child!!

Our next Respite Care event will be on December 16 from 4:00pm to 8:00pm at Holy Cross School located at 8101 West 95th Street in Overland Park.

COMMUNITY NEWS (Cont'd.)**QUO VADIS DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR SINGLE MEN****"St. Peter-Called, Formed and Sent"****December 21-23****Register by December 18****Savior Pastoral Center, Kansas City, KS.**

Single men ages 18-35 are invited to discern their vocation guided by Archbishop Naumann, Vocation Director Fr. Scott Wallisch, and our seminarians. Take a short break from the materialism of Christmas and join other guys who are open to God's will. This free retreat is at Savior Pastoral Center December 21- 23. Through prayer, Mass and short conferences discover God's deepest desire for you. No obligation just opportunity, so come even if you cannot stay for the entire retreat. Learn more and register by December 18 at kckvocations.com or email vocation@archkck.org.

EVERY DAY IN LOVE SERIES**January 13, 5:30PM****Holy Spirit, Overland Park, KS.**

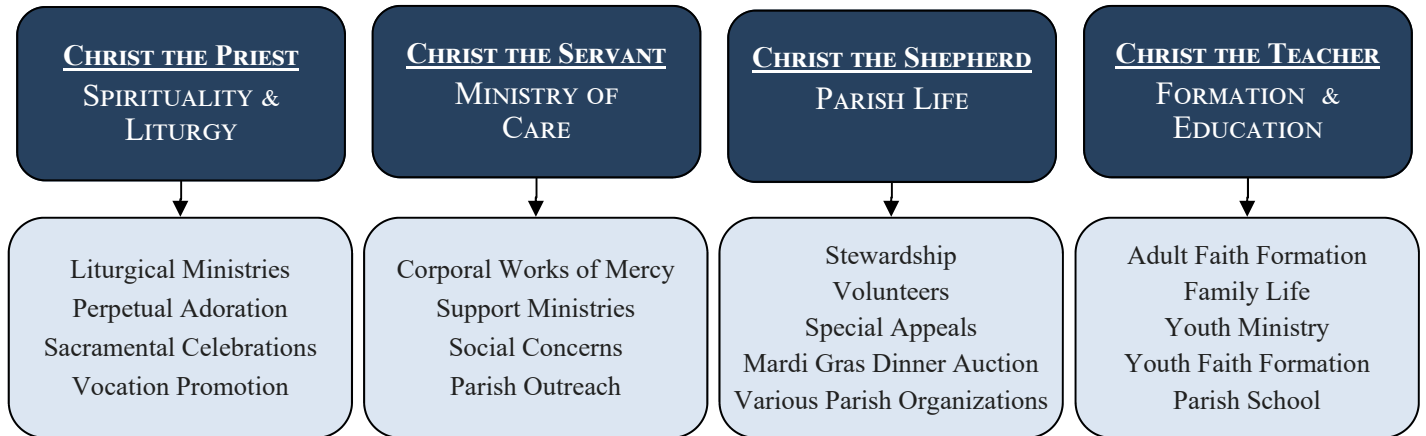
Do you need a common sense approach to inviting more joy into your marriage? Every Day in Love is an upbeat series of three-hour sessions which offer positive and affirming insights and fun couple exercises to help couples love smarter not harder. Two new series begin in January, one in Overland Park and one in Burlington (Saturday, January 13 at Holy Spirit at 5:30pm, and Sunday, January 14 at 1:00pm at St. Francis). Cost is \$25.00 a couple per session. Child care is included on a limited basis. This empowering series is a featured offering of the Joyful Marriage Project. Register and see more details at www.archkck.org/everyday. For questions email Brad at: bdupont@archkck.org.

JOB OPENING**ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL****Leawood, KS.**

St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Leawood, Kansas is seeking applicants for our Preschool Director position. Applicants must have 3 to 5 years of teaching and director level experience and a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education or equivalent. We are looking for a caring, team focused leader with a passion for teaching God's Children, who is self-directed, possesses strong organizational and interpersonal skills and who embraces and enthusiastically practices the Catholic faith. A complete job description, application and benefits information are available at www.stmichaelcp.org/employment-opportunities.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL



FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Budget Building/Grounds Maintenance	Construction Reports/Payments/Records/ Endowment	Support Services Human Resources Clerical Support	Census/Database Scheduling Communications
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PARISH CONTACTS

PARISH OFFICE

Phone: 913-681-3348 Fax: 913-681-3517
 ascensionchurch@kascension.org

Pastor	Monsignor Thomas Tank frtom@kascension.org
Parochial Vicar	Reverend Michael Guastello frmichael@kascension.org
Deacon	John Stanley jstanley@archkck.org
Business Manager	Sharon Weems sweems@kascension.org
Music	Dorothy Brandwein dbrandwein@kascension.org
Ministry of Care	Jean Hinman jhinman@kascension.org
Parish Life	Dawnlee Maurer dmaurer@kascension.org
Adult Faith & RCIA	Liz Willman lwillman@kascension.org
Adult Faith & Baptisms	Denise Greene dgreene@kascension.org
Social Media & Family Life	Ray Martin rmartin@kascension.org
Receptionist	Jan Montalvo jmontalvo@kascension.org
Communications	Maggie Wright mwright@kascension.org
Maintenance/Head Custodian	Virgil Crumpton verumpton@kascension.org

ASCENSION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Phone: 913-851-2531 Fax 913-851-2518

Principal	Becky Wright bwright@acseagles.org
Assistant Principal	Luke Jennison ljennison@acseagles.org
Preschool Director	Lynnette Rempel lrempel@acseagles.org
Administrative Assistant	Janet Eckert jeckert@acseagles.org
Administrative Assistant	Molly Johnson mjohanson@acseagles.org

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

Phone: 913-681-7683 Fax: 913-681-7634

Director	William O'Leary woleary@kascension.org
Administrative Assistant	Tricia Baldwin tbaldwin@kascension.org

YOUTH MINISTRY

8th Grade & High School	Joe Passantino findithere@gmail.com
8th Grade & High School	Annastasia Eftink findithere@gmail.com

COUNCIL CHAIRS

Parish Pastoral	Heath Hawk hthhawk@gmail.com
Finance	John Kmetz jkmetz@bkd.com
School Advisory	Stephen Tholkes stholkes@sbcglobal.net

Please go to kascension.org to see a full listing of all our ministries under Get Involved/Ministry Directory/Ministry Guide.