

AUGUST 2018



THE ASCENT

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

**Fall 2018
Adult Faith
Offerings Inside!**



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Dear Fellow Parishioners,

August 2018

Fall will soon be upon us with the opportunity to become more engaged in the life of our parish and especially our ongoing formation as Catholics. This ASCENT outlines the great variety of opportunities for adult education/formation provided by our parish this Fall. I really hope that you will review these resources and take advantage of these wonderful offerings.

Fall will also bring the opportunity for sharing our faith with our young people both through our parish school and our youth faith formation offerings. Family Faith Formation is a special opportunity for all parents with children to deepen their understanding of the faith as a family. Many families have discovered this as a beautiful way to bring a more active faith life into their normal life as a family. Check with the Youth Faith Formation office for information.

This fall will also bring all of us the opportunity to share more fully in the life of our archdiocesan church. ONE FAITH, ONE FAMILY, ONE FUTURE IN CHRIST is the theme for our upcoming archdiocesan campaign. This theme challenges us to realize our oneness as a Catholic community within northeast Kansas. Under the leadership of Archbishop Naumann we are invited to express our commitment to both our parish and our archdiocesan Church through our generous gifts to this campaign.

While the Archbishop's Call to Share will continue to fund operating needs, the gifts made through this campaign will address capital needs both in our parish and in the archdiocese. Twenty-five percent of our parishioner gifts will be returned to our parish to help fund the all weather canopy over the front church entrance and the new larger adoration chapel. Ten percent will also be given to All Saints, our sister parish in Kansas City, Kansas.

Major capital needs within the archdiocese include the construction of an independent living residence for retired priests, care for Villa St. Francis and its residents, infra-structure needs including handicap accessibility for Savior Pastoral Center, assistance for urban parishes with capital needs. These capital needs have been identified by the Archbishop and his consultants as major concerns that will help provide a solid foundation for the archdiocesan Church for the future.

This fall will bring many opportunities for us to become more fully engaged in the life of our Church. Renew your commitment to weekly Eucharist, sign up for an adult education program, share your faith more actively within your family life, support the mission of the Church through your generous commitment to ONE FAITH, ONE FAMILY, ONE FUTURE IN CHRIST. May the Holy Spirit bless and strengthen our parish as we move forward in living our faith more fully.

God's Blessings!
Father Tom



One of the things that has come to my attention is that over the past several years the number of people who participate in yoga in our country is on the rise. Yoga centers seem to be popping up everywhere. Many people credit their health and physical fitness, to some degree, with their participation in yoga. People can sign up for yoga at their local YMCA, health centers, public schools, and even in some churches. But what is yoga? I have found that when I talk to people about yoga most are unaware of its origin and purpose.

The tradition of yoga goes back over 5000 years and has its roots in eastern mysticism. The word, yoga, is taken from the Sanskrit word *yuj* which means “to join.” This begs the question – join to what or whom? And that’s the point. Yoga and the many body postures that are used in its practice are intended and were created to join a person to spirits; they are designed for the practitioner to be able to channel spiritual energy. This spiritual energy can be spiritually dangerous. And practicing yoga has the potential to expose a person to spirits that are harmful. Many people are unaware of this reality; they are unaware that yoga was designed for more than just a means of physical fitness and that it is a way of harnessing spiritual energies. Furthermore, its practice is intended to bring about harmony and union with the “divine.” If we look at some of the body postures that yoga teaches they are postures that resemble those of prayer and adoration.

The Manual of Minor Exorcisms states that, “increased interest these days in other religions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, or various pagan religions can lead people outside the protection of the Christian faith. The adopting of various practices emerging from these non-Christian sources – like yoga and reiki – is fraught with danger. Even a Christian delving into these practices can be spiritually affected without realizing it.” And so even if a devout Christian is practicing yoga without any spiritual intent, he or she may unknowingly be making themselves vulnerable to spiritual danger.

The reality is that God does not intend for us to channel any kind of spiritual energy. We do not achieve harmony and union with God through our own effort and merit. Rather it is in the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, through which we receive His Grace and draw close to Him.

For those of you who know me you are aware that I am a proponent of physical fitness and that I exercise several times a week. There are lots of different ways to live a healthy lifestyle, exercise, and stay physically and mentally fit. In my opinion yoga is not one of them for Christians because of the potential for harm. Moreover, Catholics should seek physical fitness programs and exercise that does not involve a spiritual component. If you are looking for recommendations I would like to suggest checking out Pietra Fitness at <https://pietrafitness.com/> (where there is a wealth of information on this subject) as an alternative to yoga.



Somehow, running between soccer practice and piano lessons, I had forgotten. Yesterday flew by without pause. The few hours of opportunity we had to be together – after the 3:15 school bell and before bedtime – were expended by afterschool activities, sports practices, homework, and the endlessly revolving chore of loading all five kids in our van to transport them from activity to activity.

“You didn’t have time yesterday,” she reminds me. “So, can we do it today? Can you help me?” At once I feel both guilt and exhaustion. I feel guilty because I have not made time for my daughter in the way she most needs; I felt exhausted because today is another busy day in a whole string of busy days, all seemingly too full to add one more obligation.



Yesterday she asked me to help her gather some “special Mary things” (as she termed it) – holy cards, books, candles, and rosaries. She said vaguely that she had something she wanted to work on with them, but she needed my help to gather all of these things from around our house. I promise her that I really will help her today, just as soon as we are finished with homework.

As we enter into a new school year, I have been reflecting on moments like this from the previous one. I wonder how many little opportunities I missed, or how many times I said “no” because I had already said “yes” to too many lesser-important things. Like the parable of the sower (Matthew 13: 3-8), I see how the thorns and thistles of busyness have choked out the seedlings of my children’s faith.

In my experience it seems that the most authentic expressions of faith, do not happen on a timeline or are they buried in a task list. True relationship occurs when we are quiet enough to listen and still enough to be truly present. As a family, we come to more deeply know and love one another when we have time to be together, to eat dinner together, to attend to each other’s needs, to have conversations without set objectives, and to pray together.

I am reminded that as a family we are called to be a Domestic Church – a miniature replica of the Universal Church. We are to be a place where love dwells and faith increases, where there is time and space for each of us to grow. As a mother, I am called to be truly present with each of my children. Too often I have let busyness reduce my vocation. I have let us function more as a collection of individuals living under one roof rather than as the living, breathing, life-giving Church we are called to imitate.

As a family with active, school-aged children, I do not expect (nor is it possible) to eradicate busyness altogether. However, I would at least like to minimize some of our unnecessary activities. For us, this means choosing one less activity per child this school year. It also means taking a few things off my own task list. My hope is that by choosing to say “no,” we will be more able to say “yes” to Jesus, “yes” to true life, faith, and family.

Rewind back to the experience from last school year that I opened with. After I make time to gather all of her desired materials, Lilly sets to careful work in her bedroom. She has her door closed so that no one will interrupt. After about 20 minutes she emerges, eager to show us what she created.

Carefully set in her room is a Marian prayer table. She is beaming with joy as she talks us through each of the items that she chose to use. She has a shell with holy water in it because she says it reminds her of the shell used in baptisms. She has real roses in a little vase because she knows that roses are Mary’s favorite flower. Each item is perfectly and thoughtfully placed. She goes on to tell us about a homily at school Mass in which Fr. Tom had encouraged everyone to honor Mary during the month of May. This is how she wanted to do so.

Now four months later, Lilly’s Marian altar still stands in her room. I find my children kneeling before it, fingering through the books, dipping their hands in the holy water, and rearranging the roses. It is a beautiful manifestation of my children’s faith and the maternal love of Mary made present in our household. Like a little seed of faith that was almost smothered before it came to bloom, it reminds me to clear more ground for the seeds that will be sown this school year.

Infertility is a profound, lonely burden to bear. No one would guess it from looking at you – especially in a time and in a culture when so many are childless by choice. In an age of “oversharing” the most intimate details of one’s life, infertility is an unspoken ordeal. And yet it is not the sort of thing one can ignore. A woman is reminded monthly of her body’s failure to cooperate with nature. The pain of infertility is different from other forms of physical suffering or disease. Because our bodies carry within them the potential for motherhood and fatherhood, infertility damages one’s self-conception of femininity or masculinity. A woman has a womb – but no child to nestle in it and grow. She has breasts – but no little one to suckle and nourish. A man’s sterility may cause him to feel insecure in his masculinity and suffer deeply – not because of his inability to provide for a family, but his inability literally to provide a family. And because children are the visible sign of marital love (the two made one literally), infertility strikes at the very heart of what it means to be a married couple. On top of all of this, men and women simply don’t communicate the same way, and their different ways of handling suffering can strain a marriage to the breaking point.



In vitro fertilization (IVF) seemingly holds out hope for couples who suffer from it. But, for many good reasons – theological, philosophical and moral – the Church opposes technologies, like IVF, which seek to replace (rather than assist) the conjugal act. Anyone with a sincere desire to understand these matters more deeply should read the Church’s explanation of its position. Good places to start include *Dignitas Personae* and “Life-Giving Love in an Age of Technology.” In these documents, the Catholic Church clearly teaches that IVF is morally impermissible: there are no circumstances under which it is allowed.

Of course, critiquing IVF in no way suggests that the children so conceived are not “children of God” or that they lack human dignity. They are clearly desired and wanted beyond measure – as all children should be. Human history is replete with such complicated and broken circumstances of conception. The dignity of the child is not diminished, but the broken circumstances remain and must be acknowledged as such.

But, the deep pain of infertility and the good and natural desire for a child do not legitimate any means to cease that suffering or obtain that end. Where does this leave those who suffer from infertility but are unwilling to participate in IVF? Where does that leave the many people who seek to conceive through IVF but because of its low success rate remain childless? While I am not a doctor or a counselor, I have walked this path and humbly offer some of the concrete things that have helped my husband and me.

1. Get good medical care. A healthy man and woman should be able to conceive, and a healthy woman should be able to bear a child. It is important to remember that the reproductive system is not an independent component in our bodies – oftentimes infertility can be indicative of a systemic issue. It is always worthwhile to pursue holistic medical care, especially as it could reveal underlying health concerns that may or may not be identified in a typical IVF workup. Be willing to take an active role in your healthcare. I had difficulty in finding a doctor who was willing to be creative once IVF was off the table, and eventually I sought treatment through NaproTechnology and reproductive immunology. I am grateful to have identified underlying conditions which affect my general health, not simply my fertility, and which are treatable and manageable. Ask your doctor, “how can you help me to be a healthy person, whether or not I conceive and give birth to a baby?” If your doctor is not interested in providing this kind of care, find another one.
2. Take good care of yourself. It’s easy to get caught up in the medical approach to infertility, but to neglect healthy living. Eat nourishing food. Take wholesome supplements. Exercise. Sleep well.
3. Love your spouse. Infertility puts a great deal of stress on marriage and especially on intimacy. Just as contraception and pornography risk reducing one’s spouse to an object of pleasure, a hyper-focus on fertility can reduce one’s spouse to a means of having children. Don’t neglect your marriage in your desire for children. Instead, let infertility be the occasion to accept your spouse with all his or her frailties and weaknesses. Love one another. Focus on your common interests and your friendship. Be attentive to ways that you can protect your intimacy.
4. Share your burden. Because infertility is silent and lonely, and because it may place different burdens on men and women, I often desired and sought the advice, prayers and encouragement of others – especially other women dealing with the same issue. Whether a professional counselor, a spiritual director, support groups, or close friends, don’t be afraid to seek outside support. In turn, give support to others who will appreciate your companionship and who may benefit from the lessons you have learned along the way.

WAITING FOR “NOT YET” (CONTINUED)

5. Protect your heart. There can be many hurtful reminders of the pain of infertility. I think, for example, of how difficult it can be to hear people complain that they are pregnant, reminding us of an experience we may never have. Or how painful it is to hear a friend confidently plan the timing of her next child as if it was so easy for everyone, or declaring that she is “finished” when you haven’t even been given the chance to begin. It is difficult for some to attend baby showers, or even to be around young children. Know your limits and protect your heart by being prepared in advance. It may be necessary for you to avoid certain people or situations, especially at particularly difficult points in your journey.
6. Educate others. If you are emotionally able to do so, it can be helpful to share with others your situation and gently instruct them about ways they can be sensitive to this suffering and support those who struggle with it. For example, can you share with your doctor information about IVF? Can you ask your pastor to be sensitive to those who struggle with infertility? Can you talk to your priest to make sure that couples who desire to have children are remembered in prayer intentions in liturgy? Can you start a support group in your parish or in your community?
7. Pray. Although we greatly desired the gift of a child, deep down I was reluctant to beg God for a child. I felt so blessed in so many other areas of my life – my marriage, my family, my vocation – that it seemed (to me) greedy to ask for additional gifts. And, at times, our infertility caused me to fear that God didn’t want us to have a baby – so, best not to ask Him. At a certain critical point in our infertility journey, I had the great fortune to speak to a wise bishop about our struggle. In the gentlest, most fatherly manner, he reprimanded me, warning me against despair, and counseled, “Do not fail to ask God for what you need. He will not refuse you.” And, the bishop was right. God has not refused me those gifts I needed most – acceptance, peace and joy. I have also found solace in meditating on Scripture, especially on those passages that involve the barren women of Bible and the witness of their own perseverance in prayer and the fruit that it bore for the Kingdom. Reading the lives of certain saints has been also helpful to me, as well as the spiritual memoir, *My Sisters the Saints*, which recounts a woman’s journey to motherhood with the companionship and guidance of six women saints.
8. Deepen your appreciation of the role of suffering. It’s very easy to let infertility make you a sad, bitter person, to let it come between you and your husband, and to let it come between you and God. At one point, I made the decision that I did not want to be miserable – and was given the grace to realize that God didn’t want this for me either. I wanted a good marriage. I wanted to look at other children with joy – not with resentment or envy. It helped me to think about and meditate on the role of suffering in our lives, and how I ought to handle it, whether it was infertility or something else (it’s always something!). I recognized that rather than trying to avoid suffering or letting it define my life, I needed to practice gratitude and selfless love. In his encyclical on hope, *Spe Salvi*, Pope Benedict summed it up like this: “It is not by sidestepping or fleeing from suffering that we are healed, but rather by our capacity for accepting it, maturing through it and finding meaning through union with Christ, who suffered with infinite love.”
9. Hope. One particular challenge I had with infertility was how to simultaneously accept my cross and yet remain hopeful. A woman’s cycle only reinforces these seemingly inconsistent states of mind – hopes are raised and dashed each month anew. I will admit that after much reflection on this paradox, I still do not understand it fully. One source that I have found enlightening is Joseph Pieper’s essay, “On Hope,” in which he reminds us that hope is not the “presumptuous anticipation of fulfillment,” but rather “the power to wait patiently for a ‘not yet’ that is the more immeasurably distant from us the more closely we approach it.” Or as Pope Benedict XVI put it in *Spe Salvi*, “It is, however, hope—not yet fulfillment; hope that gives us the courage to place ourselves on the side of good even in seemingly hopeless situations . . .” I also learned that in hoping for a good that might not come, I let myself be open to goods that I could never have imagined. Let yourself be surprised by hope.
10. Be open to other ways to be “fertile.” Those who suffer from infertility must remember that all marriages are called to be fruitful, even if it is not possible in the biological sense. Infertility is an occasion for trusting that there are other avenues to realize your desire to care for others. There is not one path for everyone. Some might choose to parent children through foster care or adoption; others will choose to pursue other vocations, such as caring for the elderly or poor, missionary work, or vocations that might be incompatible with raising children. For our marriage, we chose adoption. That’s the topic of another article, but in discovering our vocation to adoption, my husband and I are grateful – beyond words – for our infertility.



Adapted from an article which originally appeared at Aleteia.com and reprinted with permission.



Lately I've had the word "pilgrimage" on my mind. Fr. Tom recently led a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and, not being part of it, perhaps I am a wee bit jealous. I asked a dear friend if she would write about her recent Holy Land experience to be shared here in the Ascent. This friend is a terrific writer, an eloquent speaker and a very faith filled woman. In her kind way, she told me "no" without saying "no". She explained that her experience was too moving, too deeply personal, and she didn't know how to put it into words. Wow, I want that pilgrimage experience! I can't think of a better testimonial on why to make a trip to the Holy Land.

While a trip to the Holy Land is at the top of my bucket list, it isn't a reality just now. However, I recalled that there are some great local destinations that have made an impact on me and my family. I put these out as suggestions for a pilgrimage of your own:

- Let's start right here in our fair city with the Little Sisters of the Lamb. These women encounter the poor, praying and begging for everything they need. Besides going to Mass in their beautiful chapel or attending Eucharistic Adoration, look into the other worship and fellowship options available. Check their website as Mass times can vary. The Little Brothers of the Lamb live nearby as well!
- If you are willing to drive one hour, you can walk where a canonized saint has walked and worked! Visit St. Philippine Duchesne Memorial Park in Centerville, Kansas. Besides learning about how St. Philippine Duchesne served the Potawatomi Indians in their forced "Trail of Death" march in the 1800s, you will learn about an event in U.S. history that should never be forgotten.
- Finally, if you are up for a two hour drive, there is a "must see" gem in Clyde, Missouri. The destination is the home of the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. Their chapel is beautiful, the statues are the most interesting I have ever seen, and it all resides in an idyllic country setting. Their room of over 500 relics is incomprehensible; you really must see it! As a bonus, try to visit Conception Abbey, only a few miles away from Clyde. The church there is the first basilica west of the Mississippi and home to several of our seminarians. It is best to call before going to either.

Little Sisters of the Lamb

Lumen Christi Monastery
36 South Boeke Street
Kansas City, KS.
Tel. (913) 621-1727
<http://www.communautedelagneau.org/en/little-monastery-lumen-christi/>

St. Philippine Duchesne Memorial Park

8487 W. 1525 Road
Centerville, KS.
<http://www.kansastravel.org/stphilippinepark.htm>

Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration

31970 State Hwy P
Clyde, MO.
Tel. 660-944-2221
<http://www.clydemonastery.org>

I hope you are able to explore these or one of the many other local religious sites. Take a day trip and be inspired!

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CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

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PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL
FIND ALL THE UNDERLINED WORDS

D E R J H N C T H T S T S O H
B L A U P T B F S H L R P D E
G W B M I C H A E L R S I N A
P O W E R N C R T P Y N R T V
C R Q S E B T C H T C A I H E
F P E M B Y J H N J L R T Y N
A G V S U D T A S P T E S M L
M W I C K E D N E S S S O B Y
E R L T E V B G R D N V U M B
N H G E C I D E F E N D L D M
M U O H T L B L R F J N S A A
Y M D F B R R S E E K I N G Y
M B R C H A G A I N S T P R L
D L R O W W N T R S A T A N C
O Y A R P R I N C E M U B Z Q

St. Michael Prayer

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.

Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou,

O Prince of the heavenly hosts,

by the power of God,

cast into hell Satan,

and all the evil spirits,

who prowl about the world

seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

FALL 2018 ADULT FAITH COURSE CATALOG

Join us!

Invite a friend to sign up with you!
There is something for everyone.

Registration form located inside.
Please detach and turn in to the Parish Office
or place in the return box in the Gathering Space.

PLEASE REGISTER BY AUGUST 27, 2018

Online registration & payment available at kcascension.org

In order to ensure the ordering of books and materials,
please register by the deadline.

Late registrations are welcome, but there is no guarantee that materials will be available your first day of class. There will be a \$10 late fee for any class starting in 2018. 2019 classes will be advertised again in the bulletin and will have a later deadline date. Feel free to register now for 2019 or wait until they are advertised again.

Thank you!

If you have questions about a particular class,
please feel free to call or email the Adult Faith Office:

Liz Willman
Denise Greene

lwillman@kcascension.org
dgreene@kcascension.org

681-3348 ext 139
681-3348 ext 142

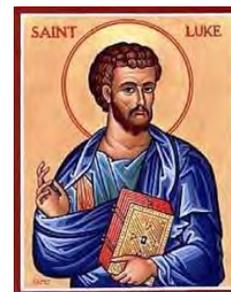
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PRIEST SERIES

Gospel of Luke

Join Fr. Charles on a multi-week journey through the Gospel of Luke. The class will include time for discussion and your questions. When Advent starts in November, we will hear from Luke at Sunday Mass. So come join us in October to prepare for a deeper appreciation for the Mass Readings.



Please bring your Bible to class (any translation)

Multi-Week Course

Tuesdays 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Start date: October 2, 2018

Does not meet on: 10/16, 11/6

Location: St. Matthew Room

Facilitator: Fr. Charles McGlenn

Cost of Materials: \$0.00

OR

Tuesdays 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Start date: October 2, 2018

Does not meet on: 10/16, 11/6

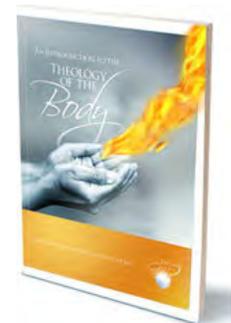
Location: St. Matthew Room

Facilitator: Fr. Charles McGlenn

Cost of Materials: \$0.00

Theology of the Body

This class is designed to give you a solid understanding of God's plan for humanity - a plan stamped right into our bodies. Most people have heard the "whats" of Catholic teaching, but very few have ever heard the "whys." Fr. Michael will demonstrate that the Church's teaching on sex and marriage "makes sense", and, in fact, is the "logic" of Christianity, because it corresponds perfectly with the deepest stirrings and desires of the human heart. This class is for everyone searching for their ultimate purpose in life.



3 Week Course

Tuesdays 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Start date: September 11, 2018

Location: St. Matthew Room

Facilitator: Fr. Michael Guastello

Cost of Materials: \$0.00

BIBLE STUDIES

Isaiah: Needing the Saving Reign of God

A study of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, chapters 1-39. This study will include God's warnings to the Chosen People and to the nations around Judah, promises and prophecies of the future Messiah, and the Power of God over the Assyrian Empire.



Please bring your Bible to class (any translation)

9 Week Course

Tuesdays 7:00PM - 8:00 PM

Start Date: September 11, 2018

Location: St. John Room

Facilitator: Bill Thomas

Cost of Materials: \$0.00

OR

Fridays 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Start Date: September 14, 2018

Location: St. John Room

Facilitator: Bill Thomas

Cost of Materials: \$0.00

Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation

The Bible Timeline is a fascinating study that takes participants on a journey through the entire Bible. In this 24 week course, you will go deep into each period of salvation history and discover the amazing story woven throughout all of Scripture. Using a unique color-coded system, you will learn the major people, places, and events of the Bible and see how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our faith.



24 Week Course (last class 3/28/2019)

Thursdays 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Start Date: September 13, 2018

Does not meet on:

11/22, 12/20, 12/27, 2/28, 3/14

Location: St. Matthew Room

Facilitator: Kim Sutton

Cost of Materials: \$35

OR

Thursdays 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Start Date: September 13, 2018

Does not meet on:

11/22, 12/20, 12/27, 2/28, 3/14

Location: St. Matthew Room

Facilitator: Katie Kuckelman

Cost of Materials: \$35

OR

Wednesdays: 5:30 PM - 6:45 PM

Start date: September 12, 2018

Does not meet on:

11/21, 12/19, 12/26, 2/27, 3/13

Location: School Room 102

Facilitator: Kim Sutton

Cost of Materials: \$35



If you already
have the workbook,
there is no fee.

OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)



Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic? Join us for classes this fall to see if this is right for you! We will meet on Monday nights for 8 weeks to present basic topics of the faith. At that point, you will decide if you would like to continue coming to class each Monday evening to learn more about Catholicism. Adults are welcomed into the Church at Easter in the spring. We also would love to have parishioners volunteer to serve as a sponsor for someone going through RCIA.

Registration date and time: August 27, 2018 from 7:00PM-8:00PM

Regular day and time: Mondays 6:00 PM - 8:00PM

First regular session: September 24, 2018

Location: St. Matthew Room

Cost: \$0.00

School of Faith: Why Would Anyone Believe in God?

In this 4 week course we will discuss different ways of sharing why belief in God is a reasonable belief. We will go over some of the classic arguments for God's existence as well as some of the objections that are raised to them. Feel free to invite a friend who may have doubts and questions as well.

4 Week Course

Wednesdays 7:00 PM - 8:20 PM

Start Date: September 5, 2018

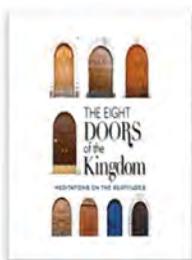
Location: St. Matthew Room

Facilitator: Sebastian D'Amico

Cost of Materials: \$0.00



The Eight Doors of the Kingdom...a Study of the Beatitudes



Using Fr. Jacques Philippe's new book on the Beatitudes, participants will explore, discuss, reflect, and learn how each of these Eight amazing promises from Jesus open a glimpse of the Kingdom God created and intended for us. Understanding them will show us how to have an honest and fulfilling relationship with God, with oneself, and with others, and provide practical insights for confronting head-on the difficult realities of everyday living.

5 Week Course (Does not meet October 31)

Wednesdays 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Start Date: October 10, 2018

Location: Adult Faith Room **OR**

Facilitator: Marge Sosna

Cost of Materials: \$15.00

Wednesdays 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Start Date: October 10, 2018

Location: St. Matthew Room

Facilitator: Marge Sosna

Cost of Materials: \$15.00

BOOK CLUB AND CLASSES

Holy Conversation Book Club

Men and women... join us for book club at Ascension! We will meet twice a month to discuss various Catholic authors, theologians and philosophers. Our first book will be My Other Self: Conversations with Christ on Living Your Faith, by Clarence J. Enzler It will be distributed at the first class and reading will begin after that. Approximately 2 to 3 chapters will be covered at each meeting so as to allow plenty of time for sharing.

Meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays

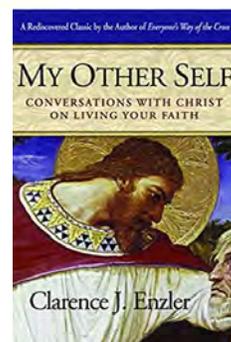
Time: 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Starts: Tuesdays, September 4, 2018 through April 16, 2019

Location: St. John Room

Facilitator: Tamara James

Cost of Materials: \$12.00



Dave Ramsey - Financial Peace University

Learn practical steps to beat debt, take control of your money, build wealth, give generously, and secure your family's future! Dave Ramsey and his teaching team will walk you through each lesson, providing practical steps to take control of your money and prepare for the future.

9 Week Course

Thursdays: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

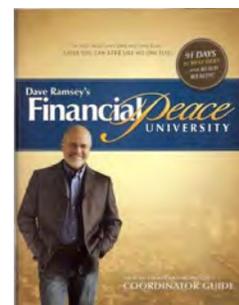
Start Date: September 13, 2018

Location: St. John Room

Facilitators: Rick Lane, Jim Baldwin, Beth Hartung and Neil Genillo

Cost of Materials: \$50.00 (Scholarship available upon request)

If you would like more information, please email Rick Lane at crlane@kc.surewest.net



Forgiveness Class

FORGIVENESS is such a natural, spiritual, necessary and complicated process. Come explore the dynamics of the process of Forgiving. Personal stories and scripture will be used in studying this beautiful process. Is someone in your family holding a grudge against someone? Have you been upset with someone for a long time? Is there possibly a failing or sin in your past that you've ignored and has put a wedge between you and the One Who loves you most?



3 Week Course

Wednesdays 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Start Date: October 3, 2018

Location: St. Luke Room OR

Facilitator: Chuck Jansen

Cost of Materials: \$0.00

Wednesdays 5:30 PM - 6:45 PM

Start Date: October 3, 2018

Location: St. Luke Room

Facilitator: Chuck Jansen

Cost of Materials: \$0.00

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GROUPS/RETREATS

Christ Renews His Parish Retreat



Parish sponsored retreat program offering a Sat./Sun. retreat at the parish in the Fall and in the Spring. There are separate weekends for Men and Women. It is a program designed to bring parish members together in Christ, and emphasizes your continued growth in Catholic Christian life. It initiates this through small group participation. If interested, check out the parish website or Adult Faith Bulletin Board in the Gathering Space where you will find a registration form.

Weekend Retreat - Men

Sat. 8:00 AM thru Sunday 5:00 PM

Dates: September 8 & 9, 2018 **OR**

Location: Ascension

Cost of Materials: \$0.00

Weekend Retreat - Women

Sat. 8:00 AM thru Sunday 5:00 PM

Dates: September 22 & 23, 2018

Location: Ascension

Cost of Materials: \$0.00

Men of Ascension

Are you looking for a way to get more meaning out of Mass? If so, join with other men of the parish to meet each week and discuss the upcoming Sunday Mass readings. This group discusses the Sunday readings followed by discussion on their applicability to the lives of men. New members are invited to join at any time.

Fridays 6:00 AM - 7:00 AM

Date: Ongoing (does not meet on 3/1/2019)

Location: St. Luke Room

Facilitator: Ken Jennison

Cost of Materials: \$0.00

Women of Ascension Book Study

Work in Progress: An Unfinished Woman's Guide to Grace by Kristin Armstrong. When Kristin Armstrong was in the pit of her divorce, she eagerly read every spiritual book and devotional she could get her hands on out of a hunger to connect with someone who knew exactly what she was going through and how she felt. Now, at a time when society offers so many conflicting messages about what it means to be a woman, Kristin invites readers to discover grace as a way of life. Using real-life anecdotes, biblical wisdom, and insight born of hard experience, Kristin teaches women the twelve traits of grace, inviting reflection and interaction. Warm, engaging, and practical, A Work in Progress examines what God has to say about being His kind of woman in the twenty-first century.

6 Week Course

Wednesdays 9:30 AM - 10:30AM

Start Date: September 5, 2018

Location: St. Matthew Room

Facilitator: Karen Davis

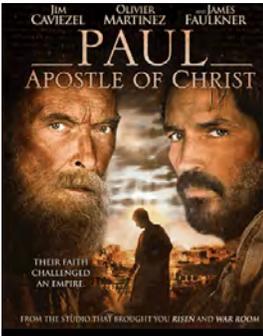
Cost of Materials: Go to amazon.com to purchase this e-book for \$10.00 or try: abehbooks.com for other purchase options including paperback.

CATHOLIC MOVIE NIGHTS

*Join us in the Youth Center at 7:00PM
Bring your own snacks and drinks.
No cost to attend. Dates below.
Space is limited so register early.*



Paul-Apostle of Christ

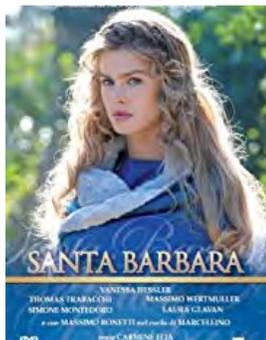


PAUL, APOSTLE OF CHRIST is the story of two men. Luke, as a friend and physician, risks his life when he ventures into the city of Rome to visit Paul, who is held captive in Nero's darkest, bleakest prison cell. But Nero is determined to rid Rome of Christians, and does not flinch from executing them in the grisliest ways possible. Before Paul's death sentence can be enacted, Luke resolves to write another book, one that details the beginnings of "The Way" and the birth of what will come to be known as the church. Bound in chains, Paul's struggle is internal. He has survived so much—floggings, shipwreck, starvation, stoning, hunger and thirst, cold and exposure—yet as he waits for his appointment with death, he is haunted by the shadows of his past misdeeds. Alone in the dark, he wonders if he has been forgotten . . . and if he has the strength to finish well.

Two men struggle against a determined emperor and the frailties of the human spirit in order to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ and spread their message to the world.

Tuesday, September 11, 2018, 7:00PM-Youth Center

St. Barbara



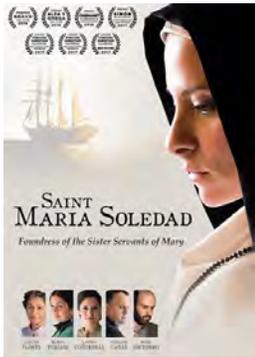
Dioscuro, governor of Scandriglia, is willing to do anything to get to the Roman government. His daughter Barbara, is disinterested in everything and continued her studies in astronomy from Polycarp with her friends: Giuliana, Tito, Crio and the soldier Claudio. With them she will start a spiritual journey that will totally change her life, also marked by the death of her mother, making the Christian faith its raison d'etre. All this will bring it into conflict with the government, including the prefect Marciano and especially with the father who does not share her choice and that she had not predicted this future course.

Tuesday, October 2, 2018, 7:00PM-Youth Center

Remember to bring your own
snacks and drinks

CATHOLIC MOVIE NIGHTS

St. Maria Soledad

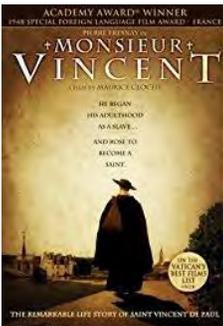


This movie tells the inspiring story of the beginnings of the Sister Servants of Mary, a religious order that was founded in Madrid, Spain in 1851 by Fr. Miguel Martinez and Sister Maria Soledad who guided it in its development and expansion until her death in 1887. The new order was dedicated to serving the sick, especially in their own homes. Spain at the time was devastated by epidemics, revolutions, the fierce massacre of religious, and by politics which were constantly opposed to the teachings of Christ and his Church. Assistance to the sick in their homes, never done before, was therefore all the more necessary.

Mother Soledad directed the course of the new congregation with calmness and efficiency, amid the frightening storms. During this challenging time she gave proof of her exquisite tact, her great courage and her untiring charity, as well as her humility and meekness with which she won the deep love of her daughters.

Tuesday, October 23, 2018, 7:00PM -Youth Center

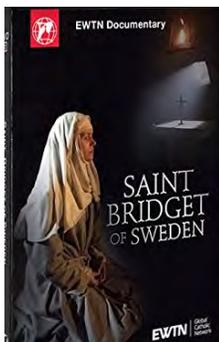
Monsieur Vincent (1948 Oscar winner)



St. Vincent de Paul struggles to bring about peace and harmony among the peasant and the nobles in the midst of the Black Death in Europe, carrying on his charitable work in the face of all obstacles.

Tuesday, November 13, 2018, 7:00PM -Youth Center

St. Bridget of Sweden, Movie + Documentary



Wife ,Mother, Mystic, Saint. Encounter one of Europe's most prolific Catholics like never before as the faithful vocation of a 14th century model of prayer, piety, and love, comes to life in this EWTN Original docudrama. Follow the trails of "Saint Bridget of Sweden", from the deaths of her mother and husband, onwards though the profound revelations that called her to start a new religious order, and beyond.

Tuesday, December 11, 2018, 7:00PM-Youth Center

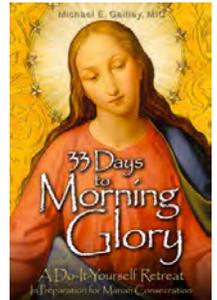


FR. MICHAEL GAITLEY SERIES

The following 6 classes are based on Fr. Michael Gaitley books. They are stand alone classes or they can be taken in a series. Classes start in September of 2018 and run until August of 2019. Please feel free to register now for any of these offerings. Please note that the Spring/Summer 2019 classes will be advertised again in the bulletin in 2019.

33 Days to Morning Glory

Want to grow in holiness, but too busy? Want to transform your work, your marriage, your family, and your life, but don't have time? Looking for the quickest, surest, and easiest way to holiness, but don't know where to begin? In our hectic day and time, Blessed John Paul II and Blessed Mother Teresa knew that the quickest way to be transformed into a saint is through a relationship with Our Blessed Mother, Mary. Mary leads us to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Starting with the book 33 Days to Morning Glory: A Retreat in Preparation for Marian Consecration, you can begin this journey.



6 Week Course

Tuesday 9:30 AM -11:00 AM

Start Date: September 4, 2018

Location: St. Luke Room

Facilitator: Dick Kane

Cost of Materials: \$25.00

OR

Tuesday 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Start Date: September 4, 2018

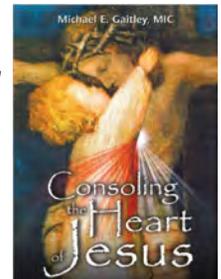
Location: St. Luke Room

Facilitator: Dick Kane

Cost of Materials: \$25.00

Consoling the Heart of Jesus

This course combines the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius with the teachings of Saints Thérèse of Lisieux, Faustina Kowalska, and Louis de Montfort. The author, Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, has a remarkable gift for inspiring little souls to trust in Jesus, The Divine Mercy.



10 Week Course

Tuesday 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Start Date: October 16, 2018

Location: St. Luke Room

Facilitator: Dick Kane

Cost of Materials: \$25.00

OR

Tuesday 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Start Date: October 16, 2018

Location: St. Luke Room

Facilitator: Dick Kane

Cost of Materials: \$25.00

FR. MICHAEL GAITLEY SERIES

The "One Thing" is Three How the Most Holy Trinity Explains Everything

With humor and ease, Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, deftly unlocks the "one thing," the key to the Church's wisdom, and the greatest mystery of the Catholic faith: the Most Holy Trinity. Far from being a scholarly or academic read, The "One Thing" is Three makes deep theology accessible to every-day Catholics. What's more, it makes even what's familiar or forgotten appear in a way that's new, exciting, and relevant. Thus, The "One Thing" is Three brings its readers a unique and powerful experience of the faith.



10 Week Course

Tuesday 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Start Date: January 8, 2019

Location: St. Luke Room OR

Facilitator: Dick Kane

Cost of Materials: \$30.00

Tuesday 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Start Date: January 8, 2019

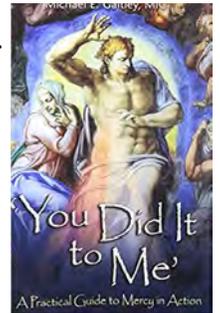
Location: St. Luke Room

Facilitator: Dick Kane

Cost of Materials: \$30.00

You Did it to Me

What Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, has done in 33 Days to Morning Glory to promote true devotion to Mary, and what he has done in Consoling the Heart of Jesus to promote devotion to the Merciful and Sacred Heart of Jesus, he now does in 'You Did It to Me' to promote the works of mercy. Fr. Michael Gaitley [MIC] has a genius for bringing together the spiritual and corporal works of mercy under the umbrella of 'The Five Scriptural Works of Mercy' that Jesus will use to judge us at the end of the world, Matthew 25:31-46. He then enriches these Scriptural texts on mercy with the practical insights of St. Pope John Paul II, St. Faustina, and Pope Francis. He also has a very fertile imagination in bringing to life practical ways of implementing these works of mercy in our own individual lives, in our parish ministries as well as in the workplace, together with a plan of action for making these works of mercy concrete and livable. If implemented, these concepts will transform the culture of any parish. The simple soul will be energized to do and the contemplative soul will be inspired to intercede.



4 Week Course

Tuesday 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Start Date: March 19, 2019

Location: St. Luke Room OR

Facilitator: Dick Kane

Cost of Materials: \$12.00

Tuesday 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Start Date: March 19, 2019

Location: St. Luke Room

Facilitator: Dick Kane

Cost of Materials: \$12.00

FR. MICHAEL GAITLEY SERIES

33 Days to Merciful Love

Live the extraordinary "Jubilee Year of Mercy" to the full! Get your copy of *33 Days to Merciful Love*, the stirring sequel to the international best-selling sensation, *33 Days to Morning Glory*. Using the same 33-day preparation format, *33 Days to Merciful Love* journeys with one of the most beloved saints of modern times, St. Therese of Lisieux, and concludes with a consecration to Divine Mercy.



6 Week Course

Tuesday 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Start Date: April 23, 2019

Location: St. Luke Room

Facilitator: Dick Kane

Cost of Materials: \$25.00

OR

Tuesday 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Start Date: April 23, 2019

Location: St. Luke Room

Facilitator: Dick Kane

Cost of Materials: \$25.00

The Second Greatest Story Ever Told

Father Michael Gaitley's book "*The Second Greatest Story Ever Told*" is a breathtaking journey combining history, Scripture, prophecy, and the lives of saints to show God's merciful love at this time and why, as requested by Jesus, St. Pope John Paul II gave us Divine Mercy Sunday. The course will utilize a DVD series, Fr. Michael's book, and a guidebook.



10 Week Course

Tuesday 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Start Date: June 4, 2019

Does not meet on: 7/2/2019

Location: St. Luke Room

Facilitator: Dick Kane

Cost of Materials: \$30.00

OR

Tuesday 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Start Date: June 4, 2019

Does not meet on 7/2/2019

Location: St. Luke Room

Facilitator: Dick Kane

Cost of Materials: \$30.00



Fr. Michael E. Gaitley, MIC, is director of Evangelization for the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception and director of Formation for the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy. He lives and works on Eden Hill in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, home of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.

Church of the Ascension 2108-2019 Adult Faith Registration Form

Please use this form to register for offerings at Church of the Ascension. ONE check may be used for all courses. Please make check payable to: Church of the Ascension. Return to box in gathering space or parish office.

Name: _____ If couple attending class, Spouse: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

Childcare Information: free childcare available for children 1 years old and older. Please list ages of children where indicated.
NEW THIS YEAR. REGISTER ONLINE at www.kcascension.org or turn in this registration form.

Course Title	Circle choice	Cost of Materials	If child care is requested, list ages
Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation	Wednesday PM Thursday AM Thursday PM	\$35	
Catholic Movie Nights Sept 11 - St Paul : Oct 2 - St Barbara : Oct 23, - St Maria Soledad Nov 13 - Monsieur Vincent : Dec 11 - St Bridget of Sweden	Circle the movies you would like to attend. All Movies are at 7:00 PM in the Youth Center	\$0	
Christ Renews His Parish Retreat	SEE DESCRIPTION TO REGISTER	\$0	
Dave Ramsey - Financial Peace University	PM	\$50	
Forgiveness Class	AM or PM	\$0	
33 Days to Morning Glory	AM or PM	\$25	
Consoling the Heart of Jesus	AM or PM	\$25	
The "One Thing" is Three	AM or PM	\$30	
You Did it to Me	AM or PM	\$12	
33 Days to Merciful Love	AM or PM	\$25	
The Second Greatest Story Ever Told	AM or PM	\$30	
Gospel of Luke	AM or PM	\$0	
Holy Conversation Book Club	Afternoon	\$12	
Isaiah: Needing the Saving Reign of God	AM or PM	\$0	
Men of Ascension	AM	\$0	
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)	SEE DESCRIPTION TO REGISTER	\$0	
School of Faith: Why Would Anyone Believe in God?	PM	\$0	
The Eight Doors of the Kingdom...a Study of the Beatitudes	AM or PM	\$15	
Theology of the Body	PM	\$0	
Women of Ascension Book Study	AM	\$0	
TOTAL		\$_____	

REGISTRATION DUE AUGUST 27, 2018

Late registrations are welcome, but there is **no** guarantee that materials will be available your first day of class. There will be a \$10 late fee for any class starting in 2018. 2019 classes will be advertised again in the bulletin and will have a later deadline date. Feel free to register now for 2019 or wait until they are advertised again.

Church of the Ascension
9510 West 127th Street
Overland Park, KS. 66213

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Looking for a deeper relationship with Christ?

Looking to meet new friends?

Looking for fulfillment in a busy, hectic world?

Look inside for some answers!

Online registration now open.

NOTES:
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SUBMITTED: July 13, 10:30AM
PLEASE RETURN TO US ON OR BEFORE July 27
THANK YOU!!!

PERFORATE PAGES 23 AND 24

Please let us know as soon as possible if there are any issues with the file.
We have tried to utilize as much space as possible on each page.
Contact Maggie at (913) 707-4766
Or (913) 681-3348 if there are any issues or if you have any questions.

Thank you!!!

Pages: (including this page) 25

Software: MS Office Publisher –2010