Church of the Ascension

Parish Mission Statement: We Joyfully Proclaim, Celebrate, Witness, and Serve Jesus Christ

9510 W. 127th St. • Overland Park, KS 66213
(913) 681-3348 • www.kcascension.org • ascensionchurch@kcascension.org

DECEMBER 30, 2018

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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.
Thursday: 6:30 p.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.

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Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

— 1 John 3:2a

ASCENSION THIS WEEK

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 30
Baby Bottle Boomerang, Gathering Area, After all Masses
AA Mtg., St. John Rm., 1:00PM
Al Anon Mtg., St. John Rm., 4:00PM
Fathers of St. Joseph, Adoration Chapel, 6:30PM

Monday, December 31
No events scheduled.

Tuesday, January 1
Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, (Holy Day of Obligation)
Holy Conversation Book Club, St. John Rm., 1:00PM
Men's Basketball, Age 21+, Gym, 8:30PM

Wednesday, January 2
Bible Timeline, St. Mark Rm., 5:30PM
Zoom High School Youth Group, Youth Ctr., 6:00PM
AA Mtg., St. John Rm., 7:00PM

Thursday, January 3
Bible Timeline, St. Mark Rm., 9:30AM
Jesus, Java and Juice, Church, Noon
Rosary & Anointing of the Sick, Church, 6:30PM
Mothers of Young Children (MOYC) Monthly Mtg., Parish Hall, 7:00PM
Bible Timeline, St. Mark Rm., 7:00PM

Friday, January 4
Men of Ascension, St. Luke Rm., 6:00AM

Saturday, January 5
Legion of Mary, St. Luke Rm., 6:15AM
Public Square Rosary, Parking Lot, 12:00PM
Coping with Life Alone, St. Mark Rm., 2:00PM

Sunday, January 6
Children's Liturgy of the Word, Church, During 8:15AM Mass
Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast, Parish Hall 9:00AM-11:30AM
Sunday Scripture, St. Luke Rm., 9:15AM
Kids for Christ (K4C), Classrooms, 10:00AM
Baptisms, Church, 1:00PM
AA Mtg., St. John Rm., 1:00PM
Al Anon Mtg., St. John Rm., 4:00PM
Fathers of St. Joseph, Adoration Chapel, 6:30PM
Year I Teacher In-Service, Parish Hall, 6:30PM
S&L, Youth Ctr., 6:30PM
Face to Face, Church, 7:00PM

2018 CONTRIBUTIONS DEADLINE
January 6

Thank you for all of your continued contributions to Church of the Ascension. All 2018 contributions must be received in the offertory collection or parish office by January 6. Any checks with a 2018 date received after January 6 will be recorded as 2019 contributions.

STEWARDSHIP

"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." 1 John 3:1

During this season of giving, let us remember the most important gift we have received – being children of God. As God's children, it is important that we express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children and other family members and friends that you love them, frequently.

Weekly Offertory: December 15-16	$ 149,620.35
December 22-23 to be reported in January 6, 2019 bulletin.	
Monthly Autodebit: November 689 Families on Autodebit	$ 203,414.59
Fiscal YTD: November, 2018	$2,375,455.40
Registered Families	3,274

Thanks to all who so generously assisted with our Christmas Liturgies and other celebrations. You so beautifully enhance our parish celebrations throughout the year, but especially during this Christmas season. Our parish is alive and vital because of your dedication and generosity and that of so many others.

Father Tom and Your Fellow Parishioners

Christmas is made so special through the kindness and thoughtfulness of so many people. Thanks to all of you for your thoughtful cards, delicious treats and special gifts. We are truly grateful for your kindness, but especially for you and the privilege we have of being here with you in our parish. God's blessings throughout the New Year!

Father Tom, Father Michael
and Father Charles

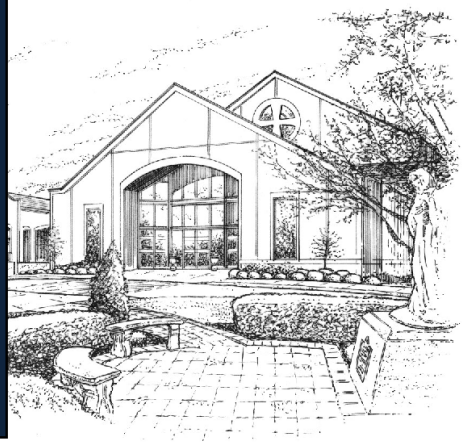
W E L C O M E

Welcome to

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Whether you are a visitor passing through, new to the area, or someone who is returning back to the practice of the faith, we're glad that you are here!

We would love to hear from you. If we can be of assistance to you in any way, please let us know by calling us, emailing us, or by completing the information on this form. Please return the completed form to our parish office or place it in the wooden WELCOME! BOX located in the church vestibule.



Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone (H) (O) (C): _____

Email: _____

Preferred Method of Contact: email / phone

Please check all that apply

☐ I am interested in joining Church of the Ascension!

A prerequisite to joining the parish is attending an Informational Meeting. Please indicate your preference of the following upcoming Informational Meetings. All meetings are 11:15 am to 12:15pm in the St. Matthew/St. Mark Room located on the lower level of the church.

- ☐ Sunday, January 13, 2019
- ☐ Sunday, February 10, 2019
- ☐ Sunday, March 10, 2019
- ☐ Contact me for other options

☐ I would like to visit with one of the priests.

☐ I am interested in becoming Catholic.

☐ I would like information about annulments.

☐ I would like more information about Ascension Catholic School or Youth Faith Formation.

Questions or comments:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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ASCENSIONCHURCH@KCASCENSION.ORG

ASCENSION THIS WEEK (Continued)

BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG
December 29-30
Gathering Area

The Baby Bottle Boomerang program is designed to raise needed funds for the Advice and Aid Pregnancy Clinic to operate its life-affirming services. The clinic provides services at no cost to women and families dealing with an unplanned pregnancy, especially those who have pressures to abort their child. Pick up a bottle this weekend, December 29-30. Donations or empty bottles need to be returned by the weekend of January 5-6 at all Masses. Please use this as an educational opportunity for your family to discuss, in your homes, how this helps women and helps save babies! Please contact Jean in the office with questions 913-681-3348.

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION
December 30

- No Children's Liturgy of the Word at 8:30am.
- No K4C.
- No Year I Confirmation.
- No S&L.

BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
(Holy Day of Obligation)
Mass Times
Monday, December 31, Vigil Mass 4:30PM
Tuesday, January 1, 8:15AM, 10:00AM and 11:45AM

NO RECONCILIATION
January 1

There will not be reconciliations on Tuesday, January 1.

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION
January 2

- No Weekly Youth Faith Formation.
- No Family Formation.

ZOOM HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP
January 2, 6:00PM
Youth Ctr.

Zoom (high school youth group) is for all high school students! Come and hang out with Joe and Anna for a couple of hours and enjoy some delicious food! GABs and games start at 6:00pm and we will carry on from there!

JESUS, JAVA & JUICE
January 3, Noon
Church

Jesus, Java, and Juice (JJJ) is for all students! Join us for Mass at noon and then brunch and fellowship in the youth center after! (There may be waffles).

ROSARY & ANOINTING OF THE SICK
January 3, 6:30PM
Church

MOTHERS OF YOUNG CHILDREN (MOYC) MONTHLY MEETING
January 3, 7:00PM
Parish Hall

Please see Page 16 for additional information.

PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY
January 5, 12:00PM
Ascension Parking Lot

COPING WITH LIFE ALONE
Beginning January 5, 2:00PM
St. Mark Rm.

"Coping with Life Alone" is a "Beginning Experience" grief support program that will meet every week for seven (7) weeks in the St. Mark room. This program is geared to those who have lost a love relationship due to death, divorce or separation. Move through the experience of grief and loss into a future with renewed hope. Beginning January 5 through the end of February, this group will meet Saturday afternoons from 2:00pm-4:00pm in the St. Mark room. Please contact Jean in the office at 913-681-3348 or email jhinman@kcascension.org for more information or check out kcascension.org/Find Support/Divorced or Separated Ministry to sign up.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PANCAKE BREAKFAST
All Are Welcome
January 6, 9:00AM-11:30AM
Parish Hall

Hmmmm, pancakes!!!! The Knights will be serving a breakfast buffet Sunday, January 6, from 9:00am to 11:30am in the parish hall. Pancakes, sausage, hash brown potatoes, cinnamon rolls, coffee, and juice will be served. There is no cost, however, we will be accepting donations to help local charities supported by the Knights.

FACE TO FACE
January 6, 7:00PM
Church

Face to Face is our monthly family Adoration hour! Come celebrate the visit of the three kings to Bethlehem! This is one powerful night and all are invited to join us!

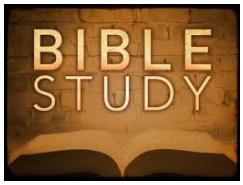
Adult Faith Classes Starting Soon!

Paul's Letters to the Colossians and the Ephesians: The Unity of Christ with His Church

The relationship between Christ as the Head of the Church and we who are the members of the Church, which is His Body, will be explored. Paul wrote these letters from prison, which give the messages a special emphasis. **(Please register by January 7, 2019).**

7 Week Course
Fridays 10:30AM-11:30AM
Start Date: January 11, 2019
Location: St. John Room
Facilitator: Bill Thomas
Cost of Materials: $0.00

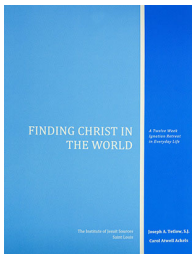
Please read Colossians 1 & 2 before the first session. Bring your bible (Any Translation)



Ignatian Prayer Guided Experience

Most of us desire greater closeness with God. But the question that seems constant is how does this come to happen in my life? What is my part? What is God's part? The firm experience of God's daily presence seems almost illusive or nearly impossible to observe. The twelve week, "Finding Christ in the World" Ignatian prayer guided experience strengthens our ability to recognize God's presence in more concrete ways. Participants are guided through a daily prayer experience using Scripture readings along with reflection helps and guiding aids. The time needed for daily prayer is approximately 30 to 45 minutes. Participants, will gather as a group each week to reflect on their experiences. Facilitated by a prayer guide, participants will be guided in ways to better notice God's frequent daily promptings. Participants will have an opportunity to share their experiences (if they so choose), ask questions and hear from others who are on a similar journey. **(Please register by January 2, 2019, to avoid a $10.00 late fee).**

13 Week Course
Wednesdays 7:00PM-8:30PM (skips February 27, 2019)
Start Date: January 16, 2019
Location: St. Luke Room
Facilitator: Susan Friedrichsen (913-338-2249) and Keith Rickert (913-735-5247)
Should you have any questions, please call Susan or Keith
Cost of Materials: $35.00



Church of the Ascension 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 year old and older. Complete request below.

REGISTER ONLINE at www.kcascension.org (look for Adult Faith Offerings) or turn in this registration form.

Course Title	Circle choice	Cost of Materials	If requesting childcare, list names and ages
Paul's Letters to the Colossians and the Ephesians	**AM**	**$0**	
Ignatian Prayer Guided Experience	**PM**	**$35**	
TOTAL		**$ _____**	

Mardi Gras Give Back Day - Friday, January 4

The **Kendra Scott** and **Lilly Pulitzer** stores are teaming up to provide a ***Friday evening Happy Hour from 5:30pm—7:30pm on January 4th!***

Both stores will be giving back a percentage of their sales during these hours and all you do is mention ASCENSION when entering either store! It is that easy!

Visit our website at kcascension.org for more details!

SAVE THE DATE

Women of Ascension Game Night

Friday, January 25, 2019

6:00pm—9:00pm in the Parish Hall

The evening includes:
Dinner, Games and Fabulous Prizes.

Registration opens January 13.

More details to follow!

UPCOMING EVENTS

ATTACHED TO JESUS (A2J)
January 8, 5:30PM
Youth Ctr.

Attached to Jesus (A2J) is for all 6th and 7th grade students! Come eat pasta, play games, and learn about the Epiphany! We are excited to see you there!

ASCENSION BOOK CLUB
January 9, 12:00PM, Offsite
February 3, 1:00PM, Conference Rm.

Our book for January is Yellow Crocus by Laila Ibrahim. We will meet off-site for a luncheon/discussion at noon on January 9. You need to make a reservation if you would like to attend. Please call Linda Cook at 913-897-3201 by January 4 to make a reservation. Our book for February is The Radium Girls by Kate Moore. We will meet on February 3 at 1:00pm in the conference room. Come join our discussions!

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION
January 9, 6:00PM
Parish Hall

Family Formation will meet on January 9 at 6:00pm in the parish hall.

ROSES FOR LIFE
After January 12-13 Masses
Gathering Area

Paper roses will be available for parishioners after all January 12-13 Masses with a request for all registered voters to fill out the slip of paper attached. The "roses" are brought to our state legislators during the March for Life on January 20 to show our support for LIFE and ask that they vote pro-life. This is a very visible sign for our legislators to help show we stand for LIFE!

ROE V. WADE ROSE PROCESSION
January 13
During 10:00AM and 5:00PM Masses
Church

Each year the Respect Life Ministry organizes a procession during Masses on Sanctity of Life Sunday. We are in need of a lot of young helpers to represent each year of life chosen since Roe v. Wade became a law. We especially need teens and those in their twenties. If you or any of your children are able to participate in one of the Masses, please go to kcascension.org/current volunteer signups.

PROJECT CHRYSALIS
January 14, 7:00PM
St. Luke Rm.

"Every great grief conceals a great grace"

Project Chrysalis is a new Catholic ministry designed to help parents who have lost a child find hope through Sacred Scripture and community. While this ministry is not a bereavement group, our mission is to offer support and hope through scripture in a time of transformation. The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 14, from 7:00pm-8:15pm in the St. Luke room. For more information, contact Ken or Patty Billinger at 913-634-4210 or email kbillinger@archkck.org. You can also find more information on our website at www.hopeinscripture.com or on our Facebook page, @projectchrysaliskc. The group is open to parents who have lost a child or grandparents who have lost a grandchild. Immediate family members are also invited to attend.

ATTN: HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WINTER RETREAT
Sign Up Now!
January 21, 8:00AM
Youth Ctr.

Our winter retreat (Follow Back) for high school students will be on January 21, from 8:00am-6:00pm in the youth center. Sign up now by going to kcascension.org/followback. For questions or additional information contact Joe or Anna in the youth office 913-681-7683.

ATTN: NEWLY MARRIED GROUP
Save the Date
January 23, 6:30PM
Offsite

Ascension's Newly Married Group will be meeting at the home of Scott and Jenny Unger for appetizers, drinks, fellowship, and guest speaker Joe Heschmeyer from the School of Faith. If you are a newly married couple, a young married couple, an engaged couple, or just a fun couple with a youthful attitude, then you are invited to join us! For more information or location details, contact Sarah Streitwieser at sstreitwieser@kcascension.org.

MARDI GRAS 2019

Mark your calendars now for the Mardi Gras dinner and auction the evening of Saturday, March 2. New and exciting additions for Mardi Gras 2019 include: A chance to win a GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY! Gift registries to make donating easier! On-line reservations and mobile bidding for silent auction items! You will not want to miss out! Look on our website and in future bulletins for the latest news and updates!

FORGIVENESS CLASS

Forgiveness is at the heart of the Gospel, and so much a part of human relations. All of us have someone to forgive. Please consider spending a few weeks reflecting on the PROCESS of Forgiveness and the POWER of Divine Mercy. Chuck is an interesting and entertaining storyteller, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, hopes to offer some insights into the PROCESS of Forgiveness. Scripture, DVD, and storytelling will all be used. Be sure and prayerfully consider inviting or bringing a friend.

4 Week Course Wednesdays 10:00AM-11:30AM OR 7:00PM-8:30PM
Start Date: January 23, 2019 Location: St. Mark Room Facilitator: Chuck Jansen

I would like to attend: AM session ☐ or PM session ☐

Name: _____ Email: _____

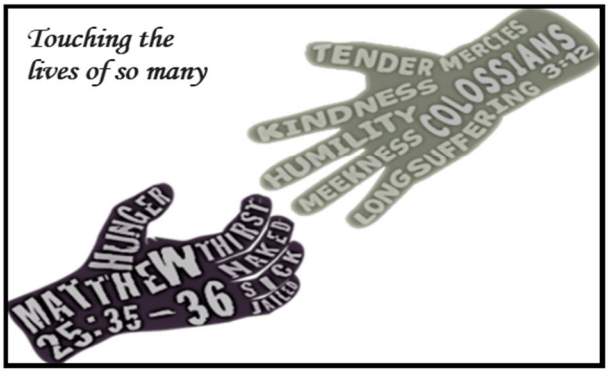
Requesting childcare (1 year old and up) names & ages: _____

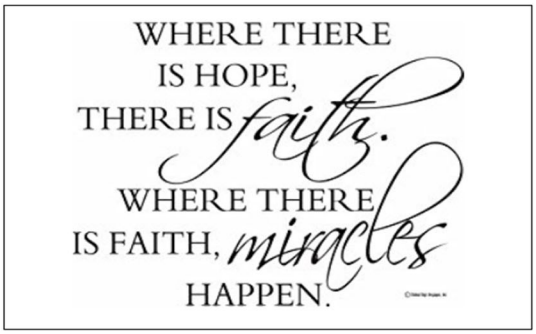
Please register by January 21, 2019. REGISTER ONLINE at www.kcascension.org or turn in this registration form.

Church of the Ascension

Faith in Action Fund…

oversees the distribution of our parish tithe, which is 5% of our regular weekly collections, impacting a wide variety of needs such as the Church's outreach to the Third World and support for local services for the homeless, the hungry and the forgotten of our society. Almost $250,000 was gifted in the most recent fiscal year to foster our commitment to Stewardship, as a way of life, by giving to others in thanks for the blessings we receive. The Faith in Action Committee includes representatives from Parish leadership groups.





Monthly Update:

Ending the year of 2018, our "tithe the tithe" included donations to national organizations as well as numerous efforts by our Social Concerns ministry. We contributed to World Mission Sunday which is observed annually each fall as a day of prayer and a time to publicly renew our commitment to the missionary movement throughout the world. Also benefitting this month was The Catholic Campaign for Human Development which is our national Catholic anti—poverty and social justice program. It helps fund community projects in low income areas. Thank you so much, your kind generosity has impacted both near and far this year!

HOSTED BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Charity Wine Tasting

And Four Course Prime Rib Dinner

To Support

Villa St. Francis

50/50 Drawing
and raffles for large
format bottles

Saturday, January 26, 2019
Talk of the Town Bar and Grill, 135th and Nall
6:00-8:30 PM $50 Per Person Pay at the door

SPACE IS LIMITED! Reserve your spot at
https://www.ascensionkofc.com
or
email rruthig24786@everestkc.net or call 913-239-9731

Villa St. Francis is a non-profit Catholic Skilled Nursing Facility

Church of the Ascension is proud to host

Mike and Alicia Hernon

Of *The Messy Family Project*!

Check them out at www.messyfamilyproject.org or listen to their "Messy Parenting" Podcast

Join us for a mini marriage retreat!

The Hernon's will share insights on:

- Parenting as a team
- Cultivating a family culture
- Keeping your love alive

The Retreat will also include:

- Mass and vow renewal
- Inspirational and relatable talks with discussion time
- Breakfast and Lunch
- **FREE CHILDCARE!!**

The Messy Family Project Retreat Registration Form:

Names: _____

_____

Email: _____

_____

Phone: _____

Children attending childcare (include ages):

_____

_____

_____

_____

Dietary constraints: _____

RSVP By February 3; please return with cash or check payable to Church of the Ascension to Parish Office or Gathering Space Lock Box

For questions, contact Sarah Streitwieser at sstreitwieser@kcascension.org or 913-681-3348 x151

WEEKLY PRAYER

Mass Intentions For The Week

Monday	**December 31**	
6:45AM	+Burry Hinman by Ekedahl Family	
12:30PM	+Marian Witting by Ekedahl Family	
4:30PM	+Joann Mader by George Jansen Family	
Tuesday	**January 1**	
8:15AM	+Tony Ringus by Bubbles & Jerry King	
10:00AM	+Kenneth Smith by Lois Herry	
11:45AM	+Ed Humphrey, +Joan Bunker by Family	
Wednesday	**January 2**	
6:45AM	+Dr. Richard Owens by Tom Hodes	
12:00PM	+Michelle Edwards by Nora & Peter Sykes	
Thursday	**January 3**	
6:45AM	+Dan Duffin by Mary & Jeff Jennings	
12:00PM	+Kathleen Connor by Tom Hodes	
6:30PM	**Rosary & Anointing of the Sick**	
7:00PM	**Reconciliation**	
Friday	**January 4**	
6:45AM	+Carolyn Elfrink, +Kathleen Higley by Knights of Columbus	
12:00PM	+Fran Porch by Wes & Joanne Kurre	
Saturday	**January 5**	
8:00AM	**Weekly Rosary**	
8:30AM	+Burry Hinman, +Shirley Heit, +Richard Murray, +Margaret Schier	
3:15PM	**Reconciliation**	
4:30PM	+Burry Hinman	TBD
Sunday	**January 6**	
8:15AM	+John Witting by Ebeling Family	TBD
9:30AM	**Weekly Rosary**	
10:00AM	Ascension Parishioners	TBD
11:45AM	+Rose Guastello by Dr. & Mrs. Mario Guastello	TBD
5:00PM	+Fran Porch by Kathy Jenkins	TBD

Unforeseen circumstances may require a change in the priest schedule.

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.

Please let us know when your loved one is better!
Parishioners:
Kathleen Baldwin, Carol Ball, Rita Beggs, Jerry and Rita Blume, Jamie Boos, Patty Brownback, Lynn Butzen, Heather Cardin, Donna Clark, Roseann Copeland, Vince Costello, Bill Culpepper, Hunter Cussigh, Colleen Cutter, Chelsea Dalbey, Mike Delaney, Bryan Dickerson, Toni Dillane, Bob Dinneen, Stephanie Dolak, Karen Elliott, Tim Elliot, Maggie Fiddes, JoAnn Fluderer, Doug Geck, Tom Gennarelli, Jack Gessler, Scott Graham, Duff Greenwood, Carol Grego, Phyllis Grieder, David Gunter, Mary Pat Harpenau, Virginia Hermes, Jackson Hirt, Barb Hughes, Jose Jimenez, Ellen Johnson, Dorothy Kapler, Elizabeth Kellerman, Carrie Kilgore, Sue Klein, Jerry & Pat Klimas, August Larson, Mary Lausten, Butch Lawrence, David Long, Dale Marti, Kelly Mayer, Fr Charles McGlinn, Sarah McGuyer, Lynne Minelli, Jan Monty, Mike Mullen, John O'Donnell, Tom Oxley, Jeff Palmer, Lisa Palmer, Wayne Parsons, Ian Porch, Carmen Porterfield, Anna Punswick, Charlie Regan, Leon Roberts, Ed Sammarco, Karen Schemmel, Celeste Sharp, Elisa Smith, Jill Smith, Rosemary Smith, Ana Sosa de Alonzo, Sheila Strecker, Carol Stump, Bob Sullivan, Fr. Tom Tank, Cindy Taylor, Mandy Uhlmansiek, Ron Ullmann, Hilde Virgilio, Dolores Wadawik, Collin Warrender, Dave Watson, Bridget Weeks, Griffin Weyforth, Carol Whitney.
Relatives & Friends of Parishioners:
Carol Allen, Erica Baggett, Colleen Barbour, Ann Becker, Gaby Beckstrom, Marlene Belik, Gretchen Bell, Madi Beuligmann, Terri and Gerry Brennan, Laurie and Jeffery Brooks, Cori Brown, Cameron Burroughs, Brian Cavanaugh, Harper Claar, Debby Clifford, Olivia Connealy, Beth Blessington Conrad, Clair Contreras, Kelsey Coplen, Tim Curtis, Don Dalton, Josephine Danaher, Michael Danaher, Paula Darling, Daphe, Kimberly Ann Delecaris, Al DeLisle, Carla Dineen, Logan Dorr, John Duesterhaus, Mark DeCoursey, Diane Dunlap, Sandy Eddy, Michael Ernst, Helen Franken, Kelly Fry, Tom Fry, Angela Graham, Lynn George, Emma Gibbar, Michael Glover, Jim Gottardi, James Peter Gottardi, Delores Graves, Jim Gray, Greg Gundlach, Dianna Heintz, Tom Hess, Henry Higginbotham, Linda Hopfinger, Robert Kalinowski, Joy Kearney, John W. Killip, Dona King, Vicki Koch, Shirley Kudrna, Dorothy Lesher, John Lichiello, Monica Lippold, Lisa, Pat Mahoney, Mary Ann Markovich, Bernadine Mason, Cheryl Conrad McGee, Meeks Family, Jeff Mize, Bill Nachbar, Dana Nearmyer, Scott Noel, Kevin O'Grady, Evelyn Overlease, Angelo Pascuzzi, Jason Pfannenstiel, Jacque Pfeifer-Moffitt, John Reedy, Carol Reilly, Geneva Relling, Claudia Roche, Kirk Rulo, Pat Scheibel, Jenny Scheve, Kelli Walrod Seiler, Joe Singer, Ron Sitzmann, Dora Smith, Mike Smith, Jim Steffen, Eleanor Strecker, Courtney Terrell, Brian Titus, Bill Trenkel, Anthony Tripp, Kim Turner, Michele Vigil, Beverly Virgo, Michael Ward, Michael Wellinghoff, Hope Wellinghoff, Rebecca Wenner, Raymond Williams, David Wiltgen, Jim Wilson, Al Wohletz, Christy Wolfe.

WEEKLY PRAYER

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
We Are Family

On the feast of the Holy Family, it is tempting to compare our own families to the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. If your parish used the year A readings that were traditionally used for this feast, the second reading from Colossians has much practical advice for our families. However, while living as a family today is challenging enough, the Gospel for year C reaches a lot farther.

Luke's narrative of the twelve year old Jesus in the temple is not a warning for parents to watch their children closely while travelling. The story looks forward to the time Jesus would be "lost" in the tomb after his crucifixion. Just as his parents found him on the third day, so Jesus would rise from the dead on the third day. And Jesus' remark, "I must be in my Father's house" (Lk 2:49) gives us a hint at who is Jesus' family.

Luke was well aware that the Temple was considered God's dwelling place. So to call it his Father's house showed that Jesus was the Son of God. Keep that in mind as you look at the second reading from the First Letter of John: "we may be called children of God." (1 Jn 3:1) Like Jesus, we call God our father, and like Jesus, we are part of a larger family than the one we live with. That family of all God's children is the one we are called to serve.

But remember Jesus was 12 in this part of the gospel. So his duty to God included being obedient to his parents. We too have a tension between obedience to our parents and following God's call, a tension between taking care of our children and giving time to God's children in the church and the community. At election time we have the tension of voting for candidates who will keep our family safe, or for those that help the poor or the aged. Just remember that, while we have a warm, cozy picture of the Holy Family, Jesus' ultimate duty was to give his life for all, especially sinners. Let us ask God to help us appreciate what our family obligations really are.

Please pray for our active duty service members:

Captain David Baska, USAF; Captain Stephen Cuff, US Army; PFC Matthew Fischbach, USMC; PVT Jacob Hearron, US Army; Senior Airman Courtney Hinemeyer, USAF; Larry Homan, Army; Captain Jacob Morin USAF; Captain Dan Prior, US Army; Lance Corporal Jonathan Scavuzzo, USMC; 2nd Lt. Tom Stivers, US Army; Sergeant Luke Talken,USMC; Technical Sergeant Jeremy Thomas, USAF; 1st Lt Mitchell R Willis, Pilot, USAF.

Baptisms

Lucas James DeJulio

Banns of Matrimony

Madison Vasta and John Montgomery

December 31-January 6

Monday:	1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18
Tuesday:	Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Wednesday:	1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
Thursday:	1 Jn 2:29 -- 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34
Friday:	1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42
Saturday:	1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Jn 1:43-51
Sunday:	Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

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

TRAVELING VOCATION CRUCIFIX
Sign Up Now
Opening for January 6
and dates in February and March

Please help us in our commitment to pray for an increase in awareness for the vocations each are called to by God, be it Priesthood, Sisters in religious life, married life or committed single life. During one Mass each weekend someone is called up to receive a blessing, a picture with the Vocation Prayer on it and a Life Vocation prayer book. Their only commitment is to pray for vocations during that week. Prayer is a powerful tool, and together, united in prayer, we can move mountains! Sign up on our website, kcascension.org, click on Volunteer Signups then look for Traveling Crucifix.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

Thank you for the donations and remembrance of your family members during this Christmas Season. The following Christmas Memorials were remembered during the Mass intentions at all Christmas Masses.

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Nicolo, Melania & Mary Antonelli

Barbara Armstrong

Bob Baldwin, Sr.

Bill & Peggy Beeson

Ken Bergeron

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Members of the Bins & Griffin Families

John Boehm

Alice Bokath

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Frank & Jimmy Rosell

Anne C. Russell

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Margaret F. Saia

Santo Scavuzzo

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Derek Settlemyer

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Teresa & Bernard Weiser

Members of the Wietharn & Rottinghaus Families

Mary Alice Willman

Brian Winkler

Art Winters

Nora & William Yeado

David Zapien

ASCENSION *Families*

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS: *Family Feast Day!*

Imagine the earliest moments of life that the Holy Family experienced together, just after Jesus's birth. What love, joy, wonder, and warmth must have passed between them!

As part of the Octave of Christmas, December 30th is the Feast day of the Holy Family. During this day, we reverence and celebrate the Holy Family, but we also give thanks for our own families. We are invited to recommit our families to love and serve the Family of God.

Take a moment to thank God for your own family. Acknowledge areas of brokenness and need; ask Jesus to transform you into the image of his own Holy Family. Lift up areas of love and virtue within your family too. Give thanks together!

CELEBRATE:

Take time to celebrate your family by planning a family dinner. Discuss: how has God blessed our family over the past year? What has been difficult? How do we hope to grow this year?

ROSARY ENCOUNTER: *Adoration*

Pray one decade of the Rosary, meditating on the mystery of the Nativity. Imagine yourself in the events that follow shortly after Jesus's birth. Adore Jesus with the shepherds (Lk. 2:15-20), and join the Magi to pay him homage (Mt. 2: 1-12).

CONSIDER:

Why do you think that the infant Jesus inspires devotion from shepherds and kings alike? Why were the Magi and Shepherds able to see (the star), hear (the angels), and respond to Jesus when the people of neighboring Bethlehem did not? Are there times when you are able to see and hear? Does anything ever distract you?

RESPOND:

How are you called to adore Jesus during this Christmas season? How are you invited to see, hear, and respond to Jesus born anew?

JOYFULLY PROCLAIMING, CELEBRATING, WITNESSING, AND SERVING *Together*

MINISTRY NEWS

AA AND AL-ANON MEETINGS

Church of the Ascension hosts meetings for Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon groups on Sundays. AA is from 1:00pm-2:00pm and Al-Anon is from 4:00pm-5:00pm. Both groups meet in the St. John Room unless otherwise noted on the parish calendar. AA has another meeting on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm in the same location. If you think you may have a problem with alcohol, please join us at the AA meeting.

Al-Anon meetings have one purpose. The Al-Anon family groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength and hope in order to solve their common problems. For questions contact Jean at: jhinman@kcascension.org or 913-681-3348.

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 Ed Bellamy at edbellamy17@hotmail.com or 913-626-5304.

All 3rd Degree Members who want to join the 4th Degree, contact Bob Ruthig at ruthig24786@everestkc.net or 913-239-9731.

Knight Choir - Contact Dan Tira at tirad@umkc.edu or 913-451-2341 if you are interested in joining.

Hmmmm, Pancakes!!!! The Knights will be serving a breakfast buffet Sunday, January 6, from 9:00am to 11:30am in the parish hall. Pancakes, sausage, hash brown potatoes, cinnamon rolls, coffee, and juice will be served. There is no cost, however, we will be accepting donations to help local charities supported by the Knights. Volunteers please sign up on our website at www.ascensionkofc.com or contact Larry Gessner at lgessner77@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Sign up on our website www.ascensionkofc.com for activities).
- Knights Mass each Friday morning at 6:45am.
- Pancake breakfast Sunday, January 6, 9:00am-11:30am in the parish hall.
- Officers' meeting January 13 in the annex at 6:15pm.
- Villa St. Francis Bingo January 20.

MOTHERS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

Join us on January 3 at 7:00pm, in the parish hall for the first monthly meeting of the year. Annie Tinker will speak about her journey from traditional yoga to Pietra Fitness. She will also be providing a class for all of us to experience. If anyone is making a New Year's resolution to be healthier, this may be the perfect kick-off to 2019! You do not want to miss this!

For more details or to join Mothers of Young Children, please contact Brandy at bmoore610@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

PERPETUAL ADORATION

These Holy Hours need partners in the Chapel each week:

Sunday	8:00am, 10:00am**, 1:00pm and 6:00pm
Monday	7:00am and 3:00pm
Wednesday	11:00am
Thursday	11:00am, noon and 5:00pm
Friday	8:00am, 10:00am, and 11:00pm
Saturday	9:00am, 11:00am, 6:00pm, 7:00pm and 8:00pm

**high need

Please contact Debbie at debora.suzanne@gmail.com or 913-485-8918 if you are interested in taking one of these Hours weekly or if you can be a middle of the night sub occasionally.

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY
Everyone's Responsibility

As we enter this New Year, the following words from Saint Pope John Paul II should motivate us all to act on behalf of the weakest and most defenseless in our society.

"No single person or group has a monopoly on the defense and promotion of life. These are everyone's task and responsibility…. the challenge facing us is an arduous one: only the concerted efforts of all those who believe in the value of life can prevent a setback of unforeseeable consequences for civilization."

Let us respond positively to this great Saint's plea.

Happy New Year.

(Source: Pope John Paul II, Encyclical Letter, The Gospel of Life, No. 91 (1995)).

INVITATION

As baptized Catholics we are called to go out and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others. When was the last time you invited a family back to church or to become involved again in faith formation. Consider reaching out to invite a friend back to practicing their faith. The little things can make a big impact.

CHILD CARE IS AVAILABLE

We love to see families in church, however, we know that little ones occasionally have bad days.

Ascension has a nursery available during 8:15am and 10:00am Masses for walking-age children free of charge.

Also, there is a cry room located in the back of the Church.

A View from Ascension Catholic School & Preschool

THIS is why we do Catholic school

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Ascension Catholic Preschool - REGISTER in January!

Preschools are designed to build social awareness, self-help skills & a pre-academic foundation for grade school.

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COME SEE WHAT WE OFFER – call 913-851-2531 for a tour

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-Philippians 4:13

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LIKE our Facebook page –"Ascension Catholic School Eagles" or visit acseagles.org to learn more

COMMUNITY NEWS

SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY BREATHE RESPITE CARE PROGRAM
January 12, 4:00PM
Holy Cross Catholic School
Overland Park, KS.

BREATHE Respite Care provides the gift of time away from caregiving for families who have a loved one with a disability age 5 and older. If you have any questions regarding the program at Holy Cross School, 8101 West 95th Street, Overland Park, Kansas please contact Tom Racunas, Archdiocese Lead Consultant of the Special Needs Ministry, at 913-647-3054 or by email at tracunas@archkck.org.

To register a loved one please go to www.archkck.org/specialneeds and complete the on-line form.

NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE
January 17-20
Washington, D. C.

Young adults and adults (age 21+) are invited to attend the National March for Life in Washington, DC. We have an Archdiocesan group attending January 17-20. Please visit our event website for more details at: www.archkck.org/march4lifeadult Questions? Contact Emily Lopez at elopez@archkck.org or 913-647-0323.

TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST (TEC) WEEKEND
January 19-21
Savior Pastoral Center, Kansas City, KS.

Are you a high school student looking for a way to deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ? Come join us January 19-21 at Savior Pastoral Center 12601 Parallel Parkway, Kansas City, Kansas, for our Teens Encounter Christ Retreat Weekend. TEC is a retreat hosted by the Archdiocese that guides us in applying the Paschal mystery to our own lives. Participants learn to die to self, rise to a new life in Christ and go forth to evangelize. You can sign up at www.sunflowertec.org. Cost is $90.00, however no one is turned away because of cost.

F.I.R.E. MEN'S RETREAT
February 9-10
Prairie Star Ranch, Williamsburg, KS.

Do you love the outdoors? F.I.R.E. is a very unique Catholic men's retreat that combines a love for outdoor activities like camping, hiking, hunting and fishing with powerful and exciting encounters with the Sacraments. Through Fellowship, Inspiration, and Renewal attendees will leave the retreat ready to engage in their faith like never before. Sign up now at: www.fire-ministries.org or find out more at fire.retreats@gmail.com or 816-590-1744.

LIVING IN LOVE RETREAT
February 16-17
Holy Spirit Parish, Overland Park, KS.

See why over 700 couples in the archdiocese have experienced the "Living in Love" retreat. You can sign up now for the "Living in Love" retreat at Holy Spirit Parish, Overland Park on February 16-17.

Register online at www.archkck.org/LivingInLove or contact Mary Anne Kierl at the Archdiocese at 913-647-0345 for information.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND
March 1-3

Married couples it has been said that the greatest gift you can give your children is two parents very much in love with each other. Polish up this gift and put a bow on it at a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. You deserve the best and your children need to see you reaching for it. The next weekend in Kansas City is March 1-3. For more information or to apply, please visit our website: www.wwme4youandme.org or call Tony and Barb Zimmerman at 816-741-4066 or email tonybarbz@prodigy.net.

COURAGE

Courage is a spiritual support group helping Catholic men and women live chaste lives in accordance with the Catholic Church's teaching on same-sex attraction and/or behaviors. Through participation in the Sacraments, prayer, fellowship and moral support, Courage members strive to develop lives of interior chastity in union with Christ and His Church. Courage meets in the Archdiocese every two weeks. EnCourage is a separate spiritual support group for family members and friends of loved ones with same-sex attraction. If you, your child or loved one struggles with same-sex attraction and wants confidential Catholic support, call the Courage helpline 913-428-9893.

RESPONSE TO ABUSE CRISIS

Transparency and accountability are imperative in the Church's response to the crisis of sexual abuse of minors. In response to current national discussions, our Archdiocese encourages you to visit our website that provides important information, addresses questions and offers an opportunity for parishioners to share their concerns and lend their voices by responding to an online survey. Please visit https://responseincrisis.archkck.org/ to learn how we actively safeguard the innocent and provide care for those affected by abuse. Please join us in praying to our Blessed Mother, Mary, who feels our sorrow and shares our pain.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Parish Pastoral Council

Christ the Priest Spirituality & Liturgy	Christ the Servant Ministry of Care	Christ the Shepherd Parish Life	Christ the Teacher Formation & Education
Liturgical Ministries Perpetual Adoration Sacramental Celebrations Vocation Promotion	Corporal Works of Mercy Support Ministries Social Concerns Parish Outreach	Stewardship Volunteers Special Appeals Mardi Gras Dinner Auction Various Parish Organizations	Adult Faith Formation Family Life Youth Ministry Youth Faith Formation Parish School

Finance & Administration

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

PARISH CONTACTS

PARISH OFFICE

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ascensionchurch@kcascension.org

Pastor ..... **Monsignor Thomas Tank**
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Parochial Vicar ..... **Reverend Michael Guastello**
913-681-3348, x138 frmichael@kcascension.org

Senior Associate..... **Monsignor Charles McGlinn**
msgrcharles@aol.com

Deacon ..... **John Stanley**
913-488-8448 jstanley@archkck.org

Business Manager ..... **Sharon Weems**
913-681-3348, x135 sweems@kcascension.org

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Adult Faith & Baptisms ..... **Denise Greene**
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Communications..... **Maggie Wright**
913-681-3348, x132 mwright@kcascension.org

Maintenance/Head Custodian..... **Virgil Crumpton**
913-681-3348, x145 vcrumpton@kcascension.org

ASCENSION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

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Assistant Principal ..... **Luke Jennison**
913-851-2531, x106 ljennison@acseagles.org

Preschool Director ..... **Lynnette Rempel**
913-851-2531, x116 lrempel@acseagles.org

Administrative Assistant ..... **Janet Eckert**
913-851-2531, x100 jeckert@acseagles.org

Administrative Assistant ..... **Molly Johnson**
913-851-2531, x112 mjohnson@acseagles.org

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

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

Director..... **William O'Leary**
913-681-7683, x105 woleary@kcascension.org

Administrative Assistant ..... **Tricia Baldwin**
913-681-7683, x103 tbaldwin@kcascension.org

YOUTH MINISTRY

8th Grade & High School ..... **Joe Passantino**
913-681-7683, x115 findithere@gmail.com

8th Grade & High School ..... **Annastasia Eftink**
913-681-7683, x104 findithere@gmail.com

A2J, 6th & 7th Grade ..... **Lee McMahon**
913-681-7683, x104 findithere@gmail.com

COUNCIL CHAIRS

Parish Pastoral ..... **Dan Lorenz**
danielslorenz@gmail.com

Finance..... **John Kmetz**
jkmetz@bkd.com

School Advisory..... **Bryan Dickerson**
bryan.w.dickerson@icloud.com

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

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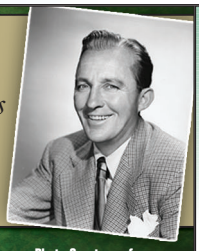

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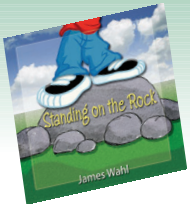

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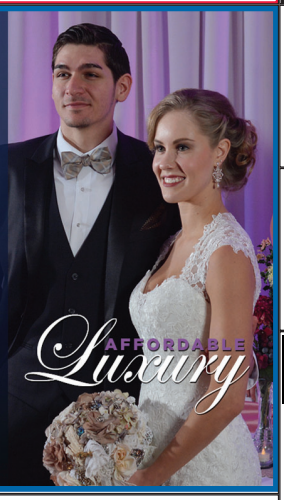

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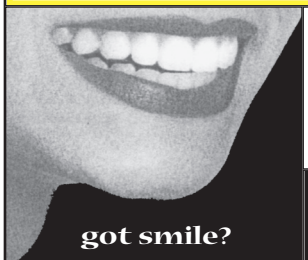
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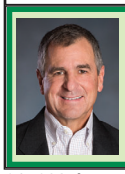
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