

AUGUST 2021



# THE ASCENT

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF  
CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION



**We Left the Light on For You. Join us!**

*Check out our Adult Faith Offerings on page 13*



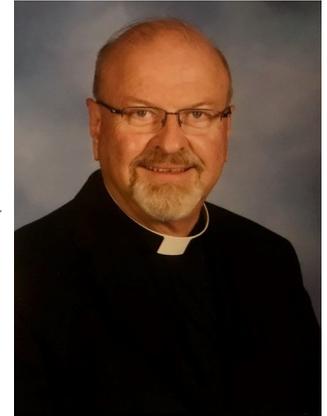
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August 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the peace of Christ, a peace that this world cannot give, fill your hearts and your homes. In my homily on my first weekend here at the Church of the Ascension I compared the Christian life to a NASCAR race. The work of NASCAR racing teams, the purpose for which they exist, is to run the race; to encounter all that occurs on the track and to try to avoid wrecks so as to cross the finish line – hopefully in first place. But the racers cannot stay on the track non-stop. They must make occasional pit stops to recalibrate the engine, take on fuel and change the tires so that they can continue the race. Failure to make the necessary pit stops will surely result in a breakdown and a failure to complete the race. I make the NASCAR reference since I was ordained a priest on the day that the Kansas Speedway opened at the Legends.



In an analogous way the Christian life can be compared to a car race. We must contend with all the challenges that occur on the track, but being on the track, running the race is what matters. And just like NASCAR racers, pit stops are essential. For the Catholic this so called “pit stop” is what happens every Sunday at Mass. It is there in the pits, so to speak, that God works through His pit crew, the priests, deacons and ministers. It is there that our spiritual tanks are refilled, our hearts recalibrated and our efforts reenergized so that we can continue the race. However, the work of the Church doesn’t happen so much in the pits, but on the racetrack of life where all the usual ups and downs of life are experienced. The Christian racer, through prayer, scripture and “pit stops” is equipped to deal with them and to have victory over them because of what happens on Sunday and through the other Sacraments.

As I begin my ministry as pastor here at the Church of the Ascension, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Msgr. Tom Tank. He has been a shining example of a faith-filled and committed pastor. He has been a mentor to me and to so many other priests. He has done amazing pastoral work at Ascension and I must admit that following in his shadow is quite intimidating. I know I cannot be all that he was, but I will do my best to serve this wonderful community. Thanks also to Fr. Viet, the deacons and the parish and school staff for welcoming me and helping me get situated in this new assignment.

Unlike most new assignments in a secular setting, a pastor’s new assignment demands a commitment to love. The pastor is to try his best to be a spiritual father to his parish family. Like all fathers, his children might not like all his decisions or rules. They might even sometimes be embarrassed by what he says or does, but if they know he desires their ultimate good, they will tolerate his imperfections. It is quite similar with a pastor, a spiritual father.

I am happy to be here at Ascension. Please pray for me that I will serve the Lord and you well. Know that you will be in my daily prayers and that I will lift you up to the Lord so that gratitude fills your hearts. May God grant you the grace to always lean on Him in good times and in times of trial.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life,

Fr. Gary

# CELEBRATING FR. TOM - JUNE 27, 2021

We are so grateful to all our parishioners for helping us to celebrate Fr. Tom's retirement as the pastor of Church of the Ascension.

A wonderful celebration was held on Sunday, June 27 to honor Fr. Tom and thank him for everything he has done for our parish over the past 18 years. He was gifted with a donation to his Prairie Star scholarship fund and a commemorative plaque at our new Adoration Chapel.



Many thanks to everyone who attended.



CELEBRATING FR. TOM - JUNE 27, 2021 (CONTINUED)



Thank you to our committee, volunteers and everyone who made the day so special!



# WELCOME TO OUR CATHOLIC FAITH RCIA 2020-21

BY ED BELLAMY

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ascension had six people step up and start their journey to become Catholic. They started their journey at a time of uncertainty, risk, and less than normal church activities. Yet they came. Three ladies and three gentlemen attended both in-person and Zoom meetings to become a part of the Catholic faith. Every RCIA group is different and the last two groups have definitely had unique experiences on their journeys to Catholicism. Thank you to all those who prayed for them during their journey and continue to pray for their spiritual growth. If you see them at Mass, give them a smile and say hello.



Alexis Burk



Blake Bohl



Edivan Galan



Eero Halbleib



Gisselle Leyva



Amanda Wilson

If you or someone you know is interested in exploring the possibility of becoming Catholic, encourage them to contact:

Liz Willman, Director of Adult Faith & RCIA  
lwillman@kcascension.org  
(913) 681-3348 ext. 139

Our next group will start in September, so call today to sign up!

Have you come to mass at 7:00 AM on a weekday or 8:30 AM on Saturday and wondered what was happening? You saw parishioners praying from a small red book that isn't part of our normal mass experience. They were praying the Liturgy of the Hours (LOH).

Bishops, priests and deacons are obligated to pray the LOH as one of their vows of Holy Orders. While the laity are not obligated to pray the LOH, they are invited. Most have not been exposed to it and perhaps have reservations to look into it because the name of the prayers is so daunting: Liturgy of the HOURS. Hours? No, not hardly...the two principle and “bedrock” prayers are Morning Prayer (sometimes referred to as Lauds) and Evening Prayer (sometimes known as Vespers) and each take about ten minutes to pray.

What is the Liturgy of the Hours? It is the ancient prayer of the Church. The crux of the prayer is recitation of the psalms in a rotation of two psalms in the morning and two psalms in the evening on a monthly rotation. It goes back to the Old Testament before Jesus walked on earth. There are 150 psalms and devout Jews memorized many, if not all, and prayed them throughout the day. Jesus not only prayed the psalms: He fulfilled them and revealed their deepest meaning. He quoted them throughout his ministry and there are several references in the Gospels. So, for example, the words “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?” [Psalm 22:2] were the prayer of someone whose heart was in anguish and who cried out to God in a time of desperate need. These words prayed by Jesus on the Cross, now have a new richness for us. They reveal to us the heart of Jesus and His prayer in His time of suffering.

In the psalms, we encounter all kinds of prayers. We find prayers of confidence, prayers for periods of darkness, struggle, hopelessness, and anguish. When the heart feels a deep longing for God, we find words we need in the psalms. Other psalms permit the heart to voice great hope in God. When our heart delights in the Lord, we find psalms of praise. We are not alone and find prayers that reflect however we are feeling.

The praying of the psalms and the Liturgy of the Hours have passed the test of time. We hear of regular prayers recited three times per day in the Acts of the Apostles, and this tradition continued throughout the centuries of the Church until the present day. St. Benedict and the monks developed it as a liturgy prayed in common five times per day. In the centuries that followed, the LOH was prayed regularly and obediently by the clergy. Since Vatican II, the laity has been encouraged to pray the LOH.

The prayer involves psalms but it also includes canticles, a daily scripture reading, intercessions, the Lord's prayer and a closing prayer. Ten minutes to begin the day and ten minutes to end the day is all that it takes to participate in this beautiful prayer. It is intended to be prayed in community. If you have considered praying with your spouse in the morning but have not yet “pulled the trigger,” I encourage you to learn to pray the LOH with your spouse. I don't think God would mind if you had your cup of coffee with you. If you attend the 7:00 AM weekday Mass or 8:30 AM Saturday Mass at Ascension, and arrive ten minutes early, you will find the congregation praying the LOH in community led by the priest. It is a wonderful way to start the day and to encounter this beautiful prayer of the Church that is recited throughout the world by millions.

*To learn more about the Liturgy of the Hours and how to use the small red book, come to a one night talk on Tuesday, September 14. More details can be found on page 15 of this issue. Please register for the talk at [kcascension.org](http://kcascension.org) or using the registration form on page 27 of this issue.*

*The following vocation story was delivered to us by Fr. Innocent Montgomery, CFR. Fr. Innocent's mother, LuAnne Montgomery, is the School Counselor at Ascension Catholic School. The prior publication of The Ascent featured the vocation story of Fr. Angelus Montgomery, also a friar with the CFR's, and also son to Dick and LuAnne Montgomery. We are grateful for their stories of the joy they have found in their vocations. For other stories of religious and ordained from our parish please visit here:*

<https://kcascension.org/religious-vocations-seminarians/>



As I look back on my vocation story, I realize once again that I am such a blessed man. My heart wells up with gratitude as I reflect on what God has done over the course of my life. Everything is a gift, starting with my family. Vocations come from 'good soil,' and my parents definitely gave me that. Mass on Sunday, family dinners every night, prayers before bed, and the teaching of virtue. My parents were present and deeply invested in the man I was to become. They gave me good soil.



High school is where I started to see the fruit. I am super grateful for those years, considering all the joys and struggles of 'growing up.' I worked hard in school, sports, and relationships. Interestingly, I practiced my faith, but I was still just going through the motions. Jesus wasn't personal to me until my junior year. To be honest, I had this lingering struggle with depression throughout middle school and high school. That is a whole story in itself, but what is good to say is that it really affected me. I needed help and I realized that I needed God.

It was a football Friday, and I was feeling super anxious. In fact, I just needed to leave class and be by myself. This is the only time of ever skipping class. I went to the bathroom and I remember breaking down in tears, as the anxiety and pressures of life were weighing on me. I looked in the mirror and I asked myself the question: "Who are you?" Honestly, I felt like a stranger to myself. I didn't like who I saw in the mirror. As then it happened, a real moment of grace. I remembered that a holy priest once told me that if I was ever struggling, I should go to the chapel and talk to Jesus about it. He told me about the Eucharist and what we really believe about His presence there. At that moment, I remembered what he said and decided to go to the chapel.



## VOCATIONS (CONTINUED)



I am happy to report to you that as I walked into the chapel that day I heard no loud thunder or booming voice from heaven. I simply just knelt down and opened my heart up to Jesus. My prayer was something like this: “Jesus, the priest told me that you are here, and I need you. Please help me experience your presence.” And all I can say is that Jesus came to me. He was there. For the first time in my life, I didn’t feel alone. This moment of grace changed me. I encountered Jesus for the first time in the Eucharist, and my life changed. Jesus was alive and He wanted to be in my life. From this moment, I began to experience life differently.

Because of the good soil, Jesus began to plant seeds of faith in my life. Over a period of time, I made a good confession, started going to daily Mass, and would go to the chapel often to pray in front of Jesus in the Eucharist. This sounds kind of pious, but it was real. These seeds produced a personal relationship with Jesus that changed my life. As I grew in this relationship, the desire started to well up within my heart to be close to Jesus always and to give my life for Him. He was forming my heart to be a priest.

Little did I know what this journey would look like. Yes, He was calling me to the priesthood, but also consecrated life. After I graduated from minor Seminary in Nebraska, Jesus called me on a journey to ‘give up everything and follow Him.’ I left family, friends, and homeland, because Jesus was calling me to follow Him and to live like Him in poverty, chastity, and obedience. He was calling me to live a life of mission like Him, preaching and serving the poor in the footsteps of St. Francis. He desired me to consecrate my whole life to Him. This is the most amazing grace of my life.

As I look back on my journey, gratitude to God and my family wells up in my heart. Who gets to live like this? The good soil from my family allowed God to plant good seeds, and through all the joys and toils of life, God did something beautiful. He is the one who bears fruit. Thank you for allowing me to share just a glimpse of God’s grace in my life. He is real, and all of our vocations are such a gift from Him.



As a lifelong Catholic, I (Peter) have had difficulty with prayer at times in my life. In my early years, my prayer life was based around the basic prayers we learned growing up, the Hail Mary, the Our Father, and an occasional Rosary. But as the years went on, my prayer life did change to more of a dialogue with God. The only problem with my dialogue was that I did all the talking and asking, never giving God a chance to talk, to answer my prayer.

As I'm maturing in my prayer life, I try harder to listen. I know God will answer my prayers, but I assumed it would be in a quiet place, like the Adoration Chapel. In so many Gospel stories Jesus goes off to a quiet place to pray and listen to our Father. So my thought process made perfect sense.

We have participated in the 40 Days for Life and the Life Chain for many years, and we both thought there was something we were being called to do. We prayed for guidance from the Holy Spirit. What is it you want us to do Lord? I was sure I would hear something in the Adoration Chapel, hear it with my ears, a whisper, a boom, something.

Fast forward to a day in November. We were in the car with our 2-year-old grandson. EWTN was on the radio and the Archbishop was talking about the foster care crisis in the state of Kansas. Beyond that, I could not tell you what he said or to whom he was talking. The reason? Our grandson was learning to talk, and he loved to "talk." Thinking back, the car sounded more like the Tower of "Babble" than the Adoration Chapel.

The Holy Spirit picked that time and place to answer our prayers, though we didn't know it then. It wasn't until several weeks later when Nora said to me, "Did you hear the Archbishop in the car a couple of weeks ago?" And then it hit us... we both had heard the Archbishop, but not with our ears. The Holy Spirit was talking to our hearts, and that is how we knew what the Archbishop had been saying.

From that moment on, we both knew our prayers were answered, and the Holy Spirit was going to direct us where He wanted us to go. Both our hearts were touched by the plight of children in the foster care system, and we were being called to support families who are fostering or adopting.

The Archbishop has asked all parishes to start a ministry that will support families answering God's call to help these vulnerable children. He correctly placed these ministries in the Pro-Life Office. Our parish's answer to this request of the Archbishop is the Ascension Foster & Adopt Ministry, AFAM. As Catholics, we are battling the pro-abortion lobby and spend most of our time and resources on that battle. But as a Church, our responsibility does not end when a baby is born. We are called to do more, especially to support the most vulnerable children whose biological parents struggle to meet their basic needs.

This is where families who are fostering and adopting come in, to help these children. All the children who enter foster care are suffering from trauma, loss, and grief. They have been removed from their parents, their siblings, their schools and from everything that is familiar in their lives. This separation leads to behavioral and psychological issues, which add to the complexity of fostering and adopting.

We can all debate the problems in the foster care system, but this will not help one child. What can be done? The church is the solution, and when we say church, we mean us. We are the Body of Christ. We are the Hands of Christ.

The Right to Life goes beyond the right to be born. As a Church we are called to support families and children in need. Jesus said it best, "Let the children come to Me."

*To learn how this ministry can support your family, contact Peter Sykes at [petersykes2019@gmail.com](mailto:petersykes2019@gmail.com).*

There have been many things that have come out of this pandemic. We have all experienced what it is like to feel isolated, scared, and lonely. We've had our gathering places and space and even the Eucharist taken away from us. For some there was more family time and a chance to slow down and really evaluate what is important.

My family discovered we really enjoyed hiking and exploring all the great trails in the area. Having four kids 13 and under, I didn't really have a chance to feel too lonely, but I did long to be able to gather with my friends in person. I feel blessed to have my family and have made some amazing friends through Adult Faith classes, Mothers of Young Children (MOYC), Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, American Heritage Girls, Christ Renews His Parish, and the school. These groups have all been welcoming and we all have something in common. Many connections made through these groups have now become close friends that help us journey through this pandemic and life.

As things open back up and we are presented with so many opportunities I am realizing the importance of being intentional, which is to seek the people and activities that bring us joy and being able to say no to the things that only add stress to our family. Sometimes saying "no" means saying "yes" to our family. We have taken the time to evaluate the activities and communities we are involved in and discerned which activities we want to continue. This needs to be a continual process as we are presented with new opportunities or requests often.

We have come to really value our time with family and friends and see the importance of fostering those relationships. We plan to invite people to gather and pray together.

While this has been our experience, we know that others may still be feeling isolated or scared. We are very blessed to be at a parish that has such a variety of ministries and communities. Our family has to make sure we don't over commit, and we pray that those feeling isolated are willing to try something new until they find a group that they can connect with.



## A GIFT FOR YOU

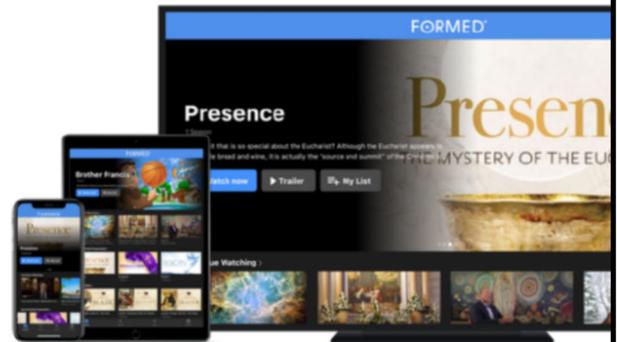
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# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

## FALL 2021 ADULT FAITH COURSE CATALOG



PLEASE REGISTER BY AUGUST 31, 2021

Online registration & payment available at [kcascension.org](http://kcascension.org)

OR

Turn in the Registration Form (located inside on page 27)

Late registrations are welcome, but there is no guarantee that materials will be available through Ascension. You may have to obtain your own materials.

Scholarships are available for those under financial constraints-contact Liz Willman.

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

Liz Willman  
Karen Newkirk

[lwillman@kcascension.org](mailto:lwillman@kcascension.org)  
[knewkirk@kcascension.org](mailto:knewkirk@kcascension.org)

681-3348 ext. 139  
681-3348 ext. 142

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# OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)



*Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic? Join us for classes to see if this is right for you! We will meet on Monday nights to present basic topics of the faith and grow in our relationship with God. 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.*

**Information Night/Registration date and time:**

**Tuesday, September 7, 2021 from 7:00PM-8:00PM in St. Mark Room**

**Regular day and time: Mondays 5:30 PM - 7:30PM**

**First regular session: September 20, 2021**

**Location: St. Mark Room**

**No Cost**

## Liturgy of the Hours Introduction

*Have you come to Mass at 7:00 AM on a weekday or 8:30 AM on Saturday and wondered what was happening? You saw parishioners praying from a small red book that isn't part of our normal mass experience. They were praying the Liturgy of the Hours (LOH).*

*What is the Liturgy of the Hours? It is the ancient prayer of the Church. The crux of the prayer is recitation of the psalms in a rotation. To learn more about the Liturgy of the Hours and how to use the small red book, please join us for a one-night introduction.*

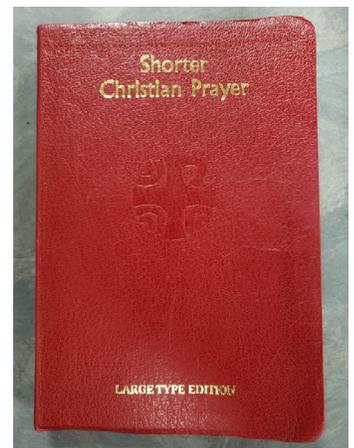
**Tuesday, September 14, 2021**

**7:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

**Location: St. Mark Room**

**Facilitator: Deacon John Stanley**

**No Cost**



# MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GROUPS

## 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, complete the registration form on page 26, or check out the parish website or Adult Faith Bulletin Board in the Gathering Space for a registration form.*



**The next Women's retreat will be held on September 11 and 12, 2021, and the next Men's retreat will be held on September 25 and 26, 2021. Please check the bulletin and website for more information.**

## Disciples Dwelling: A Young Adult Bible Study

*Are you currently transitioning from college into adulthood? Are you looking for an opportunity where you can dig deeper into your Catholic faith while bonding with other young adults on fire for Christ? Then consider joining Disciples Dwelling (DD) - Ascension's young adult weekly small group study. We discuss upcoming Sunday Mass readings followed by a fellowship activity - with occasional DD functions on weekends.*



**Ongoing Bible Study for a passionate group of Catholic Young Adults, ages 21-35**

**Thursdays: 7:00PM - 8:30 PM**

**Location: Youth Room**

**Facilitator: Amy Reinhardt and Jennifer Mathews**

**No Cost**

*If you feel called to learn more about joining Disciples Dwelling, look us up on Facebook or contact Amy Reinhardt (amelizabeth93@yahoo.com) for more information.*

# MEN'S FAITH

## 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**

**Location: St. Mark Room**

**Facilitator: Ken Jennison**

**No Cost**



## Fathers of St. Joseph—Spirituality for Men

*Come join us as we learn God's plan for men, fatherhood, Scriptural solutions to living life today based on how God intended. Our goal is to make the theological practical: finding happiness now and for eternity for fathers and all those we love.*

**Sundays: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

**Date: Ongoing**

**Location: in homes**

**Facilitator: Phil Hernandez**

**No Cost**



# WOMEN'S FAITH

## Women's Preached Retreat: "Stay With Me, Jesus"

*Living in this complex and busy world we often search for hope and strength in different places, forgetting that our God simply waits to give us what we most need in life: His very Self, in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.*



*We invite you to accompany us for a day of quiet prayer and reflection, food and fellowship. In our time together, presenters will delve into the power and nourishment Jesus promises to each of us for life, in our Holy Communion with Him.*

**Date: Saturday, October 30, 2021**

**Time: 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM**

**Check-in and Continental Breakfast Location: Parish Hall (begins at 9:00 AM)**

**Retreat Location: Church (begins at 9:30 AM)**

**Retreat Presenters: Marge Sosna and Kim Sutton**

**Cost: \$25 (includes retreat materials, continental breakfast and lunch)**

## Women Gathered in Prayer Leadership Training

*Interested in leading other women in our parish to share in this journey called life? Have you experienced the joy that comes from knowing real faith support from other women? Or have you not experienced this but always wanted to?*

*Come to this 2 week session where we will share best practices on leading small faith groups for women, help you to form your own spiritual sisterhood of faith, and provide you with the materials to lead your group. On-going support will be provided.*



**2 Week Course**

**Tuesdays: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

**Dates: November 9 and November 16, 2021**

**Location: St. John Room**

**Facilitators: Marge Sosna and Kim Sutton**

**Cost of Materials: \$5**

# CLASSES

## Apologetics 101: Defending What We Believe (And Why)

*This class explains the top 10 questions Catholics are asked about our faith and how to answer them. Sharing our faith requires basic understanding of not only what we believe but why.*

**8 Week Course**  
**Tuesday 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**  
**Start Date: September 21, 2021**  
**Location: St. Mark Room**  
**Facilitator: Dan Spencer**  
**No Cost**

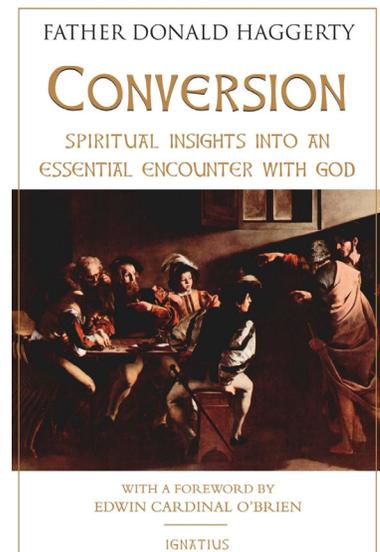


## Holy Conversation Book Club

*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 Conversion by Fr. Donald Haggerty. 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 7, 2021 through May 2022**  
**Location: St. Mark Room**  
**Facilitator: Tamara James**  
**Cost of Materials: \$18**



# CLASSES

## Real Philosophy for Real People

*Are your conversations with friends and family becoming increasingly more difficult and contentious? Can you discuss with your friends, neighbors, or children anything of substance anymore without misunderstandings and hurt feelings? Do you find yourself frustrated and asking the question as your firstborn returns from college and stands before you, “Who are you and what have you done with my child?” Is the best you can do just to “agree to disagree?” The world we live in is more complicated day by day. “Yet, whether we like it or not,” says Father Robert McTeigue, S.J., “almost every corner of our lives...brings us face-to-face with competing philosophies and worldviews, each claiming to tell us what it means to be human. ...Consciously, or not, we all have a worldview, and it decides how we live.” What is your worldview and why does it matter?*

*In his book, **Real Philosophy for Real People, Tools for Truthful Living**, Fr. McTeigue provides a “toolkit for breaking down and evaluating thought systems... that swirl around us and even in us.”*

### 16 Week Course

**Thursdays: 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM**

**Dates: September 30 - November 18: Sessions 1 thru 8**

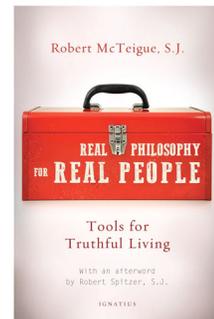
**Break for Advent and the Holidays,**

**January 6 - March 3 (skip Feb. 24): Sessions 9 thru 16**

**St. Mark Room**

**Facilitated by Joyce Grashoff**

**Cost of Materials: \$18**



## Increase Your Faith 10x Class

*If someone gave you a stock tip that would generate a 10x return or more, would you be interested? This class is designed to increase your faith 10x and draws upon the examples of St. Joseph and how to apply those to our lives. Who in your life could benefit from an increase in your faith? What's your plan for eternity? This is your opportunity to understand God's plan for you, then to save your family and change the world, literally. What has to change in us to be like God the Father in this lifetime? Much of our focus is about the restoration of fatherhood but women play a big role, so men and women are welcome to attend.*

### 5 Week Course

**Saturdays: 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM**

**Dates: September 18 - November 6 (skip October 30)**

**St. Mark Room**

**Facilitated by Phil Hernandez**

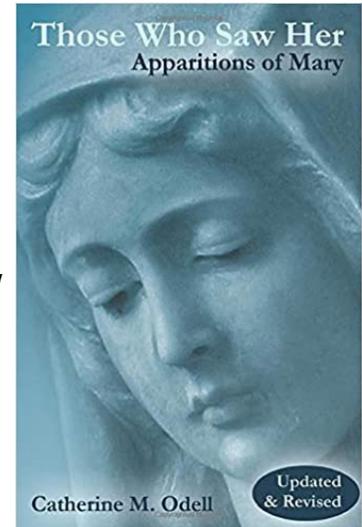
**No Cost**



# CLASSES

## Those Who Saw Her: Apparitions of Mary

*Our Blessed Mother has been appearing around the world for years with many messages to help us manifest the hidden presence of God, to help us convert our hearts to Jesus, to help us renew our spiritual communities, to reawaken and stimulate our faith and also to renew the hope of our Catholic faith. We will review many of her approved apparitions to better understand how the Blessed Mother is helping the world to become what is desired by the Holy Trinity. Together let us learn how the Blessed Mother can help us become what God wants for all of us to become, Saints.*



### 8 Week Course

**Wednesdays: 9:30 AM -11:00 AM**  
**Start Date: September 15, 2021**      **OR**  
**Location: St. Mark Room**  
**Facilitator: Dick Kane**  
**Cost of Materials: \$18**

**Wednesdays: 7:00 PM—8:30 PM**  
**Start Date: September 15, 2021**  
**Location: St. Mark Room**  
**Facilitator: Dick Kane**  
**Cost of Materials: \$18**

## The Sanctuary Course for Catholics

***THE MOST IMPORTANT CONVERSATION WE DON'T HAVE** is the one about mental health problems.*

*Once again, we are offering “**The Sanctuary Course for Catholics.**” One in four of us will be affected either personally or through family and friends. This 8-week course strives to break down the stigma and start the conversation in order to support those who are suffering. We will explore the realities of mental health and illness, as well as the vital need for faith-based community conversations about this topic. Each class will include gentle and confidential small group discussion and accompanying videos that feature the stories of Catholics living with mental health challenges, along with the insights of archbishops, theologians, and psychologists. **ALL ARE WELCOME/BRING A FRIEND!***

### 8 Week Course

**Tuesdays 10:00 AM - 11:45AM**  
**Start Date: September 14, 2021**  
**Location: St. Mark room**  
**Facilitator: Kim Sutton**  
**Cost of Materials: \$20**



# CLASSES

## An Evening on Forgiveness

*We have all been hurt by someone, maybe even a family member, and we are in need of reflection, prayer and an open forum. Spend an evening on **Thursday, September 23rd, at 7:00 pm, in the St. John room.** An introduction to the Forgiveness journey, followed by a prayer service of scripture, slides, and music. Followed by a sharing and discussion of the Journey of Forgiveness. Closing will be a reflection on Divine Mercy. Bring a friend. Open to all.*

*This optional evening of prayer and discussion on Forgiveness will precede the class offering below.*

### 1 Night Talk

**Thursday 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

**September 23, 2021**

**Location: St. John Room**

**Facilitator: Chuck Jansen**

**No Cost**



## 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 (alternating weeks) - September 30, October 14, October 28**

**Thursdays: 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM**

**Start Date: September 30, 2021**

**Location: St. John Room**

**Facilitator: Chuck Jansen**

**No Cost**

**OR**

**Thursdays: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

**Start Date: September 30, 2021**

**Location: St. John Room**

**Facilitator: Chuck Jansen**

**No Cost**

# BIBLE STUDIES

## Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible

*Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible helps you uncover the story woven throughout Scripture, so you can get the “big picture” of the Bible and understand what it’s all about. The complexity of the Bible is simplified through an easy-to-follow narrative approach, and a color-coded Bible Timeline Chart which helps you to follow the story that ties all of Scripture together and makes it easy to understand the Bible. This is a condensed version of the Bible Timeline Study.*



**Please bring your Bible to class (any Catholic translation)**

### 8 Week Course

**Thursdays: 7:15 PM - 8:45 PM**

**Start Date: September 23, 2021**

**Location: St. Mark Room**

**Facilitator: Greg Werchowich**

**Cost of Materials: \$27**

## The New Heavens and the New Earth

*Although an End Times study, this is NOT a study of the Book of Revelation as such. This will be an opportunity for personal application of many familiar passages, taken from several books of the Bible. Some section titles include:*

- *Is the Time Near to See My Lord Jesus?*
- *Jesus Making Earth a Heaven When He Comes*
- *Do Not Want What You Had Before*
- *What to Do to Live Forever With My Lord Jesus*

**Please bring your Bible to class (any Catholic translation)**

**7 Week Course (September 10, 2021 through November 5, 2021—not October 22)**

**Fridays: 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

**Start Date: September 10, 2021**

**Location: St. John Room**

**Facilitator: Bill Thomas**

**No Cost**



# BIBLE STUDIES

## Hebrews

*Hebrews: The New and Eternal Covenant* is a Bible study program that takes Catholics on a guided tour of what is considered the “Holy of Holies” of biblical theology. The book of Hebrews is steeped in rich truths about our Catholic Faith.

Presented by Dr. Andrew Swafford and Jeff Cavins, this study program draws out the meaning of the book of Hebrews **in a simple way** so Catholics can see, appreciate, and **take hold of the riches God has given them in the New Covenant.**

\*\*\* As highlighted in “The Leaven” earlier this year, this series recently received a Bronze Telly Award. \*\*\*

### 8 Week Course

**Thursdays**

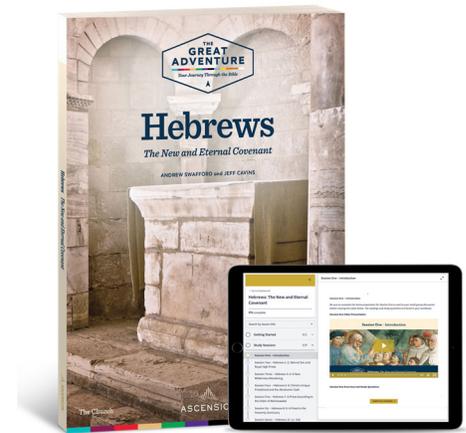
**Time: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM**

**Starts: September 30, 2021 through November 18, 2021**

**Location: St. Mark/Matthew Room**

**Facilitator: Tamara James**

**Cost of Materials: \$30**



OR

**Sundays**

**Time: 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM**

**Starts: October 3, 2021 through November 21, 2021**

**Location: St. Mark/Matthew Room**

**Facilitator: Joyce Grashoff**

**Cost of Materials: \$30**

We offer our thanks to your fellow parishioners who volunteer their time to facilitate these course offerings for our parishioners.

# MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

## Together: A Date Night Ministry For Married Couples

*Church of the Ascension and St. Michael the Archangel Parish have teamed up to co-host **Together**, a ministry devoted to married couples. Join us for dynamic speaker presentations, fellowship, prayer, drinks, and food. Then, continue the conversation with your spouse, out on a date or back in your home — at a time and place that works for both of you! We will provide simple reflection questions to take with you, as entry points for deeper discussion and personal application.*



*The topics for each evening will be served “a la carte,” meaning, you do not need to prepare with reading or homework ahead of time, nor do you need to attend every available evening (although you are certainly encouraged to do so)! All married couples are invited to come — so bring another couple from your neighborhood or from a neighboring parish. You can expect a comfortable, inviting, and pressure-free atmosphere.*

**Dates:** Saturday evenings throughout the year, roughly every month.

**Time:** Our typical start time is 6:30 PM

**Location:** Either Church of the Ascension or St. Michael the Archangel Parish

**Speakers:** Speakers and topics vary each session

**Cost of Event:** \$0-20 per couple, depending on the food and drink that is provided

**For more information about upcoming events, or to sign-up for our email distribution list, visit us at [kcascension.org/together](http://kcascension.org/together)**

## Becoming One

*Becoming one is a marriage enrichment ministry created by and for newly (and newly-ish!) married couples. Join us! We are on a journey, moving toward knowing and loving our spouses, our faith, and our community more fully and more passionately. We are actively creating a group — a family of sorts — that is vibrant, authentic, and open to new people and ideas. If you are married or engaged and interested in joining or learning more, then we would love to have you!*



**Dates:** The 4th Thursday of each month

**Time:** 7-8:30 PM

**Location:** Varies

**Topics and Speakers:** Vary

**Cost of Event:** Free

**For more information about upcoming events, or to sign-up for our email distribution list, visit us at [kcascension.org/becoming-one](http://kcascension.org/becoming-one)**



## CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH INVITATION

Church of the Ascension  
9510 W. 127<sup>th</sup> O.P., KS 66213  
(913) 681-3348 FAX (913) 681-3517

**Return this form to the Parish Office**

**Retreat Date Desired-MINIMUM AGE IS 23 YEARS OLD**

**WOMEN'S Weekends:**

**MEN'S Weekends:**

Sept. 11 & 12, 2021

Sept. 25 & 26, 2021

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nickname (for Name Badge): \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a registered member of Ascension? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If no, please list your parish: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please note: Priority is given to parishioners since this is a program designed to renew parishes.)

Do you have food allergies or special dietary needs, or do you require any special accommodations? \_\_\_ No or Yes, they are

\_\_\_\_\_

In case of an emergency during the weekend, who should be contacted?

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship (spouse, child, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alternate Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information please contact:

For Men: Chuck Jansen 913-710-2597 [jansenchuck@gmail.com](mailto:jansenchuck@gmail.com)

For Women: Sarah LaSala 816-804-8665 [sglasala@gmail.com](mailto:sglasala@gmail.com)

# Church of the Ascension 2021-2022 Adult Faith Registration Form

**REGISTER ONLINE at [www.kcascension.org](http://www.kcascension.org) OR**

**Turn in this Registration Form to the box in the Gathering Space or the Parish Office.**

Please make check payable to: Church of the Ascension. ONE check may be used for all courses.

**REGISTRATION DUE AUGUST 31, 2021**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

If couple attending class, Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Late registrations are welcome,  
but there is no guarantee that  
materials will be available  
through Ascension.  
You may have to obtain your  
own materials.

All are welcome to attend, but please indicate your parish:    Ascension  Other Parish

Course Title	Please Circle Which Class	Participant Name(s)	Cost	Qty to Order	Total Amount Due
Apologetics 101	PM		—		
Fathers of St. Joseph	PM		—		
An Evening on Forgiveness	PM		—		
Forgiveness Class	AM or PM		—		
Hebrews	Thur AM or Sun AM		\$30		
Holy Conversation Book Club	afternoon		\$18		
Increase Your Faith 10x	AM		—		
Liturgy of the Hours Introduction	PM		—		
Men of Ascension	AM		—		
The New Heavens and the New Earth	AM		—		
Real Philosophy for Real People	PM		\$18		
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)	Inquirer or Sponsor		—		
The Sanctuary Course for Catholics	AM		\$20		
Those Who Saw Her: Apparitions of Mary	AM or PM		\$18		
Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible	PM		\$27		
Women's Preached Retreat: "Stay With Me, Jesus"	AM		\$25		
Women in Prayer Leadership Training	PM		\$5		
				<b>Total:</b>	\$ _____

Scholarships are available for those under financial constraints — contact Liz Willman for more information.

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

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Stilwell, KS  
Permit No. 707

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:  
Church of the Ascension #017629  
**4,000 COPIES**  
**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

***SUBMITTED: July 21, 3:15PM***  
***PLEASE RETURN TO US ON OR BEFORE August 4***  
***THANK YOU!!!***

***PERFORATE PAGES 26 and 27***

Please let us know as soon as possible if there are any issues with the file.

**Contact Karen or Sharon at (913) 681-3348 if there are any issues  
or if you have any questions.**

Thank you!!!

Pages: (including this page) **29**

Software: MS Office Publisher –2010