

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

MINISTRY DIRECTORY & RESOURCE GUIDE



2023-2024

Our Purpose

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION EXISTS TO:

Proclaim THE GOSPEL,
Worship WHOLEHEARTEDLY,
Serve GENEROUSLY
AND *Love* LIKE JESUS.

A description of how Church of the Ascension is organized, what we do, and the ministries, partnerships and resources offered in service to our community as a response to the Lord's commission to proclaim, worship, serve and love.

9510 W. 127TH STREET | OVERLAND PARK, KS 66213
(913) 681-3348 | WWW.KCASCENSION.ORG | ASCENSIONCHURCH@KCASCENSION.ORG

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Regular Schedule of Liturgy & Devotions:

Weekend Mass:	Saturday 4:30pm Sunday 8:15am, 10:00am, 11:45am, 5:00pm
Daily Mass:	Monday-Friday 7:00am, Noon Saturday 8:30am
Eucharistic Adoration:	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Novena to our Lady of Perpetual Help:	Saturday after the 8:00am Rosary
Reconciliation:	Tuesday 11:00am, 6:30pm Wednesday 6:00am Saturday 3:00pm
Rosary:	Sunday 9:30am, 11:15am Monday-Friday 6:25am Monday-Friday 12:35pm (after Noon Mass) Tuesday 6:30pm (Family Rosary) Saturday 8:00am

Parish Offices

9510 W 127th Street, Overland Park, KS 66213

PARISH OFFICE

Phone: 913-681-3348
Fax: 913-681-3517
Email: ascensionchurch@kcascension.org
Website: www.kcascension.org
Hours: Monday - Thursday
8:30am - 4:00pm
Friday
8:30am - Noon



SCHOOL OFFICE

Phone: 913-851-2531
Fax: 913-851-2518
Email: info@acseagles.org
Website: www.acseagles.org

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

Phone: 913-681-7683
Hours: Monday—Thursday
9:00am - 4:00pm
(Summer: Friday, 8:00am-Noon)

VIRTUS - Protecting God's Children and Vulnerable Adults

Anyone that will be working with children and vulnerable adults will need to attend a VIRTUS session prior to volunteering. Please go to www.virtusonline.org to register for a live session. Contact Tricia Baldwin with any questions. 913-681-7683, tbaldwin@acseagles.org

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please submit approved written information to
Sarah Streitwieser ssreitwieser@kcascension.org
by Friday, 4:00pm (9 days prior to bulletin)

Archdiocese Office

ARCHDIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY IN KANSAS

Catholic Chancery Offices

12615 Parallel Parkway
Kansas City, KS 66109

Phone: 913-721-1570
Fax: 913-721-1577
Email: archkck@archkck.org
Website: www.archkck.org

Leadership Team



Fr. Gary Pennings
Pastor

Pastoral Associates



Sharon Weems
Administration
& Outreach



Ray Martin
Communications
& Parish Life



Liz Willman
Adult Faith
Formation



Dr. William O'Leary
Youth Faith
Formation



Becky Wright
Principal ACS

Clergy & Liturgy



Fr. Colm Larkin
Parochial Vicar



Fr. Brent Stull
Parochial Vicar



Dcn. Kris Kuckelman



Dcn. John Stanley



**Dr. Dorothy
Brandwein**
Music Director

Advisory Councils

Parish Pastoral Council

The pastoral council is established to serve as a consultative group to the pastor, to assist him in fostering pastoral activities and in providing for the continued growth of parish life. It is a representative group of parishioners elected by the parish, or appointed by the pastor.

Finance Council

The Parish Finance Council is a consultative body of lay persons mandated by Canon Law to advise the Pastor in matters pertaining to the financial affairs of the parish. Members are appointed by the pastor based on their financial expertise and work closely with the Pastoral Associate for Administration and Outreach.

Purpose, Vision, & Values

Our Purpose

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION EXISTS TO:

Proclaim THE GOSPEL,
Worship WHOLEHEARTEDLY,
Serve GENEROUSLY,
AND *Love* LIKE JESUS.

PROCLAIM: Church of the Ascension exists to proclaim the Gospel, to announce the Good News that God so loved the world that He sent His Son to save us. In Jesus we have the Way to salvation. In the Lord Jesus we find forgiveness of sins.

WORSHIP: We are called to worship the Lord wholeheartedly, loving Him "with all your heart, soul, strength and mind" (Lk. 10:27). We celebrate the sacred liturgy, making the one sacrifice of Jesus present to us until He comes again in glory. Our Eucharistic worship is at the heart of Catholic life.

SERVE: Our worship renews us and equips us to serve generously. Our love of God necessitates our love of neighbors. When Jesus washed the disciples' feet, He said, "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet" (Jn. 13:14).

LOVE: The Law and the Prophets are summed up in Jesus' command to love like He loved. Jesus' love is freely offered, sacrificial, rooted in truth, and enduring. We strive to imitate Jesus' way of loving, always wanting the ultimate good for the other and continuing to love even when we are not loved in return.

A JOY THAT INSPIRES OTHERS: We endeavor to demonstrate, through our words and deeds, that we believe that the Gospel is truly Good News, that what God has done for us in Christ Jesus warrants a joyful response from us. We pray that we will come to exude a joyful spirit that is attractive to others and that draws others to better know the source of our joy.

A PATIENCE THAT FOSTERS RELATIONSHIPS: We desire to be patiently present to others, meeting them where they are in life's journey, striving to better know them, and to befriend them. All evangelization begins with relationship, so we want to be good at establishing relationships.

A CHARITY THAT TRANSFORMS HEARTS: Jesus' command to love as He loves provides direction for all our parish efforts. Charity, another word for Love, is the fuel that animates relationships, the knock on the door of people's hearts that invite them to open up, and the foundation upon which trust grows. Our ability to share the Gospel is enhanced when others know we truly care about them.

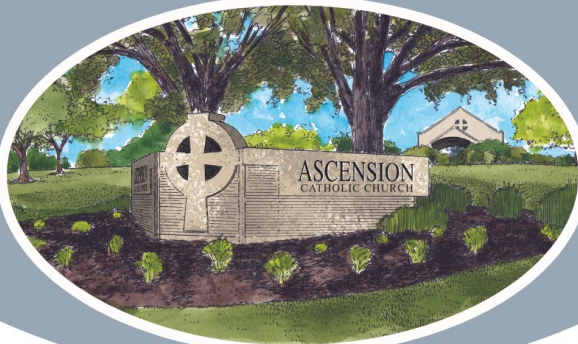


Our Vision

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION IS STRIVING TO:

LIVE OUR CATHOLIC FAITH WITH
A Joy THAT INSPIRES OTHERS,
A Patience THAT FOSTERS RELATIONSHIPS,
AND *A Charity* THAT TRANSFORMS HEARTS.

Our Key Values



Honesty that shares the fullness of the Gospel, is transparent and humbly acknowledges our strengths and our weaknesses.

Hospitality that joyfully meets people where they are and invites them to join us in seeking more.

Compassion that ministers from our hearts, and hears the longings and pains of others.

Generosity that recognizes blessings and sacrificially shares our time, talent, as well as our treasure.

Intentionality in learning more, going to the margins and witnessing in Jesus' name.

Parish Staff Chart



FATHER GARY PENNINGS
Pastor of Church of the Ascension
fgary@kcascension.org

ADMINISTRATION & OUTREACH



SHARON WEEMS
Pastoral Associate
sweems@kcascension.org



PATTY BILLINGER
Minister for Care
& Social Justice
pbillinger@kcascension.org



SUSAN ROTH
Office Manager
sroth@kcascension.org



CATHY WEISER
Receptionist
cweiser@kcascension.org



VIRGIL CRUMPTON
Maintenance &
Head Custodian

COMMUNICATIONS & PARISH LIFE



RAY MARTIN
Pastoral Associate
rmartin@kcascension.org



KAREN NEWKIRK
Minister for Stewardship
& Engagement
knewkirk@kcascension.org



MARY BIBLER
Minister for
Parish Life
mbibler@kcascension.org



SARAH STREITWIESER
Communications
Coordinator
sstreitwieser@kcascension.org

ADULT FAITH FORMATION



LIZ WILLMAN
Pastoral Associate
willman@kcascension.org



MARISSA BROWN
Minister for Marriage
Family Life & Vocations
mbrown2@kcascension.org



ELIZABETH WHITEHEAD
Adult Faith
Administrative Assistant
ewhitehead@kcascension.org



ED BELLAMY
Adult Faith
Coordinator
ebellamy@kcascension.org

ASCENSION CATHOLIC SCHOOL



BECKY WRIGHT
Pastoral Associate
bwright@acseagles.org



KELLY ROSE
Vice Principal
krose@acseagles.org



JANET ECKERT
Administrative
Assistant
jeckert@acseagles.org



MOLLY JOHNSON
Administrative
Assistant
mjohnson@acseagles.org

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION



DR. WILLIAM O'LEARY
Pastoral Associate
woleary@kcascension.org



TRICIA BALDWIN
Administrative
Assistant
tbaldwin@kcascension.org



JOE PASSANTINO
Minister for
Young Adults
findithere@gmail.com



MARY BETH STANKIEWICZ
Youth Minister
6th-12th Grade
mbstankiewicz@kcascension.org

CLERGY & LITURGY



FR. COLM LARKIN
Parochial Vicar



FR. BRENT STULL
Parochial Vicar



DEACON KRIS KUCKELMAN



DEACON JOHN STANLEY



DR. DOROTHY BRANDWEIN
Music Director



DEREK PROBST
Youth Minister
6th-12th Grade
dprobst@kcascension.org

Parish Staff Contact Info

CLERGY & LITURGY

Pastor.....**Father Gary Pennings**
913-681-3348, x137 frgary@kcascension.org

Parochial Vicar.....**Father Brent Stull**
913-681-3348, x147 frstull@kcascension.org

Parochial Vicar.....**Father Colm Larkin**
913-681-3348, x138 frcolm@kcascension.org

Deacon.....**Deacon Kris Kuckelman**
913-278-9393 kkuckelman@archkck.org

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

Music Director.....**Dr. Dorothy Brandwein**
913-681-3348, x154 dbrandwein@kcascension.org

ADMINISTRATION & OUTREACH

Pastoral Associate.....**Sharon Weems**
913-681-3348, x135 sweems@kcascension.org

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

Minister for Care & Social Justice.....**Patty Billinger**
913-681-3348, x131 pbillinger@kcascension.org

Office Manager.....**Susan Roth**
913-681-3348, x132 sroth@kcascension.org

Receptionist.....**Cathy Weiser**
913-681-3348, x130 cweiser@kcascension.org

COMMUNICATIONS & PARISH LIFE

Pastoral Associate.....**Ray Martin**
913-681-3348, x149 rmartin@kcascension.org

Minister for Stewardship.....**Karen Newkirk**
913-681-3348, x132 knewkirk@kcascension.org

Minister for Parish Life.....**Mary Bibler**
913-681-3348, x134 mbibler@kcascension.org

Communications Coordinator.....**Sarah Streitwieser**
913-681-3348 sstreitwieser@kcascension.org

ADULT FAITH

Pastoral Associate.....**Liz Willman**
913-681-3348, x139 lwillman@kcascension.org

Administrative Assistant.....**Elizabeth Whitehead**
913-681-3348, x142 ewhitehead@kcascension.org

Adult Faith Coordinator.....**Ed Bellamy**
913-681-3348, x133 ebellamy@kcascension.org

Minister for Marriage Family Life, & Vocations.....**Marissa Brown**
913-681-3348, x151 mbrown2@kcascension.org

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

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

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

Young Adult Ministry.....**Joe Passantino**
913-681-7683, x115 jpassantino@kcascension.org

Youth Ministry.....**Derek Probst**
913-681-7683, x119 dprobst@kcascension.org

Youth Ministry.....**Mary Beth Stankiewicz**
913-681-7683, x104 mstankiewicz@kcascension.org

SCHOOL

Principal.....**Becky Wright**
913-851-2531, x101 bwright@acseagles.org

Vice Principal.....**Kelly Rose**
913-851-2531, x106 krose@acseagles.org

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

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

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

Church of the Ascension

Church of the Ascension is recognized for its diverse offering of Adult and Youth Faith programs, active involvement in service and community outreach, and dynamic Catholic school. Our thriving Adult Faith programs foster spiritual growth, learning, and faith community. Our parishioners serve each other and our community through an array of outreach and service opportunities. Ascension Catholic School is a dynamic school community dedicated to serving children in preschool through eighth grade and to nurturing the whole student in Catholic values and academic excellence.

Church of the Ascension is a vibrant Catholic community that embraces **Stewardship as a Way of Life**. Stewardship recognizes that we, as individuals, are not the owners of our lives, our time, our talent, nor our treasure, but stewards or managers of these God-given gifts. For more details, see pages 10 & 11.



PARISH TERRITORIAL BOUNDARIES

Most parishes are considered territorial. Our boundaries are:

- N – 119th St & Pflumm Rd, east on 119th St. to Blue Valley Pkwy
- E – 119th St & Blue Valley Pkwy, south on Blue Valley Pkwy to US 69 Hwy, south on US 69 Hwy to 167th St.
- S – US 69 Hwy and 167th St, west on 167th St to Quivira
- W – 167th St and Quivira, north on Quivira to 135th St, west on 135th St to Pflumm, north on Pflumm Rd to 119th St

PARISH HISTORY OVERVIEW

- 1988 – Archbishop Ignatius Strecker purchases 35 acres of land.
- 1991 – Fr. Larry Albertson named Pastor for new parish.
- 1991 – Officially named Church of the Ascension.
- 1997 – Church of the Ascension holds dedication ceremony.
- 1997 – Ascension Catholic School opens K-5 program and then adds one grade per year until it reaches 8th grade.
- 2002 – Fr. Thomas Tank named new Pastor.
- 2021 – Fr. Gary Pennings named new Pastor.
- 2023 – 3,289 families in our parish and 577 children in Ascension Catholic School.

Eucharistic Revival

WHAT IS THE EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL?

The Eucharistic Revival is a three-year initiative that aims to inspire, educate, and unite. In a world where not many people know Christ intimately, the revival is meant to show everyone what wonders the True Presence of Christ can do to heal the soul. Through a carefully planned timeline of events, after three years, the U.S. bishops hope to change the lives of many Catholics and non-Catholics alike.



WHY NOW?

Because the Church needs healing and the world needs the Church. Scandal, division, disease, doubt, the Church has withstood each of these challenges throughout our very human history. But today we are facing all of them at once. Our response in this moment is pivotal.

In the midst of these roaring waves, Christ is present, reminding us that he is more powerful than the storm. He desires to heal, renew, and unify the Church He established and the world that was created through Him.

How will he do it? By uniting us once again around the source and summit of our faith in the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The National Eucharistic Revival is the joyful, expectant, grassroots response of the entire Catholic Church in the U.S. to this divine invitation.

We all need healing, yet many of us are separated from the very source of our strength. Our Lord Jesus Christ invites us to return to the source and summit of our faith in the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The National Eucharistic Revival is a movement to restore understanding and devotion to this great mystery here in the U.S. by helping us renew our worship of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL AT CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Here at our parish, we have many exciting initiatives and programs planned for this parish year of Eucharistic revival.

This spring, we began a holy hour for vocations focused on praying for good and holy priests to offer the Mass reverently and with devotion for generations to come.

We held our first *Live the Mass* retreat to explore the Mass in-depth and grow in devotion to this highest form of prayer we have as Catholics. Another one is scheduled for February of 2024.

This summer and fall, we have classes being offered through Adult Faith, Liturgical Living events through Marriage & Family, and many other offerings designed to refocus our lives around the 'source and summit'—the Holy Mass. Be sure to check our offerings in the Course Catalog, as well as the weekly bulletin for Eucharistic miracles and teachings throughout the upcoming year!

'O Sacrament most holy, O Sacrament divine! All praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine! Amen.'

FAITH LIVED... BLESSINGS SHARED

"FAITH LIVED... BLESSINGS SHARED" IS OUR STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE FOR 2023. THIS EFFORT IS VERY IMPORTANT AS WE MOVE FORWARD WITH THE MISSION AND VISION OF CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION. WE, AS A PARISH FAMILY, HAVE CHANGED SO MANY LIVES IN OUR COMMUNITY! SEE BELOW FOR SOME EXAMPLES OF THE WAYS WE HAVE FURTHERED THE WORK OF CHRIST. IN ORDER TO CONTINUE OUR MISSION AND MINISTRIES, WE ENCOURAGE ALL PARISHIONERS TO SPEND TIME IN PRAYER AND REFLECTION ON THE WORK WE DO.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE "FAITH LIVED... BLESSINGS SHARED" INITIATIVE, PLEASE CONTACT KAREN NEWKIRK AT KNEWKIRK@KCASCENSION.ORG.



Faith Lived... Blessings Shared

FAITH LIVED

HERE, UNITED IN GOD'S LOVE, WE ARE A VISIBLE SIGN OF THE BODY OF CHRIST AND TOGETHER WE DO GREAT THINGS. NOURISHED BY PRAYER AND THE SACRAMENTS, THE MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY ARE JOURNEYING ON THE PATH OF DISCIPLINE AND GROWING IN RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST.

3,289

Families in our Parish

89

Baptisms

134

Confirmations

33

Funerals

543

Children in Religious Ed

1,026

Adults in Faith Formation

8,760

Hours devoted to Eucharistic Adoration

113

First Communions

30

Weddings

577

Children in Full-time School

39

Adult Faith Classes or Retreats

225

Vacation Bible School Participants

BLESSINGS SHARED

AS WE STRIVE TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER BETTER, GOOD STEWARDSHIP PLAYS A KEY ROLE. STEWARDSHIP ISN'T A CODE WORD FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT. STEWARDSHIP IS ABOUT DOING THE WORK OF CHRIST AND ENGAGING OUR MANY RESOURCES TO FURTHER THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF OUR LORD.

\$274,986 Donated outside our parish

630 Visits by Eucharistic Ministers to the homebound

291 Parishioners served in Liturgical Ministry

\$19,630 plus 37,861 Pounds of food contributed to Pop the Trunk food drives

\$11,385 Raised from Baby Bottle Boomerang

463 prayer blankets and quilts donated

475 Ascension Blood Drive donors

294 turkeys and hams **plus \$3,225** for Turkey Drive

3 large cargo trucks **plus \$13,620** in gift cards and **\$4,830** in cash donated for Angel Trees

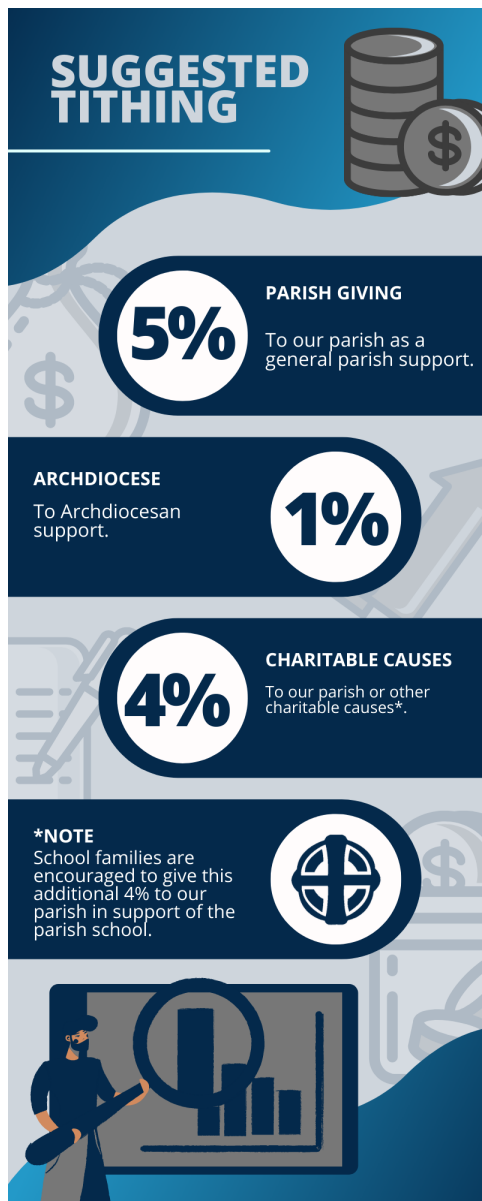
CHURCH OF THE
ASCENSION
OVERLAND PARK, KS

Stewardship as a Way of Life

Church of the Ascension is a vibrant Catholic community that embraces Stewardship as a **Way of Life**. A life of **Stewardship** is rooted in Scripture and is a disciple's response to the mission and ministry of the local and universal Church in sharing the Gospel. Stewardship recognizes that we, as individuals, are not the owners of our lives, our time, our talent, nor our treasure, but stewards or managers of these God-given gifts.

*Stewardship is our **Time, Talent and Treasure** returned to God in **thanksgiving** for all that He has given us.*

Registered parishioners/families should be in good standing with respect to **Stewardship** by:



- Practicing the Catholic faith and living Catholic values.
- Sharing in the prayer life of the parish through weekly participation in the Mass and Holy Days of Obligation.
- Supporting the life and mission of the parish through acts of service by becoming an active volunteer in our programs and ministries.
 - Parishioners are encouraged to volunteer for one or more ministries.
- Practicing financial stewardship to the best of their ability as an expression of gratitude to God for His blessings received.

MORE WAYS TO SUPPORT THE PARISH MISSION:

- **CORPORATE MATCHING PROGRAMS** – Match employee contributions to non-profit institutions.
- **IRA GIFT** – Donate your Required Minimum Distribution and potentially receive tax benefits.
- **LEGACY GIVING / PLANNED GIVING** – Leave money or assets to nonprofits at a future date. These gifts may have special tax benefits. Examples of planned gifts include stock, life insurance, real estate, annuities, and trusts.
- **GOOD SAMARITAN FUND – Helping Parishioners In Need**
This is monetary assistance to parishioners who are having a tough time. It is administered and funded through



WHAT IS REALM?

Ascension has moved to a new kind of church record keeping solution called Realm®. It primarily serves the administrative needs of our staff, but it also offers some exciting opportunities to support the way you are involved in our Parish. Not only will this improve work life for our ministry staff, it will make it easier for our church family to connect with each other, keep up with what's going on, and grow as a connected community of Catholics.

Find more information here:



HOW TO BEGIN:

- 1 If you haven't logged in before, you will need to access an emailed invitation to Realm.

To generate an emailed invitation to Realm, fill out the Realm form at kcascension.org/realm or email Susan Roth, sroth@kcascension.org.

- 2 If you've logged in before, but forgotten your password:

Go to www.onrealm.org, put in your email and choose the "forgot password" option. You will then be sent an email to set up a new password.

- 3 Once you're logged in, you can update your profile & contact info.

- 4 Upload individual or family photos.

New staff and Fr. Gary would appreciate being able to put faces to names.

- 5 Update your privacy settings.

You and your household can be seen in the online directory if you wish.

You can decide how much you would like to participate with this software, but we need to have accurate information on file.

SOME BENEFITS OF REALM:

- Online giving control via a bank account or credit/debit card
- Event/class registration, notifications and communication to stay informed
- Newsfeed with posts and pictures to stay connected about current happenings
- Group communication tools
- Mobile app with an online directory and newsfeed

Fr. Gary says,

PLEASE upload a picture of you & your family on REALM.



Sacraments

BAPTISM

Parents desiring Baptism for their infant begin by attending a Baptism class. Please note that you may have one or two godparents. When there are two godparents they must be of different genders. One godparent must be a practicing Catholic, confirmed and at least 16 years of age.

Infant:	Elizabeth Whitehead	913-681-3348, x142
Elementary-High School:	William O'Leary	913-681-7683, x105
Adults:	Liz Willman	913-681-3348, x139

PENANCE/RECONCILIATION

We are strongly encouraged to receive this sacrament as a regular part of our Christian lives, required at least once a year when in a state of serious sin. Those who have committed serious sin should not receive the Eucharist until they have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Reconciliation is one of the first steps in the preparation for receiving First Holy Communion.

Tuesday: 11:00am—11:50am, 6:30pm—7:30pm
Wednesday: 6:00am—6:45am

Saturday: 3:00pm—4:00pm

EUCCHARIST/COMMUNION

At Church of the Ascension, Catholics have the opportunity to receive the Eucharist daily. All Catholics are required to attend Mass on Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation.

Second Grade students enrolled in Youth Faith Formation (YFF) & Ascension Catholic School (ACS) prepare for the celebration of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Attendance in religion class in the First Grade is a prerequisite for receiving First Reconciliation and First Communion in Second Grade. Parents and students are expected to take a very active part in the preparation for both sacraments.

Third through Eighth Grade students who have not received their First Reconciliation or First Holy Communion will prepare separately in addition to their attendance at YFF/ACS classes in their respective grade levels.

CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation is conferred in the Eighth Grade. YFF and ACS students prepare for this Sacrament by attending all scheduled sessions during Seventh and Eight Grade. In addition, they attend the candidate/sponsor sessions designed to assist the spiritual growth of each candidate. Service projects and a retreat are part of the requirements for being ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

<u>High School Program:</u>	YFF Office	913-681-7683
<u>Adults:</u>	Liz Willman	913-681-3348, x139

ANointing OF THE SICK

The Anointing of the Sick is a sacrament of strengthening, peace, and courage to overcome the difficulties that coincide with the condition of serious illness or the frailty of old age. Contact the Pastor or Parochial Vicar at 913-681-3348 for available times.

MATRIMONY

Weddings: Registered couples wishing to be married at Church of the Ascension should contact the parish office at 913-681-3348 at least six months prior to the wedding. For information regarding marriage preparation programs, as required by the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, please visit <https://kcascension.org/marriage/>

Annulments: For more information on applying for a declaration of nullification for a previous marriage, contact the Pastor or Parochial Vicar at 913-681-3348.

Liturgy & Prayer

Parish Operated Ministries



Fr. Gary Pennings
Pastor



Fr. Colm Larkin
Parochial Vicar



Fr. Brent Stull
Parochial Vicar



Dcn. Kris Kuckelman
Deacon



Dcn. John Stanley
Deacon



Dorothy Brandwein
Music Director

- Altar Servers
- Arts & Environment
- Candle Ministry
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
- Greeters/Mass Hospitality
- Lectors
- Linen Care
- Liturgy Committee
- Perpetual Adoration
- Sacristans
- Ushers

Prayer

- Hosea
- Prayer Partners

Music Ensembles

- Ascension Choir
- Knights of Columbus Choir
- Praise & Worship Ensemble
- Spirit & Song Ensemble
- Cantor
- Instrumentalists
- Organists/Pianists

Partner Ministries

- Legion of Mary

Offerings

- Prayer Partners Intention (leave voicemail of prayer intention)
- Weekly Family Rosary

Liturgy & Prayer

Parish Operated Ministries

Altar Servers

Assist the priest in celebrating Mass. Teens and youths in 5th grade and older currently practicing their faith are eligible.

Deacon Kris Kuckelman 913-278-9393

Arts & Environment

Assist in decorating the worship space at the beginning of each liturgical season.

Becky Reed 816-729-4688

Candle Ministry

Refill altar candles any time on your scheduled day. Candles are filled four times a week on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

Jordan Sedlacek 785-917-1982

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

This ministry offers the opportunity to distribute the Precious Body and Blood of our Lord at Holy Day, weekend, weekday, special and Funeral Masses; as well as to our parishioners who are hospitalized or residents at one of the local Assisted Living facilities and our Homebound parishioners. Must be 16 years of age, Confirmed and actively living your faith at Church of the Ascension. Training & commissioning required.

Craig & Judy Arnold 913-685-9305

Greeters/Mass Hospitality

Welcome visitors and parishioners before all Masses. Assist with distributing bulletins after Mass.

Mary Bibler 913-681-3348 x134

Lectors

Proclaim the Word of God at Sunday Masses and special celebrations. Must be actively living your faith at Church of the Ascension. Training & commissioning required.

Michael Uhlmansiek 913-485-2309

Linen Care

Launder & press linens used during Mass.

Mary Jo Doherty 913-302-9909

Liturgy Committee

Study the meaning and history of the various parts of liturgical celebrations, church seasons, and special feasts and work with the pastor in planning how these will be celebrated in our parish. The Liturgy Committee is comprised of the leader from several applicable ministries. The Committee meets monthly August through May.

Russ Engel 913-469-1918

Parish Operated Ministries

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

Blessed Sacrament Chapel 24 hours/7 days a week. Sign up for a regular hour, or as a substitute, for silent prayer and adoration. Key Code required for nighttime entry. Visitors welcome during daytime hours.

Debbie Engel 913-485-8918

Sacristans

Preparation and care of vessels before and after all weekday, weekend, Holy Day, funeral and special Masses. Training & commissioning required.

Patty Billinger 913-681-3348 x131

Ushers

Assist in various duties before, during, and after Mass. Ideal for families. (7th grade +)

Dan Vater 913-481-9230

PRAYER

Hosea

Hosea-Come back to Me with all your heart

Are you worried about a loved one that has fallen away from or is lukewarm in the church? Do you believe in the power of prayer? Then Hosea is the group for you! We are a group of prayer warriors, praying for all those who need to return to Jesus and His love. You will receive an email each week on Fridays at 3:00 (the holiest of hours). When you receive it, read the prayer and lift all our loved ones up to Jesus. If interested, email Tricia Baldwin to have your email added to the group.

Tricia Baldwin tbaldwin@acseagles.org

Prayer Partners

Pray for the specific intentions of our parish and community as a part of a telephone tree of prayer. Please contact us if you would like to become a prayer partner.

Matt Wasko 913-980-5647

Sherry McAuliffe 913-681-6824

Legion of Mary

Association of Catholic laity who serve the Church.

Dick Kane 913-484-7402

Partner Ministries

Prayer Partners Intention

Voicemail Leave your prayer intentions on the prayer partners voicemail. 1-888-684-6555

Offerings

Weekly Family Rosary

Sign up to lead the Weekly Rosary on one or more Tuesdays, 6:30pm.

Dick Kane

913-484-7402

Therese Kearney

913-710-4730

Music

Parish Operated Ministries

Ascension Choir

Sunday Mass, 10:00am and other liturgies as scheduled. High school and adult voices. Rehearsal: Wednesday, 7:00pm
Dorothy Brandwein 913-681-3348 x154

Knights of Columbus Choir

Saturday Mass, 4:30pm, three to four times annually. Knights of Columbus members.
Rehearsal: Same morning as liturgy.
Dan Tira 913-451-2341

5pm Mass Praise & Worship Team

Sunday Mass, 5:00pm.
Contemporary music. Instrumentalists; high school and young adult voices.
Rehearsal: Sunday, 3:00pm
Joe Heron 913-238-1675

Spirit & Song Ensemble

Mass times TBA
High school and adult voices.
Rehearsal: Thursday, 7:00pm
Dan Tira 913-451-2341

Cantor

Lead the congregation at Mass and special celebrations. This is a solo voice ministry.
Audition required. Must be able to read music.

Instrumentalists

Provide music at Sunday Masses and other special celebrations. Audition required.

Organists/Pianists

Provide musical accompaniment for choirs and cantor at Sunday Masses and other special celebrations. Audition required.



Administration & Outreach

Parish Operated Ministries



Sharon Weems
Pastoral Associate



Virgil Crumpton
Maintenance &
Head Custodian



Patty Billinger
Minister for Care
& Social Justice



Susan Roth
Office Manager



Cathy Weiser
Receptionist

- Altar Society
- Ascension Foster & Adopt Ministry (AFAM)
- Bereavement Ministry
- Career and Employment Ministry
- Collection Counters
- Covered in Prayer
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion– Hospitals, Homebound and Assisted Living
- Funeral Lunches
- Heartache to Healing
- International Missions Ministry
- Loaves and Fishes
- Monday Morning Marthas
- Prison Ministry
- Respect Life
- St. Fiacre Ascension Gardening Club

Partner Ministries

- Addiction (LMAC Support)
- “As for Me and My House....”
- Catholic Community Health
- City Union Mission Men’s & Family Shelters
- Guadalupe House
- Hillcrest Apartments
- Hope Faith Ministries
- (IHN) International Hospitality Network
- St. Mary’s Food Kitchen
- Shalom House

Resources

- Community Outreach Drives
- Leadership Coaching

Administration & Outreach

Parish Operated Ministries

Altar Society

Altar Society committee members include leaders from other applicable ministries and meet six times a year or when needed.

Connie Stanley 913-481-7867

Ascension Foster & Adopt Ministry (AFAM)

This is a new ministry formulated to implement the Archbishop's vision whereby vulnerable children who are fostered or adopted can live in a secure and loving environment. We offer help to those families who are currently or in the process of fostering and/or adopting. Please help us be the 'hands of Christ' for fostering and adoptive families.

Peter and Nora Sykes 913-406-7608

Bereavement Ministry

For those grieving a loss, a support group gathers on the 2nd Saturday of each month after the 8:30am Mass where a light breakfast is provided. We also plan a Mass to remember and celebrate all of the parishioners and family and friends of parishioners who have died in the past year. This Mass is held annually on November 2nd, All Souls Day.

Patty Billinger 913-681-3348 x131

Career and Employment Ministry

We provide support for the success of individuals seeking employment in their occupation of choice. Our ministry helps with coping with job loss, professional counsel, branding and networking opportunities.

Shannon Gomez 913-708-0157

Mike Tracy 913-575-7397

Collection Counters

Counting collections on Monday mornings.

Annette Mellard 913-706-8507

Covered In Prayer

The Covered In Prayer blanket ministry meets at 6:00pm on the 4th Thursday of each month in the St. Luke's room to make kits for prayer blankets. The kits are assembled at the meetings so no sewing is required at the meeting. Those who DO sew may take kits home to complete. Kits may also be picked up from the Gathering Area if you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to sew a blanket. Easy instructions are provided! Volunteers are needed both to prepare kits and to sew them. Donations of cotton, fleece and flannel fabrics are needed. Bring donations to the monthly meeting or drop them off in the office. Completed blankets are blessed by one of our priests and sent with a note and prayer to friends and family members of parishioners who are ill or hurting. Each year we send over 300 blankets to friends and family around the country.

Joanie James 913-681-6770

Sally Virgo 913-897-7587

Parish Operated Ministries

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion-Hospitals Homebound & Assisted Living

Provide assistance to the Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (the priests) during Mass and Communion Services by offering the Body and Blood of Jesus to others when needed. We provide the Eucharist to the Catholic patients at St. Luke's South Hospital. We also provide prayers and Holy Communion weekly to assisted living facilities within our parish boundaries and to the homebound. Priests also celebrate Mass or Sacrament of the Sick at least every other month. Once a month, a Communal Service or Mass is celebrated for parishioner residents.

Craig & Judy Arnold 913-685-9305

Hospitals

Craig & Judy Arnold 913-685-9305

Homebound & Assisted Living

Craig & Judy Arnold 913-685-9305

Funeral Lunches

We prepare and serve lunches after the Mass or service for family and friends to gather. We always need help preparing desserts and side dishes.

Johnette Martin 913-481-8663

Heartache to Healing

A social support group for those widowed early in life. We meet monthly for fellowship and fun.

Laura Haeusser 913-475-3517

Damon Micek 913-401-5444

Heather Impens 816-916-4164

International Missions Ministry

Our International Missions Ministry is active in two endeavors. One relates to our mission with an entity in Guatemala called LEAST (a subcommittee of the not for profit Foundation for Saving Sight Inc). Their focus is to serve the vulnerable elderly population in San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala (LEAST; Loving the Elderly and Satiating HIS Thirst). We typically schedule a trip to Guatemala every year to work at their facility and help residents at their homes with anything related to making their life more comfortable relative to their elderly needs. Secondly, we provide monetary support to the papal agency CNEWA with headquarters in NY. Their focus is upon the Middle East and Eastern Catholic churches, Northeast Africa and India to identify needs and implement solutions. We strive to maintain a spiritual relationship and maintain the tenets of Catholic Social Justice teachings. This ministry meets on the second Monday of the month as needed.

Ed Herman 913-897-0082

Jennifer Lyon 913-269-5240

Parish Operated Ministries

Loaves and Fishes

A meal train ministry for our parishioners who are experiencing illness, crisis, tragedy or trauma. If you know someone who meets this criteria, and you are willing to be the liaison between this ministry and the family, please contact us.

Jean Hinman 913-908-9811

Monday Morning Marthas

Making our Church, community room, and faith rooms neat and pleasant for those we extend a welcome to!

Laverne O'Neill 913-766-3011

Prison Ministry

Provide Bibles and weekly Bible Studies at the Johnson County jails and juvenile facilities. Assist the "Turnaround" Ministry to help ex-offenders to get back into society. We provide jeans, work clothes, provide for state issued ID's, stock the food pantry and serve as mentors. Participate in a letter writing mentorship program through the state penitentiaries. Some aspects of this ministry need prior registration and training.

Deacon John Stanley 913-488-8448

Respect Life

The Respect Life Ministry's mission is to promote and encourage respect for life from conception to natural death through prayer, education and proactive support of all life issues. According to the USCCB's Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities, "We proclaim that human life is a precious gift from God; that each person who receives this gift has responsibilities toward God, self and others; and that society, through its laws and social institutions, must protect and nurture human life at every stage of its existence." We have several events throughout the year in order to accomplish this, some of them being: a "Pack 'n Play Collection Drive" and collecting change through the "Baby Bottle Boomerang" to assist local pregnancy centers, the "Rose Procession" and "Crosses on the Lawn" to commemorate all the precious lives lost since the Roe V. Wade decision, participating in the Life Chain and 40 Days for Life local campaign to stand witness to LIFE and many others.

Parish

John & Melissa Joerger 913-620-8450

Ascension Knights :

Dan Eliason 816-863-9680

St. Fiacre Ascension Gardening Club

To exercise good stewardship of our floral and plant resources near the entry of the church so as to maintain a beautiful and welcoming atmosphere that is inviting to those approaching our parish church.

Suzy Leary 913-206-1464

Partner Ministries

Addiction (LMAC) Support

Licensed Masters Addiction Counselor providing support and education to those who are suffering, or who love someone who is suffering, from addictions. We provide space for two AA groups and an Al-Anon group, along with occasional support and educational opportunities.
George Crossland 816-728-6162

"As for Me and My House...."

Catholic men and women come together in the name of the Lord to reclaim their homes and families from pornography. This program is offered through the Archdiocese.
Sam Meier 913-647-0378

Catholic Community Health

For those caring for a loved one in need, this support group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month for an evening of community and connection with others walking the same path.
Michelle Buzzard 913-484-2222

City Union Mission Men's & Family Shelters

Prepare and serve dinner for the homeless several times throughout the year.

Ascension Knights:

Dan Tira 913-991-7755

Guadalupe House

Monetary assistance, rehab work, food and supplies for the Sisters to help the homeless. The shelter is run by the Sisters of the Fraternity of Missionaries of the Poor of Jesus Christ.

Ascension Knights:

Joe Walrod 913-205-5655

Hillcrest Apartments

Providing transitional apartments to homeless families, which includes a rigorous screening and education component. We sponsor two apartments. Assistance includes restocking the apartments when a family graduates. Time commitment is several hours of shopping a couple of times a year, plus contact with charity as needed. We stock their food pantry, provide Christmas gifts through Angel Tree, and provide coffee for the offices and meetings with clients.

Hope Faith Ministries

Prepare and serve breakfast to the homeless at Hope Faith on the last Saturday of the month. Help is needed with providing food, paper goods, and meal service. Time commitment is minimal, as there is a rotation of volunteers. Contact with agency as needed.

Ed Herman 913-897-0082

(IHN) Interfaith Hospitality Network

Providing shelter to homeless people or families in different churches throughout Johnson County. While Ascension does not host the families, we take two evenings and nights each quarter at the host church to provide supervision through the evening until morning and provide meals, snacks and transportation. Training required to provide supervision, but help is needed with providing meals and snacks.

Dianne Kelly 913-461-4329

Edie Dodson 913-568-4804

St. Mary's Food Kitchen

Prepare and serve a hot meal to the homeless on the first Wednesday of each month.
Dorothy and Michael Eagan 913-526-8314

Partner Ministries

Shalom House

We prepare and serve meals one to two times per month. We help with monetary assistance for different requests from this Catholic Charities sponsored homeless shelter for men. Together with the Knights of Columbus, we prepare and serve dinner two times a month.

Ascension Knights: Dan Tira 913-991-7755

Community Outreach

- All Things Baby – collection of baby items
- American Heritage Girls Diaper Drive
- Angel Tree – gift collections during advent
- Baby Bottle Boomerang
- Blood Drives
- Caritas Clinics – over the counter medication collection
- Diaper Drive
- Food Collections
- Got Our eyes On School Supplies
- Johnson County Christmas Bureau
- Operation Warm Toes
- Pack 'n Play collection of baby items
- Rub-a-dub personal care collection
- Turkey Drive

Outreach Drives

Patty Billinger 913-681-3348 X131

Leadership Coaching

A structured one-on-one leadership and management coaching program based on proven effective leadership concepts, and adult learning processes with content back to Biblical teachings.

Gary Hassenstab 913-827-3487

Resources



Communications & Parish Life



Ray Martin
Pastoral Associate



Karen Newkirk
Minister for
Stewardship
& Engagement



Mary Bibler
Minister for
Parish Life



Sarah Streitwieser
Communications
Coordinator

Parish Operated Ministries

- Church Tech Team
- Welcoming Ministry
- Women of Ascension

Partner Ministries

- American Heritage Girls
- CYO Athletics
- Knights of Columbus
- Ladies of Charity
- Scouts

Offerings & Events

- Basketball Men's Age 21+
- Basketball Men's Age 40+
- Bridge Groups
- E-mail Communications
- Live Stream
- Parish Bulletin
- Parish Website & Digital Media
- Stewardship & Planned Giving
- Annual Course Catalog
- Celebrate Ascension
- Pentecost Multi-Cultural Celebration
- Corpus Christi Procession & Celebration
- Parish Picnic-Fall Festival
- BBQ Cook Off
- Doughnut Sundays
- Trivia Night

Communications & Parish Life

Church Tech Team

Assist Liturgies and events with live streaming, Mass Announcements, sound mixing and other Audio/Visual needs.
Ray Martin 913-948-6503

Parish Operated Ministries

Welcoming Ministry

Provide information to those wanting to learn more about our parish community.
Mary Bibler 913-681-3348 x 134

Women of Ascension

Glorify God by promoting spiritual growth, stewardship, fellowship and friendship among ALL women of the parish. Host many fun and faith-filled events throughout the year.
Mary Connor 913-579-3287

American Heritage Girls

A Christian based scouting group for girls from ages 5-18. Girls participate in troop activities and work toward earning up to 80 badges, learning leadership skills, and participating in social and spiritual development activities. There are also outdoor and camping opportunities. Adult volunteers always needed!
Jessica Savage jessicasavageahg@gmail.com

Partner Ministries

CYO Athletics

Sports activities for boys and girls in 3rd-8th grade.
Travis Schieltz (515) 971-7768

Knights of Columbus

Fraternal organization open to all Catholic men of Ascension. We conduct programs for the youth, the elderly and those people in the community with special needs.
Rick Doran 913-681-9318

4th Degree Knights: Joe Valenciano 913-593-8012

Ladies of Charity

Our Mission is to provide opportunities for faith-filled women to work together assisting the at-risk and people living in poverty with Humility, Simplicity and Charity. Locally, but not limited to, we support Seton Center, Cristo Rey High School, Villa St. Francis and the Duchesne/ Caritas Clinic through our service and prayer. Everyone is welcome. Please visit our website for more information: ladiesofcharitykc.org.

Marilyn Severino 913-681-8990
Angela Salem 913-708-0116

Mary Jane Doran 913-558-3360
Susan Wagner 913-269-0779

SCOUTS

Cub: Alex Lara 913-548-7151
Boy: Kent Carlson 913-526-3108

Offerings

Basketball Men's Age 21+

Monday and Wednesday

8:30pm-10:30pm in the school gymnasium. Adult parishioners only, ages 21+.

Rob Spaedy 816-506-3706

Basketball Men's Age 40+

Sunday

8:00pm-10:00pm in the school gymnasium. Adult parishioners only, ages 40+.

Dave Brown 816-695-5087

Bridge Groups

Couples (Evenings): Held the 1st Friday of each month at 7:00pm from October through May where two couples host three tables in their homes.

John & Kathleen Hlavacek 913-897-0495

Ladies-Beginner (Afternoons): Held the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 12:30pm at Ascension. Audrey Grant Basics.

Patty Schmitt 402-618-7569

Ladies (Mornings): Held the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 9:00am in respective host's home. Louise Kramer 913-766-0973

Ladies (Afternoons): Held the 4th Monday of each month at 12:30pm at Ascension.

Suzy Leary 913-206-1464

Communications & Parish Life Offerings:

- Email Communications
- Live Stream
- Parish Bulletin
- Parish Website and Digital Media
- Stewardship & Planned Giving
- Annual Course Catalog

Parish Life Events:

Church of the Ascension is a dynamic community with many events! We are always in need of people to help plan and get involved.

- Celebrate Ascension
- Pentecost Multi-Cultural Celebration
- Corpus Christi Procession & Celebration
- Parish Picnic-Fall Festival
- BBQ Cook Off
- Doughnut Sundays
- Trivia Night



Adult Faith Formation

Parish Operated Ministries



Liz Willman
Pastoral Associate



Marissa Brown
Minister for Marriage,
Family Life & Vocations



Elizabeth Whitehead
Administrative
Assistant



Ed Bellamy
Adult Faith
Coordinator

- Adult Faith Facilitators
- Ambassadors For Christ
- Engaged & Newly Married Couples
- Marriage & Family Enrichment
- Marriage Preparation Leaders
- Men of Ascension
- Mother's Circle
- MOYC (Mothers of Young Children)
- RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)
- Small Faith Sharing Groups, Participants & Leaders
- Special Needs Ministry
- Fearfully & Wonderfully Made
- Vocations

Partner Ministries

- Called to Love Again—Catholic Divorce Community
- Fathers of St. Joseph
- Marriage Encounter
- Marriage Retrouvaille

Offerings

- Adult Faith Classes
- Adult Faith Library
- Book Club
- Catholic Spiritual Direction
- Christ Renews His Parish
- Communion Events
- Natural Family Planning
- Raising Modern Day Knights
- Strong Fathers, Strong Daughters
- Sunday Scripture Study

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Facilitators

Class Facilitators lead video-based Scripture class. Training provided.

Parish Operated Ministries

Ambassadors For Christ

Friendly, outgoing adults to welcome and engage both parishioners and visitors at a variety of parish sponsored events outside of Mass.

Jami Kuckelman 913-206-0823

Engaged and Newly Married Couples

Engaged and newly married couples are welcome to join the Disciples Dwelling weekly small group study to discuss the Sunday Mass readings followed by a fellowship activity.

Marissa Brown 913-681-3348 x151

Joe Passantino 913-940-5672

Marriage & Family Enrichment

Assist with new programs throughout the year for couples to strengthen and deepen their marriage and families to grow in faith.

Marissa Brown 913-681-3348 ext. 151

Marriage Preparation Leaders

Married couples meet with engaged couples. Must be actively practicing their faith and married 5+ years.

Marissa Brown 913-681-3348 x151

Men of Ascension

Small faith sharing group designed to address the needs of men. Participants and leaders welcome. Friday 6:00am.

Ken Jennison 913-685-9725

Mother's Circle

Mothers of teenagers and young adults meet monthly to learn, pray and be encouraged through the joys and difficulties of mothering teens and young adults.

Debbie Engel 913-485-8918

Julie Christiansen 913-302-6956

MOYC (Mothers of Young Children)

Provides mothers with children in second grade and younger with spiritual enrichment to strengthen faith and friendships through fellowship, prayer, family activities and community service.

Jenny Unger 785-249-3165

Rachel Gittemeier 913-221-7206

Parish Operated Ministries

RCIA

(Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

Assist the Director of RCIA. Must be actively living your faith to be a sponsor. Sponsors: Accompany RCIA candidates to the weekly sessions and provide spiritual support for the year. Training provided. Team: Help with hospitality and small group discussion.

Small Faith Sharing Group Participants and Leaders

Training provided.

Special Needs Ministry

Everyone is special and we all have needs. However, some families experience specific needs or challenges related to a family member's struggles with learning, with physical conditions or developmental challenges. We are looking for parishioners to serve on this team that have experience working with children or adults with special needs. If you have questions or would like to help, please contact Eleni Maloney who is our parish's special needs liaison with the Archdiocese Office of Special Needs Ministry.

Jim Hamilton 816-304-0517

Eleni Maloney (Advocate) 913-764-1757 maloneyeleni@gmail.com

Fearfully & Wonderfully Made

"Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" (Psalm 139). This group will provide a safe place for parents of special needs children to discuss their struggles and celebrate their children, learn about tools that other families have employed and build fellowship in the parish among people struggling with some of the same challenges.

Jim and Mary Kate Hamilton 816-304-0517

Vocations

Support and encourage all vocations to include ordained, consecrated, married or single lives. Mark Lewandowski 913-634-4697

Partner Ministries

Called to Love Again- Catholic Divorce Community

Do you wonder what went wrong, what's next and how to get there? Looking for healing and support? Year-round monthly meetings, book studies, retreats, & more.

Katie Palitto 913-488-7083

Michael Palitto 913-219-4698

Fathers of St. Joseph

The Fathers of St. Joseph is a confraternity of men who follow the timeless wisdom and example of the man who was father to the Son and son of the Father. Several sessions available each week: Sunday at 6:30pm, Tuesday at 8:30pm and the 1st & 3rd Wednesday at 6:00am.

Phil Hernandez 913-302-7530

James Moburg 913-981-3906

Partner Ministries

Marriage Encounter

Retreat-based program offered through the Archdiocese that is designed to assist couples in every stage of life in discovering the spirituality of their marriage.

Maggie & Brad Harris 405-206-1600

Marriage Retrouvaille

Peer group ministry assisting couples in troubled marriages offered through the Archdiocese. This program offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse and a loving relationship in your marriage. It has saved 10's of 1000's of marriages from divorce.

Brad and Libby DuPont 913-647-0301

Adult Faith Library

Library is by the Matthew/Mark Adult Faith Rooms. Materials are available for check out.

Kim Sutton 913-897-6593

Offerings

Book Club

2nd Wednesday of the Month, 1:00pm—2:00pm.

Linda Cook 913-897-3201

Catholic Spiritual Direction

Spiritual mentors companion others on their journey to holiness, encouraging them to a deeper prayer and sacramental life, growth in virtue and discipleship.

Dan Eliason 816-863-9680

Beth Krebs 913-653-7221

Christ Renews His Parish

A retreat program held twice a year designed to bring parish members together in Christ. This program emphasizes continued growth in Catholic Christian life followed by small group prayer and reflection. Our parish priests and fellow parishioners conduct the retreat.

Communio Events

Communio has partnered with Ascension and our Archdiocese to help equip our parish community to become a hub for marital and relationship health and growth. Communio's mission is to help bring souls to Christ through healthy and happy marriages. Our Communio ministry does this through growth journey classes, ongoing events and our large parish gatherings.

Marissa Brown 913-681-3348 x151

Natural Family Planning

Adult education regarding sexuality respectful of God's plan for marriage.

Marissa Brown 913-681-3348 x151

Raising Modern Day Knights

Positively affect the next generation's relationship with Jesus Christ. A program for 7th graders to affirm & support the father's role in raising his son into authentic, biblically-based manhood.

Brad Chandler 913-515-8557

Offerings

Strong Fathers, Strong Daughters

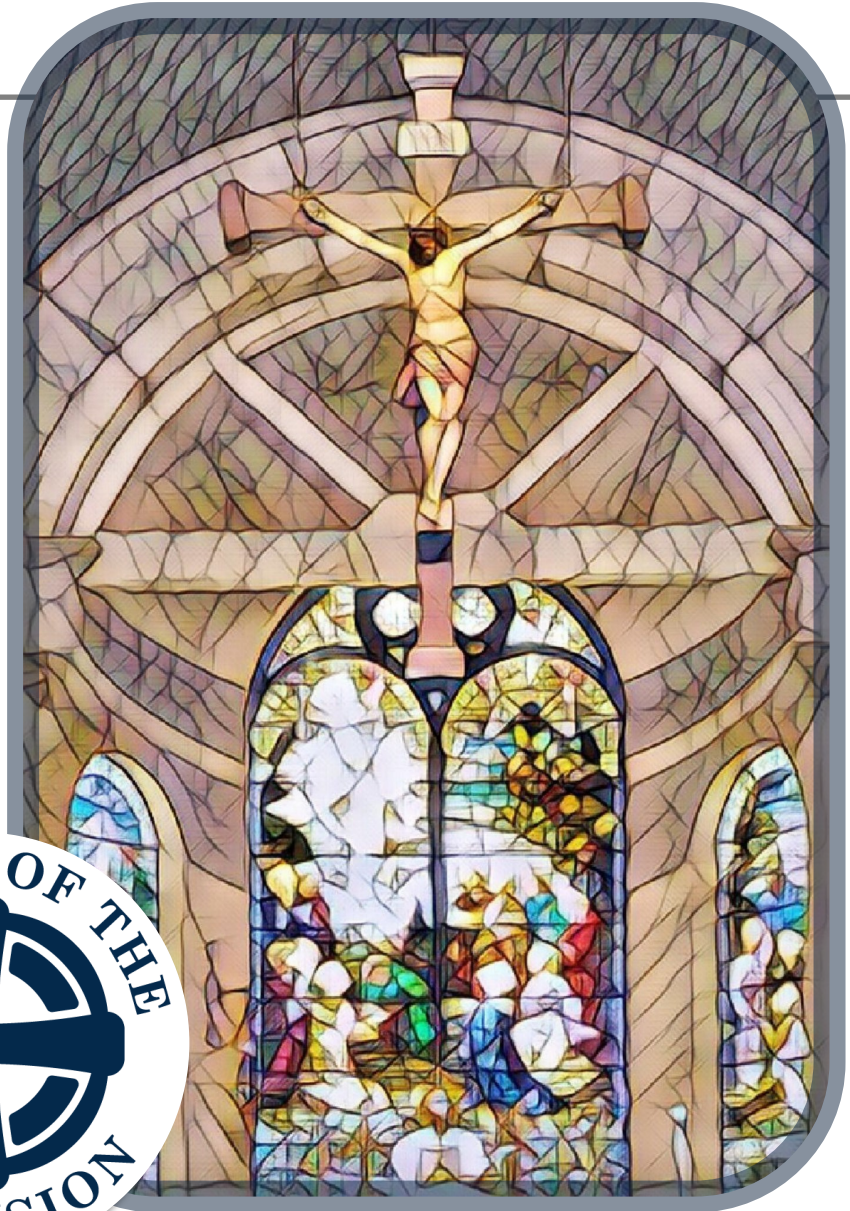
Positively affect the next generation's relationship with Jesus Christ. A program for 7th graders to affirm and support the father's role to strengthen or rebuild bonds with his daughter to become a strong and confident woman.

Marissa Brown 913-681-3348 x151

Sunday Scripture Study

Class meets after Sunday 8:15am Mass to study various books and topics of the Bible and enjoy coffee and donuts.

Joyce Grashoff 913-271-0266



Youth Faith Formation

Parish Operated Ministries



Dr. William O'Leary
Pastoral Associate



Tricia Baldwin
Administrative
Assistant



Joe Passantino
Minister for
Young Adults



Mary Beth Stankiewicz
6th Grade-
High School



Derek Probst
6th Grade-
High School

Youth Faith Formation

- Children's Liturgy of the Word (Pre-K to 2nd Grade)
- Vacation Bible School (4yrs-5th Grade)
- Weekly Classes & Family Formation (K to 6th Grade, Year I Confirmation)
- S&L (Spirit & Life, Confirmation students in 8th Grade, also considered Year II)
- Leadership Volunteers

Youth Ministry

- FIRE (Middle School Youth Ministry)
- RISE (High School Youth Ministry)
- High School Small Group Leaders + Core Team
- Summer Trips (High School)

Young Adult Ministry

- Disciples Dwelling



Youth Faith Formation

Ascension Youth Faith Formation (YFF) provides an exciting learning environment where students from Preschool – 8th grade grow in their Catholic Faith and love for Christ and His Church. Together with Ascension Catholic School, our Parish prepares both 2nd graders and 8th graders for sacraments.

Parish Operated Ministries

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Sunday during 8:15am and 10:00am Mass. Commitment is once or twice a month during the School year. Adult leaders and aides present Liturgy of the Word to children 4 to 8 years old.

Vacation Bible School

June 3-7, 2024. Children preschool through 5th grade participate in an exciting week of Bible/ Faith learning, games, and song. Registration begins April 1st.

School Year Classes

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Present Liturgy of the Word to children grades Pre K-2 during the 8:15am and 10:00 AM Sunday Masses.

Weekly YFF (grades K-6)

Wednesday, 6:00-7:30, Parents attend in the parish hall on the first Wednesday of the month.

Family Formation (grades K-6)

Parents and children meet on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:00pm—7:30pm followed by three (3) home lessons provided by YFF that the family does together.

Year I Confirmation (traditionally 7th grade): Wednesday 6:00pm—7:30pm

Year II Confirmation (traditionally 8th grade): known as S & L (Spirit & Life) is for all Confirmation students (YFF & ACS students) in the parish. Candidates meet in small groups once a week and we gather once a month for large group gatherings.



Parish Operated Ministries

Leadership

We are always in need of Catechists and Aides to make these programs successful. Please consider serving in one of our programs.

Youth Ministry

Ascension Youth Ministry exists to draw our teens into deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, to give teens a place to belong, and to equip them to live-out the Great Commission (Mt 28) by the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

FIRE

Middle School (Grades 6-7)

At FIRE, we draw our youth into deeper relationship with the Lord through games, skits, small groups and the occasional off-site laser-tag or go-karting adventure. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month, during the school year, from 5:30pm-7:00pm in the Youth Room.

RISE

High School (Grades 9-12)

The mission of RISE is to invite our teens to come further up and further into their relationship with Jesus. Our approach is to build relationships with teens so that they can know before all else that they are loved and that Ascension is a place where they will always belong. We do this through fun games and kickoff events, dynamic talks, small group conversations, prayer experiences, and through interaction with trusted adult volunteers

Each night follows the LifeTeen model of Gather, Proclaim, Break, Send. All high schoolers are welcome to join regardless of where they find themselves in their walk with Christ and His Church. For those looking to go deeper in their faith we offer the opportunity to join a small group that meets off-campus an additional night of the week outside of RISE, as well as the opportunity to develop leadership skills through volunteering with our middle school ministry, FIRE.

RISE meets every Sunday (excluding major holidays) from 6-8 pm in the Youth Room. Every night includes dinner and ends with ice cream or s'mores.

Parish Operated Ministries

High School Small Group Leaders + Core Team

Last year (2021-2022) we served more than 70 high school students through our programs and this year we desire to reach even more young people. If you have a deep love of our Lord and a desire to share the Good News with others then this could be the place for you! Each volunteer with our high school ministry receives training to make sure they feel fully equipped to meet the needs of our teens as well as opportunities for spiritual growth. If you are passionate about making a difference in our young people's lives or interested in hearing more about this opportunity, please reach out to Derek for more information or visit our website to learn more. Contact Derek at dprobst@kcascension.org if you have a passion to serve our young people.

Summer Trips

Each year we take multiple week-long mission trips and conferences. Stay in the loop for info about this coming summer as we prepare for a Steubenville Float Trip retreat.

Young Adult Ministry

Open to all young adults of our parish. To learn more, email to jpassantino@kcascension.org. Joe Passantino 913-681-3348

Disciples Dwelling

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.



Ascension Catholic School

Parish Operated Ministries



Becky Wright
Principal



Kelly Rose
Vice Principal



Janet Eckert
Administrative
Assistant



Molly Johnson
Secretary

- Ascension Catholic School (Preschool - 8th Grade)
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- Guardian Angels
- Lunchroom
- PTO
- School Advisory Council
- WatchDOGS
- Workroom



Ascension Catholic School

Ascension Catholic School

Ascension Catholic School is a Preschool through 8th grade parish school. Throughout the building, visitors will see the message that “Christ is the reason for this school. He is the unseen but ever-present teacher in its classes. He is the model of its faculty and the inspiration of its students.”

Parish Operated Ministries

We have a strong academic program which is accredited by the State of Kansas and COGNIA, formerly the North Central Association. We follow the curriculum guidelines established by the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, a program designed to meet state and national standards for each subject area.

Our dedicated teachers guide students in religion, reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, Spanish, physical education, music, art, library skills, choir, band, and computer technology. Our staff provides instruction which respects students' individual differences, nurtures the whole child, and prepares young people to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The services of a school counselor, nurse, and resource teachers are available on a regular basis. In addition, the school offers daily hot lunch and an after-school care program.

Mission

The mission of Ascension Catholic School is to educate, celebrate, and serve in the spirit of Christ. Through the combined efforts of parents, teachers, and parishioners, each student will experience the support of a loving Christian community. They will also attain the necessary academic strengths, social skills, and spiritual development required to meet life's challenges. By motivating each child in mind, body, and spirit, we foster a Christian value system, a sense of stewardship, and a life-long love of learning as we celebrate Catholic education within our parish community.



Trust in the Lord with all of your heart.

Proverbs 3:5

Parish Operated Ministries

All School volunteers must be VIRTUS trained.

CGS- (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd)

Parents of ACS students may volunteer for CGS classes with grades K-2 that occur on T,W,Th as an aide to the catechists.

Guardian Angels

Parents and Interested parishioners may volunteer to monitor the gathering space during school Masses for security purposes.

Lunchroom

Ascension parents may volunteer to help serve lunch from 10:30-1:15.

PTO

parents of students may further volunteer as lead parents, room parents, executive positions and special event leaders.

PTO Presidents

Justina Canzoneri	318-792-2444
Carolyn Walters	785-410-4615

School Advisory Council

Parents may volunteer or be nominated to be considered for the SAC. The final people considered will be those that are determined by administration and SAC vote.

Susan Krenn 614-570-2765

WatchDOGS

Dads/ Grandfathers of Ascension students may volunteer for full/ part day shifts to assist in building/ lunch/ recess duty for the day. Volunteers may also join their students for lunch and recess.

Workroom

Interested parents/ parishioners may volunteer to work in the Ascension workroom with copy/ project requests from teachers.

Facilities

Use of Facilities

Church of the Ascension is a very active parish supporting multiple ministries. This means our facilities are constantly in use. Following are guidelines and process for reserving and using our various facilities.

- Priority of scheduling facility use is as follows:
Sacraments > Education > Parish Wide Events (open to all) > Classes, Meetings, Ministry Activities > Archdiocesan Events (with the understanding that at times an Archdiocesan event might rise to a higher priority.)
- A "Space/Resource Request" form must be completed for ALL facility requests. This form can be found on the parish website or the Parish Office. Once completed, the appropriate Ministry Head (staff member) will review the request and approve/disapprove. Due to the amount of activity in our parish, it can never be assumed a certain space is available at any given time. There are *no* exceptions.
- Please be sure to reserve all of the space needed for a function to include time for set-up, clean-up and equipment.
- If the Space Request includes a request to reserve the Nursery or School Gym, the appropriate Ministry Head will need to secure approval from the respective contacts of these locations prior to approval.
- If there is a change in the reservation for any reason, it is the requestor's responsibility to inform the receptionist in the Parish Office. Please do not assume that a conversation with the pastor or another staff member constitutes an official schedule change.
- From September-April, the Parish Hall, Sanctuary, and school facilities are unavailable on Wednesday evenings due to YFF classes.
- Parish-wide fundraisers sponsored by the "parish as a whole" take precedence and may require rescheduling of some events.
- In case of facility conflicts, please check and respect the groups listed on the weekly calendar in the Gathering Space, Parish Hall meeting rooms and those listed on the calendar on the parish website.
- If not wanting a meeting or activity to appear in the "Weekly Calendar of Events" published in the weekly bulletin, the requester will need to include two asterisks (**) at the end of the Event Name when completing the Space Request Form. This will indicate to the bulletin coordinator NOT TO PUBLISH.
- Space is reserved on a one year basis. (ie: Annual Spring CRHP weekends are scheduled a year in advance once the current retreat is over.)
- Facility Requests & Events related to Sacraments, education and Parish Wide Events can be requested by Staff in the spring. Other requests for Classes, Meetings and Ministries can be sent July 1 of each year unless pastoral permission is granted to submit prior to July 1.
- Many facility spaces available to evening parish functions also have a daily designated use. Please respect the layout and personal property of the space and leave it clean after use. Please return any items to their original location. Diagrams are available showing how these rooms should be arranged at the end of any activity. Please notify the Parish Office immediately if anything is broken or damaged in any way.
- Parish Facilities are available only for parish functions and those connected with parish ministries. Due to the large number of parish groups and activities utilizing our limited parish facilities, we are unable to make our facilities available to parishioners for personal or family functions, such as anniversaries, parties, receptions, reunions, etc.
- Gym/Field Rental & Requirements: \$100/hr or \$50/hr if two are renting at the same time. Proof of \$1M insurance policy with Church of the Ascension listed as a certificate holder. School/Church events and ministries take priority over any Gym/Field rental.
- Surveillance cameras are in use on our property.

Facility Security-Keys

It is essential our facility remain secure. Keys to all areas are available for check out through the Parish Office. To check out a key(s), one must come to the Parish Office during normal business hours before your event to check out a key. It is each requestor's responsibility to ensure that the facility is locked if they are the last to leave the area! Please do NOT prop open doors! All keys must be returned the next business day following the event either to the Parish Office or placed in the parish mail slot behind the gathering area bulletin board. Keys are NOT to be placed in the any wooden box that might be in the gathering area.

Fundraising & Special Collections

As a Stewardship Parish, Church of the Ascension relies on the regular tithe contributions of parishioners to support the parish and its ministries. Therefore, every effort is made to MINIMIZE the number of special requests for financial contributions to meet special needs.

Organizations and ministries may sponsor fundraising activities among their own members; however, when these are directed beyond the members of the particular group the following guidelines must be followed. This includes fundraisers conducted by mail, after Masses, and special solicitations for donations.

Fundraising

- Fundraising of any type must be sponsored/coordinated through an existing parish ministry. All funds raised must be used for the approved purpose. No fundraising is allowed that benefits a private individual/business, even if proceeds are shared with the parish. No use of Ascension's names and/or logos permitted without prior written authorization from the Minister for Stewardship & Engagement. No purchases may be made from the donations without prior written approval from the appropriate employee ministry head.
- Parish-wide fundraisers sponsored by the "parish as a whole" take precedence and may require rescheduling of some events.

- By **July 1** of each year, all groups wishing to sponsor a parish-wide fundraiser during the following 12 months are required to submit a written request stating purpose, method, and dates. This includes annual fundraisers such as Celebrate Ascension, Lenten Fish Dinners, etc. Approval and coordination of all parish-wide fundraisers are the responsibility of the Minister for Stewardship & Engagement. All approved activities are to be entered on the parish calendar.

NO INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP IS TO PRESUME PERMISSION TO SPONSOR A PARISH-WIDE FUNDRAISER WITHOUT APPROPRIATE PERMISSION.

- No fundraisers are to take place in the gathering space. As a rule, they are to be conducted in the parish hall.

Special Collections

- Many groups wish to sponsor collections of items for the needy, such as toys and clothing. In order to avoid duplication of efforts and to maximize effectiveness, all such collections must be approved and coordinated with the Ministry of Care Director. The Minister for Care & Social Justice will work with the Minister for Stewardship & Engagement in the proper scheduling of such efforts. If these collections focus on cash donations, they need approval of the Minister for Stewardship & Engagement.

