

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

MINISTRY DIRECTORY & RESOURCE GUIDE



2024-2025

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

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

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 communications@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



Sherianne Laba
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 Kuckel-



Dcn. John Stanley



Dcn. Michael Uhlmansiek



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.

» Our Purpose

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION EXISTS TO:

Draw people into transformational encounters with Jesus Christ and His Church

By **Proclaiming** the Gospel, **Worshipping** wholeheartedly, **Serving** generously, and **Loving** like Jesus.



Our Vision «

In so doing, we strive to live our Catholic faith with a **Joy** that inspires others, a **Patience** that fosters relationships, and a **Charity** that transforms hearts.

» Our Values

- **Honesty**
- **Hospitality**
- **Compassion**
- **Generosity** and
- **Intentionality**





ADMINISTRATION & OUTREACH

COMMUNICATIONS & PARISH LIFE

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

ASCENSION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION



SHERIANNE LABA

Pastoral Associate
 slaba@kcascension.org



SHARON WEEMS

Minister for Accounting
 sweems@kcascension.org



SUSAN NIGRIN

Office Manager
 snigrin@kcascension.org



PATTY BILLINGER

Minister for Care & Social Justice
 pbillinger@kcascension.org



CATHY WEISER

Receptionist
 cweiser@kcascension.org



VIRGIL CRUMPTON

Facilities Director



RAY MARTIN

Pastoral Associate
 rmartin@kcascension.org



KAREN NEWKIRK

Minister for Stewardship & Engagement
 knewkirk@kcascension.org



MARY BIBLER

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 mbibler@kcascension.org



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Bulletin & Messaging Editor
 communications@kcascension.org



LIZ WILLMAN

Pastoral Associate
 lwillman@kcascension.org



MARCIA JACOBSON

Minister for Family Life & Vocations
 mjacobson@kcascension.org



ELIZABETH WHITEHEAD

Adult Faith Administrative Assistant
 ewhitehead@kcascension.org



ED BELLAMY

Adult Faith Coordinator
 ebellamy@kcascension.org



BECKY WRIGHT

Pastoral Associate
 bwright@acseagles.org



KELLY ROSE

Vice Principal
 krose@acseagles.org



JANET ECKERT

Administrative Assistant
 jeckert@acseagles.org



MOLLY JOHNSON

Secretary
 mjohnson@acseagles.org



DR. WILLIAM O'LEARY

Pastoral Associate
 woleary@kcascension.org



TRICIA BALDWIN

Administrative Assistant
 tbaldwin@kcascension.org



JOE PASSANTINO

Minister for Young Adults
 findthere@gmail.com



MARY BETH STANKIEWICZ

Youth Minister
 mbstankiewicz@kcascension.org



DEREK PROBST

Youth Minister
 dprobst@kcascension.org

CLERGY & LITURGY



FR. COLM LARKIN

Parochial Vicar



FR. BRENT STULL

Parochial Vicar



DEACON JOHN STANLEY



DEACON KRIS KUCKELMAN



DEACON MICHAEL UHLMANSIEK



DR. DOROTHY BRANDWEIN

Music Director

Parish Staff Contact Info

CLERGY & LITURGY

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

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

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

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

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

Deacon.....**Deacon Michael Uhlmansiek**
913-485-2309 muhlmansiek@archkck.org

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

ADMINISTRATION & OUTREACH

Pastoral Associate.....**Sherianne Laba**
913-681-3348, x135 slaba@kcascension.org

Minister for Accounting.....**Sharon Weems**
913-681-3348, x167 sweems@kcascension.org

Facilities Director.....**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 Nigrin**
913-681-3348, x132 snigrin@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, x160 knewkirk@kcascension.org

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

Bulletin & Messaging Editor.....**Jeanine Staab Kraus**
913-681-3348 jstaabkraus@kcascension.org

ADULT FAITH

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

Minister for Marriage Family Life, & Vocations.....**Marcia Jacobson**
913-681-3348, x151 mjacobson@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

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 lrempel@acseagles.org

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

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

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.
- 2003 – Fr. Thomas Tank named new Pastor.
- 2021 – Fr. Gary Pennings named new Pastor.
- 2024 – 3,299 families in our parish and 573 children in Ascension Catholic School.



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 kccascension.org/realm or email Susan Nigrin, snigrin@kccascension.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.



AS EACH HAS RECEIVED A

gift

USE IT TO

serve

ONE ANOTHER, AS GOOD

stewards

OF GOD'S VARIED GRACE

CF 1 PET. 4:10

CHURCH OF THE
ASCENSION

Everything we have, our lives, our individual talents, skills, attributes and any material blessings we have received are all gifts of God's varied graces.

“SO, AS WE HAVE RECEIVED, WE GIVE!”

Derived from the Scripture verse above, this is the theme for this year's Stewardship Appeal.

As Each Has Received A Gift,

Church of the Ascension exists to draw people into transformational encounters with Jesus Christ and His Church by proclaiming the Gospel, worshipping wholeheartedly, serving generously, and loving like Jesus. Through our parish school and parish youth formation programs, we have formed countless children in the faith and prepared them for the sacraments.

8,760 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration

3,299 Families in our Parish

1,785 Youth Service projects

1,471 Adults in Faith Formation

573 Children in full-time school

410 Children in religious education

227 Vacation Bible School Participants

137 Confirmations, **101** Baptisms

129 First Communions

66 Adult Faith classes/retreats

34 Funerals, **23** Weddings

Use It To Serve One Another...

We have ministered to the sick and homebound, helped teens and young adults discern God's voice in their lives, served the poor and hungry in a wide variety of ways, inspired adults to learn more about the Catholic Faith and accompanied believers through participation in prayer groups, support groups and varied communal events.

\$266,110 donated outside our Parish

\$43,459 + 38,613 lbs of food contributed to Pop the Trunk food drives

\$14,515 in cash & gift cards + **3** large cargo trucks donated for Angel Trees

\$12,850 + 295 turkeys & hams for Turkey Drive

\$12,362 raised for Baby Bottle Boomerang

572 donated prayer blankets and quilts

352 donors at the Ascension Blood Drive

291 parishioners served in Liturgical Ministry

We, as a parish family, have changed so many lives in our community—as detailed above. In order to continue our mission and ministries, we encourage all parishioners to spend time in prayer and reflection on the work we do and determine how they can best participate.

If you have any questions regarding the stewardship appeal, please contact Karen Newkirk at knewkirk@kcascension.org.

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:

SUGGESTED TITHING

- 5% PARISH GIVING**
To our parish as a general parish support.
- 1% ARCHDIOCESE**
To Archdiocesan support.
- 4% CHARITABLE CAUSES**
To other charitable causes or our parish*.

***NOTE**
School families might consider giving an additional 4% to our parish in support of our ministry of educating youth.

- 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 volunteering and assisting.
- 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

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, at least 16 years of age and in a valid marriage.

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	Saturday: 3:00pm—4:00pm
Wednesday: 5:30pm—6:30pm	Sunday: 4:00pm—4:45pm

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 usually conferred in the eighth grade. YFF and ACS students prepare for this Sacrament by attending all scheduled sessions during seventh and eighth grades. 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. If calling after office hours, listen on the voicemail recording for the emergency line phone number.

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.



Fr. Gary Pennings
Pastor

Liturgy & Prayer

Parish Operated Ministries



Fr. Colm Larkin
Parochial Vicar

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



Fr. Brent Stull
Parochial Vicar

Prayer

- Hosea



Dcn. Kris Kuckelman
Deacon

Music Ministry

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



Dcn. John Stanley
Deacon

Partner Ministries

- Legion of Mary



Dcn. Michael Uhlmansiek

Offerings

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



Dorothy Brandwein
Music Director

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.

Jean Brower 913-292-9746

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.

Kristan Stanley 913-233-6538

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.

Deacon 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

Legion of Mary

Association of Catholic laity who serve the Church.

Dick Kane 913-484-7402

Partner Ministries

Corpus Christi Procession

After Mass, we process the Blessed Sacrament through the parking lot

and back into the church for Adoration to celebrate the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

Prayer Partners Intention

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

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

Offerings

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

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.





Sherianne Laba
Pastoral Associate



Sharon Weems
Minister for Accounting



Virgil Crumpton
Facilities Director



Patty Billinger
Minister for Care
& Social Justice



Susan Nigrin
Office Manager



Cathy Weiser
Receptionist

Administration & Outreach

Parish Operated Ministries

- Altar Society & Monday Morning Marthas
- 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
- Prison Ministry
- Project Chrysalis
- Respect Life
- St. Fiacre Ascension Gardening Club

Partner Ministries

- Addiction (LMAC Support - AA, Al-Anon)
- “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

Offerings & Resources

- Community Outreach Drives
- Leadership Coaching

Administration & Outreach

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

Parish Operated Ministries

Monday Morning Marthas

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

Jim & Paula Daugherty 913-449-7216

Ascension Foster & Adopt Ministry (AFAM) - VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

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—SUPPORT 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—SUPPORT 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—VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

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—VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

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—VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

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—SUPPORT MINISTRY

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—VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY—TRAVEL NECESSARY

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

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

Prison Ministry—VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY—CLEARANCE BY PRISON NECESSARY

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

Project Chrysalis—SUPPORT MINISTRY

A Catholic ministry supporting parents and grandparents who have lost children find spiritual support, hope and community.

Patty Billinger 913-681-3348

Respect Life—VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

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

Cathy Madrid 913-515-4103

Ascension Knights :

Jim Baldwin 913-609-0118

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—AA, Al-Anon)—SUPPORT MINISTRY

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....” - SUPPORT MINISTRY

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—SUPPORT MINISTRY

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

Guadalupe House—VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

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—SUPPORT MINISTRY

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—VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

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—VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

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

Partner Ministries

St. Mary's Food Kitchen— VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

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

Shalom House—VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

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
- Diaper Drive
- Food Collections
- Johnson County Christmas Bureau
- Nativity House Advent Drive
- 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

Resources

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



Communications & Parish Life



Ray Martin
Pastoral Associate



Karen Newkirk
Minister for
Stewardship
& Engagement



Mary Bibler
Minister for
Parish Life



Jeanine Staab Kraus
Bulletin & Messaging
Editor

Parish Operated Ministries

- Ambassadors for Christ
- Church Tech Team
- Donut Sunday Helpers
- Special Needs Ministry
- Fearfully & Wonderfully Made
- 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
- Stewardship Street Banners
- Celebrate Ascension
- Feast of Ascension Celebration
- Pentecost Multi-Cultural Celebration
- Community Summer BBQ
- Parish Fall Festival
- Donut Sundays
- Trivia Night
- Silver Soiree Events for Parishioners 60+

Communications & Parish Life

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

Church Tech Team

Assist Liturgies and events with live streaming, Mass Announcements, sound mixing and other Audio/Visual needs.

Ray Martin 913-948-6503

Donut Sunday Helpers

Assist with monthly Donut Sundays in the parish hall.

Mary Bibler 913-681-3348

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

Abby Hedrick (Advocate) 913-777-1717

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

Welcoming Ministry

Provide information to those wanting to learn more about our parish community and assist them in the registration process.

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.

Veronica Gasparovich 913-481-8113

Communications & Parish Life

Partner Ministries

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

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.

Mark Lewandowski 913-634-4697

4th Degree Knights: John Ekedahl 913-897-1874

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

Mary Jane Doran 913-558-3360

Angela Salem

913-708-0116

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

Supported Communications:

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

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
- Feast of Ascension Celebration
- Pentecost Multi-Cultural Celebration
- Community Summer BBQ
- Parish Fall Festival
- Donut Sundays
- Trivia Night
- Silver Soiree Events for Parishioners 60+



Adult Faith Formation



Liz Willman
Pastoral Associate



Marcia Jacobson
Minister for Marriage,
Family Life & Vocations



Elizabeth Whitehead
Administrative
Assistant



Ed Bellamy
Adult Faith
Coordinator

Parish Operated Ministries

- Adult Faith Facilitators
- Engaged & Newly Married Couples
- Marriage & Family Enrichment
- Marriage Preparation Leaders
- Men of Ascension
- MOYC (Mothers of Young Children)
- RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)
- Small Faith Sharing Groups, Participants & Leaders
- Vocations

Partner Ministries

- Marriage Encounter
- Marriage Retrouvaille

Offerings

- Adult Faith Classes
- Adult Faith Library
- Book Club
- Catholic Spiritual Direction
- Communion Events
- Natural Family Planning
- Sunday Scripture Study

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Facilitators

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

Parish Operated Ministries

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.

Marcia Jacobson 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.

Marcia Jacobson 913-681-3348 ext. 151

Marriage Preparation Leaders

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

Marcia Jacobson 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

MOYC (Mothers of Young Children)

MOYC's mission is to build a community of faith and friendship amongst mothers with babies up to children in second grade. Opportunities for faith enrichment and fellowship include small group Bible studies and prayer groups as well as social gatherings and family activities.

Emmie Whitmore 308-520-6412
Kat Brown 917-861-2487

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.

Liz Willman 913-681-3348 x139

Small Faith Sharing Group Participants and Leaders

Training provided.

Vocations

Support and encourage all vocations to include ordained, consecrated, married or single lives.

Marcia Jacobson 913-681-3348 x 151

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

International peer group ministry assisting couples in troubled marriages offered regularly through the Archdiocese. This program offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse and a loving marriage relationship, where it's a rescue or a refresh. No marriage is beyond hope.

Local phone (800) 470-2230 www.helpourmarriage.org

Adult Faith Library

Library is by the Matthew/Mark Adult Faith Rooms. Materials are available for check out.
Kim Sutton 913-897-6593

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

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.

Marcia Jacobson 913-681-3348 x151

Natural Family Planning

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

Marcia Jacobson 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

Offerings

Youth Faith Formation

Parish Operated Ministries



Dr. William O'Leary
Pastoral Associate

Youth Faith Formation

- Children's Liturgy of the Word (Pre-K to 2nd Grade)
- Vacation Bible School (4yrs-6th 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



Tricia Baldwin
Administrative Assistant

Youth Ministry

- FIRE (Middle School Youth Ministry)
- RISE (High School Youth Ministry)
- Core Team & Other Volunteer Opportunities



Joe Passantino
Minister for Young Adults

Young Adult Ministry

- Disciples Dwelling

Offerings



Mary Beth Stankiewicz
6th Grade-High School

- Raising Modern Day Knights
- Strong Fathers, Strong Daughters



Derek Probst
6th Grade-High School



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 2-6, 2025. Children preschool through 6th 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-1 during the 8:15am and 10:00 AM Sunday Masses.

Weekly YFF (grades K-6)

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

Family Formation (grades K-1, 3-6; 2nd gr not available for this program)

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.

Leadership

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



Parish Operated Ministries

Youth Ministry

Ascension Youth Ministry exists to draw our teens into deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, service and community, we aim to give teens a place to belong, and to equip them to live-out the Great Commission (Mt 28).

FIRE - GRADES 6-8

1st and 3rd Mondays of each month from 5:30 - 7:00 PM in the Youth Room

FIRE is our large group middle school gathering where youth can meet other friends pursuing Catholicism, learn the truths of our faith, and experience the joy of following Christ. Through dinner, games, activities, talks, prayer, and discussions, we journey together as a faith community to know, love, and serve God.

RISE - GRADES 9-12

Every Wednesday from 6:00 - 8:00 PM in the Youth Room

RISE is our large group, high school gathering. We invite our teens to come further up and further into their relationship with Jesus. Through the combination of food, faith, fellowship, and fun, we give glory to the Lord as we come to a greater understanding of our place in God's plan.

SMALL GROUPS - GRADES 6-12

Every Tuesday from 6:00 - 7:30 PM in the Youth Room

For those youth who are looking to dive deeper into their faith, we offer the opportunity for discussion-based small groups. Participants are divided into groups by age and gender. Groups are guided through discussions about topics that they are interested in, challenged by, or struggle to understand.

BIBLE STUDY - GRADES 9-12

(Most) Every Monday from 7:30 - 9:00 PM in the Youth Room

One of the best ways to come to know the person of Christ is through studying His words to us. Bible Study is a chance for teens to explore the Bible in an approachable and guided manner.

ADORATION - GRADES 6-12

Every Tuesday from 6:00 - 7:30 PM in the Youth Room

At the center of our faith life is our personal relationship with the person of Jesus Christ. Through prayer and adoration in front of the blessed sacrament, we recenter ourselves and our community towards that which is most important. And then we have snacks afterwards!

To stay up-to-date on any additional events or schedule changes, sign up for text reminders using the QR code here or check our page on the parish website.



Parish Operated Ministries

Core Team & Other Volunteer Opportunities

We love being able to provide for teens to encounter the person of Christ, but we're only a few people. As we're all called to share our faith, your chance could be right here! We always need volunteers to assist in various aspects of our ministry. We can use help leading small groups, cooking meals, delivering talks, mentoring teens, up-keeping our area, and many more things! 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 or Mary Beth for more information.

Derek Probst

dprobst@kcascension.org

Mary Beth Stankiewicz

mbstankiewicz@kcascension.org

Young Adult Ministry

Open to all young adults of our parish ages 18-35. To learn more, contact Joe Passantino. Joe Passantino 913-681-3348, jpassantino@kcascension.org

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.

Offerings

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

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. Bo Govea 913-220-9097

Ascension Catholic School

Parish Operated Ministries



Becky Wright
Principal

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



Kelly Rose
Vice Principal



Janet Eckert
Administrative Assistant



Molly Johnson
Secretary



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 proclaim the Gospel, grow in knowledge, and love like Jesus. 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.



All good giving and every perfect gift is from above.

James 1:17

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

Nellie Sparkman 913-424-2680

Claire Akins 660-853-9665

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.

Kellie Maguire 913-705-0435

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.
- 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.

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 Minister for Care & Social Justice. 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.

