

DECEMBER 7, 2025

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Catholic Parish



WEEKDAY MASS

Monday–Friday: 7:00AM, 12:00PM
Saturday: 8:30AM

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday: 4:30PM
Sunday: 8:15AM, 10:00AM,
11:45AM, 5:00PM

RECONCILIATION

Tuesday: 11:00AM AND 6:30PM
Wednesday: 5:30PM
Saturday: 3:00PM
Sunday: 4:00PM

PERPETUAL ADORATION

Daily*: 6:00AM–9:00PM

*Closed Monday & Thursday
2:00PM–3:00PM for cleaning

After Hours: 9:00PM–6:00AM
(Code Required)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Thursday: 8:30AM–4:00PM
Friday: 8:30AM–12:00PM

☎ (913) 681-3348

✉ AscensionChurch@KCAscension.org

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John the Baptist appeared...saying,
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

MT 3:1A, 2

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION EXISTS TO DRAW PEOPLE INTO *Transformational Encounters* WITH JESUS CHRIST & HIS CHURCH BY
Proclaiming THE GOSPEL *Worshiping* WHOLEHEARTEDLY *Serving* GENEROUSLY AND *Loving* LIKE JESUS

9510 W. 127TH STREET • OVERLAND PARK, KS 66213 • KCAscension.org

NEW PARISHIONERS

The Radetic Family
The Bourdelais Family
Thomas & Linda Eberle
Christopher Rieber
The Eckert Family
Bill & Susan McCabe
The Carpenter Family
The Burgmeier Family

BAPTISMS

Mae Josephine Bartak

BANNES OF HOLY MATRIMONY

Erik Benson and Sonny Bourne
Owen Tenbrink and Sarah Flax

FROM DEATH TO NEW LIFE

Dorothy Rupp
Mother of Peter Rupp

THE ANGELUS PRAYER

Starting this Advent, we will begin praying the Angelus at noon on weekdays. We have reconnected our church bells and they will ring at the noon hour. This prayer began back in the 11th century as a monastic custom of praying three Hail Marys at the evening bell chime to meditate on the Incarnation. In the 15th century, a midday bell was added to pray for peace. In the 16th century, the Angelus takes its common form, repeating the words of the Annunciation. Now, the prayer continues to be a widely recited devotion, as many popes have prayed it publicly. With our noontime Mass, it seems a fitting addition to our parish. We have printed and pasted the prayer in the front of our red hymnal books so you can follow along.

FATHER GARY PENNINGS PASTOR'S CORNER



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On this second Sunday of Advent as we continue preparing for the Lord's appearance, John the Baptist comes on the scene in the scripture readings.

John is the one who prepares the way of the Lord. He calls the children of Abraham to repent of their ways and ready their hearts for the coming Messiah. John is rather fiery and "in your face" with those who come to him only for show and lack a sincere desire to change. He is particularly direct with the Pharisees and Sadducees, calling them a "brood of vipers".

The Baptist makes a powerful statement about repentance. He says, "produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance". His point is that repentance cannot be presumptuous, but must be from the heart, with a sincere intention of changing one's ways.

The seasons of Advent and Lent both call the faithful to repentance, Lent more so than Advent. But Advent does invite us to make the necessary changes so that we are well prepared to celebrate Christmas rightly, but even more so, that we are prepared for the Lord's ultimate return, when we will see Him face-to-face.

St. Paul reminds us in the second reading from the Letter to the Romans, that what has been revealed in the scriptures is for our instruction and that we are called to endure in hope.

So, as we continue our journey through Advent, may we seek God's help in changing whatever hinders us from being prepared to encounter the Lord. May we endure in faith and in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior.

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

RELICS AT THIS WEEK'S MASSES

On December 11 and 12 at the 7:00AM and 12:00PM Masses, we will have a first class relic of St. Carlo Acutis and a second class relic of St. Pier Giorgio Frassati on display to venerate.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

- ALL DAY **Nativity House Advent Collection** | Narthex
- 9:00AM **Ascension Blood Drive** | Parish Hall A
- 9:30AM **Sunday Scripture Study** | St. Mark Rm.
- 11:45AM **Mass Live Stream: Families with Special Needs** | Nursery
- 1:00PM **Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Session #1** | ACS Classroom 1
- 1:00PM **AA Meeting** | St. John Rm.
- 3:00PM **Ascension Praise Band & Choir** | Church
- 3:00PM **Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Session #2** | ACS Classroom 1
- 4:00PM **AI Anon** | St. John Rm.
- 8:00PM **Mens Basketball (Over 40)** | Gym A

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8 HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

- ALL DAY **Nativity House Advent Collection** | Narthex
- 7:00AM **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Mass** | Church
- 12:00PM **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Mass** | Church
- 5:30PM **OCIA** | St. Mark Rm.
- 6:30PM **Boy Scout Troop #218** | Parish Hall A
- 7:00PM **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Mass** | Church
- 7:00PM **Parables & Pubs** | Off-Site
- 8:30PM **Mens Basketball (Over 21)** | Gym A

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

- ALL DAY **Nativity House Advent Collection** | Narthex
- 1:00PM **Beautiful Hope** | St. Luke Rm.
- 4:00PM **Guadalupe House** | Off-Site
- 6:00PM **Waiting Well Advent Study** | St. Luke Rm.
- 6:30PM **Degree Knights Meeting** | Parish Hall B
- 6:30PM **Weekly Family Rosary** | Church
- 7:00PM **Cub Scouts Pack 3218** | Conf. Rm.
- 7:00PM **Special Needs Team Mtg.** | St. John Rm.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

- ALL DAY **Nativity House Advent Collection** | Narthex
- 10:00AM **Waiting Well Advent Study** | St. Mark Rm.
- 1:00PM **Ascension Book Club** | St. Mark Rm.
- 6:00PM **Youth Faith Formation (YFF)** | Parish Hall A
- 6:30PM **Ascend (Middle School)** | Contact YFF office William O'Leary
- 6:30PM **Knights of Columbus Tech Support Team** | Parish Hall Annex
- 7:00PM **Choir Practice** | Church
- 8:30PM **Mens Basketball (Over 21)** | Gym A

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

- ALL DAY **Nativity House Advent Collection** | Narthex
- 1:00PM **Waiting Well Advent Study** | St. Mark Rm.
- 4:30PM **Legion of Mary Queen of the Universe Mtg.** | St. Luke Rm.
- 5:30PM **The Death of Ivan Ilyich** | St. Mark Rm.
- 6:15PM **American Heritage Girls Mtg.** | Parish Hall B
- 7:00PM **Disciples Dwelling (Rosary Garden)** | Youth Rm.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

- ALL DAY **Nativity House Advent Collection** | Narthex
- 6:00AM **Men of Ascension** | St. Mark Rm.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

- ALL DAY **Nativity House Advent Collection** | Narthex
- 6:30AM **Legion of Mary Queen of Heaven Mtg.** | St. Luke Rm.
- 9:00AM **Saturday with Santa** | Parish Hall A
- 10:00AM **Drive-Up Food Collection** | Parking Lot
- 11:00AM **AI Anon** | St. John Rm.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

- ALL DAY **Nativity House Advent Collection** | Narthex
- 9:30AM **Sunday Scripture Study** | St. Mark Rm.
- 11:45AM **Mass Live Stream: Families with Special Needs** | Nursery
- 1:00PM **Baptism Class** | St. Luke Rm.
- 1:00PM **Baptisms** | Church
- 1:00PM **AA Meeting** | St. John Rm.
- 3:00PM **Ascension Praise Band & Choir** | Church
- 3:00PM **NFP Session** | St. Mark Rm.
- 4:00PM **AI Anon** | St. John Rm.
- 8:00PM **Mens Basketball (Over 40)** | Gym A

DONATIONS END DECEMBER 14!

All babies are
PRECIOUS

Please join us in showering
Nativity House with needed items

DECEMBER 6-14
ASCENSION NARTHEX






WINTER BLOOD DRIVE • DECEMBER 7

9:00AM, *Parish Hall*

Join us for our community Blood Drive on December 7 from 9:00AM–3:00PM and help save lives with just one donation. Every drop counts — your contribution could make all the difference for someone in need.

Register: Scan QR code



ROSARY RALLY • DECEMBER 7

3:00PM, *Off-Site* **COMMUNITY EVENT**

Join us in honoring Our Blessed Mother and Our Lady of Fatima on Sunday, December 7, from 3:00PM–4:15PM at St. Philippine Duchesne, 5035 Rainbow Blvd., Mission Woods, KS. We will pray the Joyful, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary, followed by Benediction and the opportunity to enroll in the Brown Scapular. For directions or future rally dates, visit RosaryRalliesKC.org.



SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASSES • DECEMBER 8 **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

Various Times, *Church*

Come to Mass and celebrate our belief that the Virgin Mary was conceived without original sin. Mass times are 7:00AM, 8:00AM (School Mass), 12:00PM, and 7:00PM.



CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS DUE • DECEMBER 8

Remember your loved ones by submitting their names to be remembered at the Christmas Masses. The names will be listed in the bulletin. Envelopes are available on the table in the gathering area and can be placed in the locked box or turned into the parish office. Please print clearly so the information in the bulletin is accurate. **A suggested donation of \$20.00 is appreciated.**



PARABLES & PUBS • DECEMBER 8

7:00PM, *Off-Site*

Parables & Pubs – Monthly Young Adult Night Second Monday of every month at Brew Lab (downtown Overland Park), 7:00PM. Join us for live music, a short parable, and epic video game battles in a laid-back bar vibe. The food is incredible, the beer selection is top-tier, and the community is real. No pressure—just good people, great conversation, and a chance to connect with Christ in an unexpected place. All young adults (21+) welcome. See you there!



GUADALUPE HOUSE • DECEMBER 9

Drop off by 4:30PM, *St. John Hallway*

Our Lady of Guadalupe House is an organization run by the Sisters of the Fraternity Missionaries of the Poor of Jesus Christ. The Sisters reach out to the poor and homeless in Kansas City, Kansas, and we provide them with supplies needed for their ministry. If you are

interested in supporting their cause by donating supplies, visit KCAscension.org > Volunteer Signups > Guadalupe House. Drop off supplies to the Parish Hall by 4:30PM on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.



FORGIVENESS CORNER • DECEMBER 10

7:00PM, *Online*

TRYING TO FORGIVE A FAMILY MEMBER FOR CHRISTMAS? Join us on Wednesdays in Advent (December 10 and 17) at 7:00PM for one hour Zoom. Simply send your email to yeabut40@gmail.com to sign up for a zoom on forgiveness. We will be watching the newly released film called "WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD?" Each session will be watching the film for 20 minutes and then optional Q and A for 30 minutes. Hosted by the Forgiveness Institute, KC Inc. with weekly surprised guests joining us.

Register: Email Yeabut40@gmail.com



SATURDAY WITH SANTA • DECEMBER 13

9:00AM, *Parish Hall*

Join us for crafts, games, advent activities and a photo with Santa! Enjoy muffins, coffee, and hot cocoa too! **Register by December 7 to be entered into a drawing to "jump the line!"** Two winners will be notified on December 8! We hope to see you there!

Register: Scan QR code

Hosted by: Mothers of Young Children (MOYC)



DRIVE-UP FOOD COLLECTION • DECEMBER 13-14

10:00AM, *Parking Lot*

As the temperature drops, let's come together to warm the hearts and fill the plates of those in need. Please be a part of making this season a little brighter for our community. Donate non-perishable food items on December 13-14 from 10:00AM-2:00PM and before and after all Sunday Masses (cash and check donations welcome). **Items most needed: pasta sauce, cereal, canned fruit, soups, canned meat and peanut butter.**

Questions: David Whitaker 913-626-2676 or
Johnette Martin 913-481-8663



CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASSES HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

December 8th • 7:00AM, 8:00AM (*All School Mass*), 12:00PM, 7:00PM

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

December 16th • 7:00PM

CHRISTMAS MASSES HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24th • 4:00PM (*Church and Parish Hall*), 6:00PM, 8:00PM, 10:00PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25th • 9:00AM, 11:00AM

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD MASSES HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

December 31st • 4:00PM

January 1st • 9:00AM, 12:00PM



CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

35 Years of Generosity 1991-2026

2026 Stewardship Commitment

"YOU WILL BE ENRICHED IN EVERY WAY FOR GREAT GENEROSITY, WHICH THROUGH US WILL PRODUCE THANKSGIVING TO GOD."

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL

Your commitment to our parish through our annual stewardship renewal will help Church of the Ascension enable transformational encounters by financially supporting our ministries, furthering our mission, and reinforcing our future. We encourage the participation of all of our parishioners!

THANK YOU

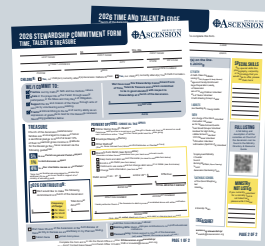
Thank you to those parishioners who have submitted their commitments. If you have not yet had an opportunity, please complete your commitment form, either on paper or online, to indicate your financial pledge and ministry involvement.

**Thank you for your generosity, prayers and commitment to
Church of the Ascension.**

If you have questions or need assistance, contact
Karen Newkirk, Minister for Stewardship and Engagement, (913) 681-3348 x160
or knewkirk@kcascension.org.



Online Form



Paper Form



HEARTACHE TO HEALING DECEMBER 16

Join us on Tuesday, December 16 at 6:30PM in the St. John's room at the Church of the Ascension for holiday cheer and a little holiday poker! Bring your favorite Christmas treat or beverage. We'll pray, play, eat, and enjoy some fun together.

RSVP (optional) to Laura at khaeus1@hotmail.com or Damon at damon452@yahoo.com.



**CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY HEALTH**
HOME CARE | VILLA ST. FRANCIS | HOSPICE

CAREGIVER *support*

3RD WEDNESDAY
OF THE MONTH

6:30 - 7:30 PM

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

In the St. Luke Room

9510 W 127TH ST.

OVERLAND PARK, KS 66213

Event Contact: Michelle Buzzard (913) 484-2222



Being a caregiver can be a challenge, and we know from experience that a little bit of support can go a long way. In these session we'll offer helpful ideas on finding support, coping strategies for the tough times, and give everyone the opportunity to share their own experiences. We're seeking to create a community of support so we can lift one another up!

Michelle Buzzard is the Community & Parish Liaison for Catholic Community Health. "My experiences with loss - first with my father at age 11, then my brother; later my husband and then grandparents, all had a profound impact on my life. With the support of friends and faith, I've navigated this complex journey, channeling my creativity and ability to connect with others, which allows me to help those dealing with grief."

Catholiccommunityhealth.org | 913.621.5090

*Save
The
Date*

**PARISH MISSION
WITH
FR. ALESSANDRO
BORRACCIA**

FEBRUARY 1, 2, & 3

**6:30 - 7:30 PM
IN THE CHURCH**



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

Sunday, Dec. 14 at 3:00PM

Cure of Ars
Queen of the Holy Rosary - OP
St. Agnes

Sunday, Dec. 14 at 7:15PM

St. Paul (*Spanish available*)

Monday, Dec. 15 at 7:00PM

Good Shepherd (*Spanish available*)
Holy Trinity
Holy Spirit
St. Michael the Archangel

Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 7:00PM

Holy Cross (*Spanish available*)
Prince of Peace
Ascension

Thursday, Dec. 18 at 7:00PM

St. Joseph
Divine Mercy
Sacred Heart
St. Pius X

Sunday, Dec. 21 at 7:00PM

Queen of the Holy Rosary - Wea
St. Ann
John Paul II
Nativity

MASS INTENTIONS+

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

7:00AM **Living & Deceased Members of John & Louisa Boor Family**

12:00PM **+Frank & +Marie Rottinghaus**
by Margaret Rethman

+Yvonne Pennings
by Ascension Staff

7:00PM **Ascension Parishioners**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

7:00AM **+Robin Mileski**
by Lois Herr

+Aida Flores
by Pledge Family

12:00PM **Aimee Gabel**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

7:00AM **+Thresiamma**
by Simi Manoj

12:00PM **+Diane Stroh**
by Church of the Ascension Book Club

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

7:00AM **+Kuttiammayi**
by Simi Manoj

12:00PM **+Alphonse "Herb" Cheray**
by Cure' of Ars Bridge Club

+Bob Redmond
by Jeannie Redmond

+Brian Austin Bizzell
by Larry & Peggy McMillin

+Shari Chang
by Tom & Joan Damewood

+Dave Jansen
by Tom & Joan Damewood

Susan Traffas
by Family

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

7:00AM **+Ann Gengenbach**
by Lisa Ragan & Children

12:00PM **+Dan Tira**
by Chuck & Diane Jansen

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

8:30AM **+Ann Burgess**
by Joan Winkelman

4:30PM **+Michael David Frier**
by Bob & Amy Kernan

+Katherine McCool
by Judy & Craig Arnold

+Michelle Edwards
by Judy & Craig Arnold

Intentions of Randy Edwards
by Judy & Craig Arnold

PRAYERS

FOR OUR SICK

Susan Arp
Bob Barr
Hugh Benson
Kathy Bins
Dorothy Brandwein
Lynn Butzen
Jan Cheray
Edward Cisek
Paul Clinton
Hudson Coffman
Jim Conrad
James Daley
Dan Deasy
Karen Elliott
Ron Fortino
Michael Fragale
Sharon Frederes
Joseph Garrison
Laura Egan
Mary Elizabeth Govea
Scott Graham
Lennie & Mary Pat Harpenau
Marsha Hatfield-Baker
Robert Howard
Pete Ingles
Laura Johnson
Larry Judy
Dick Kane
Brian Kellerman
Barbara Kelly
Jerry and Pat Klimas
Ellen Lavin
Suzy Leary
Sophie Lipp
Terry Mann
Pam Manning
Dale Marti
Sue Marti
Karen Mathes
Kelly Mayer
Rebecca Meis
Forrest Mistler
Jenny Melookaran
Sarah Millsap
Deloris Moore
Marysia Moore
Mike Mullen
Kay Myrick
Fred Nelson
Keith Newman

Carmen & John Nodar
Rick Ostmeyer
Cathy Oxley
Richard & Louise Parizek
Aimee Parsons
Lilibeth Pinon
Carmen Porterfield
Jack Punswick
Evelyn Rauen
Becky Reed
Amy Reinhardt
Katy Rempel
Heather Rollheiser
Mark Rulo
Barbara Schulte
Blair Schumann
Bob Sherman
Janet Sherman
Don Sosna
Carol Stump
Paul Surles
Fr. Tom Tank
Collin Warrender
Bridget A. Weeks
Cathy Weiser
Griffin Weyforth
Marilyn Wheeler
George Winkler
John Witt
Janet Worden
Emy Yabut

SICK RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

Cathy Amundson
Kathy Anthony
Jennifer Baalman
Mary Banks
R. J. Barnes
Cathy Bellafiore
Maribeth Brennaman
Amanda Brower
Michael Buffa
Mack Crider
Chris Cross
Matt Croy
Renee' Dinsmore
Steve Dougherty
Eric Drummond

Ryan Drummond
Debbie Flaspohler
Tom Fry
John Galbraith
Dana Galbraith
Bob Gleason
Ben Godar
Ruth Hakim
Bill Harper
Anne Hauser
Colleen Heeter
Diane Hutchinson
Karen Jennings
Sean Kavanaugh
Luella Lappe
Dennis Larkin
Rick Lees
Don Lindeman
Ellen Loschke
Joni McCullagh
Kim McGuire
Molly McGuire
Kara Nelson
Henry O'Grady
Kevin O'Grady
Gina Pontecorvo
Mark Reda
Rhea Reid
John Rempel
Nicole Rizzo
Debbie Schreck
Kim Sheridan
Amber Lutz Sherman
Steve Sell
Colleen Skinner
Beverly Virgo
Lauri Wehling
Alessandra Whitchurch
Jim Wiltgen

SERVICE MEMBERS

Colonel Diane Caranta, M.D.;
Captain Tyler H. Cordry, US Army;
Major Daniel Copeland, US Army
Captain Stephen Cuff, US Army;
Lt. Junior Grade Edward Dodson, US Navy;

Please note: Prior to publishing, permission from the individual you wish to add to the prayer listing must be obtained. Names will be retained for 6 months.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

8:15AM **+Sam Montesana**
by Louie Montesana, Charlie & Carol Montesana

10:00AM **Ascension Parishioners**

11:45AM **+Margery James**
by Robert & Sally Ann James

5:00PM **Brazen Family**
by Family

Corporal Aidan Egan, USMC;
2nd Lt John Fischbach, USMC;
Spc. J. Ben Froome II, US Army;
Corporal Margaret Gould, USMC;
Senior Airman Courtney Hinemeyer, USAF;
Larry Homan, US Army;
Lance Corporal Brooke L. Jalbert;
A.B. Leah Leis, USAF;
AMN Colten Mann
Captain Jacob Morin, USAF;
Alexander Noguera US Army;
Major Dan Prior, US Army;
2nd Lt Tom Stivers, US Army;
Major Mitchell R Willis, Pilot, USAF

FAMILY ROSARY • TUESDAYS

6:30PM, Church

Join the Family Rosary every Tuesday at 6:30PM in the church. Together we will pray for our families, our nation and our world! Blessed Mother, pray for us!



PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Don't know what the Adoration Chapel is all about? Come and visit Jesus any time.

Hours that NEED immediate weekly partners: *** = HIGH NEED



Sunday: 1:00PM, 2:00PM, 4:00PM***, 5:00PM, 11:00PM***
Monday: 1:00AM
Wednesday: 6:00AM, 6:00PM, 8:00PM
Thursday: 8:00AM, 10:00PM*** Friday: 10:00PM
Saturday: 11:00AM, 12:00PM***, 2:00PM, 4:00PM, 7:00PM

Register: Scan the QR code or contact Debbie Engel at 913-485-8918 or deborasuzanne@gmail.com.



HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS

Are you homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist?

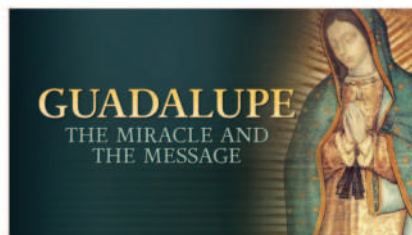
Contact: Patty at (913) 681-3348

formedTM
Forming Catholics for Life.



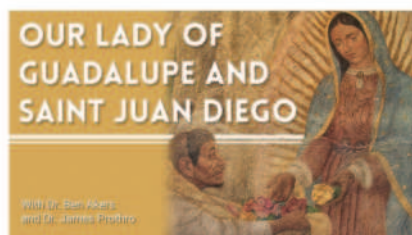
What Is the Immaculate Conception?

Join Drs Tim Gray and John Sehorn as they examine Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception. This dogma of the Catholic faith, promulgated in 1854 by Pope Pius IX, speaks of Mary's conception and what it means to the Church.



Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message

Enjoy this film narrated by Jim Caviezel that walks us through our Mother's miraculous appearance to Juan Diego, an encounter that has influenced the conversion of millions of people.



Our Lady of Guadalupe and Saint Juan Diego | Catholic Saints

Dr. Ben Akers sits down with Dr. James Prothro to discuss Mary's apparition to Saint Juan Diego on Tepeyac hill under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

DECEMBER

HEARTACHE TO HEALING • DECEMBER 16

6:30PM, *St. John Rm.*

Heartache to Healing - is a social support group for those widowed early in life. Come join us on Tuesday, December 16 at 6:30PM in the St John's room at the Church of the Ascension. We plan to enjoy some holiday cheer and play some holiday poker! (Is that a thing?) Please bring your favorite Christmas treat and/or beverage. We'll pray, play, eat, and be merry. Your emailed RSVP is appreciated, but not necessary, to Laura at khaeus1@hotmail.com, or Damon at damon452@yahoo.com. Living without your spouse is hard. Come share some laughs and fun with us! We can't wait to meet you!



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE • DECEMBER 16

7:00PM, *Church*

Our annual Advent Penance Service will be on Tuesday, December 16 at 7:00PM in the church. A number of priests will be here to hear confessions. Please take advantage and receive the sacrament of Reconciliation!

CAREGIVER SUPPORT • DECEMBER 17

6:30PM, *St. Luke Rm.*

If you are caring for a loved one in need, we invite you to join us the 3rd Wednesday of each month for an evening of community connection with others walking the same beautiful and often challenging path. Bring your questions, stories, concerns, and leave with coping skills and spiritual support for the road ahead.

Sponsored by Catholic Community Health.

Questions? Call Michelle at 913-484-2222

FORGIVENESS CORNER • DECEMBER 17

7:00PM, *Online*

TRYING TO FORGIVE A FAMILY MEMBER FOR CHRISTMAS? Join us for our final Wednesday in Advent at 7:00PM for one hour Zoom. Simply send your email to yeabut40@gmail.com to sign up for a Zoom on forgiveness. We will be watching the newly released film called "WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD?" Each session will be watching the film for 20 minutes and then optional Q and A for 30 minutes. Hosted by the Forgiveness Institute, KC Inc. with weekly surprised guests joining us.

Register: Email Yeabut40@gmail.com



COVERED IN PRAYER • DECEMBER 18

6:00PM, *St. Luke Rm.*

Covered in Prayer is the "blanket making" ministry of Church of the Ascension. We gather on the 4th Thursday of the month at 6:00PM to make blanket kits, separate fabric, talk and generally enjoy each other's company! You can come and pick up material and take it home, or you can stay and learn how to make blankets. We send over 300 blankets each year to parishioners and friends who are ill or hurting, so your help is needed. No need to be an expert seamstress. We gratefully accept donations of cotton, fleece and flannel materials and yarns.

Contact: Joanie James joaniecjames@gmail.com or Sally Virgo virgofam@hotmail.com



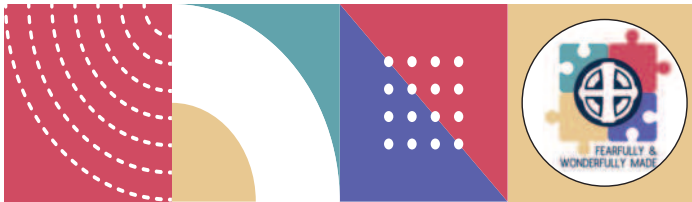
ICARE MINISTRIES, INC. • DECEMBER 20

6:00PM, *Off-Site* **COMMUNITY EVENT**

Join us for a special adapted Catholic Mass designed for individuals with special needs and their families on December

20 at 6:00PM at Queen of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church. There will be a living nativity and family social.

Learn More: iCare-Ministries.org



FEARFULLY & WONDERFULLY MADE • DECEMBER 21

6:30PM, Parish Hall

Join us in the parish hall for our annual advent social! It's a wonderful time of year to catch up with family and take a break. But the lack of routine and busy gatherings can be extra hard on our family members with special needs. Come for a quick respite and spend time with other parents who get it. Childcare provided in the church nursery during the meeting, for walking children age 1 and older.

Questions: Jim Hamilton at marx.mk@gmail.com



CHRISTMAS MASSES • DECEMBER 24 & 25

Various Times, Church & Parish Hall **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

All are welcome and invited to attend Mass and celebrate Christmas. Christmas is a Holy Day of Obligation; attend Mass either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. See page 6 for Mass times.

HOPE FAITH BREAKFAST FOR THE HOMELESS • DECEMBER 27

7:30AM, Off-Site



Ascension's date for cooking and serving breakfast at Hope Faith Ministries is the last Saturday of the month. If interested in helping, please go to Ascension website at

KCAscension.org homepage and click Volunteer Signups to serve or bring food. Our next breakfast is scheduled on Saturday, December 27.

Questions? Contact Ed Herman at eherman44@aol.com



SHALOM HOUSE • DECEMBER 30

Drop off before 3:00PM, St. John Hallway

Shalom House is the only homeless shelter for men in Kansas City, Kansas. We prepare and deliver dinner, and bake desserts for our homeless brothers at Shalom House on the last Tuesday of each month. Our next date is Tuesday, December 30. If you feel called to serve, please visit our signup by scanning the QR code. Detailed information is available on the signup.

Questions? Call Frank LoGiudice at 913-963-6645.

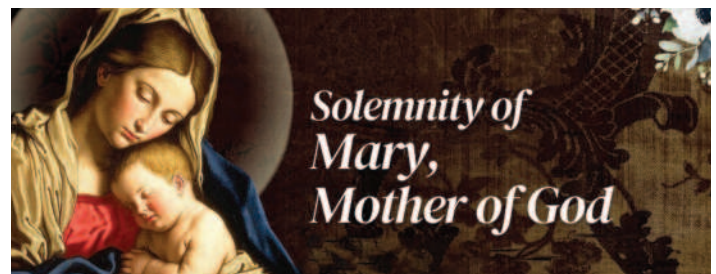
PROJECT CHRYSALIS • DECEMBER 30

6:00PM, St. Luke Rm. (Lower Level)



Project Chrysalis is a ministry for parents or grandparents who have suffered the loss of a child. Our mission is to offer support and hope through scripture and fellowship. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, December 30 at 6:00PM in the St. Luke Room.

Questions? Contact Patty in the parish office at pbillinger@kcascension.org.



VIGIL MASS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD • DECEMBER 31 & JANUARY 1

Various Times, Church **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

You may have received our postcard with Holy Day of Obligation and Christmas Mass times. We have since added a vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Please join us for the Holy Day on December 31 at 4:00PM or January 1 at 9:00AM or 12:00PM.

JANUARY

WOA FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION • JANUARY 3

8:00AM, Church

Join Women of Ascension on the first Saturday of each month. 8:00AM: Rosary in the Church (gather by the Mary statue in the left transept). 8:30AM: Morning Mass 9:00AM: Prayer & Fellowship in the St. Luke's Room immediately following Mass. For more information about the First Saturday Devotion visit: fatima.org/first-saturday-devotion/.

Questions: Sharon Dreyer at sdreyer1976@gmail.com

COFFEE & DONUTS • JANUARY 4

After 8:15AM and 10:00AM Masses, Parish Hall

Join your fellow parishioners for a warm and welcoming time over coffee and donuts! It's a perfect chance to catch up, make new friends, and enjoy some sweet treats together after Mass. Everyone's welcome—come share the fellowship!

INTRODUCTION TO THE DEVOUT LIFE • JANUARY 8

5:30PM, St. Mark Rm.



Another in the Great Books Series: Introduction to the Devout Life by St. Francis de Sales remains both historically important and timeless. In the 17th century, Francis de Sales guided people of every station toward a deeper relationship with God, teaching that all are called to holiness—living “in the world” but not “of it.” Whether you're new to the faith, long-time Catholic, feeling lukewarm, or in a spiritual “dry spell,” this classic offers practical help for pursuing holiness in daily life. Facilitator: Joyce Grashoff Cost: Free (book purchased separately)

Register: Scan the QR code or call the Parish Office at (913) 681-3348 ext. 142

FOOD DRIVE • JANUARY 10

After All Weekend Masses, Parking Lot

As the weather turns colder, let's help warm hearts and fill plates in our community. Please donate the items listed below on January 10 from 10:00AM–2:00PM and before or after all Sunday Masses. Most-needed items: rice, pasta, peanut butter, pasta sauce, and oatmeal. Prefer to give

money? The Knights will collect cash and checks after all Sunday Masses that weekend. Can't make it on the 10? Drop donations anytime in the food bin in the St. John hallway.

Questions: David Whitaker 913-626-2676 or

Johnette Martin 913-481-8663

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE STUDY: EXODUS • JANUARY 11

9:30AM, St. Mark Rm.



In January 2026 we will begin the study of the Book of Exodus, the account of how the enslaved people of Israel became the free covenant nation of Yahweh. We will explore not only the historical events (how God freed His chosen people from their bondage in Egypt and cared for them on their 40 year journey to the Promised Land) but also the spiritual and typological meaning of Exodus which the Church Fathers have always taught were a foreshadowing of our Christian faith and life. Cost: \$0. Facilitator: Joyce Grashoff References: We will be using the Ignatius Catholic Study Bible, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Register: Scan the QR Code or call the Parish Office at (913) 681-3348 ext. 142

CATHOLIC SURVIVING DIVORCE GROUP • JANUARY 7–MARCH 25

7:00PM, Conf. Rm.

Find hope, healing, and community in this 12-week, faith-based support group designed for Catholics navigating the challenges of divorce. Each session offers practical guidance, emotional support, and spiritual encouragement. The group is facilitated by Mary Vorsten, a licensed counselor with extensive experience walking with individuals through life transitions. Cost: \$30 for the workbook and all 12 group meetings.

Register: Mary Vorsten at mytherapistmaryv@gmail.com or 913-909-2002.

TRIVIA NIGHT • JANUARY 10

7:00PM, Parish Hall



Come join us for Trivia Night on January 10! Doors open at 6:30PM. Open to all adults, men and women. Prizes for: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place; 1st and 2nd Place Best Theme/Decorations and a Music Bingo Winner! Cost: \$25 per person or \$200 per team (8 people).

Register: Scan QR code

Second Advent Candle/Sunday: Peace

"May we be in this world a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and peace to the hearts of all men and women."

– Pope Francis

The second candle on the Advent wreath represents Peace. Like the first candle, it is also purple. Often called the "Bethlehem Candle," the second Advent candle reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before Mary gave birth to Jesus.

Building on the meaning of the Prophecy Candle, this second candle recalls that after all of the division, destruction, and dispersion of the kingdom in the Old Testament, there might finally be peace on Earth – Jesus is coming, and so is his Kingdom of Peace. As we read in the quote from Pope Francis, this light of peace shone forth from Bethlehem for all the world. This Advent, light the second candle on Sunday, December 7.

Source: Hallow.com



IMPORTANT VIRTUS NOTICE

The Diocese has updated its background check policy: all parish employees and volunteers must now renew every 5 years. ACS teachers will still renew every 3 years. You'll receive an email when it's time—please complete it promptly to continue your ministry.

Call Tricia Baldwin with questions at 913-681-7683 or tbaldwin@acseagles.org.



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DINNER FOR THOSE IN OCIA

Would you like to support the adults in this year's OCIA? We have 33 adults who come every Monday evening to learn about our Catholic faith and discern if this is where God is calling them.

They come straight from work, kids, activities, caring for aging parents etc. and you can support them! Each Monday night we feed a simple supper to the Inquirers and their sponsors which is 70 people total. We are looking for individuals or groups who can join together (friends, CRHP groups, ministry pals...) to provide a meal once this year.

Dinners should be dropped off at 5:00PM in the Matthew/Mark Room. Options include signing up for the whole meal or a portion of it.

Scan the QR code to sign up.

Questions? Contact Chris Slack at (913) 461-8319



ARE YOUR AFF LIBRARY BOOKS DUE?

Yes! Over 270 books are currently checked out from the Adult Faith Library. Please return any borrowed books to the basket on the bottom shelf of the library. We're still accepting Catholic book donations—place them in the same basket.

Questions? Contact Kim Sutton at kdsutton90@gmail.com or 913-558-5874.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS COLLECTION: HELP OUR ELDERS

In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Use your envelopes to donate or write Retirement Fund For Religious in the memo section of your check. You can also donate on-line through your Realm profile by choosing the Religious Retirement Fund. Thank you for your generosity.



LEGION OF MARY QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Have you been looking for ways to get involved at the parish?

Legion of Mary's doors are always open to new members!

There are two different times that we meet: Thursdays at 4:30PM and Saturdays at 6:30AM.

You can come to whichever time suits your schedule. We meet for an hour, starting off with a rosary then giving reports on activities that we take part in.

We strive to do the following evangelization: attend extra hours of adoration, lead the rosary for groups, visit those in nursing homes, take Communion to Stratford Place and the homebound, give medals to eighth grade graduates and give gift bags to newly baptized parishioners.

Contact Joe Walrod (913-205-5655 Thursday) or Dick Kane (913-484-7402 Saturday) to join or just show up on a Thursday or Saturday!



ASCENSION KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



FOOTBALL SEASON 2025 RAFFLE RESULTS:

Congratulations to the two Ascension winners for Week 12 (11/15/25). Checks will be mailed to the winners. Paul Surles - \$100, Terry Frederick - \$100.

FAMILY OF THE MONTH AND KNIGHT OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Mark and Jane DeThorne, our Family of the Month, and Ron Pound, our Knight of the Month, for November.

JOIN THE KNIGHTS

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Men's organization open to all Catholic men ages 18 and over. Interested in joining the Knights? Contact Jordan Steel at railroad@aol.com.

PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES

Join other Knights on Saturday mornings to Peacefully Pray for Life, 9:30AM–10:00AM, in front of Planned Parenthood. Park in the west parking lot of Ottawa University, 4370 W 109th St, Overland Park, KS and join the group led by prayer vigil leader, Mike Bartkoski.

KNIGHTS CHOIR

Contact Patrick Kershaw at captpat@wwdb.org if you are interested in joining.

PRAYERS

Join us in prayer for our seminarians from Ascension – Alex Rickert, Jack Oxley, Zane Roberts and ALL others including Trey Niesen and Matthias Saiki. Also, please pray for Seminarian Ronald Aries from the Philippines whom the Ascension Council has sponsored through Unbound.org. Holy Hours dedicated to Vocations occur every Friday at 1:00PM and Saturday at 11:00AM in the Adoration Chapel.

ALTAR SERVERS

Thank an Altar Server and their families whenever you can for their commitment and devotion!

JOIN US FOR MASS AND MEETINGS

- Council Meeting: Monday, December 15, 7:00PM, *Parish Hall B*, preceded by the Knights' Holy Hour for Vocations and Rosary at 6:00PM.
- Officers' Meeting: Monday, January 4, 6:15PM, *Knights Room*
- Knights' Mass Fridays at 7:00AM, breakfast after at Hy-Vee

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2026 Dues can be paid on our website or at the December Council meeting.
- **DECEMBER 13-14:** Food Collection for Catholic Charities
- **DECEMBER 14:** Christmas Social, *Cinzetti's*

FOURTH DEGREE ASSEMBLY ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **DECEMBER 4:** 4th Degree Officers Mtg., 7:00PM, *Annex*
- **DECEMBER 9:** 4th Degree Assem. Mtg., 6:30PM, *Parish Hall B*
- Fourth Degree Knights interested in joining the Fourth Degree Honor Guard please contact: Pat Healy at 913-244-6544.



Join today:



DID YOU KNOW?



The Knights of Columbus actively promote the message "Keep Christ in Christmas" during the holiday season, emphasizing the religious significance of Christmas over commercialism. Our most visible activity is the nativity scene that the Council places near 127th and Grant annually, reminding our parish and the community that Jesus is the reason we celebrate Christmas.



Special Needs Youth Faith Formation

Currently inviting families with a special needs, disabled or learning challenged child age K-12th grade to sign up for the 2025-2026 Youth Faith Formation program. Our specially trained leaders will provide faith formation and sacramental preparation in small group and individual sacramental preparation sessions that help your child grow in their faith through an adapted approach tailored for their needs.

Call the YFF office at 913-681-7683.

NURSERY WORKER NEEDED

Do you enjoy working with children?

We have an opening to work in the nursery every other Sunday from 8:00AM–11:00AM.

Text Carol Rephlo at 913-909-1988 if interested in helping.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

If you are carrying a heavy cross or going through a difficult season, please do not shoulder the burden alone. Our Parish Prayer Warriors are ready to intercede on your behalf.

If you are in need of prayer, call our prayer partner intention hotline.

Voicemail Number: 1-888-684-6555

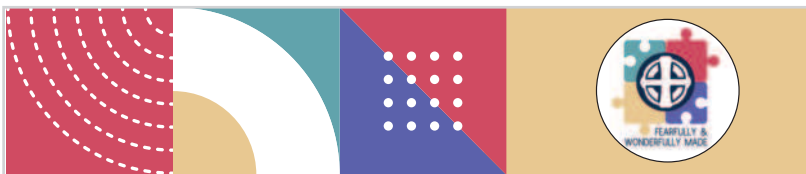


PARISH MISSIONARY TO YOUTH

Church of the Ascension in Overland Park, KS seeks a dynamic, mission-driven leader to launch and grow a new Catholic high school youth program. This role will shape the program's vision, culture, and development.

The ideal candidate is outgoing, a strong networker, and able to build trust with teens, parents, staff, and volunteers. Key duties include engaging both church and unchurched youth, building and training a core adult/teen leadership team, organizing interest-based outreach, and coordinating retreats, mission trips, service projects, and potential diocesan events. One-on-one mentoring is central to fostering authentic discipleship.

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to Dr. William O'Leary at woleary@kcascension.org



Calling all energetic Adult Parishioners 21+, Adult Parishioners with Special Needs and Caregivers!

Did you know that Ascension has a ministry just for you?
We meet monthly, so don't miss out!

If you are interested in growing your Catholic faith alongside some awesome young adult parishioners, then reach out to Joe Passantino (Young Adult Minister) or Lorrie Newman (Special Needs Adult Ministry).

December 20: iCare Ministries Living Nativity Mass & Social

Contact Lorrie Newman lanewman322@gmail.com or Joe Passantino jpassantino@kcascension.org for more information or join us at one of our upcoming events!

INTERCESSORY PRAYER TEAM

Would you be willing to commit to Praying for Our Parish this year?

Find Out More!



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Parents who have children preparing for **First Communion and Confirmation** need be in our first year preparation program (1st Grade and 7th Grade before being ready to receive the sacraments in 2nd and 8th grade).

Please call our office with any questions you may have (913) 681-7683.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to pray the rosary with seniors in nursing homes in teams of two, one hour per week in a group setting.

We especially have a need in Overland Park on Thursdays at 10:00AM.

Training provided.



The Rosary Team has over 600 volunteers, yet many seniors are still waiting for a Rosary Team!

Visit TheRosaryTeam.org to sign up and to watch The Rosary Team in action filmed by EWTN.

RESPECT FOR LIFE CORNER: THE AFTERMATH

Michelle took her roommate to get an abortion. After getting the roommate home and settled, Michelle drove to visit family in New York. During the four-hour drive, she began to realize the friend's abortion was troubling her. She had always accepted the popular convention that "It's a personal decision.." but now she was haunted by that event and it rendered her numb. Sunday she went to church with her mom. During the service a baby began to cry and Michelle was overcome with a torrent of tears. She questioned why she should feel such sorrow for another's abortion? Suddenly, she felt like the wind had been knocked out of her as she realized for the first time that abortion was death. "On that fateful day "the problem" had not been taken care of; a life had been snuffed out!" (Source: "After Taking Friend for Abortion...; LifeNews.com, Sarah Trezo, 11/7/25)

PRO-LIFE RESOURCES

Struggling with Infertility?

Seek support from Springs in the Desert

<https://springsinthedesert.org>



For Miscarriage Support:

<https://archkck.org/prolife/support/pro-life-miscarriage/>



Discerning Fostering or Adoption

<http://springsoflove.org>





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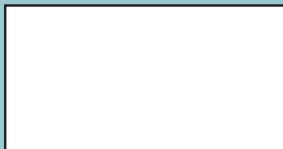
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