



**CHURCH
OF THE
ASCENSION**

Advent & Christmas 2020

Dear people of Ascension,

Although we are unable to gather in person here at Ascension now, the greening of the church took place in time for the First Sunday of Advent. Our Advent wreath, lovely as ever, is lit for masses. A meaningful and lovely show of poinsettias in the sanctuary is planned for Christmas worship.

This annual letter normally includes my appeal for your contributions toward our holiday greens and floral expenses. Even if more modest, we have had and will have related expenses. I welcome your gifts toward them by way of a check to the church or through the donation portal at www.ascensionchicago.org. Remember, please, in either form, to provide a corresponding explanation of your gifts.

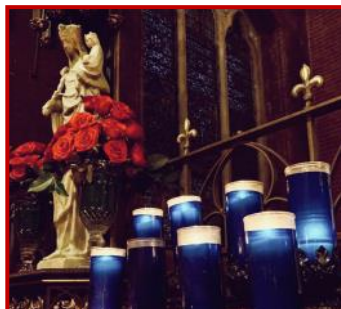
With regard to your financial support of the church: your 2021 pledge response will be greatly appreciated if you've not yet made that commitment. Our Treasurer, Wardens and Vestry will be particularly grateful to hear from you soon so that we may finalize the budget for the coming year.

This annual request for your seasonal giving normally includes an invitation for you to share memorials or thanksgivings to be included in our Christmas worship bulletins. With or without a financial gift, the enclosed card may be used to indicate who or what you wish to have remembered in our online Christmas bulletins. (Or you may send an email with 'Christmas bulletins' in the subject line to office@ascensionchicago.org.) ***Please respond by the end of the work day Tuesday, December 22.***

Even with present restrictions, we were blessed to share a lovely and meaningful Service of Lessons and Carols on December 6. The schedule to the right describes upcoming opportunities amidst ongoing limitations. All of us directly taking part will continue to do our best to glorify God in worship and to share all that we are able to the best of our abilities.

Thank you and bless you for your ongoing presence (virtual for now), and for your prayers, and for persevering as we navigate these unusual times.


Father Patrick Raymond, Rector



Masses,
Daily Offices &
Fellowship
remain online/
virtual only, until
further notice.



Thank you for keeping up-to-date with changes that may arise and that will be shared through our parish newsletter and website.

Christmas Masses & Music

Christmas Eve, December 24

3:30 p.m. Musical offering, including carols, vocal solos and organ.

4:00 p.m. Mass with carols, organ, and choir motet.

5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. The Sacrament will be exposed and, with the crèche, will be available for devotional viewing via Facebook Live and/or YouTube (pending technology arrangements).

10:00 p.m. Compline (Rector)

Christmas Day, December 25

9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. Mass with carols, organ, choir motet, schola

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Sunday, December 27, Christmas I
Sunday, January 3, Christmas II

9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. Mass with carol(s), organ, and choir motet.

11:05 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour

Wednesday, December 30

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

6:30 p.m. Praying in the Wilderness:
A Mass for Healing.

Biddings, Scriptures, poetry and prayers in the Liturgy of the Word for this mass are selected to acknowledge and edify the grieving, the discouraged and those for whom, for whatever reason, the 'holiday season' may be difficult.

Plans for Holy Name Day, January 1, and the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, will be shared in the newsletter and on our website when available.