



CHURCH  
OF THE  
ASCENSION



Sunday,  
February 28,  
11:30 a.m.

*Perspectives on Death and Dying.* Seminarian Bonnie Scott will share some insights and questions that have arisen for her in the context of a current seminary course, and will also invite reflections on our own faith, expectations and questions about death and dying. Time permitting, we will also explore changing practices and norms, in part due to technology, mobility, increasingly sophisticated medical care, and the pandemic.

Sunday,  
March 7,  
11:30 a.m.

*Paths to Ordination,* Father George Arceneaux, Deacon Meghan Murphy-Gill, Father Patrick Raymond: The three presenters will each briefly share a few impressions of their own paths to ordination. Then we will briefly examine the theology of ordination as it arises from the Prayer Book ordination rites and introduce the actual ordination process in the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. Questions and other responses will be welcomed.

Wednesday,  
March 10,  
7:15 p.m.

*Neighbors!* Father Sam Portaro, Father Patrick Raymond: Father Portaro will invite us into more thoughtful and faithful consideration of and questions about our neighbors – knowledge, assumptions, needs, questions – and our responses to and relationships with them. Long known for his campus ministry, writings and community involvement, Fr. Portaro now lives only a few blocks from Ascension and serves as an assisting priest at St. Chrysostom's Church, on North Dearborn Parkway. He is eager to explore the potential for shared neighborhood ministries and relationships.

Sunday,  
March 14,  
11:30 a.m.

*Transforming Bread and Wine,* Deacon Meghan Murphy-Gill: To make bread and wine, a transformation must take place. Fermentation changes flour, yeast, and water into bread and yeast and grape juice into wine. It takes time, persistence, and faith. Examining and reflecting on what happens for bread and wine to become bread and wine may lead us deeper into the mysteries of ways that we are transformed at Christ's eucharistic table.

Wednesday,  
March 17,  
Noon

*How do YOU create? And why?* Beth Hall and Father Patrick Raymond: Few of us think of ourselves as an 'artist,' but many if not all of us are, in fact, creative. Father Raymond will introduce a starter theology of creativity. Beth Hall will share her own story of growing interest and skills in crochet and other handwork. We will briefly reflect on ways that creativity can enrich both contemplative life and experiences of community – and all will be welcome to share related experiences or questions.

Sunday,  
March 21,  
11:30 a.m.

*Atonement,* Noah Riegenbach: Atonement is not a word we regularly use, though it lies at the heart of our Christian faith, addressing what we believe about our reconciliation to God through Christ's sacrificial suffering and death. No surprise—there are differing theologies of Atonement. Noah Riegenbach will introduce the subject generally and then do a deeper dive into the Atonement theology of St. Gregory of Nyssa, a 4th century bishop.

*Note: Some details subject to change!  
Please remain current with the weekly newsletter and  
Sunday mass announcements.*