



**CHURCH
OF THE
ASCENSION**

November 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Ascension,

We are soon to enter the season of Advent and the beginning of another liturgical year in the life of the church. In just a few days we will celebrate the feast of Christ the King, the last Sunday after Pentecost. Many of us cherish the glorious events of our recent All Saints' Day with baptisms and confirmations, processions and joyful music.

November is the month that almost always brings forth thoughts of blessings. And this year those traditional blessings seem particularly poignant as we contemplate a season when the ravages of COVID are, for many, still disruptive but manageable as we pursue careful in-person gatherings and more regular fellowship.

Please join us in responding to our blessings with gratitude and by participating in the sacrament of giving. Join us and others at Ascension in giving of our earthly resources to support our faith and to pledge ourselves to Christ's church, the beloved community of God's people here on earth — and here in Chicago at the corner of LaSalle and Elm.

Our pantry@Ascension outreach ministry has faithfully persevered throughout the pandemic in serving our neighbors. A full-time curate is serving at Ascension for the first time in decades. And our new investment in technology allows us to live-stream our Sunday and weekday masses via YouTube and Facebook, bringing our Anglo-Catholic worship and the light and love of Christ to a wider audience through the internet. Your faithful support has made these and our other ministries possible.

Enclosed is a pledge card for 2022. Please consider a commitment that will help Ascension expand its presence within our neighborhood, within our diocese, within our city, and throughout our world. Sacramental giving nourishes an inward and spiritual grace that emerges in a sense of belonging, participating, and being engaged in the mission of the church.

First time pledgers are especially welcomed to participate in giving for 2022! Your commitment does not need to be large to be meaningful. Longtime members, friends, and pledgers are asked to consider a modest increase in their giving. All pledges are a wonderful gift and a testament to the abiding strength of our love and generosity. We welcome your questions.

Thank you for sharing yourself and your monetary resources for the love of Christ Jesus and The Church of the Ascension.

Cheryl Peterson
Senior Warden and Stewardship Chair

Kenneth Kelling
Junior Warden

Thanksgiving Day Masses

Wednesday, Nov. 24, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 25, 10:00 a.m.

The 1st Sunday of Advent, Nov. 28

Likely new Sunday mass schedule 9 & 11

Guest preacher Joshua Heath

The Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 5

Advent Lessons & Carols, 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24

Organ, Choral Music, Hymns, 10:30 p.m.

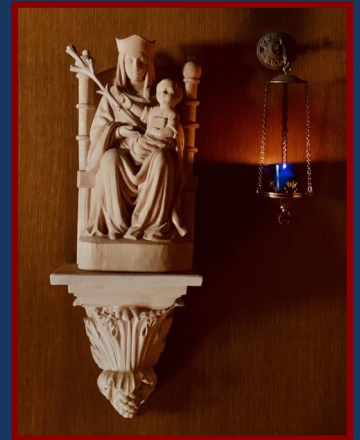
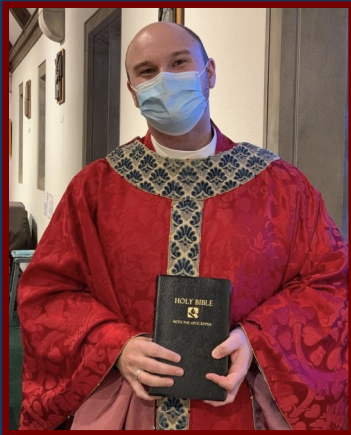
'Midnight' Mass, 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day, Dec. 25

Sung Mass & Choir, 10 a.m.



PS To be good stewards of our postage budget, we are also enclosing a donation card for Advent greening and Christmas poinsettias. Bless you for taking part.





“O give thanks
unto the LORD;
for he is good:
for his mercy
endureth
for ever.”

Psalm 136:1



"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."
1 Peter 4:10

HEAVENLY FATHER, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you but remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Book of Common Prayer, p. 100



In gratitude for God's gifts, I/we pledge the following support for the 2022 Church of the Ascension operating budget.

Name(s): _____

☐ per week

☐ per month

Do you want

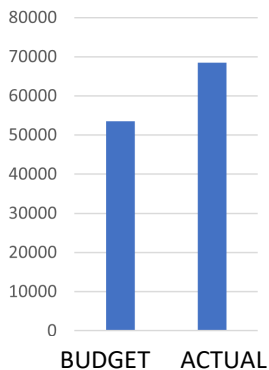
pledge envelopes? ☐ yes

☐ no

In addition to regular financial giving to the church by way of an annual pledge, Ascension regularly faces needs and opportunities for which special gifts are appropriate. Please speak with the Rector or Wardens if interested.

Thank you and bless you. Please let us know if and how we should update your contact information.

Plate & Pledge
through
September 2021

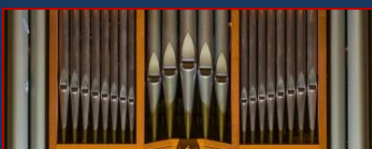


The Vestry aims to complete and approve a 2022 operating budget in December. The following points pertain to the current year's budget and may help you appreciate the value of your financial support.

- Box of 1000 wheat Communion wafers—\$15.99
- One professional singer for a Mass—\$90.00
- Annual financial audit—\$14,500
- Pantry annual budget—\$42,500
- Diocese of Chicago pledge/support—\$61,000
- All personnel salaries, stipends, benefits—\$450,000

Some 2022 Considerations

- The Vestry has provided funding for the full-time Curate position through August 2022.
- Inflationary pressure on the cost of food will impact pantry@ascension.
- Increased expenses for sustaining and improving our new technology.



Advent Greens & Christmas Flowers

A gift for the greens and flowers that adorn the Church at Advent and Christmastide is given by

(PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME)

Please indicate your special intentions below.

Information received in the parish office by Tuesday, December 21, will be included in Christmas bulletins.



Thank you for remaining connected to Ascension and for your support.

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth
in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray,
faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities
and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Collect for the Thanksgiving Day, BCP p. 246



Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come
among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins,
let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver
us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and
the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent, BCP p. 212



Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven
and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen
the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent.
Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring
us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Collect for the Parish, BCP p. 817