

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred contact info: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Church of the Ascension Spiritual Formation and Education 2021-2022**

*Please use the following to share your interests, ideas and/or questions. Thank you!*

**Newcomers Class**

A four- to six-week series meant to help newcomers (but open to anyone) get to know the Church of the Ascension. Participants would be introduced to one another and to different parish leaders in liturgy and music, clergy, outreach, vestry, etc. Likely on Sundays after mass.

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**Lenten Program**

Three to five opportunities for fellowship and spiritual growth during Lent (starting with Ash Weds., March 2, 2022.. What topics interest you and would be spiritually edifying? Is there a book of Scripture you'd like to study?

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**Adult Catechesis (Sometimes called an “Inquirers’ Class”)**

This class would function as preparation for confirmation in the Episcopal Church, but would be open to anyone seeking to learn more about what Episcopalians/Anglicans believe and how we worship, lead, serve and evangelize. The class would include a look at Anglo Catholicism in our church’s overall tradition.

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**Anglo Catholicism 101**

A one or multi-session class on an intro to Anglo Catholicism separate from the Adult Catechesis course.

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**Poetry, Artwork & Creativity, focusing on religious/spiritual experiences and motives.**

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### **Authors/Speakers**

Are there any authors or speakers you would be interested in hearing from in the coming year? Do any of the following appeal to you?

- Carol Howard Merritt, author of *Healing Spiritual Wounds*
- Heidi Haverkamp, author of *Holy Solitude*
- Ed Foley, author of *From Age to Age* and professor emeritus of liturgy at Catholic Theological Union
- Brian Cones, author of liturgical text *This Assembly of Believers*
- Gina Franco, poet
- Parishioner Edward Minieka on religious art or on the interplay of religious art and culture
- Meghan Murphy-Gill on writing and faith

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#### **Panel discussion or “our neighborhood stories**

A joint conversation with our neighbors at (for instance) Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, LaSalle Street Church, First St. Paul's, St. Chrysostom's, Fourth Presbyterian, and/or Chicago Sinai (any others?) on our collective religious presence and how we can understand and respond to our neighbors and their needs.

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#### **Convocation on the state of Anglo Catholicism**

One or multi-day gathering hosted by Church of the Ascension with panel discussions and speakers on Anglo Catholicism in 2021-2022. Topics could include religious life, women's perspectives, and the shape of the liturgy. Ideas for speakers and panelists include Br. Ron Fox, BSG, Fr. Bob Petite, Fr. Robert Cristobal (Society of Catholic Priests), and Mtr. Erika Takacs (Church of the Atonement). Who else would you like to hear from? What topics?

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### **College for Congregational Development**

A two-year program for clergy and lay teams to better understand the dynamics of congregations, leadership, change, communications and more. This year's in-person weekend trainings are: 9/10-11; 11/12-13; 2/4-5; 4/29-30

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Additional thoughts/questions:

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