

Guilds and Committees of The Church of the Ascension

Acolytes Guild Candace Lombardi & Tom Rice, Co-Chairs
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The word acolyte means “assistant or helper”, in the liturgical world it means “someone who assists the celebrant in a religious service.” That’s what we do in the Acolyte Guild, assist our clergy at the Altar during our various services. It’s extremely satisfying to be up at the Altar: helping with the setting of the Table, directing worshippers to the Altar Rail, assisting congregants down the side stairs and offering the communion cup to communicants - it’s also a great privilege. Come, join a very dedicated group of people and discover what they already know: the joy of participating in the profound mysteries of the Eucharist. Children ages 7 to adult are welcome to be acolytes.

Altar Guild John Grimes, Chair
john.m.grimes@jpmchase.com

The dedication of the members of the Altar Guild is central to the Eucharistic life of Ascension. We set up the altar before and clean up after every worship service during the year. Much of this work is done behind the scenes, and there is a definite spiritual component to the work. Members generally serve once or twice a month, and training is provided. We also welcome those who can serve on weekdays. Potential ironers welcome, but by no means is ironing required!

Ascension Outreach

Father Edwin Chinery

fatherchinery@ascensionnyc.org

Ascension Outreach is a separate 501c3 founded by members of the parish. Through it, hunger relief (pantry) and educational programs are offered to the community. All of these programs are experiencing some exciting new developments and YOUR PARTICIPATION would be enthusiastically welcomed! In addition to the hands-on work of actual service delivery, Ascension Outreach is actively recruiting Board Members for the work of planning and development. If you feel called to serve your community in these ways, please contact Fr. Ed Chinery

Docents

Daniel Cole

danielcoledesign@cs.com

The Docents of Ascension not only get to learn all about our beautiful buildings, structures, windows, art work – and let's not forget the organ – but we get to share that information with others.

Food Pantry

Amy Shaw

amyqshaw@gmail.com

Ascension Outreach is in need of volunteers for our pantry program.

We distribute food to those in need on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays each month from 8am to 9:30am. The day before, we can also use some help setting up the Parish Hall – 4pm to 5pm. Contact the parish office to let us know you'd like to join us! Thank you!

Garden & Flowers

Gale Lynch

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Come dig in the dirt! We need your help to care for our lovely church gardens and provide beautiful flowers for our worship services.

Hospitality Committee

Matt Vermedahl, Chair

mtverm@gmail.com

Are you a new member of Ascension or already a member just looking for an easy, friendly way to get more involved and meet more parishioners at Ascension? If this sounds like you then sign up for the Hospitality Guild! We host the weekly coffee hours and partner with Activities Committee for special Feast Days such as

Easter, Ascension Sunday, as well as a fun and festive Christmas Party. To join this group please speak to Matt Vermedahl.

Needlecraft Guild

Joan Castagnone

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The Ascension Needle Crafters began meeting a little over four years ago. We have about twelve regular attendees. Everyone is welcome regardless of skill level; we have very experienced crafters who are happy to teach and nurture novices. Through the painful and often lonely pandemic days, we have continued to meet, trading gathering around the table in our cozy rear parlor for meeting in our cozy homes via Zoom.

Our knit and crochet projects include lap robes for chemo patients, scarves and caps for the Christmas at Sea program, and hats and scarves for children at Ps015, also known as the Roberto Clemente school in Alphabet City.

The knitted and crochet things blessed today are our first donation since the pandemic began.

Over the years we have been in existence we have continued to build community, to learn from each other, and to enjoy the satisfaction of providing something tangible and useful for people to enjoy.

We have knitting needles, crochet hooks, and yarn to help you get started.

Open Church Volunteers

Gretchen Dumler, Coordinator

egondumler@aol.com

Ascension has a long and rich history of being open and welcoming to all who come to us. The Open Church Volunteers keep our doors open and provide a welcome respite on weekdays between noon and 3:00 and Sundays between the services.

Racial Justice Discussion Group

The Clergy

egmaxwell@ascensionnyc.org

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fatherchinery@ascensionnyc.org

Since the summer of 2020, we have been meeting to grapple with the racism in our hearts, our church, and our country, and to learn

better how to work for racial justice and Beloved Community. We meet on the third Thursday of the month, and primarily we read books and explore art focused on these themes. Our discussions are lively, thoughtful and vulnerable. All are welcome.

20's & 30's Group

Mother Liz

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All parishioners in their 20's and 30's are invited to gather about once a month for a meal and conversation about life, faith and the world around us. Other activities (service, study, etc.) are possible but what we have enjoy most is eating, talking and building community. After a pandemic hiatus, we will be coming back together this fall. Please join us and bring your friends- all are welcome!

Ushers Guild

Steven Hubbard. Chair

shubbard@nyu.edu

The Most Awesomest Guild Ever: The Ushers' Guild! The Ushers' Guild serves at the 11AM Sunday Eucharist, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Easter, and Christmas Eve service. Guild members greet and seat worshippers and help with any special needs. They collect and bring forward the offering and open pew doors at the time of communion. Since we are a very socialable group, this is a great ministry for new members. Children over 7 are welcome.

Women's Spirituality Group

Shana Kaplanov

shana.weber@gmail.com

The Women's Spirituality Group is open to all who identify as women, of all ages and stages of life are invited to participate in this monthly roundtable of topics spiritual and worldly. We meet via Zoom the 2nd Thursday of the month.