

Church of the Ascension

December 8, 2019



WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil 5:30pm
Sundays 8:45am
10:30am & 12:15pm

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday, Wednesday,
Thursday & Friday 9:15am
Tuesday 7:00pm

SACRAMENTS
RECONCILIATION
Saturdays at 4:00pm

BAPTISM
Parent and Godparent
preparation is required.
Contact the
Faith Formation Office:
495-1886, 411

MARRIAGE
Engaged couples are asked to
contact the Parish Office
at least six months prior to
selecting a wedding date

SECOND SUNDAY *of Advent*



PASTOR
Fr. Daniel Malingumu

DEACONS
Rev. Mr. Gary Harmeyer
Rev. Mr. Jim Ahearn
Rev. Mr. Tom McFeely
Rev. Dr. Mike Moro

CONTACT US
4853 Princess Anne Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23462-4446
Phone: 757-495-1886
Fax: 757-495-1516
www.ascensionvb.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Thursday
9:30am - 4:00pm
Friday: 9:30am - 1:00pm
Parish Secretary:
secretary@ascensionvb.org
Social Ministry Office
495-1886, 414



Good News From Father Daniel... *Second Sunday of Advent*

Our second reading from St Paul's letter to the Romans, tells us that the Gentiles praise God for the mercy God has shown them. According to Jewish Law and tradition, salvation was only for the Jews. St Peter crossed that barrier when he was called by the Holy Spirit to go to Cornelius's house. Cornelius was a Roman and yet the Holy Spirit came upon him and his entire household.

This is an important model for us, my dear brothers and sisters. Just as the people of St Paul's day had to put aside their previous understanding of how God operates, we too have to be open to the way the Spirit is moving in our church today. There are changes occurring. It isn't new doctrine, but a clearer understanding of what has been there all along. For example, Pope Francis has pointed us to the radical nature of God's forgiveness. He has said that capital punishment is morally wrong. Changes to the catechism are underway.

A new understanding can be troubling if we believe that there can be no changes to what has been previously taught. However, all of our tradition has been a gradual unfolding of insight into what it means to live for God. The Truth of God's loving nature does not change. What *can* change is how we apply that Truth to our daily decisions.

At Church of the Ascension, we have chosen to put aside differences and live as family. Those of us who went to the Holy Land this year saw this in action. Our tour guide was Jewish and our driver was Palestinian. The tour company employs people from Jordan, Israel and Palestine. They work together and help solve issues together. I pray that people all over can learn from this model: to dialogue, listen, care and support. We are not all the same, but we can support each other.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: PREFERRED OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

Let us pray for those of us who are homeless, hungry,
or in prison that they may know God's love for them in our service.

Pastoral News

Please inform the Parish Office of anyone who may need our love and prayers, whether aged, sick, hospitalized, in a life crisis, grieving or unable to attend the monthly sacrament of the sick, or Communion and a visit. We respect the patient's rights and receive permission from family to announce their name at weekend Masses. Names announced at weekend Masses are for those who have acute, serious illness, recently hospitalized, in ICU or have recently been anointed. 495-1886, ext. 410.

For those with chronic illness we keep in our prayers:

Alma Brackins, Margaret Miller, John Woodward, Sue Dalton, Dee Catlin, Rudy Bojo, Marlene Bannon, Armanda Roelle, Lita Sison, Flo Dunn, Susan Fouhy, Anne Marie Fouhy, Violeta Brillantes, Tony Baniqued, Phyllis Hunt, Tony Chiu, Diane Esposito, Jim Sullivan, Tim McGeein, Irene Agustin-Meyer, Angie Hughes, Pauline Dusek, Gene Hevey, Susan Roberts, Rachel Olcheski-Doboga, John Stevens, Karen Harmeyer, Bob Wiese, Bernadette Lenahan, Steve Pfeiffer

Anointing of the Sick

Offered this weekend, December 7 & 8, after all Masses

Anointing is for anyone who has been recently diagnosed with a serious illness or has an upcoming surgery.

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Material for consideration should be sent to Joanne at secretary@ascensionvb.org. Submissions are due at least 12 days before the bulletin date.

We have early submission dates for December bulletins. **Contact the Parish Office, 495-1886 x410** for details.

Parishioners name tags:

Parish Council members wear **red** nametags

Hospitality members wear **green** nametags

Parishioners have **blue** & Staff members wear **yellow**.

Name tag order forms are located at the Welcome Desk.



Due to printing deadlines, current financial information can be found on our website:

<https://www.ascensionvb.org/weekly-financial-standing>

Thank you for your continued support!

This Week at Ascension

Top Events This Week:

This Sunday, Dec. 8 — Giving Tree Gift Sorting at 2pm in the ACC

Wednesday, Dec. 11 — Advent Reconciliation Service at 7pm in the Sanctuary

The full Calendar is on our website! Click the [Calendar](#) button on our HOME page to see scheduled events.



Welcome
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### VISITORS, WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION!

Thank you for celebrating with us today!

- If you are just passing through, we welcome you to visit us again the next time you're in Virginia Beach.
- If you are local, we encourage and invite you to become a registered member of our parish family!
- If you wish to become Catholic, or are a returning Catholic after an extended time away from the Church, we offer programs to assist your journey. Contact our Faith Formation office: 495-1886 x411

Church of the Ascension offers over 70 ministries — opportunities for you to serve, be served, and meet others who share your interests. Learn more about our ministries online.

- Visit [www.AscensionVB.org](http://www.AscensionVB.org) and click "I'm New"
- Complete a form at the Registration Desk in the Commons or during the week in the Parish Office

### Missing the Altar Announcements?

## JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST!

Subscribe today to receive Ascension's new weekly news & events in your inbox. Three easy steps:

- 1) Visit our website: [www.ascensionvb.org](http://www.ascensionvb.org)
- 2) From the HOME menu, select "Join Our Email"
- 3) Fill in your secured information & click Sign Up!

*We do not share email addresses with any other parish or organization; you may unsubscribe at any time.*

Have you signed up for parish emails but are not receiving them? Contact Christine for assistance: [chambersc@ascensionvb.org](mailto:chambersc@ascensionvb.org) or 495-1886 x417

|              |            |                                      |                  |
|--------------|------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Sun</b>   | 8:30am     | Blood Drive until 2pm                | ACC              |
| <b>12/8</b>  | 8:45am     | Mass & Children's Liturgy            | Sanctuary        |
|              | 8:45am     | RCIA for Children                    | Library          |
|              | 10am       | RCIA Group                           | Conf. Room       |
|              | 10:30am    | Mass & Children's Liturgy            | Sanctuary        |
|              | 12:15pm    | Mass                                 | Sanctuary        |
|              | 12:30pm    | Belonging - Baptismal Prep           | Youth Room       |
|              | 1:30pm     | Christmas Concert Rehearsal          | Sanctuary        |
|              | <b>2pm</b> | <b>Giving Tree Gift Sort</b>         | <b>ACC</b>       |
|              | 6pm        | YOA                                  | Youth Room       |
|              | 6pm        | Divorce Care                         | Conf. Room       |
| <b>Mon</b>   | 9:15am     | Morning Mass                         | Chapel           |
| <b>12/9</b>  | 11am       | Rainbows                             | offsite          |
|              | 6pm        | K of C Meeting                       | ACC              |
|              | 7pm        | VSHL of Tidewater                    | Mary's Corner    |
| <b>Tue</b>   | 9:15am     | Daily Mass *no evening Mass*         | Chapel           |
| <b>12/10</b> | 7pm        | Middle School Faith Formation        | Classrooms       |
|              | 7pm        | Visioning Session                    | Youth Room       |
| <b>Wed</b>   | 7am        | Centering Prayer                     | Chapel           |
| <b>12/11</b> | 9:15am     | Morning Mass                         | Chapel           |
|              | 9:45am     | Novena / Rosary                      | Chapel           |
|              | 4:30pm     | Faith Formation (K-5)                | Classrooms       |
|              | 6:30pm     | K of C Rosary                        | Chapel           |
|              | 6:30pm     | Faith Formation (early dismissal)    | Classrooms       |
|              | <b>7pm</b> | <b>Advent Reconciliation Service</b> | <b>Sanctuary</b> |
| <b>Thu</b>   | 9:15am     | Morning Mass                         | Chapel           |
| <b>12/12</b> | 9:45am     | Novena/Rosary                        | Chapel           |
|              | 10:30am    | Legion of Mary                       | Library          |
|              | 6pm        | Choir Rehearsal                      | Sanctuary        |
|              | 6:30pm     | Boy Scouts                           | ACC              |
|              | 7pm        | Bible Study                          | St. Teresa       |
| <b>Fri</b>   | 9:15am     | Morning Mass                         | Sanctuary        |
| <b>12/13</b> | 9:45am     | Novena/Rosary                        | Chapel           |
|              | 6pm        | K of C Christmas Party               | ACC              |
|              | 7pm        | Missioners Extreme Praise (MXP)      | Sanctuary        |
| <b>Sat</b>   | 7am        | Men's Cursillo Group                 | Mary's Corner    |
| <b>12/14</b> | 2pm        | Christmas Concert Rehearsal          | Sanctuary        |
|              | 3pm        | Confirmation Session                 | Youth Room       |
|              | 5:30pm     | Mass                                 | Sanctuary        |
|              | 6:30pm     | Living Water Prayer Group            | Mary's Corner    |

## News You Need

### LITURGICAL NEWS

**ADVENT 2019:** Information, prayers and devotionals can be found on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website: [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

**Eucharist Adoration:** First Friday of each month, following the 9:15am Mass, from 10am-6pm

**Low-Gluten Hosts** are available. Please see the Sacristan before Mass. Thank you.

#### **Mass Intentions for December 9-15**

**Mon. 9:15am Encarnasion de Jesus †**

**Tues. 7:00pm William Zink †**

**Wed. 9:15am Lourdes Hofilena †**

**Thurs. 9:15am Steve Genovesi †**

**Fri. 9:15am Bob Schihl †**

**Sat. 5:30pm Frank Angelo †**

**Sun. 8:45am Eula Houck †**

**Sun. 10:30am parishioners of Ascension**

**Sun. 12:15pm Anthony "Cokey" Daman †**

**Amber Candle for the week of Dec. 8**

Memorial for Steve Genovesi - *from Dee Catlin*

### *Advent Reconciliation Services*

**December 10** Star of the Sea Church at 7:00pm

**December 11** Ascension at 7:00pm

**December 12** St. Nicholas Church at 7:00pm

**December 19** St. John the Apostle at 7:00pm

### **Mass Schedule Updates**

This year, December 8 is the Second Sunday of Advent. Therefore, **Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be observed on Monday, December 9 at the 9:15am Mass.**  
*For this year only, it is not a holy day of obligation.*

**On Tuesday, December 10, Daily Mass will be at 9:15am instead of 7pm.**

### **CHRISTMAS & HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE:**

#### **December 24th Christmas Eve Masses:**

5:00pm (two Masses); 7:00pm, & 9:00pm

**December 25th Christmas Day Mass at 10am**

**December 26, 27:** Daily Mass at 9:15am

**December 28 & 29:** Regular weekend Mass schedule

**December 30:** Daily Mass at 9:15am

**December 31 (New Year's Eve) :** Vigil for the Mary, Mother of God at 7:00pm

**January 1, 2020:** Mary, Mother of God at 10:00am *Happy New Year!*



Ascension's Adult Choir  
and Instrumentalists present



### Have You Heard?: A Celtic Christmas



in concert on Sunday,  
**December 15th at 3:00pm**  
in the Sanctuary.

One performance only!



### **Rainbows, Forever Young December 9**

**Christmas Luncheon at Marian Manor at 11:30am.**

**Not meeting again until January 10 for New Year's luncheon at Rudy's at 11:30am.** Contact Vic Gruning, President: 757-493-

## News You Need

### FOOD PANTRY NEWS:

Foods needed this week : **Ravioli meals (pop tops, please) and soups**

**CAR NEEDED:** If you have a car you wish to donate, please call Social Ministry at 495-1886 x414. Thank you!

**DID YOU KNOW:** In keeping with Pope Francis' concern for the environment, no edible foods are wasted or discarded! Foods that are left over from parish events are given to Beacon House (brain injured association) or Norfolk Catholic Worker.

*Ascension is an equal opportunity provider*

## STEWARDSHIP

Jesus said to us, "You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world ... In the same way, your light must shine before men so that they may all see goodness in your acts..." (Mt 5:16).

"Preach the Gospel at all times. **When necessary, use words.**" ~ St. Francis of Assisi.

Ask yourself each evening, 'Today, how did I use the gifts that God has given me to take care of His kingdom, *and* my brothers and sisters in Christ? Can I do even more tomorrow?'

**Giving Tree gifts are due this weekend!** Please return the **unwrapped (new this year!) item with tag attached by 2pm Sunday**. Contact Teresa in Social Ministry if you are unable to return your gift by the due date (495-1886 x427).

Giving Tree Gift Sort at 2pm on Sunday (this weekend) in the ACC.

**Christmas Food Baskets—Food Donations are due December 15th by 10am.** If you did not get a slip or would like to make a monetary donation, stop by the table near the Chapel for assistance.



### Thinking about LEGACIES...

Preparing an estate plan is good Christian stewardship - saying thanks to God, expressing your love and concern for family, and showing charity toward others.

*"Creating the Future for Church of the Ascension"*



#### VISIONING

Why should the Church do long-term thinking ?

- God's plans are BIG and He can do more than we may think
- He thinks generationally
- God often reveals Himself over time
- Our job as Christians is to connect people to the big story of redemptive history
- We can master-plan our job of creating disciples through generations

Signups for Visioning sessions are coming soon!

Learn more by visiting our website: [ascensionvb.org/visioning](http://ascensionvb.org/visioning) or contact us via email at [visioning@ascensionvb.org](mailto:visioning@ascensionvb.org)



### Jingle Bell Bazaar THANK YOU!

Ways & Means Committee wishes to thank everyone who supported the Jingle Bell Bazaar, including our crafters and vendors, our talented bakers who contributed delicious desserts, and all of our volunteers who helped set up, clean up, and man the kitchen & bake sale.

**We couldn't do it without your time and effort!**

### FAITH FORMATION CHRISTMAS PAGEANT — December 18 at 4:30pm & 6:30pm

The Parish is invited to attend the Children's Christmas Pageant "Journey to Bethlehem" featuring our Faith Formation youth! The play is followed by refreshments & fellowship. Bring your cameras and your holiday spirit!

## UPCOMING EVENTS & AREA NEWS

### SIMBANG GABI 2019 Masses & Celebrations within our Deanery

The Filipino Catholic Community with the Office of Asian Ministry, Diocese of Richmond invites you to join in celebrating the traditional Advent Novena of nine Masses at local churches. Join us in Holy Eucharist and Fellowship after each Mass. "De mesa un mesa"!



Dec. 15 St. John the Apostle 7:00pm

Dec. 20 St. Nicholas Catholic Church 7:00pm

Dec. 16 St. Luke Catholic Church 7:00pm

Dec. 21 St. Luke Catholic Church 7:00pm

Dec. 17 Star of the Sea Church 7:00pm

Dec. 22 Church of the Ascension 7:00pm

Dec. 18 Holy Spirit Catholic Church 7:00pm

Dec. 23 St. Gregory the Great Church 6:30pm

Dec. 19 Holy Family Catholic Church 7:00pm

**Church of the Holy Family presents: Irish Tenor Emmet Cahill's *Christmas in Ireland* Concert on Friday, Dec. 13 at 7:30 pm. *Emmet Cahill of Celtic Thunder* known from PBS performances & concerts nationwide with local VSO violinist Allegra Havens and the Holy Family Choir under the direction of Sylvia Chapa. Come early for an Irish pub atmosphere to see Irish dancers from 6:45-7:15 pm! General admission tickets are \$30 and a limited number of Meet & Greet tickets are available for \$45. Purchases tickets online: <https://www.emmetcahill.com/tour-dates/> or locally at Church of the Holy Family Parish Office 757-481-5702**



### **Missioners Extreme Praise (MXP)**

#### **Friday December 13 in the Sanctuary**

**7:00pm — Adoration, Praise & Worship, Confession**

**8:00pm — Fellowship and Refreshments**

### **Responding to God's Invitation to Be Still**

A few weeks ago, we asked you to share how you have responded to God's invitation to Be Still. Here are some of your responses:



When things are troubling me, I close my eyes and breathe, knowing that God is near and I say to myself: He is in control. Being still reminds me of that.

By being still it allows me to hear God talking to me when I am troubled. He assures me that He is with me and slowly gives me the answer to what to do through hope and trust.

As weeks go by as I look for a job or wait for an offer, I leave it all to the will of the Lord to give me a sign to continue looking or change directions in what I am to do.

I have been slowly reading Father Breindel's book. First I read the "readings" and then the homily that accompanies the readings. Usually only succeeding in completing 2 homilies a week. That time makes me stop and reflect on the word when I would not have done so otherwise.

I respond very well when it is 3 or 4 AM and no interruptions. Be still and know that I am God.

Several times a day I stop and take a few deep breaths and think about how much God has given to me. It gives me the peace and energy to move to the next item in my day.

By being still, we can open our minds and hear God speak to us. Concentrate on the world around us.

By taking the time to be still in God's presence each day, I am more aware of his grace and spirit in the moments during my day. And this encourages me to continue to look for his presence and continue to be faithful to daily prayer. How else can we endure this crazy world?

It is really hard to be still - but that time when I am in a hurry - rushing - that is the time I tell myself to slow down - look around and breathe. Be quiet and listen - calm down and let the presence of the Holy Spirit give me peace. And then I smile. Jesus - I trust in you.



