

Poinsettias at Christmas



Poinsettia plants are native to Central America, especially an area of southern Mexico known as 'Taxco del Alarcon' where they flower during the winter. The ancient Aztecs called them 'cuetlaxochitl.' The Aztecs had many uses for them, including using the flowers (actually special types of leaves known as bracts) to make a purple dye for clothes and cosmetics, and the milky white sap was made into a medicine to treat fevers. (Today we call the sap latex.) There is an old Mexican legend about how Poinsettias and Christmas come together:

There was once a poor Mexican girl called Pepita who had no present to give the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve Services. As Pepita walked sadly to the chapel, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up.

"Pepita," he said, "I'm sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him, will make Jesus Happy."

Pepita didn't know what she could give, so she picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a small bouquet. She felt embarrassed because she could only give this small present to Jesus. As she walked through the chapel to the altar, she remembered what Pedro had said. She began to feel better, knelt down and put the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the 'Flores de Noche Buena,' or 'Flowers of the Holy Night.'

The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem, which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity.

<https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/poinsettia.shtml>

Church of the Ascension

Christmas Flower Offerings 2019



*The altar poinsettias are given to the glory of God
and dedicated in loving memory of
Linda Brown*

Poinsettias in the church are given to the glory of God and dedicated in loving memory by:

- ❖ Melissa Benton, in memory of Martha Jones Anderson, Joyce Anderson Muccio, Jane Long, and Angie May.
- ❖ Charlie Caudill, in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Caudill.
- ❖ The Cox Family, in memory of Keith & Elizabeth Dicken and Charles H. Cox.
- ❖ Conrad C. Gutermuth and Lorraine G. & James L. Bennett, in memory of Conrad F. & Louise C. Gutermuth.
- ❖ Rose Gayle W. Hardy & Family, in memory of Lt. Governor & Mrs. Harry Lee Waterfield.
- ❖ Heidi Hiemstra, in memory of Geoff Pinkerton.
- ❖ Jim & Debbie Kimbrough, in memory of Christopher Davis Kimbrough.
- ❖ Rick & Sue Kurtz, in memory of Robert & Betty Guy, Jean Ann Bates, George Edward Guy, and Robert & Eleanor Kurtz.
- ❖ Shannon Lancaster, in memory of Bob & Nancy Lancaster.
- ❖ The McKee Clan, in memory of Dr. Willis & Mary Evelyn McKee, John Wallace & Mabel Nuttall, and Rock & Wanda Adkins.
- ❖ Mike & Susie Oder, in memory of Phyllis & Deacon Shropshire and M.L. & Frances Oder.
- ❖ Lynda Roberts & Family, in memory of Tom Roberts, Bernard & Martha Crutcher, Silas & Grace Roberts, Josephine & Louis Crutcher, and William Crutcher.
- ❖ Carol Roe, in memory of Martin, Florence and Jack South, and Anne Resinger.
- ❖ Julia Tyson, in memory of Phillip Peavler, Ramey Peavler, and Louise Peavler.
- ❖ Art & Beverly VanHouten, in memory of Debi Sharfe Furnish, Wynne & Bill Masters, Art & Josephine VanHouten, and Marvin Sharfe.
- ❖ Linda Word, in memory of John & Carol Word.

Poinsettias in the church are given to the glory of God and dedicated in honor by:

- ❖ Melissa Benton, in honor of Timberley Adams, Laura Holland, Leigh Evans, Halie Gray, Jane McCord, Hope Cottrill, Jessica Schorck, Renea Mullins, Jackie Marcum, Jennifer Baker, and Anthony Darnell.
- ❖ Mike and Maureen Davis, in honor of our grandchildren: Noah, Grayson, Eden, Sydney, and Patrick.
- ❖ Zachary A. Horn, in honor of All Saints.
- ❖ Rick & Sue Kurtz, in honor of Father Bill Brown.
- ❖ Sue Kurtz, in honor of her brother, Bill Guy.
- ❖ Mike & Susie Oder, in honor of Matt, Alex & Jaiden Amburgey.

Poinsettias in the church are given to the glory of God and dedicated in thanksgiving by:

- ❖ All the people of Ascension, in thanksgiving for Father Peter Doddema.
- ❖ Bob & Angela Bullock, in thanksgiving for their children and grandchildren.
- ❖ Mike & Maureen Davis, in thanksgiving for their new grandson, Emmanuel.
- ❖ Ron Gruzesky, in thanksgiving for Sandy Gruzesky.
- ❖ Heidi Hiemstra, in thanksgiving for Ian Pinkerton.
- ❖ Zachary A. Horn, in thanksgiving for God's Grace.
- ❖ Fred & Frances Kirchhoff, in thanksgiving for their family.
- ❖ Shannon Lancaster, in thanksgiving for Luke Purvis.
- ❖ Leah MacSwords & William Legg.
- ❖ Art & Beverly VanHouten, in thanksgiving for Bert, Melissa, Abe and Carlee VanHouten, Melanie VanHouten, and William Duvall.
- ❖ Linda Word, in thanksgiving for Tori and Jillian Word.