

Church of the
Ascension
2022-2023

Sharing The Joy of Ministry!

A Parish
Ministries
Handbook



Handbook
Ministries
A Parish

*Proclaim the Word of God,
Celebrate the Eucharist
and Serve the Local
Community*

From the Pastor

Everyone must give according to what he has inwardly decided; not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver. God can multiply his favors among you so that you may always have enough of everything and even a surplus for good works.

2 Corinthians 9:7-8

As we have completed our 50th Anniversary Celebration we look forward to the next 50 years as a *thriving Spirit-filled faith community transforming lives for Christ. We will continue to Proclaim the Word of God, Celebrate the Eucharist, and Serve the local Community.*

I pray that you will find the right mix of prayer and service here at Ascension. If I may be of assistance or support to you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me at either 757-495-1886, ext. 416 or malingumud@ascensionvb.org.

In Christ,



Fr. Daniel Malingumu

From the Pastoral Council

Each of us has been blessed with a unique balance of God-given strengths. These strengths are comprised of our talents, skills, and knowledge. We are exceptionally blessed with many opportunities to put our talents, skills, and knowledge to good use by serving within our Parish community.

Sharing our time and talent helps fulfill the many needs of our Parish community. We ask that you prayerfully consider the many opportunities in this handbook and let your heart decide where your talents will best serve one or more of our Parish ministries.

- Ascension's Pastoral Council

Church of the Ascension

4853 Princess Anne Road

Virginia Beach, VA 23462-4446

757-495-1886

www.ascensionvb.org

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5:30 pm

Sunday: 8:15 am, 10:30 am & 12:30 pm

Morning Mass celebrated at 9:15 am on

Tuesday Through Friday

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays from 10:00am to Noon and by appointment

Eucharistic Adoration

First Fridays following 9:15am Mass for one hour and 6:30pm to
7:30pm

Every Third Saturday from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

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Monday–Thursday: 9:30 am to 4 pm

Friday: 9:30 am to 1 pm

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Welcome

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Following is a listing of all the ministries the parish supports, with a brief description of what they do and a contact for the ministry head. All ministries fall under five different department heads. These Department Heads are:

- **Liturgy – John Sokolowski 757-495-4861 (john@sokol.org)**
- **Community Life – Jim Fowler 497-1040 (jfowler215@gmail.com) and Bridgett Passauer 757-495-1886 ext. 411 (passauerb@ascensionvb.org)**
- **Finance/Operations/Ways & Means – Lisa Liedl 757-495-1886 ext. 422 (liedll@ascensionvb.org)**
- **Faith Formation – Janet Jones 757-495-1886 ext. 423 (jonesj@ascensionvb.org)**
- **Social Justice – Ruth Brogan 757-495-1886 ext. 414 (broganr@ascensionvb.org)**

If you wish to join a ministry, please contact one of the Department Heads to assist you. Your time and talents are so important to our ministries and we wish to be as accessible to you as possible.

VIRTUS Protecting God's Children and Adults
www.virtusonline.org

Safety for all God's children is a priority within our parish as well as throughout our Diocese. There are two objectives that need to be met. First, we want to know that our volunteers are suitable to work with our vulnerable populations, including children. Second, we want to empower our volunteers to identify and report potentially risky situations. Through the Diocesan Protecting God's Children Program, we accomplish both these objectives.

The Diocese of Richmond requires any volunteers working with any at-risk population -- children, the infirm, the elderly and the mentally challenged -- to attend a Virtus training. This workshop increases awareness and provides tools to protect those people considered most vulnerable. This is a one-time obligation. In addition, all volunteers are required to have a background-check as part of the Virtus registration. In order for our ministries to include or serve people with disabilities, the infirm, the elderly, and/or children, volunteers must complete this awareness program.

We want to serve all in our community who need assistance. We also want to include **ALL** of our parishioners who want to volunteer no matter their age. We want to allow and encourage our youth to volunteer in all areas, including, but not limited to, being altar servers, lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, food pantry volunteers, homeless shelter volunteers, faith formation volunteers, and more.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and participation in serving and protecting God's Children.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lisa Liedl (liedll@ascensionvb.org or 757-4951886 x 422) or Janet Jones (jonesj@ascensionvb.org or 757-4951886 x 423)

MINISTRIES

LITURGY MINISTRY

Altar Server: Assist in the celebration of Sunday and Holy Day liturgies. On-the-job training. Ages fourth grade to high school and must have received First Holy Communion. Adults are also invited to serve at liturgies. **Contact: Diane Nestor at 757-495-1886 x 413 (nestord@ascensionvb.org)**

Choir: Share your gift of musical talents for our liturgical celebrations.

- Adult Choir: Soprano, alto, tenor, and bass voice parts. Cantor positions are by audition with the director and require workshop attendance. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Encouraged to join for special seasonal events such as Christmas and Lent.
- Children's Choir for 3rd-5th Grades – Rehearsals times and dates to be determined. Will sing for one mass in the Fall, Spring and Christmas (dates and times TBD)
- Youth Choir for 6th- 12 Grades – Rehearsals time and date to be determine. Will sing for one mass in the Fall, Spring and Christmas (dates and times TBD)

Contact: Diane Nestor at 757-495-1886 x 413 (nestord@ascensionvb.org) (*Virtus training required*)

Instrumentalists: Play for one (or more) of the weekend liturgies and Holy Days. Piano accompanists are used as substitutes for regular pianists. **Rehearsals are once a month** and are TBA on a Thursday night from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. **Contact: Diane Nestor at 757-495-1886 x 413 (nestord@ascensionvb.org)** (*Virtus training required*)

Environment in Sacristy/ Banners/Vestments (Sewing/Designing): The use of cloth, artifacts, flowers, and artwork are important elements within liturgy. Creative and talented persons are needed. **Contact: Diane Nestor at 757-495-1886 x 413(nestord@ascensionvb.org)**

Eucharistic Minister: Adults and the newly confirmed can serve at the weekend liturgies and Holy Days. There is required training before beginning to serve (TBA). Scheduling is done in 1-month blocks. **Contact: Diane Nestor at nestord@ascensionvb.org 757-495-1886 x 413** (*Virtus training required*)

Lector: Adults and the newly confirmed can serve at the weekend and Holy Day liturgies. Scheduling is done in 1-month blocks. Training is one on one with Diane and occasionally a workshop is offered. People new to this ministry should contact Diane Nestor for details on initial training. **Diane Nestor at nestord@ascensionvb.org 757-495-1886 x 413** (*Virtus training required*)

Liturgy Planning: Liturgy committee meets on the first Wednesday of the month to prepare and review Sunday and Holy Day liturgies to make worship a joyful and enriching experience. Liturgy involves everyone in the parish and it is a good way to get to know more about scriptures and the worship experience.

Contact: John Sokolowski at 757-4954861 (john@sokol.org)

Sacristy Coordinator: Prepares altar and Church for Mass. Selects a family to carry up the gifts. Ensures that all preparations have been completed. **Commitment expected:** Twice a month at liturgy. **Contact: John Sokolowski at 757-4954861 (john@sokol.org)** (*Virtus training required*)

Camera/Livestreaming: Operates the computer system to stream Mass. Daily Masses, Sat 5:30pm, Sun 8:15am. **Contact: Lisa Liedl at 757-495-1886 ext. 422 (liedll@ascensionvb.org)** (*Virtus training recommended*)

Reconciliation Porter: Prepares commons for people to wait for reconciliation. Saturday morning 10am to noon. **Contact: Lisa Liedl at 757-495-1886 ext. 422 (liedll@ascensionvb.org)** (*Virtus training recommended*)

FAITH FORMATION

Our Faith Formation programs span from families seeking Baptism for their infants through adults. We would not be able to serve our community without our dedicated, faith-filled volunteers. There are numerous volunteer positions based on what age group you would like to work with. The great benefit of volunteering in formation programs is that your faith is enhanced as well.

Our Diocese requires that all those who are over 18 years old who are working with young people complete VIRTUS training and undergo a background check. The Faith Formation Office will assist you in meeting those requirements.

If you like working with Adults...

Baptism Celebration Coordinator: On the day a Baptism is scheduled, the coordinator prepares the space for the Baptism. They meet with the family prior to the Baptism and has the family complete any pending paperwork. The coordinator reviews with the family what will happen during the Baptism. After the celebration, the coordinator cleans up the space. The commitment is based on your availability. Baptisms are currently being celebrated on Saturday's at 12:15pm. Training is provided.

Contact: Janet Jones at 757-495-1886 x 423
(jonesj@ascensionvb.org)

Sponsor for an adult- RCIA or Confirmation: A sponsor is selected from our community to accompany those adults who are inquiring and/or preparing for full initiation seeking into the Catholic faith. The sponsor accompanies this person by listening and sharing their faith with them. This is a weekly Sunday commitment, two retreat experiences and presence during various rites scheduled throughout the year.

Contact: Janet Jones at 757-495-1886 x 423
(jonesj@ascensionvb.org)

Faith-sharing Facilitator: Do you have a favorite spiritual book, program or faith topic that you want to explore with others? A Faith-sharing Facilitator guides a faith-sharing community as they explore this common interest. The faith-sharing community can meet at church or someone's home. Commitment varies. Training is provided.

**Contact: Bridgett Passauer at 757-495-1886 x411
(passauerb@ascensionvb.org)**

New Evangelization Team (NET): Do you have a heart for sharing Jesus with others? Join the NET as we work to implement the Diocesan 5-stage evangelization plan. Meetings are once per month with occasional retreats.

Contact: Jim Ahearn 757-353-7328 (jimahearn49@gmail.com)

Adult Faith Formation Committee: The mission of this committee is to create and develop opportunities for the members of Church of the Ascension to grow and strengthen a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through adult formation. Do you have a heart for helping others learn about their faith? Meetings are once per month with occasional retreats.

**Contact: Bridgett Passauer at 757-495-1886 x411
(passauerb@ascensionvb.org)**

Landings: Landings is the process by which Catholics who have left the church can openly discuss issues and discern their readiness to enter back into active participation in the sacramental life of the Church. Landings is offered periodically throughout the year. Landings is an 8-week process. The team presents topics, facilitates open discussion, and builds relationships with those participating in the process.

**Contact: Bridgett Passauer at 757-495-1886 x411
(passauerb@ascensionvb.org)**

If you like working with High School Youth...

Youth of Ascension (YOA): We are looking for dynamic, enthusiastic and holiness-seeking adults (over 21) to mentor, catechize, worship with, and hang out with our high school youth. You will need to be open-minded yet grounded in the teachings of the Church, creative, not worried about making a fool of yourself, able to facilitate discussion of small groups of youth, and able to lead a meeting with the assistance of other group leaders and youth. Commitment runs from end of August through June for 2 hour classes on Sunday evenings. Requires training and preparation time. Virtus training required. **Contact: Travis Hayes at 288-1819 (hayest@ascensionvb.org)**

Confirmation Sponsor for a High School Youth: Occasionally, Confirmation candidates do not have anyone locally that can fill the role of sponsor. Commitment includes participation throughout the year at meetings and the Confirmation celebration. Virtus training required. **Contact: Travis Hayes at 288-1819 (hayest@ascensionvb.org)**

YOA Golf Classic: The YOA Golf Classic is the primary fundraiser that supports the many youth activities, including Running with Jesus, Diocesan Youth Conference, Work Camp and Steubenville Youth Conference. The organization of this event requires many volunteers to help liaison with sponsors, organizations, potential golfers and execute the actual event in May. Organizational meetings occur throughout the year. **Contact: Travis Hayes at 288-1819 (hayest@ascensionvb.org)**

If you like working with Pre-Kindergarten-Middle School Children...

Children's Liturgy of the Word: We need Leaders or Assistants who will be dismissed with the children at either the 8:15am or 10:30am Liturgy. The Children Liturgy volunteers lead the children in Sunday Liturgy of the Word celebration and engage them in a planned activity. The commitment is for two 6-week periods from September through May. All scripts and materials are prepared. **This is a volunteer opportunity for middle school and high school students.** Virtus training required for adults. **Contact: Janet Jones at 757-495-1886 x 423 (jonesj@ascensionvb.org)**

Grades PK-5 Family Faith Formation:

Our families with PK3-5th grade children gather once per month for prayer, breaking open the Word and hear a lesson in an age appropriate manner. Families then have the option to homeschool their children the remainder of the month or enroll them in weekly Wednesday classes. Our needs are based on when we meet.

Sunday 9:25 am- 10:20am Family Faith Session we need **catechists and co-catechists**. This is a once per month commitment. Scripts are provided.

Wednesday 4:45 pm – 5:45 pm Family Faith Session we need **catechists and co-catechists**. This is a weekly commitment. Scripts are provided for monthly session. Lesson plans are prepared by the catechist for the other classes.

We also need **Curriculum Helpers** who work behind the scenes making copies of parent/lesson information for each grade.

Classes run from September through May. Catechists, co-catechist, and Curriculum Helpers are expected to attend in-service meetings. Resource materials and additional training is provided, as needed. Virtus training required.

**Contact: Kim Kennedy at 757-495-1886 x 426
(re_coordinator@ascensionvb.org)**

Catching Fire Middle School Faith Formation (Grades 6–8):

There are multiple ways you can volunteer to help with our **Catching Fire** Middle School formation. We need:

- **Catechists** – Develop and teach a 20-30-minute session based on the schedule of topics.
- **Small Group Facilitators** – Lead a small group of youth through in-depth discussion and dialogue based on the night's topic
- **Artists and Musicians** – Use your artistic and/or musical side to add dimension to the evening
- **Logistics (Behind the Scenes Help)** – help with the setup and cleanup.

Catching Fire meets Tuesday's 6:45pm-8pm. Sessions run from September through May. Resource materials and additional training is provided, as needed. Virtus training required. **Contact: Kim Kennedy at 757-495-1886 x 426 re_coordinator@ascensionvb.org**

Faith Formation Aide (K-8th grade): Provides support to staff and volunteers on an as-needed basis during Religious Formation classes. Duties may include sitting in the Commons monitoring traffic, filling in as a substitute catechist, or making phone calls. Virtus training required. **Contact: Kim Kennedy at 757-495-1886 x 426 (re_coordinator@ascensionvb.org)**

Special Needs Faith Formation Helper: Do you have experience working with children who have special needs? Inclusion is our goal. We are seeking people with special needs experience to work with our children who have special needs whether in the classroom or one-on-one.

Contact: Janet Jones at 757-495-1886 x 423 (jonesj@ascensionvb.org)

Ascension Family Presents Summer Event: Four consecutive Wednesdays in July and August, families of all ages and sizes gather to share a meal, hear a bible story and then reflect on the story in an age-appropriate lesson. We need the following volunteers to help make the evenings a success:

- **Set design** – help put together scenery and props based on the Bible Story
- **Actors**- help bring the Bible story to life by being an actor in the play
- **Crew Leaders**- help lead the children in the pre-planned lesson and activities
- **Hospitality**- help behind the scenes in the kitchen with cooking, setup and cleanup.

This is a volunteer opportunity for middle school and high school students. Contact: Janet Jones at 757-495-1886 x 423 jonesj@ascensionvb.org)

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Ascension Social Justice Ministry comprises a variety of activities and programs both within the parish and as part of our local ecumenical and civic community. Time commitments are generally flexible and several of the ministries are seasonal in nature.

Afghan Refugee Resettlement: Ascension has welcomed two related families (10 people) to Virginia Beach. Volunteers work with our Afghan Refugees to help them become enculturated to the American way of life. Volunteers are needed for transportation and interaction with our families.

Apple Tree: This ministry is active in July and August of each year, collecting money and school supplies for children who otherwise would not be fully prepared for the school year. Volunteers prepare tags for the Apple Tree, purchase supplies, and assist with sorting and counting donations. **Contact: Elisabeth Berry at elisabeth710@verizon.net 497-5403, or Teresa Alfes: alfest@ascensionvb.org (*Virtus training required*)**

Beach Bag Ministry: The Beach Bag Ministry was started by the Virginia Beach school system in response to food insecurity for students when school was not in session. Volunteers pack bags on the 4th Sunday of each month and help to deliver them on the last Wednesday of the month. **Contact: Ruth Brogan at broganr@ascensionvb.org or 757-495-1886 x414.** (*Virtus training required*)

Creation Care Ministry (formerly Garden Ministry): We have expanded beyond gardening into a wider focus of caring for all of God's creation through education, advocacy and action within our church environment and our homes and community. We still need gardeners or those interested in learning earth-friendly growing practices to supply fresh produce during the summer months for our Ascension Food Pantry, but we hope to go deeper to change our personal practices in order to protect all Creation. **Contact Amy Petersen (amypetersn@gmail.com), 757-406-6199** (*Virtus training required*)

Eastern Shore Migrant Ministry: Volunteers help to sort shirts and socks for Cheriton Camp at Cape Charles. Volunteers may also go to Cheriton to help distribute items and to participate in a Spanish language Mass with the workers and other volunteers. **Contact: Ruth Brogan at broganr@ascensionvb.org or 757-495-1886 x414.** (*Virtus training recommended*)

Food Pantry: Volunteers work directly in the pantry, which is open Monday-Friday 10:00am to 12:00pm. Volunteers interact with our guests; shelve donated food; bag USDA foods; and bring food cart from the commons to the pantry. Volunteers are also needed to collect foods from Food Lion, Kroger, Panera, and the Foodbank of the Southeast Virginia. **Contact Ruth Brogan at broganr@ascensionvb.org or 757-495-1886 x 414.** (*Virtus training required*)

Funeral Reception Ministry: Small teams of volunteers assist with the set-up, food preparation, serving, and clean-up for funeral receptions to help support the grieving family. **Contact Barbara Thompson at booklover953@hotmail.com 703-408-9038** or Ruth Brogan: broganr@ascensionvb.org

GivingTree: This ministry is active from October to December. Volunteers create the gift tags, decorate the tree, sort and wrap the gifts received, and distribute the gifts as families come to receive them. **Contact Elisabeth Berry at elisabeth710@verizon.net or 497-5403** or Ruth Brogan: broganr@ascensionvb.org (*Virtus training required*)

Global Solidarity: This ministry seeks to form a relationship with our brothers and sisters in Catholic communities in other parts of the world. Our focus has been on St. Ludovic's parish in Ulyankulu, Tanzania, currently our focus is on our Afghan Refugee Resettlement Ministry **Contact Kevin Petersen at kpetersen456@gmail.com or 523-1304** (*Virtus training required*)

Holiday foods: Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas baskets provide a full holiday meal to help make the holidays a more joyous time. Volunteers give out food slips at designated Masses, sort food items, decorate and pack each basket, and help distribute the baskets as families come to receive them. **Contact: Angela Morales at maybe_im_amazed14@yahoo.com or 474-4531; Teresa Alfes at alfest@ascensionvb.org or 757-495-1886 x 427** (*Virtus training required*)

Just Faith: This program offers a selection of in-depth spiritual experiences related to various social issues. Programs may be offered at other parishes in our region. For the current list of opportunities, **contact: Marie Thompson at 757-495-1886 x 428 or Nancy Hess at nancyhess@gmail.com or 468-9256.**

Justice and Peace: Volunteers join with others to plan how to educate parishioners about issues of justice and peace. The mission of this ministry is to bring the vision of the just and peaceable reign of God into the daily activities of the Ascension faith community, advocacy and more. **Contact: Diane Burke at jburke@keuka.edu or 672-3590.**

Meals on Wheels: One day each month volunteers deliver meals to shut-ins under the Meals on Wheels program. Training is provided for those new to this ministry. **Contact: Eileen Komuves-Overstreet at ekolm2@aol.com or 739-8430** (*Virtus training required*)

Respect Life Ministry: This ministry seeks volunteers who are committed to the dignity of human life across the life spectrum from conception to death. At this time the Respect Life Ministry is focused on our Afghan Refugee Families. **Contact: Ruth Brogan at broganr@ascensionvb.org or 757-495-1886 x 414; or Tom Steffens at tomsteffens@cox.net or 572-1263** (*Virtus training required*)

Rise Against Hunger (formerly Stop Hunger Now): Volunteers come together once a year to engage in a two-hour session making bags of dehydrated foods to aid people in disaster areas. Also seeking volunteers for the preparation committee. **Contact: Ruth Brogan at broganr@ascensionvb.org or 757-495-1886 x 414**

Sandwich Ministry: Volunteers make sandwiches once a month that are given to the Norfolk Catholic Worker to feed those who are in need and primarily living on the street. **Contact: Barbara Wiley at btwiley@hotmail.com or 757-499-4340** (*Virtus training required*)

Soup and Sacrament: On five Tuesdays during Lent, our church family comes together to eat soup and bread, and then celebrate liturgy together in the ACC. Volunteers are needed to help in the kitchen, for set up, clean up, and to make soup and/or bread. **Contact: Ruth Brogan at broganr@ascensionvb.org or 757-495-1886 x 414**

Soup Kitchen: Quarterly, volunteers cook and serve an evening meal at the Judeo-Christian outreach center for about 100 people. As a volunteer you can cook or serve...or do both. **Contact: Marie Thompson at thompsonm@ascensionvb.org or 757-495-1886 x 428** (*Virtus training required*)

Winter Shelter: Ascension participates with other Virginia Beach churches in offering shelter to the homeless during the winter months. Volunteers can: prepare and serve breakfast (around 4am.) make sandwiches for lunch; cook and serve dinner; interact with our guests; spend the night; and sign up for food and supply donations. **Contact Ruth Brogan at 757-495-1886x414 (Broganr@ascensionvb.org)** (*Virtus training*)

World Food Day: Volunteers attach flyers asking for food for a family of 4 to each grocery bag, help to distribute bags at Mass, and sort, bag and distribute the food collected. **Contact: Sandra Raiter at ffsr dickie@verizon.net or 757-499-5775; Ruth Brogan: broganr@ascensionvb.org or 757-495-1886x414** (*Virtus training required*)

Ecumenical and Community Associations Social Justice Ministry:

Ascension is a member of several community associations. These groups have, as part of their mission, the betterment of the citizens of Virginia beach and/or the State of Virginia by encouraging and advocating for such issues as: homelessness, emergency shelter for families in need, repair of deteriorating homes, and financial assistance.

Bank-On/Financial Empowerment: Helps people to have the ability to adequately fund basic living expenses. Ten monthly classes are offered and participants in the program meet with a financial coach. A savings incentive program matches participant's savings of \$150.00 to create a financial cushion against unexpected needs. Seeking individuals with financial background who would like to be trained as a coach. **Contact: Teresa Alfes at 757-495-1886x427 (alfest@ascensionvb.org) or Marie Thompson at 757-495-1886 x428 (thompsonm@ascensionvb.org)**

Faith Works Coalition: This is an ecumenical ministry consisting of volunteers who help to repair and maintain homes for those who are elderly and/or have low income. **Contact: Matt Schorr at mschorr2@verizon.net or 757-467-4112**

Interfaith Alliance Beach (IAB): This is an ecumenical gathering of many Virginia Beach churches whose focus is on working together to service the local committee. **Contact Teresa Alfes at 757-495-1886 ext. 427 or Alfest@ascensionvb.org.**

Open Table: Ascension partners with other churches to form small groups of people who are willing to form a relationship with a family in need. Join other Virginia Beach residents by applying to be a volunteer. **Contact: Teresa Alfes: Alfest@ascensionvb.org.**

Sowers of Justice: This group offers a wide range of topics for discussion and action. Issues such as the death penalty, the environment, and respect for life are some of the cornerstone topics. **Contact:** Nancy Hess at nancyahess@gmail.com or 468-9256; or Marie Thompson at thompsonm@ascensionvb.org

COMMUNITY LIFE

Coffee Bar Hospitality: Volunteers are needed to help set up and clean up the coffee bar before/after Masses on the weekends. Ascension is moving toward being more environmental conscious in this ministry and using real coffee mugs. Volunteers will be trained on using our commercial dishwasher. **Contact Jim Fowler: 757-497-1040 (jfowler215@gmail.com)** (*Virtus training preferred*)

Disability Parish Advocate: This ministry supports the Diocesan Office for and with persons with disabilities. **Contact: Angela Kahler at 757-409-2122** (*Virtus training required*)

GriefShare: For anyone experiencing the death of a love one or family member. Walk your journey of grief with those who are on the same path as you. Offering seminars throughout the year utilizing a support group, workbook, and videos. Sunday evenings from 6:00-8:00pm on the Second Floor Back Conference Room (follow the Griefshare meeting signs). **Contacts: Bridgett Passauer at 757-495-1886x411 (passauerb@ascensionvb.org)** (*Virtus training not required*).

Knights of Columbus: Mother Teresa of Calcutta Council #12117 was established on December 17, 1997. We are a fraternal organization of Catholic men whose ideals are based on the concepts of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. With a membership exceeding 75 Brother Knights, we perform volunteerism and conduct fundraising events in order to support local charities and organizations. With extremely active programs in the areas of Church, Family, Youth, Culture of Life, Community, and Council, there is something for everyone! All men, ages 18 years old and up, who are practicing Catholics are eligible to join our Order. **Contact: Bill Rockwell at w.rockwell2@gmail.com rwknoerzer@gmail.com** (*Virtus training encouraged*)

Ladies Auxiliary of The Mother Teresa of Calcutta Council: An organization of Christian and Catholic women, ages 18+, who support the Knights of Columbus in their activities and also provide spiritual and financial support to the needy, promote the principles of youth and family, and are actively involved in church and the community.

Contact: Bernie Phillips at ebphillips@cox.net (*Virtus training encouraged*)

Ministry to the Sick: Provides Eucharist to those who are hospitalized or homebound.) To arrange for a visit, **contact: Deacon Gary Harmeyer at 735-2227 (gary.harmeyer@gmail.com); Deacon Tom McFeely at 681-2005 (mcfeely6@cox.net); Deacon Jim Ahearn at 353-7328; John Maiorana at 560-7753 (johnmajor@cox.net)** (*Virtus training required*)

Hospitality/Welcoming: Seeking individuals who would enjoy greeting people as they arrive for liturgy, or welcome newcomers by making phone or email contact to set up meetings with the family for a tour of the church. Handbooks with information packets are available for all newly-registered parishioners. A great ministry for anyone who enjoys meeting and greeting people to make them feel at home at Ascension.

Contacts: Melinda Hughes 818-4629 mhughes924@verizon.net and Sandy Raiter 499-5775 ffsr dickie@verizon.net (*Virtus training required*)

Parish Nurse: Seeking current and retired Health Care workers who would like to assist in the ministry.

Contact Gary Harmeyer at 735-227 (garyharmeyer@gmail.com)

Parish Pastoral Council: Parish Council is an inclusive, prayerful, working advisory group that assists the pastor with defining the present and future needs of the parish. Each Council member endeavors to listen to parishioners and then faithfully present expressed concerns, ideas, and questions to the Parish Council. The Council functions in an atmosphere of prayer and openness to the Holy Spirit in order to become and remain grounded in faith and responsive to the Church's mission. The Council gathers, holds retreats and orientation workshops annually, and hosts the Easter Vigil reception to welcome new members to the congregation. **Contact Joe Burke at jburke@keuka.edu** (*Virtus training encouraged*)

Prayer Shawl Ministry: A nationally-established ministry for parishioners who knit or crochet shawls. The shawls are given to individuals in need of feeling God's arms wrapped around them as they go through chemotherapy or dialysis treatment. We express our compassion and faith in the healing power of prayer to our parishioners going through this difficult time in their lives. The shawls are blessed prior to distribution to parishioners, and if there is not a need in our parish at the time, shawls will be given to patients at Princess Anne Sentara's Chemo Center. If you do not knit or crochet but would like to donate yarn, that is welcomed also. For more information or to request a shawl, contact: **Colleen Stiles at 757-467-6842 or Chris Krueger at 757-467-4968** (*Virtus training not required*)

Prayer Teams: Church of the Ascension's Prayer Team Ministry supports the spirit of the global Church's "New Evangelization" to bring the personal presence of Jesus to those in need. The Prayer Team Ministry members are available at weekend masses one weekend a month. Prayer team members pray with people for intentions, large or small. The purpose of the Prayer Team Ministry is to assure individuals of God's love through simple, inviting prayer, realizing that the Holy Spirit is the agent of peace, hope, and healing. **Contact: Bridgett Passauer at 757-495-1886 x411 (passauerb@ascensionvb.org)** (*Virtus training required*)

The Rainbows: *For our more experienced parishioners of all ages!* Serving our parish and each other by running bake sales, a craft booth at our craft shows, and helping with food prep at the Easter Vigil and much more. We meet every Monday at 10:45 am to enjoy business, social meetings, crafts, and lunch out once a month. Spiritual retreats during Lent and Advent are offered. For men and women who are Forever Young! **Contact: Pauline Gonzalez at ladonapauline@aol.com** (*Virtus training encouraged*)

Scouting: Offers boys and girls opportunities to camp, explore, and achieve many physical, intellectual, spiritual, and social goals. Boys and girls 6th grade to age 18 travel the road to Eagle Scout through Troop 408 and both young men and women from ages 14 to 21 may join the Venturing Crew 408. **Contact: Jim Fowler at jfowler215@gmail.com or 757-497-1040** (*Virtus training required*)

Welcome Desk Hospitality: This ministry continues the welcoming spirit of Church of the Ascension. The desire is to have at least one person before and after Mass stationed at this desk to answer questions and assist parishioners and visitors. This position would help people register in the parish, give out name tags, and provide general information as needed. Time commitment would be 30 minutes prior to and after Mass when scheduled. **Contact: Lisa Liedl at liedll@ascensionvb.org 757-495-1886 x 422** (*Virtus training encouraged*)

FINANCE/OPERATIONS/WAYS AND MEANS MINISTRY

Unless otherwise specified, contact Lisa Liedl at liedll@ascensionvb.org or 757-495-1886 ext. 422.

Count and Bank Offertories: Count Offertory contributions each Sunday after Liturgy. Four teams rotate counting once monthly. Computer skills are helpful for data input. The process takes 3 to 4 hours on Sunday. Counters at different fundraisers are also needed. Time and dates vary depending upon event; when needed, it would be only a few hours. (*Virtus training encouraged*)

ACC (Ascension Construction Crew): This group puts much effort into keeping our buildings and grounds in good condition. Volunteers find an excellent opportunity to experience fellowship while learning many new skills in electrical, carpentry, plumbing, etc. The Crew meets on Saturday mornings and works for no more than four hours. This group also helps with table & chair set up for special events and fundraisers. Your level and frequency of support is up to you. (*Virtus training required*)

Grounds Care: We have extensive grounds to maintain and beautify, including seasonal plantings, pruning, weeding, and improving our property. No grass cutting! Any amount of time during the week or on weekends. (*Virtus training required*)

Parish Office Volunteer: Volunteers for our busy office environment are needed to assist parish staff. If your talents include computer skills, answering phones, filing, handling bulk mailings and other projects, this ministry may be calling you. Morning and Afternoon shifts available.

Contact Joanne Webb at secretary@ascensionvb.org 757-495-1886x410 (*Virtus training encouraged*)

Safety Program: The goal of the Safety Program is to provide a safe and secure place for all God's children. The program consists of a **Safety Committee, Safety Team** and **Medical Team**. The **Safety Committee** meets quarterly to review safety plans, training and team status.

- The **Safety Team** (experience desired but not required - Military, Police, Fire Fighters, First Responders, etc.) aids in maintaining a safe environment prior to, during, and after weekend Masses and special events.
- The **Medical Team** (experienced required - RN's, DR's, EMT's, etc.) provides general first aid, patient evaluation, and emergency medical care while waiting for emergency response.

All members must attend Safety Indoctrination Training and *Virtus* Training. CPR and First Aid knowledge is desired for Safety Team and required for Medical Team. Attend quarterly or refresh training as needed. Time commitment each weekend:

- Safety Team – provides 2 hours of coverage per mass (preferably the mass you are NOT celebrating due to the attentive safety roles and responsibilities). Requires standing and walking for 1 to 2 hours at a time including inside and outside.
- Medical Team – no time requirements; attends regular masses and makes themselves available as needed

Contact: Don Bressette at 641-4703 (breezenva@cox.net) (*Virtus training required*)

Ways and Means Committee: This Committee coordinates all community builders and fund raisers, including Parish Breakfasts, Christmas Bazaar and Craft Show, Plant Sale, & Parish Social Family Events. The Committee provides support and guidance to event leaders. August – June monthly meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 6:00pm in the Coffee Bar.

- **Bakers:** People to bake during the year for special fundraising events (such as Christmas Bazaar and French Café).
- **Cooking Crew:** Prepare food for all parish social events, including Parish Breakfasts, Pancake Supper, and our Christmas Bazaar. (*Virtus training required*)
- **Food Servers:** We need Food Servers at most of our functions where food is served. (*Virtus training required*)
- **Public Relations/Computer Graphics:** If you are creative and like to work from your home, you can help our W&M Ministry. We need volunteers to notify the local newspaper, radio & TV stations, and inform other parishes of our events. Make tickets and coordinate selling. Request bulletin notices and digital signage to notify our parishioners of events. Work with our Parish Secretary and W&M coordinator.
- **Set Up/ Tear Down/Clean Up ACC:** People needed prior to events to arrange and set up tables. After the event, need to remove trash, sweep, put away items, and leave the ACC ready for use of the next group. (*Virtus training required*)
- **Decorate:** People needed the morning of the event to place tablecloths, table settings, and needed items out. Possibly put chair covers on chairs. Decorate ACC and tables. (*Virtus training required*)
- **Kitchen Clean Up:** Wash dishes, sweep and mop kitchen during events when the kitchen is being used to prepare food. Secure the kitchen after events. (*Virtus training required*)