

# The Ascension Weekly

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January 7, 2018

## **Rosary Club: Knotting rosaries for the servicemen and women of our United States Coast Guard**

Since September 2017, a new group has been meeting monthly in the St. John Paul II classroom upstairs in the parish office. The Rosary Club gets together on the first Thursday of each month at 3:30 pm and is open to all girls between grades 6-8. Members spend the meetings creating knotted rosaries to be distributed to military servicemen and women in the United States Coast Guard. The idea originated with a cousin of Kristen Bryant, our parish youth minister and events coordinator. Kristen's cousin, a Coast Guardsman currently stationed in Virginia, takes the newly-created rosaries and delivers them to military chaplains, who frequently go out in small boats to United States Coast Guard Cutters, which are commissioned vessels with permanently assigned crews who are often out at sea for six months at a time. The chaplains go out to the cutters to replenish supplies and provide religious support, and while they are there they drop off the rosaries and other devotional items to the Catholic seamen and women aboard the vessel.

The Rosary Club meetings have been very fruitful, with members typically completing about one and a half rosaries each per meeting. The gatherings are also a fun social time for the girls, who can chat and enjoy light refreshments while making the rosaries. Rosary-making skills are not a prerequisite to join; the girls are taught how to thread and knot the rosaries when they first join. The finished rosaries are either blue or green; the blue rosaries reflect one of two official colors of the United States Coast Guard, and the green rosaries stem from a large donation of green nylon thread at the beginning of the group's formation. On average about 12 girls attend each meeting, and a typical meeting lasts about an hour and a half. Kristen and the current members of the group would love it if more girls joined and the club got bigger; any who are interested can email Kristen at [ascensionbowieyg@gmail.com](mailto:ascensionbowieyg@gmail.com).

## **Ascension parishioners to participate in upcoming March for Life on January 19<sup>th</sup>**

Each year on the anniversary of legalized abortion in the United States, pro-life leaders, groups, churches, families and individuals come together at the March for Life to offer a message of affirmation for the dignity of every human person, born and unborn, and to demonstrate for a world where every human life is valued and protected. This year, the March will take place on Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, and Ascension parishioners will be among the many thousands of people participating in the peaceful demonstration. Our parish youth group has joined with the youth groups of Sacred Heart and St. Edward's in reserving 60 tickets for floor seats at the Youth Rally and Mass for Life at the Capital One Arena, which takes place Friday morning before the March itself. Youth ministers Kristen Bryant and Kari and Danny Flynn, as well as pastors Fr. Larry from Ascension and Fr. Scott Homer from St. Edward's, will be coming along as chaperones. The group plans to arrive at the Capital One Arena by 6:15 am, when doors open. After the Youth Rally and Mass for Life, all will walk over to the National Mall, and then the March begins at 1:00 pm up Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court and Capitol Building. Afterwards, the group plans to stop by St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Capitol Hill for coffee and donuts before heading home.

Although the Youth Rally and Mass for Life requires pre-obtained tickets for entry, there is another option for adults and families who would like to participate in this day of prayer and penance for the unborn in Washington, DC. An Adult and Family Rally and Mass for Life will be held at St. Matthew's Cathedral, with the rally beginning at 8:30 am and the Mass taking place at 9:00 am. Groups headed directly to the March should be in place before 10:30 am. For more information, including transportation options, all are welcome to visit the March for Life website at [marchforlife.org](http://marchforlife.org).