

# The Ascension Weekly

September 17, 2017

## Ascension's Homeschool Co-op Begins its Second Year



This past Friday, September 15th, marked the first day of a new school year for the Ascension Homeschool Co-op. The program was started last

year by a group of eight Catholic homeschooling families, mostly from Ascension and a few from some of the other local parishes. Their ultimate objective in coming together for enrichment classes each week is to help build community among our Catholic homeschooling families, as well as to support and encourage them in their homeschooling efforts. Last year, a total of eight families participated, with sixteen students in grades pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup>. The courses offered included PE & Health, Spanish and Nature Studies, and memorable field trips throughout the year included visits to the Anne Arundel County Fair and Port Discovery Children's Museum in Baltimore. Members of the co-op also participated in parish activities such as the Lenten Soup & Salad Suppers and the Christmas Nativity Play.

As this second year begins, the group plans to continue to meet each Friday morning from late September through early May in the Religious Education classrooms. The number of participating families has increased this year, with 25 students currently signed up. The children are eager to see their friends from last year and to learn new things. In the San Juan family, all the kids are excited to see the new school year begin. Gianna, seven years old, can't wait for the Field Day that takes place in May. Katia, five, is looking forward to going to the County Fair once again with all her friends, while her twin sister Ana Lu is excited about the upcoming 'People in our Neighborhood' field trip series. Their mother, Anita, is thankful that Fr. Larry was open to the idea of the homeschool co-op forming at

Ascension. "I am so grateful that my kids have a group of friends that they can learn, play, and pray with on a regular basis. The homeschool co-op has really helped them to see the parish as their community. They look forward to it every week, and get even more excited when they see their friends from co-op at Sunday Mass, too. And it provides a great support system for homeschooling moms, too. I've learned so much just by observing the different teaching styles of the other moms in the group."

If you drive by Ascension on a given Friday morning this fall, you will likely see a group of kids participating in PE class on the lawn outside of Bates Hall; be sure to give them a wave as you pass by!

## A Great Turnout for Ascension Movie Night: "The 13<sup>th</sup> Day!"

On Wednesday, September 13, nearly sixty people showed up for a parish movie night featuring "The 13<sup>th</sup> Day," a dramatic film focusing on the events surrounding the apparitions of the Blessed Mother in Fatima to three young shepherd children. Kristen Bryant, events coordinator at Ascension, was happy with the turnout. "I think people were inspired by the message of hope that these recent apparitions conveyed; it is relevant to each of us and I think that really spoke to people." The movie showing, hosted by C.A.S.E. (the Catholic Association of Scientists and Engineers), was particularly timely in light of the fact that this year is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the apparitions, which occurred on the 13<sup>th</sup> of each month from May to October in the year 1917. In addition to the many Ascension parishioners in attendance were members from several of the local parishes, including Sacred Heart, St. Matthias, St. Pius, and St. Edward's. Charlene Shafer, one of the main organizers of the event, enjoyed the evening and was thrilled with how many people came out. "The idea (for the movie night) took on a life of its own, and I have to thank Our Lady of Fatima for that."