

# The Ascension Weekly

October 15, 2017

## Parishioner Spotlight: Karl Caton



### How long have you been a member of Ascension?

My family joined this parish in 2007, so it's been ten years now.

### Why did you join?

When we came to the area, we bought a house in Old Bowie, so geographically it was the closest to us. Also, it is such a beautiful church; its interior is similar to the parish in DC that we used to attend, Immaculate Conception on 8th and M street.

### Tell us a little about yourself and your family.

I am a lifelong Catholic, and I work in car sales at Darcars in Lanham. When my wife, Pennie, and I got married, the officiant at our wedding was the same priest who used to be the chaplain at the Catholic grade school I attended as a child. Pennie and I have been married 18 years now. We have three children. Alex, 21, is a sergeant in the US Marine Corps; Colin, 20, is currently working at a job in office staff, and my daughter Erin, 14, is in her first year of high school at Bowie High. All three were active as altar servers here for many years; Erin continues to serve in this capacity as a senior altar server.

### How are you active in our parish and what are some of the events you have been involved in?

I am currently Grand Knight of our Peter C. Boyle Knights of Columbus Council here at Ascension. I have been blessed to be able to serve in that capacity for four years now. We have taken part in many events over the last several years. Each year we help coordinate the Monsignor Hogan Golf Tournament to raise money for tuition assistance for local Catholic school students. We have also organized fundraisers for parishioners with medical assistance needs. For a couple of years now, we have held an Earth Day Spring Cleaning event in which we gather donations of unused electronics, appliances and other household items from parishioners for Green Drop, which distributes the goods to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Purple Heart, and the National Federation for the Blind. Also, each month we host the parish breakfasts in Bates Hall, which is a great opportunity to develop friendships with other parishioners. In fact, that was where I first met and got involved with the Knights.

### What are some of the upcoming events or goals that the Knights are thinking about for our parish?

Going forward, we'd like to be able to help host big parish events to foster a greater sense of community and fellowship among parishioners. We hope to begin partnering more with the Knights of St. John in our parish endeavors. Also, one event we are starting to lay the groundwork for is a big area bike rally; ideally we'd like to partner with other churches and even businesses in Bowie to host this event to emphasize fitness and foster community in our town. And of course I'd like to add that we are always interested in recruiting more men into the Knights of Columbus. It is the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization, and I can personally attest to the strong bonds of friendship within the faith that I have developed through my association with the Knights.