

SERVED BY:

Rev. Eamon TobinExt. 3070
Pastor, email: tobin2@live.com

Rev. Martin Fitzgerald 321-254-1595
Assistant Priest
rmartinfitz@gmail.com

Deacon Sergio A. Colon.....Ext. 3082
Bereavement Ministry, Hispanic Community
scolon@ascensioncatholic.org

Deacon Tom Stauffacher
proftom369@cfl.rr.com—321-242-4504

Deacon Bill Terneus
bterneus@ascensioncatholic.org—254-1595

Deacon Chris Meehan
cmeehan@ascensioncatholic.org —242-8003

Anita BradyExt. 3001
School Principal
abrady@ascensioncatholic.org

John Baillie.....Ext. 3044
Technology Administrator
jbaillie@ascensioncatholic.org

Victoria DunnExt. 3003
Director, School Development Office
vdunn@ascensioncatholic.org

Betsy Glasenapp.....Ext. 3080
Faith Formation Director
dre@ascensioncatholic.org

Shelly WackleyExt. 3080
Faith Formation Assistant
swackley@ascensioncatholic.org

Cara Giuliano.....Ext. 3501
Director of Youth Ministry
ascensioncatholicteens@gmail.com

Anna NagyExt. 3501
Associate Youth Minister

Katie Gander.....Ext. 3068
Music/Liturgy Director
kgander@ascensioncatholic.org

Laura DodsonExt. 3067
Pastoral Associate/RCIA
ldodson@ascensioncatholic.org

Ashley BreauxExt. 3077
Contemporary Music
abreaux@ascensioncatholic.org

Monica SuttonExt. 3076
Volunteer Coordinator
msutton@ascensioncatholic.net

PARISH OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Friday - 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
PARISH OFFICE STAFF

Teresa RomanoExt. 3050
Front Office Manager
tromano@ascensioncatholic.org

Mary Russo.....Ext. 3078
Business Manager/Bookkeeper
mrusso@ascensioncatholic.org

Anne Dorros.....Ext. 3074
Assistant Bookkeeper
adorros@ascensioncatholic.org

Maria SittigExt. 3072
Secretary/Bulletin
msittig@ascensioncatholic.org

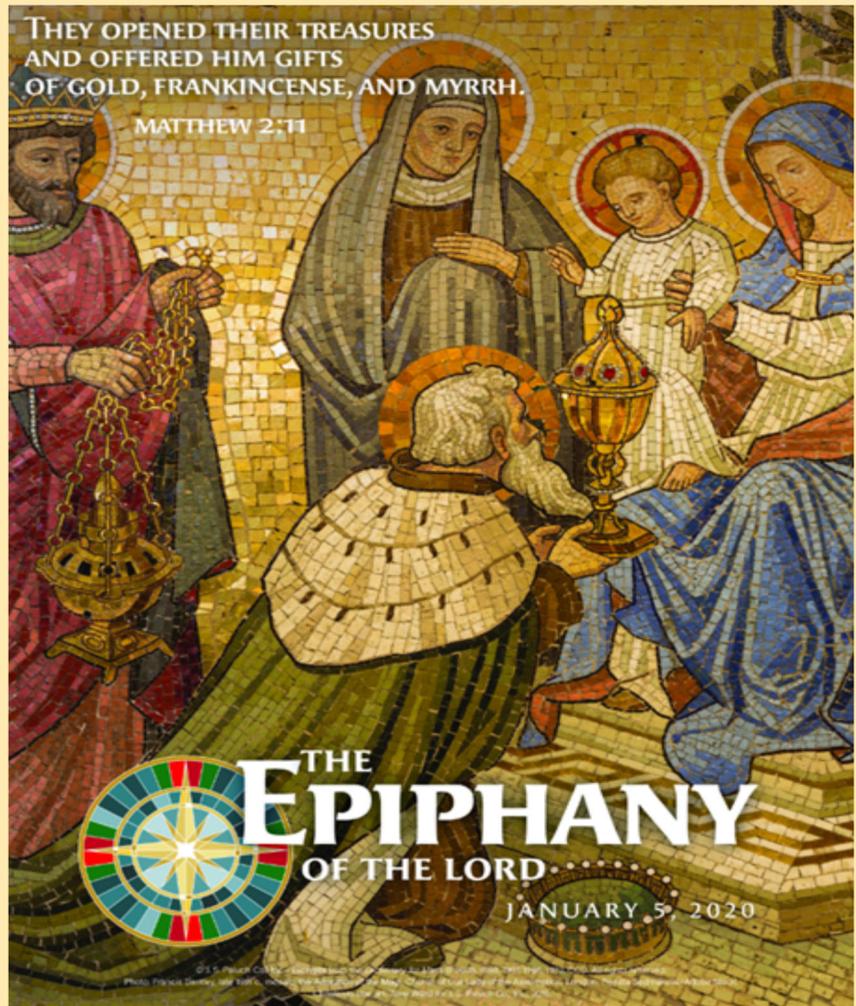
Brian Carley
Special Projects Manager
bcarley@ascensioncatholic.org

ASCENSION CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

2950 N. Harbor City Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32935

Tel. 321-254-1595 -Fax 321-255-3490

www.ascensioncatholic.net



ASCENSION CATHOLIC SCHOOL
www.ascensioncatholic.org
U.S. Department of Education
School of Excellence
Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth Grade

FAITH FORMATION
Religious Education
Pre-K3- Gr. 3 Tuesdays, 2:00-3:30pm
Pre-K3- Gr. 6 Tuesdays, 4:00 - 5:15 p.m.
Pre-K3- Gr. 6 Wednesdays, 4:00 - 5:15 p.m.
Gr. 1-6 Wednesdays, 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.

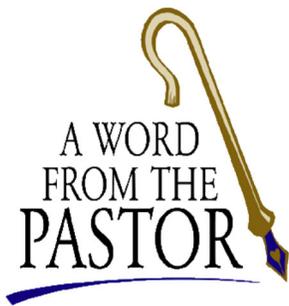
YOUTH MINISTRY
Ascension Catholic Life Teen
Sundays 6:45-8:30pm
Edge (Grades 7&8) Wednesdays 6-7:30pm

OUTREACH
Ascension Thrift Store: 259-7291
Ascension Social Concerns: 259-5685

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday Vigil Mass
4:30 pm
Sunday Masses
7:30 am
9:30 a.m. (free childcare) 
(choir)
11:30 am (free childcare)
5:30 pm
(Contemporary Music)
Weekday Masses
Monday-Friday: 7:30 am
Sat. 9:00 am
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday: 3:15 - 4:25 pm
Wednesday: 5:00 pm
(or by appointment)

As a good steward of the Lord's blessings, please remember to consider your Parish Family or School Endowment in your Last Will and Testament.



A Star Still Beckons Our Journey with the Magi

The following reflection is by Sr. Catherine Looker, SSJ, D. Min., Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia. The article is from the January 2010 edition of *St. Anthony Messenger*. This is an excellent reflection on the Magi. Please share it with others.

The wise travelers from the East, who brought gifts to the Christ Child, displayed great life skills anyone can emulate throughout the year.

In the Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12, the story of the visit of the Magi has captured the hearts and souls of spiritual seekers throughout the ages. These three Wise Men from the East, though not specifically named in the scriptural text, have come to be known as Gaspar, Balthasar and Melchior as they carry their signature gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the newborn Christ Child.

How many of us remember the delight we took as children in moving these royal travelers ever closer to the manger in our home Nativity scenes in anticipation of the Feast of the Epiphany! A wonderful family ritual for sure, yet no less compelling for us to consider how these travelers might continue to lead us ever closer to Christ throughout the year.

In particular, the Magi display significant qualities for any spiritual traveler to emulate, especially in the development of their skills and gifts:

- ◆ Keen observation
- ◆ Ability to follow directions
- ◆ Quality of presence
- ◆ Active participation
- ◆ Discernment

All five of these life skills for the spiritual journey can be considered important. The Magi exhibit mastery of each, particularly exemplified in the discernment they showed. Discernment is the capacity to sift our everyday experiences and trust when we are following the lead of God and when we are not.

Given the number of “signs” in today’s world that call for our attention and commitment, we might rightfully wonder how we can actually know when we are indeed following God’s lead. Even when we discern

what we consider to be the right path, how do we get there? Whom do we trust? Or do we try to do it alone?

To help us come to some deepening clarity, we take a reflective look at the story of the Magi’s visit and see what these wise companions might teach us about acquiring some of the necessary traveling skills needed for our spiritual journey in today’s world.

Seeing the Star

“We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” (v.2)

Jonathan sat expectantly in the darkened Church of St. Peter the Apostle, as his oldest son, Mark, led the procession of three royal travelers. Each was carrying carefully wrapped gifts representing gold, frankincense and myrrh to the starlet tableau waiting in serene stillness at the center of the sanctuary. The suspended gold-plated star above the altar twinkled as it cast its light directly on the manger scene below as the three wise travelers in royal capes of velvet and velour moved steadily toward the tableau.

Jonathan’s wife, Amy, leaned over and whispered, “Mark really looks like he enjoys what he’s doing, doesn’t he, as he leads the procession with such dignity?” Jonathan whispered back, “Yes. Maybe all we need to do is follow the light of the star. If it were only that simple!”

Amy sat back and enjoyed the unfolding scene before her. She was remembering each step of the preparations that went into getting Mark ready to be the leading king at this special moment.

*While following the star’s light may indeed seem like a relatively simple task, the Magi can teach us the traveler’s most basic skill of **keen observation**. Given the number of “lights” that glisten and call for our attention, it would be good for us to learn what we need to actually “see” before we take the next step on our faith journey.*

One of the most important observations may be to see that we have been created by God with life and purpose. We need to claim the idea that God desires a personal and loving relationship with each of us. We are invited to see our lives as a woven tapestry of faith that gives testimony to our unique relationship with God.

For example, we may want to ponder: What are we really seeking in life? What gives our life meaning and purpose?

It is evident that these three wise travelers of old had been actively waiting for a significant period of time for a sign in the heavens to guide them. They were prepared to see the sign. There is a sense of activity and purpose in their seeking, and so when the time was right, they took steps to follow the light and to inquire further about where they might find and worship Jesus as the newborn king of the Jews.

For 21st century spiritual seekers, the challenge of finding God in our lives may seem less dramatic than that of the Magi, and yet no less daunting, in our quest to find God’s presence in our everyday experiences.

Could we consider that a sign and star might be as simple as a phone call from a friend or colleague, a word of advice from a parent, an employment opportunity that seems to beckon even though it doesn't seem to be our dream job at the moment?

The important thing to notice is where these signs and stars lead us so that we can take the very next step in front of us with the assurance that we are not alone when we are following the lead of God whom we have come to trust.

Setting Out

“After their audience with the king, they set out.” (v.9)

Mary Anne, an executive who make countless daily decisions on the corporate level, finds it more difficult than ever to take the time to attend to her own personal choices. She tends to sit on the fence for long periods of time before actually setting out to follow a path. She admits that many of life's opportunities on the personal level have passed her by because she was often too reluctant to take the necessary next steps with confidence. Often experiencing a certain paralysis of spirit, Mary Anne also finds it difficult to trust others in order to gain insight.

Perhaps our three wise travelers may offer Mary Anne just the help she needs since they indeed stepped out and followed the path to Bethlehem even as they looked for consultation on their journey that included a visit with King Herod. While we know that the Magi later realized they were not to make a return trip to Herod, they clearly explored every option at this early stage in their journey in order to gain the best access route to the Christ Child.

Likewise, how difficult it can be for us when we are relying on the guidance of others! Persons like Mary Anne often find it safer to stay undecided since they are so fearful that they might make a mistake, especially if those whom they once trusted prove later to be unworthy of such trust.

And yet, do we have faith that God will lead us and show us the way if we keep paying attention, as the Magi did, at all stages of our journey? What we are called to do, flowing from our growing skill of observation, is to notice each of the signposts on the path and follow the directions that can lead us to life and freedom by paying closer attention, pondering our next steps, praying for God's help and putting one foot in front of the other.

These steps may be helpful in moving us forward if we feel called by God to make some kind of significant life change that might involve varying degrees of struggle, confusion and uncertainty. Or perhaps it is necessary to restore trust and fidelity to a relationship that has been hurting due to betrayal or misunderstanding. Or we might be called to a conversion of heart that needs concrete steps to follow our good intentions.

Whatever the situation may be, we may be feeling invited to trust the reliable signposts on our path. That way we can take the necessary next steps that will give some momentum to our choices.

Coming to the Place Where Jesus Was

“And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.” (v.9)

Day after day, Margaret looks into the eyes of her 75-year-old husband, Zach, and wonders if he even knows that she is there anymore. His dementia seems to be getting worse, and it is increasingly difficult for her to find any tangible comfort in their 53 years of marriage. Sustained by deep love, however, she continues to care for Zach by feeding him, bathing him, dressing him and holding him with the hope that somehow he will know of her love even as she wonders how much he is really “there.”

Margaret somehow recognizes in the seeming absence of Zach's responsiveness that she is exactly where she is called to be as she stays by her husband's side with great tenderness and affection. These are the signature qualities of her presence to him. What greater gift could she give him?

When Margaret finds herself growing impatient and restless, given her lagging day-to-day stamina and demanding attentiveness to her husband, she says that she continues to trust that she is indeed in the stable of her home as she lovingly cares for Zach.

Likewise, the wise travelers found the Christ Child in humble surroundings in the manger, and it is precisely there that they opened and shared their gifts in deep reverence since they had been so “overjoyed at seeing the star” (v.10). This star had led them to the house where “they saw the child with Mary his mother” (v.11).

This gift of quality of presence can, at first glance, seem to be so simple for us to understand. Yet how often might we wish that we were somewhere else? When we compare our lives with the seemingly better and more desirable situations of others, we can experience a restlessness of spirit. This can cause discontent and unhappiness since we are under the illusion that our true happiness is yet to come in some other and better place.

Perhaps what God most longs for us to know is that, when we discern that we are following God's lead in our life situation and vocation, we are exactly where God wants us to find our true happiness and abundant peace.

Offering their Gifts

“Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.” (v.11)

Dennis, a recent college graduate, asked, “What can I possibly give to God in my life? Who am I, after all, that God would want me to do anything special in my life? Often I feel as though I have nothing to give.”

The three wise travelers might encourage Dennis to consider questions such as the following: How might I identify the specific gifts that God has given me to share with others? How generously might I “open my treasures” and freely give of my time and talents? What gifts do I allow others to share with me? How willingly

do I receive these gifts freely shared? Where do I struggle to see my giftedness and the giftedness of others?

Dennis feels drawn to a more active participation in the lives of others as he seeks ways to open his coffers as the Magi did when they presented their treasures to Jesus.

So often spiritual seekers of all ages and ways of life think that God must want something spectacular and beyond their reach in order to prove that they have some kind of worthwhile gift to share. Can we dare to believe that God wants us to be happy in our giving from the depths of who we are?

While Dennis may not have gifts of gold, frankincense or myrrh to offer, he has gifts of generosity, intelligence and compassion that have continually nurtured his desire to major and graduate with a degree in the study of human resources. How might Dennis trust these gifts as an invitation to seek to broaden his horizons in the urban community where he is seeking employment at this time?

How are we called to share our unique gifts with others?

Returning Home

“And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way” (v.12).

Frank, a 30-year-old sportswriter and self-proclaimed workaholic, admits that he needs to trust his instincts and deeper integrity when making decisions, especially since he can tend to be a people-pleaser. He often second-guesses himself even after coming to a decision. This pattern can lead him to doubt his own discernment and then follow the lead of others, even when his mind and heart are telling him otherwise.

Simply put, Frank has a hard time saying no, and he takes on too many commitments while working under the illusion that he can successfully juggle all of the balls in the air.

Perhaps Frank would benefit from the advice of the Magi who can encourage him to act in truth, discernment and integrity rather than allowing his motive of pleasing others to dominate his decision-making.

Clearly, the Magi had heard and intended to follow King Herod's earlier request: “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word that I too may go and do him homage” (v.8). And yet, the three wise travelers later heeded their dream exhorting them to do otherwise.

Since the Magi deemed the message in the dream to be of God, they subsequently allowed their next steps to follow this dream, even if it meant causing displeasure to King Herod. This kind of fluidity of spirit seems essential to good discernment, especially when there are contrasting voices clamoring for our attention and choices.

In order to attain this level of discernment, it might be worthwhile to ask: How do we “return home” after

our encounters with Christ, and yet allow ourselves to be forever changed by these encounters? How do we keep growing in our spiritual journeys? How do we keep learning about ourselves in ways that hold the potential to deepen God's call to holiness as we find our way each day of our lives?

As the Magi can well testify, our return trip home indeed finds us transformed beyond our imagining, since our journey to draw ever closer to Christ Jesus renders us changed for a lifetime.

Being Stars for One Another

Now we need to consider how we are called to be a “sign” and a “star” for others as they seek their way to find Christ.

May these wise companions continue to inspire the journeys of spiritual seekers of all time so the blueprint of their story of loving search can be claimed for generations to come!

[Article from St. Anthony Messenger magazine, January 2010, used by permission of Franciscan Media, 28 W. Liberty St., Cincinnati, OH 45202. www.FranciscanMedia.org.]

Reflection Questions

- ◆ Which of the stories described in the article spoke to you most? Why?
- ◆ What are you searching for at this stage of your life?

God of this new year, we are walking into mystery. We face the future, not knowing what the days and months will bring to us or how we will respond. Be love in us as we journey. May we welcome all who come our way. Deepen our faith to see all of life through your eyes. Fill us with hope and an abiding trust that you dwell in us amidst all our joys and sorrows. Thank you for the treasure of our faith life. Thank you for the gift of being able to rise each day with the assurance of your walking through the day with us. God of this new year, we praise you. Amen.

Sr. Joyce Rupp

Have a blessed week,



tobin2@live.com



Next Sunday's Readings January 12, 2020 A

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 — Psalm 29:1-4, 9-10
Acts 10:34-38 — Matthew 3:13-17

When in your life have you found
some peace even in time of turmoil
and suffering?

YOUTH MINISTRY



Ascension Catholic Life Teen

WE ARE BACK!

Action Nights begin after 5:30pm Mass
until 8:30pm. Any high school teen is
welcome! Come join us for dinner, faith
and fellowship.

SUMMIT MEETING: January 7
7:00-8:30pm for all high school teens

EDGE JANUARY 15 - KICKOFF

For all 7th & 8th graders on Wednesdays
6:00-7:30pm in the Youth Room
Doors open at 5:45pm. Includes dinner

Questions about Youth Ministry?

Contact Cara Giuliano, Director of Youth Ministry, or Anna
Nagy, Associate Youth Minister, EDGE program at
ascensioncatholiceens@gmail.com or 254-1595 x 3501.



Ascension Catholic School Mission Statement

*Ascension Catholic School, founded by the
Sisters of Mercy and rooted in the charism of
compassion, is a community of Companions on the
Journey. We strive to foster the growth of each
unique child by living the Gospel values, achieving
academic excellence, and serving our global family.*



A Wonderful Way to Start the New Year

When it comes to starting a New Year, we often think of those great resolutions that don't last beyond the first week of the New Year. Why don't you consider, for 2020, a new experience? Join us in our planning and then delivering Ascension Catholic School's Annual Gala. No experience necessary but much to be gained!

The Gala takes place March 28, 2020. There are hundreds of ways to help and the best way to learn how is to attend our **FIRST Meeting on January 7 in the Development Office in the Ministry Building at 6:30pm.** If you have questions, contact Victoria Dunn at vdunn@ascensioncatholicssch.org. Hope to see you there and bring a friend!

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

"Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has been the fervent devotion of the Saints. Their adoration lasted hours and hours, sometimes whole days or nights. There 'at Jesus feet' like Mary of Bethany, keeping Him fond and intimate company, absorbed in contemplating Him, they surrendered their hearts in a pure and fragrant offering of adoring love."

- Fr. Stefano Manelli, OFM

Vacations, illness, absent snowbirds and just life take a toll on the availability of adorers. If you can find an hour to commit to Jesus, consider the Adoration Chapel. Jesus wants you there and through the Holy Spirit is calling you!

For info or questions, contact Sam Rodríguez at
795-9813 or adoration.ascension@gmail.com.

Sunday	1am, 2am, 3am, 5am, 5pm, 8pm, 9pm, 10pm
Monday	12am, 12pm, 8pm, 11pm
Tuesday	2am, 4am, 11am, 6pm, 8pm, 11pm*
Wed.	1am, 2am, 3am, 4am, 5am, 9am, 1pm* 6pm, 11pm
Thursday	1am, 3am, 9am, 1pm, 2pm, 4pm, 5pm, 6pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm
Friday	1am, 2am*, 3am, 6am, 7am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 4pm, 5pm, 6pm, 7pm, 11pm
Saturday	1am, 2am, 3am, 4am, 5pm, 7pm, 8pm, 9pm*

*Denotes no adorer at that hour

"Feeling Groovy?"

We had a great response to our notice for the mental wellness support group. The "Emotional Wellness Warriors" are now meeting the first and third Mondays of each month in Ministry Bldg., Rm. 302. We welcome anyone wishing to join this ongoing group. Please feel free to contact Jason Hoppenbrouwer, LCSW, at 321-698-9155, if you have questions or need additional information.

JUSTFAITH

JustFaith is offering a 21-week program, *Engaging Spirituality*, that integrates prayer and action, inviting participants into both contemplation and engagement with the needs of the world. This program will be offered during the day. We will be starting in mid-January, and at this time we are looking to see who may be interested in this program.

For more information, please call Rita Billingsley at 254-3865 or Maureen Kurtz at 752-5472.

PEN PALS FOR INMATES

Studies show that inmates with pen pals have a lower recidivism rate. The Bible tells us to "remember those in prison as if you were together with them."

A simple way to minister to prisoners is to write to them. Write-a-prisoner.com has profiles and addresses of inmates seeking pen pals and tips for getting started. Clare Saint Gabriel, a parishioner, has several pen pals and is happy to discuss this ministry. Please email her at Clarestg@gmail.com for information on finding, encouraging and writing safely with inmates.

ROSARY-MAKING MINISTRY

Rosary Ministry meets Sundays, 1:00-3:00 pm
Buescher Center, Rm. 410
Next meeting: January 12

If interested, call Michi Davis
at 242-8092.



Join us on a Journey of Faith with
The Diocese of Little Rock Scripture
Adult Bible Study Sessions of the
First Corinthians



We will start on Thursday January 9th 2020
@7:00 pm in The Buescher Center, Room 410
Contact Werner & Susan Schulz at 254-6067
or mcsanner@cfl.rr.com



VOCATIONS CUP

The Vocations Cup for December will go out at the Sunday 9:30am Mass. Nick DeSimone will take the Cup home this week.

If you'd like to sign up, please contact Jim Voltaire at 321-610-3538 or Joanneandjames129@gmail.com.

Cancer and Healing Prayer Ministry Wednesday, February 5

2:00-3:00pm, Buescher Center, Room 410

The Cancer & Healing Prayer Ministry **WILL NOT**
be meeting in January.

Please join us to pray for those living with cancer and other difficult illnesses. We pray for those on our prayer list daily, but our monthly gathering allows us to pray together and to encourage one another as we or a loved one receives a diagnosis, goes through treatment, or progresses through an illness.

If you have prayer requests or questions, please contact Barbara Warwick at (321) 242-2036.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

(Prayer of the Heart)

"Be still and know that I am God." (Ps 46:10)

Tuesdays at 7:00pm, Ministry Bldg, Rm 304
For info, contact Pam Lackie at 259-2431.



Social Concerns & Food Pantry



Reflect on the past year and begin your new year remembering your blessings!

No one in our community should go hungry, and we are ready to help. Together we will make sure they don't. There are so many people who need us. Together we can make it happen.

Thank you all so much for your continued support. We have such a loving, caring and generous community, and we look forward to working together. God bless you. Have a blessed week.



Food Pantry Needs: Pasta (spaghetti, ravioli), spaghetti sauce, powdered milk, beans, canned fruits, soup, diced tomatoes, canned tomato sauce, canned vegetables (corn, green beans, peas, etc.), canned meats (stew, ham, spam, chicken, tuna)

BEREAVEMENT RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP

The Bereavement Recovery Support Group meets on the first and third Fridays of the month in Buescher Center, Room 413, from 1:30 to 3:00pm.

For more information, call Carol Gessler, group leader, at 779-7850.

FUNERAL CHOIR

If you are interested in joining Ascension's funeral choir, please call Marie Odorizzi at 255-3952. There are no rehearsals. It is a beautiful way to show support for grieving family and friends and to give of your time and talent.



Monsignor Martin B. Power Council 14573

The Knights of Columbus is open to all Catholic gentlemen 18 and older. We have dedicated men of all ages who help meet the Knights' mission of helping those in need and our Parish. Some members participate much less than others because of family and job pressures. We can use your help as little as once per year.

Grand Knight Charlie Hunton @ 502-762-1731
Deputy Grand Knight Rob Light @ 321-626-9641
Membership Director John Miller @ 321-794-6620



Ladies Auxiliary K of C

We invite all ladies of the parish who have some affiliation with a Knight in any council, living or deceased, to join us. Our monthly meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00pm in the Ministry Building, Room 313. Our mission is to support the Knights in Council #14573.

For membership information, please contact
Christina Light at 321-544-3418
or Betsy Hampton at 321-254-0418

Ascension Prayer Shawl Ministry

It's easier to pray when you are wrapped in Love!
Thursday, 9:00–11:00am, Ministry Bldg, Rm 304

Bring your favorite needles and hooks. If knitting or crocheting has passed you by, we'll teach you how to do them. Prayer is said in our hearts with every stitch we take. All yarn donations are greatly appreciated!

If you or your loved ones would like a shawl or need more info, please call Carol Allebach at 330-806-8928 or Linda Webb at 321-733-1536.



*Ascension Catholic Church
Community is invited to join the
Knights of Columbus, Council 14573
Power Rosary*

*every 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:15pm
in the Our Lady's Chapel.*

ROSARY OF THE UNBORN

A group of parishioners are praying a special rosary called the Rosary of the Unborn on Tuesday nights at 6:00 in Buescher Center, Rm 413. According to the promises attached to this Rosary, each 'Hail Mary' said saves a baby from abortion. Each 'Our Father' appeases the heart of the Father for the sin of abortion. Please join us every week or whenever you can. We need more members.

If another time would be better for you, or you would like to obtain a Rosary of the Unborn to say on your own, please contact Diane Nichols at 858-774-1038.

We are Mission!
"People in Love Never Stand Still"

A DAY OF REFLECTION
 Presenters:
 Father Blake Britton & Dr. Carol Razza
 January 25, 2020
 St. John the Evangelist Church
 5655 Stadium Pkwy, Viera
 8:00 AM – 2:00 Mass \$12.00 Prepaid



Dr. Carol L. Razza is a full-time faculty member and formation advisor at St. Vincent de Paul Seminary in Boynton Beach. She holds an Ed.D in Child and Youth Studies, an M.S. in Counseling Psychology, and a B.S. in Psychology. She serves on the Advisory Board as the Regional Representative for Europe and Asia for the International Magnificat. She has worked in private practice as a psychotherapist for over twenty-five years, is an author of two books and presents seminars, conferences, workshops and retreats nationally and internationally. Married for 50 years to husband Paul, they delight in the blessing of their children and grandchildren.



Fr. Blake Britton was born and raised in the Diocese of Orlando, Florida, the oldest of four children. After studying opera at an arts school and the Orlando Opera Company, he applied for the seminary at the age of 18, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Master's Degree in Divinity. He is fluently bilingual in English and Spanish and well-studied in both classical Latin and biblical Greek.

Fr. Blake has a deep devotion to the Cause of Canonization of the Florida Martyrs. He was featured in the EWTN documentary *They Might Be Saints* and is a contributor to "Word on Fire Ministries." He is the parochial vicar at St. Mary Catholic Church in Rockledge.

EVERYONE IS INVITED!!!

**Tickets for sale after all Masses January 4/5
 or contact Priscilla Allen at 321-724-1542
fistmele53@hotmail.com.**

DAILY BREAD

Volunteering at the Daily Bread is a wonderful way to start **2020**, and spread the love and smiles that Ascension members have to share. Please consider volunteering with one of our teams. We volunteer as a group on the following days every month, second Monday, second Thursday, second Saturday, fourth Tuesday and fifth Friday from 10:30am to 2:15p.m.

Daily Bread is a local soup kitchen that serves a hot meal every day to our homeless and people in need. Daily Bread is located at 815 Fee Avenue. Contacts for these days are listed below:

Thursday, Jan. 9: Contact Ann Reynolds at 336-912-2668
 Saturday, Jan. 11: Contact Contact Monika Counts at 321-480-0226 or Joan Johnson at 321-779-1894 or jsj1102@aol.com
 Monday, Jan. 13: Contact Mary Sipes at 614-395-9030
 Tuesday, Jan. 28: Ginny Crews at 407-376-5984
 Friday, Jan. 31: Contact Contact Monika Counts at 321-480-0226 or Joan Johnson at 321-779-1894 or jsj1102@aol.com



Valentine's Day

Weekend Excursion

Sound of Music Matinee

Saturday, February 15, 9:30am-4:30pm
 Cocoa Village Playhouse

Round-Trip from Ascension,
 Lunch & Theater Ticket: \$85 pp

Call Global Tours for details and to sign up
 321-676-6040

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, February 23

*Sr. Maureen Cannon's 65 Years of
 Professed Religious Life*

*Mass at 11:30am with
 reception to follow.*




Alpha

Is an invitational opportunity to introduce the basics of the Christian faith. We begin each night with a meal followed by a short talk and then table discussions. Alpha is a non-threatening opportunity to explore the meaning of life and aspects of a deeper faith experience while building community.

COME AND SEE! ALPHA IS FOR EVERYONE! COME JOIN US AND BRING A FRIEND

Come and see what Alpha is all about January 15th 2020
Ascension Catholic Church at the Parish Hall! Check in begins at 6:30 sharp with dinner following promptly!

Taking registrations **NOW for **Alpha** at Ascension
Begins Wednesday January 15th 2020**

For more information or to register please
email msutton@ascensioncatholic.net or call 321-254-1595 X 3076 to
reserve
YOUR spot at the table!
See you there!

QUICK.....SIGN UP NOW! THERE IS STILL TIME!!!!!!!



MARCH FOR LIFE
Washington, DC
JANUARY 23-26

The Basics: Cost & Packing

Join us as we travel to Washington D.C. for a trip you'll never forget! It will be an opportunity to visit our nation's capital, attend Mass with 40,000 other Catholic teens, and march with hundreds of thousands of people to stand up for the voiceless. Open to 10-12 graders. \$300 includes hotel & airfare. We will be flying out of Orlando airport. Bring warm clothes: hats, mittens, boots (may be snowing), \$20 for metro and money for food

Register with Cara at ascensioncatholicteens@gmail.com

Men's Retreat Weekend
at Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center, North Palm Beach, Florida
Beginning Friday, January 24

Many of our men and women have travelled to Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center for retreat. The theme for this year's retreat program is "Eucharist: Blessed and Broken - Shared and Sent." We look forward to welcoming you for this time of spiritual enrichment and renewal.

For more information and to register for the retreat, go to www.ourladyofflorida.org
and click on 'Retreats'—then 'Men's Retreat.'

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

70 ½
OR OLDER

DONATE UP TO
\$100,000

YOUR SAVINGS, YOUR LEGACY

Thinking about end-of-year contributions? Are you 70½ or older? If you answer "yes" to both of these questions, please consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA (Individual Retirement Account).

You can use your required annual minimum distribution as a Qualified Charitable Distribution to your Parish!

- Your IRA distributions are excluded from your taxable income
- You lower your adjusted gross income = a lower overall tax liability
- You make a gift from one of your major assets, instead of from limited annual income

For more information on these and other gift opportunities please contact:

Madelyn Weed, Vice President of Donor Services
mweed@cfcf.org | (407) 246-7188 | cfcf.org/IRA



Avoid taxes on transfers up to \$100,000 from your IRA to support your Parish.



Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions.



Satisfy some or all of your required minimum distribution for the year.



Make a gift that is not subject to the deduction limits on charitable gifts.



Use your rollover to make payments on an existing pledge.



**The Catholic Foundation
of Central Florida**

Inspire Giving. Fund God's Work.



Senior Adventures In Learning (SAIL)

Winter Term begins
January 7 and 8

Join the fun! If you are 50 or over, *Senior Adventures In Learning* is just for you! Senior Adventures In Learning (S.A.I.L.) of Melbourne, Inc., is an outreach ministry to senior citizens in Brevard County.

SAIL will begin its Winter Session on **Tuesday, Jan. 7, and Wednesday, Jan. 8, through Feb. 25 and 26. The classes are at 9:00, 10:00, 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. All classes will be held right here at Ascension Catholic Church. Check the brochure for all the details.**

The one-time registration fee is \$30 for one day of classes or \$45 for two days of classes for the entire 8-week term. **Scholarships are available if needed.**

For all the details, come to the Church Office to pick up a brochure, log on to www.sailofmelbourne.org to review the courses and print out a registration form, or email sailofmelbourne@gmail.com to have a brochure/registration packet mailed to you. You can also call 321-626-0963.



Kindness Rock Garden



Our Kindness Rock Garden is **in need of rocks.** Looking for

folks or ministries that have time to make kindness rocks. Please help us replenish our beautiful garden by donating rocks or making new inspirational ones. Rocks can be purchased at Lowes or Home Depot. We use Caribbean Beach Pebble Rocks but any rock will do.

Our goal for 2020 is to have our garden filled so we can continue to spread kindness as we start the new year. The Ascension Kindness Rock Garden is located between the Church and Parish Hall.

Thank you for your kindness.





Wedding Anniversaries

Dale & Claire Haidet	66 years	Jan 9
Donald & Eleanor Hunt	65 years	Jan 8
George & Wilma Nemetz	61 years	Jan 10
Gregory & Rose Santos	30 years	Jan 6



Pray For
The Sick

Greg Grasso, Harry Wright, Betty Elko, CVS, Claire Grasso, Mia Moore, Carmelia Navarretta, Peggy McKelvey, Cathi Hurd, Ted Stoner, Betsy Coradine, Joan Barco, Rose Struzinski, Mary Laird, John Kelly, Jim Eisenmann, Laurie Chatman, Marge Pearsall, Ann McKelvey, Terri Sills, K.J. Baker, Richard Furstenburg, Amanda Oudwa, Janice Roberson, Robert Hinnant, Mary Ellen Ritter, Maureen Kurtz, Theo Reaves, Leo Shumaker, Shirley Mattai, John DeStefon, Thomas Horan, Margie Boozer, Whitney Pierto, Jim Warwick, Bill Porzio, Wayne Sabo, Wayne Fogel, Anthony Tynes, Paula Irvin, Amy Carter, John Hemel, John Thorstad, Joan Cantwell, Pat Beall, Tim Durkin, Kathy Jagdmann, Art Coridine, Stella Warnock, Steve Weinhold, Sara Baker, Leslie Selage, Jonah Powers, Phyllis Powers, Ilyana James Ayers, John Ruyane, Werner Schulz, Justine Miller, Cosanne Mistretta, Elizabeth Mengel, Ethel Kenny, Patrick Kenny, Pam Conner, AJ Johnson, Niki Gransberry, Douglas Stillwagon, Ron St. Clair, Brad Golson, Matther Rabel, Fr. Mike DiRenzo, Eric Farrell, Rosemary Bowen, Eugena Krassel, Hope Coffey, Eugene Balcerak, Divina Breckenridge, Anita Byers

Please pray for those in the nursing homes.

Pray for our Armed Forces Personnel overseas

Joseph Marci, Robert Crowl, Bryan Calenda, David Barlow, Dylan Traver, Marty Martinez, Jonathan Martinez, Bryan Satterwhite, John Kinsora, Josh Grier, Robert Grover, Rory O'Connor, Shane O'Connor, Alex Ritner, Kyle Mimbs, Kristin Agresta, Andrew Nemethy, Lance Freeberg, Theresa Mavity, Matthew Hammond, Daniel Amulong, Dr. Jerry Higman, Margaret-Anne Sytxma, Matt Maurer USAF, Daniel Sosa, Ray Romano, Matthew Cavalcante, Chad Bloomstine, David Molina, Matthew Carney, Logan Solio, Nick Owens

Mass Intentions For The Week



Week beginning Monday, January 6, 2020
and ending Sunday, January 12, 2020

Mon.	7:30 am	† Joan Burroughs
		† Ronald Campbell Jr.
Tues	7:30am	† Eugene & Mary Lou Coughlin
		† John Pereira
Wed.	7:30 am	† Betty Knight
		† Gary Carlson
	8:30 am	† Jean Murray
		† Flo Downey
Thur.	7:30 am	Special Intention – Ryan Farnham
		Special Intention - Andrea Farnham
Fri.	7:30 am	Special Intention - Heather Pereira
		Special Intention - Melody Perrira
Sat.	9:00 am	† Jim McMahon
		† Mary Long
	4:30 pm	† Norma Waseleski
Sun.	7:30 am	People of the Parish
	9:30 am	† Esther Michalowski
		† Maria Verbeyst Todd
	11:30 am	† Walter Hoppenbrouwer
		† Rose Barimo
	5:30 pm	† Rose Crescenza
		† Richard O'Donnell

SERVERS' SCHEDULE – January 11/12

<u>Sat 4:30 pm:</u>	Jane Cichock, Megan Ewing
<u>Sun 7:30 am:</u>	Erin & Kellen Fitzgerald Sebastian DeLaPorte
<u>Sun 9:30 am:</u>	Brooke & Jacob Samler Isabella Cervantes
<u>Sun 11:30 am:</u>	Martin Pham, Arainna Bruno Nicolas Coledan
<u>Sun 5:30 pm:</u>	Avalynn McDermott, Elisa Perez-Mena Casey Nguyen



Save your seat now!

CampHopeBrevard.com
has the link!



We'll be painting this beautiful piece!

\$37/pp

January 26, 2020
12:30-2:30pm

100% of the Proceeds Support



Whether you're a seasoned artist or have never held a paintbrush, come out to Painting with a Twist on **January 26th** to support **Camp Hope**- a fun and safe environment for children in need.

We provide programming during school breaks to families experiencing financial hardship or homelessness, and is supported by our community.



PRAYERS, POTATOES & PUBS!
A Journey into the Heart & Soul of Ireland
11 days: May 11 to 21, 2020

Including a fun day in Dublin with
Sisters Joseph and Immaculata
Under the leadership of Rev. Martin Fitzgerald

**Brochures and registration forms are available in the
Parish Office and the Church foyer.**