

SERVED BY:

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

Rev. Martin Fitzgerald 321-254-1595
Assistant Priest
rmartinfz@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 Romano Ext. 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 Sittig..... Ext. 3072
Secretary/Bulletin
msittig@ascensioncatholic.org

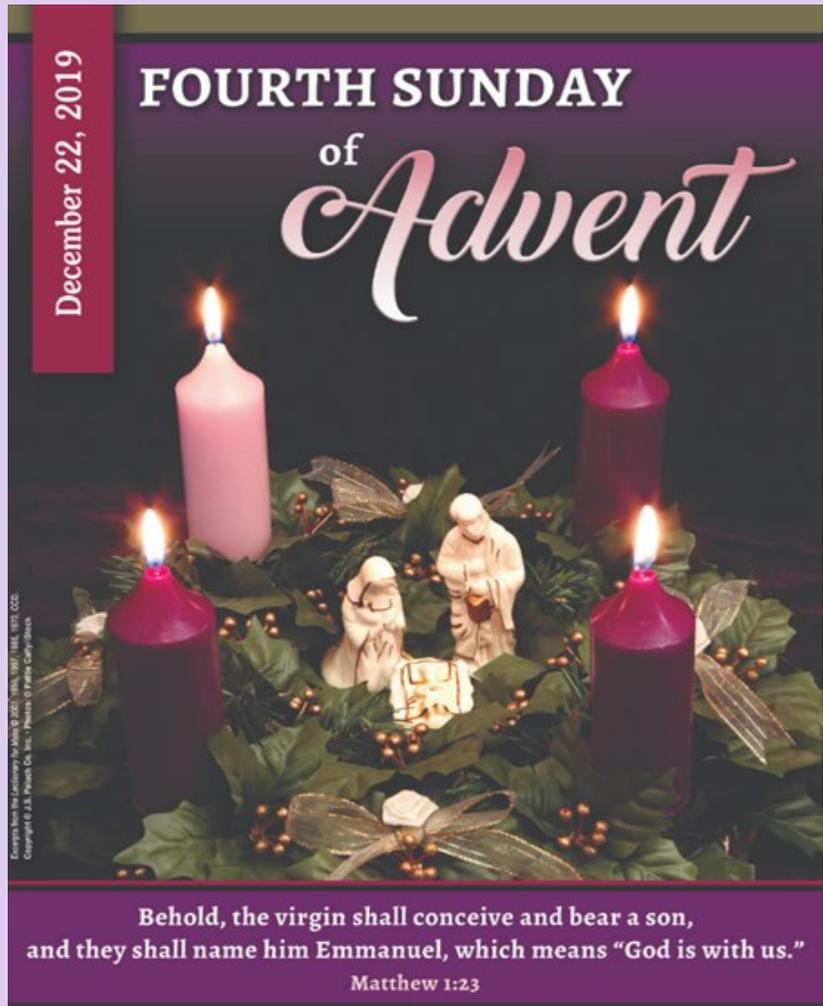
Brian Carley
Special Projects Manager
bcarley@ascensioncatholic.org

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

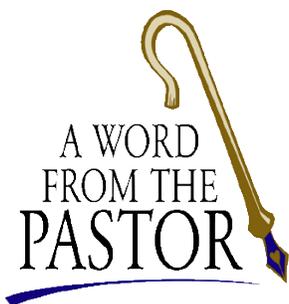
9:30 a.m. (free childcare) 
(choir)

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.



- ◆ **St. Joseph, the quiet one, what we can learn from him**
- ◆ **The Rosary, a gift from Heaven**

In the Holy Family, Jesus and Mary receive all the attention. Poor Joseph, who never utters a word in the four Gospels, hardly gets noticed. But we can learn much from Joseph, who is featured in this Sunday's Gospel and in the Christmas Eve Gospel. In her excellent book *In Steadfast Love*, Sr. Melanie Svoboda has a lovely chapter on St. Joseph. She writes:

*Some might be wondering, what does this first century Palestinian Jew have to say to us who are twenty-first century American Christians? Although Joseph could say many things to us, I have chosen **three**.*

- **It's okay to take a back seat.**

One thing that Joseph teaches us is that it is okay to take a back seat. John's gospel doesn't mention Joseph at all. Mark's gospel mentions him only obliquely, referring to Jesus as the "carpenter's son." In Luke's gospel the focus is on Mary with Joseph decidedly taking a back seat. Only in Matthew's gospel is Joseph given any real attention. And this attention underscores the fact that Joseph was a fairly

Being where God wanted him to be was more important to [Joseph] than being where he wanted to be. Being faithful was more important than being popular or powerful.

ordinary human being. In fact, we can say that he was an ordinary man living in an ordinary village during ordinary times. Joseph's ordinariness is reflected in many traditional paintings of the first Christmas where he is often pictured off to the side or in the background. Joseph did not need to be center stage. Rather he was content to play a supporting role in the great drama of salvation. Being where God wanted him to be was more important to him than being where he wanted to be. Being faithful was more important than being popular or powerful.

Sometimes in life we are center stage. This is not bad, of course. But sooner or later we may be asked to step out of the limelight and into the wings. Perhaps a change in ministry, an illness, or the natural aging process may cause us to let go of a previously "starring" role. How do we handle such a change? Are we satisfied to play a

supporting role or do we insist on being center stage? How strong is our need to be needed?

- **Joseph allowed God to shatter his world.**

The Annunciation turned Mary's life upside down. It also turned Joseph's life upside down. Mary's pregnancy initially caused Joseph unspeakable anguish, an anguish that was assuaged only by the visit of an angel during the night. Even after the angel left him, Joseph still had to believe that Mary's child was no ordinary child but the "Son of the Most High." Joseph was never given a manual on "How to Raise a Messiah." No, Joseph had to learn "on the job" through patient trial and error. Like us, he had to learn how to live by living. He had to learn to trust God even when circumstances were unsettling or unclear.

Joseph had to let go of his preconceived ideas in order to embrace the expansiveness of a God whose ways are always beyond our imagining.

Theologian Karl Rahner, S.J., has said: "If God's incomprehensibility does not...call us out of the little house of our homely, close-hugged truths..., we have misunderstood the words of Christianity." Time and again Joseph was called out of the small world of his own

making and into the wider world of God's ultimate incomprehensibility. Joseph had to let go of his preconceived ideas in order to embrace the expansiveness of a God whose ways are always beyond our imagining. During Advent we might want to reflect on a time when our world was shattered. What was that shattering experience like for us? What did God call us to do in that situation?

- **Joseph handled fear and tension pretty well.**

The gospels make it clear that Joseph did not live a care-free life. On the contrary, his life was filled with grave fears and unrelenting tension. The trip to Bethlehem was no pleasant excursion into the countryside; rather it was an arduous trek across inhospitable lands with a wife who was nine months pregnant. The flight into Egypt had to be traumatic. We catch a glimpse of what this upheaval must have been for Joseph when we see the terror-stricken faces of today's refugees in our newspapers and on television. Even a happy occasion when he and Mary found their son Jesus in the Temple was preceded by three days and nights of unspeakable agony for Joseph. Added to these fears and tension were the daily trials of a man trying to scratch out a living for his wife and son in a country subjected to the cruel domination of a foreign military power.

The gospels lead us to believe that Joseph bore the tension with considerable grace. Through all the ups and downs of his life, he clung to what really mattered: his belief in a God who was both powerful and good. Joseph's hope lay not in developing his own intellectual prowess, not in having the best religious and political

leaders, not in finding the perfect community. No, his hope lay in the mercy and fidelity of God. How gracefully am I bearing the fears and tension of my own life? What might help me to bear them more gracefully? In what or in whom does my hope lie?

Michael Card has written a beautiful song entitled, "Joseph's Song"; many of us are familiar with it. The song captures both Joseph's apprehension and his awe at the birth of Jesus. "How can it be?" he muses over and over again. We too find ourselves asking the same question. "How can it be?" when we see our world reeling from war and terrorism. "How can it be?" when we encounter injustices within our church and our community. "How can it be?" when we experience again and again our own sinfulness despite our best efforts and resolve.

But we also ask in awe, "How can it be?" when we see strangers risking their lives to save strangers, when we witness the compassionate love within our church and our community, and when we experience again and again the grace to say "I'm sorry" and "I forgive." During this Advent/Christmas Season, my prayer for all of us is that we may learn from Saint Joseph, this ordinary man, this befriender of fear and tension, who ultimately found his peace and fulfillment in the incomprehensibility of a totally loving God." (End of Sr. Melanie's reflections on St. Joseph)

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Three other reflections on St. Joseph

- The Bible tells us that Joseph was a "just man." This means, among other things, that he was completely open to God's will and to all that God wanted to do for him. He became holy by totally opening his heart to God and by living his very ordinary, quiet, humdrum life in a God-centered way.
- The Bible tells us nothing of Joseph in the years after the return to Nazareth except the incident of finding Jesus in the Temple (see Luke 2:41-51). Perhaps this can be taken to mean that God wants us to realize that the holiest Family is like every other family, that the circumstances of life for the holiest Family are like those of every family, so that when Jesus' mysterious nature began to emerge, people could not believe that he came from such humble beginnings: "Is he not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother named Mary?" (Matthew 13:55a).

He became holy by totally opening his heart to God and by living his very ordinary, quiet, humdrum life in a God-centered way.

It was almost as indignant as: "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" (John 1:46b).

- Speaking about St. Joseph, St. Bernardine of Siena wrote: "He was chosen by the eternal Father as the

trustworthy guardian and protector of his greatest treasures, namely, his divine Son and Mary, his wife. He carried out this vocation with complete fidelity until at last God called him, saying: "Good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord."

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

O blessed Joseph,
faithful guardian of my Redeemer, Jesus Christ,
protector of thy chaste spouse,
the virgin Mother of God,
I choose thee this day
to be my special patron and advocate
and I firmly resolve to honor thee
all the days of my life.
Therefore I humbly beseech thee
to receive me as thy client,
to instruct me in every doubt,
to comfort me in every affliction,
to obtain for me and for all
the knowledge and love of the Heart of Jesus,
and finally to defend and protect me
at the hour of my death.
Amen.

THE ROSARY, A WONDERFUL WAY TO PRAY FOR GLOBAL AND PERSONAL INTENTIONS

Like many of you of my generation raised in the 40's and 50's, the Rosary was an important part of our prayer life. My family prayed the Rosary *every evening*. If travelling in the evening, we prayed the Rosary as we drove in the car. For many decades, the Rosary was not a part of my spirituality. But now for a good few years, I am back to praying the Rosary every day. I usually pray it as I travel around the parish—a couple of decades here and a couple of decades there.

I *always* pray for particular intentions as I pray every decade. The intentions for the most part are connected to the 20 Mysteries of the Rosary. For example, as I pray the First Glorious Mystery, *The Resurrection* (Sundays and Wednesdays), I thank God for the hope of eternal life that Jesus' Resurrection gives us. Since the Resurrection is Jesus's defeat of evil, I also pray for all who are fighting the forces of evil in our world, e.g., hunger, poverty, human trafficking, abortion.

For the first Sorrowful Mystery of the Rosary, *The Agony in the Garden* (Mondays and Fridays), I pray for all those suffering in mind, body and spirit, and for those who are trying to help them. I often add here and there the intentions of all those who have asked me to pray for them.

For a full list of the intentions connected to all 20 Mysteries, see my writings on the Parish website and scroll down to *Miscellaneous Articles*. You will find there not only the intentions, but also the scriptural references to all 20 Mysteries and the days on which each set of mysteries should be said.

Those of you who have my book on Prayer can see my chapter on the Rosary.

In his spiritual classic, *True Devotion to Mary*, St. Louis de Montfort wrote: “*The holy rosary is a gift come down from heaven; a great present that God gives to His most faithful servants. God is the Author of the prayers of which it is composed and of the mysteries it contains.*”

In his *Apostolic Letter* on the Rosary (October 2002), the late Pope John Paul II shared with us his special love for the Rosary when he wrote: “*The Rosary has accompanied me in moments of joy and in moments of difficulty. To it I have entrusted any number of concerns: in it I have always found comfort. The Rosary is my favorite prayer. It is marvelous in its simplicity and its depths*” (Para. #2).

During her many apparitions here on earth, our Blessed Mother has encouraged us to pray the Rosary. Her exhortation alone should be reason enough for us to seek to develop a love for this form of prayer.

The late Fr. Anthony de Mello, S. J., once wrote: “*Until the next life we shall not realize how the destinies of persons and nations have been shaped, not so much by the external actions of powerful people and by events that seemed inevitable, but by the quiet, silent, irresistible daily prayer of persons the world will never know.*”

People often ask us to pray for them. I am sure we tell them that we will keep their particular need in prayer. But do we? Do we pray for those for whom we said we would? A decade of the Rosary is one simple way to keep our promise of praying for the special intentions of friends and strangers and for many, many other global needs.

SOME REFLECTIONS ON THE GLORIOUS FEAST OF GOD BECOMING MAN

Fr. Karl Rahner, SJ, wrote: “*God has entrusted his last, deepest, and most beautiful Word to the world, in the Word made flesh. This Word says: ‘I love you world, man and woman. I am here. I am with you. I am your life. I am your time. I weep your tears. I am your joy. Do not be afraid. When you do not know how to go any further, I am with you. I am in your anguish, because I suffered it myself. I am in your need and your death, because today I began to live and to die with you. I am your life. I promise you: for you, too, life is waiting. For you, too, the gate will open.’*”

Meister Eckhart, 1260-1327, a mystic and theologian wrote: “*Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus, as God-made-man in time; but if his birth is not ‘reproduced’ in my soul, what advantage is this celebration to me?*” His thought was later developed by another mystic, **Angelo Silesio**, who wrote: “*Even if Christ were to be born a thousand times in Bethlehem, but is not born in my soul, I am lost forever.*”

It is obvious, therefore, that besides the physical birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, there is also the *spiritual birth* of Jesus, which takes place in our soul. This is what we call the *Christmas of the soul*, as opposed to the external Christmas celebrations comprising all our Christmas activities—from writing Christmas cards to putting up decorations and organizing parties. It is the spiritual birth that affects our soul and enables us to partake of the eternal salvation that Jesus brought to us through his birth.

Thomas Merton wrote:

Into this world, this demented Inn,
in which there is absolutely no room for him at all,
Christ has come uninvited.
But because he cannot be at home in it,
because he is out of place in it,
and yet must be in it,
his place is with those others
for whom there is no room.
His place is with those who are discredited,
who are denied the status of persons,
who are tortured, bombed and exterminated.
With those for whom there is no room,
Christ is present in the world.
He is mysteriously present in those for whom
there seems to be nothing but the world at its worst.

A Big Thank You

A big thank you to all who have worked to make our Advent and Christmas Masses special: our choirs, musicians and cantors, Katie Gander, our Director of Music & Liturgy, our sacristans who set up our Eucharistic table for us, our Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Sound Technicians and Altar Servers.

If you live in the area and do not normally come to church, please know we are *less* than we could be without your presence and participation.

If you have issues you would like to talk to a priest about, I hope you would not hesitate to contact Fr. Martin Fitzgerald at rmartinfitz@gmail.com or me.

If you think other people might enjoy this column, please forward it to them. Also for those visiting, please know I have many writings on our Parish website. If the **Mass** is something you are not familiar with and would like to know more about it, you may want to get a copy of my book: *A Simple Explanation of the Mass—A Step by Step Commentary on the Mass*.

A blessed Christmas,

Le Saran

tobin2@live.com





Next Sunday's Readings
December 29, 2019 A

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, & JOSEPH

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 128:1-5

Colossians 3:12-21

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Think of an experience of God guiding you
out of danger or difficulty.

How did God "speak" to you—
through a friend, family member,
a stranger, your feelings, prayer?

YOUTH MINISTRY



Ascension Catholic Life Teen

Life Teen will resume in January 2020

EDGE

Edge will also resume in January 2020

Summit meeting: December 17 & January 7, 2020
7:00-8:30pm for all high school teens



**Life Teen & Edge wish the
Parishioners of Ascension
a most Blessed Christmas and
Joyous New Year!**

Questions about Youth Ministry?

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



Christmas Church Decorations

Anyone wishing to donate for the Christmas decorations of the Church in memory of a loved one, please put your donation in the collection basket with your name and your loved one's name, or mail it to the Church Office. The usual donation is \$25.



CHRISTMAS 2019 SCHEDULE

MASSES

Christmas Eve (Tuesday)

4:00pm (Children's Mass) – Church

4:00pm – Hall

6:30pm – Church (Adult Choir)

9:00pm (Contemporary) – Church

11:00pm – *PRELUDE*

11:30pm *MASS* – (Schola Choir) Church

Christmas Day (Wednesday)

9:00am and 11:00am

New Year's Eve (Tuesday)

5:30pm Vigil

New Year's Day (Wednesday)

9:00am

CHILDREN'S MASS

ON CHRISTMAS EVE AT 4:00PM

There will be a children's Mass on Christmas Eve at 4:00pm which will include a procession of youth. Children must be Pre-K3 or older to participate. Any children who would like to participate in the procession will need to meet with coordinators in Our Lady's Chapel (at the entrance of the Church) at 3:15pm. The children will process down the aisle and will place either flowers in a vase or their bell in the basket at the altar, then go sit down with their family--so please show them where you are sitting before you take them to the Chapel.

SUPPORTING ASCENSION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

As 2019 comes to a close, we thank everyone who supported our two special events in 2019, the Gala in March and Games of Our Lives in November: those who donated items for our auctions, all those who invited friends to participate, or attend the events, our countless volunteers who did everything from planning to clean-up, all our generous and loyal friends and supporters.

Your continuing support of Ascension Catholic School provides the wherewithal to continue providing an educational setting which immerses our students into an environment of excellence that challenges them both academically and spiritually. We pray for you all daily.

God's special blessings and peace to you this Christmas.

Victoria Dunn, Director of Development, ACS



Our Free Christmas Book

Rediscover the Saints

25 Questions That Will Change Our Lives

By Matthew Kelly

For the last few years, we have given a book gift at Christmas. The book is usually authored by Matthew Kelly.

In this year's Christmas book, Kelly mainly uses the lives in our Church as a jumping-off point for asking important questions. He also uses his children to do the same. Please watch out for the book and consider getting a copy for a loved one, neighbor, or co-worker who may benefit from reading it.



VOCATIONS CUP

The Vocations Cup for December will go out at the Sunday 7:30am Mass. Edith Appezato 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.

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.

Fair Trade Sale

Fair Trade Coffees, Teas, Olive Oil and **CHOCOLATE** will be on sale this weekend. Thank you for supporting farmers by purchasing Fair Trade products.

For information, please contact Barb Warwick at (321)-242-2036.



Christmas Message from the Sisters

Sisters Immaculata and Joseph are thinking of all our friends at Ascension Parish this Christmas, and would like to send our prayers and good wishes for a blessed Christmas, and a New Year filled with an abundance of peace, love, hope and good health.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

"The Pope also beatified Dina Belanger because of her devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Jesus revealed to Dina the power of the holy hour in making reparation. One form of reparation is the ability to make up for what is lacking in the life of another. One day before her holy hour, Jesus showed Dina a multitude of souls on the precipice of hell. After her holy hour, Jesus showed the same souls in the hands of God. He told her that through holy hours of prayer, a multitude of souls go to heaven who otherwise would have gone to hell as one person can make up for what is lacking in the lives of others by winning precious efficacious graces for their salvation. In other words, Eucharistic Adoration is the outpouring of God's Divine Mercy on the world!"

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

***Denotes no adorer at that hour**

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.



**“Keep Christ in Christmas”
Car Magnets**

The Ascension Knights of Columbus, Msgr. Martin B. Power, Council #14573, will be handing out “Keep Christ in Christmas” auto magnets after the weekend Masses for the next two weeks for a modest donation. It is a great way to spread an important message as we enter the Christmas season. The durable and attractive magnets will last for years. The magnets will be available after weekend Masses and in the Parish office.

FAMILY PROMISE

Family Promise families arrive today. Please keep our guests and volunteers in your prayers this Christmas week. Thank you, Ascension family, for your ongoing support!

Family Promise wishes you a most Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

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.

*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-MAKING MINISTRY

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

Next meeting: January 12, 2020

If interested, call Michi Davis
at 242-8092.



Social Concerns & Food Pantry



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
JESUS!**

**Merry Christmas to
everyone from all our
wonderful volunteers
at Social Concerns. God bless!**

Social Concerns will be closed for Christmas beginning Monday, December 23, and will re-open Thursday, January 2.



Food Pantry Needs: Pasta, peanut butter, jelly, pork & beans, diapers (sizes 4, 5, & 6)



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

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.



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@cfofc.org | (407) 246-7188 | cfofc.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, 2020**

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.



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!!!

For tickets, contact Priscilla Allen at 321-724-1542 or fistmele53@hotmail.com.



Ascension Catholic Meal Packing for Burkina Faso, Africa

Sunday, January 26th in the Parish Hall

Sign up or donate on our parish web site

www.ascensioncatholic.net > Outreach > Helping Hands Events



OCRS faith. action. results.
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

HELPING HANDS

SAVE THE DATE
Sunday,
Feb. 23, 2020

***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 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 NOW!
See you there!**

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

DAILY BREAD

Daily Bread is a local soup kitchen that serves a hot meal every day to our homeless and people in need. Ascension members are a huge part of making this happen. Daily Bread is located at 815 Fee Avenue. Please consider volunteering with one of our teams from 10:30am to 2:15pm.

Tuesday, Dec. 24: Ginny Crews at 407-376-5984

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.



Wedding Anniversaries

Jose & Ana Martinez	68 years	Dec 23
Robert & Donna Rafanello	52 years	Dec 23
Juan & Marta Fiol	51 years	Dec 28
Manuel & Rose Velez	51 years	Dec 28



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, Ava Sophia Barone, 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

Please pray for those in the nursing homes.

Pray for our Armed Forces Personnel overseas

Joseph Marci, Robert Cowl, 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, Chadd Bloomstine, David Molina, Matthew Carney, Logan Solio, Nick Owens



Valentine Day Weekend Excursion *Sound of Music Matinee*

Saturday, February 15, 2020, 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



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.**

Mass Intentions For The Week



Week beginning Monday, December 23
and ending Sunday, December 29

Mon. 7:30 am † Richard & Trish Loveday
† Pat Spellman

Christmas Eve

Tues 4:00pm Church † Mitchell Family
† Jerome Ceravolo
4:00 pm Hall † Frank Prosch
6:30 pm † Fran Kammerdener
† Penner & Saunders Families
9:00 pm † Patricia & George Hovarth
11:30 pm People of the Parish

Christmas Day

Wed. 9:00 am † Gaeton Siciliano
† Anne M. Milo
11:00 am † Helen Sharpe
† Fr. Dan Freitas
Thur. 7:30 am † Thomas William Ciambrone
† J. Burnside
Fri. 7:30 am † Mike Murphy
† Michael McCarthy
Sat. 9:00 am † Jean Trepanier
† Paul Slovak
4:30 pm † Barbara Piekos-Muzen
† Helen Sharpe
Sun. 7:30 am † Carmen Franco
† Robert Magnant
9:30 am † Paul Tsark
† Darlene Patterson
11:30 am People of the Parish
5:30 pm † Alfred Warwick
† Bertha Aiello

SERVERS' SCHEDULE – Dec. 28/29, 2019

Sat 4:30 pm: Jane Cichock, Megan Ewing
Sun 7:30 am: Erin & Kellen Fitzgerald
Sebastian De La Porte
Sun 9:30 am: Keyana & Nivea Louzon
Andrew Martiney
Sun 11:30 am: Arainna Bruno, Nicolas Coledan
Julia Graham
Sun 5:30 pm: Avalynn McDermott, Elisa Perez-Mena
Casey Nguyen



**The Sunday Church Nursery
will be closed on
Sunday, December 29.**