

## SERVED BY:

**Rev. Eamon Tobin** .....Ext. 3070  
Pastor, email: [tobin2@live.com](mailto:tobin2@live.com)

**Rev. Martin Fitzgerald** ..... 321-254-1595  
Assistant Priest  
[rmartinfitz@gmail.com](mailto:rmartinfitz@gmail.com)

**Deacon Sergio A. Colon**.....Ext. 3082  
Grief/Bereavement Ministry, Hispanic Community  
[scolon@ascensioncatholic.org](mailto:scolon@ascensioncatholic.org)

**Deacon Tom Stauffacher**  
[proftom369@cfl.rr.com](mailto:proftom369@cfl.rr.com)—321-242-4504

**Deacon Bill Terneus**  
[bterneus@ascensioncatholic.org](mailto:bterneus@ascensioncatholic.org)—254-1595

**Deacon Chris Meehan**  
[cmeehan@ascensioncatholic.org](mailto:cmeehan@ascensioncatholic.org) —242-8003

**Donna Violi** .....Ext. 3001  
Assistant Principal  
[dvioli@ascensioncatholic.org](mailto:dvioli@ascensioncatholic.org)

**John Baillie**.....Ext. 3044  
Technology Administrator  
[jbaille@ascensioncatholic.org](mailto:jbaille@ascensioncatholic.org)

**Betsy Glasenapp**.....Ext. 3080  
Faith Formation Director  
[dre@ascensioncatholic.org](mailto:dre@ascensioncatholic.org)

**Shelly Wackley** .....Ext. 3080  
Faith Formation Assistant  
[swackley@ascensioncatholic.org](mailto:swackley@ascensioncatholic.org)

**Cara Giuliano**.....Ext. 3501  
Director of Youth Ministry  
[ascensioncatholicteens@gmail.com](mailto:ascensioncatholicteens@gmail.com)

**Anna Nagy** .....Ext. 3501  
Associate Youth Minister

**Katie Gander**.....Ext. 3068  
Music/Liturgy Director  
[kgander@ascensioncatholic.org](mailto:kgander@ascensioncatholic.org)

**Laura Dodson** .....Ext. 3067  
Pastoral Associate/RCIA  
[ldodson@ascensioncatholic.org](mailto:ldodson@ascensioncatholic.org)

**Ashley Breau** .....Ext. 3077  
Contemporary Music  
[abreau@ascensioncatholic.org](mailto:abreau@ascensioncatholic.org)

**Monica Sutton** .....Ext. 3076  
Volunteer Coordinator  
[msutton@ascensioncatholic.net](mailto: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](mailto:tromano@ascensioncatholic.org)

**Mary Russo**.....Ext. 3078  
Business Manager/Bookkeeper  
[mrusso@ascensioncatholic.org](mailto:mrusso@ascensioncatholic.org)

**Anne Whelan** .....Ext. 3074  
Assistant Bookkeeper  
[awhelan@ascensioncatholic.org](mailto:awhelan@ascensioncatholic.org)

**Maria Sittig**..... Ext. 3072  
Secretary/Bulletin  
[msittig@ascensioncatholic.org](mailto:msittig@ascensioncatholic.org)

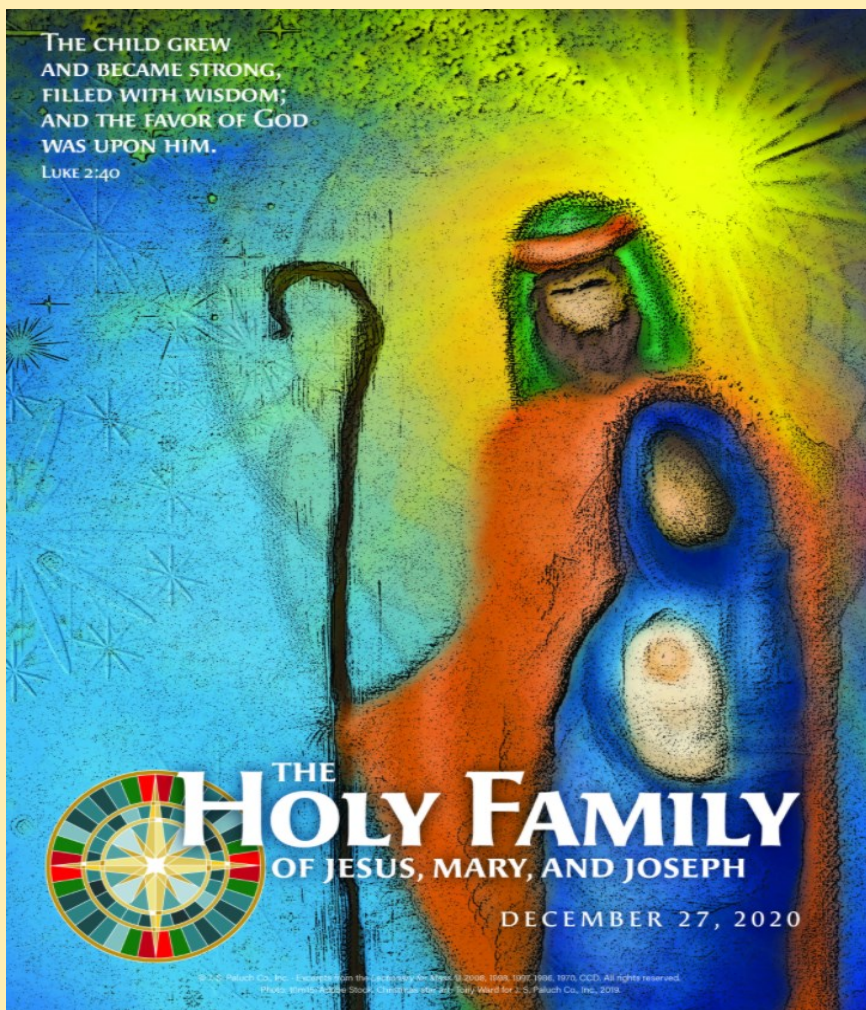
**Brian Carley**  
Special Projects Manager  
[bcarley@ascensioncatholic.org](mailto:bcarley@ascensioncatholic.org)

# ASCENSION CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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

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

[www.ascensioncatholic.net](http://www.ascensioncatholic.net)



## ASCENSION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

[www.ascensioncatholic.org](http://www.ascensioncatholic.org)

U.S. Department of Education

School of Excellence

Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth Grade

## FAITH FORMATION

Religious Education

Pre-K3- Gr. 6 via various methods

See

[www.ascensioncatholic.net](http://www.ascensioncatholic.net)

for more information

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Ascension Catholic Life Teen

Sundays 6:45-8:30pm

Edge (Grades 7&8) Wednesdays 6-7:30pm

Ascension Social Concerns: 259-5685

Religious Articles Gift Shop

Open after all weekend Masses

## SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday Vigil Mass

4:30 pm

Sunday Masses

7:30 am

9:30 a.m.



Sign  
Language  
Mass

11:30 am

5:30 pm

(Contemporary Music)

Weekday Masses

Monday-Friday: 7:30 am

Sat. 9:00 am

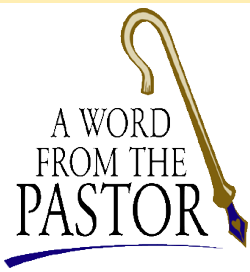
Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:15-4:25

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.



- ♦ **Miscellaneous Reflections on the Feast of the Holy Family**
- ♦ **Suggestions for New Year's Resolutions**

The following are four miscellaneous reflections on family.

***Reflection #1. Happy families are involved with helping others.***

Sr. Sandra DeGidio, O.S.M., writes:

Rosemary Haughton, noted theologian and herself the mother of a large family, says, "Contrary to popular belief, the best marriages and the happiest families don't happen because people concentrate, first of all, on the quality of their relationships, but rather when the couple and then the family as a whole is involved in something bigger." That "something bigger" is the commandment of Christ to love and serve one another. "My family," says Jesus, "hears God's word and acts on it."

Healthy families make a concerted effort to go beyond their cozy clan, to enlarge their focus to include the people around them in their communities and the world who are less fortunate. They involve themselves in parish outreach projects. They volunteer at local soup kitchens and contribute service to local community projects like Habitat For Humanity, shelters for the homeless or Food for the Hungry.

***Contrary to popular belief, the best marriages and the happiest families don't happen because people concentrate, first of all, on the quality of their relationships, but rather when the couple and then the family as a whole is involved in something bigger.***

Healthy families who value service to others not only see the need to serve others, they find concrete ways to assist them. They strive to simplify their lives in order to share with those who have less. They weed out their closets and donate good used clothing to thrift shops or Goodwill without seeking to replace the clothing with new. They are open to others and generously hospitable. They

find joy in welcoming strangers by sharing their homes and themselves with others, especially in times of disaster.

(Copyright © 1980 "Sharing Faith in the Family: A Guide to Ritual and Catechesis," Sandra DeGidio, O.S.M., Twenty-Third Publications.)

***Reflection #2. Good families all learn to deal with difficulties and challenges.***

Jay Cormier writes:

In his book, *All Rivers Run to the Sea*, Elie Wiesel (famous survivor of Nazi war camps) recalls a terrible moment confronting his family. The war was coming to an end, but the deportation of the Jews continued. Elie—who was fifteen at the time—his parents, and three sisters faced deportation to the Nazi concentration camp at Birkenau. Maria, a Christian and the family's housekeeper, begged the Wiesels to hide in her family's cabin in the mountains. The family gathered at the kitchen table for a family meeting: Should they go with Maria or stay and take their chances? The family decided to stay. "A Jew must never be separated from his community," Elie's father said. "What happens to everyone else happens to us as well."

Elie Wiesel writes of their decision: "My father was right. We wanted to stay together, like everyone else. Family unity is one of our important traditions, as the enemy well knew.... The strength of the family tie, which had contributed to the survival of our people for centuries, became a tool in its exterminator's hands."

***Yet their love for one another and their trust in God kept their family together through the worst of times.***

Like the Wiesels, the family of Joseph, Mary, and the child Jesus had to endure a great deal as well the scandal of Mary's pregnancy, Mary's giving birth far from home, their fleeing from Herod's murderous wrath. Yet their love for one another and their trust in God kept their family together through the worst of times.

Every family experiences its share of difficult moments and challenges. Today, on this Sunday after Christmas, we celebrate "family"—that unique nucleus of society that nurtures and supports us throughout our journey on earth. This Christmas season, may we rediscover the special bond that transforms a household into a family—a family that is a harbor of forgiveness and understanding and a safe place of unconditional love, welcome, and acceptance.

(Used with permission from Jay Cormier, Copyright 2010 by Connections/Media Works. All right reserved.)

**Reflection question:**

**What has been the hardest situation your family has had to deal with? How were you able to cope with it?**

**Prayer:** *Loving Father, in times of tension, bless our family with the hope of your consolation and forgiveness; in times of joy, bless us with a spirit of thankfulness, never letting us forget that you are Father of us all.*

**Reflection #3. How can a sense of Jesus' presence transform a family or community?**

Patricia Sanchez writes:

On this, the feast of the Holy Family, the gathered assembly is invited to reflect, not only upon that holy threesome who have figured so importantly in our salvation history, but also upon all the other families that comprise the one universal family of humankind.

Unfortunately, and due to a variety of factors, the ties that bind us one to another within our global network of families have suffered a series of assaults over the past several decades. This is a fact that need not be argued; the evidence of relational weakness and even decay is obvious and this weakness affects every one of us to one degree or another. Rather than bemoan the fact and belabor the point, our attention might be better directed and our efforts better spent in trying to effect change, conversion and growth within the family unit. "If we can change the culture of our families," says Steve W. Vannoy (*The Ten Greatest Gifts I Give My Children*, Simon and Schuster, New York: 1994) "surely that change will radiate out to touch those around us." In this way, our society will be improved from the inside out, family by family. The following fable offers a powerful example of the contagious grace of change.

The membership of a once numerous order of monks dwindled over the years, until there were only five brothers left in what had been a thriving community. For years, people from the surrounding area had been drawn to the monastery in search of the learning and spiritual renewal they found there. Now, no one ever visited as the spirit of the place and its inhabitants seemed to be slowly dying.

One day, however, a rabbi happened by to visit. When he was about to leave, one of the brothers asked the rabbi if he had any advise on how to revitalize themselves and make their monastery a spiritual center once again. After a few moments, the rabbi replied, "The only thing I can tell you is that the Messiah is one of you." Flabbergasted, the brothers replied, "The Messiah among us? Impossible!"

As the weeks passed, the brothers puzzled over the rabbi's startling revelation. If the Messiah were here, who would it be? Maybe, Brother Timothy ... he's the abbot and in his capacity as leader, he could surely be chosen to be the Messiah....

It couldn't be Bro. Mark; he's always so argumentative, but, he's usually right.... Or maybe, it's Bro. Pius who tends the garden and the animals. He could probably nourish a troubled world if he were the Messiah.

Surely, it could be Bro. Dominic; he's studious, learned and familiar with all the great spiritual writers. It couldn't be Peter, could it? Certainly, the Messiah couldn't be the one who cleaned toilets, dirty laundry and scrubbed the pots and pans each day. Or, could it?

Since the monks were unable to determine which one of them was the Messiah, they began to treat one another as though each were the one. Moreover, just in case he himself might be the Messiah, each monk began to treat himself with new respect and to conduct himself with greater dignity.

Within a few weeks, the monastery's occasional visitors were awed by the love, goodness and revitalized spirituality they experienced. They returned again and again and brought new friends along. Soon, a few young men asked to be admitted to the order and the monastery thrived again.

Imagine the possibilities for growth and renewal if each family were to take to heart the rabbi's words, "The Messiah is one of you." How much more might spouses love and cherish one another.... How much more might parents value their children, protect them, teach them and lovingly attend to their needs.... How much more might children honor and appreciate their parents. If each member of every family were to reverence one another as the Messiah, i.e., as Jesus who is our Savior and brother, how much might that strengthen and secure those familial bonds that are the infrastructure, without which our society has no future.

Today, the love shared among the Holy Family offers us both a witness and challenge. To love one another as they did requires that we look beyond the faults and idiosyncrasies that annoy us in order to discover the Christ who lives in each of us. Such love requires that we replace nitpicking, nagging and criticism with wise counsel, humbly offered, and encouragement and praise, generously bestowed. Such was the love that became incarnate among us and which we reveled in celebrating at Christmas. Such is also the love that has brought us to the end of this year and will carry us through to the new millennium and beyond.

(Used with permission, *The Word We Celebrate: Commentary on the Sunday Lectionary Years, A, B, C.* by Patricia Sanchez, - Sheed & Ward publisher (9-1-89.)

**Reflection #4. God - A Divine Migrant**

Fr. Daniel Groody writes:

**Reflection:** With Herod's armies on their donkey's tail and a target on their son's back, this new family gets off to a rough start! It would be a hard beginning for any family, let alone God's anointed Holy Family! Their privileged role in salvation history did not dispense them from the challenges, uncertainties, and vulnerabilities that are part of every human journey.

Though this story may be familiar to us, the underlying trials of this family should not be lightly glossed over. Instead of settling down, they are forcibly uprooted and flee to Egypt to avoid Herod's murderous rage. We can only imagine the many times Mary and Joseph must have thought, *Good God, if this son of ours is so special, why must we go through so much hardship?* As the drama unfolds, we can only wonder why God would allow his own family—and even his own self—to undergo such tribulation?

As we enter more deeply into this mystery, we realize that God in Jesus, not only leaves his homeland and enters our broken world as a “divine migrant,” but he and his family also become refugees! Matthew only gives us ten brief verses to describe this journey, but we know that coming out of Egypt, his story will align with Israel's own story. But this time the promise on the horizon is not only for release from physical bondage but freedom from slavery to sin and death on a journey that will lead to the road of salvation.

**Meditation:** Today there are more than sixty-five million people in our world like Mary, Joseph, and Jesus who are forcibly displaced from their homelands because of persecution, war, or violence. We can only imagine how the Holy Family felt when good-hearted people unsuspectingly helped them in their need and extended spontaneous gestures of support and kindness. We cannot do everything to relieve the pain of those on the move, but we can do something. How can I make a stranger feel welcome today, honor their dignity, or reach out to those near me who are living away from their homeland?

**Prayer:** *Lord, without knowing the road ahead, the Holy Family learned how to trust you one step at a time as they navigated their way through the challenges of life. Guide me in your goodness, even when I do not know the way ahead or how you are leading me.*

(Copyright 2019 by Daniel G. Groody. “Daily Reflections for Advent & Christmas Waiting in Joyful Hope, 2019 – 2020” pgs. 40-41. Published by Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota. Used with permission.)

**POPE FRANCIS' SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS**

When Pope Francis met before Christmas with Vatican employees, mostly lay people with families, he asked them to do 9 things. The list sounded remarkably like suggestions for New Year's resolutions:

1. Take care of your spiritual life, your relationship with God, because this is the backbone of everything we do and everything we are.
2. Take care of your family life, giving your children and loved ones not just money, but most of all, your time, attention and love.
3. Take care of your relationships with others, transforming your faith into life and your words into good works, especially on behalf of the needy.
4. Be careful how you speak, purify your tongue of offensive words, vulgarity and worldly decadence.
5. Heal wounds of the heart with the oil of forgiveness, forgiving those who have hurt us and medicating the wounds we have caused others.
6. Look after your work, doing it with enthusiasm, humility, competence, passion and with a spirit that knows how to thank the Lord.
7. Be careful of envy, lust, hatred and negative feelings that devour our interior peace and transform us into destroyed and destructive people.
8. Watch out for anger that can lead to vengeance; for laziness that leads to existential euthanasia; for pointing the finger at others, which leads to pride; and for complaining continually, which leads to desperation.
9. Take care of brothers and sisters who are weaker ... the elderly, the sick, the hungry, the homeless and strangers, because we will be judged on this.

**Reflection question:**

Which of the above nine points speak to you the most?

***A BIG thank you to all who sent Christmas cards and goodies to the Office.***

Have a blessed week,

*Le Saran*

tobin2@live.com





**Next Sunday's Readings**  
**January 3, 2021 B**  
***The Epiphany of the Lord***

**Isaiah 60:1-6**  
**Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13**  
**Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6**  
**Matthew 2:1-12**

**The wise men worked hard to find Jesus,  
 and we are asked to do the same.  
 What are some ways you have found  
 Jesus in your life?**



**NEW YEAR'S MASS**  
**2020/2021 SCHEDULE**

**New Year's Eve (Thursday)**

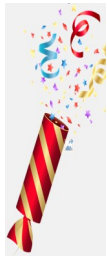
**5:30pm Vigil**

**Presider: Fr. Martin**

**New Year's Day (Friday)**

**9:00am**

**Presider: Fr. Eamon**



**The Parish Office will be closed  
 for New Year's starting at noon on  
 December 31, and will reopen on  
 Monday, January 4.**

**We, the Parish Office staff,  
 wish all our parishioners  
 a Happy and Safe 2021!**



**HOLY HOUR**

**Weekly Holy Hour every  
 Wednesday, 5:00-6:00 pm, in Church**

**There will also be an opportunity for  
 Reconciliation during that time.**



**The Ascension High School Youth Ministry  
 and the Middle School Edge Ministry  
 wish the  
 parishioners of Ascension  
 a Happy New Year!**

**Cara Giuliano & Anna Nagy**  
**254-54150 ext. 3501**

**[ascensioncatholicteens@gmail.com](mailto:ascensioncatholicteens@gmail.com)**

**Follow us on Instagram/  
 Facebook@ascensioncatholicteens**



**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.*

**Elementary**  
**Faith**  
**Formation**  
**Spring**  
**Schedule**  
**2021**

**Tuesday**  
**4:00 - 5:45 pm**

**Jan. 12th**  
**Feb. 2nd**  
**Feb. 23rd**  
**March 23rd**  
**April 13th**

**Wednesday**  
**4:00 - 5:45 pm**

**Jan. 20th**  
**Feb. 17th**  
**March 3rd**  
**March 31st**  
**April 21st**

**Wednesday**  
**5:45 - 7:30 pm**

**Jan. 27th**  
**Feb. 10th**  
**March 10th**  
**April 7th**  
**April 28th**



## A New Year - Make Us A Resolution! A New Year - A New You! Come Zoom with us!

- ◆ We proclaim the Sunday Mass readings.
- ◆ We read Fr. Eamon's Commentary to understand.
- ◆ We discuss what it means to us in our lives.
- ◆ We pray for each other, our parish, the world.
- ◆ We focus on God—and it's so very good!

**To join ZOOM, get your password!**

Call or email today for your password: [ldodson@ascensioncatholicsch.org](mailto:ldodson@ascensioncatholicsch.org) or 254-1595 ext. 3067  
**Join Us Wednesday, December 30, at 7:00pm — Come ZOOM with us or watch on YouTube**  
 Parish website: <https://www.ascensioncatholic.net/> (click on Ascension Catholic Media)  
 —or Parish Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ACCMelbourne>

**Prefer an afternoon? Come ZOOM with us...**

Join Leigh Osgood-Barry on Wednesday afternoons at 1:00pm on ZOOM!  
 Call or email for your password: (321) 254-1595 ext. 3067 or [ldodson@ascensioncatholicsch.org](mailto:ldodson@ascensioncatholicsch.org)



## Pray the Rosary With Your Parish Family!

Join Father Eamon Sunday night at 7:00pm  
 and pray the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary  
 with the Rankin Family

We will gather virtually, quiet ourselves, and pray the  
 Rosary to prepare for the busy-ness of the week ahead.  
 Join Father Eamon by phone, computer or tablet  
 via our parish website:

<https://www.ascensioncatholic.net/>. Click on Ascension Catholic Media or Parish Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/ACCMelbourne>.



### Small Christian Community- 3 Ways

- socially distanced in person in a small group
- in a small group by Zoom or other media
- incognito via livestream

We gather for an hour and a half to read the Sunday Scripture to hear God's  
 Word speak to us. We read Father Eamon's Commentary to understand. We  
 laugh, we share life, we pray. We LIVE the Word – to make life meaningful!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Best phone # \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Prefer to meet: in person \_\_\_ via Zoom \_\_\_ via livestream \_\_\_

Sign-up outside church or contact: [ldodson@ascensioncatholicsch.org](mailto:ldodson@ascensioncatholicsch.org) or  
 321-254-1595 ext. 3067

The  
Catholic Business  
Network of Brevard



*Founded by  
Ascension and  
HNJ parishes*

- **CBNoB** is a newly formed non-profit that brings together Catholic businesspeople to foster business relationships.
  - The Network also provides coaching for jobseekers.
- Members range from CEOs to unemployed people who are looking for work.
- Being a member gives you:
  - access to senior managers in other local companies;
  - access to well qualified job seekers; and/or
  - the opportunity to jumpstart your job search.
- We're also looking for volunteers who can help us grow...

**Learn more and sign up at [www.cbno.org](http://www.cbno.org)**

*Note that members are only connected with other members after they have reviewed a "connection request" and agreed to the introduction.*



Do you know someone who is going through a hard time because they've lost somebody close? Grief is a normal and natural process that takes time and energy and is usually both physically and emotionally demanding. The pain of grief is one of the most intense feelings a human being can face. The emotional damage cuts to the soul. True healing comes from support of friends, family, community and God. GriefShare is a video-based support group for those who have lost a spouse, child, close friend or family member. The sessions help with sadness, hurt, resentment, loneliness and help avoid getting stuck in grief. Starting January 25, 2021 at 6:30pm we will meet in Room 411 in the Buescher Center on Monday evenings. A donation for the workbook is appreciated.

To sign up, please contact Paul Kalinosky at [PKalinosky@cfl.rr.com](mailto:PKalinosky@cfl.rr.com) or (321) 795-5642

Monday nights (in person), 6:30-8:00pm  
Buescher Center, Room 411

We do follow the Diocesan health guidelines. Masks are required and participants sit at 6 foot tables.

Wednesday nights (Zoom), 7:00-8:30pm in your home

**New Session . . . Loss of a Spouse**

Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021, 10:30am - 12:30pm  
Buescher Center, Room 411.

Wednesday, (Zoom) January 20, 2021, 7:00pm

For more info, please contact Karen Mitchell at (321) 752-3838 or [KarenLovesChuck@gmail.com](mailto:KarenLovesChuck@gmail.com)

## ADORATION

**The Adoration Chapel is open. Only two confirmed adorers are permitted each hour. No DROP-INS!**

The Chapel will be sanitized every day by Ascension staff. A Hepa filtration system will be in place to help clean the air during the hours of adoration. **Masks are required** and must always be worn while in the Chapel. We ask that you follow the protocol so that we can all be safe.

If you would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Lyn Becker at [accadoration2950@gmail.com](mailto:accadoration2950@gmail.com) or (561) 531-3173. You must have a completed COVID waiver on file, which can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/y2dn2mmk> or obtained from the Church Office.

### HOURS IN NEED OF AN ADORER

|          |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
| Sunday   | 2pm             |
| Tuesday  | 6pm             |
| Thursday | 6pm             |
| Friday   | 5pm             |
| Saturday | 10am, 12pm, 5pm |

**Other hours are available for single adorers. Please email Lyn Becker (see above) if you are interested in reserving an hour. Once confirmed, you will be given the new door code.**

## ROSARY-MAKING MINISTRY

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

Next meeting: To be announced

If interested, contact Michi Davis at 242-8092 or [michidavis@cfl.rr.com](mailto:michidavis@cfl.rr.com).



## Christmas Kids

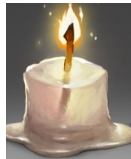
A **BIG Thank You** to Cyndi Hernandez for coordinating our outreach to 50 children in the Brevard Family Partnership CARES program, to Debbie Phillips, the faithful helper, and to each and all of you who shopped and fulfilled Christmas wishes for them. John Casco led the team of Dawn and Frank Cibor, Tony Cortes, Kathleen Holton and Jim McVerry, transporting 7 bicycles and 5 food carts filled to overflowing in the Thrift Store truck. Together, you make Christmas *Real*.



## Wax Candle Stubs Needed!

Girl Scout Troop 1978 is seeking your old Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas candle stubs to make fire starters for their camping trips. We can't make s'mores without a campfire!

There will be a collection box in the back of the Church in the Lady's Chapel from December 19 to January 17. Please contact Michelle Devoid at (321) 242-9476 with questions.



## Social Concerns & Food Pantry

**Social Concerns** will be closed starting on Wednesday, Dec. 23, and will reopen on Monday, Jan. 4. Thank you all for your continued support throughout the year. We could not do it without you and our wonderful volunteers.

**SOCIAL CONCERNS** is looking for help: 2 to 3 able-bodied men who are flexible for peak time hours. If you are able to help, please contact Jerry or Olga at 321-259-5685, Monday to Friday, 9am to 11am. Thank You.

**Pantry food items:** Ketchup, Mustard, Mayonnaise, Soups, Pasta, Mac & Cheese, Peanut Butter & Jelly.

Food Pantry Drive next weekend, January 3, 2021.

## Testimony To Our Ministry

Friday, Dec. 11, 2020, a gentleman came into the office and gave us a check for \$1,000. His story is that years ago when he was homeless, on drugs and alcohol, he came to us for assistance and we helped him. Because of our help, he turned his life around, has a good job (has a very nice truck) and wants to give back to his "Brothers & Sisters" in need.

*This is the reason we do what we do  
at Social Concerns!*

*Blessed New Year!*

## BRAVER ANGELS AN EXCLUSIVE INVITATION TO ASCENSION PARISHIONERS

At Braver Angels we have been bringing conservative leaning individuals and liberal leaning individuals together for constructive conversations since 2016. Our goal is not to change minds but to change hearts: to change our perceptions of those who hold different political beliefs, to listen to and seek to understand those on "the other side," and to be heard and to be understood by them.

In early February, we are offering our "flagship" workshop to a group of Ascension parishioners. In our Red/Blue Workshop, we bring 5-8 conservative leaning individuals ("reds") and 5-8 liberal leaning individuals ("blues"), and up to 20 observers/alternates for three hours of highly structured and carefully moderated conversations. Our goal is to go beyond the stereotypes we typically have of those holding different political views, to identify common ground, and to re-discover our shared humanity.

The workshop will be conducted on Saturday, February 6, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. via Zoom. If you would like to learn more about the workshop itself, you may visit the Braver Angels website at: <https://braverangels.org/what-we-do/red-blue-workshops/> or you may contact Paul Witte at [pwitte@braverangels.org](mailto:pwitte@braverangels.org) or 321-243-0161.

If you are interested in hearing how others have reacted after attending this workshop, you may check out this video from the Franciscan Peace Center, Iowa:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mr6E062i8Sk&feature=youtu.be>. (Note that at the time of this recording our organization was known as "Better Angels." We changed our name early in 2020 because of a trademark dispute regarding the use of the name.)

If you would like to join us for this free event, you may register at Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/redblue-workshop-session-1-ascension-community-melbourne-fl-registration-131690173855>.



# Knights of Columbus®

**Fr. McGivney**  
Beatification Celebration!

**Become an Online Member for FREE.\***

Now through December 31st,  
enter code **MCGIVNEY2020**  
for **FREE** first year membership.

\*regular dues are \$30/year

Visit [kofc.org/joinus](http://kofc.org/joinus)  
use Promo Code  
**MCGIVNEY2020**




## 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 Rob Light @ 321-626-9641  
Deputy Grand Knight Eddy Merlet @ 954-882-3687  
Membership Director John Miller @ 321-794-6620



## Ladies Auxiliary K of C

We invite all ladies of the parish, to join us. Our mission is to support the Knights in Council #14573.

For membership information, please contact  
Ginny Reeder at 978-460-1972  
Kris Webster at 321-914-7813



## DAILY BREAD

**2021 is Here!**

**Time for new goals, resolutions.  
Perhaps making Daily Bread  
volunteering part of New Year's resolution!**

The Daily Bread is our local Soup Kitchen, helping the homeless, and those in need. It is located at 815 Fee Ave., Melbourne. Our volunteer hours are 10:30am—2:30pm. We continue to follow the CDC Covid-19 protocols. All are required to wear a mask.

Ascension volunteers are well known for their caring and giving spirit, we are looking forward to hearing from you! our volunteer days are: 2nd Monday, 2nd Thursday, 2nd Saturday, 4th Tuesday and 5th Friday each month. Please contact the following team leaders if you have questions, or able to volunteer

### Contact information:

**Sat., Jan. 9:** Joan Johnson, at 321-779-1894  
or [jsj1102@aol.com](mailto:jsj1102@aol.com)  
**Mon., Jan 11:** Mary Sipes at 614-395-9030  
**Thurs., Jan 14:** Ann Reynolds at 336-912-2668  
**Tues., Jan 26** Ginny Crews 407-376-5984 or  
[gincrews12@gmail.com](mailto:gincrews12@gmail.com)

## MINISTRY OF INTERCESSIONS

The Ministry of Intercessions has been praying for members of our parish, the world and our parish needs for the past 25 years. Prayer is the greatest gift we can give. Thank you to all members who have been praying for us and our community.

During this time of social distancing and caution, it would be wonderful to have more people praying with us. There are no meetings to attend. Each month, members receive a letter with petitions to pray for during the month. All that is needed is a heart willing to give your time and love to pray for others.

If you or someone you know would like to join us, please contact Terry Roy at (321) 779-9502, cell (321) 917-0172, or [Theresa.roy1@gmail.com](mailto:Theresa.roy1@gmail.com).



## Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians invites anyone of Irish ancestry who wishes to preserve their Irish heritage to join LAOH. We meet the third Wednesday of each month in the Buescher Center, Room 411, at 1:00pm.

Any questions, please call Eileen Chandler at 321-259-3841 or Doris Cassario at 772-538-4782.



## ALPHA IS BACK In 2021!



2020 has been quite the year hasn't it?

But... **2021** is a **New Year**, a time to decompress, sit among friends and join the conversation.

**Alpha** is an opportunity to reconnect with your faith family, make new friends and to build new community ties with others seeking answers to life's big questions.

### WHAT IS ALPHA?

**Alpha** is an opportunity meet one night a week for **8 weeks** to explore and experience aspects of a deeper faith in a casual and relaxed environment.

No doubt 2020 has been a very challenging year throughout our world and across our nation. Maybe it's time to take a few moments for **YOU**, to clarify your own thoughts and share them with others.

**Alpha** will give you the space you need to sift through the noise and sort out the elements in life **YOU** want to carry into the **New Year**.

**IT'S A FRESH START!!!** So go on..... invite someone to join you, a family member, acquaintance, or even a neighbor or friend who might be seeking answers and would like to explore the basics of Christianity in a relaxed nonjudgmental environment.

### WHAT TO EXPECT:

Each **Wednesday night** we will begin promptly at **6:30 pm** select a quick bite from a prepackaged assortment available, and take a few moments to mingle and nosh in a socially distanced environment. After a short introduction we will watch two 20 minute videos followed by conversations with other participants where you can share your ideas, experiences and questions about life and faith as well as the material presented in the video. All participants are invited to stay and mingle at the conclusion of each Alpha session which will end promptly at **8:30 pm**.

**Masks required.**

### ALPHA DETAILS:

- **Alpha** Course run time: 8 meetings beginning **February 3<sup>rd</sup>** ending **March 17<sup>th</sup> 2021**
- **WHEN~** Wednesdays from **6:30pm -8:30pm** **WHERE~** in the Parish Halls
- Included is **1 Retreat details** to follow

# WE ARE TAKING REGISTRATIONS NOW

## FOR **Alpha** February 3 - March 17 2021

For More Information or To Register for **Alpha** Please Email  
[Msutton@Ascensioncatholic.Net](mailto:Msutton@Ascensioncatholic.Net) or Call 321-254-1595 X 3076

Come Reserve YOUR spot at **ALPHA** now and please bring a friend!  
SEE YOU THERE!



### **\*PLEASE NOTE\***

**COVID 19 Diocesan requirements** asks all participants and volunteers to sign a liability waiver upon registration which can be found on our website under the section Returning to Church. Please download, fill this out and bring it to your first meeting. We thank you for your cooperation at this time. ~All activities will be held according to CDC safety guidelines with recommended social distancing protocol and masks required~ **FINAL 11-10-2020**



## Wedding Anniversaries

|                               |          |        |
|-------------------------------|----------|--------|
| Dominic & Brenda Randazzo     | 59 years | Dec 30 |
| Juan & Marta Fiol             | 52 years | Dec 28 |
| Ernest & Shirley Maxwell      | 69 years | Jan 2  |
| William & Margaret McLaughlin | 56 years | Jan 1  |
| Richard & Claudia Bolognini   | 52 years | Jan 1  |
| Ralph & Kathleen Lambert      | 52 years | Jan 1  |
| Gerino & Fe Pancito           | 50 years | Jan 1  |
| Roberto & Ofelia Navarrete    | 50 years | Jan 2  |
| Michael & Christine Marzec    | 40 years | Jan 2  |



Howard & Mercedes Buescher, Greg Grasso, Betty Elko, Claire Grasso, Mia Moore, Carmelia Navarretta, Peggy McKelvey, Cathi Hurd, Betsy Coradine, CVNS, Rose Struzinski, John Kelly, Jim Eisenmann, Laurie Chatman, Terri Sills, Richard Furstenburg, Amanda Oudwa, Robert Hinnant, Mary Ellen Ritter, Maureen Kurtz, Theo Reeves, Shirley Mattai, John DeStefon, Thomas Horan, Bill Porzio, Wayne Fogel, Anthony Tynes, John Hemel, Joan Cantwell, Tim Durkin, Art Coridine, Leslie Selage, Werner Schulz, Justine Miller, Patrick Kenny, AJ Johnson, Marion Sampieri, Ron St. Clair, Frank Cavaliere, Rose Cavaliere, Traci Wood, John Brower, Arlene Ditta, Betty, Stroup, Tom Lantry, Marie Odorizzi, Eugene Parsons, Charles Janus, Anthony Moss, Larry Kawa, Melissa Italiano, Liah Italiano, Ashley Davis, Muzette Lewis, Jennifer Alexander, Don Wilson, Jack Buontempo, James Webb

**Please pray for those in the nursing homes.**

### Pray for our Armed Forces Personnel here & 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, Logan Solio, Nick Owens, Nicholas Jon DeDominici, Benjamin Fredrick DeDominici, Reece Sampieri, Andrew Conklin, Sebastian Marzano

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

In the last century, a few new feasts were blended into the Church year, including today's. After World War I, the chaos of daily life in Europe made its impact felt on the family structure. Partly to offer Christians an image of hope and holiness in married family life, and also to promote the welfare of children, today's feast was "invented" in 1921. In 1969, it became a feast of Christmas.

The prayers today remind us not only of family life, but of life in the community of faith. We ponder the mystery of a God who loves us dearly enough to embrace the struggles, joys, and daily sorrows of family life. The message of Christmas shines through: God-with-us is available to us in the ordinary patterns of our lives and commitments. The lives of people who raise their children in difficult circumstances, and of people who remain faithful to life in the Church in spite of some of their own family struggles, occupy a special place in our hearts today in prayer.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## Mass Intentions For The Week



**Week beginning Monday, December 28, 2020  
and ending Sunday, January 3, 2021**

|              |                                       |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mon. 7:30 am | † Angela Gray                         |
|              | † Leo Shumaker                        |
| Tues. 7:30am | † Michael McDonnell                   |
|              | † The Alagna Family                   |
| Wed. 7:30am  | † Bill Spisak, Jr.                    |
|              | † Bernard & Nora O'Donnell            |
| Thur. 7:30pm | † Deceased members of the Loft Family |
|              | † James Thorstad, Sr.                 |

### New Year's Eve Vigil

**Thur. 5:00pm People of the Parish**

### New Year's Day

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Fri. 9:00am  | † James Krupp   |
|              | † Leo Shumaker  |
| Sat. 9:00am  | Special Intention for Robert Wrubel                   |
| 4:30pm       | People of the Parish                                  |
| Sun. 7:30 am | † Reginald Kahn                                       |
|              | † Harry & Patricia Kelly                              |
| 9:30 am      | † Ronald Antolini                                     |
|              | † Leo Shumaker  |
| 11:30 am     | † Jim Warwick   |
|              | † Eddie Merlet, Jr.                                   |
| 5:30pm       | Healing Intention for Vanessa Tobon & Brandon Dan-Kem |

## Note to Ascension - Thank You From Us

**Thank you to Fr. Tobin, Fr. Fitzgerald, Deacon Tom Stauffacher, and all the Ascension staff for all they so kindly did for our family.**

**Thanks to everyone who kept us in their prayers, who sent cards, who remembered Leo in Masses, brought food or helped in any way. We are truly grateful to all of you.**

*Mary Anne Shumaker and Family*

**The Religious Articles Gift Shop  
will be closed December 26-27  
and January 2-3.**