

# SERVED BY:

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

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# 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)

## 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.

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)



Sign  
Language  
Mass

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.



- Dealing With Guilt—Healthy and Unhealthy
- Seven Types of Conscience
- 10 Commandments for Scrupulous People

In today's first reading, we listened to God speak through the prophet Isaiah in the following words:

*"Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her **guilt** is expiated."*

With the exception of the psychopath and the most hardened of hearts, all of us feel guilt on a fairly regular basis. If we have a scrupulous conscience, we live in a constant state of guilt. Guilt is that unpleasant feeling we get when we realize that we have done something we believe is wrong or when we fail to do what we know is right.

We can experience guilt about all kinds of things. For example, we may feel guilty for having said or done something to someone. Even though what we said may have been true, we realize upon reflection that it did not need to be said or done in that particular situation. Our unwarranted words or actions may have been directed at our family, parish, work or social setting. Our words and actions may have left another person hurt and diminished in a way that was not necessary, and we feel guilty.

We may experience guilt in connection with our *role*, *duties* and *responsibilities* as a spouse, parent, priest, sister, single person, boss, or employee, believing that we are failing in some way. We may feel guilty for neglecting to carry out our duties and responsibilities. We may even feel guilty thinking that our *best efforts* are not good enough for others or for ourselves. Parents may feel guilty because an adult child is living in with his/her boy/girlfriend and has stopped going to church. Adult sons and daughters may feel guilty for not giving their aging parents enough time and care. Caring for a sick loved one may cause us a lot of guilt for wishing at times the loved one would die. Children often carry considerable guilt within a family situation. They may blame themselves for the fights between their parents or for their parents' divorce, or even for the death of a parent.

We may experience guilt in connection with our *relationship with God*. We feel guilty because of our failure to pray, or because we only give God the last few minutes of our day when we are tired. We feel guilty because we are constantly thinking of other things when we are praying and our efforts at prayer are very poor. As parents,

we may judge that we have done a poor job of passing on our Christian beliefs and practices to our children.

Many people experience a lot of guilt in the area of *sexuality*. Our parents—or the Church—may have told us that the worst kind of sins are sexual sins. Hence, we may harbor guilt because of impure thoughts, words and deeds. We may feel guilty when we look at *poverty* in our world and judge that we are not generous enough when it comes to sharing our material blessings with the poor. We may carry a lot of guilt because of *past failures*, e.g., abortion, adultery, stealing, failure to be a good example to our children, etc. Even though we may have confessed past failures, we may still carry guilt. I'm sure each of us could add numerous examples to the above list of reasons that generate guilt in our lives.

When it comes to the topic of guilt, it is very important for us to distinguish between what spiritual counselors and psychologists call *healthy* and *unhealthy* guilt (or *true* and *false* guilt, or *appropriate* and *inappropriate* guilt).

### HEALTHY GUILT

Because in the past, the 'guilt thing' was overdone in some homes, schools and churches, some people today *overreact* by trying to free themselves (and their children) from *all* guilt. They want to live 'guilt-free' lives. This is a huge mistake.

If we look closely at some of Jesus' teachings and actions, we notice that he did not only try to free people from their sins and from guilt (e.g., the Samaritan woman for her several failed marriages, and Peter for his denial of Jesus), but he also told *stories intended to create guilt* (and positive action) in people who had become insensitive to wrongdoing in their lives. For example, if we reflect on the parables of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31), the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37), and the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), we see that Jesus was condemning the behavior of the rich man who was insensitive to the poor, condemning the Levite and the priest for ignoring the wounded man on the side of the road, and denouncing the self-righteous behavior of the elder brother in the parable of the prodigal son. Jesus was saying to his audience and to us that we *should feel guilty* if we behave like the rich man, the Levite, the priest and the elder son.

In his book *Whatever Became of Sin?*, the famous and highly regarded psychiatrist, Karl Meninger, lamented that too many of his peers were trying to free their patients from *all* guilt by helping them to believe that they were not guilty of *any* wrongdoing. In contrast, Dr. Meninger discovered that *when he helped his patients to take responsibility for their wrongdoing, they invariably started to get better*. When we try to free ourselves or others from real guilt, we are doing no one a favor. When we do or say wrong things, we need to have the courage and humility to acknowledge our wrongdoing and repent of it. Some examples of when it is healthy to feel guilty:

- Failing to treat others or their property with respect
- Hurting the good name of others
- Being unjust and untruthful in our relationships with others
- Manipulating others for our selfish gain
- Ignoring poverty in our midst
- Abusing our body with excessive use of food, alcohol or drugs
- Using sex not as an expression of committed love but simply as a way to pleasure oneself
- Being lazy and inattentive to our relationship with God; missing Mass for no good reason

If in the past, parents, schools and churches laid too much guilt on people, there is a danger today that the pendulum is swinging too far in the other direction.

We may need to ask ourselves if we are numbing our consciences, rationalizing our actions and refusing to feel *appropriate guilt* for actions that are clearly wrong and hurtful to others, ourselves, and our relationship with God.

### UNHEALTHY GUILT

If there is such a thing as good and healthy guilt, there is also such a thing as bad and unhealthy guilt, the kind that diminishes us as persons. This happens when we feel guilty for things that we need not feel guilty about. Some examples:

- We are doing all we can to care for a sick loved one but yet feeling guilty for not doing more; for being resentful that our life is totally absorbed in caring for our loved one; for placing our loved one in a nursing facility, when we can no longer properly care for the person.
- Blaming ourselves for the wrongdoing of our adult children and thinking: "If only I had raised them differently." Perhaps mistakes were made. If so, guilt is appropriate and we need simply to confess our failures in that area of our lives to God and, if helpful, to those we failed.
- Feeling guilty for past actions that we only now realize to be wrong but which we did not believe to be so then, e.g., abortion. But, of course, it is probably still good to confess especially serious wrongdoing like an abortion.
- Feeling guilty for separating from or divorcing an abusive spouse; feeling guilty for not being the *perfect* mom or dad, son or daughter, spouse or friend.
- Feeling guilty for missing church even though we were sick or traveling and could not get to a church without great inconvenience.
- Perhaps the saddest example of inappropriate guilt is the guilt children experience when their parents divorce or when they are sexually abused.

Inappropriate guilt takes on an excessive form when we

feel guilty for just about everything. We may only be rid of such excessive guilt through intensive spiritual counseling that helps free us from the feeling that God is a tyrant (which scrupulous people believe *unconsciously*), and introduce us to a God of love.

### DEALING WITH GUILT—THREE RESPONSES

When dealing with guilt, we can choose one of three possible reactions. We can deny guilt by suppressing it. We can go around feeling horrible about past failures, but doing nothing to free ourselves of our guilt. Both of these responses are obviously not unhelpful. A third and helpful option is to face our guilt, and check to see if it is appropriate or inappropriate guilt. We may conclude, "yes, I have indeed violated my conscience," in which case we can take the necessary action to free ourselves of this guilt. What might be elements of constructive *action* that will help us to release inappropriate guilt from our lives?

*First, name our wrongdoing and take responsibility for it.* In the Garden of Eden, Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent for their sin of disobedience. It takes *courage* and *humility* to recognize our wrongdoing.

*Second, confess our wrongdoing.* When considering this, we need to remember that our God is a God of infinite mercy. If God could forgive David for adultery and cold-blooded murder, he can forgive us. If Jesus on the Cross could forgive the repentant thief and his executioners, surely he will forgive our failings. If we have a problem believing in a merciful God, we should recall the words of Jesus: "*I tell you, there will likewise be more joy in heaven over one repentant sinner than over 99 righteous people who have no need to repent*" (Luke 15:7). An excellent prayer for this is Psalm 51 (David's prayer of contrition for his sins).

Catholics have the practice of confessing wrongdoings to a priest in the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**. Many find the exercise of telling another their wrongdoings and *hearing* the words of absolution a very healing experience. In sacramental reconciliation, penitents experience God's mercy in a very tangible way and receive God's grace.

*Third, restitution.* If we need to make amends or restitution to someone, we should do the best we can. If we can't make *full* restitution of property we stole, we need to return back as much as we can. If we can't make restitution *directly* to the store or institution, we should at least give a donation to charity. If we have hurt someone by our words or deeds, we should let him/her know that we are sorry. We can do this verbally or through a letter. God's mercy never excuses us from doing what we can to mitigate the damage caused by our wrongdoing.

### SEVEN TYPES OF CONSCIENCE

Conscience is the voice of God within, helping us to distinguish good from evil. Over the centuries, theologians have identified many types of conscience. The following



are seven of them:

1. A *bad conscience* has little or no regard for what is right or wrong. It wants to answer to no authority.
2. An *erroneous conscience* conflicts with God's word and/or the teachings of the Church. One may have an erroneous conscience and not know it, e.g., having an abortion and believing it is not wrong; skipping Mass on a regular basis for no good reason and being convinced that it is not wrong.
3. A *weak conscience* knows what is right but does not have the courage, the will, or the moral strength to do the right thing, e.g., not speaking out in the workplace when someone is being treated badly or when Christian values are being put down; struggling with some addiction.
4. A *scrupulous conscience* believes that one is frequently sinning when that is not the case. Many Catholics raised in the pre-Vatican II Church were especially scrupulous about sexuality issues. Today, the opposite is generally true.
5. A *lax conscience* is insensitive to the good that ought to be done and the evil that ought to be shunned, e.g., lack of compassion for the poor, tolerance of racial prejudice, sexual permissiveness, drug and alcohol abuse.
6. A *rebellious conscience* shows little or no respect for biblical and Church teaching, asserting: "I don't care what the Church or the Bible says; I will do what I want."
7. A *true Catholic conscience* is formed and informed by the teachings of Scripture and the Church, i.e., being open to what these teachings say about a particular moral issue.

Any of us may have several of the above conscience types at the same time. For example, we may have a *scrupulous conscience* concerning sexuality issues and a *lax conscience* about justice issues. We may be well informed about some moral issues and know nothing about other issues. Then again, there may be a moral area where we suffer from a *weak conscience*, i.e., we know what is right but we fail to do it, or we know what is wrong and yet we do it.

## TWO EXTREMES: SCRUPULOSITY AND RATIONALIZATION

In the past, especially in pre-Vatican II days, many Catholics had guilt piled on them by the Church. It may have seemed like we were always sinning especially in the area of sexuality. Such preaching spiritually damaged many good Catholics. Later, in therapy, they would have to deal with 'Catholic guilt.'

Today, it seems the pendulum has swung the other way so much that Catholics give themselves 'a pass' on issues that are still considered sinful by the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, e.g., cohabitating prior to marriage, pre-marital sex, racist thoughts and actions, intentionally holding onto hurts, straight out lying, stealing, watching pornography, missing Mass for no good reason, etc. While missing Mass in person during Covid-19 is not a sin, we are obligated to participate in Mass on TV or through the Internet. *Laxity* on moral issues is widespread

today. Slowly but surely we can begin to tell ourselves that certain things that are clearly wrong are no longer wrong as far as *we* are concerned. The challenge is to avoid the curse of scrupulosity (seeing sin where there is no sin) and laxity and rationalization—giving ourselves a pass on things that our Church continues to consider sinful.

## Ten Commandments for the Scrupulous

Since 1964, the Redemptorist Order has sponsored *Scrupulous Anonymous*, a support group for people who suffer from scrupulosity. This article was published as part of the organization's monthly newsletter.

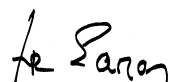
1. Without exception, you shall not confess sins you have already confessed.
2. You shall confess only sins that are clear and certain.
3. You shall not repeat your penance or any of the words of your penance after confession—for any reason.
4. You shall not worry about breaking your pre-Communion fast unless you put food and drink in your mouth and swallow a meal.
5. You shall not worry about powerful and vivid thoughts, desires and imaginings involving sex and religion unless you deliberately generate them for the purpose of offending God.
6. You shall not worry about powerful and intense feelings, including sexual feelings or emotional outbursts, unless you deliberately generate them to offend God.
7. You shall obey your confessor when he tells you never to repeat a general confession of sins already confessed to him or another confessor.
8. When you doubt your obligation to do or not do something, you will see your doubt as proof that there is no obligation.
9. When you are doubtful, you shall assume that the act of commission or omission you're in doubt about is not sinful, and you shall proceed without dread of sin.
10. You shall put your total trust in Jesus Christ, knowing he loves you as only God can and that he will never allow you to lose your soul.

For the complete article, visit <http://Bit.ly/2xaOquT>

## CCTN TV — Spectrum Channel 19, 1045

**Rome Reports** is a program I watch each week. It comes on Sunday at 3:00pm after the 2:00pm Mass from Holy Family Parish in Orlando.

Have a blessed week,



tobin2@live.com



## Next Sunday's Readings December 13, 2020 B

### *Third Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11 — Luke 1:46-50, 53-54  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 — John 1:6-8, 19-28

**Who is your prophet?  
How did this prophet affect your life?**

**Immaculate Conception  
Tuesday, December 8 (Holy Day)  
Masses: 7:00am, 11:00am, 6:30pm**



**Ascension Parish  
Advent Penance Service  
Monday, December 14  
4:00pm and 7:00pm**

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY**  
*Fall 2020*

**December 6: TBA**

**December 13:  
Christmas Party**

**SUMMIT**

Tuesday nights from 7-8:15 in the  
Youth Room

For the teenager that's craving something more and much deeper than our Sunday Life Nights, Summit is a great add-on. Teens are given the opportunity to open up their faith in ways they never have before in an environment made for them while diving into Scripture.

*Edge Fall* **2020**

**Middle  
School  
Ministry**

**EDGE**

We are a middle school youth ministry leading teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.

**December 2: TBA**

**December 9:  
Christmas Party**

**Cara Giuliano & Anna Nagy, 254-5415 ext. 3501**  
[ascensioncatholicteens@gmail.com](mailto:ascensioncatholicteens@gmail.com)

Follow us on Instagram/  
Facebook@ascensioncatholicteens

**CHRISTMAS MASS  
2020 SCHEDULE**

**Christmas Eve (Thursday)**

**4:00pm – Church \*\*\***  
Presider: Fr. Martin

**4:00pm – Hall**  
Presider: Fr. Tobin

**7:00pm – Church**  
Presider: Fr. Tobin

**7:00pm - Hall**  
Presider: Fr. Martin

**11:00pm – Church**  
Presider: Fr. Martin

**11:00pm - Hall (If needed)**  
Presider: Fr. Tobin -

**Christmas Day (Friday)**

**9:00am**  
Presider: Fr. Stan Murray

**11:00am \*\*\***  
Presider: Fr. Tobin

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

**5:30pm Vigil - Presider: Fr. Martin**

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

**9:00am - Presider: Fr. Tobin**

**\*\*\* Streamed**



## 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.*

## Grief Share

Grief Share is a support program that features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. Healing from your grief is not easy. It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about your future right now. It's a long and sometimes painful process. If you have lost a spouse, child, family member or friend, you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. We want to help you on your journey towards recovery. At each weekly Grief Share session, whether in person or with Zoom, we start with a small introduction, a 45-minute video on the many topics of grief and end with a group discussion, in which you can participate or listen to. Workbooks are used to take notes and participate in daily exercises. A donation for the workbook is greatly appreciated.

**New Session....Surviving the Holidays**

**Saturday, Dec. 12, 10:30am-12:30pm**

**Buescher Center, Room 411**

**Wednesday (Zoom), Dec. 16, 7:00pm**

[https://zoom.us/j/92170566840?](https://zoom.us/j/92170566840?pwd=YUNna3dHdDNxeUdyL09NbmlPdKRYQT09)

[pwd=YUNna3dHdDNxeUdyL09NbmlPdKRYQT09](https://zoom.us/j/92170566840?pwd=YUNna3dHdDNxeUdyL09NbmlPdKRYQT09)

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

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

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

MAKE CHRISTMAS

*Real*

for families in crisis and  
children in foster care.



Ascension, you've  
done it again!  
You are graciously  
giving Christmas to  
50 children in the  
Brevard County  
CARES system.

Thank you!  
See info below



Our Thrift Store truck will be in the parking lot receiving your gifts at every Mass the weekend of December 12/13. Someone will be available to check them in. Please bring your gifts—unwrapped—in a Santa sack or garbage bag (the case workers are required to preview every gift to be sure it doesn't impact a child's particular issue). The child's name tag needs to be securely attached.

If you'd like to help collect gifts on Dec. 12/13, please contact Cyndi Hernandez (parishioner) at [Cyndi.Hernandez@brevardfp.org](mailto:Cyndi.Hernandez@brevardfp.org) or 321-480-4119.

## 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	10am, 12pm, 2pm
Tuesday	1pm
Thursday	1pm, 6pm
Friday	12pm, 1pm, 5pm
Saturday	10am, 12pm, 5pm


Other hours are available for single adorers. Please email Lyn Becker at email above if you are interested in reserving an hour.

## ROSARY-MAKING MINISTRY

Rosary Ministry meets on Sundays, 1:00-3:00 pm,  
Buescher Center, Rm. 410  
Next meeting: December 6

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



ADORE NIGHT  
*Praise. Worship. Adoration.*  
  
December 16  
IN THE CHURCH  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
6:30-7:30 PM





## Missing Our Church Family? 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@ascensioncatholic.org](mailto:ldodson@ascensioncatholic.org) or 254-1595 ext. 3067  
**Join Us Wednesday, December 9, 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@ascensioncatholic.org](mailto:ldodson@ascensioncatholic.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 Webster Family in honor of our Principal Anita Brady.

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@ascensioncatholic.org](mailto:ldodson@ascensioncatholic.org) or  
 321-254-1595 ext. 3067



## Military Ministry

We are once again collecting items for the Veterans Transitional Housing in Melbourne. They can use paper products (toilet paper, paper towel, tissue), laundry and dish detergent, bath soap, shampoo, towels, blankets, socks, t-shirts, clothes in good condition.

There will be a Military Ministry container in front of the Church during the weekend Masses. Please bring any donations in by Sunday, Dec 20. We will deliver a few days after. Any help is very much appreciated!

## 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).



## 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



## Social Concerns & Food Pantry

### Thank You

Dear Church Family,

A few weeks ago, a parishioners generously offered us a \$25,000 Challenge for our Social Concerns office.

We wondered if we could rise to the challenge and raise that amount of money. Two weeks ago, we announced that we were at \$20,000. That same weekend, a parishioner handed one of our Deacons a check for \$5,000 to help us reach our goal. Since then we received another \$5,000 in donations. When our generous donor heard the Good News that we had not only met the Challenge but raised a total of \$30,000, he raised his Challenge donation to \$30,000 so now we have received in total **\$60,000** for Social Concerns outreach.

This money is the equivalent of receiving two months worth of support from the Thrift Shop.

God does work in mysterious ways because even with the Thrift Shop closure, your generous donations enable us to help our clients financially at the same level as when the Thrift Shop was opened.

We are truly grateful to all of you. From the bottom of our hearts, we **THANK YOU**. God bless you for your generosity!

Olga & Jerry Kelly - Social Concerns Coordinators

## SOCIAL CONCERNS

**Thank you, parishioners**, for supporting our monthly food drive. Your contributions directly feed our community in need.

**A HUGE thank you to Ms. Agnes Owens and her 8th Grade Ascension Students!** These awesome students helped sort all the Thanksgiving food in record time. Also, a **BIG thank you** for the food donated by the students.

**Thank you to all the volunteers** who helped assemble the 'Thanksgiving Baskets' and to our volunteers who come in week after week serving this awesome ministry. We could not do it without you!

**A BIG thank you to the Ladies Auxiliary Knights of Columbus** for their outstanding donation to our pantry this year of \$3,127 in gift cards and checks. Even with this pandemic, they managed to raise over \$500 more than last year. This money was used to purchase turkey tickets given out with Thanksgiving Baskets. We appreciate and are truly grateful for their generosity to our ministry!

**Thank you to the Tuesday Night Men's Fellowship Group** headed by John Casko for their collection and donation of \$767 to our pantry. This money really helps during the Thrift Shop shutdown.

**FOOD Pantry Needs:** canned fruit, soups, tomato sauce, spaghetti, ravioli, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter & jelly, powdered milk, pasta/macaroni, mac n' cheese





**Advent  
SEASON  
RETREAT**

*Save the Date!*

The Council of Catholic Women invite all parishioners and friends to our annual Advent Retreat.

**Theme:** Prepare Ye The Way  
**Speaker:** Fr. Tom Pringle  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12  
**Time:** Starts with 8:30 am Mass  
**Where:** Main Church

We eagerly invite you to join us as we prepare for the birth of our Savior! Come along with us as Fr. Tom unfolds the ways we can be filled with the spirit of the season. The morning will include music, praise and reflection. (Social distancing requirements in effect.)  
Info: 321-405-9120. Info: Helen Lamers, 777-4906 or Susan Masiello, 610-1810

### Emotional Wellness Warriors

Are there times when you feel down, sad, or melancholy? Moods can fluctuate when we face some of life's toughest challenges like loss of a job, empty nest, chronic illness, aging family member, caregiving, loss of a loved one, or just the isolation from COVID. But when a depressed mood lingers, having the support of others can be part of an effective, uplifting strategy. Join us the first and third Mondays of each month in the Ministry Bldg, Room 302. We welcome anyone wishing to join this ongoing group.

Please contact Jason Hoppenbrouwer, LCSW, at (321) 698-9155, if you have questions or need additional information.



### The Children's Hunger Project

We provide weekend meals and fight childhood hunger and malnutrition during the school year. Ascension Church will be collecting monetary donations after every Mass this weekend. Additional information on the mission can be found on the Ascension website under the outreach tab.

### Fair Trade Coffees, Teas, Olive Oil

If you are interested in purchasing these items for Christmas, please call Barb Warwick at 321-242-2036. I need time to order the items for you. I have a few on hand, but I like to order the coffee beans as freshly roasted as possible. I can deliver items safely to you when they arrive. Chocolate will not be available this year.

Thank you for supporting Fair Trade farmers!



The *Ladies Auxiliary* would like to thank the parish for making our collection for Social Concerns a success. The total collected was **\$3,127**. God bless you all and have a Merry Christmas on behalf of the Ladies Auxiliary.



### 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.

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.*

Help Scouts BSA Troop 373

## Honor our Veterans SPONSOR A WREATH this Christmas



use your phone's camera to scan

or visit <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/166213/>

your sponsorship supports our local national cemetery,  
our fallen service members, and local scout organizations



## DAILY BREAD

2020 has been a challenging year for all, especially for homeless and those in need. This Christmas season, our Ascension volunteers can bring not only food, but hope and love. If you are available to help, please call or email one of our contacts listed below. Your help is needed—we look forward to hearing from you.

Due to Covid-19, there have been adjustments made to ensure the health and safety of our volunteers and the public. Daily Bread has modified hours: 10:30am to 12:30pm. Masks are required. Daily Bread is located at 815 Fee Ave., Melbourne.

### Contact information:

Thur. Dec. 10: Ann Reynolds at 336-912-2668  
Sat. Dec. 12: Joan Johnson at 321-779-1894 or [jsj1102@aol.com](mailto:jsj1102@aol.com)  
Mon. Dec. 14: Mary Sipes at 614-395-9030  
Tues. Dec. 22: Ginny Crews 407-376-5984 or [jincrews12@gmail.com](mailto:jincrews12@gmail.com)

## FOOD FUNDRAISER

HELPING DISABLED SOUTH VIETNAM (ARVN) VETERANS\*

**1ST TIME SPECIAL**

**FRIDAY 12/11 AND SATURDAY 12/12  
ONLY**



**VIETNAMESE FRESH SPRING ROLLS**  
only \$5 per portion (3 Spring Rolls)

In addition to our regular menu items:

**VIETNAMESE EGG ROLLS:** \$5 per portion (5 Egg Rolls, Regular or Vegetarian)

**VIETNAMESE FRIED RICE:** \$5 per portion (about 2 cups)

**VIETNAMESE GRILLED MEATBALLS:** \$5 per portion (3 large meatballs)

**MINIMUM PER ORDER:** \$10

No Pickup. Delivery ONLY (order at least one day in advance)

\$2 per delivery, within 10 miles of Ascension Church

**For Orders:**

**Text or Voice Mail:** 321-242-6458 (LAN's)

**Email:** [4arvnavets@gmail.com](mailto:4arvnavets@gmail.com)

\* The proceeds from this fundraiser will be sent directly to the Disabled ARVN Vets (and their families) currently lived in Vietnam.

# ALPHA



**SAVE THE DATES:**

**FEBRUARY 3<sup>RD</sup> - MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup> 2021**

**TIME: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM**

**PLACE: THE HALLS**

**COME AND SEE...**

**JOIN THE CONVERSATION**



## We're looking for you!

Are you wanting to serve at Mass? We are looking for eager volunteers to join our Production team.

Email: [info@ascensioncatholic.net](mailto:info@ascensioncatholic.net)





## Wedding Anniversaries

Alfonso & Karen Renzi

51 years

Dec 12



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, K.J. Baker, Richard Furstenburg, Amanda Oudwa, Janice Roberson, Robert Hinnant, Mary Ellen Ritter, Maureen Kurtz, Theo Reaves, Mary Ann Shumaker, Shirley Mattai, John DeStefon, Thomas Horan, Bill Porzio, Wayne Fogel, Anthony Tynes, John Hemel, John Thorstad, Joan Cantwell, Tim Durkin, Art Coridine, Leslie Selage, Werner Schulz, Justine Miller, Patrick Kenny, AJ Johnson, Marion Sampieri, Ron St. Clair, Fr. Mike DiRenzo, Frank Cavaliere, Rose Cavaliere, Jim Thorstad, Traci Wood, John Brower, Arlene Ditta, Tom Lantry, Marie Odorizzi, Eugene Parsons, Stephen Borrelli, Betty Stroup, Charles Janus, Anthony Moss, Ruby Wright, Greg Deane, Sean Stanley, Meredith Shumaker, Tim Shumaker, Virginia Malinowski, Rhett Lawson, Michael Moran, Larry Kawa, Melissa Italiano, Liah Italiano

**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

## TRADITIONS OF OUR FAITH

On December 9 we commemorate Saint Juan Diego of Mexico. A couple of years ago, this Mesoamerican Indian was canonized for his mission in the Guadalupe apparitions. There was controversy surrounding his canonization because there were those who insisted that Juan Diego never existed. After investigating, the Vatican decided that he not only existed, but was and is holy, worthy of being a model and intercessor.

Investigations found that Juan Diego's indigenous name was Cuatitlatatzin, that is to say "speaking Eagle." Perhaps it was because of this significant name that the Franciscans baptized him Juan Diego. The name John recalls the apostle, who wrote the most mystical gospel and whose symbol is the eagle. Diego comes from the apostle Santiago or San Diego who evangelized the Spanish during the 1st century. In any case, Juan Diego Cuatitlatatzin became the "speaking Eagle" and announces the mystical gospel according to Guadalupe. He is "speaking Eagle" of love, peace, comfort and challenge in a land conquered, oppressed and full of promise.

—Fray Gilberto Cavazos? Glz, OFM, Copyright © JS Paluch Co.

## Mass Intentions For The Week



**Week beginning Monday, December 7, 2020  
and ending Sunday, December 13, 2020**

Mon. 7:30 am Healing Intention for  
Greg Deane

### Immaculate Conception

Tues 7:00am Special Intentions  
Mike Erdmann Family & business

11:00am † Connie Healy

6:30pm † Flo Downey

Wed 7:30am † Gaeton Siciliano

† Rita Busch

Thur. 7:30am † Jimmy & Martha Stickel

† Anthony Toppa

Fri. 7:30am † Francisco Longhi

† Bill & Bee Brennan

Sat. 9:00am † Paula Irvin

† Giselle Hubbert

4:30pm † Virginia Bocinsky

† Angela Gray

Sun. 7:30 am † Paul Staub

† Fr. Timothy K. Ryan

9:30 am People of the Parish

11:30 am † Ernesto Soto

† Eddie Merlet, Jr.

5:30pm † Jay Stover

† Josephine Wienckoski



**The Hispanic Community  
will have a Novena to the Child Jesus  
on Monday, December 7,  
at 5:00pm in the Church.**

**Bienvenidos! La Comunidad Hispana tendrá  
la Novena al Niño Jesus  
el Lunes, Diciembre 7, a las 5:00pm  
en la Iglesia.**



## 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.**