MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
January 1, 2017

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday Vigil Mass
4:30 p.m.

Sunday Masses
7:30 a.m.
9:30 a.m. (free childcare) (choir)
11:30 a.m. (free childcare)
5:30 p.m. (Contemporary Music)

Weekday Masses
Monday-Friday: 7:25 a.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday: 3:15 - 4:25 p.m.
Wednesday: 6:00 p.m. (or by appointment)

ASCENSION CATHOLIC SCHOOL
www.ascensioncatholicsch.org
U.S. Department of Education
School of Excellence
Pre-Kindergarten through eighth grade

FAITH FORMATION
Religious Education
Pre-K3 - Gr. 1 Mondays
12:30-2:00 pm & 3:30-5:00 pm
Pre-K3-6 Tuesdays, 4:00-5:15 p.m.
Gr. 1-5 Wednesdays, 6:30-7:45 p.m.

YOUTH MINISTRY
Sundays after 5:30 p.m. Mass

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

BINGO
Thursdays
6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

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.
My Catechism Article on Mary, Mother of Jesus and Mother of the Church

On our parish website, I have 28 articles on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. On this feast of Mary, the Mother of God, I share with you my article on Mary. In the article, the letter “C” refers to the Universal Catechism of the Catholic Church and the numbers refer to paragraphs. The letters “USC” refer to the United States Catechism (a much easier read than the Universal Catechism).

In this article, we will look at:

- Mary in Scripture
- Mary as “Woman of Faith” and “Model Disciple"
- Mary, Mother of the Church
- Four Marian Doctrines
- Veneration of Mary

The only reason we honor Mary is because God honored her in a very unique way when he chose her to be the Mother of God Incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Mary in Scripture

While the Bible does not mention Mary a lot, it does place her at some critical points in Jesus’ life, beginning with his conception by the Holy Spirit in the womb of Mary. At the end of the Annunciation story, Mary utters her Fiat, “Let it be done unto me” (Lk 1:38). At that moment, she says ‘Yes’ to becoming the Mother of the Messiah, the Incarnate Word of God. She also says ‘Yes’ to taking on an important role in the story of our salvation.

Having reflected on the wondrous thing that God is doing in her, Mary responds with her beautiful prayer called the Magnificat (Lk 1:46-55) in which she proclaims: “All generations will call me blessed.” Mary fully understands that her greatness is not due to her great deeds, but rather to what she allows God to do in and through her. True sanctity is not us doing great things for God. Rather, it involves us allowing God to do his work in us.

Because of Mary’s ‘Yes,’ she will also share in the sufferings of her son beginning with her giving him birth in an abandoned stable, then fleeing with her husband from the murderous threats of Herod, living as an immigrant in a foreign country and, finally, accompanying Jesus through his passion and death. We can only imagine how painful these events are for Mary.

During her life, Mary, among other things, has had to cope with the experience of being an unwed mother, a refugee, a widow and single parent, and the mother of an innocent son who will be executed as a criminal. Meditating on the trials and tribulations of Mary should bring her closer to us. When we consider that Mary, from among all women, is the one chosen to be the Mother of Jesus, and when we consider the completeness of her ‘Yes’ to God, we should have no problem honoring her.

Pause: What strikes you most about the trials and sufferings of Mary?

“Woman of Faith” and “Model Disciple”

Over the centuries, many titles have been given to describe Mary’s role in Christianity. In recent decades, the titles “Woman of Faith” and “Model Disciple” have been used a lot. Mary is called “Woman of Faith” because in and through all the trials of life, she has never doubted God. She trusts that God will be faithful to her. At the Annunciation, Mary is called to trust that she will conceive a child through the power of the Holy Spirit. If Mary can trust God on that word, she can trust him on anything.

The Church also presents Mary to us as Model Disciple because she is totally open and responsive to God’s Word. It has been well said that long before Mary conceives Jesus in her womb, she has conceived him in her heart. Mary is Model Disciple because she trusts God when it is not easy to do so. When nearly all of Jesus’ disciples have fled in fear, Mary remains faithful to him all the way to Calvary.

Mary, Mother of the Church (C963-965, USC p.146)

The Catechism (964) states: “Mary’s role in the Church is inseparable from her union with Christ and flows directly from it.”

Just as the Israelites called Abraham “our Father in the Faith,” so does the Church call Mary “our Mother in the Faith.” When Jesus is dying on the Cross, he looks at John (the symbol of all disciples) and says: “This is your Mother” (Jn 19:27). At that moment, Jesus declares Mary as the spiritual Mother of all believers, the Mother of the Church. St. Augustine says that Mary “is clearly
Mother of the members of Christ...for she has cooperated with love in the birth of the faithful in the Church, who are members of its Head.” In giving Mary to us as our spiritual Mother, Jesus is saying to us individually and as a Church: “Here is the model disciple. If you want to learn how to hear and respond to my word, look at Mary. She will teach you and help you to make yourself totally available to God. She will teach you fidelity, obedience, compassion and prayerfulness.” Catholics affectionately call Mary “Our Blessed Mother.”

Pause: As you ponder Mary in Scripture, what can you learn from her about being a disciple of Jesus?

Four Marian Doctrines

Very few Christians should have a problem with what we have read thus far. The problem that most, if not all, Protestants have with Mary, is connected with certain beliefs that Catholics hold about her which are not stated explicitly in the Bible, and with the veneration we give to Mary. Let us now turn to the four doctrines Catholics hold about Mary.

1. The Immaculate Conception (C490-94, USC p.143). The Catechism (491) states: “The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from the stain of original sin.” This Church dogma was proclaimed by Pope Pius IX in 1854.

The Catholic Church also believes that Mary, due to her total cooperation with God, remained free of all personal sin during her life on earth. As we pray on her feast day, “Father, you let her share beforehand in the salvation Christ would bring by his death and kept her sinless from the first moment of her conception.”

The biblical support for this doctrine is found in Angel Gabriel’s greeting to Mary: “Hail, full of grace!” (Lk 1:28). Mary is not just graced like the rest of us. She is “full of grace,” i.e., she is totally free of sin and totally full of God. Her union with God is never spoiled. The Church reasons that it is only fitting that the one who housed the sinless Savior of the world would, by the grace of God, be free of all sin. “In preserving Mary from original sin, God was choosing a perfect door for a perfect God to enter an imperfect world” (Peter Kreeft).

As we reflect on the Immaculate Conception of Mary, three other things need to be noted:

- Even though Mary was conceived free from original sin, and even though she remains sinless throughout her life, this does not mean that she has no need for God’s saving grace. She does. The Catechism (491) states: “Through the centuries, the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, ‘full of grace’ through God, was redeemed from the first moment of her conception.” We might say that just as Jesus is conceived in a most unusual way, Mary is saved from original sin in a most unusual way.

- Even though Mary does not sin, she could have. She could have said ‘No’ to the angel Gabriel and she could have said ‘No’ to God in other ways.

- Even though Mary is conceived free from original sin, she is not preserved from experiencing the effects of original sin, namely, the experience of suffering and death (followed by her assumption into heaven), living in a world where there is evil and temptation. Just as Jesus is tempted to do evil, we can assume that Mary also experiences temptation. We have seen above some examples of the sufferings of Mary.

A striking confirmation of the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception happened in 1858, four years after the dogma was declared infallible. It happened when Mary appears to a young, uneducated girl named Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, France. When Bernadette asks the strange lady her name, Mary responds, “I am the Immaculate Conception.” Hundreds of medically verified miracles and many other healings have happened in Lourdes. The Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on December 8.

Pause: Do you have any questions or comments on this Marian belief?

2. Assumption of Mary into heaven (C988). The Catechism (966) states: “The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is a singular participation in her Son’s Resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians.” This Church dogma was defined by Pope Pius XII in 1950 in which he declared: “Having completed the course of her earthly life, Mary was assumed body and soul to heavenly glory and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death.”

The above words mean and affirm that at the end of her life on earth, Mary experiences immediately the resurrection of the body that is promised to all faithful followers of Christ. We can say that Mary’s Assumption flows from and completes her Immaculate Conception. If Mary is preserved from original sin by the unique gift of God, then it is only fitting that when her life on earth is finished, she will be taken to heaven.
As with the Immaculate Conception, the Church reasons that it is only fitting that the body that bore the Savior of the world should not suffer decay when her life on earth is completed. Mary’s Assumption into heaven foreshadows what we all hope to experience one day. The Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary into heaven on August 15.

3. **Mary, Perpetual Virgin (C496-507)**. All Christians believe in the virgin birth—that Mary is a virgin when she gives birth to Jesus. But not all Christians believe that Mary has remained a virgin all her life. One reason for this is the references in the Bible to the brothers and sisters of Christ. (We addressed this issue in Article 5.) Even though there is no reference to the perpetual virginity of Mary in the Bible, it has always been held in Sacred Tradition. The liturgies of the East and West from the early centuries of Christianity affirm Mary as “ever virgin.” The founders of Protestantism (Luther and Calvin) believed that Mary remained a virgin all her life.

“God’s one purpose for Mary was to be the Mother of his Son. That was the divine goal. For that she was conceived, born and lived. Her undivided heart and body were meant for God alone” (Fr. Al McBride). Mary’s perpetual virginity should not be seen as a put-down on sex. After all, God created sex. Only something good and beautiful can be offered up to God in sacrifice. Some writers point out that Mary’s physical virginity is an outward sign of her spiritual virginity, a phrase used to describe a life totally open and totally consecrated and devoted to God. Only with the eyes of faith can we begin to appreciate Mary’s perpetual virginity.

4. **Mary, the Mother of God (C495)**. As the early Church continued her reflection on the Scriptures and on Mary’s role in our relationship to Jesus, she concluded that since Mary is the Mother of Christ, human and divine, she can rightly be called Theotokos, the Greek word for “God-bearer” or Mother of God. The Council of Ephesus (431 AD) which solemnly declared Mary to be the Mother of God, was careful to state that Mary is the Mother of God “according to the flesh,” to clarify that Mary is not the source of Jesus’ divinity.

Mary’s cousin Elizabeth, inspired by the Holy Spirit, is perhaps the first person to recognize Mary’s special privilege. When Mary visits Elizabeth, she greets her with these words: “How does it happen that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?” (Lk 1:43). The Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, on January 1.

**Pause:** Do you have any questions or comments on the above four Marian beliefs?

**We look to Scripture and Tradition.** In this Article Two of this series, we learn that the Catholic Church looks to both Scripture and Tradition for the source of her beliefs. We note that there is nothing in Scripture to support the sola scriptura (Scripture alone) stance which maintains that “as Christians, we should only believe what is explicitly stated in the Bible.” We also acknowledge that for the Catholic Church, a belief is only “non-scriptural” if it contradicts what is stated explicitly in the Bible.

**Veneration of Mary (C971, USC p.146)**

“The Church rightly honors Mary with special devotion.... This devotion differs essentially from the adoration given to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.” (C971)

Catholics venerate Mary because she is the Mother of God. We honor her because God honors her. When we kneel before statues of Mary or carry her in a religious procession, we are not worshipping her. Rather, we are honoring and showing our affection for the one who is closest to Jesus, the one who is most faithful to him.

The heart of Marian spirituality is not in the reciting of particular prayers in honor of Mary, but in “doing what Jesus tells us to do” (Jn 2:5). True devotees of Mary are those who listen to God’s Word and act on it.

**Seeking Mary’s intercession.** Catholics often ask Mary, as their spiritual Mother, to pray for them. Non-Catholics have a problem with this because they look upon Jesus as their one and only intercessor and mediator before God. In 1Tim 2:5-6, Paul says: “There is only one mediator between God and the human race, Christ Jesus....” Catholics understand that God alone grants us blessings and graces. But just as all believers share in the priesthood of Jesus (1Pet 2:5), all can share in his intercessory and mediatory role.

On behalf of one another, we join our prayers of intercession to those of Jesus. If we do not hesitate to ask our sinful brothers and sisters on earth to pray for us, why would we hesitate to ask Mary, the preeminent member of our community, to intercede for us. Lumen Gentium (60) states: “The maternal duty of Mary toward people in no way obscures or diminishes the unique mediation of Christ, but rather shows His power. For all the salvific influence of the Blessed Virgin on humankind...flows forth from Christ, rests on His mediation, depends entirely on it, and draws all its power from it.” Without her connection to Christ, Mary is nothing. But because she is so intimately close to him, her prayers on our behalf are very powerful. Due to Mary’s intercession, Jesus performs his first miracle (Jn 2:1-12).

Finally, when we hear Catholics speak about “praying to Mary,” translate that to mean “asking Mary to pray for
us.” In the ‘Hail Mary’ prayer, we say: “Holy Mary, pray for us sinners.” In singing the praises of Mary, we are singing the praises of God who did great things in her. We should never think that God is in any way slighted because we love and venerate his Son’s Mother.

**Pause:** How would you describe your relationship to Mary? Do you seek her intercession? Do you have a problem with the way Catholics venerate Mary?

**The Rosary.** In his spiritual classic *True Devotion to Mary*, St. Louis de Montfort writes: “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 (Oct. 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”(§2). During her many apparitions to us on earth, our Blessed Mother has encouraged us to pray the Rosary. The exhortation alone should be reason enough for us to seek to develop a love for this form of prayer.

The Rosary is a *Christ-centered* and *biblically-based* prayer because we meditate on events in the life of Jesus. When we pray the Rosary, we worship Christ and honor Mary. (For a commentary on the “Hail Mary” prayer, see USC p.470.)

**Pause:** Are you familiar with the Rosary? If you pray the Rosary, what motivates you to do so? If you do not pray the Rosary, why not?

**Statues and medals of Mary.** For Catholics, statues, images and medals of Mary are visible reminders of someone very special in our spiritual lives. If we can carry pictures of loved ones in our wallets and place them on the walls of our homes and offices, surely it is okay for us to have visible reminders of the most perfect Christian who ever lived. If we lay wreaths before our national heroes, surely it is befitting to lay a wreath or bouquet before Mary, the Mother of our Redeemer. Catholics kneel and pray before statues as a mark of respect. But we do not worship statues, nor do we believe that statues have any spiritual power in or of themselves.

**Concluding word.** After Joseph finds out that Mary is with child, an angel of the Lord appears to him and tells him not to be afraid to take Mary into his home (Mt 1:20). Neither should we hesitate to take Mary into our homes and hearts and to ask her to befriend us and pray for us as we seek to follow in the footsteps of her son, Jesus.

**Suggestion for Action**

If you do not have a relationship with Mary, you might begin to develop one today.

**Prayer**

Gracious God, in Mary you have given us a model of true holiness. Hers was a loving heart, one rich in hospitality and prayerfulness. She responded fully to the call to be the Mother of your Son and she was faithful to the end. Though at times her heart ached, she never allowed bitterness to reside there. Help us to be warmhearted people, a family committed to hospitality and service. Grant this through Mary’s intercession. Amen.

Perhaps you might consider sharing the above with your friends, including interested non-Catholics. More on Mary and other topics and other topics may be found on our website [www.ascensioncatholic.net](http://www.ascensioncatholic.net)—on homepage, click on Fr. Tobin’s Writings.

Have a blessed week and a wonderful New Year,

tobin2@live.com
Next Sunday’s Readings  
January 8, 2017 A  
**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?

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**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY**

**Bible Study:** Join us for the first Bible Study of the new year on Monday, January 2, from 7-8:30pm in the Buescher Center.

Sunday, January 8, begins the parish mission. All teens are encouraged to attend with their parents. ACTion Nights resume January 15.

We wish everyone in the Parish a Holy and Happy New Year!  
Thank you for supporting us this year.

For more information, contact Mark Kniepmann at ascensioncatholicteens@gmail.com.

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**MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY**

**For all 6th, 7th, & 8th graders, no matter where you attend school**

Middle School Ministry wishes all Ascension Parishioners a most Blessed and Happy New Year!

The Steubenville Middle School Day Rally (March 4) registration is now open and we’ve reserved 40 spots for Ascension youth. Please RSVP to Mary Blucker no later than January 5 to reserve your spot. Permission forms and fees don’t have to be in until later. See the Middle School Ministry page on the Parish Website for events flyer and permission forms.

**Wednesday After School resumes January 18, 2017**

Check out www.ascensioncatholic.net/Middle  
For more information, contact Mary Blucker at 254-1595. ext. 3069 or mblucker@ascensioncatholic.net

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**PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2017 AND WILL REOPEN ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017.**

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**Ascension Catholic School Mission Statement**

Ascension Catholic School is committed to maintaining a Catholic Community of companion on the journey toward academic excellence, global service and lifelong learning. We live this out by showing respect to all people, by being responsible for our actions, by showing reverence, and by making right choices.

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**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

“John Paul was simply consistent. He never deceived, he never lied, he was never evasive. John Paul communicated with his people, with the coherence of a man of God, with the consistency of someone who spent long hours in Adoration each morning, and as he adored he allowed himself to come into harmony with the power of God. Consistency is forged in the heart through Eucharistic Adoration.” - Pope Francis

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 more information, contact Sam Rodriguez at 795-9813 or adoration.ascension@gmail.com.

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**Mary, The Holy Mother of God A**

**January 1, 2017**

**Rosary-Making Ministry**

Rosary Ministry meets Sundays, 1:00-3:00 pm in Buescher Center, Room 410

*Next Meeting: January 15, 2017*

If interested in joining, call Michi Davis at 242-8092.

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**Marriage Enrichment for Married Catholic Couples**

Friday, January 13, 2017
7:00-9:30 pm
Ministry Bldg, Rm 313

**Topic:** “The Permanence of Marriage”

Our monthly Gatherings include social time, food, fun and games, and time to discuss matters of the heart and soul of a marriage within a group and, most importantly, time given for you and your spouse to chat about “stuff” you may usually not set time aside to do. Come when you can, as often as you like, and stay as long as you care to. Bring a snack or beverage to share and come as you are.

**Reservations for Parish-provided childcare (birth to 2nd grade and 3rd grade and up) must be done by Wednesday, January 11, to assure proper care for your child(ren) and/or a spot for you and your spouse.**

RSVP to Katie & Jay Gander at kgander@ascensioncatholicsch.org or 321-243-9285.

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**Social Concerns & Food Pantry**

**Happy New Year!** Let’s count our blessings and carry them through the New Year!

Thank you for your generous donations to our monthly food collection. What a great start to a great New Year! We appreciate the continued support you give to our food pantry.

*Reflect on the past year and begin your new year remembering your blessings! No one in our community should go hungry and we are ready to help. Together we will make sure they don’t. There are so many people who need us. Together we can make it happen.*

Help is needed after the 5:30pm Mass to unload the truck at the food pantry. We are very grateful.

- Cereal, tuna, canned tomato sauce, pork & beans, canned vegetables.

*New Year’s Resolution thought… Pay it forward! One act of kindness can have the impact to change someone’s life for the better.*

**Happy New Year and God Bless!**

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**Vocations Cup**

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

If you’d like to sign up, please contact Jim Chatman at 321-223-8963 or jimchat@cfl.rr.com.

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**Bereavement Support Group**

Monday, January 9, 2017, 1:00 - 2:30 pm—Church Library

For more information, contact Carol Gessler at 779-7850.
Senior Adventures In Learning (SAIL)

Winter Term begins Jan. 10 & 11, 2017

Join the fun! If you are 50 or over, or know someone who is, Senior Adventures In Learning is just for you! Senior Adventures In Learning of Melbourne, Inc., is a nonprofit outreach ministry for seniors in central Brevard. For the past 16 years, SAIL has sponsored classes and activities for seniors at a minimal cost. These classes help seniors challenge their minds and bodies so they can thrive in the latter years of life.

SAIL Winter Session is scheduled from January 10 through March 1, 2017. The program will be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays right here at Ascension Catholic Church. Participants will meet in the Parish Hall to get nametags and class information. We are offering Exercise Classes, Self Defense, French, Spanish, Bridge Instruction and Bridge Play, Mahjongg, Cribbage, Conservative Investing, Acrylic Painting, Shakespeare, Foreign Affairs, History Classes, Writing Your Memoirs, Current Events, and much more! The cost for the entire term is $30 for either day or $45 for both for the entire 8-week period.

Scholarships are available upon request.

Please call 321-622-6474 to have a registration packet mailed to you—or you can pick one up here at the Parish Office. You may also visit our website sailofmelbourne.org to review the schedule in detail and print a registration form. Act soon because some classes fill quickly.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER
(Prayer of the Heart)
“Be still and know that I am God.” (Ps 46:10)

We will not be meeting on Tuesday, January 3

Ministry Bldg, Rm 304, every Tuesday at 7:00pm
We begin with 1/2 hour of silence (method explained).
For more info, contact Pam Lackie at 259-2431.

Knights of Columbus Council #14573

We meet every 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month in Ministry Building, Rm 312. We pray the Rosary in Our Lady's Chapel at 6:30pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month.
For more info, call Grand Knight Will Davis at 242-8092, or Membership Director John Miller at 794-6620, or Jerry Grillo at 652-2266.

Ladies Auxiliary - Knights of Columbus #14573

We invite all Ladies of the parish whose husbands are current or past members of the Knights of Columbus to please join us for our monthly meetings held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm in Ministry Bldg, Rm 311. Our mission is to support the men's Council #14573 Knights of Columbus.
For membership, please contact Doreen Boudreau at bdoreen52@aol.com or Sharon Hunton at sghunton@gmail.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE

to ALL PARISHIONERS from the Ministry to the Sick and Homebound

If you or a relative want to receive visits and/or Holy Communion from your Parish while in the HOSPITAL, ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY, NURSING HOME or REHAB CENTER, privacy laws and rulings (HIPAA) now require that you or your family representative notify the facility.

Please know that we are here to provide these Ministry services to you or your family/friends, but as we no longer have access to the general list, we depend on you to notify the facility of your wishes and of the fact that you are a PARISHIONER OF ASCENSION CATHOLIC COMMUNITY.

For information, please call the Church Office or Pat Apfelthaler at 254-2865.
SAVE THE DATE

Three Evenings with Julianne Stanz
Wife, mother of young children, national presenter and highly sought after Parish Mission speaker

TOPICS

Sunday evening, January 8, 2017, 7:00pm
Five Traits of Holy, Happy and Healthy Families

Weaving insights from her busy life as a mother and minister, Julianne will share stories, wisdom and practical ways to help families live holy, happy and healthy lives. This will be a great time for parents to bring their children and teens - they will be very much included as part of the conversation. It will be an interactive session that includes multi-media and a packet of practical tips for parents and grandparents to use at home. Be sure to include the reception following the session—hosted by Ministries of young families of the parish—FISH, Homeschool, American Heritage Girls, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts—there will be a special chocolate fountain and yogurt dip with healthy refreshments for all to enjoy!

Monday evening, January 9, 2017, 7:00pm
Celtic Spirituality: A Sacred Tradition of Healing and Hope

This is one of Julianne’s most requested presentations. It introduces the listener to the recent explosion of interest in Celtic spirituality. In this presentation, you will learn new ways to connect your walk with Christ to your everyday life. Children are invited to dress as their favorite saint and lead the procession to sit together on the floor in front of the altar. Julianne will have a special gift for the children and special presentation for the adults. Ascension’s own Irish Sisters - Sister Immaculata, Sister Joseph and Sister Maureen will be our hostesses for the reception afterward. Please join them for homemade Irish soda bread and Irish coffee (with only holy Spirits) by the Ancient Order of Hibernians at the reception afterward.

Tuesday evening, January 10, 2017, 7:00pm
Listening to the Heartbeat of God

The image of the disciple John who leaned up against Christ at the Last Supper forms the basis for this presentation and the ability to see God in all times and places. Julianne will engage prayer and other spiritual methods in this deeply personal and spiritual session. Once again, children are invited to sit together on the floor up front and a packet of material for use at home will be provided. A candlelight reception by the Ascension Council of Catholic Women will include homemade treats.

About our speaker

Born and raised in Southern Ireland in a picturesque village set in the Wicklow Mountains, Julianne came to love the breath and depth of Celtic spirituality. Currently, Julianne is the Director of the New Evangelization for the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin. Julianne loves to share her passion for her Catholic faith with others and is a nationally known speaker, retreat leader and storyteller. She is happily married to Wayne and has three young children.

Please come to this unique opportunity for spiritual growth and invite your Catholic and non-Catholic friends, neighbors and co-workers.
The 7 Keys of Spiritual Wholeness

A DAY OF REFLECTION

JULIANNE STANZ
WILL OFFER SEVEN ENDURING AND RELIABLE STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING SPIRITUAL WHOLENESS IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE.

JANUARY 7, 2017
HOLY NAME OF JESUS CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
3050 N. HWY A1A, INDIALANTIC, FL, 32903
THE DAY WILL BEGIN WITH MASS AT 8:30 AM IN THE CHURCH.
REGISTRATION AND CONFERENCE TO FOLLOW IN THE HALL.
TICKETS ARE $12.00 PER PERSON. A LIGHT BREAKFAST AND LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.
CONTACT: Mary Jo Strah ~ rstrahl@cfl.rr.com ~ 321-242-7254

Julianne Stanz will be our Parish Mission speaker
Sunday, January 8, Monday, January 9 and Tuesday January 10, 2017.
Information on page 9 of this bulletin regarding our Mission.
Wedding Anniversaries

Ernest & Shirley Maxwell 65 years Jan 2
Stan & Marge Wilson 63 years Jan 1
James & Elisa Farrington 62 years Jan 1
Joseph & Miriam Criscione 58 years Jan 1
Thomas & Ellen McGrath 58 years Jan 3
Antonio & Hedy Francisco 56 years Jan 1
William & Margaret McLaughlin 52 years Jan 1

Pray For The Sick


Please pray for those in the nursing homes.

Pray for our Armed Forces Personnel overseas


Retrouvaille

Retrouvaille is a proven program for hurting marriages. It is a Diocese-endorsed program to restore communication and trust in marriage. If you feel frustrated, hurt and angry with each other, if you feel trapped by frequent conflict and don’t know where to turn, please know that thousands of couples have been helped. Even if you are separated or divorced, call and give yourselves another chance.

The next program begins January 20, 2017 at San Pedro Center in Winter Park. Let us reserve a place for you.

For more information or registration, call 352-274-4614. All calls are strictly confidential.
You can visit our website at Retrouvaille.org.

Mass Intentions For The Week

Week beginning Monday, January 2, 2017 and ending Sunday, January 8, 2017

Mon. 7:30 am † Robert Lanctot  
† Ginger Filasky
Tues. 7:30 am † Reginald Kahn  
† Mattingly Family
Wed. 7:30 am † John Toppa, Sr  
† Bea Morales
Thur. 7:30 am In Thanksgiving for Blessings Received
Fri. 7:30 am † Joe & Evelyn Greenough  
† Angel Torres
Sat. 9:00 am † Margaret Connor  
† Sheila Shelley
4:30 pm † Helen Stawski  
† Rose Ann Sulock
Sun. 7:30 am † Dorothy MacDonald  
† Linda Hull
9:30 am People of the Parish
11:30 am † Helen Sharpe  
† Ana Maria Soto Lobos
5:30 pm Special Intention—Patricia Ann Crimm
Special Intention—Patricia S. Crimm

SERVERS’ SCHEDULE — January 7/8, 2017

Sat 4:30 pm: Madison & Reagan Henry, Jane Cichock
Sun 7:30 am: Evan Bolin, Daniel Erb
Sun 9:30 am: Emma & Maria Vinson, Carson Chavez
Sun 11:30 am: Quinlan McMenamy, Amanda Olson, Elisa Perez-Mena
Sun 5:30 pm: Avalynn & Gabriella McDermott, Nathan Wackley

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.