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

FAITH FORMATION
Religious Education (Pre-K - 6)
Tuesdays, 4:00 - 5:15 p.m.
Religious Education (Grades 1-8)
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
Mondays & Thursdays
6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

SCHEDULE OF MASSES
Saturday Vigil Mass
4:30 p.m.
Sunday Masses
7:30 a.m.
9:30 a.m. (free childcare)
11:30 a.m. (free childcare)
5:30 p.m.

Weekday Masses
Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m.
Sat. 9:00 a.m
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday: 3:15 - 4:25 p.m.
Wednesday: 6:00 p.m.
(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.
This weekend we begin the holiest week of the church year. Mother Church tells us that our celebration of the Triduum is the “culmination of the entire liturgical year.” The Triduum is not so much three distinct rites (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil) as one continuous celebration with three parts to it. The unitive nature of the three liturgies is underlined by the omission of a concluding rite on Holy Thursday and Good Friday. These two liturgies are “left hanging,” so to speak, incomplete without that which follows, as if the liturgies of Holy Thursday and Good Friday are saying to us, “We are not done yet... to be continued.”

**Mark’s account of the Passion of Christ (14:1-15:47)**

This year, being Cycle B in our liturgical calendar, we listen to Mark’s account of the Passion of Christ.

The suffering and death of Jesus are the centerpiece of Mark’s Gospel. Hints of the Passion are found already in chapters 1-2, and by chapter 3, a plot against Jesus is being planned. Halfway through the Gospel, Mark has Jesus predicting three times the details of his Passion. In chapter 11, Jesus arrives in Jerusalem for the events which this Sunday’s liturgy enacts ritually. Six of the 16 chapters of Mark are devoted exclusively to the last week of Jesus’ life. This has led scholars to call Mark’s Gospel a “passion narrative with an extended introduction.” Following are two central themes to watch for in Mark’s Gospel:

There is a sharp contrast between Jesus’ fidelity to God and his mission no matter what the cost, and the infidelity of the disciples and crowds. Jesus has no desire to die. He prays three times that God would spare him, but if fidelity to God and his mission involve embracing the cross and death, he is willing to do this. This fidelity is expressed in his wonderful prayer of surrender, “Not my will but your will be done.” In stark contrast, we notice weakness and infidelity in the disciples. They fall asleep when Jesus needs their support in the garden. Peter, the leader, denies Jesus. Judas betrays him. At the time of his arrest, they “all fled and left him.” At the time of his trial, the crowds who have previously sang his praises now chant: “Crucify him! Crucify him!” But not all are unfaithful. A few women remain faithful. One anoints him; others keep watch as he dies on the cross.

Mark’s Passion presents us with a very human picture of Jesus. In the garden, he begs the Father three times to free him from dying. We can feel Jesus’ disappointment when he finds his beloved disciples asleep—not just once but three times. What must he have felt when all his disciples “fled and left him.” How painful it must have been for Jesus to hear the crowds demand the release of the criminal Barabbas and call for his crucifixion. Then consider the scourging of his body, the crowning with thorns, the crucifixion and, most of all, the sense of his Father abandoning him: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” This is a cry of one steeped in human agony. Jesus pays the ultimate price for fidelity to his call.

**AN EXTENDED COMMENTARY ON MARK’S PASSION**

**A Woman and a Betrayer**

Mark’s Passion opens with a beautiful story of a woman showing tender love for Jesus. This story is sandwiched or bracketed by two ugly scenes: the chief priests looking for a way to arrest Jesus and Judas plotting with them for a way to hand Jesus over to his enemies. There is a strong contrast between the two scenes.

**Betrayal within the Eucharist**

Using his characteristic bracketing technique, Mark places a conversation about betrayal in between the preparation for the Last Supper and the actual Last Supper.

**Gethsemane**

After the Last Supper, Jesus goes out to Gethsemane with Peter, James and John. Peter has just said how he will stand by Jesus no matter what. Earlier in the Gospel, James and John assert that they can “drink the cup of suffering” with Jesus. Now we see the vast difference between words and actions. They fall asleep when Jesus most needs their support. Later, they will all flee and Peter will deny Jesus. In contrast, Jesus remains faithful to God but not without a struggle. He hopes against hope for a way other than the way of the cross. In the end, he surrenders to God’s will (“Not my will but your...
In John 4:34, the Apostles offer Jesus food, to which he responds: “My food is to do the will of Him who sent me.” In the Passion event, it is important for us to remember that God is not demanding that Jesus die a cruel death. Rather, he wants Jesus to be faithful to his mission even if it means a cruel death. It is in truth the sin of humanity that brought about Jesus’ sufferings and death.

The Arrest of Jesus

In this scene we witness further the abandonment of Jesus. We just read how Jesus was abandoned through the human weakness of Peter, James and John. Now, we have the betrayal of Jesus by Judas. He treats Jesus as a friend by kissing him and, at the same time, plants the kiss to point Jesus out to the authorities. Then Mark tells us that “all fled and left him.” Jesus is now left alone with his enemies. Not one of his friends shows faithful discipleship. In contrast, Jesus shows himself to be fearless and speaks up with dignity to those who come to arrest him.

Peter’s Denial and the Trial of Jesus

The trial of Jesus is a farce. Trials are not allowed at night. False witnesses fail to agree with each other. During his trial, Jesus continues to show himself to be courageous and confident. When he declares himself to be the Christ, the Blessed One, he knows he is signing his own death sentence and yet he does it. Then follows the threefold denial of Peter. These two stories are another example of contrast so strong in Mark’s Passion. As two examples of behavior under pressure, Jesus shows us what to do and Peter shows us what not to do. Jesus exemplifies courage; Peter cowardice. Jesus, while losing his life through steadfast witness, ultimately saves it; Peter, trying to save himself, in fact, condemns himself. Readers are called to follow Jesus. We notice that during his trial, Jesus does affirm that he is the “Christ, the Son of the Blessed One.”

Jesus before Pilate

Then Jesus is brought before the Jewish and Roman authorities. Both share in the brutal humiliation of Jesus. Pilate believes Jesus to be innocent but he is too much of a crowd-pleaser to let him go free. He shows himself to be a coward just as Jesus shows himself to be fearless and strong, the innocent sufferer who identifies with all who are unjustly and falsely accused. The crowds also fail Jesus, choosing a criminal over him.

The Crucifixion

Jesus is led away to Golgotha to be crucified. A stranger named Simeon is forced to help Jesus carry his cross. After Jesus is crucified, the bystanders mock and verbally abuse him. Darkness covers the land for three hours. In this time of darkness, Jesus even feels abandoned by God (“My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”). Sin separates us from God. Having taken the weight of the sin of humanity upon his shoulders, Jesus experiences separation from God.

“The veil of the temple is torn in two from top to bottom.” This is the veil that separates people from the Holy of Holies into which no one is allowed to enter except the High Priest. The veil is torn back and the way to God is now wide open to all and not just to the High Priest. Then a Gentile soldier, a most unlikely one, recognizes the true identity of Jesus: “Truly this man is the Son of God.” We notice the presence of the women who continue to follow Jesus after all his male disciples have fled.

The Burial

In the early days of Christianity, some may have claimed that Jesus never really died. So it is important for Mark to include an account of Jesus’ burial so that people will know that Jesus really died. Dying is an essential dimension of being a human person. Joseph of Arimathea, a devout Jew and a member of the Council, shows himself to be an admirer of Jesus by asking Pilate for his body so that he can give it a proper burial.

Reflection question
Which scene in the Passion speaks to you the most? Why?

The Triduum is the crescendo of our Liturgical Year. Please make every effort to come to one or all of these three services.

Have a blessed Holy Week,
Next Sunday's Readings - April 5, 2015 B

**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

Acts 10:34, 37-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
Colossians 3:1-4 or 1Corinthians 5:6-8
John 20:1-9

Have you seen a sign, a hint of the Resurrection in your life?

**High School Youth Ministry**

Action Nights after the 5:30pm Mass
NO Action Night Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday

**Bible Study:** Monday evenings, youth room, 7:00 to 8:30pm. All high school teens are welcome to come, socialize with friends, learn and talk about our faith.

For info regarding Youth Ministry, contact Mark Kniepmann at ascensioncatholicteens@gmail.com.

**Middle School Ministry**

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

April 1 & 8: No Wednesday After School
April 3: Good Friday Prayer Walk
April 15: Wednesday After School resumes
April 25: “Unfrozen” MSM Retreat. Save the date!

Need Confirmation service? Call Mary

For more info, check website www.ascensioncatholic.net or contact Mary Blucker at 254-1595 ext. 3069 or jhminisry@ascensioncatholic.net

**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

**Holy Thursday, April 2, 2015**

7:00 PM Mass (Celebration of the Lord’s Supper)
Confessions afterwards

**Good Friday, April 3, 2015**

3:00 PM The Lord’s Passion
5:30 PM Living Stations of the Cross
Confessions after both services

**Holy Saturday, April 4, 2015**

12:00 PM Blessing of food

**Easter Vigil, April 4, 2015**

8:00 PM Begins with lighting of Easter fire outdoors

**Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015**

6:00 AM We begin Easter Sunday with our annual sunrise service in the plaza/garden area. Bring a lawn chair.

7:30 AM Mass in the Church

9:30 AM Mass in the Church with an overflow Mass in the Parish Hall

11:30 AM Mass in the Church

**NO 5:30 PM SUNDAY MASS**

**Holy Thursday Reminder**

1. Bring your gifts for the poor on Holy Thursday.
2. As in past years, all are invited to participate in the washing of the feet. So if you wish to have your feet washed, come prepared by wearing easy-to-remove footwear.

**THERE WILL BE NO BABYSITTING DURING THE MASSES ON EASTER SUNDAY**
GOOD FRIDAY MORNING PRAYER WALK

Please invite your family and friends to join you in a very special Ecumenical Prayer Walk on Good Friday, April 3, to give witness to our Christian faith and our solidarity with the poor and suffering of our community and our world. We will start at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church on Fee & Hickory Aves. at 9:00 am. The one-and-a-half mile march will follow a Cross with stops to pray, share Scripture, and sing at several sites in downtown Melbourne, where we are asked to consider the question, “Where is Jesus suffering today?” Walkers will return to the starting site by 11:00 a.m. Please join us for this Seventh Annual Walk, sponsored by a coalition of Christian congregations. For more information, email goodfridaywalk@live.com.

ADORATION CHAPEL

“The message of all the Marian apparitions, both past and present, is that the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary will culminate in the Eucharistic reign of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This Eucharistic reign will come through perpetual adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament,” Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration-Fire from Heaven

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 information, please contact Sam Rodriguez at 321-795-9813 or adoration.ascension@gmail.com.

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

VOCAITION CUP

The Vocation Cup for March will go out at the 5:30 pm Mass. Lewis Monteleone & family will take the cup home on March 29, 2015.

If you’d like to sign up, please call Marc Worchel at 757-3451 or email mworchel@cfl.rr.com.

Easter Egg Hunt

Sat, April 4, starting at 10am
ACCW is hosting a Children’s Easter Egg Hunt (preschool to 4th grade) on the church grounds. Meet in the school parking lot.

Bring a basket for your goodies! Every child will go home with plenty. Face painting, candy, fun!

Hop on over!
Military Ministry Spotlight

**There was a mistake in last week's spotlight—Susan's last name was misspelled—it is Blair. Please accept our apology, Susan.**

Parishioner Al Taylor served in the Army active from 1969-1971. He served in Vietnam, August 1969 to August 1970 with the 196th light infantry brigade, 2/1 American Div. Area 1 Corps Tam Ky (Da Nang) Area, and also Chu Lai and Cam Ranh Bay while recovering from wounds. Al also worked with the 17th Cavalry Div. He spent the last six months of active duty at Ft. Benning, GA. Thank you, Al, for your service to our country!

If you are interested in joining our group, please contact Peggie at 751-0408 or peggiek@cfl.rr.com with your info.

Our next meeting is Monday, April 6, at 7:00pm in the Ministry Center—come join us.

Grief Recovery Group

Monday, April 13, 2015, 1:00 - 2:30 pm,
Church Library
For more information, contact
Carol Gessler at 779-7850.

2015 Married Couples Get-Away:

Ascension's Marriage Enrichment group is hosting the annual married couples get-away, 10-12 April 2015, at Silver Springs State Park in Ocala, Florida. Our theme this year is "Companions on the Journey." Join other like-minded couples for a weekend of faith sharing and relaxation among majestic oaks and the crystal clear waters of Silver Springs. The cost is $210 per couple for 2-nights lodging and 6 meals. Couples can share a fully furnished 2 bedroom cabin or choose among other lodging arrangements.

For more information please contact Ken and Kathy Jagdmann at 321-259-6951 or kjagdmann@bellsouth.net.

RELIGIOUS ARTICLES ROOM

We will be open on the 1st Thursday of every month, 9-11am, and on Saturdays in March, 10am-2pm. I will be happy to meet with anyone at a time that might be more convenient. Call me, Rita Billingsley, at 254-3865 or email me at RitaB@aol.com.

Fostering Connections

The JustFaith Ministry is sponsoring a collection of hygiene items for this 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that assists students who age out of foster care. Currently, of the 500 students in foster care in Brevard County, sadly 20% will wind up homeless at age 18. Fostering Connections’ focus is on helping those teens get scholarships for sports, computers, and other much needed supplies such as hygiene items.

There is a box in the Church foyer ready for your donations. For info or to make a donation in lieu of items, contact: Terry at terryqfl@yahoo.com or Helen at hsan103667@aol.com.

Parish Directory Photo Event

SAVE A DATE!

Please sign up to volunteer for this event in the Church office

My Church Family Album photo dates:

August 4 -9; November 3-22; February 2-9

Photo Times: Weekdays, 2:15 to 9:15pm
Saturdays, 9:00am to 3:30pm
Sundays, 9:00am to 4:00pm or 10:00am to 5:00pm

Bunco

Join the ACCW for Bunco on April 18th, 1:00 to 4:00 pm in the small parish hall. Dessert and drinks included.

Plenty of money and table prizes, as well as, raffles and 50/50. Tickets are $7 each.

Call Ann Horschel for tickets @ 254-6587.

Reservations a must!
Long-Sleeve Relief Drive

The purpose of the LSR drive is to collect long-sleeve cotton shirts for men and women who work in the fields.

Drive ends Holy Thursday, Apr. 2. Collection bin is in Our Lady’s Chapel.

CATHOLIC HOMESCHOOL INFORMATION MEETING

April 19, 1:00 - 3:00pm

Learn the who, what, why, and how of homeschooling at the Catholic Homeschool Information Meeting, Sunday, April 19, 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the Ascension Ministry Building.

Find out more about our support group as well as our weekly academic co-op, Connecting With History - a Classical Catholic program.

For more information, contact Cindy Kelly at 321-576-3882 or cindy@floridakellys.net

See more at www.melbournewarchangels.com

SPACE COAST VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE (SCVM)

is a nonprofit, 501c3, volunteer organization which serves the uninsured of Brevard County, ages 19–64, who are at or below the 200% poverty level. This faith-based medical and dental clinic is staffed 100% by volunteers! Recently, several of their providers have retired leaving them in need of doctors, dentists, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants. Most providers volunteer for a 4-hour shift either weekly or monthly.

SCVM is located inside the Florida Department of Health in Viera on Judge Fran Jamieson Way.

For more information on this wonderful outreach ministry, contact Irene Theriault, Dental Director and Ascension parishioner, at ftscvm@gmail.com, or Brenda Craft, Director of Volunteers, at Brenda.craft@scvim.org. If you have any questions, please call the clinic at 321-639-5813 or visit their website at www.spacecoastvolunteersinmedicine.org.

NO BINGO

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2015

Social Concerns & Food Pantry

Feinstein Challenge has been POSTPONED this year.

The Feinstein foundation has suspended its annual $1 Million Giveaway for 2015 in order to concentrate on its ever increasing number of Feinstein Jr. Scholars, now over 150,000 strong. While speaking directly with Mr. Alan Feinstein, he confirmed that the Challenge has been postponed this year. During the conversation we were able to thank him for the opportunity he has given us and so many others over the years. Mr. Feinstein’s goal was to help hunger organizations raise money during March & April each year to fill pantries that feed the hungry in our communities; he succeeded.

The impact of the Feinstein Challenge on our Food Pantry was huge. With this annual fundraiser we were able to keep food on the shelves to carry through the tough summer months. We thank all our parishioners, parents, students and so many others for the tremendous support during this fundraising challenge. Many have already sent their Feinstein money of support to Social Concerns for this year.

WE WILL CERTAINLY RETURN YOUR FUNDS. Please let us know if you would like us to return your donation or if you would like to leave it as a donation to the Food Pantry. Social Concerns is open Mon-Fri 9-11am. We can be reached during those hours at 259-5685.

Whatever you decide, we thank you so much for your continued support.

Our next food drive will be the weekend of APRIL 12, not next weekend.

Pantry food items: Tomato sauce, spaghetti sauce, powdered milk, tuna helper, tuna, peanut butter, jelly, pork & beans, canned fruits, canned potatoes (sliced & whole).

Others: children’s diapers sizes 4 & 5

Contemplative Prayer

Tuesday at 7:00pm, Ministry Bldg, Rm 304

Info: Pam Lackie 259-2431

DAILY BREAD VOLUNTEERS

About 250 homeless and needy folks eat each day at Daily Bread, Melbourne’s free downtown soup kitchen located at 815 Fee Ave, a block off US 1. Let us know if you would like to help on any of the following days from 10:30am to 2:30pm:

Sign up early to reserve your place on a serving team:

Thursday, April 9: Contact Stella Warnock at 757-9653

Saturday, April 11: Contact Rachel Benevente at rbenevente@yahoo.com or (813) 735-0352

Tuesday, April 28: Contact Betsy or Bill Hampton at 254-0418
*Wedding Anniversaries*

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>James &amp; Louise Storms</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>Apr 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gerald &amp; Rita Dubois</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>Apr 3</td>
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<td>Robert &amp; Doreen Snyder</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Apr 3</td>
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*Pray For The Sick*


*Pray for those in the nursing homes.*

*Please pray for those in the nursing homes.*

*Mass Intentions For The Week*

Week beginning Monday, March 30, 2015 and ending Sunday, April 5, 2015

**Mon. 7:30 am**

- † John LaPointe
- † Dorothy Carter

**Tues. 7:30 am**

- † Joe & Helen Garlusky
- † Marshall Ader

**Wed. 7:30 am**

- † Ramon & Jessica Vigo
- † Members of the Santos Family

**HOLY THURSDAY**

**Thurs. 7:00 pm**

- People of the Parish

**GOOD FRIDAY — No Masses**

**HOLY SATURDAY**

**Sat. 8:00 pm**

- People of the Parish

**EASTER SUNDAY**

**Sun. 6:00 am**

- † Martha Lazarini
- † Grace Collins

**7:30 am**

- † Conrad & Therese Bisson
- † Rosemary Kean

**9:30 am**

- † Harry Leon Masino
- † William Palmer

**11:30 am**

- Special Intention
- Mary Avvampato

*There is no 5:30pm Mass on Easter Sunday*

**ALTAR SERVERS’ SCHEDULE**

- Easter Sunday—see sign-up sheets

**Easter Flower Decoration**

Donations may be made in honor of a deceased loved one or as a special intention for someone.

Please indicate name and specify whether for a deceased loved one or for a special intention, and send to church office or place in collection basket.

The usual donation is $25.00.

*Living Stations of the Cross*

- Palm Sunday, April 13 following 5:30pm Mass
- Good Friday, April 18, 5:30pm
Camp Invention

Camp Invention will be hosted by Ascension Catholic School the week of June 8-12 from 9:00am to 3:30pm each day.

Camp Invention is a national educational program recognized for fostering innovative thinking, real-world problem solving and the spirit of invention. The weeklong day camp experience encourages inventive young minds through hands-on problem solving, using science, technology, engineering and mathematics in a fun and creative atmosphere. The program is designed for students who will be entering Grades 1-6 next school year. Early registration discounts are available for both alumni registrants and new participants.

Find more information and register at www.campinvention.org or contact Nicole Hymel at nhymel@cfl.rr.com

All young adults (ages 21 - 39) are welcome to join us for Theology on Tap on Tuesday, April 7, at 6:30 pm at Baci, 760 Barnes Blvd., Rockledge. Theology on Tap is a nationwide program allowing Catholic young adults to sit back in a relaxed environment while learning about their faith. Catholic young adults from parishes around Brevard County discuss events ranging from current events to church history to vocation and testimonial stories. Theology on Tap occurs on the first Tuesday of each month.

Curious about what it’s like being Catholic in the news and publishing field? Tim Walters of Florida Today will give us the scoop!

Tim Walters is the Visuals Editor at Florida Today, specializing in photo, video and TV. He also writes a parenting column called Daddy Duty. He has a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Florida.
A heartfelt “thank you” to all those currently serving in our parish ministries! Both you and your spouse are invited to attend our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner to be held on Friday, April 24, at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Please sign up with only one of your volunteer ministries by letting your ministry leader know if you and your spouse will attend. Your ministry leader will be keeping a tally and emailing me, Monica Sutton, directly by noon Monday, April 20, with the final number.

We thank the Lord for your faithful service to Him and our church family!

Childcare will be available but **you must register** your children’s names and ages with your ministry leader. Thank you.

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**Summer Catechesis Program (VBS)**

**June 15-19**

Register online from March 1st to May 15th

Be sure to check our web-page for Updated Info!

http://www.ascensioncatholic.net > Faith Formation > Summer Catechesis Programs

Questions? Contact Betsy at 254-1595 x 3080 or

By e-mail at dre@ascensioncatholicsch.org

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**EVEREST**

Conquering Challenges with God’s Mighty Power