



# Ascension Catholic Church

12700 Lanham-Severn Rd. | Bowie, Maryland 20720 | Ph. (301) 262-2227

## MASS SCHEDULE

ALL MASSES ARE IN THE CHURCH

### Weekends

Saturday — Vigil 4:00 pm

Sunday — 8:00 am, 10:00 am, & 12:00 pm

### Weekdays

Mon -Wed, Fri -Sat — 9:00 am

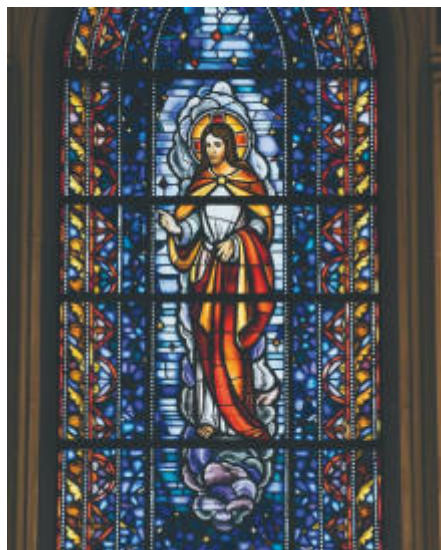
## CONFESSION SCHEDULE

ALL CONFESSIONS ARE HEARD IN THE CHURCH

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri — 8:40-9:00 am

Tuesdays — 5:45-6:45 pm

Saturdays — 8:40-9:00 am; 3:00-3:30 pm



## MASS INTENTIONS (APRIL 19-25)

Monday (9:00 am) +Betty DeMar

Tuesday (9:00 am) +Avelina Villareal

Wednesday (9:00 am) +Florence Chesnick

Friday (9:00 am) +Resty Villareal

Saturday (9:00 am) Special Intention

(4:00 pm) +Everett Lyles III

Sunday (8:00 am) +Rosa Elvira Gonzalez

(10:00 am) Parishioners

(12:00 pm) Special Intention

## 3rd Sunday of Easter

He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled....You are witnesses of these things."

Luke 24:44, 48

April 18, 2021 | Fax: (301) 805-5053 | Email: [office@ascensionbowie.org](mailto:office@ascensionbowie.org) | [www.ascensionbowie.org](http://www.ascensionbowie.org)

Dear Parishioners,

—Greetings from Fr. Tim—

Today's second reading comes from the First Letter of John, a kind of elementary catechesis on the Christian life, yet its teachings are just as important today as they were back then. Our passage says:

“My children, I am writing this to you so that you may not commit sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one. He is expiation for our sins, and not for our sins only but for those of the whole world.”

The author is clear that Christians are called to break from sin, anything that offends the order established by God for our true life. But if we do sin -- and the implication is that at times, we likely will -- we can find forgiveness through Christ, our "Advocate with the Father." Christ has won us the grace of reconciliation which can never be exhausted, because His love upon the Cross was itself an infinite action of God. Such infinite acts will always be a source of grace for us, and so God will never turn from us, whenever we come to Him with faith and hope in Christ, seeking forgiveness, as the Psalms say: "The mercy of the Lord endures forever" (Ps 136).

But then the author warns us against a particular danger:

“Those who say, ‘I know him,’ but do not keep his commandments are liars, and the truth is not in them.”

The danger is that we can claim to "know" God, that is, share in His life -- but meanwhile disobey His commandments, acting as "liars." Such a situation is dishonest because it lacks the integrity of faith, faith which wants to do God's will.

Well the classical Christian tradition calls this the sin of presumption. While indeed we can never hope too much for what God promises, such as His forgiveness, guidance, or love, we can hope in an "inordinate" way for what God does not promise, such as "glory without merits" or "forgiveness without repentance." To hope for a share in Christ's virtue and victory, without really putting in effort, or for God's mercy without sincere conversion, is really not hope at all, because God promises neither. These "false hopes" are based on pride, an exaggerated self-importance, in which I claim, "God can't wait to reward me!" when I've really done very little; or "God couldn't do without me!", when I've clearly failed to obey Him, and rejected His many opportunities for forgiveness along the way (above all, Confession).

Well this is obviously a great problem today. When someone says "I'm a good person" but ignores conscience and reason (Natural Law); when someone says "I believe in Jesus," but ignores Christ's words and demands; or when a Catholic says "I'm Catholic," but ignores Church teaching, and the fact that Christ has given authority to the Church to teach on faith on morals -- they are being presumptuous. In effect, they're saying, "I don't need to change."

But fortunately John leaves us with a way out of this vice:

“But whoever keeps his word, the love of God is truly perfected in him.”

How do we grow in the divine life? By "keeping" God's word, obeying it, following it in practice: after all, God has spoken -- He wants us to know how to live, that our "joy may be full" (Jn 15:11). We might not be able to do so perfectly on this earth -- "the just man falls seven times," as Scripture says (Proverbs 24:16) -- but there is a great difference between someone who tries to do so, with integrity, falling and getting up again and again with help of Christ's grace -- and someone who falsely assumes that he or she has already arrived, is "good enough" and is meanwhile blind to the call to holiness. Only the former can really be called a person of faith.

And so this First Letter of St. John is still as fresh as ever, even if it is basic, and none of it is really new. As Christ Himself said: "Be perfect, as your Heavenly Father is perfect" (Mt 5:48); and "I have come not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:32).

God Bless, Fr. Tim



## Archdiocesan Men's Retreat: April 30-May 1

All men are invited to the Archdiocese of Washington men's retreat (in person and live-streamed online) beginning Friday night, April 30, and Saturday, May 1, the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker (no overnight). The retreat will be held, socially distanced, at St. Martin of Tours in Gaithersburg, MD, and will be live-streamed online. Retreat directors Fr. David Wells and Msgr. Robert Panke will reflect on the theme, "Following in the Footsteps of St. Joseph," as we look to St. Joseph, patron of husbands and the Universal Church, as a model of faith. The retreat will include talks, Mass, prayer and confession, group discussions, and more. To register visit <https://adwmenretreat2021.eventbrite.com>. For assistance with ASL interpretation, contact the Special Needs Office at 301-200-5430 VP or email [specialneedsministry@adw.org](mailto:specialneedsministry@adw.org) two weeks in advance.

### PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK

Francis Barnes, Mary Ann Boyer, Mary Burton, Laura Chesnick, Rosita Dietrich, Cynthia Graham, Larry Hudson, James Kaufman Jr., Beverlee Lee, Ida Mullikin, Jean Mosby, Terrence O'Brien, Jr., Earl Perry, Norma Perry, Norma Raffaele, Geralyn Roberson, Mickey Ryan, Barbara Shipp, Doreen Darzinski, and Shirley Mackessy.



**Congratulations! This week's raffle winner is**

*Rosemary Welch!*

*The Easter flowers in the Church are in memory of:*

Lynning V. Aguilar	Fr. William F. Goode
Alexander A. Angeles	Barbara H. & Joseph T. Mairoriello
Antonio O. Belmonte	Gesimino & Anglina Maioriello
Euleterio O. Belmonte	Jackie Maioriello & Jerry Mauro
Raine Bowling	Rosie Maioriella & Bill Gennetti
Miguel, Irene, Pacifico, and Jovita Castro	Mom & Dad, Uncle Ping & Richy, Mark, Daris, John
John & Bernadette Connelly	Katire, Robert, Billy, & James
Pete Cornel	Randolph & Yvonne Miggins
Charley Missar	Edward Parker & Rosetta Harris
Alfredo Clamor	The Partington family
Martin de Leon	Angelo & Margaret Righi
Ivan Ferrando Bueno	Joan Rodenhauer and Bob & JoAnne Janus
Connie Hendershott	Betty Lacey
Deceased Loved Ones	Anastacia Sophia Rosser
Michael J. Hungerford	Gervacio Sarra and Ines Sarra
Jose & Dolores Jabonete	Daniel, Mary, and Cleveland Savoy
Ronald David Johnson	Al & Ethel Stone
James & Lelia Johnson	Mr. and Mrs. Napoleon Coco
Ford & Renee Kalil	Haley Pointer
Angelita, Anne, Patrick, Mary Anne and Francis	Dr. Alfredo Figaredo and Alina Figaredo
Kelly, and Patrick Kelly Jr.	Catherine Ukoha
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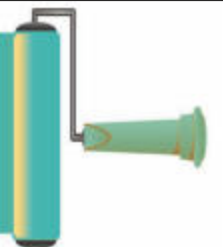
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