



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

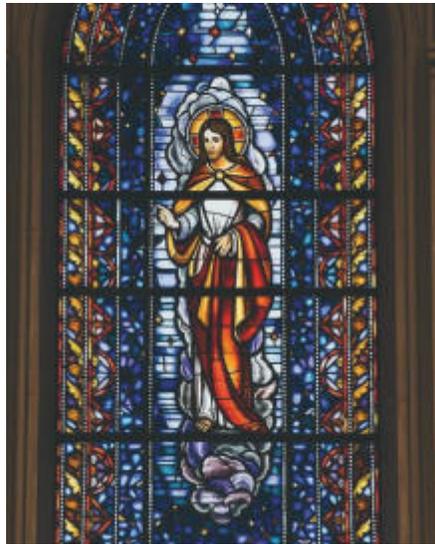
CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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 (JUNE 14-20)

Monday (9:00 am) Fr. Tim Daniel

Tuesday (9:00 am) +Frank & Marie Rybka

Wednesday (9:00 am) +Florence Simasek

Friday (9:00 am) +Gervacio Sarra

Saturday (9:00 am) Special Intention

(4:00 pm) +Millard Horton

Sunday (8:00 am) Parishioners

(10:00 am) Angus & Rosalind Mrochek

(12:00 pm) Father's Day

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

To what shall we compare the kingdom of God? It is like a mustard seed... once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants.

Mark 4:30a, 31a, 32

Dear Parishioners,

—Greetings from Fr. Tim—

This past Friday we celebrated the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Although officially established as a universal feast day only in 1899, the roots of this celebration are found in the Church Fathers' description of the love of Jesus' heart, and the later appearances of Christ to St. Gertrude in the 13th century and especially to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in the 17th century. Far from simply calling for attention to a physical organ of Jesus, the feast draws our attention to the all that that human heart represents: the fact that "God so loved the world that He sent His only Son, that we might not perish but have eternal life" (Jn 3:16); and the desire of God that all might be saved (1 Tim 2:4), a burning desire which leads Christ to embrace the cross. It is by coming to know and experience this divine love through prayer, sacrament, and Christian charity that we are healed of our own wounds and temptations, and likewise become missionaries of charity, enraptured with the same divine love for others.

In this light, and perhaps in a surprising way, I should comment on the recent restoration of the obligation to attend Mass in the coming weeks. Why are we obligated to attend Mass?

First of all, because God commands us to worship Him: the commandments clearly demand that we honor God, and honor the sabbath, because it is by having a right relationship with our Creator that we grow in humility, admitting that we are not gods, but only creatures, creatures who need to give thanks for the gift of life and attend to all that God has revealed to us.

Secondly, because we are social beings: for God creates and saves us in community, as both Judaism and Christianity show. We are members of the Body of Christ, and we grow in union with God as grow in charity toward other human beings.

Thirdly, because Christ specifically commanded His apostles to celebrate the Mass. As the fullness of God's revelation, God's last Word, Christ celebrated the Last Supper, and commanded His apostles: "do this in memory of me" (Lk 22:19, etc.). He also hinted at the Mass on the road to Emmaus, when He opened the Scriptures and disappeared at the "breaking of the bread" (Lk 24). Likewise, since the time of the apostles, Christians have been worshipping on Sunday, the day of the Resurrection, recognizing that they were reconciled to God through the life, teaching, death, and grace of Jesus Christ (Rom 5:10).

In the big picture, however, we must see all of this in light of Christ's Sacred Heart; God does not just want "slaves, but friends" (Jn 15:15). And so He obligates us to worship Him, not because we add anything to Him, giving Him something He does not have, or because He simply enjoys commanding us to do this or that, but because He is wise and loving, knowing that we need Him and His love above all else-- a love which can be found above all in the Eucharist.

St. Faustina, another visionary of Christ's mercy, recounts: "I suddenly saw the Lord Jesus, who said to me with great kindness, 'My daughter, look at My merciful Heart...The flames of mercy are burning Me - clamoring to be spent; I want to keep pouring them out upon souls; souls just don't want to believe in My goodness.'" (Diary, 177)

God bless,
Fr. Tim

The Hyde Amendment As Catholics, we are gravely concerned about the prospect of any expansion of taxpayer funding of abortion. For 45 years, the Hyde Amendment and other life-saving appropriations riders have prevented taxpayers from being forced to pay for elective abortion. The Hyde Amendment has had longstanding bipartisan support every year since 1976, but is now at risk of being overturned. Please sign a petition to save the Hyde Amendment at www.notaxpayerabortion.com

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, Bert Nemeth, Becky Goodman, Irene Lloyd, and Shirley Mackessy.



Eucharistic procession at Ascension after the 12:00 Mass in honor of the feast of Corpus Christi, the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.



Congratulations to our raffle winners!

6/6: Ms. Elizabeth Curran | 6/13: Megan Bogley

Lifting of the Dispensation from the Obligation to Attend Mass Cardinal Gregory and the Diocesan Bishops of the Province of Baltimore (Archdiocese of Baltimore, Catholic Diocese of Arlington, Catholic Diocese of Wilmington, Catholic Diocese of Richmond and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston) have jointly announced that the dispensation of the Sunday and Holy Day Mass obligation will be lifted beginning on Saturday, June 26, 2021 and Sunday, June 27, 2021. The obligation to attend Mass does not apply to those who are ill, recently exposed to coronavirus, confined to their residence, or those with serious underlying health conditions. Certain safety protocols will remain in effect until revoked by the archdiocese.

Vocations Camp for High School Boys For high-school age young men from the Archdiocese of Washington who are interested in learning more about the vocation of priesthood, a Quo Vadis Camp will be take place from Sunday, July 25 to Wednesday, July 28 at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD (transportation is available). There will be Mass, talks, sports, Eucharistic Adoration, games, and food. Those who are interested should register at <https://dcpriest.org/quo-vadis-camp-2021>.

For more information, please contact the Office of Priest Vocations at 202-636-9020 or vocations@adw.org

Seeking volunteers to help with Vacation Bible School at Ascension this summer! We are currently projecting a week in late August for our upcoming parish Vacation Bible School. It will be held Monday through Friday from 9:30am-12:00noon for children in grades K-5. We are seeking Virtus-compliant adults and student assistants in grades 6 and up! There are many ways one can help, from behind-the-scenes decorating and prep work to leading or assisting at one of the daily stations at camp, and more!

Please contact Maria Centeno at religiouseducation@ascensionbowie.org if you can help. We are excited to host this fun event once again this year, especially after it got cancelled last year due to COVID, but we need lost of volunteers in order for it to be successful. Please consider joining our team this year!

Pass on the Good News! What good news? The Good News of Jesus Christ and our Catholic faith! This fall, our parish children in kindergarten through grade 8 will sign up to learn more about Jesus and the Catholic faith. You can help them learn and grow in faith by becoming a catechist for our Religious Education program. Classes are offered Sunday mornings for grades K-7, and Wednesday evenings for our eighth graders. As you nurture the faith of our young, you will learn and grow as well! As one long-time catechist put it, "I learn so much from the children!" We provide you with training, materials, and support. Classes begin in late September. If interested or for more information, contact Maria Centeno at religiouseducation@ascensionbowie.org, or 301-262-2227, ext.5.

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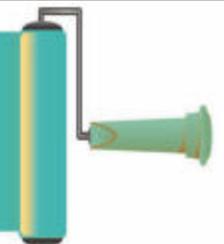
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