



# 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

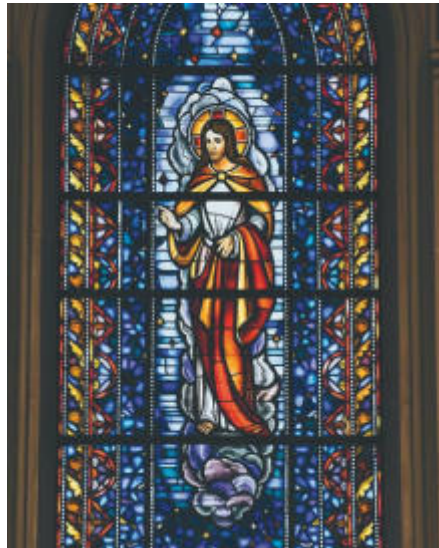
## CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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 21-27)

Monday (9:00 am) Father's Day

Tuesday (9:00 am) Father's Day

Wednesday (9:00 am) Father's Day

Friday (9:00 am) Father's Day

Saturday (9:00 am) Father's Day

(4:00 pm) +Larry Jolliffe

Sunday (8:00 am) +John Schmitt

(10:00 am) Parishioners

(12:00 pm) Father's Day

## 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be still!" The wind ceased and there was great calm. Then he asked them, "Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?"

Mark 4:39-40

June 20, 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 St. Paul describes what happens when a Christian really grasps what has happened in Jesus Christ: "The love of Christ impels us, once we have come to the conviction that one died for all; therefore, all have died. He indeed died for all, so that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised." To grasp the life and meaning of Jesus Christ is to understand that God Himself has come among us, teaching us the truth and dying for it, winning us supernatural friendship with God that had been lost by sin. Since this friendship not only fulfills our deepest longings here on earth, but also endures beyond this life, it is worth everything -- to the point of living "no longer for ourselves" but completely for Christ. Everything now turns on friendship with Him.

In our own day this is a message we need to take to heart. There are many distractions competing for our hearts, as there have always been: power, pleasure, money, wealth -- every one of these can become a "god" insofar as we try to find perfect happiness in them. But in a particular way we are also living in a time when the pursuit of truth, goodness, and happiness have been completely relativized and subjectivized, resulting in a situation in which many people simply don't think there is any real goal to human life or any access to truth. Instead, "freedom" is exalted as the only great value, where "freedom" is defined as the ability to do whatever one wants. The question of what actually leads to true happiness is hardly asked; and if one is fortunate enough to engage that question, the classical answers of Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, etc., are hardly proposed before being summarily rejected as "old-fashioned" or "out of touch" compared to modern philosophers who are taken for granted as having disproved the wisdom of old, simply for living in more recent times. The truth is quite the opposite: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls" (Jeremiah 6:16).

The current trend of "preferred gender pronouns" is one example of this loss of reason. Without any scientific basis, children are being encouraged to doubt the sex they have been born with and then to choose terms that describe their supposedly preferred "gender." Billed as progress in "freedom" and "human rights," little attention is actually given to the serious scientific, metaphysical, and practical issues involved, and there is increasing cultural and financial pressure placed upon those who raise the most obvious and commonsensical questions. What about the serious medical consequences of gender-reassignment surgery, revealed already in solid scientific research (e.g., increased long-term depression, increased rates of suicide)? What about the rights of parents, the safety of boys and girls in public facilities, and justice in sports? What about any other quality which until now has seemed clear, such as ethnicity -- am I Irish, Ethiopian, Chinese, etc., simply because I believe I am, or does DNA not have something to say? All such questions are suppressed by the transgender movement, whose reliance on emotion and power cannot tolerate the pursuit of objective truth. "Truth," for this movement, is whatever I say, simply because I want it to be. And many people are being caught up in such a lie, with eventually disastrous regrets.

As Catholics, of course, we have many reasons to oppose such a movement. We believe in God our Creator, who has established a wise and beautiful order to reality, including our identity as human beings, body and soul, male or female, from the moment of conception (see Job 3:16; Psalm 51:5; Isaiah 44:24; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:44, etc.). Our "self" therefore always includes the sex we have been given by God. Another part of this God-given order is moral, that is, how to attain true happiness: living in union with God by reason and the teachings and grace of Jesus Christ (John 15:15). While such statements are statements of Christian Faith, we also argue that any human being can attain to much of these truths by reason alone, when open to objective evidence. Human reason can recognize the truth of our body-soul, sexed identity when open to scientific and philosophical arguments; and it can discern a path of true human flourishing, in accord with the substance of the Ten Commandments, when it perceives the moral order of human life expressed in the natural law. This is why Aristotle, other non-Christian philosophers, mathematics, biology, chemistry, and other fields of objective inquiry are taught and studied in Catholic schools. We uphold the pursuit of truth by faith and reason.

For these and other reasons we must resist the transgender movement and the spread of "preferred gender pronouns." Fundamentally, the movement springs from relativism and subjectivism and denies the basic structure of the human person, and "preferred gender pronouns" can be clearly recognized as an effort to normalize such errors in language and thought. While of course we must come to the aid of those who suffer with gender dysphoria, part of this aid is to unmask the lies of any worldview that contradicts the wisdom of the greatest philosophers, objective science, and especially our Christian Faith, because, after all, Christ says: "you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:31-32). "The love of Christ impels us."

God Bless,

Fr. Tim

**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](mailto: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 [religionseducation@ascensionbowie.org](mailto:religionseducation@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 [religionseducation@ascensionbowie.org](mailto:religionseducation@ascensionbowie.org), or 301-262-2227, ext.5.

#### 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.



**Congratulations to our raffle winner,  
Monika Gross!**

Sacred Heart Church in Bushwood, MD, is hosting their annual June Drive-Thru Dinner on Sunday June 27 from 11am until the food runs out. Menu includes fried chicken, crab cakes, country ham, potato salad, cole slaw, green beans, beets, and rolls. Carry-out is \$28.00. There will be a bake sale table outside.

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