



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

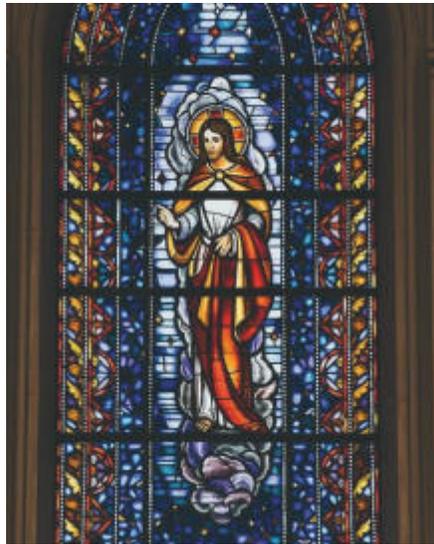
CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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 28-JULY 4)

Monday (9:00 am) Father's Day

Tuesday (9:00 am) Father's Day

Wednesday (9:00 am) +Carol Myskowski

Friday (9:00 am) +Mr.&+Mrs. Michael Simasek

Saturday (9:00 am) Special Intention

(4:00 pm) +Alethea Patten

Sunday (8:00 am) Parishioners

(10:00 am) Special Intention

(12:00 pm) Sodality

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus said to the synagogue official, "Do not be afraid; just have faith." So he went in and said to them, "Why this commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep."

Mark 5:36, 39

Dear Parishioners,

—Greetings from Fr. Tim—

Today in the second reading, Paul urges his readers in Corinth to contribute to a collection for the Christians in Jerusalem: "As you excel in every respect, in faith, discourse, knowledge, all earnestness, and in the love we have for you, may you excel in this gracious act also. For you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich."

Christ, of course, is the standard: by "becoming poor" of the "riches" of Heaven, and coming to earth to save mankind, He saved us, "enriching" us with friendship of God. And so Christians must do likewise: emptying themselves of their own riches so as to supply the poor--those in need in any way.

Now of course we can understand this lesson in a very general sense: whether visiting the imprisoned, comforting the afflicted, counseling the doubtful, or instructing the ignorant -- works of mercy -- in any way we serve others with true charity, we are "emptying" ourselves of time, resources, or attention and thus living out the path of Christ's self-gift.

But we should also keep in mind the importance of the specific practice of almsgiving, that is, giving material resources to the poor. The Bible places great value on this practice, as we hear, for example, in the advice of Tobit to his son Tobiah: "Give alms from your possessions to all who live uprightly, and do not let your eye begrudge the gift when you make it. Do not turn your face away from any poor man, and the face of God will not be turned away from you. If you have many possessions, make your gift from them in proportion; if few, do not be afraid to give according to the little you have. So you will be laying up a good treasure for yourself against the day of necessity. For charity delivers from death and keeps you from entering the darkness; and for all who practice it charity is an excellent offering in the presence of the Most High" (Tob 4:7-11). Notably, here almsgiving is seen not only as a way of helping others, but also of "delivering from death" and "laying up a treasure for yourself against the day of necessity": that is, making satisfaction for past sins, and somehow building up a "treasury" in Heaven. Jesus will refer to these same points later in His own teaching, for example: "Sell your possessions, and give alms; provide yourselves with purses that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys" (Lk 12:33).

Still, we should also keep in mind the spiritual goal of our charity. Charity is moved by faith, desiring not only what is materially necessary for each human being, but also the ultimate good of God for each individual as a unique creation of God, body and soul. Material goods are good insofar as they help in this goal, but will not provide ultimate happiness; only God can perfectly satisfy us and keep our other loves in order. Christian almsgiving is therefore far different from the Marxist/Communist/socialist vision of "equality" in which everyone will supposedly only be happy when everyone has the same amount of material possessions and there are no differences at all. Such a vision leaves out the spiritual dimension of human beings, and moreover ignores that in some respects, we are created with inherent "inequalities" that are good in light of the common good. As St. Paul says elsewhere, in reference to the Church:

"God arranged the organs in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single organ, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the parts of the body which seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those parts of the body which we think less honorable we invest with the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior part, that there may be no discord in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together" (1 Cor 12:18-26).

Unity in the body of the Church is therefore about each member fulfilling the vocation he or she has in God's plan. Of course, a basic equality of needs must be met, but such equality does not presume every member should be identical. There is beauty and unity in the diversity of the Church, and in the end, we must learn to "rejoice" not only in the gifts God has given us, but the ones that God has willed instead to give to oth-

God Bless, Fr. Tim

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 lots 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.

Fall Sports: Registration for CYO fall sports is now open! The official season will begin in August, but please register today to claim a spot on the team!

Soccer – early registration is \$120/player for 10U, 12U, and 14U; \$100/player for 7U and 8U (child's age as of Sep 1, 2020 determines level) – if you have questions please contact Candace Walls, Soccer Commissioner @ candace.walls@gmail.com

Cross Country – 8-14U (child's age as of Sep 1, 2020 determines level) –fees: \$85/runner for early registration– if you have questions please contact Megan Bogley, Cross Country Commissioner @ m_bogley@hotmail.com

Visit www.stpiusbowiecyo.com and click Sports Pilot to register.

CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) is a volunteer organization and we can't do it without you! Please consider coaching one of our many teams or contact us if you'd like to get involved! It's a great experience! Please note that all coaches and volunteers must be Virtus certified. Coaches should contact the designated commissioner regarding additional requirements. <https://stpiusbowiecyo.com/contact-us/>

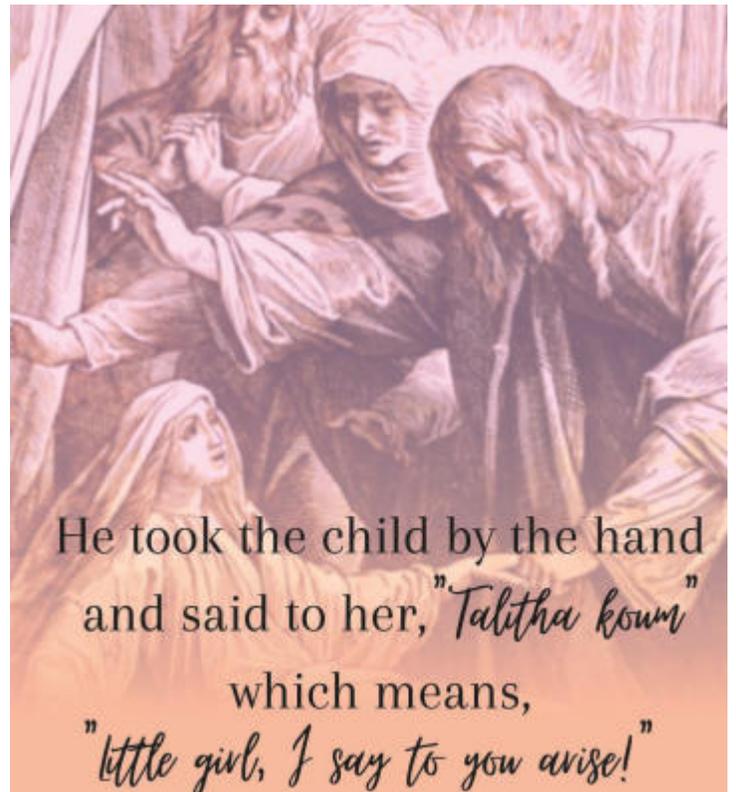
Lifting of the Dispensation from the Obligation to Attend Mass Cardinal Gregory and the Diocesan Bishops of the Province of Baltimore and Holy Day Mass obligation has been lifted. The obligation to attend Mass does not apply to those who are ill, recently exposed to coronavirus, confined to their residence, or those with serious underlying health conditions.



**Congratulations to our raffle winner,
Melissa Kaufman!**

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.



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