



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

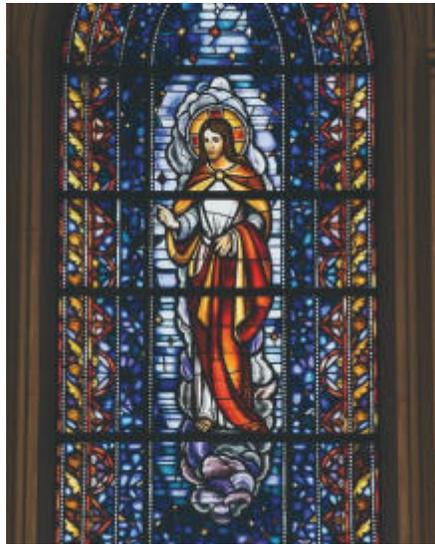
CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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 (JULY 26-31)

Monday (9:00 am) +John G. Fanning

Tuesday (9:00 am) Cathy Milstead

Wednesday (9:00 am) +Alfredo Clamor

Friday (9:00 am) +Sr. Rita Budeke

Saturday (9:00 am) Special Intention

(4:00 pm) Tony Visk

Sunday (8:00 am) Parishioners

(10:00 am) Special Intention

(12:00 pm) Sodality

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted.

John 6:9, 11

July 25, 2021 | Fax: (301) 805-5053 | Email: office@ascensionbowie.org | www.ascensionbowie.org

Dear Parishioners,

—Greetings from Fr. Tim—

This week Paul makes a timely appeal: "I, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

In some ways this sounds a little idealistic -- "one body and one Spirit," as if there were no divisions at all! But Paul is quite serious, precisely because he knows the power of Christ -- the same Christ who converted him, a persecutor of the Church, into an apostle: if Christ can heal that kind of relationship, He can heal anything, Paul would say. So we should take Paul's call as a serious and attainable goal.

Now this does not mean that Christ will just appear to us and unite us, without any effort on our part; as if we could just sit back. Not even Paul did that. Notice how he "urges" his readers to live up to the call to unity: "with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace." Such words imply an exercise in virtue, so that Paul's readers must work to cooperate with God's grace.

But how to understand this balance, on the one hand counting on God's supernatural help, on the other striving with all our human resources?

Well the first virtue on Paul's list offers a good test-case: humility. Humility is recognizing the truth about ourselves, free of any exaggerated and false self-import. It allows one to admit his or her gifts, as blessings from God, but also one's weaknesses, as areas of continual dependence on God's help. Such humility preserves one in a true self-regard, and also leads one to see others in their true light, without harsh judgment, expecting too much, but also without patronizing others, expecting too little.

Now humility is certainly learned through God's supernatural help: by being providentially "humbled," suffering experiences that reveal our limits, imperfections, and/or sinfulness, such as sickness, embarrassments, difficulties or dryness in prayer, or moral failures. When we undergo such experiences, God is the main agent, cultivating humility, healing us of the illusion that we are more perfect or autonomous than we really are. St. John of the Cross calls this "passive purification."

But we can also grow in humility through effort. St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) offers some practical examples: "speak as little as possible about yourself; keep busy with your own affairs and not those of others; accept small irritations with good humor; do not dwell on the faults of others; give in to the will of others." There are more (see the article title below), but these examples are enough to understand her point with a little context. For example, "give in to the will of others" does not mean to give in to anything, such as watching a morally bad movie, or helping others steal a car; but to give in to others' preferences in morally good matters, such as where to eat, what game to play, which movie to watch (when the movies are all good!). The key here, and in the other examples, is that when we follow such advice, we are fighting the tendency of pride in practical ways: placing our preferences over those of others, or our own false self-image over our true self-image, or our own comfort over discomfort, etc., cooperating with the little opportunities for humility that God gives us each day. Such cooperation is what St. John of the Cross calls "active purification."

The same dynamic goes for the other virtues Paul lists: gentleness, patience, tolerance, etc.: God sometimes teaches us how to be gentle by the harsh setbacks and insults we passively suffer; at other times, we can make the effort to speak more gently, to judge others charitably, and so on. But note: without this dynamic of God's supernatural action, and our cooperation, the goal of unity -- "one body and one Spirit" -- will only seem idealistic, an unreachable ideal! And so the call to sanctity, to cooperating with God's grace, is really the path to unity. "These world crises are crises of saints" (St. Josemaria Escrivá).

God bless,
Fr. Tim

For more:
"Mother Teresa's 15 Tips to Help You Become More Humble", Patty Maguire Armstrong
<https://www.ncregister.com/blog/mother-teresas-15-tips-to-help-you-become-more-humble>

"Humility" - St. Josemaria Escrivá, Furrow, Chapter 8
<https://www.escrivaworks.org/book/furrow/contents/8>

Dear Parishioners,

Hope you are well! We will be getting ready for the school year with a half-day retreat at our parish on Saturday, August 21, with guest speaker Father Dan Leary, Chaplain of the Sisters of Mary and World Villages for Children. The theme of the retreat is "The Eucharist and Our Lady: Lessons from the Life of Fr. Aloysius Schwartz."

Washington DC-native Father Al Schwartz founded the religious community of the Sisters of Mary in 1964. The Sisters of Mary operate charitable programs in the Philippines, South Korea, Mexico, Guatemala, Brazil, Honduras, and Tanzania, working to not only give children a safe roof over their heads, food, and education, but also prepare them for a better future in their own country, culture and environment — at no charge to their families. Father Al died from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) on March 16, 1992. What he accomplished in his lifetime is truly remarkable! He was declared Venerable by Pope Francis in 2015.

As Chaplain and Missionary Priest, guest speaker Father Dan Leary is a Spiritual Father to the 350+ Sisters of Mary and tens of thousands of children in their care all over the world. ([www.WorldVillages.org](http://www.worldvillages.org)<<http://www.worldvillages.org/>>). This retreat will touch on the spirituality and life of Father Al and his love for the poor, and provide some insight into our obligations as missionaries in our own families, communities, and beyond. This is a great opportunity to spend time in prayer, learning about a remarkable priest who could be the first Saint from the Washington DC area!

Pre-registration will be open for REGISTERED PARISHIONERS OF ASCENSION PARISH ONLY (at no charge) beginning Saturday, July 17 and ending on Friday, July 23. After that, formal registration will be open to the general public with a small fee.

Space is limited to 150 attendees. This retreat will likely sell out, so please only sign-up if you are sure you will be able to attend.

The day will begin with Mass at 9AM, followed by light refreshments, then Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and two talks by Father Dan, wrapping up with Benediction no later than 12:15PM. Confessions will also be provided during both of the talks.

To register, visit the Anima Christi Retreats website at <https://www.animachristiretreats.org/ascension-retreat-august-2021-registration.html>



Congratulations to our raffle winner,
Luis Aguilar!

Ladies Movie Night!

Women 18+ are invited to enjoy fellowship and meet other women at a monthly movie night!

Movie comers will also have the opportunity to purchase dinner from The Grille at a discounted price.

Where: Old Bowie Town Grille | Upstairs

When: 2nd Thursday of the Month

Meet at 6:30pm | Movie starts at 7pm

Questions? Text Theresa Thompson @ 301-789-8573

Next Night:
August 12

Readings for the week of July 25, 2021

Sunday: 2 Kgs 4:42-44/Ps 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18 [cf. 16]/Eph 4:1-6/Jn 6:1-15

Monday: Ex 32:15-24, 30-34/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [1a]/Mt 13:31-35

Tuesday: Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28/Ps 103:6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13 [8a]/Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday: Ex 34:29-35/Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 9 [cf. 9c]/Mt 13:44-46

Thursday: Ex 40:16-21, 34-38/Ps 84:3, 4, 5 -6a and 8a, 11 [2]/Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

Friday: Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37/Ps 81:3-4, 5-6, 10-11ab [2a]/Mt 13:54-58

Saturday: Lv 25:1, 8-17/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8 [4]/Mt 14:1-12

Next Sunday: Ex 16:2-4, 12-15/Ps 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54 [24b]/Eph 4:17, 20-24/Jn 6:24-35

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