



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

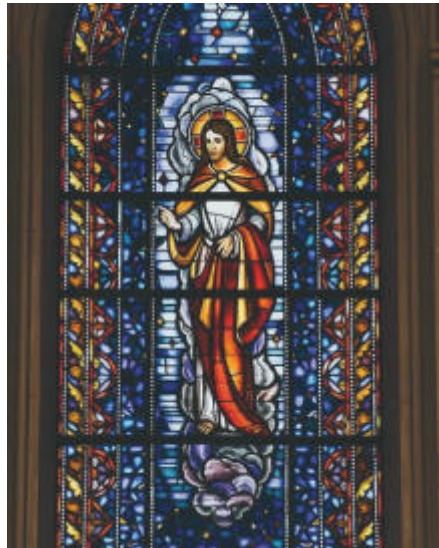
CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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 (AUGUST 9-15)

Monday (9:00 am) Michael J. Simasek Jr.

Tuesday (9:00 am) +Ronald Tayman

Wednesday (9:00 am) Fidel & Fidelia Garcia

Friday (9:00 am) Harry & Rosemarie Givens

Saturday (9:00 am) Special Intention

(4:00 pm) +Larry Jolliffe

Sunday (8:00 am) Parishioners

(10:00 am) Anne-Marie Aduba

(12:00 pm) Special Intention

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die."

John 6:48-50

August 8, 2021 | Fax: (301) 805-5053 | Email: office@ascensionbowie.org | www.ascensionbowie.org

Dear Parishioners,

—Greetings from Fr. Tim—

This week we return to the second reading. Paul says: "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were sealed for the day of redemption. All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ."

Now probably the line that first strikes us is the list of sins -- "bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling... along with all malice" -- and most of these have to do with wrath, a "deadly" anger that leads to many other sins. But it's striking to note, if we were to read just a few lines earlier, Paul says: "Be angry, but do not sin" (4:26). So which is it -- be angry, or don't?

Well, it's important to know first of all that not all anger is bad -- in fact, Christ responds with anger to the money changers in the Temple (see John 2:13-22); Scripture often speaks of God's "anger"; and St. Thomas Aquinas, the Church's preeminent theologian, says the lack of some anger is actually a vice. Why? Because anger is a natural response to the saddening evils we encounter in the fallen world, a response which naturally moves us to set things right. We should become angry, for example, when we see a thief steal from an innocent bystander, and such anger can then propel us to chase after the thief, and restore the stolen goods, or at least to call the police. Such "righteous" anger involves reason's proper judgment of good and bad, and so to lack such anger is a sign that reason is not judging correctly about good and evil in the world.

Unfortunately, however, we are often (or more often) sinfully angry: responding to evil with an exaggerated and proud anger, causing further disorder by our words and actions. That is the anger that Paul warns of here, as the first line reveals: "do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God." The sense is that sinful anger actually saddens the Holy Spirit, and perhaps as we go through the list -- bitterness, fury, shouting, etc. -- we can easily recall moments when we've said something deeply hurtful, causing pain in others' hearts, and have perhaps initiated a whole series of other problems in a kind of domino effect. That is the anger that "grieves" the Holy Spirit, and which Christ warns us about: "I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment, and... whoever says, 'You fool,' will be liable to fiery Gehenna" (Mt 5:22). Christ is quite serious!

So how to temper sinful anger? Here, Paul only gives us a slight clue, but it's vital nonetheless:

"be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ." Paul urges us to recall Christ's own mercy, humbly recalling our own sinfulness and Christ's decision to patiently offer us forgiveness. Only by doing this, reflecting on Christ's mercy in relation to ourselves, can we then learn to temper our own anger in the face of the many evils we encounter. We will be able to finally distinguish sinners from sins, people from bad choices, and learn to forgive the former, even while rejecting the latter.

Again, this is not to say that we should not have some anger, the virtuous anger that urges us to call out abortion as murder, or abuse as depraved and destructive, or any sexual activity outside of marriage -- true marriage, man, woman, permanent, faithful, open to life -- as a misuse of what is really a gift from God. Righteous anger responds to all evils as privations of the beautiful order that God has infused into creation, and so can remind us when we are on the wrong path. But to allow righteous anger to turn into sinful anger -- bitterness, fury, and shouting, wreaking further havoc in the world -- is not the answer Christ allows; Jesus is not a Marxist, responding to evil with chaos!

Instead: "Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have?... So be perfect, just as your Heavenly Father is perfect" (Mt 5:43-48).

God bless, Fr. Tim

Tutor English Remotely with Zoom: Help Hispanic Parish Leaders:

Do you have experience as an ESOL teacher? Would you like to learn how to tutor English by Zoom? You are invited to volunteer with the Catholic Charities virtual ESOL team at St. Matthias. Tutors are assisting Hispanic leaders of the Vincentian Friends on the Periphery, a tri-parish group (St. Matthias, St. Mary's Landover Hills, St. Ambrose) in Prince George's County serving vulnerable families. Plan to attend by zoom our ESOL Tutor Training on all three Tuesdays: August 31, September 7th and 14th at 6-7:30 pm. Tutoring will occur mid-September through mid-November. For more information contact Laura.Yeomans@CC-DC.org or (202) 315-9440.

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.

Readings for the week of August 8, 2021

Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:4-8/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [9a]/Eph 4:30—5:2/Jn 6:41-51

Monday: Dt 10:12-22/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Mt 17:22-27

Tuesday: 2 Cor 9:6-10/Ps 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9 [5]/Jn 12:24-26

Wednesday: Dt 34:1-12/Ps 66:1-3a, 5 and 8, 16-17 [cf. 20a and 10b]/Mt 18:15-20

Thursday: Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17/Ps 114:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 18:21—19:1

Friday: Jos 24:1-13/Ps 136:1-3, 16-18, 21-22 and 24/Mt 19:3-12

Saturday: Jos 24:14-29/Ps 16:1-2a, and 5, 7-8, 11 [cf. 5a]/Mt 19:13-15

Next Sunday: Vigil: 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2/Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14 [8]/1 Cor 15:54b-57/Lk 11:27-28
Day: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/ Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16 [10bc]/1 Cor 15:20-27/Lk 1:39-56

Observances for the week of August 8, 2021

Sunday: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin and Martyr

Tuesday: St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr

Wednesday: St. Clare, Virgin

Thursday: St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious

Friday: Sts. Pontian, Pope, and Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs

Saturday: St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr

Next Sunday: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



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

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