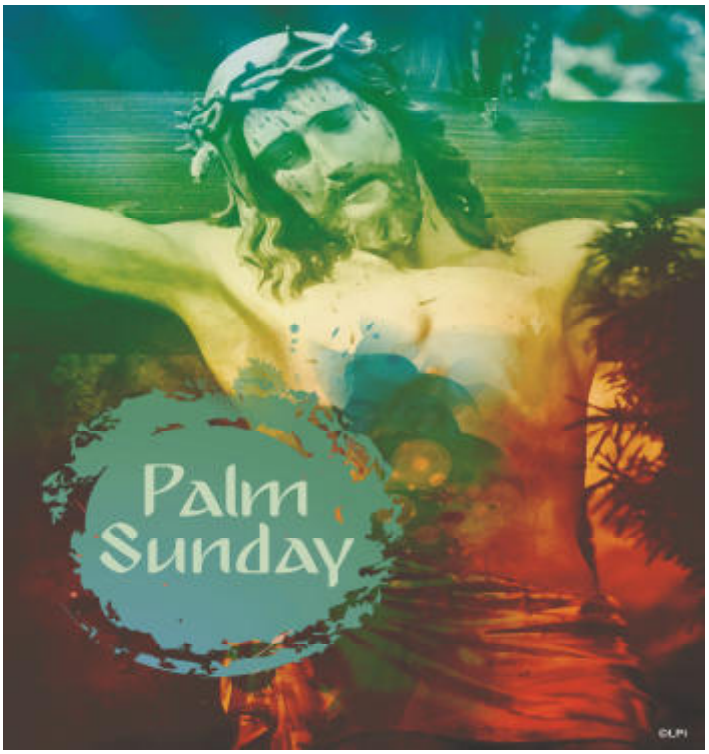
Church of the Ascension

12615 N. Fountain Hills Boulevard
Fountain Hills, Arizona 85268
Parish Office: (480) 837-1066
Fax: (480) 837-9093
www.ascensionfh.org

March 28, 2021



STREAMED & PUBLIC MASSES
Call the parish office to reserve your seat for public masses
480 837-1066

The faithful are still able to view the Holy Mass streamed each week on Saturday after 5 PM on YouTube.
Here is the link:
https://www.youtube.com/CatholicChurchoftheAscension
All Masses are currently public with limited seating and mandated social distancing. If you are healthy and would like to attend mass, you must call the parish office to reserve your seat(s), 480 837-1066.

HOLY WEEK MASSES

Palm Sunday, March 28: Regular weekend Mass schedule
Palms will be blessed and can be taken as you leave the Church. Remember to wear red.

Holy Thursday, April 1: No morning Mass
7:00 p.m. - Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 2: No morning Mass
Noon - Stations of the Cross
3:00 p.m. - Liturgy of Good Friday including Passion according to John and Eucharist

Holy Saturday, April 3:
Noon - Blessing of Easter Food - Front porch of the church
7:30p.m. - **Easter Vigil Mass** begins with lighting of Easter fire outside

Easter Sunday, April 4:
Mass Times: 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., and 10:00 a.m.; Easter Mass will be available on YouTube starting at 6:30 a.m.

Masks and seat reservations are required for all Easter events. Easter Week Reservations will open this Monday, March 29th at 8:30 a.m., on a first come, first served basis. Everyone interested in attending must call the office at (480) 837-1066.

STEWARDSHIP

Parish Mission Statement

Committed to build, strengthen, and nurture the Body of Christ.

Our community welcomes all who come through our doors to worship and seek spiritual nourishment. As a Stewardship parish, we respect and embrace an individual's time, talent and treasure. To join our faith community, please contact the office.

Weekend Collection March 6 - 7

Plate:	**$10,138**
ACH:	**$ 7,426**
Total:	**$17,564**

Weekend Collection March 13 - 14

Plate:	**$ 5,154**
ACH:	**$**
Total:	**$ 5,154**

Average Weekly Plate Income:
$12,967

Weekly Budgeted Income:
$15,490

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) any events listed in this bulletin are tentatively scheduled and are subject to change or be cancelled. Please contact the organization directly to confirm status of the event.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please contact the Parish Office at 480-837-1066 to have a name to be added or removed from either list.

Astrid Asche, Joan Asche, Howard Asher, Pati Beers, Corrine Berg, Marilyn Bertolini, Mary Anne Bilello, Emmy Butler, John Coleman, Jr., Jerry Engler, Eugene Doffin, Lee Doranzo, Zbigniew Gampe, Joe Goyena, Margaret Guempel, Kathleen Holzhueter, Madelene Jackson, Maureen Kelly, Mary Ann Matzules, Eileen McCarthy, Michael McGuckin, Larry Milano, Lynn Milano, Gene O'Callaghan, Kathleen O'Leary, Paul Palys, Patricia Price, Jacob Reister, Teresa Roberg, Lynn Tupy, Helen Vince, Tony Van den Heuvel, Judy Wiggins, Greg Wolfe, and Tom Wolfe

STAY INFORMED

Ascension parishioners, you can still receive our weekly bulletin to stay informed. A way to do this is by subscribing to our bulletin on ParishesOnline. Visit:
parishesonline.com, locate our parish with the search tool, and sign-up to automatically get an email when a new publication becomes available.

Visit us and any of these social media platforms along with https://ascensionfh.org

Find us on Facebook

SERVING THE SUFFERING CHRIST

As we enter Holy Week and celebrate Palm Sunday, let's reflect on how our Lord suffered from our indifference: those who proclaimed him king of Jerusalem were the same who called to crucify him. We recognize we are all one human family. Are we contributing to the suffering of our sisters and brothers with our indifference to their realities? How does our faith inspire us to care for them and share the gifts that God has bestowed on us? Visit ***crsricebowl.org*** to learn more.

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 28, 2021

SUN 2/28 Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39

MON 3/01 Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14 [1a]/Jn 12:1-11

TUE 3/02 Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17 [cf. 15ab]/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

WED 3/03 Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34 [14c]/Mt 26:14-25

THR 3/04 *Chrism Mass:* Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9/Ps 89:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [2a]/Rv 1:5-8/Lk 4:16-21 *Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper:* Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 [cf. 1 Cor 10:16]/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15

FRI 3/05 Is 52:13—53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 [Lk 23:46]/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42

SAT 3/06 Vigil: Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 [30] or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 [5b]/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Ex 14:15—15:1/Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 [1b]/Is 54:5-14/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 [2a]/Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [3]/Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 [42:2] or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3] or Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 [12a]/Rom 6:3-11/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Mk 16:1-7

SUN 3/07 Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 [24]/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7 or Lk 24:13-35

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 28, 2021

Sunday: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord; Holy Week begins
Thursday: Holy Thursday; April Fools' Day
Friday: Good Friday; Day of fasting and abstinence
Saturday: Holy Saturday
Sunday: Easter Sunday

LIVE THE LITURGY

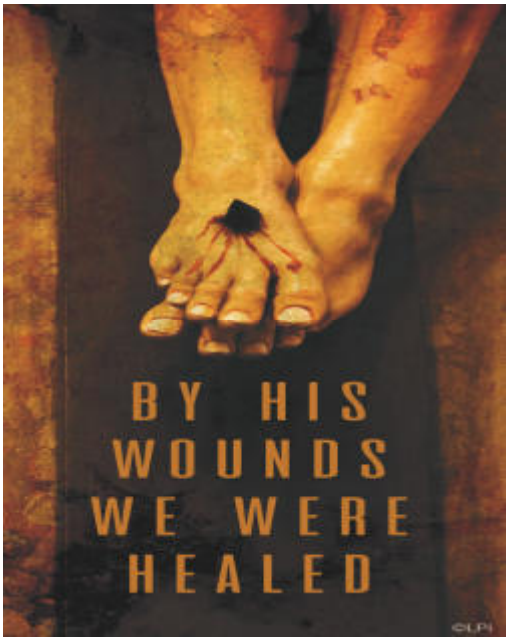
Inspiration for the week

What an ironic twist of events! Jesus is hailed with palm branches as he comes down a street one minute and faces agonizing suffering and death on a cross the next. Does any of this make any sense? They shouted, "hosanna to our King," out of one side of their mouths and, "crucify him," out of the other. At first glance it seems like such hypocrisy. Yet, when we step back there may be more truth to the story than we care to admit. We struggle with Jesus. We hail him in our churches but struggle to figure out what to do with him on our streets. We are fine when we hear pious renderings of his messages and preaching but wince when it gets to the part about changing the way we conduct business and becoming more sensitive to the disadvantaged, poor and marginalized. We invoke God's name when we want victory and keep silence when it comes to global solidarity. We talk out of both sides of our mouths too, looking only to what works or suits us at the time and leaving the rest. There exists in each one of us a person who hails our King with hosannas and a person who is all too willing to choose Jesus over Barabbas for the cross. Something to think about this Holy Week!

Mass Intentions

+ = Deceased Loved One
♥ = Wedding Anniversary
* = Living Intention

27-Saturday	5:00 pm	+June & Frank LeTarte
28-Sunday	8:00 am	+George Puype
	10:00 am	People of the Parish
29-Monday	11:30 am	+Jim Bertucci
30-Tuesday	11:30 am	+Jeff Poynter
31-Wednesday	11:30 am	+Donald Szymkowski
01-Thursday	7:00 pm	+Larry Ordowski
02-Friday	3:00 pm	Liturgy of Good Friday
03-Saturday	7:30 pm	+Vincent Marnell
04-Sunday	6:30 am	+Ben & Carmella Letizia
	8:00 am	+David J. Robinson
	10:00 am	+Gaylord Bovee
		+Peter Brown



WORSHIP & MEDITATION

FIRST READING

The Lord GOD is my help,
therefore I am not disgraced;
I have set my face like flint,
knowing that I shall not be put to shame. (Is 50:7)

PSALM

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?
(Ps 22)

SECOND READING

Rather, he emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
coming in human likeness; (Phil 2:7)

GOSPEL

They clothed him in purple and,
weaving a crown of thorns, placed it on him.
They began to salute him with,
"Hail, King of the Jews!"
and kept striking his head with a reed and
spitting upon him. (Mk 15:17-19)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Many struggle with Jesus. Some who consider themselves faithful hail him in their churches but still struggle to figure out what to do with him on our streets. The message is somehow more palatable when it echoes pious renderings and sentiments and involves singing hosannas during worship. It becomes a bit trickier when it gets to the part about changing the way we conduct the business of our lives, becoming more sensitive to the disadvantaged, poor, and marginalized, and living as servants of our Loving Creator. Ultimately, it is a struggle between wanting to be God ourselves and letting God be God as God is. That's why it's so easy to become hypocritical. We, like those who hailed Christ as he arrived in Jerusalem and sent Christ to the cross to die, also talk out of both sides of our mouths. We entertain what suits us at the time and walk away from the rest.

Many neglect God's beautiful creation because they prefer what humans have made instead. Progress isn't seen in preserving and enhancing what God has made but replacing it with something we believe is better and more useful. The earth, flowers, and animals are all expendable if they stand in the way of the "more" we want to achieve. We seek to remove as many obstacles and hurdles as possible in search of the easiest, quickest, and most efficient path we can find. We have created drugs and laws that preserve our free choice, even though it may mean setting aside God's vision and example. Why suffer when we can easily be put to rest? Why endure insult or injury when we can retaliate, eliminate or subdue? Why accept life when it is acceptable to choose otherwise? We want to be God and resist accepting the fact that our real Creator has already given us the blueprints for the life we need to live in the Beatitudes and in the example of his Passion. We don't like being stewards and managers and really want the power to do as we wish and desire. We want to create our own way.

Where has the true, effective Christian voice been through all of the wars and violence, prejudice and unjust conquests, abuse of human beings and attempted extinctions of nationalities, the establishments of procedures and protocols that serve only a few and not the many and all of the injustices and exploitations that are a part of our human history? A few courageous prophets have stood up and out throughout all of the comings and goings of our human journey with many receiving the same fate as the Crucified One we hail this week. Some still walk among us as shining stars showing us how it really can be. How would Jesus' journey have ended if he lived life as we do? Unless we encounter the good with the bad, the just with the unjust, the grace with the sin, the glory with the cross, the death with the life we most certainly risk rendering God obsolete. After all, haven't we already convinced ourselves that we can do better?

ONLINE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Each Monday at 1 p.m., we are praying Stations of the Cross together online. These sessions will be recorded and uploaded to Ascension's YouTube channel for viewing at any time. Watch our Friday Flocknotes each week for video links.

HOLY THURSDAY - FOOD DRIVE

To benefit St. Vincent de Paul

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

No Lenten Communal Service.

MATTHEW COMMUNITY WEEKENDER BAGS

Food Bags for the month of February totaled 165 bags for a total of $907.50.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

Thank you,
The Matthew Community

Parish Office Hours

Monday – Thursday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Friday: 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Sunday: 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Ascension is Virtual...Join Us

It's not surprising that so many people are enjoying staying connected through our online meetings! You can stay connected too! Try one or more of our Zoom meetings! Call the parish office for information on how to join an online meeting.

Faith on Tap
Meets the 4th Sunday of the month

A monthly, faith-based, session, in an informal setting, led by Deacon Phil. You can eat dinner, or have a glass of wine while you Zoom, and in the comfort of your own home. We cover current issues of the day and infuse the discussion with what the Gospel has to say. Make sure to check the parish calendar to see if we are meeting online or in person.

Morning Prayer
Every Weekday at 8AM

Start the day with time spent with God and friends in our parish community. We have a wonderful group that meets each day. Morning prayer lasts about 20 -30 minutes. We read from the Universalis daily morning prayer found at this site:

https://universalis.com/lauds

Community Hike

Check the online calendar for days, times, and meeting place

Disconnect and unwind! Get away from all the busyness of life for a bit. Meet new people in your parish! Build relationships with others. Renew and refresh with us.

Just Follow Me Prayer Group
Every Monday at 1 PM

How is your prayer life? Are you looking for new ways to deepen and expand your prayer practices? Join us to learn and practice different ways we can pray. We even take turns sharing our prayer practices with one another.

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

For more information regarding Religious Education at Ascension or any articles below contact Cheryl Hentz at 480-837-1066 or **chentz@ascensionfh.org**

Ascension Volunteers are you looking for something to do, during this pandemic?

Safe Environment Training Renewal

All employees' and volunteers' certifications expired on June 30, 2020 and is now up for renewal.

Login to https://phoenix.cmgconnect.org

If you have any questions, contact the parish office at 480-837-1066.

CDA: WAYS TO MAKE YOUR GIFT

Your gift to the **Charity & Development Appeal** serves 70+ Catholic ministries, charities, and seminarians in our Diocese. Make your gift today!

1. Online at give.dphx.org
2. Complete a CDA card from your parish (or received by mail). Return to your parish or mail in yellow reply envelope.
3. Call 602-354-2235, M-F, 8:00-4:30, for assistance in English or Spanish.

God bless you!

CHARITY AND DEVELOPMENT APPEAL

PLEASE GIVE TODAY!
GIVE.DPHX.ORG

Sacrament Preparation

We are getting close to the end of the season and children will be receiving their first sacraments. We ask that the community continues to pray for these young people.

Upcoming meetings

April 17th – 9 am to noon: Confirmation and First Eucharist Retreat

April 24th at 5 pm – Confirmation and First Eucharist Mass

Family Faith Ministry - - New Children's Liturgy of the Word Video available to watch on our YouTube channel!

Our family ministry is here to support and accompany families with living their faith in the ordinary moments of our lives, even during a pandemic. We have many opportunities for everyone in your family both children and parents. We would love to have a conversation with you about your spiritual needs.

Team H.O.P.E.

Team H.O.P.E. is Ascension's youth group for middle and high school youth continues to Help Other People Every Day! We make a difference in our community through the service projects we are doing. We get together for hanging out and having fun too. Now, we are beginning a Team H.O.P.E. Bible study. There are many opportunities for youth to get involved.

Upcoming Events

Team HOPE Meeting – **April 11th at 4 pm In Person**
Bible Discussion – **April 16th at 4:30 pm Online** – Sunday Gospel Discussion

TGIF K-5 RE Nights

Kids in kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to Today God Is First RE Nights. Each night has a new theme with games, crafts, and a Bible story! Join us any time.

Upcoming Events

Apr 9th at 6 pm TGIF - **In Person** Meeting – Theme is Sports: Wear your favorite team apparel or colors!
Apr 23rd at 6 pm TGIF - **In Person** Meeting – Theme is Catholic Scientists

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