

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

December 26, 2021



The Parish Office will reopen at
8:30 AM on Tuesday, January 4th, 2022

*The Pastoral Team at Ascension wish
you and yours a very joyful and blessed
Christmas Season!*



New Year's Eve

Friday, December 31st

Adoration at 4:00 PM and Mass at 5:00 PM

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

Saturday, January 1st Mass at 8:00 AM

The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 1st Mass at 5:00 PM

Sunday, January 2nd Mass at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

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

December 11 - 12



Attendance:	457
Plate:	\$ 4,028
ACH:	\$ 8,047
Total:	\$12,075

Average Weekly Plate Income:
\$12,861

THE 2022 STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES ARE IN

They are available for pick up on the porch.

If you registered after August, there may not be a booklet of envelopes printed with your name, address, and envelope number on them. There are booklets with blank spaces where you can fill in your information. Please pick up one of these and inform the parish office of a change.

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, Pati Beers, Ann Blakely, Fr. Phil Bowers, Lorraine Brady, Molly Campbell, Marge Colbert, Cameron Collins, Basil Cousins, John Diggins, Lee Doranzo, Tom Dougherty, Tom Elliott, Karen Fjeldheim, Jim Gannon, Cindy Germscheid, John Greenwood, Gary Hollar, Juanita Hollar, Traci Jacobs, Ken Jeschke, Jim Kelly, Maureen Kelly, Eric Kuhn, Anthony Mazzucchi, Jim McCarthy, Ramona McCarthy, Ward McCarthy, Larry Milano, Lynn Milano, Carol Moloney, Dennis Parks, Angie Pernot, Diana Philip, Melvin Philip, Teresa Roberg, Patricia Sanagorsky, Robert Sanagorsky, Mark Selleh, Dennis Sparks, Jay Taylor, Jackie Teale, Lynn Tupy, Judy Wiggins, Greg Wolfe, Tom Wolfe, Rose Zeidas, and Roxanne Zeidas

PRAY FOR THE MILITARY

Nagel, Brian R., Capt., USAF

Nagel, David M., Capt., Army

Travis, Adam, Lt. Col., AZ National Guard

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



WEEKLY PRAYER



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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 26, 2021

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 26, 2021

Sunday: The Holy Family

Monday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Tuesday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Wednesday: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

Friday: St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve

Saturday: New Year's Day; Mary, The Holy Mother of God; World Day of Peace

Next Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord; Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

It was the best of times and it was the worst of times. Our families can bring out the best and the worst in us. This is true of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our church, our society, and the like. In all of our family experiences, what stands out as our most challenging memory? Everything human can be found on the pages of family life. But there is also a Divine story to be discovered as well. When life gets difficult and perplexing, today's Feast of the Holy Family stands to remind us that it is not just by human effort that we tread treacherous waters. We have to remember and learn from the Divine effort too. We need this perspective if our love lessons are going to be learned completely and well. We are all works in progress and we all come from homes that are broken by imperfection. In whatever life brings us and in whatever family we find ourselves, may the promptings we feel toward faith and hope lead us to greater love.

25-Saturday	8:00 am	+Mr. & Mrs. James O'Brien
	10:00 am	+John Bramming
26-Sunday	8:00 am	People of the Parish
	10:00 am	+Mark Bercel
27-Monday	8:00 am	+Butch DuBon
28-Tuesday	8:00 am	+Edward Hawkins
29-Wednesday	8:00 am	+Guillelmi Cantores Praeterti et Praesentes
30-Thursday	8:00 am	+Patricia Russo
31-Friday	8:00 am	+Jim Laughlin
	5:00 pm	
01-Saturday	8:00 am	+Tom Dougherty
	5:00 pm	+Dee Fett
02-Sunday	8:00 am	People of the Parish
	10:00 am	+Richard Palarome



WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

"I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD."
(1 Sm 1:27-28)



PSALM

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord. (Ps 84)



SECOND READING

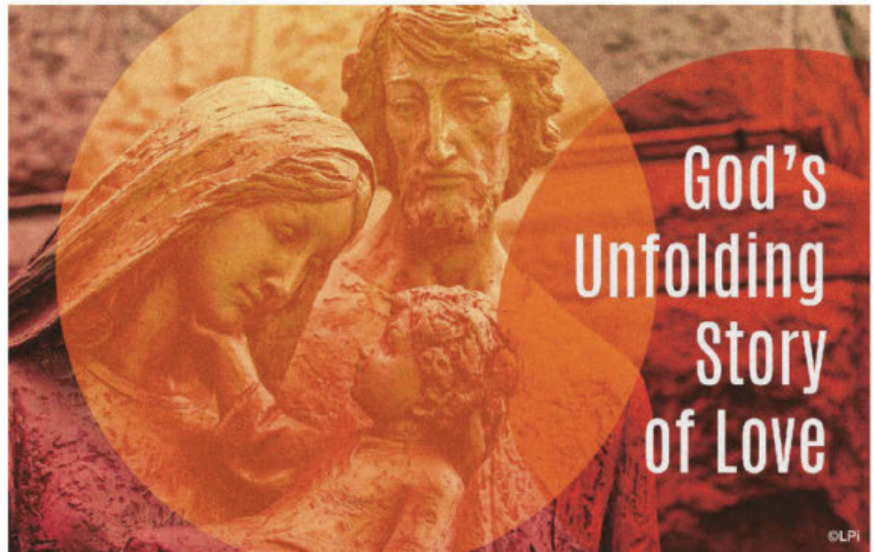
See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are. (1 Jn 3:1)



GOSPEL

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. (Lk 2:46)

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.

GET INVOLVED

Andre House

On the 3rd Tuesday & 4th Thursday of each month, our parish has a group serving dinner to the less fortunate at Andre House in downtown Phoenix.

This is a very worthwhile opportunity to help those in need. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the following:

3rd Tuesdays

Jennifer Mintzer
480-837-1066

4th Thursdays

Gerry Davis
602-550-1097

Weekly Advent Collections

Thank you to all of our Ascension families who gave so generously during our Advent Collections.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES: EMERGENCY SANTA SHOP

All Volunteers & Ministry Members...

Your Annual Safe Environment Training is due by December 31st.

If you need assistance for your annual certification, please contact Dolly DuBon in the parish office at 480 837-1066.

Login to <https://phoenix.cmgconnect.org>

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.

Catholic Coffeehouse

Every Sunday at 11 AM - Noon in the parish conference room with Deacon Phil. Grab your coffee & donut and join us. All are welcome!

UPCOMING TOPICS

- Jan. 2 - Incarnation
- Jan. 9 - Old Testament
- Jan. 16 - Church Structure
- Jan. 23 - Eucharist



SVdP is looking for a used car with low mileage and in great working condition for a neighbor. If you are interested in selling this car or donating it, please call Carol at (480) 837-8384.

Morning Prayer

Every Weekday at 7:20AM



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>

Contact the parish office for login info.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

For more information regarding Religious Education at Ascension contact Virginia O'Brien in the parish office at email: familyfaith@ascensionfh.org or at 480-837-1066.

Coming Back to Church

Question:

I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?


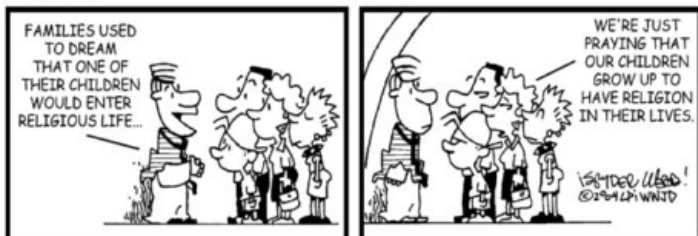
Answer:

If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back.

This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.

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HOLY FAMILY



GOSPEL

When Jesus traveled to Jerusalem as a 12-year-old young man, he felt completely at home in the Temple. He enjoyed talking to the teachers about his Father in heaven. His questions and his answers showed how much he loved God.

PRAYER

Dear God, help me to feel at home in my church like Jesus did.

LPi BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER



The Religious Education Team wish you and your family a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you in 2022!

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021 | THE HOLY FAMILY



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