



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

PARISH PASTORAL MINISTRY TEAM

Parochial Administrator: Rev. Jilson Panakkal ext. 203
Deacons: Phil LoCascio; Richard Smith
Parish Manager: Dolly DuBon ext. 205
E-mail: dhartel@diocesephoenix.org
Pastoral Care Ministry: Dcn. Phil LoCascio ext. 202
E-mail: plocascio@ascensionfh.org
Director of Music/ Coordinator of Liturgy:
Billy Mattison ext. 208
Coordinator of Religious Education:
Virginia O'Brien ext. 206
Administrative Assistants: LeAnn Pernot ext 201;
Jennifer Mintzer ext. 206
Bookkeeper: Joanne Wamer ext. 204
Facilities and Maintenance: Bill Kobylka ext. 210

St. Dominic's Mission - Rio Verde
Secretary: Rosemary Palys - (480) 471-2112

LITURGY SCHEDULE

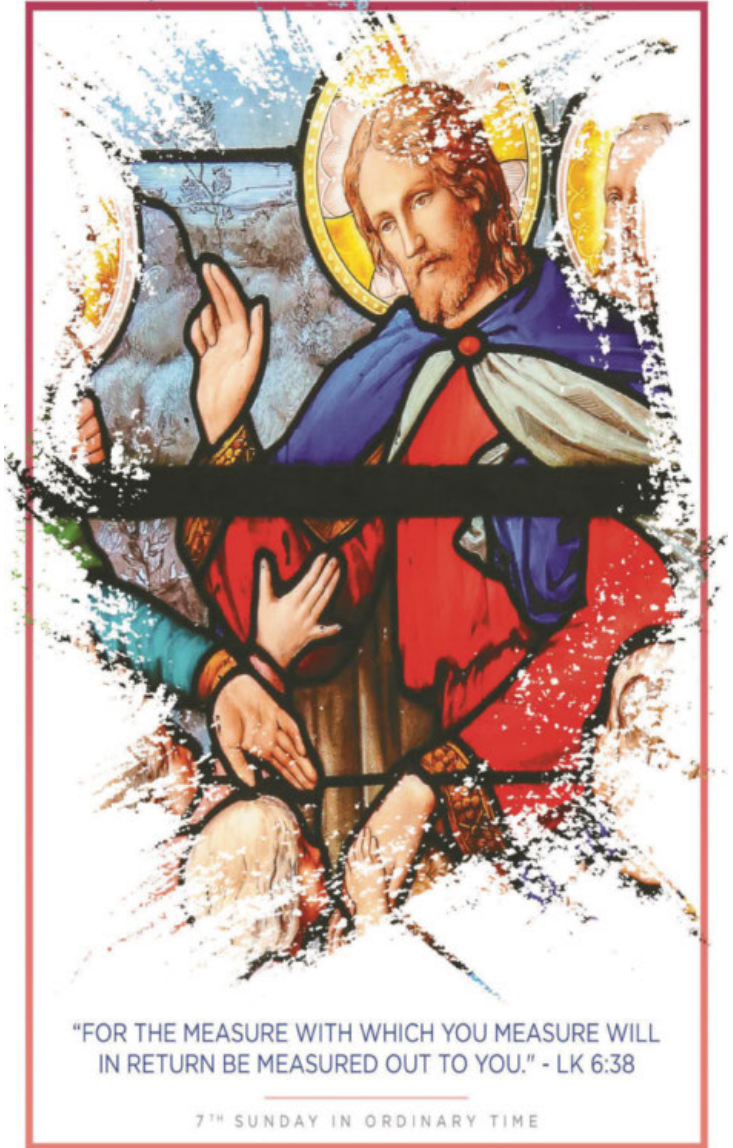
Daily Mass:
Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri. - 8:00 AM
Weekend Masses:
Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM
Holy Days: 7:00 PM Vigil; 8:00 AM Holy Day
Reconciliation:
Saturday: 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM or by appointment
Adoration:
First Friday 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Third Friday 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Inquire at the parish office.
Marriages: Nine month notice.
Sick Calls: Immediately Call (480) 837-1066

St. Vincent de Paul Help Line: (480) 837-7287

February 20, 2022



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

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.

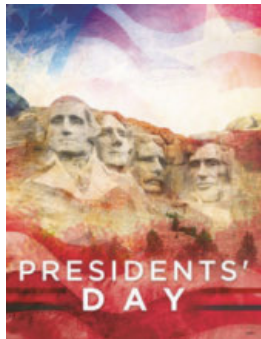
Weekend Collection

February 5 - 6



Attendance: 645
Plate: \$10,150
ACH: \$ 9,348
Total: \$19,498

Average Weekly Plate Income:
\$13,157



The Parish Office will be closed this Monday, February 21st in observance of the Presidents' Day

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, Lorraine Brady, Molly Campbell, Cameron Collins, Basil Cousins, John Diggins, Tom Dougherty, Darlene Dyrhaug, Tom Elliott, Karen Fjeldheim, Jim Gannon, Cindy Germscheid, John Greenwood, Gary Hollar, Juanita Hollar, Traci Jacobs, Ken Jeschke, Carol Jones, Jim Kelly, Maureen Kelly, Eric Kuhn, Karie LoCascio, Anthony Mazzucchi, Jim McCarthy, Ramona McCarthy, Ward McCarthy, Fr. Larry McCarty, Larry Milano, Lynn Milano, Carol Moloney, Dennis Parks., Denise Petzinger, Diana Philip, Melvin Philip, Teresa Roberg, Patricia Sanagorsky, Robert Sanagorsky, Dennis Sparks, Jessica Swearingen, Lance Swearingen, Jackie Teale, Linda Travis, Lynn Tupy, Judy Wiggins, 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 FEBRUARY 20, 2022

- Sunday:** 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 [8a]/
1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38
- Monday:** Jas 3:13-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk 9:14-29
- Tuesday:** 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19
- Wednesday:** Jas 4:13-17/Ps 49:2-3, 6-7, 8-10, 11/Mk 9:38-40
- Thursday:** Jas 5:1-6/Ps 49:14-15ab, 15cd-16, 17-18, 19-20/Mk 9:41-50
- Friday:** Jas 5:9-12/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8-9, 11-12/Mk 10:1-12
- Saturday:** Jas 5:13-20/Ps 141:1-2, 3 and 8/Mk 10:13-16
- Next Sunday:** Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 [cf. 2a]/1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 20, 2022

- Sunday:** 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday:** Presidents' Day; St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Tuesday:** The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
- Wednesday:** St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr
- Next Sunday:** 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

"Love your enemies and do good to them." We have such a hard time with this teaching! But it doesn't end there. Jesus continues with turning the other cheek when struck, giving to everyone who asks, doing to others as you would have them do to you, being merciful, stopping our judgment of others, forgiving, and giving. We are okay when God does these things but get a little anxious when we realize that God really wants us to do them too! Secular justice and Gospel justice are definitely not the same. We need to remember that we are made in the image of God, not the image of ourselves. The Christian is called to act like Christ even in those situations where a more assertive or defensive response may seem more justifiable. In order to live up to this call we have to leave our resentment and need for retaliation behind, lose our defensiveness and bring into our mind and heart the realization of who we represent in this world. We are not here to satisfy or promote our own well-being and agenda. We are here for God's. That's a hard nut to crack especially when it comes to loving and forgiving people who do hurtful and violent things.

19-Saturday	5:00 pm	+Marilyn Bertolini
20-Sunday	8:00 am	People of the Parish
	10:00 am	♥ Ronald & Alice Reese Wedding Anniversary
21-Monday	8:00 am	+Madelene Jackson
22-Tuesday	8:00 am	+Bob Morris
23-Wednesday	8:00 am	+Joe Goyena
24-Thursday	8:00 am	Morning Prayer
25-Friday	8:00 am	+Danuta Kobylanski
26-Saturday	5:00 pm	+Rodney Harris
27-Sunday	8:00 am	People of the Parish
	10:00 am	+Ted Demski

St. Polycarp of Smyrna | February 23

As a disciple of St. John, the Evangelist, St. Polycarp was able to hear about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection directly from those who witnessed it. Because Polycarp was ordained as Bishop of Smyrna by St. John, he is one of three chief Apostolic Fathers, along with Clement of Rome and Ignatius of Antioch. During his life Polycarp defended the Church against heresies. His important writing, the *Letter to the Philippians*, quoted the Gospels and Acts of the Apostles, stressing Paul's authority in the Church and setting out clear arguments against the gnostic heresy that denied Christ's divinity.

The early period of the Church was a dangerous time to be a Christian and like many, St. Polycarp was martyred. He was captured by Romans and sentenced to burn at the stake. However, the fire did not touch him, instead rising up like sails around him. Seeing that the flames would not injure Polycarp, the Romans stabbed him instead. The Martyrdom of Polycarp is perhaps the earliest fully preserved account of a Christian martyr.

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

"Today, though the LORD delivered you into my grasp, I would not harm the LORD's anointed." (1 Sm 26:23)



PSALM

The Lord is kind and merciful. (Ps 103)



SECOND READING

Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one. (1 Cor 15:49)



GOSPEL

"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." (Jn Lk 6:36)

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TO BELIEVE IN GOD,
WE HAVE TO ACT
LIKE GOD

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Sometimes, Jesus' teachings don't seem to make practical sense. When we hear things like love your enemies and do good to them, turn the other cheek when struck, give to anyone who asks, do to others as you would have them do to you, be merciful, stop judging, forgive, and give to others, we get a bit unsettled. After all, it's okay for God to do all of these things, but does He really want us to do them, too? Many good-hearted Christians really draw the line with some of these ideals and say, "No way!" They even remark that if someone did something hurtful to someone they loved, they would have no reservations seeking severe retribution. There is still this persistent thinking, even among those who consider themselves Christian, that a violent action deserves a violent response. Somehow, we continue to justify this.

Yet, it is most clearly against the very grain of the Gospel. Part of our difficulty has more to do with understanding God's love. We wrongly think that sinful or hurtful actions and evil people somehow are seen as lesser in God's eyes. They are not. God loves the sinner as much as He does the saint. And, both of these inclinations exist in every human being, even those who consider themselves holy. Both the capacity for good and the disposition toward evil exist in every one of us. Viktor Frankl has this to say when reflecting on the Holocaust: "Our generation is a realistic generation because we have learned what a human being really is. When all is said and done, man is that same creature who invented the gas-chambers of Auschwitz; but he is also that being who walked upright into those chambers with the prayer 'Shema Yisrael' on his lips."

If we believe in God, we have to act like God. Whether we like that idea is another issue. If we don't then perhaps, we need to reconsider our faith and whether we really believe in Jesus Christ. We are made in the image of God, not the image of ourselves. The Christian must, at all costs, leave resentment and the need for retaliation behind, lose defensiveness and bring into the mind and heart the realization of who we represent in this world.

GET INVOLVED

Church of the Ascension **BLOOD DRIVE**

Sunday, March 13
7:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Parish Hall



Contact Parish office at 480-837-1066 or
visit vitalant.org (Blood Drive Code: ascension)

vitalant

Wanted: Volunteers for Sunday Coffee & Donut Ministry

*We are in need of help with the Coffee & Donuts
Ministry for the 10am mass. Please prayerfully
consider joining this ministry. If interested, contact
LeAnn in the Parish Office at 480-837-1066.*

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

- Feb. 20 - Holy Spirit/Conversion
- Feb. 27 - Lent
- March 6 - Our Call to Holiness
- March 13 - How in the World Do We Relate



All Volunteers & Ministry Members
Your Annual Safe Environment Training is now due.

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>

Attention Parishioners!
We are looking to collect any blessed Palm Branches from previous years to make ashes for Ash Wednesday on March 2nd.



If you have any you would like to donate, leave them in the labeled basket near the Baptismal Font in the Narthex.

St. John the Evangelist Caregivers Support Group

All Caregivers are welcome to join us on Monday, February 28th, at 2pm in the parish hall for a presentation offered by Foundation for Senior Living.

CATHOLIC MARRIAGE ANNULMENT

Is Divorce keeping you from fully participating in the Church? If so, Church of the Ascension wants to help. If you would like to pursue getting an Annulment of a prior marriage, we will meet with you confidentially and help you with the process. Please contact the Parish Office at 480-837-1066 and leave your name and phone number. Our parish Nullity Minister will contact you to arrange a meeting.

Calendar Year 2021 **Donation Tax Letters**

If you have donated \$600 or more to the parish, your donation tax letter was mailed to the address on file. If you made donations less than \$600, your donation tax letter will be available for pick up in the parish office.

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.

ATTENTION 3RD 4TH 5TH 6TH 7TH AND 8TH GRADERS AND PARENTS!

Ascension would like to restart our religious education night for kids that have already received their Confirmation and Communion. We miss all of you and encourage your return! I am looking for parental feedback to make this happen. What weekday night would work best for your family? Please email Virginia at familyfaith@ascensionfh.org.

What Is Mammon?

Question:

When Jesus says, "You cannot serve both God and mammon," what does he mean? What is mammon?

Answer:

When you hear Scripture proclaimed each Sunday, remember it wasn't originally written in English. Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek — these ancient tongues were the original language of our Old and New Testaments. Most of the time, all of the words are translated into our native language. Sometimes, a word or two is left in the original language. Such is the case in this Scripture passage.

Mammon is an ancient Aramaic word referring to money, wealth, or profit. Earthly wealth isn't bad in itself, nor does it automatically exclude us from being a disciple of Jesus. But what dominates our life? To serve money — that is, to seek accumulation of wealth for its own sake and to structure our lives around it — is morally problematic. What good is our wealth if it isn't at the service of others? What good is our wealth if its pursuit leads us to selfishness, obsession, greed, envy, and comparison? There are many things that can be opposed to our service of God — power, prestige, popularity. Ultimately, something in our lives will be our master. But there is only one God worth serving.

Upcoming Sacramental Preparation Classes:

1st Communion & Confirmation:

- ◆ February 22
- ◆ March 8
- ◆ March 13 - Rite of Enrollment
- ◆ March 22
- ◆ March 27 - Reconciliation for Communion & Confirmation Candidates
- ◆ April 2 - Parent and Child Retreat



Reconciliation:

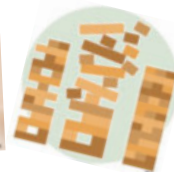
- ◆ February 20
- ◆ March 6
- ◆ March 13 - Rite of Enrollment
- ◆ March 19 - Parent and Child Retreat
- ◆ March 27 - First Reconciliation for Candidates



Teens...Upcoming Jesus and Me (JAM) Nights

5pm in the Hall

- ◆ February 26



7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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