



# 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

**April 24, 2022**

## **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 Kobyłka 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

**Stations of the Cross:**

Friday: 7:00 PM

**Reconciliation:**

Saturday: 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM or by appointment

**Adoration:**

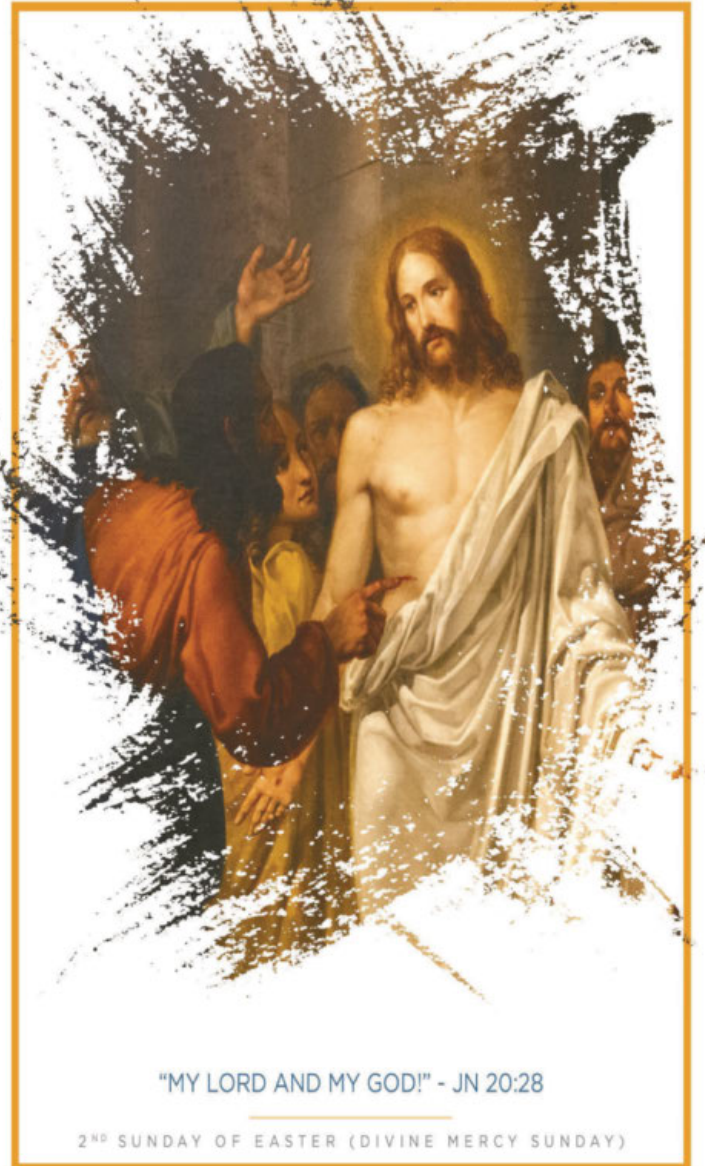
First Friday 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

## **SACRAMENTS**

**Baptism:** Inquire at the parish office.

**Marriages:** Nine month notice.

**Sick Calls:** Immediately Call (480) 837-1066



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## **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

April 9 - 10



**Attendance:** 674  
**Plate:** \$10,466  
**ACH:** \$ 6,757  
**Total:** \$17,223

**Average Weekly Plate Income:**  
**\$14,041**

## 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.



*Richard Arvizu, Astrid Asche, Joan Asche, Mary Barrus, Patti Beers, Ann Blakely, Lorraine Brady, Molly Campbell, Cameron Collins, Charles Cooper, Basil Cousins, John Diggins, Darlene Dyrhaug, Tom Elliott, Karen Fjeldheim, Jim Gannon, Cindy Germscheid, John Greenwood, Gary Hollar, Juanita Hollar, Traci Jacobs, Ken Jeschke, Carol Jones, Jim Kelly, Richard Mars, Anthony Mazzucchi, Jim McCarthy, Ramona McCarthy, Fr. Larry McCarty, Konnie Middleton, Larry Milano, Lynn Milano, Carol Moloney, Dennis Parks, Denise Petzinger, Diana Philip, Melvin Philip, Teresa Roberg, Patricia Sanagorsky, Robert Sanagorsky, Christian Sawatzky, Jessica Swearingen, Lance Swearingen, Jackie Teale, Linda Travis, Lynn Tupy, Philomena Weyell, Judy Wiggins, Rose Zeidas, and Roxanne Zeidas*

### Remember...

It's time to bring back your family's Lent Rice Bowl.



## PRAY FOR THE MILITARY

Nagel, Brian R., Capt., USAF  
Nagel, David M., Capt., Army  
Travis, Adam, Lt. Col., AZ National Guard

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**YOU ARE**  
*Welcome Here*

# WEEKLY PRAYER



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

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 24, 2022

- Sunday:** Acts 5:12-16/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/Jn 20:19-31
- Monday:** 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17/Mk 16:15-20
- Tuesday:** Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15
- Wednesday:** Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 3:16-21
- Thursday:** Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/Jn 3:31-36
- Friday:** Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15
- Saturday:** Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21
- Next Sunday:** Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 [2a]/Rv 5:11-14/Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 24, 2022

- Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy); St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr
- Monday:** St. Mark, Evangelist
- Wednesday:** Administrative Professionals' Day
- Thursday:** St. Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr; St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest
- Friday:** St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church; Arbor Day
- Saturday:** St. Pius V, Pope
- Next Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Easter; St. Joseph the Worker

## LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week

Life is about to get very interesting for the disciples. Finding themselves questioning what happened to Jesus and whether he actually was raised from the dead, they are afraid and uncertain. In the midst of this fear, questioning, and uncertainty, Jesus decides to surprise them with a visit! This visit, complete with the gift of peace, fills the disciples with great excitement and joy. But their detailed testimony is not enough to convince their absent friend Thomas. He wants to see for himself. We struggle with belief as well. It is hard for some to give themselves over to the testimony of another. We want to see the resurrected Christ in person. God, through the gift of eyes of faith, gives us the ability to do precisely that: when we witness the healing that comes from forgiveness, the beauty that flows from love, the wonder of creation, the new life that comes after we fall, and the unique soul that lives behind each person's life. Christ is risen. Life will get very interesting for us too, when we stop unbelieving and believe!

23-Saturday	5:00 pm	+Gaylord Bovee
24-Sunday	8:00 am	+Tony Blazejewski
	10:00 am	People of the Parish
25-Monday	8:00 am	+N.J. Cecilio
26-Tuesday	8:00 am	+Erin Kearns
27-Wednesday	8:00 am	+Bob Schmitz
28-Thursday	8:00 am	Morning Prayer
29-Friday	8:00 am	+George Moran
30-Saturday	5:00 pm	+Dee Fett
01-Sunday	8:00 am	People of the Parish
	10:00 am	+Virginia Peddicord LaPenta

## St. Pedro de San José Betancur | April 25

Central America's first saint, St. Pedro de San José Betancur (1626-1667) was born a poor shepherd in the Canary Islands. His family lands were seized because of debt, and he worked as an indentured servant until his early adult life when Pedro left his home to travel to Guatemala. His money for the journey ran out long before he arrived. He was destitute when he did arrive and was forced to join the bread line the Franciscan Friars had for the poor.

In 1655, he joined the Third Order of St Francis. Pedro began to serve the poor, the enslaved, immigrants, abandoned children, anyone that needed him. In 1658 he was given a hut which he made into a hospital for the poor. This small start grew into a shelter for the homeless, a school for the poor, an inn for priests, and several small chapels in poor areas. He was supported by many patrons and was joined in his work by both men and women, who became the Bethlehemite Brothers and the Bethlehemite Sisters.

Pedro prayed for the souls of those in purgatory, walked through the streets of rich neighborhoods ringing a bell and calling the wealthy to repent, and ministered to prisoners. Most accounts credit him with beginning the tradition of *posadas*, a procession in which people representing Mary and Joseph ask for lodging from their neighbors. This tradition continues today in Mexico and Central America. Because of his work with the poor and marginalized Pedro is often referred to as the "Saint Frances of the Americas". St. Pedro was canonized on July 30, 2002, in Guatemala City, Guatemala by Pope John Paul II.

# WORSHIP & MEDITATION



## FIRST READING

Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord, great numbers of men and women, were added to them. (Acts 5:14)



## PSALM

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting. (Ps 118)  
Or Alleluia.



## SECOND READING

"I am the first and the last, the one who lives.  
Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever." (Rev 1:17-18)



## GOSPEL

On the evening of that first day of the week,  
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,  
for fear of the Jews,  
Jesus came and stood in their midst.  
(Jn 20:19)

*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

Even Thomas struggles to remove his boulder! Being very pragmatic and determined, he wants to see the risen Christ for himself! Thomas's boulder is heavy with mistrust. Many of ours are too. A certain amount of skepticism is good, as it can save us from being duped or misled. But we can become so skeptical of things that it erodes our ability to trust anything we see or hear. Skepticism can actually be a well-disguised defense mechanism that we use to prevent us from being hurt or perceived as a fool. Having too much ego protection is a real risk. Thomas, because of the boulder blocking his vision, could not even trust the word of his friends.

Boulders are hard to move. It's difficult to seek change or take a risk, especially when we are so afraid to be vulnerable or reluctant to trust another's word. When we are closed minded, overly pragmatic, unwilling to see things in a different way, stubborn or defensive, it is difficult to be surprised by God and stretched. We need to be less guarded, self-assured, and self-absorbed. God cannot break into the ordinary moments of our lives and inspire us when we cling to doubt. If we are going to discover resurrection faith, we have to believe that what the witnesses say is true, especially when they are credible. We also have to trust that the risen Christ is alive in us, too!

While the first witnesses to the resurrection have faded into history, there are many others who have come after them. They continue to inspire by walking the talk of faith. They are the martyrs who offer their lives for the Gospel, the simple holy people in our communities who cling so steadfastly to their faith, those who have touched despair and found new hope and the ones who, even in spite of ridicule, still pursue their hunger and thirst for God. They are our friends, acquaintances, biblical heroes, and saints, and many others who are convinced that they have seen the Lord! The risen Christ may not surprise us with the same kind of visit as he did the first disciples, but God finds other ways. All we have to do is open our eyes, remove whatever is preventing us from seeing and believing and exclaim: "My Lord and my God!"

# GET INVOLVED

**St. Bernard of Clairvaux**  
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## Divine Mercy Sunday

Please join us for a beautiful celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday on April 24th at 3:00 beginning with Mass, Exposition & Benediction, and prayers.

## Faith on Tap

Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Parish Hall

Topic: *What is Mercy? Why do we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday?*

Join us for an engaging conversation about our faith.

Revised format: Wine, beer, and lemonade will be provided – please bring your favorite dessert (homemade or store bought) to share.

For additional information, please contact Pete Hofmann at 602-531-7487 or [pjh@hofmann84.com](mailto:pjh@hofmann84.com).

## The Church of the Ascension Pastoral Council is Looking for a Few Parishioners!

Spring is the time of year when the Pastoral Council invites interested Parishioners to consider their gifts and talents, to advise the Council of your willingness to become a Council member.

If you are interested in learning more about the Pastoral Council and how we work, you are welcome to observe the Council in action at this upcoming meeting:

**Monday, April 25, 2022**

**7:00 PM in the Conference Room**

In order to properly accommodate everyone wishing to attend, please contact the President or Vice President of the Council and leave your name and telephone number no later than Friday before the meeting.

President: Karen Ramos 480-532-0310

Vice President: Amy Butler-Kobylka 480-785-6000

## 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.



## 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!



We are proud to announce the upcoming Confirmation and First Communion for our Ascension children!



The Most Rev. Bishop Eduardo A. Nevares will preside over this Mass on Sunday May 15, 2022, at 10 A.M.

All Parishioners are invited to attend and congratulate our candidates for Sacraments.

Donut Parish Hall Reception to follow...of course!

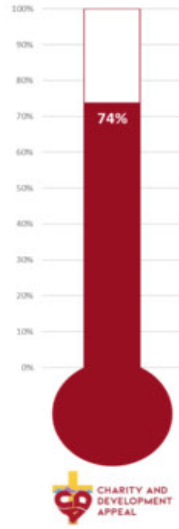
As of 04/14/2022

**Parish Goal:**  
**\$77,000**

**Current: \$56,749**

**Family Participation:**  
**261 out of 829;**

**Current Participation**  
**32%**



**Help unlock a \$1,000,000 Matching Gift from the Rechterman Family Charities!**  
**Once we raise \$1MM toward the CDA from April 1 – May 15, this generous family will match that \$1MM!**  
**\$1,000,000 = \$2,000,000**



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

### Who Can Offer Anointing of the Sick?

**Question:** Can anyone offer the Anointing of the Sick to a sick or dying person, or is that only something a priest can do?

**Answer:** The Letter of James speaks to us of the ancient tradition of a special anointing and blessing of those who are sick: "Is there anyone sick among you? Let him send for the presbyters of the Church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord ... If he has committed any sins, they will be forgiven him" (5:14, 15b). This passage forms the foundation for the theology of the sacrament that we call "Anointing of the Sick." In keeping with what we read in the Letter of James and the ancient tradition of the Church, the anointing of a person of who is sick or dying may only be performed by a priest or bishop.

Although deacons and other members of the Church are not able to celebrate the sacrament with a person who is sick, we can read Sacred Scripture and pray with and for those who are ill. Resources like the Book of Blessings also contain special blessings that can be celebrated by deacons or lay ministers. In the end, we want to be sure that we show a special care and concern for the sick, helping them to always experience God's loving comfort through made tangible through our acts of charity and service.



Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" – Jn 20:27-28

Scripture from the Letterary for Mass ©2011, 1982, 1975, 1972

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER



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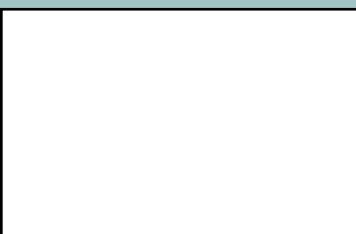
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