



ATTENTION ASCENSION

News You Can Use

Church of the Ascension

Volume III, Issue 3

Spring 2018

A Letter From Your Pastor

Welcome to a new year of "Attention Ascension," the quarterly newsletter which keeps all informed on the happenings at the Church of the Ascension. This edition is our "stewardship" issue which provides a chance to participate or even lead (!!!) one of the ministries associated with our vibrant community.

We begin our year full of joy and optimism, nurtured always by the light of Christ. His light is felt throughout our community as we celebrate beautiful liturgies; offer sound Catholic education; and meet the needs of our neighborhood and City.

This parish founded in 1965 has been blessed with growth and opportunity---always directed toward proclaiming the Good News---over the years. Most recently, participation in the Church's sacraments has increased; our school remains a model for Catholic education throughout the Archdiocese; and our diversity of ministries affords all a chance to be involved.

This issue is a chance to join a new ministry or renew your participation in an existing one. One of our recently registered new parishioners commented that the parish is BIG enough to offer a range of programming opportunities and SMALL enough to allow everyone to contribute. How true!

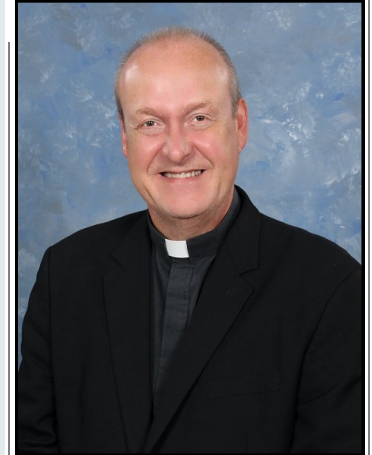
Please take a moment to review the list of ministry options and then choose the one(s) which best suit your schedule, needs and especially gifts. The offering of time and talent to YOUR parish is what makes Ascension such an active and impactful (and impact-filled) community.

And, yes, you are invited to make a financial pledge to Ascension. Whether you pledge \$10 or \$10,000, you can be assured that every penny is put to good use (see our fall issue of "Attention Ascension" for a full report). There are several ways to make a financial contribution (EFT, check, cash, a gift of stock, etc.) and your pledge can be satisfied on a time schedule which works best for your budget (weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually).

The fact is that while the Holy Spirit animates our parish, He does not pay the bills. We do! And if such a direct pitch for donations (from a church, no less!) makes a few uncomfortable, I can only recall that: "To whom much is given, much is expected (Luke 12:48)." And our great and merciful God has given each of us so much!

I ask that this year, as always, that we pray to discern the gifts of time, talent and treasure which we are being called to offer our parish community. For when we pray---and when we are generous---we most certainly are blessed by God.

In His Love,
Reverend Steven Henriksen
Pastor



Father Steven Henriksen
Pastor
Church of the Ascension

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Worship

102 Worship Committee: This Committee offers guidance and suggestions on the full range of parish liturgical issues and celebrations. While the primary audience for the Committee's work is the Director of Worship and Music Consultant, the group serves as a focal point for the parish's efforts to achieve "full, conscious and active" participation in all worship events. The Chair of the Committee is appointed by the Pastor with members possessing expertise or interest in areas including hospitality, worship space décor, music as well as liturgical texts. The Committee meets on a monthly basis from September through May and on a "as needed" basis.

103 Art & Environment Committee: This committee serves the liturgy by providing quality liturgical art in an appropriate environment in order to enhance the worship space. Specific areas: indoor gardening and decorating the church.

107 Adult Choir: Vocal ensemble is open to high school students and adults. Provides music for Sunday and special liturgies. Choir practice is held every Wednesday at 7:00 PM in the church.

108 Cantor: The role of the cantor is to lead and encourage the assembly to join their voices in praising God through song. The Cantor proclaims the responsorial psalm. Open to high school students and adults. Required training provided.

109 Keyboard / Instrumentalist: Anyone who plays a musical instrument and would like to participate in liturgy.

110 Handbells: Our bell ringers just love their handbells! We are always looking for new members to join our bell group. Handbells usually play once a month at mass. There are no musical requirements to join. Training is provided to play handbells for special weekend liturgies. Many members don't read music but have learned how to follow when they need to play.

111 Resurrection Choir: Men and women who strengthen the sung portions of the funeral liturgy. As a part of the assembly, the Choir's presence generates a sense of parish unity with the family and friends of the deceased. It is not necessary to be a member of one of the other choirs. Members gather one half hour before the time of the funeral to prepare the music.

113 Bereavement Committee: Provides food and any necessary help for families on the day of the funeral of their loved one.

115 Communion to the Homebound: The ministers take communion on Sunday mornings to parishioners in their homes who are unable to attend weekend liturgy. Ministers are also needed to take communion to Regis Woods on Sunday and Norton Suburban Hospital on Thursday. Required training provided. Please indicate on your form which ministry you would like to serve (A) Homebound (B) Nursing home (C) Hospital

116 Lector: Parishioners who proclaim the Word of God at liturgy. Open to high school age students and adults. Required training provided.

117 Communion Minister: These special ministers of the Eucharist assist the Presider in offering the Body and Blood of Christ to the assembly at Liturgy. Open to confirmed eighth grade students, high school students and adults who are confirmed. Required training provided.

118 Sacristan: Ministers who prepare all the elements before liturgy. Specific tasks include: assembling the bread and wine, unlocking necessary parts of the building, overseeing assigned ministers for the liturgy.

119 Hospitality Minister: Ministers who promote an atmosphere of hospitality by welcoming newcomers and friends at church. Specific tasks: help seat people when needed, straighten church at end of liturgy.

120 Adult Altar Server: Assists the Presider at Liturgy with different elements such as accepting the gifts, carrying the crucifix and/or candles and other tasks as needed for the individual liturgy. Adults can serve at weekday, weekend, funeral or special liturgies. Required training provided.

121 Media Ministry: Help record the weekend Mass to be viewed on YouTube by those unable to attend church. Training provided.



Administration

200 Pastoral Council: The Council serves as the primary advisory body to the Pastor on all matters relating to the parish and its ministries. At large members are appointed by the Pastor, from a list of those expressing interest in the Council, for a two-year term which may be renewed for a second period of service. Designees from the School Board, Finance Committee, Formation Committee, Worship Committee and PTO also serve on the Council. In the past, the Council has offered advice on a range of issues including strategic planning; resource development; ministries to be provided by the parish; as well as mission critical concerns (e.g., intra-parish communication). The Council meets on a monthly basis from September through May as well as on an “as needed” basis.

201 Finance: The Committee reviews the financial condition of the parish and offers recommendations to the Pastor through the Business Manager. The group also serves as the audit committee for the parish ensuring compliance with Archdiocesan guidelines as well as in development of and adherence to internal controls. The Committee also approves the annual budget for the parish, based upon recommendations from staff. Reviewing and commenting upon financial reports is a primary task of the Committee. Members selected by the Pastor express an interest in service and/or are referred to the Pastor for consideration. All members serve two-year terms renewable for a second period of service. The Committee meets on a monthly basis.

202 Formation Committee: Volunteers are needed to serve in a consultative role to offer input about the faith formation needs of adult parishioners. This committee meets monthly.

203 Collections Count Team: This team counts the Sunday collection on Monday mornings.

204 Parish Communications & Technology: Members are responsible for short term and long term planning for technology for the church. and school.

205 Parish Festival Planning Committee: The festival committee coordinates various aspects of the Summer Festival. Tasks include booth chairpersons, ordering picnic items, arranging publicity, booth setup, cleanup, etc.

208 Athletic Ministry Advisory Committee: The Committee generally provides guidance and oversight for the parish athletic ministry. At-large members are appointed by the Pastor, from a list of those expressing interest in the Committee, for a two-year term which may be renewed for a second period of service. Individuals serving as coordinators for the sports sponsored by the ministry also serve on the Committee. The Athletic Director, who is appointed by the Pastor from a list of recommendations, chairs the Committee.

209 Buildings/Grounds Committee: The Committee oversees the prioritization and execution of necessary renovations or improvements in the physical plant/technical infrastructure of the parish. The Director of Facilities Manager coordinates the work of the group which consists of individuals with expertise and interest in maintenance and renovation efforts. The Committee meets on a monthly basis from September through May as well as on an “as needed” basis.

210 Maintenance Crew: Open to all adults interested in helping maintain the parish property by making minor repairs, painting, cleaning, etc.

211 Parish Office Assistant: Assist with clerical responsibilities in the parish office such as bulk mailings, stuffing envelopes, answering the phone and door.

Formation

300 RCIA Team: RCIA offers an invitation to “come and see” what the Catholic faith is all about. The year round process is lectionary based and is in accord with the Decree of the Second Vatican Council – Roman Ritual.

301 RCIA Sponsor: Adults interested in sharing in the faith journey of those in the RCIA process.

303 Book Club Facilitator: An opportunity for adults to read a selected book and gather for a lively discussion. The Club Facilitator would help lead discussions.

304 Anchor Teacher or Assistant: Teacher: A person who is willing to share their faith by teaching a small group of students in primary, intermediate or junior high grades. A simple, user friendly curriculum is provided, so there is minimal planning. Anchor religious education classes meet weekly on Sunday mornings between masses from September through April.

Assistant: An anchor assistant helps the catechist during the teaching sessions on Sunday mornings. They may also assist with the planning and preparation, if needed, and may substitute if the teacher is out.



Formation

305 Children's Liturgy of the Word Teacher: Assists children ages 3 to second grade with understanding the Sunday scripture readings. This takes place during the 10:30 Mass.

306 Baptism Preparation Team: Coordinators conduct preparation classes for parents concerning the Sacrament of Baptism, its history, and symbolism. Discussions are led on Christian parenting.

307 Marriage Preparation Team: This program is led by trained volunteer married couples who help engaged couples meet the requirements to marry within the Catholic Church.

308 Faith Club Assistant: Help with Faith Club that is designed for adults with developmental disabilities.

309 Youth Ministry Support: Provide occasional snacks and side dishes/desserts for our events. Pray for our youth. Chaperone either on site or off site events.

310 Vacation Bible School: Volunteers are needed for this annual summer program to help with the planning, preparing and teaching. Teachers, assistants, craft leaders, music leaders, refreshment coordinators and recreation leaders are needed for this short term commitment.

311 Confirmation Retreat Team: This is a special opportunity for high school youth, college students, and/or young adults to serve as leaders for the annual Confirmation retreat that usually takes place the second Saturday in January. Retreat leaders meet a few months ahead to plan and prepare for this daylong retreat experience for our 8th grade Confirmation candidates.

312 Women's Spirituality Group: Offers an opportunity for women to explore and deepen their spirituality. This group meets monthly. Topics have included the enneagram, early Christian martyrs, modern day spiritual guides, the feminine face of God, journaling, and more.

313 Mom's Group: This is a ministry in the parish that reaches out to moms of younger children and offers them an opportunity to gather for support, faith, and friendship, as they share the commonality of motherhood. This group meets once a month.

314 GoLF: GoLF is an acronym that stands for Guys Living their Faith. Its purpose is to foster spiritual growth. They meet one Saturday a month to watch a video and have a discussion.

Service

400 Social Outreach and Awareness Committee (formerly Social Responsibility Committee): The Committee sponsors projects and programs which offer material assistance to those in need and brings attention to broader social conditions, giving rise to such needs. The Chair of the Committee is appointed by the Pastor. Members are expected to attend monthly meetings (generally held on Sundays between the 8:30 and 10:30am Masses) and, in collaboration with parishioners who may or may not be members of the Committee, provide assistance and lead projects and programs.

401 Prayer Blanket Ministry: This ministry makes prayer blankets for anyone that may need some extra prayers during a difficult time. No experience necessary.

402 Respect Life Committee (formerly Pro-Life Advocacy Group): The Committee sponsors projects and programs which highlight the Church's commitment to the dignity of all human life, from conception through natural death.

403 Holy Stitches! Knitting Group: Knits items for various charities throughout the year. No experience necessary.

Parish Organizations

500 fiftysomething Club: The 50something Club is an organization for parishioners and non-parishioners over the age of 50. They meet on the third Wednesday of each month and have lunch (brown bag, potluck or catered) followed by a brief business meeting. They play games or cards, and celebrate birthdays. They participate in the social actions of our parish and school. They provide outreach to members who are ill and attend prayer vigils for the deceased of our parish and club.

502 A.Men Club: Provides men of the parish an opportunity to broaden the sense of community through social, spiritual, and recreational activities and to foster camaraderie and fellowship among the adult men of the parish. The A.Men club serves the community as well as the parish in both social and service capacities.



School

600 Ascension School Board: The Board serves as the primary advisory committee for offering guidance and suggestions to the Principal and Pastor on all matters relating to the operation and management of the parish’s school ministry. Members are appointed for a two-year term which may be renewable for a second period of similar length. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Board are appointed directly by the Pastor. The Board sponsors events which highlight the school’s many opportunities and benefits as well as serves as a forum for sharing of ideas and concerns. The Board meets on a monthly basis from September through May.

601 PTO Board Member: The PTO works to support the school and parents in a collaborative effort to educate our children. This organization of volunteers sponsors meetings, fund raising events, and provides volunteer services for such duties as room parents, library aides, health & safety committee, teacher appreciation, etc.

604 Assist with Music Programs: Assist with logistics of school musicals and programs throughout the school year.

606 Cafeteria Help: Volunteer during lunch to assist with final meal prep, lunch line serving, and clean up. School lunch is served from 10:50am-1:00pm. Volunteers are required to attend Safe Environment Training by the Archdiocese.

Youth

800 Ascension Singers: Youth Choir for students in grades 3 to 8. Learn and perform music for school, parish, and community events throughout the school year.

801 Children’s Liturgy of Word Assistant: Assistant helps during the sessions on Sunday during the 10:30 Mass.

Youth Rep for 804/805/806/807/808: Attend ministry meetings and represent the youth perspective.

DETERMINING ONE’S GIFT OF TREASURE (How Much Should One give?)

Scripture speaks of a Tithe, or 10%, from the ‘first fruits’ of one’s labor being given to God. Prayerfully consider your circumstances and use the chart below to help you determine your level of giving. Consider taking a step in increasing your giving.

Annual Income	3% Tithing Weekly	5% Tithing Weekly	10 % Tithe Weekly
\$10,000	\$5.77	\$9.62	\$19.23
\$20,000	\$11.54	\$19.23	\$38.46
\$30,000	\$17.31	\$28.85	\$57.70
\$40,000	\$23.08	\$38.46	\$76.92
\$50,000	\$28.85	\$48.08	\$96.15
\$60,000	\$34.62	\$57.69	\$115.38
\$70,000	\$40.38	\$67.31	\$134.62
\$80,000	\$46.15	\$76.92	\$153.85
\$90,000	\$51.92	\$86.54	\$173.07
\$100,000	\$57.69	\$96.15	\$192.30

Remember, stewardship contributions are tax-deductible!
Ultimately you are the one who must decide.
We are requesting that all families increase their pledges for 2018-2019.

Your stewardship contributions pay for all Parish ministries, operating costs and 20% of school operations. Our financial need averages to approximately \$1,350/year per household.



ATTENTION ASCENSION

Worship Ministry

- 100 Pray Daily for all Parishioners
- 101 Attend Daily Mass
- 102 Worship Committee
- 103 Art & Environment Committee
- 104 Christmas/Easter Decorating Team
- 105 Clean Church
- 106 Launder Altar Linens
- 107 Adult Choir
- 108 Cantor
- 109 Keyboard/Instrumentalist
- 110 Handbells
- 111 Resurrection Choir
- 112 Serve as Liturgical Minister at Funerals
- 113 Bereavement Committee
- 114 Eucharistic Adoration
- 115 Communion to (A) Homebound, (B) Nursing Home, (C) Hospital



Indicate Mass Times On Stewardship Form

- 116 Lector **4:00 8:30 10:30**
- 117 Communion Minister **4:00 8:30 10:30**
- 118 Sacristan **4:00 8:30 10:30**
- 119 Hospitality Minister **4:00 8:30 10:30**
- 120 Adult Altar Server **4:00 8:30 10:30**
- 121 Media Ministry

Administration

- 200 Pastoral Council
- 201 Finance Committee
- 202 Formation Committee
- 203 Collections Count Team
- 204 Parish Communications & Technology
- 205 Parish Festival Planning Committee
- 206 Parish Festival Volunteer
- 207 Parish Festival Set-up & Breakdown
- 208 Athletic Ministry Advisory Committee
- 209 Buildings/Grounds Committee
- 210 Second Tuesday Maintenance Crew
- 211 Parish Office Assistance



Formation

- 300 RCIA Team
- 301 RCIA Sponsor
- 302 Interested in becoming Catholic
- 303 Book Club Facilitator
- 304 Anchor Teacher or Assistant
- 305 Children's Liturgy Teacher
- 306 Baptism Preparation Team
- 307 Marriage Preparation
- 308 Faith Club Assistant
- 309 Youth Ministry Support
- 310 Vacation Bible School
- 311 Confirmation Retreat Team
- 312 Women's Spirituality Group
- 313 Mom's Group
- 314 GoLF

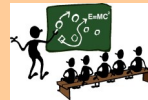
Service

- 400 Social Outreach and Awareness Committee
- 401 Prayer Blanket Group
- 402 Respect Life Committee
- 403 Holy Stitches Knitting Group
- 404 Habitat For Humanity Work Crew
- 405 Habitat For Humanity Meal Crew
- 406 Blood Drive Volunteer
- 407 Cub Scout Leader
- 408 Girl Scout Leader



Parish Organizations

- 500 fiftysomething Club
- 501 Knights of Columbus
- 502 A.Men Club
- 503 Lenten Fish Fries
- 504 Coach Sports Teams



School

- 600 School Board Member
- 601 PTO Board Member
- 602 Library/Media Center Volunteer
- 603 Quick Recall
- 604 Assist with Music Programs
- 605 Marketing
- 606 Cafeteria Help



Youth Stewardship

- 800 Youth Choir –Ascension Singers
- 801 Children's Liturgy of Word Assistant
- 802 Altar Server **4:00 8:30 10:30**
- 803 Parish Festival
- 804 Youth Rep on Worship Committee
- 805 Youth Rep on Formation Committee
- 806 Youth Rep on Social Outreach and Awareness Committee
- 807 Youth Rep on Pastoral Council
- 808 Cub / Girl Scouts

Indicate Mass Times On Stewardship Form





✂ Family Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

THIS IS YOUR STEWARDSHIP FORM
 Please fill out and return this page to the parish office by
March 15, 2018
Effective July 1, 2018

Help us update our records.

Adult 1

Name _____
 Employer _____
 Work Phone _____
 Mobile Phone _____
 E-mail _____

Adult 2

Name _____
 Employer _____
 Work Phone _____
 Mobile Phone _____
 E-mail _____

Please indicate the Ministries/Committees/Events you wish to participate in starting July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. Ministry numbers are listed on page 6.

Please circle your mass preference for the following ministries 116, 117, 118, 119, 120 and 802

	4:00	8:30	10:30	
	(example) Mary		112, 113, 211	Check below to keep the same as last year
Name _____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name _____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name _____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name _____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name _____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please attach sheet for additional family members

Gift of Treasure
Renewal of Stewardship of Treasure

Total Annual Gift: \$ _____
(not including matching funds)

To be Paid \$ _____ **per**
_____ **week** _____ **month** _____ **Quarter**
_____ **Other**

Payment Method:

- ~ **Weekend Envelope** _____
- ~ **Automatic Bank Withdrawal** _____
- ~ **Contact me for Planned Giving** _____

Effective _____ **or July 1, 2018**
(date)

Automatic Withdrawal: Withdrawals can be made on a weekly, monthly or quarterly basis.

_____ I authorize Church of the Ascension to initiate debit and, if necessary, credit entries. This authorization remains in effect until I notify the parish office otherwise.

Effective Date: _____

Stewardship Amount _____

Circle one: Weekly (Monday) Monthly (15th)
 Quarterly (7/18; 10/18; 1/19; 4/19)

Attach a voided check (checking account) or deposit slip (savings account) for financial verification.

Signed _____
Date _____

_____ I am currently having my donation deducted from my bank account using automatic withdrawal and authorize Church of the Ascension to begin taking out my new pledge amount effective (date) _____ .



