



ATTENTION ASCENSION

News You Can Use

Church of the Ascension

Volume II, Issue 4
Summer 2017

A Letter From Your Pastor

The Future of Our Church: On Ministry to Children and Youth

Welcome to the latest edition of our quarterly newsletter! The special focus of *Attention Ascension* this time is on ministry to children and youth.

Our parish is engaged in a number of faith formation activities. Perhaps the most visible is found in our school ministry. Today Ascension school enrolls 239 children, from 3 years of age through 8th grade, an increase of over 25% from just three years ago. Our K-8 enrollment stands at 197 and is expected to grow to 210 by next fall. Our 3-year-old and junior kindergarten classes total 42, an increase of nearly 35% since 2014.

Ascension school is more than just about numbers, however. The success of our school ministry includes top-notch achievement scores, a rich variety of extracurricular activities, and an exceptional and caring faculty and administration.

The parish also initiated a catechetical program known as ANCHOR to meet the formational needs of children not attending Ascension school. The program has grown to include 31 participants, nearly double that of the time three years ago during which our religious education needs for this population were serviced by other area parishes. ANCHOR students receive a solid grounding in the Faith and join with our other young people in receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist.

Our youth ministry program also has seen enriching results. From service opportunities to sessions on topical interests (and even a night for playing board games!), our junior and senior high youth are encouraged to stay active with the parish. We have also initiated efforts to expand our lay liturgical ministry roles, including cantors and lectors, to feature opportunities for young people to serve.

We conduct all of these and other activities in a challenging environment. And we also do so being mindful that parents are **FIRST** and **BEST EDUCATORS!**

And as the first and best educators, parents are being encouraged not only to bring their children to Mass but also to come to the Eucharist themselves: every weekend!

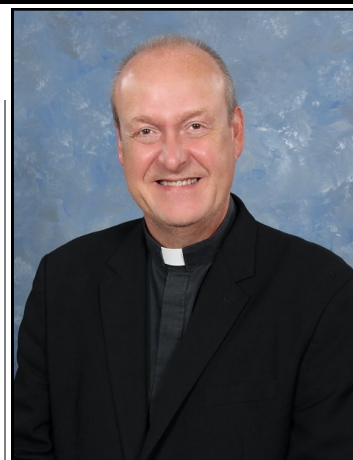
Research from several sources clearly demonstrate that young people, active and growing in the Faith:

- Attend Mass more frequently than others less connected with the Catholic Church;
- Report higher levels of understanding and practice of the Faith;
- Have parents and other adults in their lives with whom they can share not only their faith experiences but also the range of other life experiences; and
- Are less likely to engage in socially negative behaviors (e.g., alcohol abuse, etc.).

At the Church of the Ascension, we strive mightily to include, empower and enliven the Faith of our children and youth. But this effort is one requiring the engagement of all!

Let us pray for and act upon those steps necessary to build up the Faith and ensure the continuing vibrancy of the Roman Catholic Church in southeast Louisville.

Peace, Father Steven



Father Steven Henriksen
Pastor
Church of the Ascension

Can't make it to church this weekend?

You can watch weekend Mass online. The link is located on the parish website ascension-parish.com below Father Steven's picture.

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YOUTH MINISTRY



Retreat

To our wonderful parish:

This has been such an exciting year for youth ministry! We've gotten our junior high boys' and girls' youth ministries off the ground, walked with our eighth grade class through the Confirmation process, and participated in service for the parish and the community. We continue to raise money for our high school Appalachia mission trip in June, work with the 7th grade on Catholic Social Teaching, and prepared eighth grader Tim Profumo to join the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil Mass.



Junior High Family Game Night

We've also seen the beginning of the Family Faith Night, a night when youth and their families come together for a prayer service, dinner, and a speaker. We've had talks on the fair trade movement, environmental stewardship, and the refugee experience, and we have an upcoming talk on urban poverty and Catholic social teaching. I've been blessed to see our youth grow tremendously at these events.

In the past few months, I've learned so much from the youth of this parish. I've seen a strong commitment to community and a wonderful eagerness to serve. I especially saw this when interviewing our eighth graders before their Confirmation; I heard remarkable stories of how these young people connected with others through service, and especially how they've inherited a passion for justice from adult role models in their own lives. One young lady told me about how last Christmas, her older cousin got all of the cousins together to shop for a family in need; I heard from another about his grandfather, and how he always feels comfortable going to him when he has questions about his faith.

I'd like to send this message to parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, teachers, and any other adults in our young people's lives: keep doing what you're doing! Whether you realize it or not, you are a role model for them, and you are making a tremendous difference. Together we can enrich the lives of our youth and lead them deeper into communion with God and all his children.

Peace,
Hanna Crooks
Youth Minister



January Family Faith Night


8th Grade Bowling With
St. Mary's Center
(developmentally disabled adults)


Farewell Hanna

Many thanks go to Hanna Crooks for serving as our Youth Minister over the past several months. Hanna's creativity and commitment were instrumental in bringing up a number of exciting initiatives, including some outlined in this newsletter. While Hanna will be moving on to another opportunity, following the June mission trip, we are confident that her work will be well remembered in the months ahead.

I expect that some time will pass before we hire a new Youth Minister, perhaps during the fall/winter period. First, we will want to assess our current approach to youth ministry and then design a job description for a ministry lead which reflects new and/or changing priorities and emphases. Stay tuned as this process unfolds.

Fr. Steve



ANCHOR

The second year of ANCHOR is complete and was very successful again!

ANCHOR is our religious education program for children who don't attend the parish school. This year we had 31 students; including 6 second graders who received their First Communion, along with two 8th graders

who were confirmed. It was another wonderful year, with family formation experiences, engaging catechesis for the students every Sunday, and sacramental preparation. There were 4 catechists who shared their

faith through teaching and we are very grateful to them for this commitment. So, THANK YOU to Kristie Burtel, Hayley Mussler, Tess Collins, and Mary Sullivan for sharing their time and talent in this special formation ministry for our children.

We look forward to another successful year in September 2017!

For more information or to register, please contact Vicky Chism at the Parish Office.



Anchor First Communion Kids



Primary Class



4th and 5th Grade



Junior High

SUMMER BIBLE SCHOOL



Our parish will be hosting a Vacation Bible School again this summer on July 23, 24, and 25 from 6:30-8:30p.m. We will need many volunteers and teachers to help make this a successful experience, so please consider volunteering.

More information will be forthcoming, so please watch the bulletin.

Welcome Tim

Tim Profumo, an 8th grader in the ANCHOR program, was welcomed into the church at the Easter Vigil. He received the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation. Congratulations!



Tim and his Confirmation sponsor Tess Collins

Little Bits...

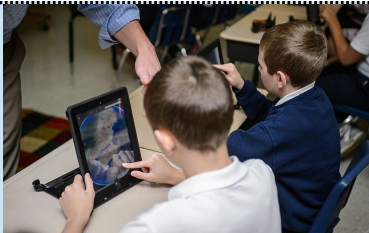
By: Valerie Shell, Kids Time Director

"Under the pavement the dirt is dreaming of grass."

Wendell Berry (Kentucky Poet)

Ascension Preschool Program

Spring is a time for imagination! Here at Ascension Pre-School imaginations run wild most of the time, but in the spring more than ever!! Sun, flowers, and baby chicks and ducks hatching in our science classroom all give us a sense of new life and open our imaginations. April is national poetry month which gives us a good excuse to explore with the children we love the way others have expressed their imagination in words! Young children love the word play, the rhythm and cadence in poems. This would be a good time to break out some Dr. Seuss, listen to Ray Charles read the classic [Chicka Chicka Boom Boom](#). Check out [Poems Kids Like](#) at Poets.org! Poems unlock the power of the imagination!



The Practice Behind the Passion: How We Teach

This is part one of a three-part series that will run in the next few newsletters

By: Terry Mullaney, Ascension School Principal

At Ascension, we are working diligently to set ourselves apart from other schools in how we teach and what we offer. We are already the first school in KY to offer 1:1 ipads in kindergarten through eighth grades. We are also the only Catholic school to provide training in Project Based Learning to all of our faculty, who are now implementing in each classroom. We are the only elementary school in KY offering 8th grade trips to Marine Biology Camp in California and Zion, Bryce and Grand Canyon National Parks. Our students are the beneficiaries of all of this as they experience intellectual stimulation, risk, collaboration and knowledge growth.

There is more: our explosive growth over the last 4 ½ years has led to continued probing into “how do you all do it?” from those within the Ascension community as well as those part of other schools and communities. Here now is a look at some of the methods being employed in our classrooms to challenge and prepare our students.

*Differentiated Instruction

Based on the knowledge that not all students are alike, differentiated instruction is an approach to teaching that gives students multiple options for absorbing information and making sense of ideas. Differentiated instruction is based on the premise that instructional approaches should vary and be adapted in relation to individual and diverse students. Differentiated instruction is a model that requires teachers to be flexible in their approach to teaching and adjust the curriculum, presentation of information, and assessment to the students rather than expecting students to

adapt themselves to the curriculum. This approach empowers our teachers to provide re-teaching and enrichment to every student. (Carol Tomlinson)

*Scaffolding

Scaffolding is the provision of sufficient support to promote learning when concepts and skills are first introduced to students. Common elements of scaffolding include: task definition, direct or indirect instruction, specification and sequencing of activities, provision of materials, equipment and facilities, modeling through a think aloud instructional strategy, and planning, organizing, and reflecting on the specific task. Teachers help students master a task or a concept by providing support. An example of scaffolding would be: The teacher describes or illustrates a concept, problem, or process in multiple ways to ensure understanding. A teacher may orally describe a concept to students, use a slideshow with visual aids such as images and graphics to further explain the idea, ask several students to illustrate the concept on the blackboard, and then provide the students with a reading and writing task that asks them to articulate the concept in their own words. This strategy addresses the multiple ways in which students learn—e.g., visually, orally, kinesthetically, etc.—and increases the likelihood that students will understand the concept being taught. (Lev Vgotsky, Jerome Brunner)

Stayed tuned as the next part in the series will explain more of the methods being used in the classroom.

Ascension Summer Camp

By: Valerie Shell

It is hard to believe that in a few weeks we will be embarking on a summer of imagination at Ascension Summer Camp! This year we will climb up in our Magic Tree House each week to travel through time and space to visit exciting places in the past! We will be following along with the wonderful Magic Tree House books by Mary Pope Osborne. Imagine children coming back to school next fall and being asked what they did over the summer and their reply is not “video games and watching youtube” but instead they visited Ancient Egypt, walked in space, survived the wild west, and battled knights, pirates and ninjas. Through the power of literature and

imagination we will travel to 8 different adventures here at Ascension! Throw in some science, math, technology, trips to the pool, crazy games and weekly field trips THEN mix vigorously with imagination and you have the making of an awesome summer to remember!



**Ascension Class of 2013...****What's next?****Jae Morris- Trinity**

He will be attending Bellarmine University to study Exercise Science. He would like to become a Physical Therapist or a P.E. and health teacher.

Erika Hubbs- Assumption

She will be attending Bellarmine University.

Nickie Walsh- Sacred Heart

She will be attending the University of Kentucky and pursue a pre-dental career.

Emily Coy- Atherton

She will attend Northern Kentucky University and major in Marketing.

Kaitlin Towles- Assumption

She will attend Western Kentucky University and pursue a degree in Social Work.

Jayci Klein- Sacred Heart Academy

She will be attending the University of Kentucky.

Jake Spears- Collegiate

He will be attending the University of Dayton.

CONGRATULATIONS

The 8th grade students, using their writing skills taught by Mrs. Dottie Lewis, participated in an essay contest offered by the Elks Club. The following students won in the 7th & 8th grade division.

1st Place – Sophia Pascua

2nd Place – Jean Gray

3rd Place – Jackson Fears

**Ascension Class of 2017...****Where are they going?****Parker Ashley-St Xavier****Hannah Balthrop– Assumption****Noah Brite– DeSales****Carley Colish– Assumption****Blake Davis– St. Xavier****Bradley Davis– St Xavier****Jackson Fears– St. Xavier****Jacob Friedlein– Trinity****Chelsea Gaesser– Eastern****Jean Gray– Highland Latin School****Haley Hubbs– Assumption****Jordan Ingram– Eastern****Eric Kemper-Trinity****Jackson Mussler– St Xavier****Andrew Norris– Trinity****Sophia Pascua– Manual****Heath Pennington– Trinity****Harper Schurman– Sacred Heart****Zari Wells– Manual****Clayton Wheatley– DeSales****Madeleine Will– Assumption****Ryan Woo-Ming– Trinity****Young Author Winners****3rd Place****Mollie Johnson****5th Grade Illustrated****Aidan McCaffery****6th Grade How To****Hannah Spears****7th Grade Non-Illustrated****2nd Place****Emma Yates****K Illustrated****Emaline Davie****1st Grade Illustrated****Chase Matthews****4th Grade Non-Illustrated****Brielle Thompson****5th Grade Non-Illustrated****Kayla Lancaster****7th Grade Illustrated****Harper Schurman and****Chelsea Gaesser****8th Grade Non-Illustrated****1st Place- They were recognized at the Flaget Center****Kate Lancaster****3rd Grade Illustrated****Jackie Krebs****4th Grade How To****Ella Brock****6th Grade Non-Illustrated****Sophia Pascua****8th Grade Illustrated****Madeleine Will, Jean Gray****Hannah Balthrop****8th Grade How To****Zari Wells****8th Grade Poetry**



Your greatest contribution to the kingdom of God may not be something you do, but someone you raise.

-Andy Stanley

Kids Around Ascension



Ascension 4H Sewing Stars
This year their goal is to make 25 hospital gowns for teens at Norton's Hospital.



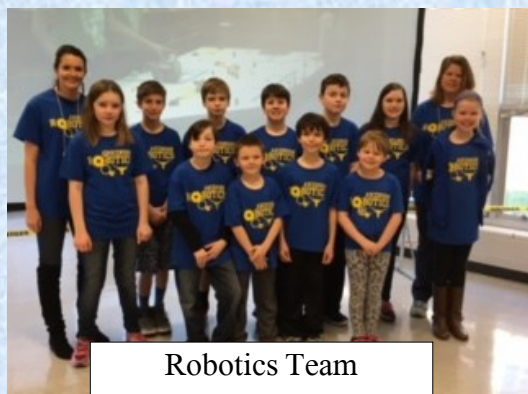
Ascension Singers



Ascension Band



Bella Voce



Robotics Team



**4th & 5th Grade
Quick Recall Team**



Ella Brock played her violin solo and received Distinguished (I), the highest score the state offers.



**Troop 522 representing Ireland at
World Thinking Day.**



**Daisies #729 having fun
while selling cookies**



**Congratulations to Lauren,
Hannah, Erin, Teddy, and Cole
for receiving Distinguished (I)
ratings on their solos at KMEA.**



2017 NASP Regional Tournament was held at Atherton High School. Our team scored an amazing 2954. This qualified our team for state. Unfortunately, NASP only took the highest 85 team scores. This was an awesome accomplishment for a first year team. We are very proud to announce that Molly Sinkhorn a 7th grade archer did qualify for the Individual State Tournament. The following students have been invited to compete in the 2017 Kentucky's Best Invitational Tournament Brian Briceno, Cole Busby, Sophia DiMauro, Natalie Gross, Joseph Oeswein, Molly Sinkhorn and Creed Williams. To qualify one must score a 250 or about for Middle school and 240 or above for Elementary in any NASP qualified tournament. Good Luck!



Boys Volleyball



Father Steven blessed the swim teams from Cardinal Aquatics, Lakeside and Tritons



Soccer



Ascension School kids perform the play Jesus the King.



The track team is off to a great start.



Congratulations to the 5th/6th grade boys B team who won the CSAA 2A City Championship!



Congratulations to the 5th/6th grade girl's basketball team who won the City Championship!



Church of the Ascension

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We are a Roman Catholic parish
focused on developing our community
through worship, outreach, education
and fellowship guided by the teachings
of Jesus Christ.

ALL ARE WELCOME

2017 ASCENSION SUMMER FESTIVAL June 2 & 3

SUPPORT 100% PROFIT BOOTHS Donate! Donate! Donate!

~Books, Jigsaw Puzzles, Board Games, DVDs!
~A cake or send in \$\$ for a cake to be made by our volunteer bakers by completing the cake donation form. *Make checks payable to Ascension Festival.*
~Small items valued up to \$5 for the Goodie Bag Booth. Just send in the items to the school office and we'll bag them!

RAFFLE TICKETS

You should have already received, an order form to purchase the following raffle tickets

Pot of Gold tickets = \$100 per or be part of a group splitting the cost

Capital Prize tickets = \$5 per ticket; chance at winning \$2,500, \$1,000 or \$500!

Quilt raffle tickets are \$1 each for a chance to win a beautiful, homemade quilt.

Thanks to all of you who have purchased or help sell these tickets! These raffles help us "rain-proof" the event so if you haven't purchased them please do so soon!

**PLEASE RETURN ANY UNSOLD
TICKETS TO THE PARISH OR
SCHOOL OFFICE**

(per 820 KAR 1:050)
Gaming License ORG 0000031

VOLUNTEER TO WORK WE NEED YOU!!!

To volunteer your time and talents by working before, during or after the event, please email the committee at

festivalascension@gmail.com

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!!!

Saturday Dinner: Back by popular demand smoked BBQ pork and chicken prepared by parishioners with all the sides for a great meal!

Great Kid's Area: including inflatables and skill games for all ages!

Entertainment: featuring live music, gambling tent and adult beverages.

Wheel of Chance Booth: loaded with top-notch items! Get in on the pre-sales by turning in your order form today! Extra forms available in the Gathering Space