



# ATTENTION ASCENSION

## News You Can Use

Church of the Ascension

Volume III, Issue I  
Fall 2018

### *A Letter From Your Pastor*

*Welcome to the Holy Day Season!*

Already we can see and experience the signs of fall: colorful and falling leaves, the excitement of a season of many sports (football, basketball, volleyball---dare I mention, hockey!), as well as the smells (in our memory) of turkey---and stuffing---and Nana's special green bean casserole!

I welcome you to the fall edition of *Attention Ascension*. This edition is being offered under the editorial direction of Ms. Katie Murphy, our new Assistant for Evangelization and Outreach. Welcome, Katie!

In this edition, you will understand why Ascension is truly a parish on the move: welcoming to all with Christ always in the center of what we do.

Thanksgiving is often thought of as the "kick off" for the Holy Day Season. Join us for Mass on November 22 at 9am as we celebrate the many blessings which God has given us. A collection to support the Parish Relief Fund will also be undertaken at this Eucharistic celebration which benefits all seeking a "hand up."

Preparatory to Thanksgiving, we will award 30 households with an "Ascension Blessings Basket," full of yummys sufficient to feed 4 on TG Day. A collection to support the filling of these Blessing Baskets will officially start on the weekend of November 3 and 4.

A second expression of our gratitude to God for His blessings is found in the parish's support for Holiday Helpers. This group partners with many to offer items from gifts to furniture to folks in our community. Please join the many volunteers who make "Holiday Helpers" happen!

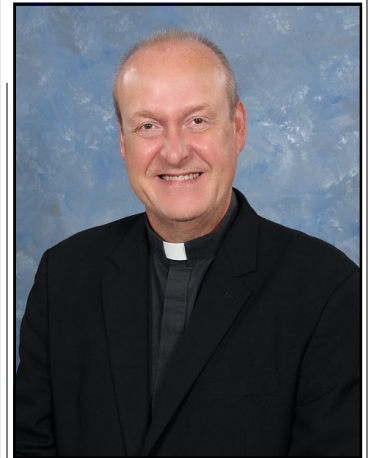
Most importantly, the Season of Advent begins on December 1. The Ascension community anticipates, with great joy, the coming of Our Lord on Christmas Day. Be a part of the many events leading all to the Manger with the baby Jesus, the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph.

In addition to the regular weekend Mass schedule, join us for:

- The Blessing of the Child in the Womb: on December 2;
- Santa Claus is "in the house" on December 2;
- Our newfound tradition of the "Live Nativity" program: on December 9;
- Friends from the Salaam Network will be with us to pray and celebrate our unity in faith: December 9;
- We reach out to those in need of a meal as "Sandwich Sunday" is held on November 25 and December 16 after 10:30 Mass
- DON'T FORGET our Christmas Mass Schedule: Christmas Eve (Monday, December 24): at 5pm and 9pm; and Christmas Day (Tuesday, December 25): 9am

At Ascension, all are welcome! Join us!

Peace,  
Father Steven  
Pastor



Reverend 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](http://ascension-parish.com) below Father Steven's picture.

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## Parish Discernment Update

### Planning for the Future

Fueled by your participation and led by the parish's Pastoral Council, an agreement has been reached on the "hows" of moving Ascension forward into 2019 and beyond. The results of the 2017 parish-wide survey in combination with a Town Hall meeting identified a significant need to CREATE new spaces to meet the GROWING DEMANDS of ministry.

To date, and with the assistance of so many, especially Patrick D. Murphy Architects, a vision for a new facility with the following features has been preliminarily crafted:

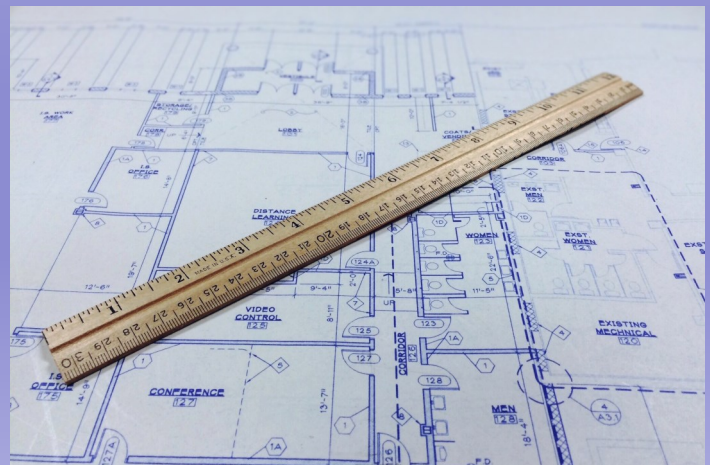
- \* A new "community room" sufficient to host gatherings of approximately 100 people---a big advance over our current use of the cafeteria;
- \* A meditation space to host smaller gatherings wishing to sponsor and offer traditional Catholic devotions;
- \* Space for all of our growing ministries, from those serving our young people to that needed for our more mature parishioners;
- \* An environmentally sound, reasonably spaced, and professional set of offices for parish space;
- \* Long-overdue improvements in the space devoted to our school ministry to support new windows, HVAC upgrades, and classroom lighting needs for our children.

And, yes, the next big step in the process is a cost analysis. It is likely that the vision being presented will require NEW RESOURCES (meaning a capital campaign).

Our parish was canonically and structurally created in 1965---and there have been subsequent renovations.

ARE WE READY FOR THE NEXT STEP?

....it will be our next major decision.





## Little Bits....

By: Valerie Shell, Director of Kids Time

### Mindful Thankfulness

The internet brings us a wide variety of stuff. Cat videos, news and information, connections to others, rubbish from people we neither know or care about . . . and yes even a word from our Lord. It was a random post on Facebook, I do not know the sender, but it simply said,

“What if all you had tomorrow were  
the things you were thankful for today?”

I spent the rest of the day, being mindful that I had better thank God for everything around me! At first it was the usual suspects: my family, my church, my car (actually cars), and my home. Then came the realization of how deep the treads of thankfulness needed to run. I was thankful for food and the fridge to keep it fresh, and the electricity to keep the fridge running; The people who worked at the power plant and ran the power lines; the miners who dug the coal that created the power. Let me not forget the job that enables me to pay the electric bill. Oh yes . . . my job and my amazing coworkers and the students that we teach every day. The parents of the students who make the sacrifice and investment to entrust us with the Christ centered education of their children. I went to bed that night still reflecting, what have I missed? What might I wake up without because of my ingratitude? I could only appeal in the end to the mercy of God and confess with my whole heart that I was thankful for all His gifts, even the ones I was too careless to even notice.

“I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart” Psalm 9:1

### ***Ascension Moms Group***

***Group Leader: Joelle Schlotter***

***CALLING ALL MOMS!!!!***

We have a thriving ministry at Ascension that you will want to be a part of, The Ascension Moms Group.

The Ascension Moms' Group is a great way for moms in the parish or community to connect with one another. The group is a ministry that brings moms together with children of various ages. Although most moms who participate in this group have young children, those with children in middle school and/or high school are welcome. The group is a fellowship that meets the third Tuesday of each month allowing moms to discuss and support one another in the blessings and struggles mothers have in common, as well as provides a way for moms to grow in their faith. The meetings alternate between faith based book study and social events (e.g. moms dinner, dessert, and coffee outings as well as plans to hold a Christmas cookie swap and other social get togethers). As moms, members of the moms' group see children and families as their ministry; and this advent season we will be providing the parish with a website compiling various weekly advent activities that families can do together. So be on the look out for this great resource, and if you are a mama we hope you'll get involved with the moms' group! Look for us on Facebook (Ascension Moms' Group).

It is a Ministry TO, WITH, BY, and FOR Moms.



## *Ascension School and Belmont Senior Living Partnership*

*Terry Mullaney, Principal*

A game of checkers, some paper and crayons, books, a deck of cards and an iPad. All of these are just simple things, but when put into the right hands, they turn into tools which vanish the years away to generate laughter and smiles. The students at Ascension School have welcomed into their community residents from a local senior facility: Belmont Village Senior Living. At various times throughout the month, the seniors are invited to walk through the school doors and join a classroom full of eager children, waiting to make a new friend.

The seniors are hosted by different classes throughout the year, joining the students in a range of activities and projects: playing musical instruments, taking virtual tours on the iPad, learning about science experiments, reading books, and/or participating in interviews about their life long ago. When the students and seniors are together, you can see the happiness and joy on all of their faces. The students can't wait to share what they've been learning in school, and the seniors can't wait to be a part of the beautiful chaos that makes up the classroom.

On other days throughout the year, the seniors open up their home to the students and their families. During these visits, the seniors work with students on service projects for local shelters and organizations who help those in need. The students and seniors collaborate to produce something that will benefit the needy, all while strengthening the connection between each other.

At times when the students and seniors aren't together, they are still being thought of. The students in our fourth-grade class have partnered with the seniors in a Pen Pal Program. This program is meant to promote writing skills and cursive practice for the students, while providing the seniors a special piece of mail to share and reply to. Taking the time to write a simple letter can still mean so much to someone in our age of technology.

This partnership has had more of an impact than we could have ever imagined. The students are learning about parts of life that they have only read about in history books, as well as getting the opportunity to participate in deep and meaningful conversations with others. The seniors are getting a sense of rejuvenation after receiving that vital time outside of the senior residence setting. This time with the students is essential to keeping them connected to a younger generation and giving them a sense of belonging to the community. Both groups are curious and excited to make new friends, who they can all look forward to seeing throughout the year. The friendships that are made during these visits are priceless and lasting.

Throughout Jesus' life, we learn that service to others is a crucial part of our lives as Catholics. In the Gospel of Mark, he writes, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others..." (Mark 10:45). As students and seniors spend time together, they are able to embrace Jesus' desire for us to be of service to one another. Students are able to take what they have learned throughout their years of catholic education at Ascension and truly bring it to life. Both students and seniors have been given a sense of hope for our community: hope that includes faith in people and new friendships blossoming along the way; a hope that embraces peace, love, and service to all.

Today's Woman, a local magazine, covered the partnership between Ascension students and Belmont Village in their September issue.

Thanks to Mrs. Herriott, grades 2-5 religion and handwriting teacher, for fostering this relationship: this is truly a win-win for everyone!



## *Celebrating Advent at Home*

What is Advent? Advent is the liturgical season we as Catholics celebrate before the Christmas season begins. It starts on the Sunday closest to the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle (November 30th) and ends on December 24th. The liturgical season of Christmas then begins and continues until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 13th).

During Advent we are “spiritually” preparing for the arrival of Christ. This can be a time to prepare our hearts and fill our souls with the love of Jesus. This preparation can not only be accomplished on the weekends during Mass, but also in our homes as a way to deepen our relationship with Jesus as well as strengthen our connection with the Advent season. Here are a few ways to bring the celebration of Advent into our homes:

- Create your own Advent wreath or candle arrangement at home. Any simple arrangement of 4 candles (3 purple/1 pink) will work. Every Sunday during Advent 1 of the purple candles is lit (the pink candle is lit on the last Sunday of Advent) special prayers can be said.
- Advent Sunday Family Dinners-make a special effort to have dinner as a family on Sundays during Advent. This is a great time to light the Advent wreath.
- Advent Calendars-this is a great way to introduce the season of Advent to children. They are usually pretty easy to find at most grocery or convenience stores. It can show the time we are “anticipating” the birth of Jesus (and the chocolate treat is usually a big hit with the little ones!)
- Nativity Scene setup-most families already have a Nativity scene as part of their Christmas decorations. As a way of recognizing this season of preparation, you can wait until Christmas to display the baby Jesus in the manger scene.
- Christmas Tree Blessing-There is special blessing for the Christmas trees most of us display in our homes. It can be found on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website (<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/sacramentals-blessings/objects/blessing-of-a-christmas-tree.cfm>)
- Acts of Service-Advent is a great time for spiritual and corporal acts of mercy. It is a great time to give our time by volunteering and donating to those who need our blessing.
- Advent Penance/Reconciliation- Participating in confession can help us further our own preparation for Jesus’s birth.

Let us remember the *reason* for the season. May peace and joy surround all our friends and family during this upcoming Advent and Christmas season!





## SOCIAL OUTREACH



“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you? The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25: 35-40

GIVE...such a simple word yet packed full of meaning. Here at Ascension we are supporting some amazing opportunities to “give” during this Thanksgiving and Advent season. We are putting our focus on two specific opportunities for the month of November and December, Thanksgiving Basket Collection and Holiday Helpers. These opportunities were chosen because through them we are serving families in our own community this season.

The Thanksgiving baskets collection slips are still available on the kiosk in the gathering space. Items can be dropped off in the designated baskets up until Sunday, November 18th. Assembly of the baskets will begin following that final collection day. Please help fill those baskets!



HOLIDAY HELPERS was started 15 years ago and has grown in its support with an average of 100 households receiving gifts. Gifts range from needed staples to providing items (e.g., beds, chairs, couches, etc.) necessary to make a “house a home.” HOLIDAY HELPERS works to ensure that everyone has a gift to open, access to needed food and hygiene items, and a bed upon which to rest their heads. This program operates in complete anonymity. Who benefits? 1) Working parents who may not have the extra funds to provide gifts for their children without sacrificing staples or other bills. 2) Differently-abled adults living on their own without family support or connections. 3) Children who are too old for the Salvation Army’s Angel Tree or other programs. 4) Families in need of furniture or household items. HOLIDAY HELPERS partners with area support programs to qualify referrals and to detail the various needs of the families. More than 500 volunteers, throughout our community, including Ascension parishioners, already participate in making this program HAPPEN. More information about HOLIDAY HELPERS can be found on their closed Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2983978335982277> (friend the page). Referral forms are in the gathering space (on the resource table near the sacristy) and are still being accepted. Soon you will see a Christmas tree set up in the gathering space with “ornaments” of needed items for Holiday Helpers, Please consider blessing these families with the items they truly need for Christmas and beyond.



As we enter in this season of giving, let us recognize our own blessings and how we may become a blessing to others.



## Upcoming Events You Will Want to Be A Part Of!!!

- ◆ **Learn & Grow Series** Continues after Mass on **November 17th & 18th**. Come Join us after Mass in the Adult Meeting Room.



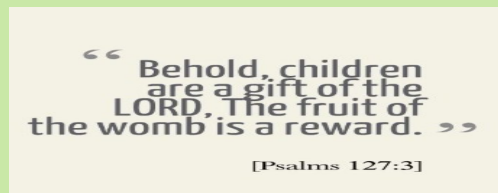
**Thanksgiving Day Mass on November 22nd at 9am**

- ◆ Join us for the next **Sandwich Sundays** on **November 25th & December 16th immediately following 10:30 Mass**.

- ◆ Join us for First Saturday Devotions on **December 1st**  
**Reconciliation 7:00am**  
**Rosary 7:45am**  
**Mass 8:15am**



- ◆ **Blessing of the Child in the Womb, Sunday, December 9th during 10:30 Mass**



- ◆ **Encountering Mary in Catholicism & Islam: A Devotional sponsored by the Salaam Network of Louisville, Sunday, December 9th 3-5pm in the Church**

(Many Catholics are unaware that Mary (Maryam in Arabic) is the only woman mentioned by name in the Qur'an and regarded as the highest of all blessed women. In this event Catholics and Muslims come together in their devotion to the Blessed Mother)



- ◆ Ascension will be bringing back the **Live Nativity on Sunday, December 9th from 6-8pm**. There will be the manger scene encounter which will include "live" characters and small animals, along with scripture and Christmas music. Refreshments will be served while our choir sings carols. Come experience the true meaning of Christmas.



## Church of the Ascension

4600 Lynnbrook Drive  
Louisville, Kentucky 40220

Parish Office: 502-451-3860  
Fax: 502-458-9782  
www.ascension-parish.com

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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.

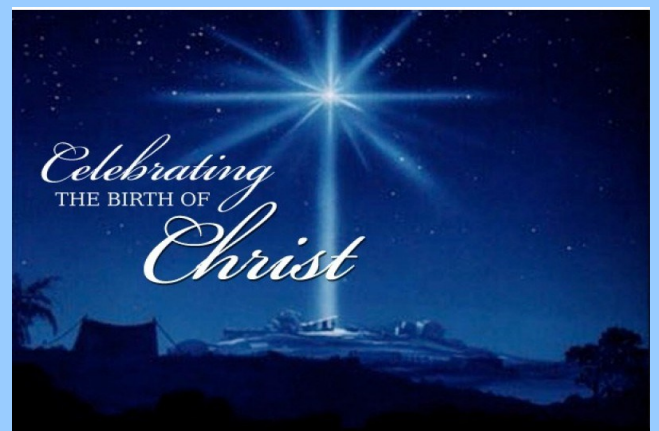
# ALL ARE WELCOME

**CHRISTMAS  
BAZAAR**

ASCENSION SCHOOL GYM  
NOVEMBER 18th 11:30AM - 5PM

**BREAKFAST  
WITH SANTA**

**December 2nd**  
Immediately following 10:30 am Mass



*Come Worship With Us!*  
*Christmas Mass Schedule*  
*December 24th 5pm & 9pm*  
*December 25th 9am*