



# Ascension Catholic Church

12700 Lanham-Severn Rd. | Bowie, Maryland 20720 | Ph. (301) 262-2227

## MASS SCHEDULE

ALL MASSES ARE PRESENTLY CELEBRATED IN BATES HALL

**SUNDAY MASS:** Saturday 4:00pm (Vigil) | Sunday 8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm

**DAILY MASS:** Monday 9:00am | Tuesday 9:00am | Wednesday 9:00am | Friday 9:00am | Saturday 9:00am

## CONFESSION SCHEDULE

CONFESSIONS ARE HEARD IN THE SACRISTY IN BATES HALL

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday— 8:40-9:00am (before daily Mass)

Saturday — 8:40-9:00am (before daily Mass) | 3:00-3:30pm (before vigil Mass)

## ADORATION

**Perpetual Adoration:** Please call the parish office for the door code

**Weekday Adoration:** before and after daily Masses (8:00-9:00am, 9:30-10:00am) | Monday 5:00-9:00pm

## PARISH STAFF

**Administrator:** Rev. Timothy Daniel

**Secretary:** Ms. Sharon Fanning | **Bookkeeper:** Mrs. Marilyn Donovan

**Coordinator of Religious Education:** Mrs. Maria Centeno | **Coordinator of Youth Ministry:** Emma Bigony

# 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down,  
and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you  
measure will in return be measured out to you."

Luke 6:38

# »»»» Around Ascension ««««

## MASS INTENTIONS (February 14-20)

- Monday 9:00am:** +Dolores Caputo
- Tuesday 9:00am:** +Jerry Barber
- Wednesday 9:00am:** +Mrs. Francisca Aloysious
- Friday 9:00am:** Velma Mayfield
- Saturday 9:00am:** Special Intention
- Saturday 4:00pm:** +Jerry Barber
- Sunday 8:00am:** Parishioners
- Sunday 10:00am:** +Yolanda Peguero
- Sunday 12:00pm:** Special Intention

A (+) indicates intention is for the repose of the person's soul

### Reviving Sunday Donuts

Have you missed time for treats and chatting after Sunday Mass? Help our parish enjoy our beautiful new patio and parents to reward their children by helping with weekly donuts! Individuals or families are needed to volunteer a few times a year to help facilitate ordering, set up or clean up after Sunday morning masses. Email [admin@women-serving-women.com](mailto:admin@women-serving-women.com) for signup details. This is a very low time commitment with a huge reward - thank you to all who will help!



**Congratulations to our raffle winner,  
*Samantha A. Porter!***

### PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK

Francis Barnes, Mary Ann Boyer, Laura Chesnick, Rosita Dietrich, David Divine, Cynthia Graham, Cindie Harrison, Larry Hudson, Beverlee Lee, Robert Milburn, Ida Mullikin, Mary Murphy, Jean Mosby, Norma Perry, Norma Raffaele, Geralyn Roberson, Mickey Ryan, Samuel Smith Sr., Bert Nemeth, Becky Goodman, Sr. Vincent de Paul OSF, and Shirley Mackessy.



The 2022 Annual Appeal is here! This year's theme is From God's Abundance, Our Gifts of Charity to remind us that everything we have and share with others is from our loving Father. Through our collective support of the Annual Appeal, we strengthen the Body of Christ that is our local Church, and we sustain her many charitable works that serve the spiritual and other needs of all those within and beyond our parish boundaries. Please consider a commitment to the 2021 Annual Appeal this weekend at home or in-person. Your gift will be credited toward our parish goal. Learn more about the Annual Appeal at [appeal.adw.org](http://appeal.adw.org).

Dear Parishioners,

Since this weekend we'll be conducting the Annual Appeal, here today I want to follow up on last weekend's "listening session," which went very well. We discussed the challenges to evangelization in our current context, as well as some opportunities for growth, such as family catechesis, further beautifying the liturgy, initiatives at welcoming others, and encouraging certain practices that are highly correlated with retaining the Faith: weekly Mass, Adoration, the rosary, volunteering, and reading Sacred Scripture. There was a lot of food for thought, and I will look forward to further discussions.

But to really grapple with all of these issues – belief and unbelief, evangelization and pastoral strategy, it's essential to first ask, what is faith?

On a natural level, faith is simply trust in the testimony of another. It is the trust in a weatherman, for example, which leads us to bring an umbrella with us to work, or leave it at home; or trust in a teacher, who has read many more history books than we have, and knows who's who; or trust in our parents, who tell us where they met, and why they decided to marry. Most of us do not check every little bit of testimony we hear, but instead regularly make judgments that this or that person is worthy of our trust, for various reasons. And this is a reasonable form of knowledge, even if gradually we learn that on human being can be given full and total adherence, since human knowledge can easily err, lacking full and perfect vision.

When it comes to God, however, we are dealing with a higher and more reliable form of faith. Since the One teaching us is He who "knows all things" from the unique perspective of the eternal, wise, and good Creator (Ps 139:4; Heb 4:13), faith in God's testimony is *perfectly certain*, and *absolute in its adherence*, believing *all that God says*; for it relies on Him who cannot lie.

Faith in God is also a *gift*, since it depends on God's moving us to assent to His revelation, and also His decision to address us in the first place —something that didn't have to happen at all, strictly speaking; he could've left us with only our natural, imperfect knowledge. As the philosophers have said, we can use natural reason to make a firm (and true) judgment that there must be some intelligent Artist behind the world, some "uncaused Cause" of all things; but to hear the revelation of God through divinely appointed messengers like Moses, the prophets, Our Lord Himself and his apostles the Church, is fundamentally a gift of God's providence, and to trust it *as the revelation of God* is a result of grace as well.

God gives this grace whenever the Gospel is preached (Rom 10:17), and often confirms its divine origin through supernatural signs, like miracles or the heroism of the saints (Mk 16:20; Heb 2:4). The Holy Spirit attracts our will to desire the goodness of the message, and our will in turn moves the intellect to assent to what is said, but not all respond to this movement for reasons spiritual, intellectual, and moral (see Mt 13:18-23). Yet the Church continues to preach the Gospel in hope that many will be saved.

Now with all this in mind, we can draw out a few consequences.

First, and most basically, what we mean by "faith" is not what everyone else always means. Some people use "faith" to simply mean "religion" or "worldview," but not all religions claim to receive revelation from God (e.g., Buddhism does not), and many worldviews have little to do with God. Instead we are speaking of a response to God's initiative, and therefore the beginning of a personal relationship with God who loves us. We believe that God has searched us out, and that since the time of the apostles His revelation always involves submission to a living human authority (the Church) whom He has appointed.

Secondly, faith is fundamentally a form of knowledge, not opinion or feeling. Even if we cannot see Heaven or Hell with our bodily eyes, or that bread becomes Our Lord at Mass, we know such things are real, once it is established that God has revealed these things. We do not simply feel them to be true, even if our faith-knowledge

spills over into our affections and strengthens our hope and love for God and others; but fundamentally *we share in the vision of God Himself*.

Third, we cannot pick and choose among the contents of what God says. Although we can certainly grow in faith, coming to hear and accept more and more of what we did not know before, and through the use of reason we can resolve any difficulties along the way, we cannot knowingly hear God's revelation and then limit our assent to what seems fitting to us. Such a move would in fact reject the divine origin of revelation, and rest instead on the "private judgment" of one's own authority. It would not actually be "Christian Faith" at all, but a self-made religion consisting of only what I *want* to be true, because I like this or that. We would "keep the decision in our own hands, and reserve to ourselves the right of re-opening the question whenever we please," says St. John Henry Newman. He summarizes:

This is very different from Divine faith; he who believes that God is true, and that this is His word, which he has committed to man, has no doubt at all. He is as certain that the doctrine taught is true, as that God is true; and he is certain, *because* God is true, *because* God has spoken, not because he sees its truth or can prove its truth. That is, faith has two peculiarities: it is most certain, decided, positive, immovable in its assent, and it gives this assent not because it sees with the eye, or sees with the reason, but because it receives the tidings from one who comes from God (Newman, "Faith and Private Judgment").

Let's give thanks for the great gift of divine faith, and always seek to know better all that He has revealed!

God bless,

Fr. Tim

◀.....*In the Archdiocese of Washington*.....▶

### **Interested in a Classical High School Curriculum?**

Chesterton Academy of St. Mary's is a new Catholic high school using a classical curriculum. It opened in September 2021 and is accepting all levels of high school students. For more information, please see [www.chestertonstmary.org](http://www.chestertonstmary.org).

### **Natural Family Planning Introductory Class**

Couples interested in learning about Natural Family Planning are invited to join in a virtual class on Saturday, March 12, 2022 from 10am-12pm. Use [nfp101march2022.eventbrite.com](https://nfp101march2022.eventbrite.com) to register. For more information, contact the Office of Family Life at 301-853-4546 or [visiblesign@adw.org](mailto:visiblesign@adw.org). Couples seeking to learn a specific NFP method are encouraged to visit any of the following providers: Couple to Couple League ([ccli.org](http://ccli.org)), BOMA USA ([boma-usa.org/learn-the-method.html](http://boma-usa.org/learn-the-method.html)), Creighton Method ([fertilitycare.org/what-is-crms](http://fertilitycare.org/what-is-crms)), Marquette Method ([mmnfp.com/learn](http://mmnfp.com/learn))

### **Free Throw Championship**

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a "Free Throw Championship" for boys and girls ages 9-12. Competition includes 15 free-throw shots, and is free. When: Saturday Feb. 26, 2022, 10am-1pm, with awards presented at 2pm. Where: School of the Incarnation, 2601 Symphony Lane, Gambrills, MD 21054. Registration available at the event. Questions? Contact Terry Reinhart at 240-475-8363 or [terry.reinhart@comcast.net](mailto:terry.reinhart@comcast.net)

# REAL PRESENCE: WHAT DOES IT MEAN AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

A VIRTUAL SPIRITUAL  
SERIES FOR WOMEN



The Roman Catholic  
Archdiocese of  
Washington

Meets on Zoom in English on Wednesday evenings  
February 23 - March 30, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., with a final  
in-person meeting on April 2 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at  
St. Mary Catholic Church, 520 Veirs Mill Rd, Rockville,  
MD 20852 for Mass, reflection and lunch.

The Archdiocesan Office for Family Life is co-  
sponsoring a virtual spiritual series for women with the  
Council of Catholic Women, exploring the mystery of  
the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. We will be  
using the book and discussion guide: *Real Presence,  
What does It Mean and Why Does It Matter* by Timothy  
P. O'Malley, published by Ave Maria Press.

- FEBRUARY 23:** Zoom meet and greet of participants
- MARCH 2:** Chapter 1: Obstacles to Real Presence
- MARCH 9:** Chapter 2: Real Presence in Scriptures
- MARCH 16:** Chapter 3: Real Presence in the Fathers
- MARCH 23:** Chapter 4: Savoring the Mystery of Transubstantiation
- MARCH 30:** Chapter 5 and conclusion: Eucharistic Devotion and Real Presence
- APRIL 2:** In-person final meeting with Mass, reflection and lunch

Register online at <https://realpresenceseries.eventbrite.com>

The fee for all sessions is \$15.00, which includes lunch. Participants are responsible for getting their own book through the following link: [www.avemariapress.com/products/real-presence](http://www.avemariapress.com/products/real-presence) or by calling (800) 282-1865.



Office of Family Life  
The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

For more information, contact the Office for Family Life at 301-853-4546 or [visiblesign@adw.org](mailto:visiblesign@adw.org).