



# Ascension Catholic Church

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

## MASS SCHEDULE

**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 VESTING SACRISTY

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

# 5th Sunday of Lent

Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."

John 8:6b-7

April 3, 2022 | Fax: (301) 805-5053 | Email: [office@ascensionbowie.org](mailto:office@ascensionbowie.org) | [www.ascensionbowie.org](http://www.ascensionbowie.org)

# ➤➤➤➤ Around Ascension ☹☹☹☹

## MASS INTENTIONS (April 4-10)

- Monday 9:00am:** +Donald Tayman
- Tuesday 9:00am:** +Holy Souls in Purgatory
- Wednesday 9:00am:** +Celestino Anzola
- Friday 9:00am:** +Florence Klimon
- Saturday 9:00am:** Special Intention
- Saturday 4:00pm:** +Earl Perry
- Sunday 8:00am:** Parishioners
- Sunday 10:00am:** Ladies Auxiliary
- Sunday 12:00pm:** Special Intention

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

### PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK

Allen Barber, Francis Barnes, Mary Ann Boyer, Laura Chesnick, Al Cline, 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.

### Lenten Soup & Fellowship

FRIDAY APRIL 8, 2022

- 5:15 - 5:30 PM CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS
- 5:30 - 6:45 PM LENTEN SUPPER IN BATES HALL  
\*HOSTED BY AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS
- 7:00 PM LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
\*PRESENTED BY CONFIRMATION CLASS

### Ladies Movie Night!

There will not be a Ladies Movie Night in April. We look forward to seeing ladies 18+ in May.

**Questions?** Text Theresa Thompson @ 301-789-8573

## Triduum Schedule

### Holy Thursday

- Mass of the Lord's Supper | 7:30 pm
- \*procession to Altar of Repose in Bates Hall after Mass
- \*Chapel locked after Mass
- \*Hall locked at midnight



### Good Friday

- 12:00 pm | Children's Stations
- 12:00 - 3:00pm | Confessions
- 3:00 pm | Stations of the Cross
- After Stations | Divine Mercy Novena
- 7:30 pm | The Lord's Passion Service



### Holy Saturday

- Blessing of Food | 10:00 am
- Easter Vigil | 8:00 pm



### Easter Sunday

- 8:00 am | Easter Mass
- 10:00 am | Easter Mass
- 12:00 pm | Easter Mass
- After 12:00 pm Mass | Divine Mercy Novena



## Middle School Soup and Stations

Join us for a simple soup supper and Stations of the Cross by candlelight at our new outdoor stations on Monday, April 4 (New Date) from 7-9pm. Candles and soup will be provided, but you are welcome to bring bread or drinks! Drop off at the St. Michael Room and pickup will be outside the church. Bring a friend!

Dear Parishioners,

Throughout Lent the liturgy has emphasized the importance of conversion – the Ash Wednesday saying, “repent, and believe in the Gospel”; the prodigal son restored to the father’s house, and the older brother, still lacking in gratitude and mercy; and today’s woman caught in adultery, as well as the Pharisees caught in their trap. Of course, when we hear these words, we are meant to consider our own need for conversion from sin, found most concretely in the Sacrament of Confession, which the Fathers of the Church called the “second plank” of salvation after the “shipwreck” of sin and the “first plank” of Baptism. Without such an ongoing opportunity for forgiveness and strength, sanctity is practically impossible.

But with so much focus on Confession, what is sometimes missed is Lent’s similarly consistent focus on penance, and its important role in our sanctification. What is penance, and how does it help?

The *Catechism* has a helpful paragraph to guide us: “Absolution takes away sin, but it does not remedy all the disorders sin has caused. Raised up from sin, the sinner must still recover his full spiritual health by doing something more to make amends for the sin: he must ‘make satisfaction for’ or ‘expiate’ his sins. This satisfaction is also called ‘penance’” (CCC, 1459).

This short paragraph contains a lot. It reminds us that a healthy conscience is able to recognize offenses against God, neighbor, and our own self as true injustices, “debts” to be “paid”; and that we need to somehow “pay these back” and restore order with God’s help. This is the idea of “satisfaction” and “expiation,” and while this topic is ultimately centered on Christ’s love on the cross, which is the source of expiation for the whole of creation, we also participate in this work through the infused virtue of penance, God working within us to re-order our life.

A practical example or two might help. Someone who has consistently given in to illegitimate pleasures, for example, is certainly forgiven by God by going to Confession, and might rightly go to Confession again and again every time they fall in any serious way (we really should “run” to the sacrament whenever we need it, even if we need it multiple days in a row!). But if this person is consistently falling again and again, it is likely they not only need Confession, but also to put greater effort into removing the vice underlying such individual sins. God wants to help them do this.

In this case, a practical “plan of attack” would be to give up sweets, or to fast from snacks in between meals, or even to give up other sensible pleasures like television or music. Since temperance has to do with all sensible pleasures, any sacrifice of sensible pleasure in one area will enable one to better fight against attachments to sensible pleasure in another area.

Similarly, if someone struggles with a lack of patience with a loved one, they should realize how patience is called for in all kinds of circumstances, wherever little difficulties and sadnesses can be found. One will thus find it helpful to intentionally endure little discomforts and setbacks throughout the day, like slow drivers, or annoying sounds, or making mistakes, seeing these as opportunities provided by God to make up for impatience, and grow in patience.

The more intensely such acts are done, humbly recognizing one’s own weaknesses and need for grace, while motivated by the love of God and confident in His help, the more one will gradually find real change in one’s life, growing in virtue. The point is not that everything depends on us to become saints – ultimately, Christ’s grace sanctifies us, making us like Him, and this is why we need the sacraments – but that Christ demands our cooperation in this process, since we are reasonable and free beings. His “grace builds on nature,” and can only stably and fully flourish in us when it finds no moral obstacles. Thus, St. Thomas Aquinas called penance the “door to the virtues.”

Whatever our particular struggles, let’s ask Our Lady for light, and to help us keep up the fight!

God bless,  
Fr. Tim

# Easter Memorial Flowers

Ascension Catholic Church invites all parishioners to consider a memorial flower contribution in name of deceased loved ones for Easter. A listing of names will be placed in the Easter Sunday (April 17) bulletin and all will be remembered in the Easter Masses. If you would like to participate, please fill out the form below, cut it out, put it in an envelope and drop it in the collection basket (or place in the IN BOX at the office). An offering of \$20.00 will assist in decoration of the sanctuary and church for Easter.

I wish to make a contribution to the Easter Memorial Flower Fund.  
In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In order for names to appear in the Easter bulletin, this form must be returned by 3 pm 4/6/2021.

## What did Jesus write in the ground, and why?

Ultimately we will be perfectly sure in heaven, but here are some important quotes from the Tradition to help us meditate on this fascinating moment:

**Alcuin:** The ground denotes the human heart, which yields the fruit either of good or of bad actions: the finger jointed and flexible, discretion. He instructs us then, when we see any faults in our neighbors, not immediately and rashly to condemn them, but after searching our own hearts to begin with, to examine them attentively with the finger of discretion... This is like our Lord; while His eyes are fixed, and He seems attending to something else, He gives the bystanders an opportunity of retiring: a tacit admonition to us to consider always both before we condemn a brother for a sin, and after we have punished him, whether we are not guilty ourselves of the same fault, or others as bad.

**Bede:** His writing with His finger on the ground perhaps showed, that it was He who had written the law on stone.

**Gregory the Great:** For he who judges not himself first, cannot know how to judge correctly in the case of another. For though He know what the offense is, from being told, yet He cannot judge of another's deserts, who supposing himself innocent, will not apply the rule of justice to himself.

**Augustine:** Thus smitten then with the voice of justice, as with a weapon, they examine themselves, find themselves guilty, and one by one retire: And they which heard it, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest. (The more guilty of them, perhaps, or those who were more conscious of their faults...) There were left however two, the pitiable, and the pitiful, And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst: the woman, you may suppose, in great alarm, expecting punishment from one in whom no sin could be found. But He who had repelled her adversaries with there word of justice, lifted on her the eyes of mercy, and asked; When Jesus had lifted Himself up, and saw none but the woman, He said to her, Woman, where are these your accusers? Has no man condemned you? She said, No man, Lord. We heard above the voice of justice; let us hear now that of mercy: Jesus said to her, Neither do I condemn you; I, who you feared would condemn you, because You found no fault in me.

What then Lord? Do You favor sin? No, surely. Listen to what follows, Go, and sin no more. So then our Lord condemned sin, but not the sinner. For did He favor sin, He would have said, Go, and live as you will: depend on my deliverance: howsoever great your sins be, it matters not: I will deliver you from hell, and its tormentors. But He did not say this. Let those attend, who love the Lord's mercy, and fear His truth. Truly, Gracious and righteous is the Lord.

# 4/3 Photo Update

ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, THE CONFIRMATION CLASS AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP MET TOGETHER FOR AN EVENING OF SERVICE. THEY WORKED TOGETHER TO MAKE BAGGED LUNCHES FOR THE HOMELESS AS PART OF WARM NIGHTS AND MADE NO-SEW FLEECE BLANKETS TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO LOCAL HOMELESS SHELTERS.



*Also....*

ON SUNDAY, MARCH 26, THE CONFIRMATION CLASS TOOK PART IN A HALF-DAY RETREAT AS A PART OF THEIR PREPARATION TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION. THEIR DAY INCLUDED MASS, ADORATION, FUN AND GAMES, DINNER, AND TALKS BY RELIGIOUS SISTERS FROM THE SERVANTS OF THE LORD AND THE VIRGIN OF MATARA (SSVM). PLEASE KEEP THE STUDENTS IN YOUR PRAYERS AS THEY APPROACH THEIR CONFIRMATION ON MAY 28TH.



Congratulations to our raffle winner,  
*Yvette Bates!*