



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

OFFICE HOURS: Monday & Tuesday 9:30-3:30pm, Wednesday 9:30-4:30pm | Closed for lunch 12:30-1:00pm

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Timothy Daniel

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

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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Luke 15:10

September 11, 2022 | Fax: (301) 805-5053 | Email: office@ascensionbowie.org | www.ascensionbowie.org

➤➤➤➤ Around Ascension <<<<<

MASS INTENTIONS (September 12-18, 2022)

Monday 9:00am: +Marilyn Kneval

Tuesday 9:00am: +Donald Tayman

Wednesday 9:00am: +Paul Edger

Friday 9:00am: +Catherine Jolliffe

Saturday 9:00am: Special Intention

Saturday 4:00pm: +Mrs. Fansisca Aloysious

Sunday 8:00am: Christina & Gianni Peri

Sunday 10:00am: Parishioners

Sunday 12:00pm: Special Intention

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

Congratulations to our raffle winner,
Nancy Muldoon

Religious Education Registration is Open!

NEW THIS YEAR: TWO OPTIONS FOR RELIGIOUS ED

TRADITIONAL RELIGIOUS ED

- Grades K - 8
- Two year sacramental preparation classes for Penance/First Communion (grades 1&2) and Confirmation (grades 7&8)
- Trained volunteer catechists utilize *Christ Our Life*, a textbook based curriculum, to aid in fostering children's love of God while providing a rich knowledge of our Catholic faith
- Schedule (K-7):
 - 10:00am Sunday Mass (attend with family)
 - 11:00-12:15pm Class
- 8th grade Confirmation meets Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm

****For grades 7&8, registration is only available for the traditional program**

FOR MORE INFORMATION (COST, START DATES, ETC.) AND TO REGISTER:

<https://ascensionbowie.org/religious-education>

<https://ascensionbowie.org/catechesis-of-the-good-shepherd>

Greetings from Fr. Tim

Dear Parishioners,

Today all the readings go combine to discuss God's mercy, but here I want to draw a few extra points from our second reading, from St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy. He writes:

I am grateful to him who has strengthened me, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he considered me trustworthy in appointing me to the ministry. I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and arrogant, but I have been mercifully treated because I acted out of ignorance in my unbelief. Indeed, the grace of our Lord has been abundant, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Of these I am the foremost. But for that reason I was mercifully treated, so that in me, as the foremost, Christ Jesus might display all his patience as an example for those who would come to believe in him for everlasting life. To the king of ages, incorruptible, invisible, the only God, honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Notice how Paul praises God for his mercy while pointing to himself as an extreme example: having persecuted the first Christians, thinking them a heretical and blasphemous sect, it was only upon meeting the risen Christ that Paul realized he was in fact the "foremost of sinners," actually fighting the divine Messiah and His Body, the Church: "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?", Jesus asked. Paul's argument is, if God has had mercy on me, He can have mercy on anyone! He is encouraging Timothy, a young bishop, to remember this.

But also note that Paul claims to have "acted out of ignorance in [his] unbelief"; he indeed believed he was doing God's work, even if in reality he was not. Now while this may have been why God was especially patient and merciful with Paul, should we say that this removed all consequences for Paul's sins? No. Paul himself still recognizes the damage he did, and elsewhere sees his toilsome missionary work as a way of paying off a large "debt" to God (Rom 1:5-8; cf. 1 Cor 15:9-10). This is significant because, while Paul knows that Christ alone has "redeemed" the world by "paying the price" with His innocent, divine blood (cf. Gal 3:13; 1 Cor 6:20, etc.), nevertheless, Paul sees himself as still needing to cooperate in this work of redemption.

From these two points we can learn a lot. First, in pointing to himself as a prime example of God's mercy, it is significant that Paul doesn't forget who he was before meeting Christ. It is not recommended that we dwell on past sins once confessed, since we can at times struggle to accept the fact that God has forgiven us and given us the grace we need to pursue holiness, but nevertheless, like Paul, we should remember how Christ has saved us our lives, preventing us from going down wrong paths. Such memory keeps us humble, grateful, and prevents laxity.

Secondly, whether we are fully culpable or not for all our sins, it is nonetheless important to see that all sins have an objectively negative effect on ourselves and on the world, and that we need to cooperate in their undoing even after Christ has forgiven us. If I steal a car, for example, Christ forgives me when I make sincere use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation; but there is still the problem that someone is missing their car! And there is also the problem that I have deepened the vice of greed by my act of theft. I will therefore need not only to be forgiven in Confession, but also to cooperate with my newfound state of grace, growing in generosity by perhaps giving alms, or by purposefully helping others; Christ's grace will help heal my vice and help me grow in virtue. But I will also need to see that the stolen car is returned to its owner. If I cannot do this without revealing the fact that I was the thief (I am not obligated to reveal my identity, since what is confessed remains secret, between me and God!), then I need to find some other way for the car to be returned; and if it is absolutely impossible to return the car (for example, I drove it in a high-speed chase and it ended up in a lake, after I jumped out and escaped) then I need to make restitution by arranging for a new car or its equivalent in money to be sent to the owner. If this also is impossible (for example, the owner has died in the meantime), then I can make a donation of the same amount to the owner's heir, or if that too is impossible, then to the poor. Somehow, the unjust disorder my sin caused must be rectified; we call this restitution (see *Catechism* 2412).

In any case, the point is clear: forgiveness of sin, restitution, and growing in virtue are distinct things. Paul gives us a little insight today into the way God has mercy on us all, while inviting us to help rebuild the world with His grace.

God bless,
Fr. Tim

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Interested in becoming Catholic, need a refresher on the basics, or still need to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation or First Holy Communion? Interested adults please contact Fr. Tim at danielt@adw.org to find out more about the process which will begin in September.

In Need of Volunteers for Sunday Donuts

Have you enjoyed the return of Sunday donuts?! We are still looking for volunteers to help our parish enjoy our beautiful patio and parents to reward their children! 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 for signup details. This is a very low time commitment with a huge reward - thank you to all who have and will help!

➤➤➤➤ Middle School Events ◀◀◀◀

Back to School Bonfire

Monday, September 26 | 7:00-9:00pm

S'mores, bonfire, and new school year games

Dropoff: Firepit (behind St. Michael's/CCD building)

Pickup: Church



Fall Fest Retreat

Friday, October 14 | 4:30-9:30pm

Join your friends from Ascension and Sacred Heart for a fall fest of fun with the Sister Servants of the Lord (our beloved Blue Nuns), pizza, a corn maze, evening reflection, and hay ride at Montpelier Farms.

The cost will be \$10 in cash and you must sign up in advance.

Please email admin@women-serving-women.com to register and any parents wishing to help chaperone are more than welcome!

PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK

Allen Barber, Francis Barnes, Mary Ann Boyer, Laura Chesnick, Al Cline, Rosita Dietrich, Elizabeth Dinsmore, David Divine, Cynthia Graham, Beverlee Lee, Robert Milburn, Ida Mullikin, Mary Murphy, Jean Mosby, Norma Perry, Norma Raffaele, Robert Raffaele Jr., GERALYN Roberson, Mickey Ryan, Bert Nemeth, Sr. Vincent de Paul OSF, and Amber Wist.

Death Announcements & Funeral Arrangements

For an up-to-date listing of parish funerals, please visit ascensionbowie.org/funerals.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



Ascension Family Night: Friday, September 16

Join us for next Ascension Family Night on Friday, September 16! We will begin with Evening Prayer at 5:30pm in the Church, 6pm Potluck Dinner in Bates Hall, and then 6:45pm games/activities outside for children with a talk for adults in Bates Hall.



This time Dr. John Grabowski will present: What is the Christian Response to Gender Ideology? Where does gender ideology come from? What is it doing in our culture -- in medicine, schools, sports, entertainment, and law? Above all, how we are called to respond as Christians to this set of ideas, as well as to those impacted by it? Dr. Grabowski is Ordinary Professor of Moral Theology/Ethics at the Catholic University of America and author of numerous articles and books, including his most recent, *Unraveling Gender: The Battle Over Sexual Difference*. He and his wife served the Pontifical Council for the Family under Pope Benedict XVI, and in 2015 he was appointed by Pope Francis to serve as an expert at the Synod of Bishops on the Family.

High School Youth Min: Back in AC'Tion

With the start of the new school year comes a not so new name for our high school youth ministry: ACT (Ascension Catholic Teens). This fall we will be having biweekly youth group meetings (on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays), with plans for outings, trip, and events over the academic year. All high school students are welcome to join us at our next youth group, September 21 from 7-9pm. Join our flocknote group at any time via <https://ascensionbowie.flocknote.com/ACT> to stay up-to-date.

Paint Nite 2: September 17 @5pm

\$30 (includes Taco Dinner, Snack, Drink, Desert) | Paint 6-8pm | See previous bulletins to register