



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21 & 22, 2019

Ascension Catholic Parish

Sharing the Spirit Together in Christ

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A model of faith for us

Do you hold on to the promises of God at all times, especially when you are faced with uncertainty or adversity? The prophet Isaiah spoke words of hope in a hopeless situation for Israel. When Ahaz, the apostate king of Judah and heir to the throne of David (735 B.C.) was surrounded by forces that threatened to destroy him and his people, God offered him a sign to reassure him that God would not abandon the promise he made to David and his descendants. King Ahaz, however, had lost hope in God and refused to ask for a sign of favor. God, nonetheless, gave a sign to assure his people that he would indeed give them a Savior who would rule with peace and righteousness (Isaiah 7:11ff). Like the prophet Isaiah we are called "in hope to believe against hope" (Romans 4:18) that God can and will fulfill all his promises.



Joseph, a just and God-fearing man, did not wish to embarrass or punish his espoused wife, Mary when he discovered that she was pregnant. To all appearances she had broken their solemn pledge to be faithful and chaste to one another. Joseph, no doubt took this troubling matter to God in prayer. He was not hasty to judge or to react with hurt and anger. God rewarded him not only with guidance and consolation, but with the divine assurance that he had indeed called Joseph to be the husband of Mary and to assume a mission that would require the utmost faith, confidence, and trust in Almighty God. Joseph believed in the divine message to take Mary as his wife and to accept the child in her womb as the promised Messiah.

Like Mary, Joseph is a model of faith for us. He is a faithful witness and servant of God's unfolding plan of redemption. Are you ready to believe in the promises of God, even when faced with perplexing circumstances and what seems like insurmountable problems? God has not left us alone, but has brought us his only begotten Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let us celebrate Christmas, the feast of the Incarnation, with joyful hearts and let us renew our faith and hope in God and in his redeeming work. Don Schwager - www.dailyscripture.net

Mass Times:

Weekday Masses:

Monday - Saturday:
9:00 AM

Tuesday - Friday:
6:30 PM

Wednesday: *Mother of Perpetual Help Novena at 6:15 PM*

Weekend Masses:

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday:
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM,
12:00 PM & 4:00 PM

Reconciliation:

Tuesday - Saturday:
8:30 AM - 8:55 AM

Tuesday - Friday:
6:00 PM - 6:25 PM

Saturday:
4:00 PM - 4:45 PM

Sunday:
7:00 AM - 7:45 AM

By Appointment

Adoration & Benediction:

Monday - Friday:
9:30 AM - 10:00 AM

First Friday:
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
(Sacred Heart Novena & Benediction)



Christmas Eve - 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 8:00 pm, 10:00 pm & Midnight
Christmas Day - 8:00 am, 10:00 am & 12:00 pm
New Year's Eve - 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm
New Year's Day - 8:00 am, 10:00 am & 12:00 pm

9:00 am Mass will be celebrated on December 26th, 27th, 31st, January 2nd & 3rd.
There will be no 6:30 pm Mass on December 26th, 27th, January 2nd & 3rd.

Christmas Office Hours

Closed at Noon on December 24th, 27th, 30th & 31st
Closed on December 25th, 26th & January 1st
Regular office hours resume Thursday, January 2nd.



Catechesis Corner

(For the week of Dec 21-27, 2019)



Year-End Giving

If you are planning on making a financial contribution to our Parish before the end of this year, it must be received in the collection or post marked by December 31, 2019 in order to receive a charitable tax receipt for 2019 tax returns. Thank you for your generous support of Ascension Catholic Parish this year. May God bless you abundantly.



Consecration to the Holy Family

On the Feast of the Holy Family, Saturday, December 28th, families of our Parish are invited to come together to consecrate themselves under the protection of the Holy Family at the 5:00 PM Mass. A guide to help prepare your family during this coming week can be picked up at the Knight's table in the Narthex after Mass. A reception hosted by the Knights will be held after the Mass and all are welcome.

"The Great O's"

There is something radical that is happening in our liturgy as the last few days of Advent remain. It is something totally unique for the liturgical year. They are called properly the "Weekdays of Advent".

The ancient tradition of our Rite reflects the spirit of these days with its many titles for the corresponding day, which is always a prayer. You may hear these prayers at Mass or use them in your daily prayers:

Dec. 17: O Wisdom!: This prayer speaks of Christ as the true way to act in the world.

Dec. 18: O Adonai!: This prayer speaks of God as revealing himself as glory, as He revealed himself to Moses

Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse!: This prayer speaks of God as truly close to us, and coming from a real culture and tribe

Dec. 20: O Key of David!: This prayer speaks of how God is the key to everything. He opened the way for salvation for all humans by being one of us.

Dec. 21: O Morning Star!: This speaks of how Christ is like the first glimpse of sun in the morning that takes away the darkness.

The "Great O's" and their full texts are available on the internet.

We leave you with the last prayer for today and tomorrow. Pray them with your families and friends as best you can:

*Dec. 22: O King of the nations! And their desire, the cornerstone making both one!
Come and save the human race, which you fashioned from dirt!*

Dec. 23: O Emmanuel! Our king and our lawgiver, the hope of the nations and their Saviour! Come and deliver us, O Lord our God!

Food for Families - SSVP Store Card Food Drive

This Advent, there are many ways to support the Society of St. Vincent de Paul during their Advent Food drive. You may bring your non-perishable food item with you to Mass. Also consider purchasing a Knights of Columbus Store Card for \$25 to then donate to St. Vincent de Paul. A tax receipt will be provided. Thank you for your support.

Mass Intentions

December 21st - 27th, 2019

Day	Date	Time	Intentions
Saturday	December 21	9:00 AM	Domenico Stante (+)
Saturday	December 21	5:00 PM	Joe Lokanc (+)
Sunday	December 22	8:00 AM	Francis D'Costa (+)
Sunday	December 22	10:00 AM	Loreto De Guzman (+)
Sunday	December 22	12:00 PM	Mass for Parishioners
Sunday	December 22	4:00 PM	SI of Azichoba Family
Monday	December 23	9:00 AM	SI of Lawrence Tseu
Tuesday	December 24	All Masses	Masses for Parishioners
Wednesday	December 25	All Masses	Masses for Parishioners
Thursday	December 26	9:00 AM	Mike & Lucia Sorbara (+)
Friday	December 27	9:00 AM	SI of Ingles Family

Toonie Collection for the Building Fund (Every 1st Weekend)



For the last seven months, our members of the Building Fund committee and some volunteers have done a great job of standing at the exit doors with the collection boxes. Thank you for your generosity. When Bishop McGrattan visited us a few weeks ago, he suggested we try something new instead, such as a second collection. **Starting the weekend of January 4th/5th**, there will be a 2nd collection on the first weekend of every month and we will call it a **"Toonie Collection for the Building Fund."** This will replace people standing with the collection boxes after Mass. Please note Toonies are only a suggestion, every little bit helps. Thank you!

Pre-Authorized Donor Program (PAD)

No more writing cheques or scrambling for cash for the collection basket.

Ascension Catholic Parish has an easy way for families to help us with our Parish operations and mortgage. Your donations not only go towards meeting Ascension's daily operations but also helps our parishioners directly through our ministry work. How? Just complete a Pre-Authorized Donor Debit/Credit form specifying the amount of your financial support and the chosen payment date. Forms are available in the Narthex and on our website. Just **"SET & FORGET"** – we thank you.

SSVP Angel Tree Thank You!

Finance Report - at a glance...

Gifts to the Parish	December 2019	
	Week	50
Offerings for the Week:	10-Dec-19	16-Dec-19
	Last Week	YTD
<u>General Collections:</u>		
Collections	8,791	582,812
Operating Cost	20,400	769,400
Over / (Shortfall) YTD Operating Cost	(11,609)	(186,588)
<u>Central Fund Loan (Mortgage):</u>		
Building Fund Collections	7,123	443,327
2019 Pledges	750	137,714
Donor Wall	0	142,500
Weekly Loan Payment	12,400	602,350
Over / (Shortfall) YTD Loan Payment	(4,527)	121,191
<u>Diocesan Annual Campaign:</u>		
Together In Action		
2019 Collections	178	48,811
2019 Target		57,093
Remaining towards 2019 Goal		8,282
<u>Collections in our Diocese:</u>		
Mission Mexico	2,020	2,020
Holy Childhood	50	12,944

Thank you for your contributions to our Angel Tree program, with your generosity the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul was able to deliver 40 Christmas Hampers. These hampers helped 93 adults and 141 children enjoy a Christmas dinner and gifts for the children. These families are very grateful for your compassion.

Christmas Altar Display



We are looking for donations to help offset the cost of the decorations needed for the Altar at Christmas. To help, you may make a donation in the name of a deceased loved and we will include them in our prayers for the Christmas Season. Please fill out a donation envelope located next to the bulletins in the Narthex and place in the collection basket or drop it off at the office by December 22nd.

Servers Needed for Christmas & New Year's Masses

We need all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Ushers, Altar Servers, Lectors and Greeters to serve at our Christmas and New Year's Masses. Please sign up on the schedule in the Narthex. We are especially in need for our Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and both Masses on New Year's Day.

Parish Staff

- Pastor: **Fr. Avinash Colaco**
- Associates:
Fr. Rodel Abanto
Fr. Adrian Martens
- Deacon: **Patrick Woo**
- Secretary: **Nancy Mitchell**
- Receptionist: **Angelina Ling**
- Sacraments: **Monica Purnama**
- Baptisms: **Jenn Pashula**
- Youth: **Vicki Hayles**
- Bookkeeper: **Nora Alzamora Torres**
- Custodian: **Jose Gil**
- Evening Staff: **David Cadegan**
- Resource Coordinator: **Sharron Robinson (Volunteer Position)**
- Office Assist (**Volunteer Position**)

Office Hours

Monday to Friday: 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Lunch: 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM

Sacraments

Baptism for Infants: Baptisms are celebrated on the **2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays** of each month after the 12:00 PM Mass at 1:30 PM. Please call Jenn at 403.275.2240 or email baptism@ascensionparish.ca to register.

Baptism Preparation Class: Preparation classes take place on the **1st Saturday** of each month at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary. Parents are to attend the class at least 3 weeks prior to the Baptism Celebration. Please call Jenn at 403.275.2240 or email baptism@ascensionparish.ca to register.

First Holy Communion (Gr. 2 & up): Registration is closed for 2019. Please register your child in September 2020.

First Reconciliation (Gr. 2 & up): Registration is closed for 2019. Please register your child in September 2020.

Confirmation (Gr. 6 & up): Registration is closed for 2019. Please register your child in October 2020.

Marriage: By appointment, 6 months in advance. Call the Church office.

Marriage Preparation Class: 3rd Friday & Saturday of each month (some exceptions apply). Registration fee is \$100 per couple and includes course materials, snacks and lunch. To register please email William: marriageprepatascension@gmail.com

RCIA: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
For more information contact the Church office.

RCIA SPONSORS: We are seeking sponsors to assist RCIA catechumens as they become familiar with the Christian way of life. Contact Rob at robkehrig@gmail.com for information.

Anointing of the Sick & Dying: Call the Parish office at 403.275.2240

Outside of the office hours, please call 403.275.2240.

When prompted, press 2 for Fr. Avinash, press 3 for Fr. Rodel, press 4 for Fr. Adrian (Thursdays & Fridays).

Please leave a detailed message. The priest will return your call.

Ministry Contacts

Sacraments

Baptism Preparation: Jenn Pashula | baptism@ascensionparish.ca
 Marriage Preparation: William Abenes | marriageprepatascension@gmail.com
 RCIA: Rob Kehrig | robkehrig@gmail.com
 Sacramental Preparation: Monica Purnama | sacraments@ascensionparish.ca

Parish Ministries

Building Fund Committee: Mark Holland | markholland@shaw.ca
 Collection Counters: DeeDee Hedley | ddhedley@shaw.ca
 Finance Council: Christina Dao | c_dc_d@hotmail.com
 Funeral Mass Coordinator: Jocelyn Mugleston | jmugle92@shaw.ca
 Funeral Lunch Committee: Irene Woytas | office@ascensionparish.ca
 Kitchen Ministry Coordinator: Twila Tayfel | tmtayfel@yahoo.com
 Parish Pastoral Council: Sandra Will-Krile | samandrafo@shaw.ca
 Pastoral Care: Virginia Rappel | virginia.rappel@gmail.com
 R.S.V.P.: Lucy Reyes | lucy.reyes@me.com
 Social Justice: Pat Brown | patricia.brown@shaw.ca
 Youth Ministry: Vicki Hayles | youth@ascensionparish.ca
 Volunteer Resource: Sharron Robinson | resource@ascensionparish.ca

Liturgy

Altar Servers: Isabel & Charlotte Woo | server@ascensionparish.ca
 Art & Environment: Maria San Miguel | let@shaw.ca
 Ex-ord. Ministers of Holy Communion: Nadia Oliverio | nadia.oliverio@shaw.ca
 Greeters: Eneyo Eyo | enevo_eyo@yahoo.com
 Lectors: Andrew Harich | harich0307@gmail.com
 Liturgy Committee: Holly Davidson | hollyd@telus.net
 Liturgical Mentor: Casey Plettell | cke13@hotmail.ca
 Music Ministry: Hoa Nguyen | music@ascensionparish.ca
 Sacristans: Holly Davidson | hollyd@telus.net
 Sacristy Care: James Chuah | jameschuah10248@gmail.com
 Ushers: Jonathan Dixon | jonathandixon1@mac.com
 Weekday Masses: Connie Raz | connieraz@gmail.com

Lay Ministries

Bible Study: Murray Britt | britmur127@gmail.com
 Catholic Women's League: Sheena Koett | cwl.ascension@gmail.com
 Knights of Columbus : Phil Fitzgerald | sk10065@kofc.ab.ca
 Legion of Mary: Garry Bahen | gbahen03@shaw.ca
 St. Vincent de Paul Society: Hamper Request | 587.755.3855
 St. Vincent de Paul Society: Davina Janssens | ssvp.ascension@gmail.com