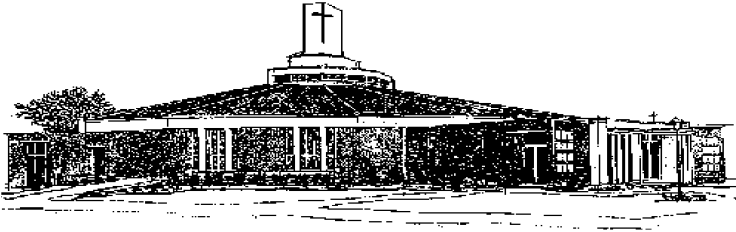


CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

2025 Woodman Drive Kettering, Ohio 45420

See next page



Sharing our Gifts Ministry Opportunities

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Catholic community of Ascension Parish, are drawn together by our love of Christ as the center of our lives, families, community and ministry. We commit ourselves to being a praying, caring, teaching, serving sign of God's presence to each other and to the world around us. We cooperate in building the Kingdom of God by:

- living our Catholic faith and nurturing its growth;*
- extending a spirit of welcome and belonging in our prayer, liturgy, sacrament, and mission;*
- accepting and cherishing the dignity of each person;*
- working in partnership with individuals, churches and communities in service to others.*

Ascension Pastoral Council

Table of Contents / Contacts at a Glance

PAGE	MINISTRY	CONTACT PERSON	PHONE NUMBER
15	Adult Faith Enrichment	Sister Carol Gaeke	253-5171
3	Altar Linens	Lyn Springer	293-5928
18	Ascension/Greenmont-Oak Park Community Church Partnership	Lois Keil	299-0257
11	Ascension School	Brent Devitt	254-5411
11	Ascension School PTO	Brent Devitt	254-5411
16	Athletics	Curtis Shiner	426-4723
9	Bingo	Ralph Hinders	299-2415
20	Bridge Group	Jim & Pat Martin	429-0809
10	Buildings and Grounds	Neil McManus	299-0997
3	Cantors	Dave Timpone	435-5657
5	Care of the Sick & the Elderly	Sister Agnes Kramer	253-5171
17	Catch the Building Spirit	Sue Koverman	430-1202
4	Children's Choir	Diane Larochelle	427-3827
14	Children's Initiation	Maryellen Fargey	254-0622
3	Children's Liturgy of the Word	Jane Fortener	299-4551
15	Christ Renews His Parish	Deacon Vic Hildebrand	253-5171
5	Coffee & Donuts	Cathy Magness	291-2827
18	Collaborative Outreach Planning Team (COPT)	Celine O'Neill	294-8366
3	Contemporary Ensemble	Peg Barnhart	901-5179
10	Education Ascension	Sue Graham	254-0622
6	Elizabeth Ministry	Charlene Kochensparger	291-9468
4	Eucharistic Ministers	Vera Stewart	299-7178
5	Fair Trade Sales	Cathy Magness	291-2827
12	Family Enrichment Programs	Sr. Carol Gaeke	253-5171
10	Festival	Tom Rafferty	299-8194
10	Financial Advisors	Chuck Kraft	426-0422
6	Funeral & Bereavement Ministry	Sister Agnes Kramer	253-5171
6	Funeral Luncheons	Jan to March Arlene Keller Jenny Sprauer Apr to Dec Sondra Gibbons	426-8690 320-1781 429-9257
20	Golf League	Dennis Grosjean	427-2550
7	Greeters	Patricia Steck	298-7306
12	Infant Baptism Preparation	Sister Agnes Kramer	253-5171
4	Lectors	Brian Campos	252-2022
3	Liturgy Planning Team	Tim Walker	293-3976

Table of Contents / Contacts at a Glance

(Continued)

PAGE	MINISTRY	CONTACT PERSON	PHONE NUMBER
12	Marriage Preparation - FOCCUS	Peg Brun Michele Devitt	252-6260 426-5394
15	Men's Fellowship	Mike Wager	435-5974
20	Men's Softball League	Roy Kellerman	426-5689
7	Network of Care	Sister Agnes Kramer	253-5171
7	Newcomer Registration	Sister Agnes Kramer	253-5171
7	Nursery	Sue Graham	254-0622
4	Petition Writers	Deacon Vic Hildebrand	253-5171
11	Planned Giving	Rod Springer	293-5928
7	Prayer Chain	Joyce Wolslegel	299-9268
13	RCIA	Deacon Vic Hildebrand	253-5171
13	Religious Education	Sue Graham	254-0622
18	Respect Life	Diane Stroud	298-4804
15	Sacrament Preparation	Diane Keller	320-9918
17	Scouts		
	Boy Scouts	Dan Fischer Terry Domer	296-0893 299-6919
	Cub Scouts	Jeff Bowling	427-1220
	Girl Scouts	Myrna Gazzero	427-3743
7	Senior Activities	Sister Agnes Kramer	253-5171
4	Servers	Deacon Vic Hildebrand	253-5171
11	Sharing Our Gifts	Peg Militello	299-9207
15	Small Christian Communities	Deacon Vic Hildebrand	253-5171
19	St Mary Development Corporation Luncheons	Wendi Mulligan	256-0475
19	St. Vincent De Paul Society	Ralph Pinney	426-2559
12	Technology	Brent Devitt	254-5411
4	Traditional Choir	Diane Larochelle	427-3827
18	Twinning with Nuestra Senora De La Luz	Steve Mueller Lois Keil	299-8035 299-0257
5	Ushers	Charlie Simon	299-3112
17	Vocations	Joe Ollier	253-5171
8	Wedding Rehearsals	Brenda Kosir	426-1533
8	Women's Guild	Phyllis Hildebrand	435-7114
8	Quilters	Helen Zacharias	293-4977
8	Baptismal Robes	Nancy Kelble	254-7298
9	Holiday Bazaar	Ruth Jacob Tara Koenig	298-3871 258-3971
9	Scrip Program	Judy McManus Phyllis Hildebrand	299-0997 435-7114
16	Youth Ministry	Joe Ollier	253-5171

PARISH STAFF

Parish Office • 253-5171

Pastor: Rev. Chris Worland (ext 114)

cworland@ascensionkettering.org

Pastoral Associate: Deacon Vic Hildebrand (ext. 110)

vhildebrand@ascensionkettering.org

Deacon Dan Kraus • 306-2416

dkraus2@woh.rr.com

Parish Life Director: Sister Carol Gaeke. O.P. (ext.113)

cgaeke@ascensionkettering.org

Pastoral Associate: Sr. Agnes Kramer, C.D.P. (ext 111)

akramer@ascensionkettering.org

Business Manager: Tom Platfoot (ext 109)

tplatfoot@ascensionkettering.org

Parish Secretaries: Connie Keck (ext 100)

ckeck@ascensionkettering.org

Wendi Mulligan (ext.101)

wmulligan@ascensionkettering.org

School Principal: Brent Devitt 254-5411

devittb@ascensionket.org

School Secretary: Connie Wahle • 254-5411

Coordinator of Religious Education: Sue Graham • 254-0622

Grahams@ascensionket.org

Coordinator of Youth Ministry: Joe Ollier (ext 107)

jollier@ascensionkettering.org

Music Director: Dave Timpone 435-5657

roblynlor@earthlink.net

Parish Website: www.ascensionkettering.org

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Daily Liturgy:	Monday - Friday	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Liturgies:	Saturday	5:00 p.m.
	Sunday	7:00, 9:00, 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon
Holy Day Liturgies:	9:00 a.m., 12 noon and 7:00 p.m.	
Confessions:	Saturday	4:00 - 4:45 p.m.
	By appointment	Call parish office
Eucharistic Adoration	Second Monday of each month	7:00-9:00 p.m.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Pastoral Council acts as an advisory board to the pastor and introduces concerns that are expressed by the parish community. The pastor and the pastoral staff share the decision making process in the parish by consulting the parish community through the pastoral council on a monthly basis.

Pastoral Council Members are:

Pat Bennington	3711 Red Oak Ct.	45430	427-0379
Nancy Blatt *	1953 Maple Ln	45432	426-4734
Joanne Boston	1525 Forrer Blvd.	45420	252-8532
Maria Doepker	4659 Parklawn Dr.	45440	428-0706
Frank Hemmert	3509 High Point Ct.	45440	427-0899
Cathy Magness	1318 Quail Bend Circle	45429	291-2827
Dave Mezera	1934 Bellbrook Woods Ct.	45305	848-8678
Mark Olson	4039 Meridell Dr	45430	427-0554

* *President*

A representative from each of the Parish Commissions are also represented on Pastoral Council.

Commission Representatives are:

(Discipleship)

Brenda Kosir 393 Mulberry Tr. 45440 426-1533

(Education)

Vacant Position

(Hospitality & Welcoming)

Pat Steck 4163 Wagner Rd. 45440 298-7306

(Stewardship)

Vacant Position

(Worship)

Jane Fortener 1749 Willamet Rd. 45429 299-4551

WORSHIP COMMISSION

Ministry Core Strategy: *Deepen our relationship with Christ as a Eucharistic community through engaging worship, inclusive and meaningful sacramental life, a commitment to prayer, and catechesis of the entire community*

LITURGY PLANNING TEAM

Tim Walker, 293-3976

This group plans liturgies in accord with each liturgical season - Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time. They also coordinate setup of seasonal decorations in the church.

ALTAR LINENS Lyn Springer, 293-5928

Members help launder purificators and hand towels used at Mass.

CANTORS Dave Timpone, 435-5657

The Cantor is the "psalmist," and also leads the assembly in song during various parts of the Mass. This ministry requires certain vocal abilities.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Jane Fortener, 299-4551

During the Liturgy of the Word at the 9:00 and 10:30 Masses on Sundays, all children in grades 1-3 are invited to participate in Children's Liturgy of the Word. The children go in procession from the main assembly to the Witzman Center where they hear the Sunday readings, sing responses, and offer petitions, at their level of understanding. Volunteers are always welcome to assist, and after training, to help lead the Scripture reflections.

CONTEMPORARY ENSEMBLE Peg Barnhart, 901-5179

Any parishioner, 14 years or older, who enjoys singing or playing a musical instrument is invited to join. The choir sings at the 9:00 am Mass on alternate Sundays from September through May, and also at a Christmas Eve

Mass. The ensemble practices on alternate Tuesday nights and for an hour prior to the Sunday Mass at which it will participate.

TRADITIONAL CHOIR Diane Larochelle, 427-3827
Adults and high school students are invited to join the traditional choir. They provide musical leadership at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Masses and practice on Thursday nights from September through May .

CHILDREN'S CHOIR Diane Larochelle, 427-3827
The children's choir is made up of boys and girls from grade 4 through high school. They lead the music at the noon Mass once a month during the school year. Practice takes place Thursday evenings.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS Vera Stewart, 299-7178
Men and women from high school age and up assist the priest to distribute Holy Communion at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. To be commissioned for this ministry, the lay minister must be Confirmed.

LECTORS Brian Campos, 252-2022
Men and women from high school age on up proclaim the Word at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days (1st & 2nd Readings). To be commissioned for this ministry, the lay minister must be Confirmed. This ministry requires certain vocal skills.

PETITION WRITERS Vera Stewart, 299-7178
A group of parishioners rotate turns at writing the intercessory prayers for Mass. They follow liturgical norms as they formulate the intercessions according to the needs of the Church, world and local community.

SERVERS Deacon Vic Hildebrand, 253-5171
Young men and women, grades 5 and up, assist the priest at Sunday Masses. Adult men and women serve the 7:00 am Sunday Mass. Through his or her own participation, prayerfulness, and dedication, the server is expected to be

a leader in the community's prayer. Servers are scheduled about once every four to six weeks. Training sessions for new servers are scheduled at the beginning of each school year.

USHERS Charlie Simon, 299-3112

Men and women from high school age on up assist people in many ways before, during and after Sunday Liturgies.

HOSPITALITY AND WELCOMING COMMISSION

Ministry Core Strategy: *Foster a welcoming, intentional, and friendly community without strangers through care for our members in need, celebration of our common life, and shared ownership of our identity.*

CARE OF THE SICK AND THE ELDERLY

Sister Agnes Kramer, 253-5171

Ministers to the sick take Holy Communion to the sick, homebound and parishioners in nursing homes, on a regular basis. Communal Anointing of the Sick is scheduled a few times during the year; individual Anointing of the Sick can be scheduled when a person is seriously ill or facing surgery. Please be sure to let the rectory office (253-5171) know when a family member enters a nursing home, or if you have a homebound member who wishes to receive Holy Communion or Anointing of the Sick.

COFFEE & DONUTS Cathy Magness, 291-2827

Coffee and donuts are served on the second Sunday of each month after the 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Masses (September through April). Come and meet more of your Ascension Family in the Witzman Center. Contact Cathy to volunteer for this ministry.

FAIR TRADE SALES Cathy Magness, 291-2827

Fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate are sold on the second

Sunday of each month after the 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Masses (September through May) in conjunction with the Coffee and Donut Sundays. Buying fair trade items promotes our Catholic Social Teaching as the majority of the money from the sales goes to the small farm co-ops in Third World countries. To volunteer for this ministry, contact Cathy.

ELIZABETH MINISTRY

Charlene Kochensparger, 291-9468

Elizabeth Ministry supports families who are experiencing the joys and trials of pregnancy and childbirth. Any woman who is in need of extra support during pregnancy or because of the loss of a pregnancy can call us for help. We make meals, visit, and pray for mothers in the parish.

We need people who are willing to pray for expectant moms during their pregnancies or while they wait to adopt and ministers who are willing to create homemade gifts to give to those celebrating baptism. If this ministry speaks to you, please call Charlene Kochensparger for more info at 291-9468.

FUNERAL AND BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Sister Agnes Kramer, 253-5171

Parishioners gather at funeral Masses to support the family by presence, prayer, and singing; by assisting the priest at the altar as servers and by serving as Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors as needed. Bereavement programs are offered as needed for those who have lost a loved one in death.

FUNERAL LUNCHEONS

Jan-March: Arlene & Jerry Keller, 426-8690;

Jenny and Bud Sprauer, 320-1781

April-December: Owen and Sondra Gibbons, 429-9257
osgibbo@juno.com

We are a group of 80+ volunteers that help serve and facilitate luncheons after a loved one's funeral. Our

purpose is to relieve families of the burden of post funeral congregating by providing a warm and welcoming atmosphere to nourish themselves and share time with family and friends.

GREETERS Patricia Steck, 298-7306

Men and women from high school age on up show our hospitality by offering a friendly smile and a welcoming word as people enter the church for Liturgy. If you have fifteen minutes each month to help before mass with this ministry, please contact Pat Steck.

SENIOR ACTIVITIES Sister Agnes Kramer, 253-5171

Activities for Seniors 55 and over will be offered occasionally throughout the year. Recommendations are always welcome. Details will be published in the Sunday bulletin and on Parish E-News.

NETWORK OF CARE Sister Agnes Kramer, 253-5171

This group is in contact with the sick and shut-in to offer support and reassurance, reach out to others in times of crisis and give support to those who have lost a loved one in death.

NEWCOMER REGISTRATION

Sister Agnes Kramer, 253-5171

Oversees registration of new members on the second Sunday of the month after the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses. Helps new members feel welcome and part of the parish. Makes them aware of and encourages participation in upcoming parish activities.

NURSERY Sue Graham, 254-0622

Located in the Witzman Center, the Nursery provides a safe environment, loving care and lots of fun for infants and toddlers age 6 months to 3 years old during the 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Masses.

PRAYER CHAIN Joyce Wolslegel, 299-9268

The prayer chain is a group of men and women who are

willing to pray for any person or intention at the request of a parish member. Anyone who can pray and faithfully call the next person in the chain is welcome to join. Any parishioner may request prayers by calling the chain coordinator or the parish office.

WEDDING REHEARSALS Brenda Kosir, 426-1533

Individuals and couples from the parish assist the priests and deacons by walking wedding parties through the wedding rehearsal. Rehearsals are generally on Friday evenings and volunteers usually commit to 2-4 rehearsals per year. A training session is held in the spring for new leaders. If you are interested in joining this team please contact Brenda Kosir at 426-1533

WOMEN'S GUILD

Phyllis Hildebrand, 435-1174, hildebrand100@hotmail.com

All women of the parish over 18 years of age are welcome to participate in any or all of the Women's Guild activities that contribute to the parish socially and/or financially. Activities include the annual Holiday Bazaar, Mother-Daughter Banquet and Women of the Year awards, quilting, funeral meat trays, 25th and 50th Wedding Anniversary Brunch, SCRIP sales and infant baptismal robes. We usually meet the first Wednesday of each month (Sept. through April) at 7:00 p.m. in the Witzman Center.

• **QUILTERS** Helen Zacharias, 293-4977

This group meets every Tuesday. Members come any time they can between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to work on a quilt that is raffled off in November each year at the Holiday Bazaar. Those interested in learning are welcome.

• **BAPTISMAL ROBES** Nancy Kelble, 254-7298

Those interested can help embroider the simple baptismal cloths given to each infant/child baptized at Ascension. All supplies and direction are provided.

• **HOLIDAY BAZAAR**

Ruth Jacob, 298-3871, Tara Koenig, 258-3971
Harvest of Values Bazaar is an annual gathering of crafters, held on the 2nd Saturday in November. This is Women’s Guild’s fund raiser for the year. Volunteers are needed to serve baked goods, refreshments and to sell at our own craft table. Baked goods and craft items are appreciated.

• **SCRIP PROGRAM**

Judy McManus, 299-0997, Phyllis Hildebrand, 435-7114
SCRIP is always available to use for your everyday purchases at restaurants, gas stations and other retailers. It costs you nothing extra to purchase these cards; however, the retailers give us a percentage from each sale, some up to 10%. Cards kept on hand include Kohl’s (can also be used to pay your account), Elder-Beerman, Bob Evans, Panera, Speedway (can be used with Speedy Rewards) and Kroger. Kroger can be reloaded if desired, using cash, check or credit card. Others are available from Great Lakes Scrip and received in less than one week. A partial list and order form are on the table in the narthex, with a complete list at “glscrip.com” on your computer. Women’s Guild has paid for many items that benefit Ascension. Call Judy McManus or Phyllis Hildebrand for more information.

STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

Ministry Core Strategy: *Grow our collective commitment to stewardship through a spirituality of gratitude and sharing of financial resources, care for our facilities, and the gift of time in service and leadership among one another.*

BINGO Ralph Hinders, 299-2415
Bingo is an enjoyable fund raiser that is held every

Thursday in Ascension's PAC. Proceeds go to Ascension's Education Fund.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS Neil McManus, 299-0997

The Buildings & Grounds Commission is responsible for maintaining the buildings and grounds of Ascension Parish. This commission maintains and updates a fifteen year plan of project concerns that affect the physical grounds and facilities.

EDUCATION ASCENSION Sue Graham, 254-0622

The purpose of the Education Fund is to provide a process for administering financial assistance to Ascension parishioners, employees, and students to: aid in the payment of tuition for elementary school, high school, and Religious Education participants; foster professional development; enhance educational programs; and meet any other need deemed appropriate within these guidelines. It is the intent of Ascension parish to assure that no child in the parish is denied the opportunity of religious education for lack of funds. For more information, go to www.ascensionkettering.org and click on Education Ascension Grants.

This committee meets regularly to review grant requests from teachers, catechists, and parishioners and Ascension tuition assistance to school and RE families.

FESTIVAL Tom Rafferty, 299-8194

The Ascension Festival is held annually on the fourth weekend in June beginning on Friday evening. Help is always needed with: planning, set-up, staffing the booths, clean-up. Working on this parish-wide event can be fun. You’ll meet a lot of happy people.

FINANCIAL ADVISORS Chuck Kraft, 426-0422

- Provide oversight/advice on financial matters
- Balance financial operating requirements within parish
- strengthen sacrificial giving programs

PLANNED GIVING Rod Springer, 293-5928

- Educate parishioners on merits of planned giving
- Provide educational opportunities on financial planning
- Establish long range plan to maintain awareness of planned giving.

SHARING OUR GIFTS Peg Militello, 299-9207

- Establish database of parishioner skills and means to utilize them
- Maintain parish awareness of ministry opportunities

EDUCATION AND FORMATION COMMISSION

Ministry Core Strategy: *Continue to strengthen our catechetical mission of education in faith across the generations through religious education, Catholic school, youth ministry, and adult formation in collaboration with other parishes, the Deanery, and local universities.*

ASCENSION SCHOOL Principal: Brent Devitt, 254-5411

Ascension School is a Catholic school dedicated to the promotion of gospel values and the education of the students of Ascension Parish. It exists to aid and support the parents in their responsibility to educate their children. There are many opportunities to get involved with our school as volunteers in the media center, lunchroom, office, technology lab, playground and tutoring.

PARENT/TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

Brent Devitt, 254-5411

The Parent/Teacher Organization aims to support the school and students with activities and special projects. The PTO meets on the third Tuesday of the months of September, November, March and May.

TECHNOLOGY Brent Devitt, 254-5411

Creates a technology plan for the Ascension School building in conjunction with the Ascension School and Religious Education staff and the Buildings and Grounds Commission.

INFANT BAPTISM PREPARATION

Sr. Agnes Kramer, 253-5171

This ministry is comprised of 3 teams of 2 couples who meet with parents/sponsors of infants and pre-school aged children to inform and instruct them in preparation for the Rite of Baptism. Sessions are held the first Sunday of February, April, June, August, October and December from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. in the Parish Office Building.

FAMILY ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Sr. Carol Gaeke, 253-5171

Develop and sponsor educational programs for parents of Ascension's children to allow them to better fulfill their role as the primary religious educators of their children; develop and sponsor enrichment programs for families of Ascension's children

MARRIAGE PREPARATION-FOCCUS

Peg Brun, 252-6260, Michele Devitt, 426-5394

FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Couple Communication Understanding and Study) is a part of the marriage preparation process for couples being married here in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. It is a widely used tool designed to help engaged couples understand and communicate openly about many things that are important to their relationship. The couple (answers a battery of questions) individually completes a survey online and a report is generated. Married couples from the parish, trained in the process, meet with the engaged couple to interpret the results of the FOCCUS. Couples involved in this ministry should have a marriage in good standing with the Church. They must complete training and are asked to commit to this ministry for two years.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Coordinator: Sue Graham, 254-0622

Three year olds through grade 8 students are invited to participate in the Religious Education Programs that meet regularly from September to May. The Early Childhood program (3, 4, 5 year olds and kindergarten) meets during the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sundays. Elementary grades (1-5) meet on Mondays, 4:15 - 5:30 p.m. Middle School grades (6-8) meet on Sundays, 10:15 - 11:45 a.m. **OR** Mondays, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Also, a variety of programs for parents occur throughout the year. To register a student or volunteer as either a catechist or assistant in any age group above or help in the fields of music, art, liturgy, call coordinator.

RCIA: RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Coordinator: Deacon Vic Hildebrand, 253-5171

The RCIA is a process for welcoming new members into the Roman Catholic Church. The process is open to all unbaptized persons, those baptized into other faith traditions, and to Catholics who wish to complete their own initiation through Confirmation. Many gifts are needed to facilitate the RCIA process.

We invite confirmed Catholics into a ministry which promises to make good use of your gifts, enables you to help others grow, and offers to help you better understand and grow in your own faith. Whatever your gifts, we will help you to choose an appropriate ministry within RCIA, and give you sufficient support to carry out that ministry.

- SPONSORS and members of sponsoring groups walk with the new persons, introducing them to the parish and sharing faith with them.
- HOSPITALITY FACILITATORS are responsible for welcoming persons at RCIA gatherings and setting up refreshments.
- CATECHISTS lead discussion of a particular area of Catholic faith drawn from the Sunday readings, sharing from both his / her own experience and the teachings of the Church.

CHILDREN'S INITIATION Maryellen Fargey, 254-0622

The children's initiation process, based on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, is a process of welcoming school-age children as new members in the Roman Catholic Church. The children's process is open to unbaptized school-age children, children baptized into other faith traditions, and baptized Catholic children who have not received formal religious education and wish to complete their initiation through First Communion and Confirmation. The children and their families are involved in the process.

- CATECHIST - teaches the catechetical sessions on the doctrinal theme drawn from the readings.
- DISMISSAL LEADER - leads the children from Mass after the homily and guides a reflection on the Scripture readings proclaimed at Mass.
- SPONSORING FAMILY - accompanies the children and their families to Mass, to monthly family sessions, and to other occasional parish functions.
- HOSPITALITY TEAM - provides a welcoming atmosphere and refreshments for the families.

FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST EUCHARIST

Each year, in cooperation with Ascension School and Religious Education Programs, Ascension sponsors parent sessions to assist parents in preparing their children for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Materials and guidelines are given to parents at these meetings. For information or to volunteer, contact the school at 254-5411 or the Religious Education Office at 254-0622.

CONFIRMATION

Each year, in cooperation with Ascension School and Religious Education Programs, Ascension sponsors a process for students in Grades 7 & up to prepare for Confirmation. Students also take part in various service opportunities; there are many opportunities for adults to volunteer as mentors/coordinators. Contact the School at 254-5411 or the Religious Education Office at 254-0622.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION Diane Keller, 320-9918
Evaluates and recommends Sacramental preparation processes with focus on Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation; strengthens parental involvement in the sacramental preparation of school age children.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH

Deacon Vic Hildebrand, 253-5171
Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) is a process designed to bring members of the parish closer together with Christ. It is an avenue for spiritual growth and friendship. Renewal weekends, given for parishioners by parishioners, are scheduled during the year. Dates are publicized in the parish bulletin. Attendees are invited, but are not required, to continue in a formation process that provides for deepened spiritual growth and fellowship.

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT Sr. Carol Gaeke, 253-5171
Plans programs to enrich adult knowledge and understanding of Catholic traditions and teachings. Programs include guest speakers, discussions, and special as well as social events.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP Mike Wager, 435-5974
Meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 8:00-9:00 a.m. in the Witzman Center. This group formed in response to the Annual Men's conference, "Answer the Call," held in Cincinnati each Spring. The format varies to include prayer, and topical discussions related to scripture as affects our role as Catholic Christian men in our families, work and the world.

SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

Deacon Vic Hildebrand, 253-5171
Provides opportunities for learning, prayer, mutual support and the shared experience of Christian living and society in a small group. Includes Bible study and prayer groups.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Joe Ollier, 253-5171 jollier@ascensionkettering.org
Ascension's Youth Ministry goals are to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus, to draw them into participation in the life of the Church community, and to foster their personal and spiritual growth.

JH Youth Ministry is open to all 7-8th grade parish youth and friends from Catholic and public schools. A variety of JH Socials are held monthly typically on a Friday or Saturday. Service learning projects are available through the year. Parents and high-school aged volunteers play an active role in facilitating these events.

High School Youth Ministry is open to all 9-12th grade parish youth and friends from Catholic and public schools. Our small Christian communities, "Life Groups" meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays September—May 12:00 - 1:30 pm or evenings 6:30 – 8:30 or 7:00 – 9:00 pm. Other HSYM events include Alternates, game nights, ski trips, scavenger hunts, retreats, service projects, rallies, national conferences and more.

See Youth Ministry newsletter, "Youth News" or web site www.ascensionkettering.org/youth.ministry for event details.

ATHLETICS Curtis Shiner, 426-4723

Athletics are an important part of the total parish life at Ascension Parish because they serve as a means whereby children are taught Catholic attitudes and values, fundamental techniques, sportsmanship, fair play, team play, and general basic sports skills. Anyone interested in volunteering to coordinate the organization of a particular sport, to coach or assistant coach a particular sport, to coordinate our concessions stands or offer help in any other area can contact Curtis Shiner, 426-4723.

SCOUTS

- **Boy Scouts** is open to all boys of the parish in grade 6 on up. COORDINATOR: Dan Fischer, 296-0893 or Terry Domer, 299-6919.
- **Cub Scouts** is open to all boys of the parish in grades 1 through 5. COORDINATOR: Jeff Bowling, 427-1220.
- **Girl Scouts** is open to all girls of the parish in Kindergarten through grade 8. COORDINATOR: Myrna Gazzo, 427-3743.

VOCATIONS Joe Ollier, 253-5171

The work of this committee emphasizes the need for an increase in religious vocations but also focuses on other important and valid vocations—married life, single life and lay ministry. Vocations awareness is heightened through programs and activities involving children of the school and religious education programs, youth ministry and parishioners of all ages.

DISCIPLESHIP COMMISSION

Ministry Core Strategy: *Deepen the baptismal call to discipleship of our members through service to those individuals, communities, and churches in need.*

CATCH THE BUILDING SPIRIT Sue Koverman, 439-1202

Catch the Building Spirit is a collaborative between Miami Valley Catholics and Presbyterians to build a house for a low income family working with Habitat for Humanity. Construction generally runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Ascension provides volunteers (minimum age 16) and financial support for the project. We seek funding support and volunteer labor. All donations are tax deductible and will help increase the quality and quantity of housing for low income families. Volunteer forms are also available for all levels of ability and time commitment.

COLLABORATIVE OUTREACH PLANNING TEAM

(COPT) Celine O’Neill, 294-8366

Comprises parishioners and staff from the One Bread One Body Partnership (Ascension, Immaculate Conception and St. Helen) to promote collaboration between the three parishes in ministries related to social justice and Catholic social teaching.

ASCENSION/GREENMONT-OAK PARK COMMUNITY

CHURCH PARTNERSHIP: Lois Keil, 299-0257

This effort includes a committee that plans family activities usually for Advent and Lent. A separate committee supports the Greenmont Food Pantry on the third Sunday of the month by taking the food collected to the Food Pantry to sort and shelve. Other members volunteer at the Food Pantry during the week.

TWINNING WITH NUESTRA SENORA DE LA LUZ

Steve Mueller, 299-8035 and Lois Keil, 299-0257

Ascension Parish has a twinning relationship with a parish, Nuestra Senora de la luz (Our Lady of the Light), located in Lima, Peru. The purpose of this relationship is the mutual sharing of pastoral experiences to benefit and support both communities. We do this by praying for each other, sharing our resources and learning each other’s culture through our kinship in Christ. A couple of members from the committee make annual trips to our twinning parish in Peru to be a physical presence in the connection of the two parishes. The committee meets once a month usually on a Tuesday evening from 5:30-7:00 pm. The date of the meeting varies according to the availability of the members.

RESPECT LIFE Diane Stroud, 298-4804

We believe that all life comes from God and we are dedicated to lovingly embracing all victims of anti-life practices. We promote and defend the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death, with specific focus on abortion, euthanasia, physician-assisted suicide, embryonic stem cell research, human cloning, and capital

punishment. Awareness activities include the participation in the March for Life each January in Washington, the selling of flowers on Mothers Day in support of Dayton Right to Life, taking part in the citywide baby shower each summer to support area pregnancy help centers, erecting white crosses during Sanctity of Life Week each autumn and participation in the Life Sunday Life Chain in October.

ST. MARY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

LUNCHEONS Wendi Mulligan, 256-0475

This ministry includes singles, couples and families from Ascension who work together to serve meals and share fellowship with residents of the Senior Retirement Centers operated by St. Mary's Development Corporation. Some of our volunteers help serve the meal and others prefer to donate the food but do not attend. There are five retirement centers and we visit one every other month.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL Ralph Pinney, 426-2559

St. Vincent de Paul Society is a nationally chartered organization whose only purpose is to help people in need. The Ascension conference is one of 34 St. Vincent conferences in our surrounding area. All of our members are volunteers from our congregation who answer calls from needy families in our area and from parishioners wherever they live. We provide these necessities for daily family living by using money donated by our congregation. These needs include paying rent, utility bills, providing food and gas cards, and vouchers for clothing. In a few cases, we also buy prescription medicine when it is not otherwise available to the client. We also sponsor the annual bundle Sunday which provides the congregation an opportunity to donate household items which can be used by needy families. At Christmas, we distribute fruit baskets to shut-in members of the congregation and to needy families in our service area. Our St. Vincent de Paul conference meets every other Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the parish office building.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

BRIDGE GROUP Pat and Jim Martin, 429-0809

A friendly group that enjoys the card game of Bridge. It meets on the first Friday of each month, October through June at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Office Building. The group promotes socializing of participating parishioners. Incidentally, the club donates excess funds to the parish at the end of each season.

GOLF LEAGUE Dennis Grosjean, 427-2550

This league includes men and women of all ages who golf at Rollandia in four-person teams on Tuesday evenings. It is divided into two groups with handicapped scores that tee off at approximately 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. They start the last Tuesday in April and play for approximately 15 weeks.

MENS SOFTBALL LEAGUE Roy Kellerman, 426-5689

Open to all parish men 21 and over. Play May to July in the Monday night church league sponsored by the YMCA. Contact Roy Kellerman, 426-5689.

