



THE VOICE

FOR THE FULLER LIFE OF OUR ASCENSION FAMILY



ADVENT – WE WAIT IN JOYFUL HOPE

The first Sunday of Advent falls on December 2. Ascension's Advent

theme this year is **“We Wait in Joyful Hope.”** Advent is a period of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the nativity of Christ, and also marks the beginning of the Church's Liturgical Year. *Adventus* is the Latin word for “coming”, and is the exact Latin equivalent for the Greek word “*parousia*,” commonly used when referring to the Second Coming. So the season of Advent serves a dual reminder of the original waiting that was done by the Hebrews for the birth of the Messiah as well as the waiting that we as Christians observe now as we look forward to the second coming of Jesus Christ.

During the Communion Rite of Mass we pray “.....we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.” That very phrase is what we observe during Advent. This holy season of Advent is a time to examine our relationship with He who came and is to come again as we patiently await his arrival. So it truly is a season of joyful hope.

COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION SERVICES DURING ADVENT

| | | | |
|---|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Ascension | Tuesday | Dec. 4 | 7:00 p.m. |
| St. Albert | Thursday | Dec. 6 | 7:00 p.m. |
| <i>(with St. Francis and Incarnation)</i> | | | |
| St. Luke | Monday | Dec. 10 | 7:00 p.m. |
| Immaculate | Tuesday | Dec. 11 | 7:00 p.m. |
| St. Charles | Wednesday | Dec. 12 | 7:00 p.m. |
| St. Helen | Thursday | Dec. 13 | 7:00 p.m. |

LITTLE BLUE BOOKS

Our “Little Blue Books” will be available starting the weekend of November 24-25, at the church doors. We invite you to take one and use them for six minutes a day in your prayerful journey through the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

We are finished with the first two phases of the Ascensions 2007 pastoral plan looking to the future. After meeting with a planning team for several months and holding three town hall meetings to discuss the plan, we have developed a new vision statement and a new commission structure. In addition, the following are the core strategies that were developed for Ascension's future:

Core Strategy A - Deepen our Relationship with Christ as a Eucharistic Community: 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.

Core Strategy B – Foster a Welcoming and Caring Intentional Community without Strangers: 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.

Core Strategy C – Grow our Commitment to Stewardship through a Spirituality of Gratitude: 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.

Core Strategy D – Continue to Strengthen our Catechetical Mission: Continue to strengthen our catechetical mission of education in faith across the generations through religious education, Catholic

(Continued on page 2)

school, youth ministry, and adult formation in collaboration with other parishes, the Deanery, and local universities.

Core Strategy E – Deepen our Baptismal Call to Discipleship: Deepen the baptismal call to discipleship of our members through service to those individuals, communities, and churches in need.

The next phase is where we start creating specific initiatives to develop these strategies. In other words, this phase is where we put meat on the bones. On November 20, 2007 the commissions, pastoral council and those who expressed interest at the town hall meetings will gather in the Witzman Center. We will discuss how these strategies and the new commission structure will affect each of the commissions. The lay leadership has helped to make Ascension what it is today. Lay leadership is becoming more and more vital to the growth and continued vitality of our parish community. Please pray for Ascension as we continue this process.

NOVEMBER- DECEMBER HOLY DAY & HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

November 22 – Thanksgiving Day (Thursday)

9:00 a.m. (St. Vincent food collection)
(Not a holy day of obligation)

December 8 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Saturday)

Holy day of obligation - 9:00 a.m. and noon
Note: the 5:00 p.m. Mass on December 8 is the Vigil Mass for Sunday

December 24 – Christmas Eve (Monday)

3:00 p.m. with closed circuit TV in Witzman Center
5:00 p.m. with closed circuit TV in Witzman Center
10:00 p.m. (Lessons and Carols begin at 9:30)
There will **NOT** be a Mass at midnight.

December 25 – Christmas Day (Tuesday)

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
(Children's Liturgy of the Word at 11:00 a.m.)



LONGEST NIGHT PRAYER SERVICE

Christmas is normally a time of joy for Christians, but for some it can also be a time of sadness. The loss of a loved one, the anguish of a broken relationship, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, or the deployment of a family member are realities of life that can be made more painful by the celebrations going on around us.

It is during such times that we need to take the time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need to know that we are not alone. The Longest Night prayer service is intended to help us focus on the fact that we are not alone. You are invited to join us for this special prayer service on Wednesday, December 19, at 7:00 p.m. Come join in sharing prayers, hearing Scripture and music that acknowledges that God is present to those who mourn, to those who struggle. Because of its proximity to the winter solstice, the day of the year with shortest daylight and longest nighttime, this special prayer service will remind us that God comes to shine in our deepest darkness.

The service will be followed by light refreshments and fellowship in the Witzman Center, or if you prefer, you may remain in church for private prayer. Please invite others to come with you, as your support, or if you know others who find that Christmas hurts, please let them know that they are most welcome.

PARISH WEB SITE

Have you surfed our parish website lately? You'll find parish bulletins, reflections on the Sunday Scriptures, parish calendar, and other news. Make www.ascensionkettering.org your homepage today!

WE GIVE YOU THANKS,
AND *praise* YOUR
glorious
name.

GIVING TREE 2007

Once again, Ascension Parish will continue its tradition of outreach through the Giving Tree project.

We have received the names of 80 needy families/households through Catholic Social Services. For each of the children whose names we receive from Catholic Social Services, there will be two ornaments (one for clothing, one for a toy) on the tree – each ornament has the gender, age and size of the individual and a gift suggestion given by the parent. There is also one tag for an adult in the household.

Catholic Social Services makes the following recommendations:

- *Gifts should be between \$10.00 and \$35.00. Gifts should not exceed more than \$35.00. If a request costs more we ask you to decide on something within the recommended cost range.*
- *Gift suggestions are provided on the ornaments. However, substitutions for more appropriate items are allowed. Correct sizing is important, returns and exchanges are not encouraged.*
- *Please, NO guns.*

Past experience with clothing and sizing suggests that gift receipts are helpful; please include them inside the package with the clothing when possible.

In addition, there will be gift tags for Elizabeth's New Life Center and Ascension's own Elizabeth Ministry program. As both of these programs use the gifts throughout the following year we suggest that these gifts not be wrapped but simply placed in a gift bag or under the tree with the gift tag attached.

Also, maintaining awareness of the needs of local families we will include envelopes on the Giving Trees for gift certificates for food. If you take one of these envelopes we encourage you to enclose a check payable to Ascension or gift certificate/card purchased through our Women's Guild Scrip program. You may then place the envelope in the Sunday collection basket.

Giving Trees will be placed in the narthex and baptistry on the weekend of November 17-18 so that you may get an early start with your shopping. Return all gifts (wrapped and unwrapped) with the ornament securely fastened to the gift, back under



one of the Giving Trees, preferably on the weekends of December 1 or December 8. **ALL GIFTS MUST BE RETURNED BY THE NOON MASS ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9.** Gifts are bagged, closed and labeled on that Sunday and delivered first thing Monday morning. Please note that bows attached to gifts frequently come off and are NOT RECOMMENDED. As such, please do not attach ornaments to bows or ribbons, rather securely tape them to the package.

If you know of someone in our parish area who could use assistance for their family this Christmas, please call Sister Agnes in the parish office at 253-5171 or Ann McManus at 643-4064. We make every effort to respect the dignity and privacy of those we help. For more information about the Giving Tree project, ornament information or other questions please contact Ann McManus at 643-4064.

Thank you for your generous participation in this Ascension outreach project.



ASCENSION SCHOOL TRADITIONS

Year founded: 1956
Colors: Red & Grey
Mascot: Knight
School Logo: 'A' for

Ascension with a cross highlighted in the middle to represent that our school is centered in Christ. The characters of Respect, Responsibility and Reverence surround the A.

Motto: We are the Knights... Our shield – Faith, Our sword – Education.

School Prayer: Good and glorious God, we thank you for our many gifts. We ask you to bless and protect our school and all who come to learn and teach here. Help us be like the Holy Family, + Jesus, Mary & Joseph, to be prayerful and to treat each other with respect, responsibility and reverence. May we learn from the past as you guide us to a bright future. Amen

Religious Affiliation: Catholic

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur were teachers in the early years of the school. In addition the school has always had qualified faith filled lay teachers staffing the school as well.

CRECHES AND CHRISTMAS, HERE AND THERE

Peruvian Crèches from the UD collection will be exhibited here at the Church of the Ascension. The Twinning Committee is sponsoring a special display that comes to the parish through the courtesy of The Marian Library of the International Marian Research Library at the University of Dayton. A variety of Nativity scenes will be in the two cases outside the Witzman Center. (More Creches can be viewed beginning at the end of November through the first week of January in the Dayton Art Institute, The Marian Library and the Mt. St. John Gallery.)

The Twinning Committee's case will feature many sizes and shapes of a very particular kind of Peruvian Crèche named the "Retablo" style. They are boxes containing 3-dimensional figures illustrating various teachings of Christianity. They are small enough to be easily carried from one place to another. The Spanish priests brought this device from Europe to use as they taught the Catholic faith to the indigenous people of Peru. Five hundred years later, the retablo is a beautiful art form used to tell a wide variety of stories, including the birth of Jesus. Families have kept this traditional craft alive with one generation teaching the art to the next. Figures in the most authentic retablos are made with a plaster of potato starch before they are placed in the wooden boxes with hinged doors and one or more shelves.

A variety of crèches from countries around the world will be displayed in the second case. This is part of the partnership event between Ascension and Greenmont-Oak Park Community Church. Sunday, December 2, the two parishes meet in the Witzman Center from 2 to 4 p.m. to focus on the traditions of Advent and Christmas around the world. All parishioners from both Church communities are invited to this event. Watch the bulletin for details closer to the time of the event.

Peruvian Christmas ornaments and crèches will be on display and for sale on the first Sunday of Advent, December 2 after the 9 and 10:30 Masses. This event is sponsored by the Twinning Committee during "Coffee and Donuts" in the Witzman Center. Committee members will be there to also update parishioners on the Twinning relationship with NSL and explain the updated pictures from Nuestra Senora de la Luz.

On Saturday, December 15, Johnson will "walk"

for his formal graduation from U.D. His education is serving him well as he continues to work with Sister Angela Ann Zukowski at the University of Dayton's Institute for Pastoral Initiatives and with Sister Marie Stacy in the Hispanic community of Dayton.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

As we remember our deceased parishioners, family members and friends during the month of November, we wish to acknowledge with deep gratitude the memorial donations made to Ascension from November 1, 2006 through October 31, 2007.

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Mary Ann Fortkamp

Floria Brophy

Sue Mercuri

Larry Luehrs

In Memory of Helen Haley

Shirley and Charles Hart

In Memory of Robert Metzler

Patricia Kretz

Donna and David Pier

Mary Lou and Thomas Barga

Daungtavil and Frank Tokarsky

In Memory of Ralph Trame

Deborah and Ronald Wine

In Memory of George Bucher

Dyan and Kevin McClamma

In Memory of Al Dexter

Julitta Martz

Rosann Brennan

Phyllis and Vic Hildebrand

Jacquie and Ron Hittle

Peg Militello

In Memory of Dorothy Schneider

Walnut Creek Nursing Home

Roberta E. Loney

In Memory of Richard Eberle

Dr. Thomas Henderson

In Memory of Ron Hittle

Sherry L. Smith

Mr. & Mrs. Dave Dosky & Family

Mr. & Mrs. James Honious

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Zacharias

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Dziekan

Sherry Young

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Nash

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Monnin

Mrs. Jean Rohmiller

Arlene Camacho
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Nickelmann III
 Mr. & Mrs. Brent Devitt
 Mr. William Krebs
 Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Heider
 Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Wells
 Mr. & Mrs. Bud Sprauer
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kissel, Jr.
 Mr. Donald Erisman
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Jacob
 Peg Militello
 Mr. & Mrs. Dan Wallace
 Mr. & Mrs. Carl Barhorst
 Mrs. Bert Dexter
 Mr. & Mrs. Al Wahle
 Mr. & Mrs. Rod Springer
 Mr. & Mrs. Rick Koesel & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Keil
 Mr. & Mrs. Victor Hildebrand
 Ms. Michelle Welch
 Mr. John Nash
 Cathy Magness
 Christ Renews His Parish Men's Team 1
 Mr. & Mrs. Stewart Hawkins
 Margaret Heape
 Mr. & Mrs. David Chong
 Neighbors of Ron & Jacquie Hittle
 Mr. & Mrs. John Drerup
 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Mueller
 Mr. & Mrs. Ed Mykytka
 Lt Col & Mrs. Jeff Vista
 Mr. & Mrs. William Brumleve
 Norma Colussi
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Russell
 Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Graham
 Mr. & Mrs. John Risko
 Mr. & Mrs. Dave Ramey
 Mr. & Mrs. Hank Amato
 Victoria L. Korosei
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Herlihy
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Wheeler
In Memory of Mary Dryden
 John L. Seaverson
St. Vincent de Paul Memorials
 Ascension Leisure Club
 Beverly Swartz
 Hannorah Hendrickson
 Jacqueline Custer
 Jan Somers
 Knights of Columbus 4022
 Margaret Militello
 Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Perfilio

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Barhorst
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Haller
 Mr. & Mrs. Conald Roudebush
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Gebele
 Mr. & Mrs. Joe Herlihy
 Mr. & Mrs. John Kiley
 Mr. & Mrs. Neil McManus
 Mr. & Mrs. William Kemna
 Mr. & Mrs. William White
 Mr. Donald Hickely Jr.
 Mr. Joseph Wittnauer
 Mr. Milan Metijevic
 Mr. Ray Weisbrodt
 Mr. Timothy Bete
 Ms. Rosann Brennan
 Rebecca Ebersole

2007 FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

The weather, service commitment of our parish community, and a few adjustments to our offerings, blessed us with a 20% increase in net income for 2007 over 2006 for a total of \$78,297.

The largest contribution to this result came from the Games of Chance group and the main raffle program (up 33% net over last year). Folks liked the idea of winning a car but in the end, Ascension's own Loretta Frankenfield, selected the cash option.

A 45% increase in revenue was experienced by Pizza and Subs likely due to their new choice with calzones. Dippin Dots, a very popular new addition, netted \$1,200. The sweet smell of Funnel Cakes lured an increase in their revenue over 2006 by 23%.

Goldfish booth continues to swim ahead of other youth games, making as much as all other games combined. Kiddieland managed well with a new team of chairpersons this year.

The Miscellaneous booth group of Crafts, Shoe Box and Books increased net revenue by 25% over 2006. Expenses were also down in both the booth and overall areas for a total net decrease of 6.2% from last year.

Great job everyone! I congratulate all who worked hard to make our festival successful. Our out-going planning team offers the very best of luck to next year's leaders as they endeavor to keep the spirit and fun alive at Ascension. Thank you all for your support!

Dan (back-to-boiling brats) Accrococo

ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER (EFT) DIRECT GIVING IS NOW AVAILABLE

To help make things more convenient for you to financially support the parish, we have added an Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) payment option for Sunday contributions. This offers you the opportunity to make automatic financial contribution transfers from your bank account to the parish. Electronic banking costs you nothing and provides many advantages to both you and your parish:

Your Benefits

- Makes giving more convenient by automatically transferring your Sunday offering directly from your checking or savings account to the parish.
- Eliminates the need for you to write checks or have cash on hand.
- You can change your contribution amount or date of transfer at any time.
- It's secure and free.

Parish Benefits

- Saves hours of administrative time spent processing payments.
- Stabilizes the parish budget with your scheduled contributions, no missed offerings.
- Promotes the parish mission through additional resources.

If you would like to take advantage of this new time-saving opportunity, you may pick up a *Payment Authorization Form* which provides your account information from either the narthex of church, the parish website or by stopping by the parish office. You specify the contribution amount and select either the fifth or twentieth of each month when funds will be transferred from your account. Return your completed form to the parish office or enclose your form in an envelope and drop it in the Sunday Collection Basket. Please mark on the outside of this envelope "EFT".

Answers to frequently asked questions follow. We thank you for your generous and continued support as we work in service to Christ and our community.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT EFT

What is EFT or Direct Giving?

The EFT process is the Electronic Fund Transfer of money from one account to another. By using secured software in coordination with Fifth Third Bank we can transfer funds from your account to meet your sacrificial giving needs. When amounts are withdrawn for a parishioner's sacrificial giving, that is called Direct Giving.

Who can participate in EFT?

EFT can be used by any member of the Parish, you DO NOT need to be a Fifth Third Bank customer. EFT's can come from a checking or savings account and from any bank.

How often will the transfers be made?

EFT's will be made **twice each month**, the fifth or the twentieth of each month. If the 5th or 20th falls on a weekend or a holiday, the funds will be transferred on the next banking day. EFT's will be transferred EVERY month of the year.

What if I want to change my amount or stop using EFT?

The Payment Authorization Form, which is used at the time of sign up, can be resubmitted at any time to change the amount of giving, bank or bank account, or even discontinue EFT. Please note that 30 days prior written notice is required for changes to or termination of EFT.

I like to make donations for special or extra collections throughout the year. How will I do that?

You will still continue to receive your envelopes which are mailed directly to you. That way, you will get all of the special envelopes that come up throughout the year.

I would like to be able to put something in the offering basket each week when I come to church.

As stated above, you will continue receiving your envelopes. If you are an EFT contributor, we encourage you to check the EFT box on the front of your envelope and place your empty envelope in the offering basket as usual.

How do I sign up? When can I get started?

You can sign up for EFT starting today.

Authorization forms are available in the narthex of church, on the parish website or you may stop by the parish office building and pick one up. After filling out the authorization form and signing it, you may mail your completed form to the parish, drop it off at the parish office or you may choose to drop it in the Sunday offering basket. Regardless of how you choose to get it back to us, please seal your envelope and mark "EFT" on the outside. Remember, you have personal account information on the form. Direct Giving will begin in January.

How secure is the process? I don't want someone else to be able to get any of my personal information!

We will securely keep all account information provided by individuals. **None of the information** will be given out to anyone without prior written or verbal consent from the individual. All passwords and security features for the software will be kept in a secure location. Anyone calling to check on their own transaction information will need to provide proof of identity to facilitate the security of this information. The manner in which the software works is **extremely safe** and tamper-proof. By using secure servers, access **cannot** be gained to your personal information by an outside source.



ATHLETIC NEWS

Ascension had a number of athletes participating in CYO and SAY soccer. Although many CYO teams had a successful season, both the girls and boys 5th grade teams played in the CYO tournament. The fifth grade girls, coached by Chris Staub and Jim Ulrich, won the CYO tournament. The fifth grade CYO boys, although they lost the final tournament game 1-0, had a winning attitude. They never gave up, always played as a team, and were examples of sportsmanship.

Ascension had six SAY soccer teams make it to the quarter finals the last weekend in October, almost twenty percent of the spots in the quarter finals. The boys Passers team coached by Jeff McManus, the girls Passers coached by Dennis Wahle, Jodi Daniels and Elisabeth Friel, Collin's girls Wings, and Weitzs' boys Wings made it to the quarter finals. The Whitney boys Passers made it to the semi-finals. The Cogliano boys Wings team made it to the finals on Sunday, losing in a penalty kick shoot-out to a very good Bishop Leibold team. Thanks to the efforts of our kids and their coaches, all of our parish teams had a great season.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Students have been busy with a variety of activities. October's "Clean Your Desk" campaign yielded 5 large cartons of school supplies to be shipped to Nicaragua. Our Early Childhood "saints" entertained their grandparents and senior members of the parish at the All Saints party. Soon they will begin preparing for their Advent celebration. Elementary students dressed as saints for their All Saints prayer service. A big thank you to Julia DiNapoli, who has volunteered this year as Liturgy Planner for the Elementary Program. In observance of Mission Sunday, Grades 1-6 and Early Childhood ages 4, 5, K participated in a Mission Education program. Each grade level "visited" a different country. Sixth grade students were presented with personal copies of the Catholic Youth Bible, and they decorated bible covers sewn by parishioner Arlene Keller.

The Thanksgiving Mass for Grades 1-5 will take place on November 19. During the Mass a representative from each class will sign the School Pledge of Nonviolence as part of our Growing Peace process, and non-perishable food for the food pantry will be collected. Grade 8 students will plan and lead the Middle School Thanksgiving prayer services.

Many families have chosen to take the Family Pledge of Nonviolence; their names are inscribed on doves posted around the Peace Board on the wall outside the Religious Education Office.

Congratulations to the Peacemakers of the Month for October: Connor Doyle in Grade 1 and Marc Donovan in Grade 4.

Parents of students preparing for First Reconciliation met in October to hear Father Chris speak about the sacrament and to receive the materials they will use to prepare their children at home. A new element this year was a parent witness given by Jennifer Teleha. Jennifer spoke from her heart and shared her and her husband's experience going through this preparation with their own children. Thank you, Jennifer, for sharing with us! Seventh grade Confirmation students participated in a Spirit Day retreat in October. Eighth grade Confirmation students will have a Spirit Retreat in November and will be ritually welcomed to the preparation process during the 9:00 Mass on November 18.

The students will soon be observing Advent with prayer services and other activities. Our volunteer catechists work very hard to uphold the spiritual dimension of Advent and Christmas time.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Youth *"Discover the Way"*

Our parish youth joined a spirit-filled 20,000 fellow high school Catholic youth in Columbus, November 8-11. The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) is the largest gathering of Catholic youth in the nation. The days were packed full of nationally recognized speakers, Catholic musicians, comedians, workshops, sacraments and meeting teens from across the U.S. The youth were challenged to *"Discover the Way"* with this year's theme. The presence of the Holy Spirit was definitely tangible in the prayer and worship. The closing celebration of the Eucharist was an awe inspiring sacramental experience for our young people.

Those who attended include Jennifer Ackley, Brittany Banaszak, Jennifer Barbadora, Brandon Barber, Leah Bechstein, Emily Brun, Madeleine Devitt, Morgan Gros, Mikki Linden, Jamie Linden, Meagan Niezgodski, Zach Niezgodski, Rose Walton, Chelsea Waters, Rama Rengan, Kris Rengan, Nathan Whitford, Stephanie Berrie, Alyssa Petrie, Natalie Van Atta, Sam Petrick, Erin Petrick, Alex

Myers, Sam Wilhelm, Emily Wilhelm, Katie Ollier, Jordan Myszka, Caroline Heider, Chris Wager, Joel Wager, Dianne Minardi, Kellyann Minardi, Nick Fahrig, Gracie Pollicino, Mike Wager, Rosanna Ackley, Patty Bechstein, Alessandro Rengan and Jim Murray attended NCYC. NCYC offered the youth multiple opportunities for conversion and growth in their relationship with Christ and to strengthen their identity and Catholic Christians. Parishioners will be invited to a special presentation in January as our youth give witness to their encounters with Christ at NCYC. Watch for more details to come. Also...mark your calendars for NCYC '09 *"Christ Reigns"* November 18-2, 2009 in Kansas City!



NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 873
DAYTON, OHIO