

# Church of the Ascension

(updated May 31, 2026)

## 2026 Ministry Descriptions and Contact Information

**We are a thriving, Spirit-filled faith community  
transforming lives for Christ** 

**Proclaiming the Word of God † Celebrating the  
Eucharist † Serving the local community**





# From the Pastor

*Everyone must give according to what he has inwardly decided, not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver. God can multiply his favors among you so that you may always have enough of everything and even a surplus for good works. (2 Corinthians 9:7-8)*

**We are a thriving Spirit-filled faith community transforming lives for Christ. We continue to Proclaim the Word of God, Celebrate the Eucharist, and Serve the local Community. Where are you called to serve?**

I pray you will find the right mix of prayer and service here at Ascension. If I may be of assistance or support to you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me at either 757-495-1886 x416 or [malingumud@ascensionvb.org](mailto:malingumud@ascensionvb.org).

In Christ,

Fr. Daniel Malingumu

## DEPARTMENT HEADS

Following is a listing of all the ministries the parish supports, with a brief description of what they do and a contact for the ministry head. All ministries fall under five different department heads. These Department Heads are:

- **Liturgy and Music** – Diane Nestor 757-495-1886 x413 [nestord@ascensionvb.org](mailto:nestord@ascensionvb.org)
- **Community Life** –Cindy Laufer ([assistantyouthmin@ascensionvb.org](mailto:assistantyouthmin@ascensionvb.org))
- **Finance/Operations/Ways & Means** – Lisa Liedl 757-495-1886 x422 ([liedll@ascensionvb.org](mailto:liedll@ascensionvb.org))
- **Faith Formation** – Bridgett Passauer 757-495-1886 x15 ([passauerb@ascensionvb.org](mailto:passauerb@ascensionvb.org))
- **Social Justice** – Teresa Alfes 757-495-1886 x427 ([alfest@ascensionvb.org](mailto:alfest@ascensionvb.org))
- **Youth Ministry** – Travis Hayes ([hayest@ascensionvb.org](mailto:hayest@ascensionvb.org))

If you wish to join a ministry, please contact one of the Department Heads to assist you. Your time and talents are so important to our ministries and we wish to be as accessible to you as possible.

Our Diocese requires that all those over 18 years old working with young people (under 18) or vulnerable adults complete VIRTUS training and undergo a background check. Our staff will assist you in fulfilling these requirements.

# LITURGY MINISTRY

Unless otherwise specified for Liturgy Ministries, please contact Diane Nestor at 757-495-1886 x413 or [nestord@ascensionvb.org](mailto:nestord@ascensionvb.org)

**Altar Server:** Assist in the celebration of Sunday and Holy Day liturgies. On-the-job training. Ages from fourth grade to high school, and must have received First Holy Communion. **Adults are also invited to serve at liturgies.** (*Virtus training required for adults*)

**Choir:** Share your gift of musical talents for our liturgical celebrations. (*Virtus training required*)

- Adult Choir: Soprano, alto, tenor, and bass voice parts. Cantor positions are by audition with the director and require workshop attendance. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00pm. Encouraged to join for special seasonal events such as Christmas and Lent.

**Instrumentalists:** Play for one (or more) of the weekend liturgies and Holy Days. Piano accompanists are used as substitutes for regular pianists. **Rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 7:45 until about 8:30pm** (*Virtus training required*)

**Art & Environment in Sacristy/ Banners/Vestments (Sewing/Designing):** The use of cloth, artifacts, flowers, and artwork are important elements within the liturgy. Creative and talented people are needed.

**Eucharistic Minister:** Adults and the newly confirmed can serve at the weekend liturgies and Holy Days. Training is required before beginning to serve (TBA). Scheduling is done in 1-month blocks. (*Virtus training required*)

**Lector:** Adults and the newly confirmed can serve at the weekend and Holy Day liturgies. Scheduling is done in 1-month blocks. Training is one-on-one with Diane, and occasionally, a workshop is offered. People new to this ministry should contact Diane Nestor for details on initial training. (*Virtus training required*)

**Liturgy Committee:** Liturgy committee meets 5-6 times per Liturgical Cycle to prepare and review Sunday and Holy Day liturgies to make worship a joyful and enriching experience. Liturgy involves everyone in the parish, and it is a good way to learn more about the scriptures and the worship experience.

**Sacristy Coordinator:** Prepares altar and Church for Mass. Selects a family to carry up the gifts. Ensures that all preparations have been completed. **Commitment expected:** Twice a month at liturgy. **Contact: John Sokolowski at 757-4954861** ([john@sokol.org](mailto:john@sokol.org)) (*Virtus training required*)

**Camera/Livestreaming:** Operates the computer system to stream Mass. Daily Masses (Tuesday – Friday), Sat 5:30pm, Sun 8:30 am, Holy Days and special Masses. **Contact: Lisa Liedl at 757-495-1886 x422** ([liedll@ascensionvb.org](mailto:liedll@ascensionvb.org)) (*Virtus training required*)

**Reconciliation/Adoration Porter:** Prepares commons for people to wait for reconciliation and directs individuals to the priest. Saturday morning, 10am to noon or until Reconciliation is completed. **Contact: Lisa Liedl at 757-495-1886 x422** ([liedll@ascensionvb.org](mailto:liedll@ascensionvb.org)) (*Virtus training recommended*)

# FAITH FORMATION

Our Faith Formation programs span from families seeking Baptism for their infants through adults. We could not serve our community without our dedicated, faith-filled volunteers. There are numerous volunteer positions based on what age group you would like to work with. The great benefit of volunteering in formation programs is that your faith is also enhanced.

Our Diocese requires that all those over 18 years old working with young people (under 18) or vulnerable adults complete VIRTUS training and undergo a background check. The Faith Formation Office will assist you in meeting those requirements.

## **If you like working with Adults...**

- **Baptism Celebration Coordinator:** On the day a Baptism is scheduled, the coordinator prepares the space for the Baptism. They meet with the family before the Baptism and have the family complete any pending paperwork. The coordinator reviews with the family what will happen during the Baptism. After the celebration, the coordinator cleans up the space. The commitment is based on your availability. Baptisms are typically celebrated during weekend liturgies on the 2nd weekend of the month. Occasionally, a private baptism may be scheduled. Training is provided. **Contact Bridgett Passauer: [passauerb@ascensionvb.org](mailto:passauerb@ascensionvb.org) 757-495-1886 x415**
- **Adult Faith Formation Committee:** To create and develop opportunities for the members of our Parish to grow and strengthen a personal relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, empowering them to share the Gospel message of God's unconditional love. Meetings are once per month with occasional retreats. **Contact Bridgett Passauer: [passauerb@ascensionvb.org](mailto:passauerb@ascensionvb.org) 757-495-1886 x415**
- **Faith-sharing Facilitator:** Do you have a favorite spiritual book, program or faith topic that you want to explore with others? A Faith-sharing Facilitator guides a faith-sharing community as they explore this common interest. The faith-sharing community can meet at church or someone's home. Commitment varies. Training is provided. **Contact Bridgett Passauer: [passauerb@ascensionvb.org](mailto:passauerb@ascensionvb.org) 757-495-1886 x415**
- **Landings:** Landings is the process by which Catholics who have left the church can openly discuss issues and discern their readiness to enter back into active participation in the sacramental life of the Church. Landings is offered periodically throughout the year. Landings is an 8-week process. The team presents topics, facilitates open discussion, and builds relationships with those participating in the process. **Contact Bridgett Passauer: [passauerb@ascensionvb.org](mailto:passauerb@ascensionvb.org) 757-495-1886 x415**
- **OCIA – Order of Christian Initiation for Adults**

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (O.C.I.A.) is the Proper Name of the process of becoming Catholic. Here at Church of the Ascension, we refer to this journey as Initiation. It is not a program but a journey of faith, understanding, and acceptance of the teachings of the Catholic faith, and all that means. Through the Initiation journey, men, women, and children above the age of reason (7 years of age and unbaptized) discern God's call to enter the Catholic Church and are helped and supported along the way by many members of our Ascension family. How can you be part of this amazing, fulfilling, and life-changing journey? There are, in fact, many simple ways to volunteer with the Ascension Initiation Ministry:

- **Become a Sponsor |** Everyone going through the Initiation journey needs a sponsor. The role of the sponsor, however, is not to answer all the questions about the Catholic Church (we have our catechetical sessions for this). Rather, the sponsor acts as a mentor in faith and will walk the initiation journey with their candidate. Additionally, they stand next to them during the rites of initiation that take place throughout the process. As a sponsor, you will participate in the

three rites, accompany your candidate to as many classes as possible, and join in the Initiation retreat. You must also be a Catholic in good standing.

- **Become an Initiation Team Member** | As an Initiation team member, you would work with the Director of Faith Formation in helping accompany and catechize those who are in the process of becoming Catholic Christians. To be a member of the team, you must be a Catholic in good standing, feel a call to work in the evangelization and education of new members of our Faith, and be able to make a time commitment to the process.
- **The Stages of the Initiation Journey** | The Initiation journey is segmented into four stages, each bringing those on the journey closer to union with the Church. We are looking for team members to either volunteer for a stage of the journey (“part- time”) or the entire journey (“full- time”)
  - The first stage is called *Inquiry* and can last as long as it needs to for each individual. During this stage, we simply learn more about the Catholic Faith as the inquirers discern whether they want to pursue the process of Initiation further. Those in Inquiry learn to pray with scripture, the way Catholics worship in the Mass, and have an opportunity to discuss whatever questions they may have. **(Inquiry Team)**
  - The second stage for *unbaptized individuals* is called *the Catechumenate*. Those in the Catechumenate have decided to move forward with coming into the Church; therefore, the classes are more systematic and cover everything from the Sacraments to the Moral life. For *persons already baptized in another Christian denomination*, this stage is *Candidacy for Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Faith*. Catechumens and Candidates will often journey together.
  - The third stage - *begins in Lent* and is the period of Purification & Enlightenment - we continue to dive deeper into the mysteries of Catholicism, and it is a time of preparation for receiving the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.
  - The fourth stage, known as *Mystagogy*, follows the Neophytes (newly received members of the Catholic faith, aka former Candidates and Catechumens) through a period of time as new Catholics, and supports them in becoming settled in their new faith life.

As a “part-time” Initiation Team member, you would join us for any one of these stages of the Initiation process, ministering in each stage as you feel called. Some might prefer to help catechize in the Catechumenate, where others might feel more called to help the newly inquiring in the Inquiry stage, while others might desire to help accompany new members deeper into the faith and parish life.

If you would rather join us for the entire process and participate in the planning of the Initiation journey as a whole, we would always love to have you as a full-time Initiation Team member. This is a larger time commitment, but certainly one that is both worthwhile and deeply rewarding.

**If you like working with Pre-Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Contact Tara Bigley [bigleyt@ascensionvb.org](mailto:bigleyt@ascensionvb.org) or 757-495-1886 x426

- **Children's Liturgy of the Word:** We need Leaders or Assistants who will be dismissed with the children at the 10:30 am Liturgy. The Children Liturgy volunteers lead the children in the Sunday Liturgy of the Word celebration and engage them in a planned activity. The commitment is for one 6-week period from September through May. Team members may have the opportunity to be an occasional substitute. All scripts and materials are prepared. **This is a volunteer opportunity for middle school and high school students.** Virtus training required for adults.
- **Grades PK-5 Family Faith Formation:**
  - **Sunday 9:00 am- 10:20 am Family Faith Session** we need **catechists and co-catechists.** This is a twice-per-month commitment.
    - Classes run from September through May. Catechists and co-catechists are expected to attend in-service meetings. Resource materials and additional training are provided, as needed. Virtus training is required.
- **Faith Formation Aide and Safety (K-5th grade):** Provides support to staff and volunteers on an as-needed basis during Religious Formation classes. Duties include monitoring the Mezzanine during classes, checking families and catechists in, and filling in as a substitute catechist as needed. Virtus training required.
- **Special Needs Faith Formation Helper:** Do you have experience working with children who have special needs? Inclusion is our goal. We are seeking people with special needs experience to work with our children who have special needs, whether in the classroom or one-on-one.
- **Hospitality Team:** This team provides breakfast for our Family Faith Formation families. The team would set up food and drinks prior to the 8:30am Mass. **Cost of the food is covered by the parish.** You set up and leave – allowing you to attend 8:30 am Mass.

**Ascension Family Presents Summer Event:** This fun and family-oriented event gathers on Wednesdays during July, sometimes August, to provide families of all ages and sizes gather to share a meal, hear a bible story and then reflect on the story in an age-appropriate lesson. We need the following volunteers to help make the evenings a success:

- **Set design** – help put together scenery and props based on the Bible Story
- **Actors**- help bring the Bible story to life by being an actor in the play
- **Crew Leaders**- help lead the children in the pre-planned lesson and activities
- **Hospitality**- help behind the scenes in the kitchen with cooking, setup and cleanup.

This is a great opportunity for families to share their creativity with one-another and their parish family!

**This is a volunteer opportunity for middle school and high school students.**

Contact: Bridgett Passauer at 757-495-1886 x415 ([passauerb@ascensionvb.org](mailto:passauerb@ascensionvb.org))

# FAITH FORMATION – YOUTH MINISTRY

Middle and High School youth groups, along w/ our Confirmation Program, makes up the youth ministry at Ascension. Catching Fire & YOA continues to provide foundational catechesis for our Middle and High schoolers respectively. We blend the curriculum into weekly youth group meetings during the school year, providing opportunities for Ascension's youth to grow spiritually and socially. Adult supervised but Holy Spirit driven, our youth ministries provides a foundation in Scripture & Tradition, while encouraging our youth to form a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Help guide our youth in faith, friendship, and discipleship!

## *Middle School (Catching Fire) / High School (YOA) / Confirmation*

Contact Travis Hayes [Hayest@ascensionvb.org](mailto:Hayest@ascensionvb.org) or 757-495-1886 x425

- **Middle & High School youth group (Catching Fire & YOA):** We are looking volunteers with a love for Christ and His Church! You will need to be open-minded yet grounded in the teachings of the Church. A servant's heart, reliable, with a positive and gentle heart. Commitment runs from end of August through June for 2 hour classes on Sunday afternoons. Virtus training required. Both Catching Fire & YOA meet at the same time, but separately. Each youth group is looking for:
  - **Small Group Leaders:** Facilitate a small group (4-8 youth) reflecting on a variety of topics (questions given in advance). Looking to encourage our middle and high school youth to reflect on how the Teachings, Scriptures, and Traditions are relevant in their every day lives. Provide mentorship and guide teens in deeper faith discussions.
  - **Activity Leader:** Lead games, ice-breakers, and community-building events, aimed at getting the kids excited, comfortable with one another, and overall letting out energy!
  - **Prayer Leader:** Lead meaningful and reflective prayer experiences, helping teens to deepen their personal prayer life. Introduce the teens to the different types and forms of prayers – from communal prayers, laying on of hands, and individual meditation/reflection/conversations with God.
  - **Speaker:** Delivering engaging, thought-provoking, talks/discussions with teens on a wide range of Catholic teachings. Talks, summaries, and small group questions are all provided in advance, but you are more than welcome to make adjustments that are in agreement with Diocesan teachings.
  - **Bible Study Leader:** Facilitate discussions using pre-made outlines, helping teens to understand and apply Scripture. Help to lead small group discussions and encourage reflection on the truths revealed in Scripture. Have a desire to share Scripture with eager teens!
- **Confirmation:** Confirmation is the final Sacrament of Initiation available to our 10<sup>th</sup> graders that have completed Baptism and Holy Communion. We follow a Diocesan approved curriculum, providing a foundation in Core Beliefs (Creeds, Trinity, etc.), understanding of the relationship between the Church and the Holy Spirit, and helping them to form personal relationships with the Trinity. We are looking for adults more comfortable with a classroom-setting. We meet monthly between Aug and March, usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat, from 3-5 pm.
  - **Sponsor for a High School Youth:** Occasionally, Confirmation candidates do not have anyone locally that can fill the role of sponsor. Commitment includes participation throughout the year (August to May) at meetings and the Confirmation celebration. Virtus training is required.
  - **Catechists** – Teach a 20-30-minute session based on the schedule of topics, using pre-written talks and outlines. Feel comfortable fielding basic questions from confirmands (youth minister will be present as back-up 😊)
- **YOA Golf Classic:** The YOA Golf Classic is the primary fundraiser that supports the many youth activities, including Running with Jesus, Diocesan Youth Conference, Work Camp and Steubenville Youth Conference. The organization of this event requires many volunteers to help liaison with sponsors, organizations, potential golfers and execute the actual event in May. Organizational meetings occur from November through June.

# SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Ascension Social Justice Ministry comprises a variety of activities and programs both within the parish and as part of our local ecumenical and civic community. All activities align with Catholic Social Teaching. Time commitments are generally flexible and several of the ministries are seasonal in nature.

**Apple Tree:** This ministry is active in July and August of each year, collecting school supplies and money for children who otherwise would not be fully prepared for the school year. Volunteers prepare tags with needed items, set up the tree, and assist with sorting and counting donations. **Contact Elisabeth Berry at [elisabeth710@verizon.net](mailto:elisabeth710@verizon.net) 757-497-5403, or Catalina Ortega at [ortegac@ascensionvb.org](mailto:ortegac@ascensionvb.org) (757) 596-1886 x428** (*Virtus training required*)

**Creation Care Ministry:** This ministry focuses on caring for all of God's creation through education, advocacy, and action within our church environment, our homes and our community. We supply fresh produce in the summer months to our Ascension Food Pantry through our Community Food Pantry Garden on the church campus while engaging those interested in gardening and learning earth-friendly growing practices. Garden helpers and harvesters are needed during the growing season. **Contact Amy Petersen at [amypetersn@gmail.com](mailto:amypetersn@gmail.com) 757-406-6199** (*Virtus training required*)

**Eastern Shore Migrant Ministry:** Volunteers help to collect and sort clothing, socks, and bedding for Cheriton Camp at Cape Charles. Volunteers may also go to Cheriton to help distribute items and to participate in a Spanish language Mass with the workers and other volunteers. **Contact Teresa Alfes at [alfest@ascensionvb.org](mailto:alfest@ascensionvb.org) 757-495-1886 x427.** (*Virtus training recommended*)

**Food Pantry:** Volunteers work directly in the pantry, which is open Monday-Friday 10:00am to 11:30am. Volunteers interact with our guests and help them shop in our pantry; shelve donated food; and bag and label USDA food; as well as other tasks. Volunteers are also needed to stock shelves at noon each weekday, and to pick up food from Food Lion, Kroger, Panera, and the Foodbank of the Southeast Virginia and deliver it to the Food Pantry. **Contact Teresa Alfes at [alfest@ascensionvb.org](mailto:alfest@ascensionvb.org) 757-495-1886 x427.** (*Virtus training required*)

**Giving Tree:** This ministry is active from October to December. Volunteers create the gift tags, decorate the tree, sort and wrap the gifts received, and distribute the gifts as families come to receive them. **Contact Elisabeth Berry at [elisabeth710@verizon.net](mailto:elisabeth710@verizon.net) 757-497-5403 or Catalina Ortega at [ortegac@ascensionvb.org](mailto:ortegac@ascensionvb.org) 757-495-1886 x428** (*Virtus training required*)

**Global Solidarity:** This ministry promotes the Church's teaching on global solidarity, with a focus on a relationship with St. Ludovic's parish in Ulyankulu. Tanzania. **Contact Kevin Petersen at [kpetersen456@gmail.com](mailto:kpetersen456@gmail.com) 757-406-0661** (*Virtus training required*)

**Holiday foods:** Easter and Christmas baskets provide a full holiday meal to help make the holidays a more joyous time. Volunteers give out food slips at designated Masses, sort food items, decorate and pack each basket, and help distribute the baskets as families come to receive them. **Contact: Angela Morales at [yxak14@gmail.com](mailto:yxak14@gmail.com) 757-474-4531 or Teresa Alfes at [alfest@ascensionvb.org](mailto:alfest@ascensionvb.org) 757-495-1886 x427** (*Virtus training required*)

**Just Faith:** This program offers a selection of in-depth spiritual experiences related to various social issues. Programs may be offered at Ascension and other parishes in our region. For the current list of opportunities, **Contact Nancy Hess at [nancyhess@gmail.com](mailto:nancyhess@gmail.com) 757-468-9256 or Helen White at [dolfingal8@gmail.com](mailto:dolfingal8@gmail.com) 757-270-8074.**

**Justice and Peace:** The Justice and Peace Committee is dedicated to fostering a deeper understanding of justice and peace rooted in the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching. We strive to **educate, inspire, and empower** our parish community to actively respond to the call to love and serve others. Through prayer, education, and call to action, we provide **opportunities** for engaging in meaningful works of justice and peace, **advocating** for the dignity of all people and the common good, and **transforming lives** for Christ. **Contact Diane Burke at [dmburke49@gmail.com](mailto:dmburke49@gmail.com) 757-672-3590 or Teresa Alfes at [alfest@ascensionvb.org](mailto:alfest@ascensionvb.org) 757-495-1886 x427**

**Meals on Wheels:** Volunteers deliver meals one day each month to shut-ins through the Meals on Wheels program. Training is provided for those new to this ministry. **Contact Eileen Komuves-Overstreet at [ekolm2@aol.com](mailto:ekolm2@aol.com) 757-305-8708** (*Virtus training required*)

**Respect Life Ministry:** This ministry is dedicated to raising awareness regarding the sanctity of life to our parish community. We strive to protect the God-given dignity of human life through prayer, education, and action. This ministry seeks volunteers who are committed to the dignity of human life across the life spectrum from conception to natural death. **Contact Bill Rockwell, [w.rockwell2@gmail.com](mailto:w.rockwell2@gmail.com) 757-282-3795 or Teresa Alfes at [alfest@ascensionvb.org](mailto:alfest@ascensionvb.org) (757) 495-1886 x427** (*Virtus training required*)

**Sandwich Ministry:** Volunteers make sandwiches once a month, and volunteers deliver the sandwiches to Norfolk Catholic Worker on Monday or Friday a few times per year to feed those who are in need and primarily living on the street. **Contact Barbara Wiley at [btwiley@hotmail.com](mailto:btwiley@hotmail.com) 757-617-2317** (*Virtus training required*)

**Soup Kitchen:** Volunteers cook and deliver an evening meal for about 100 people once per quarter to the Judeo-Christian Outreach Center. Volunteers cook as well as package the meals for delivery. **Contact Marie Thompson at 757-752-5325 or Catalina Ortega at [ortegac@ascensionvb.org](mailto:ortegac@ascensionvb.org) 757-495-1886 x428** (*Virtus training required*)

**Winter Shelter:** PIN Ministry coordinates this program, and Ascension participates with other Virginia Beach churches in offering shelter to the homeless during the winter months. Ascension typically hosts Valentine's week, and volunteers prepare and serve breakfast, cook and serve dinner; interact with our guests; spend the night; and sign up to bring food donations. **Contact Teresa Allen at [twonda@verizon.net](mailto:twonda@verizon.net) 757-635-2386 or Chuck Mulkey at [ckmulkey@verizon.net](mailto:ckmulkey@verizon.net) 757-650-1376** (*Virtus training required*)

**World Food Day:** In October, volunteers attach flyers to grocery bags asking for food for a family of four, help distribute bags at Mass, and sort, bag and distribute the food collected. **Contact Angela Morales at [7xak14@gmail.com](mailto:7xak14@gmail.com) 757-309-2538 or Teresa Alfes at [alfest@ascensionvb.org](mailto:alfest@ascensionvb.org) 757-495-1886 x427** (*Virtus training required*)

### **Ecumenical and Community Associations**

Ascension is a member of several community associations. These groups have, as part of their mission, the betterment of the citizens of Virginia Beach and/or the State of Virginia by encouraging and advocating for such issues as: homelessness, emergency shelter for families in need, repair of deteriorating homes, and financial assistance.

**Faith Works Coalition:** This is an ecumenical ministry consisting of volunteers who help to repair and maintain homes for those who are elderly and/or have low income. **Contact: Teresa Alfes at [alfest@ascensionvb.org](mailto:alfest@ascensionvb.org) or 757-495-1886 x427**

## Social Ministry Continued

**Interfaith Alliance Beach (IAB):** This is an ecumenical gathering of many Virginia Beach churches and local government organizations who focus is on working together to service the local committee. **Contact Teresa Alfes at [alfest@ascensionvb.org](mailto:alfest@ascensionvb.org) 757-495-1886 x427**

**Tidewater Sowers of Justice:** This group offers a wide range of topics for discussion and action. Issues such as the death penalty, the environment, and respect for life are some of the cornerstone topics. **Contact: Rosann Barrett at [rmbarrett29@cox.net](mailto:rmbarrett29@cox.net) 757-270-0236**

## COMMUNITY LIFE

**Coffee Bar Hospitality:** Volunteers are needed to help set up and clean up the coffee bar before/after Masses on the weekends. Please sign up Ministry Schedule Pro (MSP) to be assigned to for the scheduled time for each Mass. Additional volunteers are needed during the week and weekend to wash the coffee cups. Ascension is using real coffee mugs and glasses. Volunteers will be trained on using our commercial dishwashes. After 12:39 Mass the tables should be wiped down and the coffee pots turned off and pots rinsed out. Contact Cindy Laufer: ([assistantyouthmin@ascensionvb.org](mailto:assistantyouthmin@ascensionvb.org)) (*Virtus training preferred*)

**Disability Parish Advocate:** This ministry supports the Diocesan Office for and with persons with disabilities. **Contact: Angela Kahler at 757-409-2122** (*Virtus training required*)

**Funeral Reception Ministry:** Small teams of volunteers assist with the set-up, food preparation, serving, and clean-up for funeral receptions to help support the grieving family. **Contact Barbara Thomson at [booklover953@hotmail.com](mailto:booklover953@hotmail.com) 703-408-9038 or Cindy Laufer at [assistantyouthmin@ascensionvb.org](mailto:assistantyouthmin@ascensionvb.org)**

**GriefShare Facilitators: Facilitate for those** experiencing the death of a loved one or family member. Share their journey of grief by providing seminars throughout the year utilizing a support group, workbook, and videos. **Contacts: Bridgett Passauer at 757-495-1886 x415 ([passauerb@ascensionvb.org](mailto:passauerb@ascensionvb.org))** (*Virtus training is not required*)

**Knights of Columbus:** Mother Teresa of Calcutta Council #12117 was established on December 17, 1997. We are a fraternal organization of Catholic men whose ideals are based on the concepts of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. With a membership exceeding 75 Brother Knights, we perform volunteerism and conduct fundraising events in order to support local charities and organizations. With extremely active programs in the areas of Church, Family, Youth, Culture of Life, Community, and Council, there is something for everyone! All men, ages 18 years old and up, who are practicing Catholics are eligible to join our Order. **Contact: Don Poole** (*Virtus training encouraged*)

**Ladies Auxiliary of The Mother Teresa of Calcutta Council:** An organization of Christian and Catholic women, ages 18+, who support the Knights of Columbus in their activities and also provide spiritual and financial support to the needy, promote the principles of youth and family, and are actively involved in church and the community. **Contact: Donna Denham at [Stlouis592@gmail.com](mailto:Stlouis592@gmail.com)** (*Virtus training encouraged*)

**Listening Assistant:** Church of the Ascension is equipped with Listening equipment to help those with hearing challenges. Our system can assist those with and without hearing aids or cochlear implants. This ministry assist individuals with checking equipment in and out and if needed assistance in using the equipment. The commitment is normally before and during weekend Masses and Holy Days. Ascension is looking for some "Listening Assistants" to help with this task. Contact: Bill Burke at [j\\_burke05@yahoo.com](mailto:j_burke05@yahoo.com) or Cindy Laufer at [assistantyouthmin@ascensionvb.org](mailto:assistantyouthmin@ascensionvb.org).

## Community Life Continued

**Ministry to the Sick:** Provides Eucharist to those who are hospitalized or homebound. To arrange for a visit, contact: Steve Crys at 757-635-7590 ([stevecrys@gmail.com](mailto:stevecrys@gmail.com)) Deacon Gary Harmeyer at 735-2227 ([gary.harmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:gary.harmeyer@gmail.com)); Deacon Tom McFeely at 681-2005 ([mcfely6@cox.net](mailto:mcfely6@cox.net)); Deacon Jim Ahearn at 353-7328; John Maiorana at 560-7753 ([johnmajor@cox.net](mailto:johnmajor@cox.net)) (*Virtus training required*)

**Hospitality/Welcoming:** Seeking individuals who would enjoy greeting people as they arrive for liturgy or welcome newcomers by making phone or email contact to set up meetings with the family for a church tour. Handbooks with information packets are available for all newly registered parishioners. It is a great ministry for anyone who enjoys meeting and greeting people to make them feel at home at Ascension. **Contacts: Melinda Hughes 818-4629** [mhughes924@verizon.net](mailto:mhughes924@verizon.net) and **Sandy Raiter 499-5775** [texasalamo914@gmail.com](mailto:texasalamo914@gmail.com) (*Virtus training required*)

**Parish Pastoral Council:** The Parish Council is an inclusive, prayerful, working advisory group that assists the pastor with defining the present and future needs of the parish. Each Council member endeavors to listen to parishioners and then faithfully present expressed concerns, ideas, and questions to the Parish Council. The Council functions in an atmosphere of prayer and openness to the Holy Spirit to become and remain grounded in faith and responsive to the parish's mission and vision. The Council meets for monthly meetings, sponsors the coffee with council every 2nd Sunday after each mass, annual retreats, annual orientation workshops, and hosts the Easter Vigil reception to welcome new members to the congregation. Contact Paulin Thomas at [paulinntomas@yahoo.com](mailto:paulinntomas@yahoo.com) (*Virtus training encouraged*)

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** A nationally-established ministry for parishioners who knit or crochet shawls. The shawls are given to individuals needing God's arms wrapped around them as they go through chemotherapy or dialysis treatment. We express our compassion and faith in the healing power of prayer to our parishioners going through this difficult time in their lives. The shawls are blessed before distribution to parishioners, and if there is not a need in our parish at the time, shawls will be given to patients at Princess Anne Sentara's Chemo Center, Brock Caner Center, Our Lady of Perpetual Help and marian Manor. If you do not knit or crochet but would like to donate yarn, that is welcome, also. For more information or to request a shawl **Contact: Chris Krueger at 757-467-4968** (*Virtus training not required*)

**Prayer Teams:** Church of the Ascension's Prayer Team Ministry supports the spirit of the global Church's "New Evangelization" to bring the personal presence of Jesus to those in need. The Prayer Team Ministry members are available at weekend masses once a month. Prayer team members pray with people for intentions, large or small. The purpose of the Prayer Team Ministry is to assure individuals of God's love through simple, inviting prayer, realizing that the Holy Spirit is the agent of peace, hope, and healing. **Contact: Bridgett Passauer at 757-495-1886 x415** [passauerb@ascensionvb.org](mailto:passauerb@ascensionvb.org) (*Virtus training required*)

**Special Event Hospitality:** This Ministry is for those individuals who enjoy assisting with special events at Ascension. Some of these events include: the Simbang Gabi reception, the Coco, Cookies, and Cards reception after the Christmas Concert, the Reception after the May Crowning, and Sacrament and Soup. Assistance is needed with setting up, serving food and drinks, baking desserts, and clean-up. **Contact: Cindy Laufer at** [assistantyouthmin@ascensionvb.org](mailto:assistantyouthmin@ascensionvb.org) or 757-647-4032

**The Rainbows "Forever Young":** *For our more experienced parishioners of all ages who are young at heart!* This group is a 55 years of age and over group organized to offer fun and maintain vitality among Ascension parishioners and their guests. We meet on Mondays from 11:00 - 1:00 at the church Coffee Bar. Gatherings can include food, drink, games, lectures, spiritual retreats, restaurant trips, and basic opportunities for building strong church family relations among members. **Contact: John Rooney @ 757-409-2687** (*Virtus training encouraged*)

## Community Life Continued

**Scouting:** Offers boys and girls opportunities to camp, explore, and achieve many physical, intellectual, spiritual, and social goals. Boys and girls 6th grade to age 18 travel the road to Eagle Scout through Troop 408 and both young men and women from ages 14 to 21 may join the Venturing Crew 408. **Contact: Gerald Palmisano at [palmisag@gmail.com](mailto:palmisag@gmail.com)** (*Virtus training required*)

**Sacrament And Soup:** On Tuesdays during Lent, our church family comes together for Mass, and then we share a meal of soup and bread in the ACC. Volunteers are needed to help in the kitchen, set up, clean up, and to make soup and/or bread. **Contact: Cindy Laufer at [assistantyouthmin@ascensionvb.org](mailto:assistantyouthmin@ascensionvb.org)** and **Madison Putt at [madisonputt@hotmail.com](mailto:madisonputt@hotmail.com)**

**Welcome Desk Hospitality:** This ministry continues the welcoming spirit of Church of the Ascension. The desire is to have at least one person before and after Mass stationed at this desk to answer questions and assist parishioners and visitors. This position would help people register in the parish, give out name tags, and provide general information as needed. Time commitment would be 30 minutes prior to and after Mass when scheduled. **Contact: Lisa Liedl at [liedll@ascensionvb.org](mailto:liedll@ascensionvb.org) 757-495-1886 x422** (*Virtus training encouraged*)

# FINANCE/OPERATIONS/WAYS AND MEANS MINISTRY

Unless otherwise specified, contact Lisa Liedl at [liedll@ascensionvb.org](mailto:liedll@ascensionvb.org) or 757-495-1886 X422.

**Count and Bank Offertories:** Count Offertory contributions each Sunday after Liturgy. Four teams rotate, counting once monthly. Computer skills are helpful for data input. The process takes 3 to 4 hours on Sunday. Counters at different fundraisers are also needed. Time and dates vary depending upon event; when needed, it would be only a few hours. (*Virtus training Required*)

**ACC (Ascension Construction Crew):** This group puts much effort into keeping our buildings and grounds in good condition. Volunteers find an excellent opportunity to experience fellowship while learning many new skills in electrical, carpentry, plumbing, etc. The Crew meets on Saturday mornings and works for no more than four hours. This group also helps with table & chair set up for special events and fundraisers. Your level and frequency of support is up to you. (*Virtus training required*)

**Building Porter, Saturday Evenings:** This volunteer monitors building entrance/exit during a local Narcotics Anonymous Meeting. (This group has been meeting at Ascension for over 20 years) This person serves as a Church representative in case of emergency, for example there is a medical emergency where 911 is called, or some building issue (ie plumbing, door won't close. This volunteers has phone numbers for staff in case an issue arises. Hours are 7:00pm or 7:30pm depending upon the weekend until 9:15pm. (*Virtus training required*)

**Grounds Care:** We have extensive grounds to maintain and beautify, including seasonal plantings, pruning, weeding, and improving our property. Any amount of time during the week or on weekends. Grass Cutting is currently done by several dedicated volunteers on our riding lawn mower. We are in need of one or more able bodied person to do the push mower sections. **Many of our volunteers are over 80 and would love to have some lessed "seasoned" volunteers help out**(*Virtus training required*)

**Parish Office Volunteer:** Volunteers for our parish administrative office are needed to assist parish staff. If your talents include computer skills, answering phones, filing, handling bulk mailings, and other projects, this ministry may be calling you. Morning and Afternoon shifts are available. **Contact Joanne Webb at [secretary@ascensionvb.org](mailto:secretary@ascensionvb.org) 757-495-1886 x410** (*Virtus training encouraged*)

## Finance and Operations Continued

**Safety Program:** The goal of the Safety Program is to provide a safe and secure place for all God's children. The program consists of a **Safety Committee, Safety Team** and **Medical Team**.

- The **Safety Committee** meets quarterly to review safety plans, training, and team status.
- The **Safety Team** (experience desired but not required - Military, Police, Fire Fighters, First Responders, etc.) aids in maintaining a safe environment prior to, during, and after weekend Masses and special events.
- The **Medical Team** (experienced required - RN's, DR's, EMT's, etc.) provides general first aid, patient evaluation, and emergency medical care while waiting for emergency response.

All members must attend Safety Indoctrination Training and *Virtus* Training. CPR and First Aid knowledge is desired for Safety Team and required for Medical Team. Attend quarterly or refresh training as needed. Time commitment each weekend:

- Safety Team – provides 2 hours of coverage per mass (preferably the mass you are NOT celebrating due to the attentive safety roles and responsibilities). It requires standing and walking for 1 to 2 hours at a time, both inside and outside.
- Medical Team – no time requirements; attends regular masses and makes themselves available as needed

**Contact:** Ernie D'Antonio at [ernest.dantonio@verizon.net](mailto:ernest.dantonio@verizon.net) (*Virtus training required*)

**Ways and Means Committee:** This Committee coordinates all community builders and fundraisers, including Parish Breakfasts, Christmas Bazaar and Craft Show, Plant Sales, & Parish Social Family Events. The Committee provides support and guidance to event leaders. August – June monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday at 6:00pm in the Conference Room upstairs. Julie Bressette ([gr8tk1ds@cox.net](mailto:gr8tk1ds@cox.net)) or Teresa Allen ([twonda@verizon.net](mailto:twonda@verizon.net))

- **Bakers:** People to bake during the year for special fundraising events (such as Christmas Bazaar and French Café).
- **Food Servers:** We need Food Servers at most of our functions where food is served. (*Virtus training required*)
- **Set Up/ Tear Down/Clean Up ACC:** People needed prior to events to arrange and set up tables. After the event, need to remove trash, sweep, put away items, and leave the ACC ready for use of the next group. (*Virtus training required*)
- **Decorate:** People needed the morning of the event to place tablecloths, table settings, and needed items out. Possibly put chair covers on chairs. Decorate ACC and tables. (*Virtus training required*)
- **Kitchen Clean Up:** Wash dishes, sweep and mop kitchen during events when the kitchen is being used to prepare food. Secure the kitchen after events. (*Virtus training required*)