

ASCENSION CATHOLIC CHURCH
230 SANTA MARIA DRIVE, CHESTERFIELD, MO 63005
636.532.3304 WWW.ASCENSIONCHESTERFIELD.ORG



Welcome to Ascension Catholic Church!

It is with joy and hopefulness that I welcome you to Ascension and invite you to experience the community of faith that has been developing here for almost 100 years.

The Spirit of Ascension is composed of many elements, most important are Faith, Hope, and Love (the theological virtues that come from God) which we incorporate in our spiritual, educational, pastoral, and social activities.

As we gather on Sunday around the Lord's altar, we hope you will:

- Become acquainted with each other
- Say a word of greeting
- Come to know each other by name
- Share our happiness, enthusiasm and faith with others.

We come to pray and be refreshed by God. The attitude of our parishioners is extremely important to feeling "at home" in Ascension Church so that we can be "...the best version of ourself."

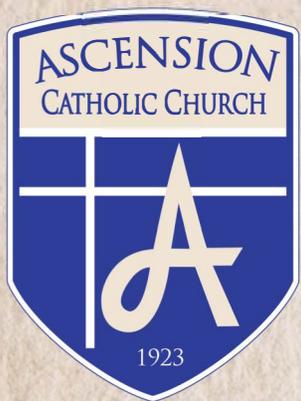
We are growing. As we grow, we want you to become an integral part of what we know and cherish, the Spirit of Ascension. Please:

- Allow us to share some of our past successes with you as our pledge for the future
- Join us in our endeavor to grow in Faith, Hope and Love
- Participate spiritually, personally, and financially in supporting our parish
- **Come, Pray with Us as God's Holy People**

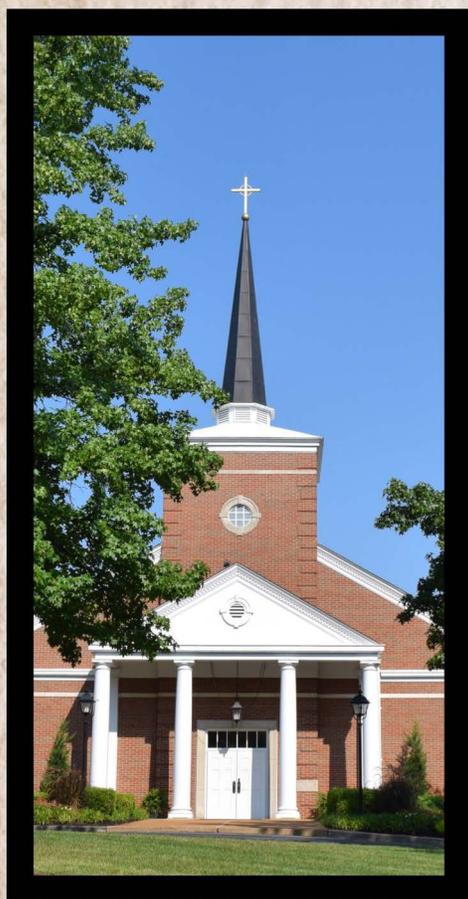
Gratefully and sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Thomas M. Molini". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Thomas M. Molini
Pastor



2020 MINISTRY & ORGANIZATION DIRECTORY



**LOVE GOD. LOVE OTHERS.
MAKE DISCIPLES.**

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Sacrament of Baptism: The sacrament of Baptism ushers us into the divine life, cleanses us from sin, and initiates us as members of the Christian community. It is the foundation for the sacramental life.

Infant baptisms are celebrated at 1:15 PM most Sundays. Parents are asked to call the Ascension Parish Office to schedule the baptism of their child and register to attend a preparation session before the baptism. Preparation sessions are offered on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Main Church.

Adult baptisms are ordinarily celebrated at the Easter Vigil after participating in the extended preparation associated with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). These sessions begin in the fall of the year to prepare adults to enter the Church in the following spring. The priests or deacons will discuss this with you.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Contrition and conversion lead us to seek a forgiveness for our sins so as to repair damaged relationships with God, self, and others. We believe that only ordained priests have the faculty of absolving sins from the authority of the Church in the name of Jesus Christ (CCC 1495). Our sins are forgiven by God, through the priest.

Confessions are heard: Monday-Saturday 7:30 – 7:50 AM
Saturday 4:00 – 4:45 PM

Call or email one of the priests to arrange outside these times

First Reconciliation: Children's preparation for this sacrament is provided through our educational programs; adults are prepared through the RCIA.

Sacrament of Holy Eucharist: The liturgical life of the Church revolves around the sacraments, with the Eucharist at the center. The gospels remind us that the Eucharist was instituted at the Last Supper and at Mass we are fed by the Word and nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ. We believe that the Risen Christ is truly and substantially present in the Eucharist.

Celebrations of the Eucharist: Holy Mass is offered at Ascension in both of our churches

Main Church: Sunday 7:00 AM, 8:00 AM, 9:15 AM, 10:45 AM, 12:15 PM, 5:30 PM
Saturday 8:00 AM, 5:00 PM (Sunday Vigil)
Monday – Friday 8:00 AM, 12:00 Noon (August to Late June)
Holydays 6:30 AM, 8:00 AM, 12:00 Noon, 5:00 PM, 7:00 PM

Little Church: Monday-Friday 6:30 AM
Second Saturday of the Month 7:00 PM (Spanish)

First Communion: Children's preparation for this sacrament is provided through our educational programs; adults are prepared through the RCIA.

Sacrament of Confirmation: At Confirmation we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and confirm our baptismal promises. Greater awareness of the Holy Spirit is conferred through the anointing of chrism oil and the laying on of hands by the Bishop. Through this sacrament we commit to living a life of maturity in the Christian faith.

Children's preparation for this sacrament is provided through our educational programs; adults are prepared through the RCIA. For adult Catholics who were not confirmed in their youth, the priests and deacons will discuss the process to receive this sacrament.

Sacrament of Marriage: The sacrament of Marriage is a visible sign of God's love for the Church. When a man and woman are married in the Church, they receive the grace needed for a lifelong bond of unity. Arrangements for this sacrament are made by contacting one of the priests. While the *Common Marriage Policy for the Archdiocese of St. Louis* requires a minimum of six months in active study, instruction, and discussion, we encourage at least ten months notice.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick: This sacrament is intended for any member of the faithful whose health is *seriously* impaired by sickness, old age, or may be in danger of death. The Church seeks to offer strength and support for the sick person. Please call one of the priests to arrange for this sacrament or call the Ascension Parish Office.

Sacrament of Holy Orders: The Catechism teaches that Holy Orders is the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time. Deacons, priests, and bishops are essential to the Church as they continue the ministry begun by the apostles. Young men interested in serving as a priest are encouraged to speak to one of the parish priests or contact the Archdiocesan Vocation Office at <http://archstl.org/vocations>.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): Ascension's RCIA is for anyone who desires a journey of faith by investigating the truths of the Catholic Christian tradition or is seriously considering joining the Catholic Church. This includes anyone previously baptized in other Christian denominational churches and wishing to complete their initiation into the Catholic Church through Confirmation and First Eucharist; or for anyone not baptized and interested in learning about the Catholic faith. Meets once a week beginning in September and concludes two weeks following Easter.

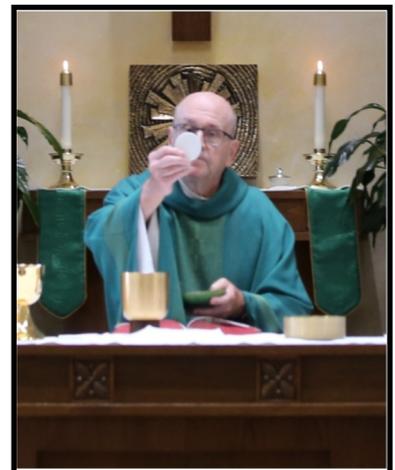
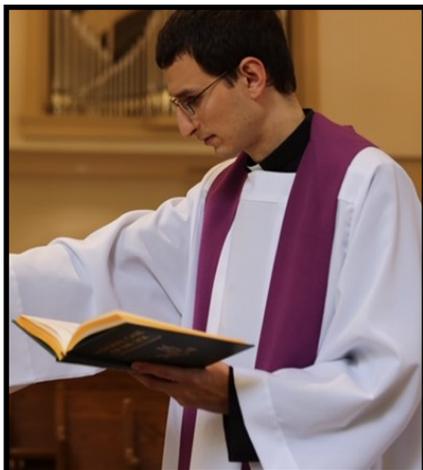
Rite of Christian Initiation of Teens (RCIT): The rite of initiation of teens is a process for high school age teens who wish to become Catholic or who are interested in completing the Sacraments of Initiation, Eucharist and/or Confirmation.

Communion for the Homebound: Parishioners who are unable to attend Mass due to age or illness (whether temporary or permanent), may call the Ascension Parish Office for an Ascension Communion Minister to visit you in your home for prayer and the Most Holy Eucharist for as long as needed.

Communion for the Hospitalized: Due to HIPPA government regulations, the hospitals no longer contact Ascension Parish to inform us that you, a relative, or friend is hospitalized. If you wish to receive a visit and Communion from one of Ascension's priests or deacons, please contact the Ascension Parish Office.

Senior Living Facility Ministry: Each week Ascension parishioners and clergy visit the residents of the senior living facilities within the parish boundaries. Mass or Communion services are conducted, and visits are made to individual rooms for those who cannot attend the Mass or service. Please let the administration of the facility know that you are Catholic, so our ministers will have you included on their lists of those to visit.

Ascension Parish Office: 636.532.3304



CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Early Childhood Center (AECC): Known as The Little School, half and full day programs are offered for children ages two through "Kindergarten Ready". The high-quality comprehensive curriculum covers the domains of language/literacy, math, science, socio-emotional skills, and cognitive development. The Little School recognizes each individual child as a special, unique gift of God and is dedicated to the development of a positive self-concept by integrating Catholic- Christian virtues into all individual and group activities.

Ascension Elementary School: Ascension Catholic School employs a challenging faith-based curriculum to help students reach their personal and academic potential. The faculty partners with families to create a positive, supportive environment that values the individual contributions of each community member. Faith, family, and academic excellence are combined and united as one. During their time at Ascension students learn the importance of hard work, self-discipline, and service to others. Our graduates leave Ascension ready to make a difference in the world while confidently succeeding in most rigorous college preparatory high schools. Prospective parents interested in joining the Ascension family should explore the school website and feel free to contact Principal Joseph Kilmade with any questions.

Parish School of Religion (PSR): PSR provides instruction in the teachings of the Catholic Church for children kindergarten through 8th grade. Two Sessions are offered: Sunday 10:30-11:45 AM and Monday 5:00-6:15 PM. In addition, sacramental preparation for Baptism through Confirmation is provided for high schoolers. The PSR program is successful because of its many volunteers. All parents and older siblings are encouraged to volunteer in whatever capacity they are called. Dedicating time and talent to the program also reinforces the importance of a family's Catholic identity.

Parents' Association (PA): This is a voluntary organization open to all parents whose children attend Ascension School. Its purpose is to promote the welfare of the school by striving to better our Catholic community through cooperation with the parents and administration. The PA develops and manages numerous fundraising and volunteer opportunities that support the school and teachers plus provides financial support for many school activities. PA also hosts social events to build community among school families. Open meetings are held in the fall and spring.

Totus Tuus: Totus Tuus (Totally Yours) is a summer Catholic youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic faith through evangelization, catechesis, Christian witness, and Eucharistic worship. The week-long program is offered for youth in Kindergarten through 6th grade during the day. Middle school and high school attend in the evening. By combining fun, faith and fellowship, a dynamic week is promised to all who participate.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Altar Society: Members have two different areas in which they can help. Volunteers can either clean the Main Church and Little Church or can launder and press the altar linens on a rotating schedule.

Adult Choir: Singing, as we know, is praying twice. The choir assists the priests in setting the tone for the Mass by leading the congregation in praise. They sing at 9:15 AM Mass each Sunday during the school year, Labor Day through Memorial Day. Summer months are vacation time. Rehearsal is held every Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM in the Main Church. The choir is open to adults and high school age youth. New voices are always welcome.

Cantors: Volunteers lead the congregation in singing at liturgical celebrations. Ascension offers both traditional and present day Catholic music at our Masses.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Members of this ministry are trained and commissioned to help with the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass, as needed. They may also volunteer to bring the Blessed Sacrament to the homebound, those in senior facilities and to others unable to attend Mass on a regular basis.

Greeters: These friendly parishioners create a spirit of hospitality by ensuring all visitors and parish members feel part of the Ascension faith community. Greeters welcome everyone as they arrive for all weekend and special Masses and faith events. They may also provide information on the parish.

Lectors: This is a ministry of the proclamation of the Word of God requiring careful reading, research and prayer. A training session is required.

Servers: Boys and girls, grade 5 and older, assist the celebrant at Sunday and school Masses. They also serve at funerals and weddings. At daily Masses, adults assume this responsibility. Servers are responsible for finding their own replacements if they are unable to serve at their assigned Mass.

Ushers: The ushers at each Mass help parishioners find seating, pass the collection baskets, facilitate presentation of the gifts at Communion by selecting a family and distribute the bulletins after Mass. They also work in concert with the greeters in making all feel welcome at Ascension Church.

Children's Liturgy: Jesus made a special point of welcoming the children. At 9:15 AM and 10:45 AM Sunday Masses, toddlers through 1st graders are invited by the celebrant to come together for the Children's Liturgy of the Word. The children are led to a room in the back of the church by adult volunteers to participate in the readings at a child's level and then return to Mass during the Offertory. No prior sign up is required. More volunteers are needed to lead. Parents may shadow and join the group any Sunday.

Little Lambs: Little Lambs is Ascension's Sunday School for preschoolers. The little ones are introduced to the teachings of our faith through age appropriate activities. Meets during the 10:45 AM Mass in the Community Room in the Ascension School Building.



FAITH FORMATION



Women of the Word: This group offers friendship, strength, and support as they gather together to glorify God's name, learn more about Catholic doctrine, and share personal experiences. Whether you are beginning your journey, on your journey, or struggling with your journey, all are welcome! Respectful dialogue and questions are encouraged. Meets Thursday morning from 9:30 -11:30 AM in the Parish Hall.

Wednesday Morning Faith Group: This Bible Study is a sensitive, perceptive, empathetic community of Christian believers where Jesus Christ is the real leader. Jesus is followed with open arms, open minds and open hearts. It is a safe place where joys, burdens, sorrows and day-to-day life are confidentially shared through prayers, Bible Study and thanksgiving.

Wednesday Evening Faith Group: This group is open to all adults and focuses on both Catholic education and formation. Programs are presented using Catholic media available from sources such as Augustine Institute, Ascension Press, Word on Fire, and other popular cutting-edge Catholic programs . The program continues throughout the year. Meeting are every Wednesday 7:00– 8:15 PM in the Parish Hall. See the bulletin for the current study.

Thursday Morning Men's 55 Faith Group: This group of men of all ages comes together to communicate the love of Jesus Christ, to articulate the teachings of the Catholic Church, and to affirm them in the parish through prayer and Scripture. The day begins with the 6:30 AM Mass in the Little Church and then meets in the Parish Hall from 7:00– 7:55 AM for coffee, prayer, and reflection.

Men's Awakening: This group of men of all ages meets every Saturday morning from 6:30–7:50 AM in the Parish Hall. Afterwards, many attend 8:00 AM Mass. The goal is to provide an awakening of men's sense of themselves. This is accomplished through recorded sessions on DVD's made by the latest authors and teachers of our Catholic faith. A light breakfast is served.

Women in God's Service (WINGS): WINGS provides opportunities for spiritual growth for all women of the parish by hosting Advent by Candlelight, Spring Soiree, periodic meetings featuring guest speakers, and service opportunities. They also collaborate with other parish organizations and ministries to help build parish unity. Events appear in the bulletin.

Men's White House Retreats: Ascension parish organizes two men's 3-day retreats in the spring and fall at the White House Jesuit Retreat in South St. Louis based on *The Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius*. Join for fellowship, prayer and the opportunity to become more Christlike.

Women's Fall Retreat: This retreat is held on the first Saturday of October. It strives to deepen love for Jesus through the models of St. Therese, whose Feast Day is October 1. October is also the month of the Rosary. All women of Ascension are invited for a morning of fellowship, prayer, worship, and fun! The format is set up for women to come and go as their busy Saturday schedules permit. The morning begins with the Rosary, followed by breakfast, a guest speaker with reflections, and ends with Holy Mass.

"Welcome": WELCOME is a parish retreat focused on renewing faith and creating a stronger and more vibrant Ascension Parish community. The retreat was designed by Dynamic Catholic and has helped thousands of Catholics "become the best-version-of-themselves". Fellow parishioners share inspirational stories about their faith. The weekend includes prayer, sacraments, Adoration, and more! Separate retreats for men and women are offered in the spring.



PARISH LIFE

Adopt-A-Platoon: The Knights of Columbus Adopt-A-Platoon Committee supports our Ascension family members currently serving in the military by sending packages to their respective platoons. They need help in obtaining the names and contact information of our serving members as well as financial support to continue their mission. Names, contacts information and/or contributions may be mailed to Ascension Parish.

Ambassadors: A group for parishioners age 50+ that support each other in faith, charity, and living our parish mission. They provide opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship with fun, food, and occasional adventures around St. Louis—and beyond! Annual events include: a Valentine lunch, a summer picnic, Chili Sampling in October, and a Christmas party and lunch. Meets the first Friday of every month in the Little Church and Parish Hall.

Ascension Young Families Group: Ascension parish wants its families to grow in faith together. This group was formed to support parents in raising their children to be strong in their faith. All who have children birth through elementary school age are encouraged to join the group for social events, spiritual activities, and service projects catered to families.

Bereavement Committee: Organizes a special Mass and reception on All Souls' Day for parishioners who have recently passed and for those who have lost a family member in the past year.

Ascension Couples Bridge: All skill levels are welcome in this social marathon bridge group. Games are played from September through April and scores are reported and tallied for the year. Each team hosts twice a year with the host couple determining the game date based on the availability of the four teams involved. In December the entire group meets at Ascension Parish Hall for a Christmas buffet and game. They close the year with a June luncheon at a restaurant or country club where the top three teams are recognized.

Ascension Ladies Daytime Bridge: This is a fun group that enjoys the social aspect of bridge. They meet the second Monday of the month, September through April, at a local restaurant where they have lunch and play party bridge. Everyone has a permanent partner, but new members do not have to have one to join the group when it starts in the fall. There is a sub list to fill in as needed and to compile teams for the next year. All skill levels are welcome!

Fair Ascension: Ascension is proud to bring together our parish community for a day of family fun, socializing, and volunteerism. Inflatables, rides, kids' games, food, and a Pro-Life auction are all part of the fun. Volunteering for two hours is a great way to meet other parishioners.



Martha Guild: Wishing to express Christ's love to those who suffer the loss of a loved one, this group of volunteers provides a meal for the bereaved family following a funeral. Members prepare, serve, and clean up.

The Knights of Columbus: This worldwide organization is committed to Charity to those in need, Unity as a Catholic lay organization, Fraternity with our brother Knights, and Patriotism towards our country and those who serve. Financial support is provided for Ascension schools, those with developmental disabilities, Special Olympics, and others. Events sponsored include Roses for Life, Sunday parish breakfasts, bingo, and blood drives. Monthly meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday beginning with the Rosary at 7:00 PM followed by the general council meeting at 7:30 PM. Membership is open to men 18 years and older.

Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary: These ladies are the wives, mothers, and daughters of living and deceased Knights of Columbus. The Auxiliary financially supports the Knights with Missionaries of Charity Soup Kitchen, the Ash Wednesday Lenten Supper, Felice Cuores, and Backpacks for Prisoners. Assistance is provided on the Knights Annual Golf Tournament, St. Pat's Party and Christmas Family Adoption events. Each year the ladies focus on Sewing for the Clergy, Bake & Jewelry Sale at Fair Ascension, and a Fall Fundraiser. Meets the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Parish Partners: Transitions are always challenging. Partners was created to ensure that all new parishioners immediately feel a part of the Ascension family. After registration, a Partner will call to introduce Ascension and be the primary resource for any questions about the parish, school, PSR, neighborhood or community. New Parishioner Socials are held semi-annually.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: These women crochet or knit prayer shawls and baby blankets for those suffering a serious illness in hope of bringing comfort. Upon completion, the items are blessed by a priest and are presented in a gift bag with a card and prayer. Donations of \$20 are welcome. They also make baby hats for newborns (Beanies for Babies) that are donated to Birthright. The ladies meet for Pray N Stitch on the second Wednesday of the month in the Parish Hall from 12:00 - 1:30 PM. All are welcome to join the group, learn to crochet or knit, donate yarn, or request a shawl for someone.

Separated and Divorced Ministry: Provides a 12-week workshop entitled, "Surviving Divorce, Hope and Healing for the Catholic Family". The program helps separated and divorced Catholics find peace, power, and renewed passion for life.

Social Media: Ascension Catholic Church uses Facebook, the MyParish app, and the website www.asc.church. Ascension is looking for anyone with skills in graphic design, videography or photography who would like to get involved with the parish's social media.

Winterfest: Come out of the cold and into the warmth of our parish community! Winterfest is an all parish event which in essence is a Ministry Fair disguised as a Chili Cook-off. It is typically scheduled a weekend in late January. All parish ministries and organizations are encouraged to be represented in an effort to inform and encourage participation.

Young Adults (YA): The Young Adults group at Ascension is centered around creating a renewed sense of spirituality and faith among the young adults (21-35ish) in the Chesterfield area. They aim to do this by fostering an environment of friendship and community, strengthening the Body of Christ through fellowship, spiritual formation, and service to others. The YA coordinates various events throughout the year such as: Game Night, Friendsgiving, Super Bowl Party, and Christmas Movie Night.

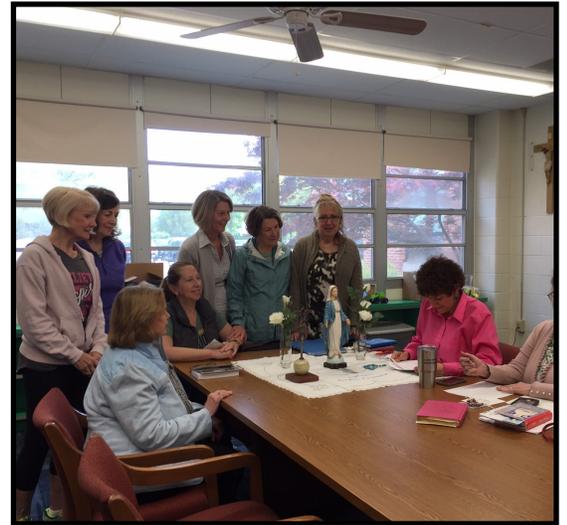
SPIRITUAL LIFE

Eucharistic Adoration: Eucharistic Adoration is the adoration of Jesus Christ present in the Most Holy Eucharist. Although the Eucharist maintains the appearance of bread, Catholics believe that when consecrated at Mass, what once was bread is now the Body of Christ, that is Jesus Christ Himself is really present, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. Jesus Christ is God the Son and we adore Him as God present in the Eucharist. Displayed on the altar in a special holder called a monstrance, people come to pray, adore, or just spend quiet time with Our Lord. Ascension offers Eucharistic Adoration every Thursday following 8:00 AM Mass until 7:00 PM in the Little Church.

Daily Rosary: The Rosary is a scripture-based prayer that recalls important events or mysteries in the life of Jesus Christ. During the prayer, Mary is called upon to help us to better understand the life of her Son. Praying the Rosary honors and unites one with Jesus and Mary, and gives praise to our Triune God. *Rosario en español los lunes a las 7:00 PM en la pequeña iglesia.*

Ascension Rosary Schedule:

Monday-Saturday	7:30 AM in the Main Church before 8:00 AM Mass
Monday	6:00 PM in the Little Church
Thursdays	During Adoration in the Little Church 2:00 PM for priests; 6:15 PM for Youth Ministry
Mondays	7:00 PM in the Little Church Rosary in Spanish



Legion of Mary: The Legion of Mary is a worldwide association of Catholic laity who serve the Church through prayer and service. Members of the Legion are primarily engaged in the performance of spiritual works of Mercy rather than works of material aid. Ascension's Legion members are involved in many ministries: conducting Rosary services at Friendship Village, assisting Father at Mass at Garden View and Sunrise, praying for the unborn at Planned Parenthood, taking Holy Communion and making home visits to the sick and homebound, preparing meals for families in need, and cooking for the homeless. Meets for prayer, planning and discussion on Saturday mornings after 8:00 AM Mass in the MPR annex.

Padre Pio: This group focuses on St. Pio's favorite saying: "Pray, hope, and don't worry" when our lives are filled with overwhelming burdens that paralyze our spirituality. Meetings are held once a month and a Mass and special blessing is celebrated on his feast day, September 23rd.

Prayer Line: "We pray, God takes care of the answers." This vibrant ministry is dedicated to serving their fellow parishioners through intercessory prayer for those with various and often very urgent needs. Currently, about 70 members volunteer to pray daily for those who call in requests. Since 1992, the line is open to callers 24/7 every day of the year with 50-60 requests received per month. Prayers are started immediately, and requests are then passed on to the rest of the group through a monthly newsletter using only first names to insure privacy. Members agree to keep all information confidential. Request prayers or volunteer to be a part of the Ascension Prayer Line.

SoulCore: This prayer experience combines the Rosary with body resistant exercises, stretching, and functional movement. Both chair and floor/mat SoulCore are offered at Ascension. Chair SoulCore allows participants to use a chair for stability and to exercise while seated. For mat SoulCore, extra mats and hand weights are provided for those who do not have their own. Dress in comfortable clothing or sportswear. Meets on Mondays in the parish hall. All are welcome.

Visiting Statue of Mary: Several years ago, Ascension welcomed the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima into our parish. Since that time the statue has traveled throughout the parish visiting families and individuals. She may stay until another request is received. All parish families are encouraged to take Our Lady's Statue into their home at least once.

Vocation Committee: God calls each of us to use our gifts to serve Him in the priesthood, consecrated religious life, marriage, or committed single life. The newly formed Vocations Committee focuses on creating a culture of holy vocations for all people within the parish. With prayers and activities, they will foster an awareness of God's personal call for everyone. Through prayer cards, open conversations, Holy Hours and the Chalice Program, they hope to hear the word of God and act upon it with the support of the parish community.



S O C I A L O U T R E A C H

Blood Donor Program: The Knights of Columbus host an American Red Cross blood drive twice a year at Ascension. It is held in the school gym from 7:30 AM–12:30 PM on the third Sunday of February and August.

Casserole Bakers: Casseroles are prepared each month and taken to the Missionaries of Charity Soup Kitchen in St. Louis city to feed the homeless and the poor. Recipes are mailed to the volunteers along with instructions explaining the procedure, due date, and drop-off place. A monthly recipe is provided and volunteers make the casserole for the month(s) of their choice.

Feeding the Homeless Men of St. Peter and Paul Church: On the third Saturday of each month, this group gathers in the kitchen of Ascension school at 3:00 PM to joyfully prepare a complete homemade meal for about 70 homeless men at St. Peter and Paul shelter. A few volunteers then take the meal downtown to the shelter and serve. Donations of food and ingredients as well as help with meal prep are needed.

Catholic Employment Network (CEN): The Ascension Chapter of the Catholic Employment Network offers guidance and support for job seekers by providing spiritual and practical job search services. Group meetings are held the second and fourth Monday from 6:00–7:30 PM in the basement of the Little Church. Participants will be provided job search tips, feedback on their resume and cover letters, networking opportunities, and one-on-one coaching. RSVP's are required. Opportunities can also be posted on www.catholicemploymentnetwork.org

Respect Life Committee: The goal of the Ascension Respect Life Committee is to work for respect for all life, especially the unborn. Through prayer, speakers, literature, education, and fundraising it strives to make the parish more aware of the tragedy of abortion and to encourage parishioners to make a commitment to protect unborn babies. Monthly meetings are held eight times a year on the second Tuesday. They begin at 7:15 PM in the Little Church to pray the rosary and then proceeding at 7:30 PM to the Parish Hall. All parishioners are invited to participate.

Forty Days for Life: On two days during the calendar year (usually in Spring and Fall), the coordinators organize a schedule offering our parishioners an opportunity to pray at Planned Parenthood for the end of abortion.



Food Bank: Twenty-five of our team members volunteer at the St Louis Area Food Bank, located in Bridgeton, MO, on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 9:00 AM-12:00 noon. The work varies depending on donations received. It includes picking, sorting, checking product codes, repacking, and palletizing. New members are always welcome.

Reach-Out: Its mission is "To enable Ascension parishioners a means of living the gospel of Our Lord, Jesus Christ". Reach-Out does this by collecting food, clothing and money on the third Sunday of each month for those less fortunate in St. Louis. Our two inner city recipients are St. Vincent de Paul parish and the "MAT" Social Ministry at St. Alphonsus Rock Church. Also included in the Reach-Out program are Meal-A-Month, Casserole Bakers and four annual collections consisting of the "Back-to-School Drive" on the 2nd Sunday in August, "Homeless Drive" on the 2nd Sunday in October, the Thanksgiving Collection in November, and Christmas Collection on the 2nd Sunday in December.

St. Nicholas Food Pantry: For nearly 40 years, Ascension St. Vincent de Paul Conference has operated this Food Pantry located at St Nicholas Church on 18th Street in St. Louis city. Operating only on Mondays, they serve over 5,000 clients annually. Some members volunteer to visit 13 different retail donation pick-ups and Operation Food Search beginning Sunday AM through Monday AM. Others perform administrative duties, attend meetings, value shop on an ongoing basis, or run a Super Saturday Food Collection at Dierbergs and Schnucks in Wildwood. Learn more by attending a St. Vincent de Paul meeting on the third Saturday of the month.

Ascension Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society: Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international Catholic lay organization dedicated to providing person-to-person service to our neighbors in need right here at home. Our parish-based conference provides food, clothing and furniture through St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores, transportation, utility bill assistance, and housing and prescription drug assistance to those needing help. Aid is based on assessments made by trained Vincentian volunteers, who meet with those seeking help. Additional activities include: Blanket Collection for Criminal Justice Ministry and St Vincent De Paul Church, St. Nicholas Food Pantry in St Louis city every Monday, St Vincent de Paul meals every 4th Wednesday of each month, St. Peter and Paul Shelter meals quarterly, and blessing bags of assorted snacks and toiletries for distribution to the homeless. Meetings are scheduled for every 3rd Saturday of each month, 9:00-11:00 AM in the Parish Hall.

Stephen Ministry: Stephen Ministers are laypeople - Christian men and women - trained to provide high quality, confidential one to one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, or separation due to military deployment.



YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS



Athletic Association: The Ascension Athletic Association is dedicated to providing a safe, family-oriented environment for our children to learn and enjoy organized sporting activities. The goal of our various programs is not only to teach children how to play a given sport, but also how to be a good sport in both victory and defeat. Our volunteers strive to develop athletic skills in a positive environment which promotes Christian values. Soccer, volleyball, basketball, golf, and track programs are open to any child whose family is a registered member of Ascension parish, lives within Ascension parish boundaries, or attends Ascension school. Other activities such as adult volleyball and men's basketball are also offered through our association.

Cub Scouts: Cub scouting is a family-oriented program of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) whose overall mission is to help young people build character, learn citizenship, and develop personal fitness. In addition to traditional scouting fun in the outdoors, Ascension's Pack 597 emphasizes service opportunities and the development of Catholic values. Any boy in Kindergarten through 5th grade who wishes to join in crafts, adventures, and ongoing Catholic spiritual development is welcome. Pack meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month in the MPR from 6:15–7:45 PM.

Boy Scouts: The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. Troop 597 places particular emphasis on advancement, leadership development, and its outdoor and religious programs. The troop is open to boys ages 11-18 and monthly conducts one outdoor activity. Meets weekly on Wednesdays 7:00-8:30 PM in the Parish Hall basement.

Girl Scouts: Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. Troops at Ascension are organized by grade-level and typically meet after school on a monthly basis. We welcome any girl in Kindergarten through 8th grade who wishes to join us to create new friendships, learn new skills, go on adventures, help the community, and so much more.

Venturing: This is the most senior Boy Scouts of America program dedicated to the development of Catholic leadership of COED youth. It is directed at scouts/students from 9th grade through 12th grade matching both the Venturing Scouts of America's advancement challenges with Archdiocesan Catholic scouting leadership programs. They put into practice lessons learned and apply those principles to plan a variety of activities that are interesting to our scouts. These activities provide excellent achievement credentials for college-bound resumes.



Ascension Youth Ministry (AYM): The vision of Ascension Youth Ministry (AYM) is a Christ-centered community forming Christ-centered teens! This is done through authentic, charismatic, communal and joyful events and programs. All high schoolers are invited to join in on Sunday evenings in the Parish Hall from 7:00-9:00 PM and on Tuesday evenings in the basement of the Little Church from 7:00-9:00 PM. We can't wait to meet you! Annual events include:

- **Fall Retreat** - a weekend getaway in October/November for high school students to reconnect as a community.
- **Generation Life** – the Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Washington D.C for the annual March for Life in January.
- **Project Life** - a week-long service retreat for high school students in early summer.
- **Steubenville** - a weekend conference for over 5,000 high school students across the Midwest.
- **Luke 18** – our annual retreat for 8th graders (led by the high school students) preparing them for Confirmation, high school, and life-long discipleship.
- **Totus Tuus (Teen-Evening)** - a week of peer witnesses, worship, and joy lead by four college-aged missionaries.



LEADERSHIP CORE COMMISSIONS

Education Commission: Created to support and strengthen Ascension Parish's Catholic educational programs; to collaborate with and serve as advocates for parish programs to foster interaction and outreach; and to consider the perspectives and concerns of other cultures and people with special pastoral needs. Three objectives are: to increase enrollment in Ascension's lower, upper, PSR and Little School, to develop a plan to market Ascension's schools, and to encourage parish involvement and collaboration with the growth of our educational offerings. educationcommission@ascensionchesterfield.org

Engagement Commission: Created to mentor and direct new members toward greater engagement; to create greater hospitality in all parish groups and events; and to recommend and support outreach efforts to estranged parishioners and those in time of need. Specific activities undertaken were the creation and installation of pew cards and holders, compilation of the Ministry & Organization Directory, promotion of the First Annual Time & Talent Winterfest, development of the Parish Partner Program and New Parishioner Socials, establishment of a Blessing for Animals Sunday, coordination of monthly special events for young adults, and the development of a mass mailer to invite families within our parish boundaries to Fair Ascension. engagementcommission@ascensionchesterfield.org

Evangelization Commission: Created to foster through prayers and study a strong personal devotion to Christ and His Church through prayer and study in order to lead others to Christ; to anticipate and prepare for opportunities to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word with other believers and unbelievers; to recommend and develop new avenues to proclaim the fullness of the Faith to parishioners and others in the area. evangelizationcommission@ascensionchesterfield.org

Faith Formation Commission: Created to invite and enable ongoing conversion to Jesus in Holiness of Life; to promote and support active membership in the Christian community; to call and prepare Teens, Young Adults, and Adults to act as disciples in Mission to the World. It aims at a process of growth which entails taking seriously each person and God's plan for his or her life. Evangelization should stimulate a desire for this growth. faithformationcommission@ascensionchesterfield.org

Stewardship Commission: Created to recognize and foster a sense of community building on the Body of Christ; to propose service and generosity toward the parish and others as the loving response of a disciple; through prayer and formation, to assist all members to value ongoing conversion of heart; and to foster and maintain a responsible and transparent accounting of the parish's financial, census and sacramental records. stewardshipcommission@ascensionchesterfield.org

Liturgical Life Commission: Created to propose catechetical opportunities to enhance fuller understanding of the sacramental life of the Church; to coordinate the various volunteer ministries associated with the liturgy; and to review current practices and to make proposals for a fuller liturgical life in the parish. Specific actions targeted for parish inclusion are: the introduction of greeters, the establishment of a music committee to cross-pollinate music types at all masses and formation of a Music Club, the development of an evaluative tool for homilies, the enhancement of the quality of both lay and deacon participants during Mass through training and selection process, and increased Children's Liturgy participation. liturgicallifecommission@ascensionchesterfield.org

Social Justice Commission: Created to foster a culture of life and dignity of each person among parishioners; to promote the family and community to strengthen the common good of society; to build appreciation of both personal and social responsibilities; to nurture in parishioners a commitment to caring for the poor and the vulnerable; and embrace our stewardship of creation. socialjusticecommission@ascensionchesterfield.org

PARISH MINISTRIES/ORGANIZATIONS CONTACTS

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Sacrament of Baptism
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sacrament of Holy Eucharist
Sacrament of Holy Orders
Sacrament of Confirmation
Sacrament of Marriage
Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
Rite of Christian Initiation of Teens (RCIT)
Communion for the Homebound
Communion for the Hospitalized

Ascension Parish Office 636.532.3304

Senior Living Facility Ministry

Delmar Gardens: Kathie LaMantia, 314.210.5660

Friendship Village: Deb Klug, 636.530.4582
klug17118@sbcglobal.net

Garden View: Jan Lukas, 636.537.9801
lukasjan@aol.com

Sunrise: John Federer, 636.537.3997

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Ascension Early Childhood Center

Erica Argue, 636.532.3375 x3050
eargue@acsls.org

Ascension Elementary School

Principal: Joe Kilmade, 636.532.1151 x3000
jkilmade@acsk8.org
Registrar: Christie Windler, 636.532.1151 x3001
cwindler@acsk8.org

Parent's Association (PA)

Julie Lambert, 314.443.5265
Julie.Lambert1979@gmail.com

Parish School of Religion (PSR)

Robin Seiler, 636.532.1136 x2200
rseiler@ascensionchesterfield.org

Totus Tuus

Robin Seiler, 636.532.1136 x2200
rseiler@ascensionchesterfield.org

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Altar Society

Bev Menendez, 314.369.3552
menendezb@sbcglobal.net

Adult Choir

Ralph Winn, 636.537.2001
winn209@aol.com

Cantors

(Traditional) Ralph Winn
winn209@aol.com
(Present Day Catholic) Connor Stinehart
connorstinehart@gmail.com

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Eucharist

Pat Orf
john2.5aym@gmail.com

Greeters

Jeanne Layton, 636.448.3175
jeannelayton@gmail.com
Rosemary Quigley, 314.740.2245
rmqrd@aol.com

Lectors

Pat Orf
john2.5aym@gmail.com

Servers

Ascension Parish Office, 636.532.3304

Ushers

Diane Droege, 636.288.8890
diane.droege@yahoo.com

Children's Liturgy

Dianne Donahue, 314.703.5700
diannedonahue@sbcglobal.net
Stacey Mannebach, 314.402.5082
stacey.mannebach@edwardjones.com
Sarah Marsh, 314.873.2269
slk7e7@gmail.com

Little Lambs

Kathy Nickel, 636.391.8624
knickel@ascensionchesterfield.org

FAITH FORMATION

Women of the Word

Chris Foeldi, 636.532.3304x2300
cfoeldi@ascensionchesterfield.org

Wednesday Morning Faith Group

Chris Foeldi, 636.532.3304x2300
cfoeldi@ascensionchesterfield.org

Wednesday Evening Faith Group

Chris Foeldi, 636.532.3304x2300
cfoeldi@ascensionchesterfield.org

Thursday Morning Men's 55 Faith Group

Chris Foeldi, 636.532.3304x2300
cfoeldi@ascensionchesterfield.org

Men's Awakening

Larry Cramberg, 636.532.9042
lcramberg@charter.net

Women in God's Service (WINGS):

Mary Wagnitz, 314.229.7511
arentsen2@gmail.com

Men's White House Retreat

(Spring Retreat) Dave Doering, 636.532.3712
dmdoering@yahoo.com
(Fall Retreat) Dave Broughton
dbrough333@aol.com

Women's Fall Retreat

Therese Banister, 314.277.9595
tbanister9@sbcglobal.net

Welcome

(Men's) Mike Stoll
mikegstoll@hotmail.com
(Women's) Lucia Hill, 314.757.1869
luciamhill@yahoo.com

PARISH LIFE

Adopt-A-Platoon

Steve Lewis, 636.532.7028
steve_lewis@charter.net

Ambassadors

Jan Lukas, 636.537.9801
lukasjan@aol.com

Ascension Young Families Group

ascensionyoungfamilies@gmail.com

Bereavement Committee

Phyllis Rybicki, 636.537.2726
rybickip@aol.com

Ascension Couples Bridge

Mary Jermak
marygjermak@att.net

Ascension Ladies Daytime Bridge

Marge Matta, 636.227.8891
margematta@charter.net

Fair Ascension

Russ Isaak, 314.795.6446
rhIsaak@sbcglobal.net

Martha Guild

Martha Alexander
alexanderjm989@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus

Alan Politte
alanpolitte@att.net

Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary

Sandy Politte, 314.226.3980
sapolitte@att.net

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Chris Prilenski, 314.210.6809
wcprienski@charter.net

Separated and Divorced Ministry

Barb Kelley, 636.541.6381
barbkelly616@gmail.com

Social Media

Katie Sullivan, 314.287.1242
ksullivan@ascensionchesterfield.org

Winterfest

Carol Murphy
carol@murphy.us

Young Adults (YA)

youngadults@ascensionchesterfield.org

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Eucharistic Adoration

Daily Rosary

Legion of Mary

Therese Banister, 636.277.9595
theresebanister9@gmail.com

Padre Pio

Janet Martin, 636.537.2686
janmar0509@aol.com

Prayer Line

Sue Schultz, 314.878.7086
Florence Flynn, 636.405.7045

Soulcore

soulcorestlouis@gmail.com

Visiting Statue of Mary

Sandra Vasquez Tarnowski,
314.681.0417 savazqu@yahoo.com

Vocation Committee

frlampe@ascensionchesterfield.org

YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Athletic Association

www.ascensionathleticassociation.org
Jeanne Andrews
jeannelandrews@gmail.com

Cub Scouts

Cubmaster Kevin Hennessy, 636.536.6219
www.ascensioncubscouts.us

Boy Scouts

Scoutmaster Tom Owen, 636.579.6068
jtjowen@att.net

Girl Scouts

Martha Campbell, 314.288.5710
martha4242@gmail.com

Venturing

Jeff Kelly, 314.568.9600

Ascension Youth Ministry (AYM)

youthministry@ascensionchesterfield.org

Safe Environment Training

Ginger Stamer, 636.532.3304x2103
gstamer@ascensionchesterfield.org

SOCIAL OUTREACH

Blood Donor Program

Pete Bruggermann, 636.530.9057
petejoan02@gmail.com

Casserole Bakers

Joann Barnes, 314.323.8177
Sandi Cramberg, 314.307.9041
scramberg@charter.net

Feeding the Homeless Men of St. Peter and Paul Church

Carol Murphy, 636.236.4520
carol@murphy.us

Catholic Employment Network (CEN)

Maura Lem, 314.791.4464
maurelem@aol.com

Respect Life Committee

Jane Winters, 636.537.8406
jwinters617@gmail.com

40 Days for Life

Therese Banister, 636.277.9595
theresebanister9@gmail.com

Food Bank

Dick Sawyer, 314.973.1090
dsawyer879@aol.com

Parish Partners

Susan Volk, 314.422.3286
sevolk@swbell.net

Reach-Out

Tom Massimimo
lakecondo1@sbcglobal.net

St. Nicholas Food Pantry

Ken Bertha, 314.249.8441
kenbertha@hotmail.com

Ascension Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society

Ascension Parish Office, 636.532.3304

Stephen Ministry

Bob Kolf
rgkolf@gmail.com

ASCENSION'S SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Ascension Catholic Church and Schools follow the Safe Environment Program of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. This program, and the continued education of our volunteers and staff, is designed to protect our children and all parishioners as they participate in the activities of our community. All members of our parish leadership, staff, coaches and volunteers (aged 18 and above) are required to complete the Protecting God's Children's workshop, have a standard background check, and provide necessary paperwork. Ascension offers the workshop twice a year. Additional workshops are offered through the Archdiocese of St. Louis throughout the year.



Our Vision

Making church matter by growing Ascension parishioners into disciples who in turn invite others to the Catholic Church in Chesterfield and assisting other Catholic Churches to do the same.

ASCENSION CAMPUS MAP

Entrance from Baxter Road



Entrance from Wildhorse Creek Road

Ascension Catholic Church and School
230 Santa Maria Drive
Chesterfield, MO 63005
(636) 532-3304

Legend:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Ascension Church | 6. Parish Offices |
| 2. Ascension School Entrance | 7. The Little Church |
| 3. Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) | 8. Parish Rectory |
| 4. School Kitchen | 9. Parish Hall (3 rooms) |
| 5. School Gym | 10. Little School Entrance |

HISTORY OF ASCENSION PARISH

The roots of Ascension trace back to first being a mission church of St. Anthony parish which was formed in the early 1900's to serve the mostly German Catholics in and around the bustling community of Centaur Station. Located on the Missouri River west of the current Spirit of St. Louis airport, Centaur boasted rail service, a lime quarry, hotel and store. The first pastor was Rev. Charles Keller who was appointed in 1910. Mass was held on the third floor of a lumber barn. Fr. Reh was appointed in 1913 and was followed by Fr. Louis Schultz in 1917. As the population moved eastward, the church moved from the lumber barn to a smaller building that was used as a school.

By about 1920, Fr. Schultz sought to establish a parish in the town of Chesterfield that would be more centrally located to its congregation. He held Mass in a barn on Olive Street Road owned by his cousin, Joseph Schultz. An attempt was made to purchase land for a new parish but it was not approved by then Archbishop Glennon. In 1921, Fr. Vincent McCartney was appointed to St. Anthony's. Soon after, Theresa Reuther, who later became Sister Cortona of the Sisters of St. Mary, donated two acres of land for the new parish. Ground was broken on April 17, 1923 and the church we lovingly call our "Little Church" was dedicated on Ascension Thursday, May 29, 1924. This new church remained a mission of St. Anthony in Centaur until Fr. John Godfrey was appointed as pastor in 1941 and Ascension became an independent parish with its own small school of 56 children. At first, Fr. Godfrey and the Sisters who taught at the school lived at and commuted from St. Monica's in Creve Coeur but soon Father built a rectory and added some rooms in the school for the Sisters.

During World War II years, growth was slow at Ascension but the parish served participants on both sides of the conflict. A Military Police training camp was set up in Babler Park and Fr. Godfrey took on the additional responsibility of the men's spiritual care. Later in the war, sixty-five Italian prisoners of war arrived in the area under the command of a lieutenant from the Bronx. The officer's first stop was at the rectory to ask Father to provide for the spiritual needs of his men and prisoners, almost all of whom were Catholic. The Italian prisoners shortly after requested to throw a party for Fr. Godfrey and the women of the parish provided homemade cakes and coffee. When Italy surrendered, all sixty-five prisoners volunteered for the American army and left Chesterfield.

After the Italians came a group of German POW army soldiers who worked in the fields and another group of German sailors who did levee work on the Missouri River. The army soldiers were mainly receptive to the church though at first, they were discouraged by their gestapo fellow prisoners. A couple of the Austrian soldiers were assigned to paint the church when Father requested help from their commanding officer. They arrived with tears in their eyes they were so happy to be painting a Catholic church and always spent a few minutes in prayer in the little church at each rest period. The sailors, however, remained dedicated Nazis. By the end of the war, Fr. Godfrey was able to celebrate Mass with the soldiers, but he was never welcomed by the sailors.

Chesterfield also welcomed Japanese Nesei deportees from California. They were American citizens who had been treated as prisoners of war. Many worked for Ascension parishioners who were kind to them. Often small groups of young Japanese attended Sunday Mass though their parents who were Buddhist did not come.

After the war, contract workers from Mexico called Braceros came to work the fields. Most were married and came on 90-day work permits to support their families. As many as 150 men were brought to Sunday Mass from Gumbo in Chesterfield Valley and they inspired the Ascension parishioners with their special devotion to Our Lady. Each year, the parish celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with the Braceros. Today, our parish celebrates the feast with a Spanish Mass accompanied by authentic music and followed by a party with Mexican food.

In 1948, the Parish Hall was built. Shortly after, St. Anthony's parish in Centaur was closed by the diocese and vigorous growth began at Ascension. Then Archbishop Ritter approved the purchase of six additional acres and contracted for a new school building in 1958. The men of the parish remodeled the old school into a convent for the Sisters.

Also in 1958, the County Council named the new road leading to the parish Santa Maria Drive as suggested by Fr. Godfrey in honor of Our Lady who had brought so many blessings to the parish and the Braceros. Following Fr. Godfrey as pastor came Fr. Matthews in 1966 followed by Fr. Regan in 1967 who served for five years. Records show that our Parish School of Religion goes back to this time when in 1968, the first PSR class was initiated. Around this time, four carpenters from the parish completely remodeled "The Little Church" to bring it up to date after the changes brought about by Vatican II.

Fr. (later Monsignor) William Drennan arrived in 1972 and during his service, the current main church was completed on June 12, 1977 and dedicated on the feast of Corpus Christi. The school addition with a multi-purpose room was completed on September 7, 1980. The continued rapid growth of Ascension led to a split and the formation of a new parish, St. Alban Roe in Wildwood, which was dedicated March 20, 1983. In April, 1983 the current parish rectory building was completed which provided badly needed office space and living quarters for three priests.

Fr. (later Monsignor) Joseph Pins arrived in 1988 and that same year, the school gym was completed. With Sisters no longer living at the parish, the Ascension Early Childhood Center (The Little School) was opened in the former convent building in September, 1995. It was the first Catholic pre-school in the St. Louis area. An addition to the school was dedicated on September 5, 1999.

Fr. (later Monsignor) Dennis Stehly became pastor in 2004. During his stay, the main church was remodeled and the Little Church continued to be restored as a quiet, reverent house of prayer. Fr. Thomas Molini, our current pastor, was appointed July 1, 2016. Improvements and changes continue to be made. The Ascension Early Childhood Center was relocated into the parish school building and their former home has been remodeled this past year as the Parish Office building with space for the priests, staff and conference rooms. The rectory will now serve just as a home for the priests.

The history of Ascension parish has been a rich and vibrant one. Through love, faith and sacrifice during periods of expansion and often rapid growth, we have gone from being an outlying mission church into one of the larger St. Louis suburban parishes. The early parishioners of Ascension welcomed and ministered to people from many lands and we continue that mission spirit today through our many outreach and social justice programs. The generosity and faithfulness of our parish is a hallmark of the Spirit of Ascension and we encourage you to become a part of it.

This information was taken from an article in the St. Louis Review, "I Was a Stranger and You Took Me In" by Robert Clavenna, (published Dec 12, 1958) and from an Ascension history compiled by Dick Demko (published in 1984).

WELCOME!



LET'S GET
Social

**Stay up to date on events,
announcements, & more**

FACEBOOK:

*Ascension Catholic
Church*



ON THE WEB:

www.ascensionchesterfield.org

DOWNLOAD OUR APP:

*MyParish
Search for Ascension*



My Parish

My parish is composed of people like me.

I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

It will be holy, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will be prayerful, if I pray.

**It will make generous gifts to many if I invite
and bring them.**

**It will be a parish of loyalty and love, of
fearlessness and faith, of compassion, charity,
and mercy, if I, who make it what it is, am filled
with these same things.**

**Therefore, with the help of God, I now dedicate
myself to the task of being all the things that I
want my parish to be.**

Amen.