

October 4, 2018

“Our mission is to celebrate God’s transforming Love in Jesus, by following where Jesus’ Love is calling us to serve the community”

On Sunday, October 7:

— 8 am Said Eucharist

—10 am Sung Eucharist

—11:15 Coffee Hour

Fr Bill Baker will be our celebrant.

On Wednesday, October 10:

—9:30AM Eucharist Service and healing service, followed by coffee hour in the undercroft.

Inside this issue:

— Lakeside Manor from Fr Bill

— Congregational Development workshop held at Ascension flyer

—Meetings, Events and Church Service schedules for the next few weeks

— Kingsley Ave Café announcement.

Ascension This Week

Lakeside Manor Fr. Bill Baker



Each week members from Church of the Ascension go to Lakeside Manor to offer worship services, including a monthly Eucharist to the residents there. I have quickly come to cherish the relationships with the residents of Lakeside Manor. The residents there, I believe also cherish their relationships with our church members and appreciate the worship services, especially the Eucharistic services, all of which contain singing played beautifully by Fr. Mark Brown.

Three weeks out of the month we hold a worship service that is tailored for the residents of Lakeside Manor which includes the liturgy of the Word with a short interactive sermon, prayers of the people, and, of course, singing. The residents love to sing. We always start each worship service with *Amazing Grace* and *How Great Thou Art*. We finish out time together each week with the sharing of snacks and fellowship. Most of the services are lay-lead and many of you know that Joan and Artie have led that service for many, many years!

Once a month we celebrate the Eucharist. During a normal Sunday worship service attendance hovers around 20 residents, but when we have Communion the attendance doubles. The last time we celebrated the Eucharist 38 residents attended the service and once, since I have been attending Lakeside Manor, we had 50 people at the Eucharist. On those Sundays we also have Zach Mattura and Muriel Hughes attend to assist with the mass and the more expanded fellowship provided. They offer a huge help and contribute to the overall welcome on behalf of Ascension!

Recently, Lakeside Manor made the Staten Island Advance under a less than award-winning headline. It seems that Lakeside Manor received numerous violations from the City and neighbors from area have complained about the residents engaging in public urination and panhandling among other complaints. “Lakeside Manor was issued **nine violations between April and June**, as well as 17 citations between 2014 and 2017, for issues ranging from medication management and housekeeping to distribution of Supplemental Security Income, from state inspectors after investigations.” (Staten Island Advance, October 2, 2018).

How do these two depictions add up? Do some of the residents who attend Ascension worship services also contribute to the nuisance in the neighborhood? Is the administration at Lakeside Manor neglectful to the residents and to their neighbors? Can and should Ascension assist in some way? These are all good questions and I have asked them myself. This is not the first time that Lakeside Manor received violations or made the headlines of the Advance.

One thing that I am sure of is that the residents of Lakeside Manor need the prayer and fellowship that we offer now more than ever. We must and we will continue to go to Lakeside Manor on Sundays to pray with and for the residents as long as they continue to show up for the services! The Gospel tells us to help those who are in need and I believe the Church of the Ascension is doing God's work at Lakeside Manor.

Actually, I believe it might be time to increase the number of Eucharistic services we offer each month. Maybe we could offer Communion twice per month? I also think that in addition to Eucharistic services we need to offer the laying on hands for healing. A priest can offer healing, but so can all Christians. Almost every week when I am at Lakeside Manor, several residents ask Fr. Mark or me to pray for them or to give them a blessing. I would like to make healing prayer an official part of every service. Do you feel called to be part of this ministry in the Church? Are you interested in serving at Lakeside Manor? Please speak to me or Artie, if you are interested in helping.

In addition to worship services, I intend to ask for a meeting with the Social Service department at Lakeside Manor. If I (or we) can offer any support to the administration and leadership at Lakeside Manor, I believe we should. If nothing else, I would ask all of you to add the residents and staff of Lakeside Manor to your prayer lists.

Blessings,

Fr Bill

Upcoming Events for Richmond Episcopal Ministry

Sunday, November 4 and Sunday, November 11: Evangelism Forums "Invite a Friend" (Fr Bill) Curate Forum at Coffee Hour.

November 5 and 6: 24-Hour Gospel Marathon. One Gospel for All People. This will be held at St John's but is for all the people of Staten Island. NY1 is invited. More to follow (Fr Cole and Fr Bill)

Sunday, November 18: Consecration Sunday. Also known as Stewardship Sunday!

Sunday, December 2: This first Sunday of Advent will be "Invite a Friend" to church Sunday at Ascension.

December 2, 9 and 16: Advent Book Group: "Following the Way of Jesus".

And A Lucky Draw Auction planned—more information to follow on this one.

Save the Date: Church Services, instruction, meetings, events for the next few weeks --

Sunday, October 7: Annual Oktoberfest at Ascension beginning 5PM (Doors open at 4:30 to allow viewing of auction items. Tickets \$30—contact Roy Williamson. You may reserve tickets and pay at the door on the day of.

Saturday, October 13 & Sunday, October 14: 19th Annual Flower Festival at St. Paul's. **Saturday, 13th:** 11AM to 3PM, Donation = \$5.00.

Sunday, 14th: music concert and elegant afternoon tea, 3PM, tickets = \$30. (718) 273-9572. You can pay at the door on the day of.

Saturday, October 20: Congregational Development Workshop, held at Ascension. 9AM—1PM. See flyer.



Coming up November 3 from 5:00 to 8:00 PM (the first Saturday in November) — the Kingsley Ave. Café featuring Singer/guitarist Karlus Trapp with his sons Daniel and Jermain. Tickets (\$30 per person) may be ordered by sending a check made out to Church of the Ascension and marked St Martha's Guild. A buffet dinner and dessert will be served, including wine, soda, coffee or tea. Basket raffles and a 50/50 will be offered. This event is for the benefit of Alzheimers of Staten Island, and Safe Horizon for Battered Women. Send check made out to Church of the Ascension, marked St. Martha's Guild. Pick up at door. Questions? — Beverly Sorensen 347-631-8584.

“Brother, Give Us A Word.” Every day, on the SSJE website, one of the brothers gives a word that we might use as a focus in our prayer and meditation. **“Leap”**. *“Those who dare to leap into God’s arms will find him to be a safe refuge, a stronghold in time of trouble. The invitation we have from Jesus in the first and greatest commandment asks for nothing less than a whole-hearted response to the God who has reached out to us in love. .”— Br. David Vryhof, SSJE* You can see his full page of comments on this word on SSJE.org.

~ Save the date and register now! ~

I Want My Church to Grow: What is Congregational Development?

Saturday, October 20, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
(Check-in & breakfast opens at 8:00 a.m.)
Church of the Ascension
1 Kingsley Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10314

This special training event is for:

- ✓ Laypeople and clergy who want to grow a vital church
- ✓ Those who want to join God in doing a new thing
- ✓ Leadership teams working on evangelism, church growth, spiritual development

Workshops

- ◆ Evangelism 101: Using Community Organizing Tools for Church Growth
- ◆ We Need More Money: Best Practices for Your Stewardship Campaign

Plenary: "What is Congregational Development?" — *The Rev. Canon Altagracia Pérez-Bullard, PhD,
Canon for Congregational Vitality*

Cost: 1-2 people: \$10 each

Group rate: 3 or more \$25 *We encourage congregations to bring teams of 3 or more people!*

Continental breakfast and snacks provided

To register, mail in your name, payment, and number of people attending to: The Church of the Ascension, 1 Kingsley Ave., Staten Island, NY 10314, Attn: Beth Brown. Checks payable to Church of the Ascension.

Questions?

The Rev. Canon Altagracia Pérez-Bullard, PhD, Canon for Congregational Vitality
212-316-7433 or aperez-bullard@dioceseny.org
Or contact Beth Brown: 908-672-0765

What is Congregational Vitality in the Diocese of New York?

- Latinx Ministry
- Consulting with Congregations
- Renewal Works (2018)
- Congregational Development Commission
 - Developing/Identifying/Providing Resources [Resourcing]
 - Diocesan Training Events [Equipping Leaders]
 - Planting and redeveloping churches [(re)Development]
 - Grant Programs



The
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