

July 25, 2019

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



Ascension This Week

**Come to Church
— from Fr Bill Baker**

On Sunday, July 28

- 9 am Sung Eucharist
- 10:00 am Coffee Hour
- 2:30 pm Service at Lakeside Manor
- 6 pm AA meeting

Inside this issue:

- “Come to Church” article from Fr Bill Baker
- flyer for the “Summer Raffle” fundraiser
- Save the Date events list.

**God loves you.
No exceptions.**



The Episcopal Church Welcomes You. www.dohio.org

Last week I looked at the congregation during mass and I thought, something’s wrong. I looked again and did a quick headcount and I was shocked. 19 people were in the pews when the service started. 19! And that is with us only having one service on Sunday. That surprised me. Our average Sunday attendance has been averaging at over 40 people for much of the last year. By the time Communion rolled around, we had a whopping 25 worshippers, but that is still way below our average.

Why do I mention this? It concerns me. I know that some Ascensionites are on vacation and still others are busy doing summer activities, but my most sincere hope is that church, is one of our summer activities. I want to tell you why.

When we gather with our families for major holidays, we often notice when a sibling, or in my case one of my children, is absent. We miss them. Pointing out that they could not come or even saying the reason why doesn’t quite fill the void of their absence, for me.

I owned a dog once named Daisy. Actually, my roommates at the time and I, adopted her together. She belonged to all 3 of us. Whenever we were all in the same room, she would sit quietly on the floor or in someone’s lap. She seemed happy to

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have us all together. But when we were in separate rooms, she would go from room to room, looking at each of us as if she was trying to round us up and bring us together—to share some common space. She tickled us with her skills for rounding up humans, but that is what (we believe) made her happy.

I guess, in a sense, I am like Daisy. I am happiest when we are all together—all of us sharing Communion on Sunday. That is the meaning of the word Communion. From the same root word as community, which is “common”. Community means “that which we all in have in common” or “oneness”. When the community comes together for communion, and we share the breaking of bread, and we become Christ’s body. When one of our members are missing, we are missing their vital contribution to the common life at Church of the Ascension.

For me, it isn’t really about the numbers. For me it is about our church family being together as completely as possible. When 2 or 3 are gathered in Christ’s name, we know He is among us. But when all of the members of church come together, we are more fully who Christ intends us to be. I long for every pew to be filled. When that happens our souls are fed on his words and in the breaking of bread. Then we become stronger and better prepared to share that love with more people outside the walls of the church.

I acknowledge there will always be competing interests, other places and people who draw our attention. I also hope that we will choose worshipping God and fellowship as our most important and fulfilling place to be on Sunday. I promise not to come to your house, but I hope to round you up for church this week! See you Sunday!

Blessings, Fr Bill+

Take A Chance—and Help the Church “Summer Raffle” at Church of the Ascension



This year, instead of our annual yard sale, we are introducing our first “Summer Raffle”.

Raffle tickets are \$20 for a book of five tickets or \$5 for each individual ticket.

And what are the prizes?

First prize = \$500
Second prize = \$250
Third prize = \$100

Winning tickets will be drawn at the Annual Ascension Picnic on September 15, 2019 following the 10 AM Eucharist Service.

Winners don't have to be present to win, but please join us on September 15 for Mass and for the picnic.

Tickets are available at the church or you may contact Roy Williamson, (718) 448-9508.

Return your tickets and contributions at Sunday or Wednesday church services or mail them to the church:
Church of the Ascension
1 Kingsley Ave.
Staten Island, NY 10314

All tickets must be returned before the picnic on Sunday, September 15, to be eligible to win.
Call (718) 442-4187 for more information.



Save the Date: Upcoming Events for Richmond Episcopal Ministry:

Beginning now and continuing until September 15, Ascension is holding a fund-raising raffle. Tickets are \$5 each or \$20 for a book of 5. The winners—first, second and third prize amounts—will be drawn at the Ascension church picnic on September 15. See flyer in this newsletter for details.

Sunday, August 11 at Ascension: "Mass on the Grass", one service at 9am, followed by coffee hour with ice cream.

Saturday, August 17: Please join us at 5:00 pm on Saturday, August 17, and every third Saturday of the month for a healing service at Ascension. As many of you know, Arthur Ullstrom has a spiritual gift of healing prayer. He will be joined by Fr. Bill and Deacon Geri for the laying on of hands and prayer for healing.

Friday, August 9: Lucky Draw Auction at St John's. Doors open at 5:30 pm. \$5.00 for admission and a book of tickets. Coffee and cake served, and a concession stand open for purchase of other food.

Sunday, September 15: The annual Ascension Church Picnic.

Sunday, October 13: Annual Oktoberfest dinner at Ascension.

"Brother, Give Us A Word." Every day, on the Society of St John the Evangelist (SSJE) website, one of the brothers gives a word that we might use as a focus in our prayer and meditation.

"Community". "Self-sufficiency is a delusion, a dangerous delusion. We are all, to a degree, interdependent. It's a fact of life. It's true. And truth sets us free. Truth opens the door to grace. Truth opens the door to blessing. Even if we cringe to hear it."

— posted November 15, 2017. You can see a full page of comments on this word on SSJE.org.

