

Dec 7, 2016

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

Special points of interest:

Christmas Mass Schedule

- **Christmas Eve 5pm and 10:30 in the church.**

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Ascension this week Volume 1 Issue 10

**Advent Program
Building the Trellis: designing a ‘Personal Rule of Life’
BEGINS TONIGHT!!!!
Three Wednesdays in December: 7, 14, 21
From 7:30-9pm
The Church of the Ascension**

Fr. Mark Brown, SSJE, will offer an program that focuses on the practical aspects of living as a Christin in the world today. Participants will be assisted in designing a simple and realistic plan for this next season of life.

The program will address the following:

What is a “Rule of Life” and why might we find one helpful? (Hint: it’s not rules)

What are the little things we can do to bring our lives into better balance in order to grow in Christ and in service?

What resources are available for those who wish to live their Christian faith in a more intentional way?

This Advent offering is being sponsored by the Richmond Inter-Parish Council. It is open to all.





*“The God behind
you is greater than
any problem ahead
of you.”*

*-The Rt. Rev
Barbara Harris*

Beloved Friends,

On Sunday I announced that my little mission here at Ascension is complete and it is time for me to leave. I am especially glad to be able to celebrate Christmas Eve with you and preside over a memorial service Dec 28 in my last week with you. Fr. Mark of course continues on through mid July. Fr. Roy Cole, whom you all know, and is canon missioner for Staten Island will be working closely with the vestry for the next steps toward actualizing Shared Ministry between Ascension and 1-2 other congregations on Staten Island. He will also preside over Sunday Eucharist once or twice a month.

While our time together was very brief, a total only 8 Sundays from August through Dec 4. It was packed adventure. In August many of you participated in a dreaming for the future and visioning work which produced a new Mission statement. I witnessed to your renewed hope and fire for a future. The things you have accomplished in so short a time declare Ascension is alive and energized. In addition to long held traditions of the Octoberfest and St. Martha's guild bake sale., you took on some new activities St. Martha's guild spear-headed a Kingsley Ave Café fund raising event that was a huge success raising money for Safe Horizon and Alzheimer's of Staten Island. You sponsored a Safe Church training open to the entire IPC and in so doing you have made our Church stronger by making it safer. Outreach distributed a record number of 26 Thanksgiving baskets for those in need on Staten Island. Beginning Dec 7 you will host an Advent Series offered to the IPC.

I am grateful to Canon Deb Tammearu for inviting me to be a part of this new initiative being offered to Ascension. It has been a pleasure to work with Brother Mark and from time to time with Fr. Cole. I look forward to hearing from Canon Tammearu about your progress and success. I am glad to have been a small part in discovering how God is calling Ascension into the future.



On page 4 there is an invitation to Christmas Eve. Please prayerfully consider clipping this out of the newsletter and sending it or giving it to someone you would like to invite to join us on Christmas Eve.

Christian Formation



The Children creating *Jesus is the Reason for the Season* Ornaments

The Third Sunday in Advent— Fr. Mark Brown, SSJE

It is a long tradition in the Church to observe the third Sunday of Advent, along with the fourth Sunday of Lent, as “Rose Sunday”. Deep purple vestments are often replaced with a lighter rose color; the candle lit on this day is pink. The prophecy from Isaiah 35 speaks of the songs of joy sung by the people of God when *“the ransomed of the Lord shall return to Zion with singing”* and that even *“the desert shall rejoice and blossom”*. We especially remember the Virgin Mary on Rose Sunday, whose *“Magnificat”* sings of rejoicing in God our savior. We might also be reminded on this day of the rosy color on the horizon just before sunrise, as light is dawning in the east. Even as these late autumn days become shorter and light diminishes, we know that sunlight will return as we pass the Winter Solstice; we also know that Christ, who outshines the sun, will dawn in our hearts with an everlasting light



“The providence of God means that with God there is always, even in the bleakest of circumstances, another possibility.”

A creative, a hopeful, a life giving possibility.”

- Most Rev.

Michael Curry

Where there is always a place at the table



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The Church of the Ascension

Invites You to Join us

For

Christmas Eve

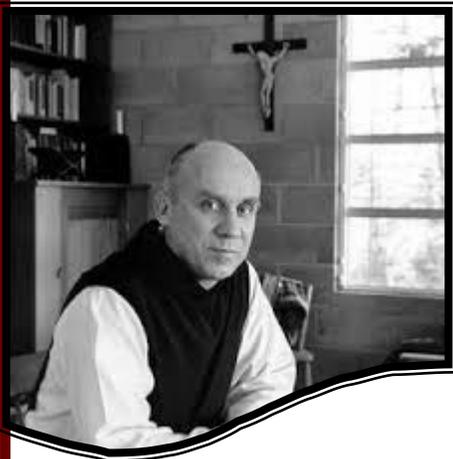
10:30 Service of Carols

11pm Blessing of the Crèche

Immediately followed by Christmas Eve Mass



A Great Cloud of Witnesses



On Saturday Dec 10 The Church remembers Thomas Merton who was a Roman Catholic Trappist monk . From his hermitage in Louisville Kentucky he had a profound and global influence on the lives of so many spiritual seekers. Contemplative, mystic, writer, poet, he engaged in interfaith dialogue.

“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.”