



Church of the Ascension

13216 Detroit Avenue • Lakewood, OH 44107 • www.ascension-lakewood.org

FROM REV. VINCENT BLACK



April leads us into the holiest of times in the liturgical year beginning with Palm Sunday and going through the Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night. The Great Vigil of Easter begins the joyous celebration of Easter which lasts for fifty days. These days are like none other and it is important that all of us make every effort to participate in the reliving of the last days of Jesus' life and the first joys of the resurrection.

There is one service on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday at 10:30am. On Easter the service is followed by an Easter Egg Hunt and a meal. Stations of the Cross are on every Tuesday of Lent at 6pm including Holy Week. The services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday are all at 7:30pm. The Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday will be held at Historic St. John's in Ohio City in collaboration with several other Episcopal churches and our bishop. It is an ancient and beautiful way to encounter the risen Lord. I hope that many of you will join me at this service at St. John's as well as at the other services held at Ascension.

These days are hard work for the altar guild. There is a lot of cloth changing, washing, and out of the ordinary duties and responsibilities. For years, Carol Culp, as head of the altar guild, has been the one who faithfully made sure everything went off without a glitch. All the things that happen that people don't usually think about like ordering the palms and the Easter flowers and arranging them, changing

Continued on Page 2



Father Vincent encourages you to make an appointment with him to discuss anything on your mind or heart. He is available on most Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. Please email him at revvincentblack@yahoo.com or call the office at 216.521.8727 to set up an appointment.

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Holy Eucharist 8:00 am & 10:30 am	Nursery 10:15 am - 12:15 pm	Sunday School 10:30 am
Website: http://ascension-lakewood.org		

Please submit all items for the Spires by **April 19th** danielvanah16@gmail.com

FROM REV. VINCENT BLACK *Continued from Page 1*

colors from violet to red to white to black and back to white. Getting the basins and the towels for foot washing and making sure the altar gets stripped and re-adorned. However, due to health issues and physical imitations Carol has stepped down as head of altar guild. She and I had planned on her doing so sometime in summer but circumstances forced it to be sooner. Derek Lewallen, who had been thinking about the possibility of heading up altar guild, was suddenly thrust into it with full force. He has done so willingly and graciously. Without a well-functioning altar guild, we cannot have a well-functioning Episcopal church. Because we are such a liturgical church we need someone to make sure all is ready for liturgy. Derek did not step in for Carol; he stepped in for each of you and for me. We need someone to continue to do all the things Carol had been doing as other faithful servants had done before her.

Derek's willingness to serve began my reflections on service and made me think about Carol's years of faithful and often thankless service. I then found out that the youth group went over to Carol's house to help the O'Donnells get it ready for Carol to be able to return to her home after she is discharged from Rae Ann. Then when Linda Gardner, who has graciously played piano and organ for our services as well has heavily funded our music program for guest musicians and other generous contributions, retired due to health concerns, Jon Peterson agreed to play the organ for us for the indefinite future. I could keep going.

All these things made me think about Maundy Thursday, which gets its name from "mandatum" which means commandment. In John 16 Jesus washes his disciples' feet and when Peter objects Jesus tells him that if he is unwilling to allow Jesus to serve him that Peter cannot share in the life Jesus offers. So Peter yields and after washing all their feet Jesus says to the disciples, as I have done so you must do. In other words, they must serve others as followers of Jesus. Then Jesus after telling them that one of them would betray him and before he warns Peter that Peter would deny him Jesus gives them a new commandment, to love one another as Jesus himself has loved them. So he commands that his followers love as he has loved, that they be willing to serve and be served, willing to be betrayed and denied, willing to forgive and give their own lives that others might live. That is what is symbolized and made tangible on Maundy Thursday when we wash feet as Jesus did and commanded us to do. That is also what is actually happening through the people of this parish when we serve and are willing to be served as the examples I listed above and numerous other ways to take the words of our Lord to heart and love as he loves us.

REMINDER TO THE PARISH FROM FATHER VINCENT

Vestry meetings are open if you wish to attend.

**Please join us
Thursday, April 11th, from 7-9 pm.
in Ascension Hall**

If you want to speak at the meeting please contact the Senior Warden,
Corky Thacker: 216-371-4693 to be put on the agenda.

WHAT IS EFM?

It is an amazing opportunity for adults to explore their faith through study, prayer, theological reflection, and fellowship. A group of parishioners meets Monday evenings, from 6-9 pm, September to June to discuss and explore the Bible, church history, and many perspectives on how Christians understand God as revealed through Jesus Christ.

PLEASE ASK FATHER VINCENT OR JOHN MOHLAR ABOUT SIGNING UP TO JOIN IN THE FALL.

God loves you. No exceptions.®

FROM CORKY THACKER, SENIOR WARDEN



Senior Warden's Report

Observe

Seeing the homeless man who lives between buildings,
if I truly observe,
might I see Christ in him?

Seeing the leaders in my church worrying about finances,
if I truly observe,
might I see how what we need, to do God's work, is always there?

Seeing the fellow parishioner who was recently widowed,
if I truly observe,
might I see my calling to reach out to her?

Seeing my own brokenness,
if I truly observe,
might I see that others, as Christ, are reaching out to me?

Anne Yug
ECS Development Council
St. Andrew's, Elyria

This was the March 14 Diocesan Lenten Reflection.

I had experienced all of the above two days earlier, as I couldn't help observing an older man walking in the street against traffic instead of on the sidewalks of Grace Avenue, holding a brightly-colored umbrella in front of his face on that bright sunny afternoon while he stared down intently at a smart phone. Due to the heavy traffic and being late for an Executive Board meeting, all I could do in the moment was to pray for his welfare and immediate safety.

In the meeting, we planned for the upcoming Vestry meeting, considered immediate repairs needs and how to fit them into the budget and around a funeral and Holy Week, discussed our concerns for helping several parishioners struggling with critical health issues and bereavement and prayed for them.

Afterward, I scheduled a pastoral counseling session with Father Vincent for me and my husband, Jeff, for support and guidance in supporting each other as I deal with healing a fourth spinal compression fracture and try to cope with embarking on the journey of exploring pharmaceutical treatment of the underlying osteoporosis—which now clearly requires more than the supplements, diet, physical therapy and weight-bearing exercise that had sustained me for the past decade. I had opted for that approach, prescribed by integrative medicine physicians, because of my history of allergies to some drugs and severe side effects from others. All of the drugs to treat this condition list some serious side-effects, including irreversible damage or more life-threatening diseases. I've been engulfed in pain and terror as an appointment with a specialist looms.

Studying the list of Lenten devotion suggestions in our service bulletins, I recommitted to daily prayer and meditation, to true observance of this season of preparation, and to reaching out and asking for help. It's just been a week since Ash Wednesday at this writing, and already these actions have more powerfully connected me to God and other people of faith, who are praying for me and sharing their own experience with osteoporosis treatment. God's healing has reduced the pain's severity to an annoyance, and he's given me much work that redirects my focus.

Following the meeting, I joined the pilgrimage of Stations of the Cross. I identified with Jesus' human experience on a very personal level. His fear and suffering put mine in more realistic perspective, and his faith in God—even when he felt abandoned—led me to resolve to walk through the process and trust that God has me and will lead me, whatever the outcome.

It also connected me intimately with my fellow worshipers, as we traveled the path of the stations and in the pews. When the service ended, the parishioner next to me wondered if there should be an opportunity at its conclusion for discussion and reflection; I agreed. So we remained in the church, talking about our feelings from the experience (mine are above), how we both felt the presence of God here, and our love for this church. We shared more of our personal stories—times when we've seen God working in our lives, and when we haven't—and the progress of our personal Lenten disciplines, which we've shared and have been praying for each other in support. Admiring the beauty of the nave, we walked through it and up the stairs to the balcony, where we were dazzled by the glory of the west-side stained glass windows vividly bursting with intense color from the setting sun and discussed our thoughts on what the small images in the rose window might be, having noticed them for the first time.

We are so blessed to be members of the body of Christ at Church of the Ascension! May we continue to strengthen our connections with one another and with our neighbors, and may we all share in the benefits of intentional observance of Lent, the passion of Holy Week and the joy of resurrection at Easter!

Sincerely,
Corky Thacker
Senior Warden

IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE 8AM AND 10:30AM SUNDAY SERVICES?

Yes, there is. The 8am service is shorter because there is no music and there are less people. The language is older and more poetic with "thee, thou, takest, etc." It is quieter and more intimate. There is a simple hospitality offered afterwards of usually coffee and cookies.

The 10:30 service has music, more pageantry, and is about 15 minutes longer. There is Sunday school for children during the first part of the service from September to the end of June. There is also a nursery available for infants and toddlers for the duration of the service. After the service there is usually a more elaborate hospitality time with a range of foods and refreshments.

Children are welcome at both services.



AFTERNOON GUILD



**THE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10TH AT 12:30PM
IN ASCENSION HALL**

**THIS MONTH, WE WILL HAVE OUR "BROWN BAG LUNCH"
FOLLOWED BY A SHORT MEETING.**

**MARGIE HILDEBRANT HAS VOLUNTEERED TO LEAD A CRAFT
PROJECT AFTER THE MEETING. IT SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF FUN..**

**LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS MEETING AND HOPE YOU ALL CAN COME.
REGRETS TO JOYCE KNAPP**

**ALL THE LADIES OF THE PARISH ARE INVITED.
HOPE WE HAVE A GREAT TURNOUT.**

ADULT FORMATION - EXPLORE THE BIBLE

We are going to explore the Bible using *The Path*, a concise, abridged, and narrated version which uses the exact words of the Bible and fills in between those words to cut out the big chunks giving us a book that reads like a story. The whole parish will use this resource, adults and children alike. There is a children and family version which we will use in Sunday School. From these stories we will prepare for our Jesse Tree liturgy in Advent in a more natural and engaging manner.

On Sunday mornings we will read and discuss a chapter a week. In Sunday school they will discuss the same theme and characters and the chapters are numbered the same.

Here is the schedule:

April 7th - The Epilogue



I highly encourage everyone connected to the parish to join in the reading and study. If you are unable to join us at 9:15-10am Sunday mornings please consider buying the book and reading along as we do. The cost of the book is \$20.00. You can get a book in the office. Never let money keep you from joining in! Just let me know you need a book but can't pay for it. If you join us Sunday mornings, we will read it together so there is no preparing for the class. We will have books available for those who join us Sunday morning so you don't need to buy your own. Come when you can!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you willing to assist as the second person for the nursery or Sunday School?

Contact David Campion: dccampion@earthlink.net or 440-668-4905

Click on the link below to access the ascension assistants for worship worksheet

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16XyLBnLM6yb_Ry-S5z1llkuKd2RZLJVoiYFH5Qk-GKM/edit#gid=1498723325

JOIN US IN THE STUDY AND SHARING OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE EPISCOPALIAN

April 2nd, April 23rd and May 8th

We will gather at 6:30pm and end at 7:45pm in the Guild Room to read and discuss the living of our faith. We will be using the book, *Walk in Love*. Each week we will read a portion of the book together and then discuss its applications to our lives. All are welcome to participate. Books will be provided for the class. If you would like your own copy or cannot attend the class but would like to read the book it is available in the office for \$20.00. It is both comprehensive and comprehensible and I highly recommend that everyone read and reference this helpful text.

April 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 5 pm- Trials for Hope Spaghetti Meal 6 pm - Stations of the Cross 6:30-7:45 pm - "Walk in Love" (Guild Room)	3 1:30 pm - Shawl Ministry (Ascension Hall)	5	5	6 9 am - Yard & Garden Cleanup 12:30-3pm- A.C.L.
7 8 am- Service 9:15am-10am Adult Formation 10:30 am- Moring Prayer	8 6 pm- Dinner Nite Out (Burntwood Tavern, Rocky River)	9 6 pm - Stations of the Cross	10 12:30 pm - Afternoon Guild (Ascension Hall)	11 5:30 pm - Community Meal 7 pm- Vestry	12	13 9 am -Sanctuary Cleaning Pews & Floor 9:30 am - Palm Crosses (nStrom Hall) 12:30-3pm- A.C.L.
14 10:30 am- Service Palm Sunday	15	16 6 pm - Stations of the Cross	17 1:30 pm - Shawl Ministry (Ascension Hall)	18 7:30 pm - Maundy Thursday Service 8 pm- Midnight Prayer Vigil (Chapel)	19 7:30 pm - Good Friday Service Good Friday	20 7:30 pm - Holy Saturday Service (Historic St. John's in Ohio City)
21 10:30 am- Service (Followed by an Easter Egg Hunt and a meal) Easter Sunday	22 5 pm- Trials for Hope Spaghetti Meal Earth Day	23 6:30-7:45 pm - "Walk in Love" (Guild Room)	24	25 The Youth Group 6:30pm - 8 pm	26	27
28 8 am- Service 10:30 am- Service	29	30				

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR EASTER – A HOW-TO

It is our practice to create a temporary pool of funds from which to buy the plants which adorn the altars and the chancel for Easter Day in memory or in honor of loved ones.

Here's how it works. We place our contributions in envelopes provided (checks made out to the church, with "Easter flowers" in the memo line or cash) and list those we want to remember with our gifts on the form provided next to the box in which we collect the contributions. The amount of each gift is determined by the donor

The deadline for making gifts to the fund and placing names on the remembrance list is April 14th (Palm Sunday), which allows sufficient time for that list to be compiled for publication with the Easter service bulletins.

Following the 10:30 service on Easter Day the plants are distributed to parishioners who due to ill health or disability are unable to attend worship.



SAFEGUARDING GOD'S CHILDREN TRAINING



Sunday, May 19th

Lunch: Following the 10:30am Service

Training: 2:30pm – 3:00pm

At Church of the Ascension, we value the safety of our children and of those who work with them. As Christians following our baptismal covenant, we are all responsible. We take a proactive stand as a parish to follow best practices concerning this training and certification.

The diocesan standard is that everyone who works with or has access to children be trained, with recertification every three years to remain current. Best practices also include training for members of the vestry and other leaders, and all who have keys to the building.

All parishioners are encouraged to take advantage of this training.

- A sign-up sheet is available in the church office.
- An online option is available for recertification. Please contact Father Vincent for the link.
- If you can't attend on May 19th and have not yet been certified, please contact Father Vincent for options revvincentblack@yahoo.com.



COMMUNITY MEAL

THE COMMUNITY MEAL WILL BE ON THURSDAY, APRIL 11TH
SET UP AT 4 PM ♦ DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM ♦ MEAL SERVED AT 5:30 PM



**THE DESSERT WILL BE:
LEMON POKE CAKE (WHITE CAKE WITH
LEMON YELLOW & COOL WHIP ICING)**



WE WILL NEED THREE CAKES.

BREADSMITH IS NOW DONATING THEIR DAY OLD BREAD FOR OUR THURSDAY MEAL.
THANK YOU BREADSMITH. YOUR BREAD IS AMAZING AND A BLESSING TO OUR CLIENTS.

MARGIE: bach2schol@hotmail.com

THE TRIALS FOR HOPE SPAGHETTI MEAL

Coordinated by Jonathan Gray



**TUESDAY, APRIL 2ND &
MONDAY, APRIL 22ND**

DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM - MEAL SERVED AT 5:30 PM

HELPERS FOR THIS MEAL ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Helpers are needed for this meal. Set up is at 4:00, doors open at 5:00, meal is served at 5:30. Let the office know so Jonathan Gray can be notified.

APRIL CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS



April 01:	Mary Staley
April 05:	Maizie Gillies
April 11:	Jerry Knapp
April 14:	Michael Crowdes
April 19:	George Staley
April 28:	Charlotte K. Partlow
April 30:	Rosemary Ballard

ASCENSION NITE OUT

WE WILL MEET ON MONDAY, APRIL 8TH AT 6 PM

BURNTWOOD TAVERN

19304 DETROIT ROAD, ROCKY RIVER, 440-333-6700

(LOCATED AT BEACHCLIFF MARKET SQUARE)

NEW AMERICAN RESTAURANT CLASSY LOCAL TAVERN CHAIN WITH A MENU OF
NEW AMERICAN FARE AND PUB GRUB PLUS CRAFT BEERS AND COCKTAILS.

WE HAD A GREAT SHOWING LAST MONTH AT JOE'S.

HOPE YOU ALL CAN COME AND HAVE CONVERSATION AND FUN.



CLOTHING DRIVE



The Choir are collecting clothing for St. Luke's Episcopal Church's clothing drive. This clothing will be made available to the needy free of charge. If you would like to clean out your closet– the "re-choir-ed" clothing box is located just to the right of the office. The choir will be responsible for delivering your donations. Cold weather is here, so think warm clothes too!!!
I was told by a reputable source that hooded sweatshirts are a plus!!!



HOSPITALITY ROSTER

April: Parishioner Sign-up

4/7/18, 4/14/18, 4/21/18 (Easter) and 4/28/18

**PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO BRING IN FOOD AND DRINK
FOR ONE OF THE FOUR SUNDAYS IN MARCH.**

SIGN UP SHEET IS IN THE OFFICE.

May: Sunday school

COLLECTING EASTER EGG HUNT MATERIALS

IT'S EASTER EGG HUNT TIME! COINS, SMALL TRINKETS, SMALL WRAPPED CANDIES NEEDED TO FILL THE EGGS AND DELIGHT OUR YOUNGEST PARISHIONERS! YOUR DONATIONS CAN BE LEFT IN THE OFFICE OR GIVEN TO MARGIE HILDEBRANDT OR SUSAN O'DONNELL.. **THANK YOU!**

EASTER EGG HUNT WILL FOLLOW THE EASTER SERVICE.

**IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE AN EGG HIDER ON EASTER OR HELP
WITH STUFFING THE EGGS! LET SUSAN O'DONNELL KNOW
SJODONNELL3651@SBCGLOBAL.NET. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!**





PALM CROSSES

Join us in making palm crosses in Strom Hall, on
Saturday, April 13th, at 9:30am

This is an intergenerational event. Bring the family!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We will have Stations of the Cross in the church
on the Tuesdays of Lent at 6pm.



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

You can pick **Church of the Ascension** to donate to
on **amazonsmile** and amazon will donate a
percentage of your total purchase to the church.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS CLEAN UP

Yard Clean Up- Saturday, April 6th, at 9am

Sanctuary Cleaning Pews & Floor- Saturday, April 13th, at 9am



A.C.L. (ASCENSION'S COOKING LESSONS)

ACL dates are April 6th and 13th

Table Captains show up at 12:30pm

Event is open from 1-3



THE ASCENSION CHOIR

Welcome Back to the Choir Boots Johnston - a long time former member!!!
Glad to have you with us. Also, Welcome back and thank you for filling in for us,
Ascension's former Choir director/organist, Jon Peterson.



Helping to Feed Our Sheep? Please be a Good Shepherd.

It is a great blessing (and a necessity) to have so many volunteers bringing food for our various internal and external ministries and social activities! Thanks to you all, and please keep doing what you've been doing—while keeping a few practical considerations in mind:

- ❖ Bring all required items needed for people to eat your dish, including serving spoons/forks, plates, tableware and napkins (unless someone else on the team is providing them, or you have checked the inventory available for coffee hour). If you forget, please go and find the needed items yourself, rather than asking someone else to get them.
- ❖ Take everything home with you when you leave. Please do not make others responsible for things you brought.
- ❖ Nothing is to be left in the kitchens, refrigerators or freezers in Ascension Hall or Strom Hall unless someone else has expressly said they want to use it for another event in the next week or two. If you store anything, please read and abide by the instructions posted on the refrigerators or in the kitchens regarding labeling, dating and sealing.

Feeding our sheep is a major part of our mission at the Church of the Ascension, and a great part of our joy in being together.

But we don't want to feed mice or culture mold.

Thanks for all of your help!



KEEP WATCH AND PRAY

We will have a prayer vigil in the Chapel at the Altar of Repose, after the Maundy Thursday service, until midnight.



If you are able to take part, please sign up in the office, to indicate which time slot you will take.

SAVE THE DATE

God willing and the people consenting Barb Telfer will be ordained a deacon in Christ's one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church on June 1, 2019 at Trinity Cathedral.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Time is yet to be determined.

Stations Of The Cross

Every **Tuesday** during Lent
 (including Holy Week) | 6:00 pm
 - March 2019: 12th, 19th, 26th
 - April 2019: 2nd, 9th, 16th

HOLY WEEK**Palm Sunday Service**

April 14, 2019 | 10:30 am

Stations of the Cross

April 16, 2019 | 6:00 pm

Maundy Thursday Service

April 18, 2019 | 7:30 pm

Good Friday Service

April 19, 2019 | 7:30 pm

Easter Service

April 21, 2019 | 10:30 am

**Following Easter Service, there will
 be an Easter egg hunt for
 the children.**

**For Driving Directions, Or More Information:**

ascension-lakewood.org
[facebook.com/AscensionLakewood](https://www.facebook.com/AscensionLakewood)

Contact Us:

Telephone: (216) 521-8727 or
 Email: RevVincentBlack@yahoo.com

*I give you a new
 commandment, that
 you love one another.
 Just as I have loved
 you, you also should
 love one another.*

John 13:34