



*Spires* May 2022

# Church of the Ascension

13216 Detroit Avenue • Lakewood, OH 44107 • [www.ascension-lakewood.org](http://www.ascension-lakewood.org)

## FROM REV. VINCENT BLACK



April was a very busy month here at Church of the Ascension. It began with Leah being away and me still out due to COVID while the parish gathered for a second consecutive Sunday of Morning Prayer with lay leaders presiding and preaching. You demonstrated, as the Body of Christ, that you can and will gather for holy communion whether or not there is a priest in your midst, and whether or not the sacrament is shared. We believe, of course, that we have holy communion when we share the sacrament of Holy Communion and make Eucharist together. But

we also know that God is not limited to the sacraments and that when two or three are gathered in Christ's name he is there making of our gathering a holy communion. And Christ was there with each of you. As Roger and I worshipped with you via live stream, took note how long you visited with each other during hospitality, and watched you slowly leave the church smiling and full of joy we were moved by you and your love for one another and for this place.

I was finally able to come back to the office on April 5th and by God's grace able to preside at the funerals of our beloved sisters in Christ, Barbara Kutza on April 7th and Linda Gardner on April 9th We grieved together as well as celebrated the lives of these two women and our faith in resurrection, our belief that in death life is changed, not ended.

We then celebrated Palm Sunday and all of Holy Week with several services during the week and lots of preparations and cleaning-up, day after day. On Easter Sunday we began with a family service where the story was told of the empty tomb and then the empty tomb was re-created by our kids during the festive 10:30 Eucharist followed by an Easter Egg hunt and lunch at which many again stayed and visited with each other for a long time.

Most parishes have a calm and restful week after Easter but not Ascension. Ten of you, along with others from All Saints, Parma and St. Paul's, Akron dedicated yourselves to God through baptism, confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation and Bishop Hollingsworth laying hands upon you and praying for you after meeting with him for an hour to share part of your faith journey. And this was all in the context of a beautiful dinner beforehand and a glorious celebration of Holy Eucharist with choir, organ, and trumpet! You showed up for each other. You continually grow in your knowledge and love of God. You participate in and share holy communion in so many ways!

And then four days after the bishop's visit, the Sunday after Easter, several of you stayed after the 10:30 service to show your commitment and love for our children by being trained in Safeguarding God's Children even though it was a beautiful 80 degrees outside.

You amaze me!

I had to write about April because so many of you played so many roles and gave so much of yourselves to make all these things possible, meaningful, beautiful, joyful, musical, hospitable, enjoyable, and so much more. Thank you. Each of you who came, participated, worked, planned, prayed, worshipped, studied, asked questions, problem solved, etc. etc. Know that you really make a difference, you matter, you are loved, and you make being a part of this parish holy communion indeed!

**God loves you. No exceptions.®**

# FROM SUSAN O'DONNELL, SENIOR WARDEN



## MAY 2022 MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

May presents us with Ascension Market and Bike Rodeo on May 14th! It will be an exciting day where once again we are building relationships with the community and our neighbors. We are welcoming those we haven't yet met to Church of the Ascension. This is what the Ascension Prayer, on the green prayer card and the prayer we pray each Sunday, calls us to do. It is what our faith demands us to do. Church of the Ascension is learning to live beyond our four walls at church and reach out to the community to share in "the love of" of God. Thank you to Bike Lakewood and Ohio city Co-op for partnering with us to welcome Lakewood families to Ascension. I hope you will be able to join us too.

May presents us with Ascension Day. A celebration of "us" at Ascension. We will share a meal and church service as we acknowledge and praise our Lord Jesus Christ for his Ascension, our parish's name's sake. We will also celebrate Leah Romanelli DeJesus on this day. We bid Leah goodbye this month and send her off with gratitude, love and well wishes as she embarks into her next journey of being a priest in the Episcopal Church.

I am preparing myself to say good-bye to Leah Romanelli DeJesus, our insightful and deeply cherished seminarian. Our church will certainly miss her and will send her off with praise and love during this month of May. But I, like you, will be very sad to see her go. We are grateful to the Bishop for appointing Leah to Ascension, providing timely support for our church through the pandemic. For me, personally, she provided insight when I became "ensnared" in events that I had little experience with as senior warden, whether planning the Pledge Campaign, or Ascension Market, Leah provided resources that generationally speaking, were just beyond my skills. Believe me, I do my homework on all of these events. I go to meetings. I research ideas and I ask advice from others. I learned my lessons, and I had ideas, but Leah had the skill to make those ideas work: whether putting a video together of Jonathan and bringing his involvement in community meals right into church on a Sunday morning or designing Church of the Ascension Mission Cards. Leah has amazing skills to bring to a working church but mostly I valued her amazing faith story, and deep faith understandings with the gift to communicate those to others. Ugh. Change is hard. Saying good-bye is always difficult. WE will all miss Leah, but I just want to say that I, myself, will really miss her poignant sermons, and input on the workings of the church and its role in the community.

May also brings us two yard clean-ups. One way we save an enormous amount of money on our yearly church budget is to handle as much of the yard maintenance that we can as parishioners at church. I invite you to join us, Sunday, May 1st, after church to clean up winter debris in the parking lots and North Garden. These areas get so little attention because we are usually focused on the South or West Gardens. Wear your yard clothes, bring gloves, and join us for an hour or less of clean-up and then a picnic lunch. Then we meet, as we always do, on the first Saturday morning of each month to work on those South and West Gardens. This month it will be Saturday morning May 7th at 9am. Maybe your work schedule or children's activities make these Saturdays impossible to come and help. Please speak to me and tell me what times do work for you. One hour of your time in our yard on any day reaps great rewards for our church. It's a joyful service to bring beauty and care to our church. We need many hands to provide loving care to our grounds and lighten the workload for the few who work regularly on the yard.

As April comes to a close I need to say.....

I am thankful for Father Vincent and his gift to bring others to God.

I am thankful for our church and how welcome they made our guests feel when Bishop Hollingsworth visited to baptize, confirm and reaffirm those who were prepared spiritually at this time in their lives.

I am thankful for an amazing Easter service, of stunning music and prayer and pews filled with worshippers.

I am thankful for our congregation for providing extra funding to repair our organ so it could 'sing' as we said final good-byes to Linda Gardner, once our organist.

I am thankful to Greg Sent for highlighting the history of Ascension and bringing it forward for all to see on the Lakewood Historical Society's Facebook page.

I am thankful for those at church who continue to bring Sunday school to the children. This is no easy task and one that requires time and commitment.

I am thankful to our Diocese for their belief in Ascension and doubling their financial grant to us this year.

I am hopeful for what is possible with Faith and Love of God at Church of the Ascension.

Walking with you in Faith, Susan O'Donnell

## SUNDAY 10:30AM SERVICE

The entire service is streamed live each Sunday at 10:30am on  
The Church of the Ascension Facebook page  
[facebook.com/pg/ascensionlakewood/videos/](https://facebook.com/pg/ascensionlakewood/videos/),  
and at [www.ascension-lakewood.org](http://www.ascension-lakewood.org).

### Noon day prayer Tuesdays At 12:12pm via conference call

On Tuesdays there will be a conference call enabling you to call in and join Father Vincent and other members of our Ascension community for:

- Noonday Prayer (10 minutes),
- A reflection from Forward Day by Day (5 minutes),
- Time for us to check-in with each other (20 minutes),
- Time to ask questions and exchange information (10 minutes),
- Prayer for the Church of the Ascension.

This will give everyone access to our priest and allow us to continue together in prayer and fellowship.

**We will start noonday prayer promptly at 12:12 and end just before 1pm.  
Please do not call in before 12:05pm.**

You can call in for all or part of the time.

We will use the Book of Common Prayer pp. 103-107.

Dial-in number: (425) 436-6300

Access code: 593523#

Use \*6 to mute and un-mute yourself when trying to talk.

### Ascension Permanent Zoom Meeting Link

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82605560985?pwd=NUZPYmp5bFpSQXEzVGZEOXpjOExaQT09>

Meeting ID: 826 0556 0985

Passcode: ascension

Tap for cell phone to call automatically:

+13017158592,,82605560985#,,,,\*786753522# US (Washington DC)

Or Dial

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 826 0556 0985

Passcode: 786753522

## **Church of the Ascension Policies Concerning COVID-19 Updated on February 20, 2022**

**Masks and social distancing are encouraged but not required** inside the building for those fully vaccinated. Anyone who wants to wear a mask for continued protection as well as anyone unvaccinated or who has respiratory issues or concerns is highly encouraged to wear a mask.

Everyone is expected to continue washing hands thoroughly as well as sanitizing all chairs, handles, switches, and surfaces.

We continue to sanitize the building by fumigation monthly.

Community meal organizers are to strictly follow safety policies and cleaning practices.

Groups may serve coffee and other refreshments. Cleaning practices are to be strictly followed.

All participants are encouraged to sing along with both pre-recorded and live singing.

We will continue to offer the peace without moving from our places through a bow or gesture rather than through a hug or handshake allowing people to maintain their personal space.

We will continue to stand for communion until further notice.

No one should receive from the chalice if they are uncomfortable and/or unsafe to do so. We believe in the doctrine of concomitance which means one receives the full benefit of the sacrament whether they receive one or both forms of bread and wine.

## **MAY AFTERNOON GUILD**

**Wednesday May 11th at 12:00 pm**

Longhorn Steakhouse  
20999 Center Ridge Road  
Rocky River, OH 44116  
(Southeast corner Center Ridge and 210th Street)

This will be the last Afternoon Guild meeting for the 2021-2022 year.

We did have an interesting year. Hope to see you there.

There is more. Following lunch we will drive to

**O'Neill Healthcare**

20770 Lorain Road

Fairview Park, OH 44126

(It is very close. Go south on 210th Street and turn left (east) on Lorain Road)

Hope you can join us as we visit Teddi Black and Carol Culp.

Father Vincent will celebrate Holy Eucharist during our visit.

Please RSVP to Joyce Knapp

216-592-8362

## LEAH DEJESUS-ROMANELLI'S MAY SCHEDULE

- May 13th, Leah's formal graduation at Bexley Seabury Seminary in Chicago
- May 22nd, Leah leads the family service with Joe Kidwell, a Celtic themed service
- May 26th, Ascension Day celebration and recognition of Leah DeJesus-Romanelli.
- May 28th Leah's ordination at Trintiy Cathedral
- May 29th, Leah delivers her final sermon at Ascension. 8am Morning Prayer and Sermon. 10:30am Reverend Brad Purdom presents communion and Leah will preach serving as Deacon for the first time.
- May 31st Leah's last day at Ascension.

## PIPE DREAMS

Greetings my friends,

Those dreams are alive and well, thanks to the generosity of members of our parish family. Maintaining and protecting our magnificent instrument is a noble cause. Its marvelous sound aids us in glorifying our God and fills our beautiful worship space for many of our services.

I have included pictures of our two recent maintenance and protection projects; The replacement of an ancient blower (the heart and lungs of our instrument) with a new one, and the racking (protecting against bending and breaking) and reshaping of the Trompette pipes in the Swell Division.

With gratitude,  
Jon Peterson, organist



**Trompette Racking View 1**



**Trompette Racking View 2**



**New Blower**

## GARDEN & YARD CLEANUP

Note for your calendar: garden and yard clean-ups are the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 am. Many hands make light work!

### Sunday, May 1st

After 10:30 service on Sunday May 1st we will clean up our north garden and parking lots. Please wear casual clothes to church and plan on sweeping, weeding, or picking up trash for an hour.

### Saturday, May 7th, 9am

On Saturday May 7th at 9am we will work in the west and south gardens. We have a wedding Saturday afternoon and we will do our best to showcase our beautiful grounds.

## SHAWL MINISTRY

We will continue to meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month in Ascension Hall at 1:30 pm. Please bring your prayers new and old to be discussed at the meeting.

Please try to attend as we have many shawls to prepare for delivery

**Delivery Help Needed!** People wanted to help deliver shawls. This task is getting to be too much for the ladies – we need some help! Contact Mary Staley at (216) 214-3522

## CALLING ALL SINGING KIDS!!!

I would like the kids to join me on May 8th for singing kids Sunday.

We will leave right after the procession and return to sing our song for the offertory. Please let me know if you plan on attending!!!

## CLEVELAND GUARDIANS OUTING

May 18 at 6pm vs Cincinnati Reds  
20 tickets available now for Ascension  
more possible Group Outing  
Tickets \$31 each  
Contact Rob Theibert 330-807-4255

## SUMMER CAMP SAVE THE DATES

Camp for incoming 2nd through 12th graders will be offered each camp week beginning Sunday afternoon through Friday afternoon. Camp will be offered the weeks of June 19 and 26 and July 3, 10, 17, and 24. Interested camp counselors or program staff can reach out to [Whayne Houglund](#), Transitional Director, and must be available June 11 - July 30.

Registration is open at [www.bellwetherfarm.com/register](http://www.bellwetherfarm.com/register).

## ASCENSION MARKET & BIKE RODEO

**Saturday May 14th 10 AM – 2 PM  
at Church of the Ascension**

### **Family Fun - Flea Market**

Sellers: Table setup begins at 9 AM.  
Table fee – Free Will Offering

Come out and sell or discover local treasures: antiques, collectibles, books, crafts, artwork, clothing, jewelry, one-of-a-kind items, and a whole lot more.

### **Bike Safety, Tune-up, and Registration Cosponsored with Bike Lakewood and Ohio City Bike Co-op**

Bike Rodeo begins at 10 AM.  
Bike Registration by Lakewood Bicycle Police

## DO YOU HAVE ITEMS FOR THE NEXT SPIRES?

Do you have something you would like to see in an upcoming issue of the Spires?  
Please submit your items by the 19th of the month to [danielvanah16@gmail.com](mailto:danielvanah16@gmail.com)

## 2022 FUNDRAISING AND EVENT SCHEDULE

### **Frankfurter Friday: Location, Outside, Front Lawn**

Fridays July 15th  
Fridays July 29th  
Fridays August 12th  
Fridays August 26th

### **Car Show: Location, Outside, Church Grounds**

Sunday, September 11th  
Rain date, Sunday the 18th

### **October Trunk or Treat: Location: Outside, Church Parking Lot**

Sunday, October 30th, following Sunday Service

### **Cookie Walk: Location, Inside, Strom Hall**

Saturday December 10th

### **Cookies and Cocoa: Location: Outside, Front Lawn**

Sunday, December 11th, Dusk, Caroling and Cocoa  
Left over Cookie Walk Cookies pre-boxed for sale.

# May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>8 am - Service 10:30 am - Service Yard &amp; Garden Cleanup after the 10:30 am service</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via 5:30 pm - Trials for Hope Meal</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>1:30 pm - Shawl Ministry in Ascension Hall</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>9 am - Yard &amp; Garden Cleanup</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>8 am - Service 10:30 am - Service Children Sing</p> <p><i>Mother's Day</i></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>12:30pm - Afternoon Guild</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>5:30 pm - Community Meal</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>10 am-2 pm - Ascension Market &amp; Bike Rodeo</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>8 am - Service 10:30 am - Service</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>1:30 pm - Shawl Ministry in Ascension Hall  6 pm - Cleveland Guardians Outing</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>8 am - Service 10:30 am - Service</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>5:30 pm - Trials for Hope Meal</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>8 am - Service 10:30 am - Service</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><i>Memorial Day</i></p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call</p>				

# MAY CELEBRATIONS

## BIRTHDAYS

**May 03:** Jon Peterson  
**May 05:** Keira Dodd  
**May 07:** Joshua Gillies  
**May 10:** Ann Beyer  
**May 13:** Brenda Killey  
**May 18:** Marilyn Little  
**May 18:** Jeffrey Welfley  
**May 22:** Allison Thompson  
**May 22:** Daniel Vanah



## BIRTHDAYS

**May 23:** Kathleen Jones  
**May 24:** Joyce Knapp  
**May 26:** Ethan Schlosser  
**May 27:** Heather Doerschuk

## ANNIVERSARIES

**May 09:** Corky Thacker & Jeff Sommer  
**May 19:** Stephanie & Joshua Gillies  
**May 24:** Codi & Joe Hildebrandt

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## FINANCIAL OFFERINGS TO THE CHURCH

Please mail in your pledges/financial offerings so we can continue with the ministries of the church as well as meet our financial obligations.

**USE YOUR SMART PHONE TO SCAN THE CODE BELOW**



**Or visit:** [ascension-lakewood.org](http://ascension-lakewood.org) where you can make a one time donation or set up continuing donations. Please join us in helping to keep The Church of the Ascension strong and able to meet the needs of an ever-changing world.

# **A General Thanksgiving**

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things.