



# Spires



January 2023

## Church of the Ascension

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

### FROM REV. VINCENT BLACK



January 1st is the celebration of the Holy Name on the Church calendar. This year January first falls on a Sunday so the lessons and focus of the Eucharist is the Holy Name. It is understood that we are celebrating the name of Jesus which is of course Holy. The name of Jesus means “Yahweh saves/heals.” Scripture tells us that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow. Why? Because his very name claims what his incarnation, his life, his ministry, his death, his resurrection, his Ascension claim—that God saves us! His name claims that the God and creator of all saves us through Jesus, with Jesus, and in Jesus. So yes, the name of Jesus is like no other because Jesus is like no other, the holiest of holies!



Yet your name is holy too, for you are holy too! You are made in God’s own image and likeness and are called to live into that holiness. Your name is a very important part of your identity. What does your name literally mean? What are its origins? Were you named for or after another person? If so, has that person influenced in any way the person you have become or strive to be? Do you have any nicknames? Do they come with stories? Are they names you like or identify with or names you reject or cause you pain? What additional names do you claim for yourself? What do those names say about you or how you see yourself or who you want to become?

As we begin a new year let us spend time reflecting on our own names; our personal name/names, our church’s name, other names we identify with and imagine how we might grow in holiness as we claim those names anew in 2023.

**God loves you. No exceptions.®**

# FROM SUSAN O'DONNELL, SENIOR WARDEN



## SENIOR WARDEN'S MESSAGE FOR JANUARY 2023

Happy New Year and hoping you were able to enjoy Christmas despite the freezing temperatures. Members of our immediate family were stranded traveling due to air flight cancellations and others stayed home due to illness. Our Christmas was smaller than usual but beautiful knowing that everyone who was sick was mending and those stranded would be home soon.

Advent was one busy season at Ascension.

Welcome back Cookie Walk!! It was a tremendous event for our church. Ascension did what Ascension always does.....steps up to provide support by baking, setting up and working the event. A steady stream of people purchased cookies, many from the church but many new faces from the community. Thank you, Jenny Christ and Christina Ferraro, for putting this event together. Thank you, Suzanne Foster and Rincy Issacs, for helping organize the finances.

Carols and Cocoa was a big hit again this year with about fifty people attending. Thank you to Father Vincent, Margie Hildebrandt, Joe Sgambellone, Jeff Sommer and the St. Edward's students for leading the event.

The Christmas Dinner welcomed at least 100 parishioners and community members to a beautiful homecooked ham dinner with mashed potatoes, vegetable lasagna, green bean casserole, rolls, coleslaw, cake and assorted homemade confections. Once again St Edward's students and one of the student's moms helped prepare, serve, and clean-up after dinner. Students helped set-up and set tables with cloths, napkins and silverware the day before. Thank you to the parishioners who brought in casserole dishes, baked desserts and thank you to those that volunteered at the event. Thank you to Greg Sent and Rita Rozelle for purchasing the table dressings, making centerpieces, cooking the food, and organizing the volunteers.

The Pledge Drive for 2023 is complete. Pledges increased by (about)\$24,500.00 dollars. With the addition of a legacy pledge, we have made our \$30,000.00 goal for pledges this year. That is the amount of Diocese support we will lose in the future. Why did this pledge drive deliver? All of us are working collectively to grow in God and support our mission at Church of the Ascension. Through our commitment to God, we are working to make our missionary prayer a prayer of action. Together we can accomplish so much. Thank you, Church of the Ascension.

Sunday, January 15th marks the Annual Meeting, following the 10:30am worship service. Make sure you attend. It is an opportunity to "check-in" with church and review the goals, events and concerns of 2022 as we move forward to 2023. After all, the church belongs to all of us, as the children of God. Lunch will be served.

Ascension is growing stronger every day. I am excited to begin 2023 at Church of the Ascension with all of you!!

See you in 2023!

Faithfully, Susan O'Donnell

## INFORMATION FOR LIVE STREAMED WORSHIP

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).

## SABBATICAL

Father Vincent Black is on Sabbatical from January 16th until the Wednesday of Holy Week, April 5th, 2023. The Rev. Keith Owens will journey with the parish during Lent, from Ash Wednesday through Palm Sunday. Father Vincent will be back for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

Every six years our priest is eligible for sabbatical of 12 weeks, 2 weeks per year of service. A priest takes sabbatical to focus on self care, inner reflection, and rejuvenation. It is a time for the priest to pray, reflect on vocation and the spiritual life, read, write, and rest. It is also time for the parish to reflect on shared ministry with their priest and to pray for the priest's vocation and well being.

The Rev. Leah Romanelli DeJesus will field pastoral care along with the Rev. Brad Purdom and the Rev. John Keller. Simply call the office if you would like to request a pastoral visit.

### **Before Lent begins the schedule is as follows:**

January 22nd – Rev. Keith Owens 8 am & 10:30 am

January 29th – One service of Morning Prayer at 10:30 am led and preached by Clarke Mortensen

February 5th – Morning Prayer led by Clarke Mortensen at 8 am and Ray Pratt at 10:30 am  
Alex DeJesus preaching at both services

February 12th – Rev. John Keller

February 19th – Rev. Brad Purdom

## AFTERNOON GUILD

We will be meeting on January 11th for a 12:30pm Italian luncheon in Ascension Hall. (Set up is at noon)

Following our Luncheon, we will meet with Father Vincent to consider music that would be needed in our End of Life planning. He has often encouraged us to think about those kinds of things so we can have a celebration WE want. We will do some singing and/or listening to hymns that might be suitable.

If you would like to attend, please call Margie at 440-331-0890 or email her at [bach2schol@hotmail.com](mailto:bach2schol@hotmail.com) so we know how much food will be needed.

We hope to see you there! Bring a friend if you'd like!

**The Afternoon Guild is planning a field trip to Clague Playhouse to see the production**

**[Ada & the Engine](#)**

It will be Sunday, Mar 19th at 2:00 at Clague Playhouse. The group price is \$18.50 and I have reserved 20 seats. If you would like to reserve a ticket, please let Margie know at 440-331-0890 or the church office at 216-521-8727.

Payment is due at reservation time. I hope you can join us.

## WINTER CONVOCATION

**Feb 3 - Feb 4, 2023**

At Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center

### **Real Connections - Ministries to Strengthen Church and Community Relationships**

Registration including Reception and Lunch is \$49 for adults, \$10 for those 17 or younger, and \$79 for a family of adults and children living in the same household. Early Bird Registration is \$35 for an adult, \$8 for those aged 17 years and younger, and \$69 for a household.

**Early Bird registration ends at midnight January 15th.**

[Winter Convocation - Friday, February 3, 2023 -  
The Episcopal Diocese of Ohio \(dohio.org\)](#)

## DEEPER SIMPLICITY, BROADER GENEROSITY

**Friday, January 13, 5:30 p.m. – Saturday, January 14, 4:00 p.m.**

**@ Bellwether Farm**

**“Money is the root of all evil.”** Or is it? How do we use money to further our understanding of where and what God calls us to? This retreat aims to help you approach these questions in a spirit-filled way. We will spend time with Celeste Ventura’s book Deeper Simplicity, Broader Generosity and explore what it means to live into financial wholeness and a life of generosity.

The retreat will be led by Ms. Julie Lady, Senior VP, Ethics Management, at Key Bank and a parishioner at Christ Episcopal Church, Shaker Heights. All materials and meals included.

\$150 / person for a single room; \$125 / person for a shared room.

Scholarships are available. Registration is limited to 15.

**Please register by Tuesday, January 10th on the Bellwether website:**

[www.bellwetherfarm.com/calendar](http://www.bellwetherfarm.com/calendar)

For more information or questions, please contact  
Ms. Rebecca Miller at 216-774-0466 or [rmiller@dohio.org](mailto:rmiller@dohio.org)

## OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours are: 9 am – 1:30 pm, Tuesday - Thursday

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, January 15th after the 10:30 am service**

There will be one service at 10:30 am. Lunch will be served after the service.

Meeting begins after lunch, ending by 2 p.m.

We will elect two members to serve on the Vestry.

Nominations may be received from the floor when this action is called for.

**All Parishioners Are Encouraged to Attend**

## ASCENSION NIGHT OUT

Ascension Night Out will be at Asian Wok

24389 Detroit Rd. Westlake

**Wednesday, January 18th at 6:00 pm.**

Please make your reservation by Monday, January 16th.

Please make your reservation early by calling Jim in the office at 216-521-8727 or by emailing him at [Secretary@Ascension-Lakewood.org](mailto:Secretary@Ascension-Lakewood.org) I look forward to seeing you at Mahle's!

## YARD CLEANUP

**Saturday, January 7th at 9 am**

Weather permitting. Shoveling, trimming and garbage pick-up.

Note for your calendar: yard clean-ups are the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 am.

Many hands make light work! St Ed's has been helping!

## COLLECTING CLOTHES

Collecting Clothes for St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Box is outside the office. Please only clean and lightly worn clothing. Highly needed are seasonal men's and children's items.

## 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.



## MONTHLY PICK-UP YOUTH CHOIR



**On the second Sunday of each month** all children are welcome to join our monthly pick-up Youth Choir and sing a song for the 10:30 am service offertory. Margie will prepare the kids during the first part of the service and they will then offer that song as an Offertory Anthem the same day. All are welcome!

**"THOSE WHO SING PRAY TWICE!"**

## SHAWL MINISTRY

Shawl ministry will meet on **Wednesday January 4th & 18th** in Ascension hall from 1 pm - 3 pm. We will continue to meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

**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

## ADULT FORMATION - BIBLE STUDY

The Gospel According to Luke on Sundays at 9:15-10am. Led by Clarke Mortensen.



# January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8 am- Service 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:30 am- Service <i>New Years Day</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 5:30 pm - Trials for Hope Meal 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference call	<b>4</b> 1 pm - Shawl Ministry	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9 am - Yard Cleanup Weather permitting, Shoveling, trimming and garbage pick-up
<b>8</b> 8 am- Service 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:30 am- Service Youth Choir	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference call	<b>11</b> 12:30 pm - Afternoon Guild	<b>12</b> 5:30 pm - Community Meal	<b>13</b> 5:30 pm - Deeper Simplicity, Broader Generosity At Bellweather	<b>14</b> 4 pm - Deeper Simplicity, Broader Generosity At Bellweather
<b>15</b> 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:30 am- Service followed by lunch and our Annual Meeting	<b>16</b> <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	<b>17</b> 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference call	<b>18</b> 1 pm - Shawl Ministry 6 pm - Ascension Night Out at Asian Wok	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8 am- Service 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:30 am- Service	<b>23</b> 5:30 pm - Trials for Hope Meal	<b>24</b> 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference call	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:30 am- Morning Prayer	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference call				

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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.

## 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.

## 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 18th of the month to [danielvanah16@gmail.com](mailto:danielvanah16@gmail.com)

## JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

### ANNIVERSARIES

**January 13:** Mary & George Staley  
**January 28:** Grace & David Buehler



### BIRTHDAYS

<b>January 04:</b> Olivia Channell	<b>January 14:</b> Traci Grasso
<b>January 07:</b> Katy Kelly	<b>January 16:</b> Lawrence Telfer
<b>January 07:</b> Anna Sutterisch	<b>January 18:</b> Raymond Semproch
<b>January 10:</b> Nicholas Masola	<b>January 22:</b> Yolanda Harris
<b>January 10:</b> Susan O'Donnell	<b>January 25:</b> Tyler Lewallen
<b>January 12:</b> Melissa Schlosser	