

September 27, 2018

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

On Sunday, September 30:

- 8 am Said Eucharist
- 10 am Sung Eucharist
- 11:15 Coffee Hour

Fr Bill Baker will be our celebrant.

Inside this issue:

- Reconciliation from Fr Bill
- Congregational Development workshop held at Ascension flyer
- Oktoberfest flyer
- Meetings, Events and Church Service schedules for the next few weeks

**God loves you.
No exceptions.**



The Episcopal Church Welcomes You. www.dohio.org

Ascension This Week



Reconciliation Fr. Bill Baker

The Episcopal Church has two Sacraments, but we also have other sacramental rites. Among the sacramental rites are the Reconciliation of a Penitent. We even have two forms for use in the Book of Common Prayer. Maybe you are already aware of the service and maybe you have taken advantage of it. Often clergy offer Reconciliation in the season of Lent as a way of preparing Christians for Holy Week and Easter. When I was a child, my mother used to make us go to Reconciliation at least twice a year and one of those times was always around Good Friday.

I believe that every season marks an opportunity for reconciliation and renewal. If you still are not aware of what I am referring to, some people refer to sacramental rite of Reconciliation as “confession”. That seems to me an older Roman Catholic term, but the result is the same. One meets with a priest to discuss issues in their life that are troubling to them. The BCP describes Reconciliation in this way, “Sacramental rite in which those who repent may confess their sins to God in the presence of a priest and receive the assurance of pardon and the grace of absolution.” (BCP, p. 861).

I have heard others explain it this way. Some call it the official stance of the Episcopal Church on Reconciliation, but I think it is a catchy phrase that helps to explain how we view the sacramental rite. **Some should. None must. All can!** This embodies a gentler approach and invitation into part of our Christian walk that can help deepen and strengthen our faith lives.

When we turn all our lives back to God, including our sins, we grow. Whenever I go to Reconciliation, I leave feeling lighter and less burdened. Even when I confess directly to God without the sacramental rite, it feels very different than

when I speak to another person. During Advent and Lent, our church will likely have set hours to come to the church for Reconciliation, but I would like to invite everyone to come and talk to me or make an appointment, as needed.

It does not have to be as formal as using the services in the BCP, but it can. My dear friend, Mother Barbara Crafton leads retreats. On the onset of a weekend retreat she tells the participants that she will be available all weekend for “The 3 C’s—chats, confession and conversation.” She laughs when she says that some of the participants need all three.

She offers to go on long walks, and I think Clove Lake Park offers a great backdrop for chats and walks. If you need a safe place to discuss a struggle in your life or would like the structure of the sacrament rite of Reconciliation of the Penitent, please consider making an appointment with me. Otherwise, you will hear about this again in a couple of months when we start the penitential season of Advent.

Blessings,

Fr Bill

Save the Date: Church Services, instruction, meetings, events for the next few weeks --

Saturday, September 29: 4PM to 9PM: 175th Anniversary of the founding of St John’s parish. 4PM at St John’s. Rt Rev Mary Glasspool celebrant of the mass. Reception to follow on the lawn of the rectory.

Sunday, September 30: Please join us for **our annual Blessing of the Animals** on the park lawn across from the Church. Deacon Geri Swanson will be with us and will begin offering **prayers of blessing for pets at 8:30AM.** At 9AM she and Fr Bill will have a short service for all of the pets, followed by coffee and treats for the dogs. (Rain Date: Saturday, October 6 at 9AM.)

Sunday, October 7: Annual Oktoberfest at Ascension beginning 5PM (Doors open at 4:30 to allow viewing of auction items. Tickets \$30—contact Roy Williamson. You may reserve tickets and pay at the door on the day of. See flyer.

Saturday, October 20: Congregational Development Workshop, held at Ascension. 9AM—1PM. See flyer.

News from the Diocese—“We have all heard the news of the flooding in the South Indian state of Kerala, caused by the extraordinary rains that came in this year’s monsoon season. As we have done for Puerto Rico, Haiti, Mexico, and other areas of natural disaster across our church and world, and as we have done during Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, we now ask the good people of this diocese to give again to support the relief efforts this diocese may make to help those in need, and those who have lost everything with little or no capacity to rebuild.” As such, Ascension will be sending money to this good cause and ask that you bring in a donatio. Your funds will be added to our Outreach donation. Please make your checks payable to Church of the Ascension and earmark “India” on the memo line.



**CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
An Episcopal Parish**

1 KINGSLEY AVE, ONE BLOCK OFF MANOR ROAD
ACROSS FROM CLOVE LAKES PARK

**ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST DINNER
AND AUCTION**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7th 2018

5:00 PM

DOORS WILL OPEN AT 4:30 PM TO REVIEW AUCTION ITEMS

**GERMAN FOOD with APPLE STRUDEL, COFFEE & TEA
(Pork loin, kielbasa, turkey, sauerkraut & more!
Bring Your Own Beer, Wine, or Soda **

**TICKETS: Adults \$30.00 Children (6 to 18) \$10.00
Children (under 6) FREE...(large family discounts available)**

**For tickets call Roy Williamson at
718-448-9508
You may pay at the door.
Please reserve in advance.**



~ Save the date and register now! ~

I Want My Church to Grow: What is Congregational Development?

Saturday, October 20, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
(Check-in & breakfast opens at 8:00 a.m.)
Church of the Ascension
1 Kingsley Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10314

This special training event is for:

- ✓ Laypeople and clergy who want to grow a vital church
- ✓ Those who want to join God in doing a new thing
- ✓ Leadership teams working on evangelism, church growth, spiritual development

Workshops

- ◆ Evangelism 101: Using Community Organizing Tools for Church Growth
- ◆ We Need More Money: Best Practices for Your Stewardship Campaign

Plenary: "What is Congregational Development?" — *The Rev. Canon Altagracia Pérez-Bullard, PhD,
Canon for Congregational Vitality*

Cost: 1-2 people: \$10 each

Group rate: 3 or more \$25 *We encourage congregations to bring teams of 3 or more people!*

Continental breakfast and snacks provided

To register, mail in your name, payment, and number of people attending to: The Church of the Ascension, 1 Kingsley Ave., Staten Island, NY 10314, Attn: Beth Brown. Checks payable to Church of the Ascension.

Questions?

The Rev. Canon Altagracia Pérez-Bullard, PhD, Canon for Congregational Vitality
212-316-7433 or aperez-bullard@dioceseny.org
Or contact Beth Brown: 908-672-0765

What is Congregational Vitality in the Diocese of New York?

- Latinx Ministry
- Consulting with Congregations
- Renewal Works (2018)
- Congregational Development Commission
 - Developing/Identifying/Providing Resources [Resourcing]
 - Diocesan Training Events [Equipping Leaders]
 - Planting and redeveloping churches [(re)Development]
 - Grant Programs



The
Episcopal Diocese
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Find us on Facebook@AscensionChurchSI



Visit us on the web at

<http://www.ascensionsi.org/>