

April 11 2019

**“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, April 14

— 8 am Said Eucharist

— St Martha’s Bake Sale, 9am to 12pm.

—10 am Sung Eucharist

Sunday School meets in the Undercroft at 10am

—11:15 am Coffee Hour

—2:30 pm Service at Lakeside Manor

Inside this issue:

—“Palm Sunday ...”  
Lenten message from Fr Bill Baker

—Meetings and Events for the next few weeks .  
Includes schedule for Holy Week at Ascension.

—Volunteers needed for the Maundy Thursday supper 6PM at Ascension—joint with St John’s

—St Martha’s Palm Sunday Bake Sale flyer

—Easter Flowers donation form.



## Ascension This Week

### **Palm Sunday and the Triumphal Entrance – from Fr Bill Baker**

My mother used to say, “With friends like you, who needs enemies?” I wonder if Jesus thought some variation of this when he entered Jerusalem? Amid the triumphal shouts and the laying of palms to make way for the “king”, did he think ‘I will be left alone, scourged and beaten, and only my mother and a handful of my women friends will stay to watch and try to comfort me’? I also wonder how often we sign up for something not fully knowing the outcome.

What are our Palm Sundays? Jesus entered Jerusalem knowing that he would do the Father’s will. He knew what he signed up for. How often do we say yes to things that we know will challenge us beyond belief? For some of us we say yes when we agree to start physical therapy on our broken bodies or a new job or ministry working with those who are vulnerable or sick.

We know that these endeavors will make us stronger and that we are doing what God asks of us, but they will also challenge us in ways that might seem more than we can bare. When we pick up our crosses do we feel that we are alone or being beaten down? If you have ever practiced yoga then you know that the idea is to stretch yourself just beyond what feels comfortable in order to become stronger, but not stretch so far that you pull a muscle or injure yourself. *(next page)*

And yet, just like Jesus, we need to take the steps of Palm Sunday. We need to continue to enter into places that might become dark and difficult for a while--knowing that Palm Sundays lead to Good Fridays, but that Good Fridays always lead to Easter Morning. I think at times, our whole life can feel like that difficult space between Palm Sunday and Good Friday. Worldly stressors and pains can make us feel defeated or at least that we are defeatable.

But we must continue to walk through it all. We must accept our difficult starts and our deep struggles. We must accept that some will cheer for us like they did for Jesus on Palm Sunday, only to later turn on us and deny us or try to destroy us. We must do it knowing that no matter how awful our struggles seem, or even if our friends become our enemies, there is one who will never turn on us. What he did through the cross means that we all live into the New Life of the Resurrection.

So we must be willing to start new ventures and take chances in the name of Christ. We need to carry our cross through what feels like the difficult times and we need to do it all knowing that when we live in the image of the cross, no matter what happens, even if we lose our earthly life, we live forever!

Blessings, Fr Bill+

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Dear Friends of Ascension,

As the book of Proverbs has taught us:

*"Hear my son, your father's instructions, and forsake not your mother's teaching,*

*For they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck." -Proverbs 1:8-9*

Show your love for Ascension & join us as we celebrate the gift of our parents by the grace of the cross. Each cross will be honored for a minimum donation of **\$10 per name**. Upon receipt of your donation and completed enclosed form, we will add the name of your loved one to our Ascension crosses and display them in the Undercroft. With your abundant **generosity**, we will be able to support the work of St. Martha's Guild.

Mother's Day Cross



Father's Day Cross



Form for submission of your donation for a cross to honor your father or mother is included in this newsletter

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St Martha's

Palm  
Sunday



Bake Sale

CHURCH of the ASCENSION  
1 KINGSLEY AVE  
718 442-4187

SUNDAY April 14<sup>TH</sup> 9:00 AM to 12:00PM  
After the 8AM and 10AM Services

We are requesting donations of any baked items.

--Muffins, Cookies

--Cakes, Pies

And the following items as well:

--Soups, Casseroles

--Flowers

All donations will be welcome.

Please bring them to the church Sunday, April 14.  
All proceeds from the sale will be used to help those in  
need.

QUESTIONS Nancy Williamson 718 448-9508



**Opportunity to Help:**

**Maundy Thursday (April 18):** This year, at Ascension we will be coordinating with St. John's to host a joint Maundy Thursday light supper of soup and rolls at 6:00 pm, just before the 7:30 pm service. We are in need of several volunteers to bring a pot of soup and others to bring rolls and or beverages. Help can also be used for setting up, cleaning up, serving.

Please contact Diane Gurgone to volunteer : e-mail: [dianelmt@gmail.com](mailto:dianelmt@gmail.com) or phone (718) 982-7291 or text (347) 495-3383.

**Save the Date: Upcoming Events for Richmond Episcopal Ministry:**

**Thursday, April 11:** Adult Forum/Lenten study at Ascension, 7pm in the rectory. A light supper will be served. The group's last meeting will be on Wednesday, April 17, to avoid conflict with the Maundy Thursday supper on March 18.

**Sunday, April 14:** Adult Forum/Lenten study at Ascension after coffee hour. Meetings continue through Lent.

**Holy Week at Ascension:**

- **Sunday, April 14: Palm Sunday. Services at 8am and 10am at Ascension.**
- **Thursday, April 18: Maundy Thursday.** Joint Maundy Thursday light supper of soup and rolls coordinated with St John's. 6PM at Ascension. **Church service** at 7:30pm. **Watch** from 8pm until midnight.
- **Sunday, April 21: One service at Ascension at 10:00am. Refreshments at 11:00am. Easter Egg Hunt begins at 11:15am.** *"On Easter Sunday, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children ... following the 10am service. Donations of plastic eggs would be greatly appreciated. Thank you, Laura Wonica"*

**Saturday, May 4:** Spring 2019 Youth Lock-In presented by Richmond Inter-Parish Youth Council. Christ Church at 5PM. Worship! Games! Music! Food! Friendships! Grades 6th—12th. Permission Forms Required—please submit by March 28. Permission form printed in last week's newsletter, which is available on the website. (Ascensionsi.org— Home Page, then select from the left margin.)

**For more information or questions, please contact:**

**Christ Church NB: Catherine Barnett, [cgb1@hotmail.com](mailto:cgb1@hotmail.com)**  
**St. Albans: Chris Gerard, [christian.girard@msnbc.com](mailto:christian.girard@msnbc.com)**  
**St. Andrews: Pam Mullane, [pamelamullane46@gmail.com](mailto:pamelamullane46@gmail.com)**

**Sunday, May 12:** . Please join us in a special worship service on **May 12th at 10 am** acknowledging the grace of the mothers in our lives, as well as on **June 16th at 10 am** commemorating the significance of the fathers in our lives. A response form is printed on the next page of this newsletter.

YES! I would like to order a cross/crosses for a minimum donation of **\$10 per name.**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

On the lines below, please clearly PRINT the name of your loved ones. Be sure to circle whether the cross is in honor of/ in memory of the name written. Your cross will be displayed in the Undercroft.

**Mother's Day Crosses:**

1. In Honor/Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

2. In Honor/Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

3. In Honor/Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

4. In Honor/Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

**Father's Day Crosses:**

1. In Honor/Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

2. In Honor/ Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

3. In Honor/ Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

4. In Honor/ Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Please send completed forms along with your check to:

Church of the Ascension

1 Kingsley Avenue

Staten Island, New York 10314

Attention: St. Martha's Guild/ Laura Wonica/Anitha Thomas

## EASTER FLOWERS 2019

The Altar Guild will be preparing and decorating our church for Easter. Each year we need and appreciate donations to help with the high cost of the flowers. Donors and their intentions will be listed in our bulletin for EASTER SUNDAY. **In order to be included, your donation must be received by Wednesday, April 17th, 2019.**

Please complete and submit this form with your donation. You may include this form along with your donation in the envelope marked "SPECIAL OFFERING/EASTER FLOWERS". Your completed form and donation may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the Church. **THANK YOU.**

Name of Donor \_\_\_\_\_ Env # \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Thanksgiving for: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Church of the Ascension with the notation in the memo line "Easter Flowers."

