



This Week at Ascension

[Link to the Bulletins for
December 6](#)

[Link to Randy's Thanksgiving
Sermon "MORE!" from
November 26.](#)

[Link to Ms. Kate Siberine's
Sermon "Here and Now"
from November 29.](#)

[Link to the Episcopal Diocese
of Washington's Website](#)

Calendar Highlights

Friday, December 4
6pm Movie Night, Undercroft
Commons
6pm Couples in Recovery,
Chapel

Saturday, December 5
9am Overeaters Anonymous,
Undercroft Commons
11am AI-Anon, Undercroft
Commons
11am Overeaters
Anonymous, Chapel

Sunday, December 6
7:45am Holy Eucharist, Main
Church
8:15am Choir Rehearsal,
Choir Room
9am Holy Eucharist, Main
Church
9am ESOL Classes, Room 1
9am *Godly Play*, Room 6
9am *A Joyful Path*, Room 11
10:15am Holy Eucharist for

Blessed to Be a Blessing
Stewardship Reflection Series

Proper 25B ♦ Mark 10:46-52
Take heart; get up; he is calling you....

When my husband and I moved to Texas in 2001, we were seeking guidance to establish our new lives after living in Mexico for five years. Having almost nothing of our own, we turned to God in prayer and were blessed with a community that helped welcome and nurture us.

Gustavo found a job after a couple of months. I actually started praying on a regular basis, helped out at church, and soon began to ask God for guidance before making big decisions. My husband started to do the same thing, and as we included God more into our lives, we started to see the abundance of blessing that God had given us. As we were able to see more blessings in our lives as abundance, the more we felt compelled to share.

The tough call for us was when we were at a point of deciding whether or not to commit to tithing our economic resources. Living on one income and expecting our third child, we just didn't know how we were going to manage. As I continued to pray about our uncertainties, God's call on my own life became even stronger and clearer. I realized that the moment of truth had come to show whether or not I was willing to answer God's call to follow. To truly follow God from this moment meant that it was time to let go of all of my expectations for myself and my future in both my personal and professional life. Letting go meant letting go of EVERYTHING and allowing God to be God of every aspect of my life. Sharing this insight with my husband, he soon agreed. We delivered our first financial pledge with a full tithe even as he was warned almost daily that his job was uncertain. In addition to that, we committed to respond to appeals for help from those around us or instances of great need.

Once we committed to this focus, it transformed our lives. Repeating this commitment to God and teaching our children how we respond to God's love has helped to strengthen our

Families with Young Children, Chapel
11am Holy Eucharist in Spanish, Chapel
11am *Godly Play*, Room 6
11am *A Joyful Path*, Room 11
11:15am Holy Eucharist, Main Church
12:30pm New Members' Luncheon, Undercroft Commons
5pm Holy Eucharist, Chapel

Monday, December 7
11:30am Cancer Support Group, Room 1
6:30pm Overeaters Anonymous, Undercroft Commons
7pm Listening Heart Community, Library

Tuesday, December 8
7pm Spanish Bible Study, Ascension House
7pm Still Water Mindfulness Practice, Chapel
7pm Codependents Anonymous, Room 1
8:30pm AI-Anon, Room 1

Wednesday, December 9
10am *Falling Upward* Book Group, Library
7pm Spanish Class, Ascension House
7pm Action in Montgomery Child First, Camillus Roman Catholic Church, Silver Spring
8pm Gamblers Anonymous, Chapel

Thursday, December 10
10am Yoga, Chapel
7:45am Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

[Link to our Online Calendar](#)

Worship Leaders

Sunday, December 6

marriage and family life, ground us professionally (he's still in the same job after 10 years!), and bring healing and wholeness in our personal lives. We allow ourselves to be constantly reminded of our neighbors that face hardship in their daily lives and how responding to God allowed us to transform the hardships into blessings. We live in and work for God's kingdom here on earth, in our household, our neighborhood, our church, and our world.

Cindy Ruiz, St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church The Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth

Reflection Questions:

- Does your prayer life support and nurture a life grounded in God's abundance?
- Do you allow God into all aspects of your life, including the choices that you make with your money?
 - How is the practice of tithing an act of trusting in God?

Announcements

(click for more info)

HEADLINERS

[Movie Night, December 4](#)

[Newcomers' Luncheon, December 6](#)

[Advent Morning of Meditation, December 12](#)

[Christmastide Services, 2015](#)

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

[Godly Play, December 6](#)

[A Joyful Path, December 6](#)

[Youth Group Christmas Party, December 13](#)

[Falling Upward, Wednesday Morning Book Group](#)

[Yoga at Ascension](#)

[Listening Heart Community at Ascension](#)

[Still Water Mindfulness Practice Group](#)

[Baptisms](#)

WORSHIP

[Bulletins for Tablets Link](#)

[Attention Worship Leaders](#)

Preacher: (The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson

Flower Delivery: Eliane Dunn-Johnson, Alice Padmore

7:45 AM *Reader/Prayers:* Jean Cohn, *Chalicians:* Diana Gustafson, Kate Siberine, *Healing Prayer:* Janet King, *Acolytes:* Raymond Chin, Jackson Douglas, Aidan Douglas, *Welcome Team:* Jean Cohn, Don Cohn, *Altar Guild:* Leslie Sanya, Wadai Dennis

9:00 AM *Readers:* Gordon Donnelly, Andrew Greene, *Prayers:* Barbara Mansfield, *Chalicians:* Margaret Tellu, Kate Siberine, *Healing Prayer:* Susan McLaughlin, *Acolytes:* Kayleigh Yankie, Sam Mendimasa, Kofi Kwamena-Poh, *Welcome Team:* Kevin Blanc, Algernon Thomas, *Altar Guild:* Sarah Gallagher, Dotty Pfadenhauer

11:15 AM *Reader:* Peedy Terry, *Chalicians:* Georgana Maines, Kirk Fitch, *Healing Prayer:* Diana Gustafson, *Welcome Team:* Pete Minderman, Kendall Anderson, *Altar Guild:* Lynne Shaer, Georgana Maines

5:00 PM *Reader/Usher:* Rebecca Smith-Kevern

Eucharistic Visitors: Barb Mansfield

Celebration of the Virgin of Guadalupe's Day, December 12

Navidad Latina, December 20

Epiphany Pageant

SERVICE

Ascension's Giving Tree, 2015

Child First Montgomery

Action in Montgomery, December 9

Gaithersburg HELP

Ascension's Cancer Support Group

Lord's Table Soup Kitchen

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Annual Giving Campaign Update with Annual Giving Form

Christmas Flowers

Nursery Volunteers Needed

Keeping the Feast

Spanish Classes

ESOL Classes

Prayer Request Updates

PUBLICATIONS

December Ascendant

Together We Shine

Prayers

FOR THOSE WHOSE LIVES ARE CLOSELY LINKED WITH OURS:

In the Diocesan Cycle of prayers we pray for St. Nicholas' Parish, Darnestown, Diocesan Latino Ministry, Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington, Pray for Jewish people as they celebrate Chanukah (December 7-14)

In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for Western Louisiana.

PRAY FOR COMFORT, HEALING, COURAGE, AND HOPE:

Harry, Peg, Mary, The FitzPatrick Family, Edward, Sally, Jean, The Johnson Family, Tracy, Susan, Johnetta, Julia, Norma, Julia, Nancy, Catherine, Janet, Lou, Fran, and all those who,

in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

We pray for Ascension's Minister of Music Discernment Team.

We pray for peace in the world and all who are serving our country here and abroad, especially those in harm's way, and their families. For all people affected by natural disasters, violence, and war.

Equip us and empower us to be witnesses to your love - as advocates and as servants, as ministers of welcome and of hope for Syrians and all those displaced by war and violence.

Compassionate God and Father of all, we are horrified at violence in so many parts of the world. It seems that none are safe, and some are terrified. Hold back the hands that kill and maim; turn around the hearts that hate. Grant instead your strong Spirit of Peace- peace that passes our understanding but changes lives.

We pray for all special intentions, and those on our extended Healing Prayer List.

ALTAR FLOWERS:

We give thanks for the life of Clara A. Thomas, in whose loving memory her daughter Enid Cole, grandchildren and great-grand children have given the altar flowers today.

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