

# The SPIRE

The Newsletter of the  
Episcopal Church of the Ascension  
Sierra Madre, California

December, 2011

## From the Rector

Dear Friends,

Advent is a season of looking ahead; yet as I write this article, I can't help but look back as well. I want to thank all those who organized, supported, and attended the celebration of our ministry together last month. I am so grateful, not only for the party, but also for all the out pouring of love. One of the more poignant moments for me was seeing all the couples at whose marriages I officiated gathered for a photo along with many of their many kids. And some of those kids aren't kids anymore! Equally touching was the fact that so many of you attended the anniversary celebration. We filled the sanctuary. It has been such a privilege to minister to you all as your priest. I feel so very blessed that I still go to work with passion and energy after thirty years of priesthood.

But back to Advent – I'm looking forward to a wonderful celebration of Christmas this year. This season of preparation will be marked by traditional customs—singing the Great Litany, Advent wreath making, and pageant practices. But there will be new things for us to take in as well. Our parish website is getting a thorough overhaul and will go live on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The pageant at the family service on Christmas Eve will have a new and different take on the familiar story—thanks to Marianne Zahn and Jobi Harrell. And there is something else which is new for me this Advent. Your Vestry, through good stewardship this past year and an effective effort this fall, has given me (and all of us) the gift of an anxiety-free Advent in terms of our parish finances. But thanks for this gift really goes to all of us who have committed our time, treasure, and talents for the mission and ministry of the Church of the Ascension—a thought which once again brings me back to gratitude. I pray that for all of you, this season of Advent can be a time of giving thanks looking back and looking forward.

Yours in Christ, *MAB+*

### Christmas Services

**Christmas Eve, Family Service: 5:00 p.m.**  
**Carols: 10:30 p.m.**  
**Mass: 11:00 p.m.**

**December 25, Feast of the Nativity: 11:00 a.m.**

### Christmastide Services

**January 1, Feast of the Holy Name: 8:00 a.m. TBD**  
**10:15 a.m. Mass with Baptism**

**January 6, Feast of the Epiphany: Noon Mass**

### Christmas Flowers

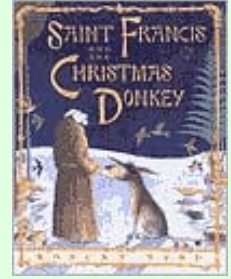
You can help St. Anne's Altar Guild beautify our sanctuary by giving generously to the Christmas Flower Fund. Donations help defray the ever increasing cost of flowers, garlands, and wreaths. Donations may be made "in memory of" or "in thanksgiving for" loved ones or for special occasions in your lives. Envelopes will be included in the service bulletins November 27 through December 18 and will also be available at the back of the Church and in the parish office. Envelopes can be turned in to the parish office or placed in the offertory plate. Please make checks payable to "St. Anne's Altar Guild."

**For names to be included in the Christmas bulletins, donations must be received by Monday, December 19.**

### Call for Christmas Eve Servers

If you would like to acolyte (you can acolyte even if you are in the Pageant!), usher, or read at either of the Christmas Eve services, please add your name to the sign-up sheet that will be posted December 4th.

## About This Year's Christmas Pageant



Amid the chaos and commercialism that the holidays can bring, keeping the Christ in Christmas is not a new challenge. In 1223, Francis of Assisi embraced the challenge and gave us a cherished tradition

Francis wanted to help people “see with our bodily eyes...what Jesus suffered for lack of necessities of a newborn Babe and how he lay in a manger between an ox and an ass.”

With the help of a friend, Giovanni Velita, Francis made a manger, filled it with hay, and got animals from a local farm. An invitation was extended to all the people in town to come to the manger on Christmas Eve. Candles were lit, hymns were sung, and Mass was celebrated with Francis singing the Gospel of Christ's birth. The saint preached about the birth of a poor king, the Babe of Bethlehem.

This reenactment of the original nativity scene so moved all who saw it that it quickly became part of the Christmas tradition, inspiring the development of the art form of *il presepio*, the crèche.

Francis' biographer Thomas of Celano writes of that night:

*“Greccio was transformed into a second Bethlehem, and that wonderful night seemed like the fullest day to both man and beast for the joy they felt at the renewing of the mystery.”*

### SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP Meets in the Parish house at 9 AM

#### DECEMBER: NOT ENOUGH TIME

- |       |   |  |
|-------|---|--|
| 12/4  | ADVENT II   | <i>Recognizing &amp; Responding to the signs of stress</i> |
| 12/11 | ADVENT III  | <i>Taking control of your time</i>                         |
| 12/18 | ADVENT IV   | <i>The Twelve Disciples</i>                                |
|       | <b>Christmas Tree-Trimming Party after the 10:15 service - GiFt ExChaNge! \$12 LiMiT...</b> |  |
| 12/25 | CHRISTMAS DAY   | <b>NO YOUTH GROUP</b>                                      |

## From Our Ministry Intern

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky,  
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.  
For poor orn'ry people like you and like I...  
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.*

This beautiful Christmas Carol by John Jacob Niles captures how I—and perhaps many of you as well—often feel when we read the Bible. Being curious and unsure (wondering and wondering) about what God is saying to us through Scripture—as opposed to assuming we already know—is a great beginning to our understanding of the Bible and a great beginning for writing a sermon. As an assistant teaching a homiletics course this fall, I've been giving a lot of thought to the process of preaching. I want to share with you a streamlined version of my own approach.

First, ask lots of questions! What was happening in Jerusalem? Who were the Pharisees, *really*? Why would Peter say something so stupid? The Holy Spirit can best reveal the meaning of Scripture to us if we are open to the wonder embedded in these ancient words. I spend most of my time in this step, wandering, wondering, praying, and asking God to reveal the text to me.

Next, do some research, or as church nerds call it, *exegesis*. Simple things like reading the passages before and after the assigned readings (the “Propers”) and consulting publications devoted to semantics, anthropology, or archeology are all part of this process. New discoveries and translations and reading Scripture in context can significantly change the meaning of a passage.

Next comes the writing, although some preachers just make notes. Once written, practicing the sermon makes it your own, allowing you to embody the words and catch the rough places. What brings the sermon to completion, however, is the act of preaching. When a sermon is prayerfully offered to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit will work within the minds and hearts of the congregation to open the scripture in new, unexpected, and often challenging ways.

As we begin a new church year and prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the mystery of the Nativity, I hope my method of wondering may give you a little insight, maybe even inspire you to your own deeper wondering as you wander your way through the Holy Scriptures.

Faithfully, *Marianne*

# Outreach

## WOMEN'S ROOM THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON

The third Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon was another successful day at ECPAC - Friends In Deed in Pasadena. My many thanks to Sandra Dickey for coordinating the event for this wonderful group of women who so appreciate our giving them the opportunity to share a Thanksgiving feast together.

On Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, Sandra, Beth Smith-Kellock, and Pat Woods served a full thanksgiving meal to about 30 ladies. Several of Ascension ladies prepared the various dishes to complete this meal. On Sunday afternoon, the day before the luncheon, Tara and Chris Allen gathered their children, Emma, Jessica and Billy, and Alexander Reed, Nico and Jaxson Tierney and their dad, Alan, Jackie O'Sullivan and her granddaughter Kasey, and Melinda Monachino in Hawks Hall for a cooking and crafting party. All had a great time making 6 apple pies, homemade cranberry sauce, and preparing the green beans for the luncheon. The kids and adults made little walnut turkeys that were a huge success with the ladies and staff. According to Sandra, every one of the little turkeys was adopted, and those little guys stole the show. We even got some pictures of the crafters and cooks!

Thank you very much to ALL who made this event such a success!

*Lisa Reed, Fellowship Ministry Leader*



Alex & Tara



Emma, Jaxson & Kasey



Billy



Melinda, Billy, Nico,  
Jaxson, Kasey,  
Emma, Jessica

## Pastoral Care & Fellowship

### Coffee Hours

We all enjoy our Fellowship time following the Sunday Services, and we enjoy having a bite to eat while we visit and catch up on what has been happening during the week. Our Coffee Hour fare can range from bagels and cream cheese, donuts, or cheese and crackers, and, on some occasions, a full lunch. The Hospitality Committee is happy to help you organize your Coffee Hour by helping set up, arrange platters, etc. Don't forget that Cora is here to help with the setting-up and for the clean-up as well.

If you want to celebrate a special occasion, such as a birthday, anniversary, a milestone in your life, or just because you want to celebrate life, please sign-up on the bulletin board and see one of the Hospitality members to verify the date. If you would like to sponsor a Coffee Hour rather than organizing the event yourself, a recommended donation of \$25 will provide a light fare for the Coffee Hour.

**Hospitality Committee:** *Richele Duffy, Kate Duffy, and Lisa Reed*



## SENIOR WARDEN'S BLOG

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the leadership group that helped make our Stewardship Campaign successful. This group met and identified 134 households that were considered actively involved in the Church. Eighty-four households were identified as potential contacts. As of November 20th, seventy-seven contacts were made.

As the packet cover letter said, we stressed the thought that stewardship is not restricted to a monetary contribution. Using one's gifts of talent and time are also forms of serving.

On behalf of the Rector and the Church, I would like to thank the following parishioners who have turned in their pledge cards. We appreciate your cooperation and support.

- Christopher & Catherine Adde • Carolyn Allen • Chris & Tara Allen • Michael & Debbie Bamberger •
- Rick Barrett & Kristi Mooradian • Joy Barry • Kevin Barry • Michael & Susan Beach • Greg Beach •
- Glen & Cynthia Belden • Shirley Birdzell • Ted Bosley • John & Teri Buchanan • Janet Byrne •
- Ted & Kathy Calleton • Scott & Liz Callihan • Wilma Clark • Beverly Clifton • Susan Clifton •
- Cameron & Meg Cox • Sandra Cozier • Elizabeth Cundiff • Elizabeth Denning • Sandra Dickey •
- Neill & Maria Dodd • Barbara Donagan • Richard & Nan Dougall • Michael & Linda Doyle •
- Tom & Richele Duffy • Alex Eagle • Louise Farrow • James Galligan • Abe & Linden Garcia •
- Richard & Nadine Genece • Ray & Carol George • Fernando & Adela Gomez • Gary & Gloria Griffiths •
- Lucas Marquardt & Joanna Harrell • Pamela & Robert Harrison • Tim Hayden • Thayer & Susan Holbrook •
- John & Lynne Holl • B.D. Howes • James & Jennifer Jesser • Esler & Carolyn Johnson •
- Mark & Connie Keith • Roger & Debra Keith • Ross Kellock • Beth Smith-Kellock • Rheta King •
- Nonie Lathrop • Rex & Elizabeth Levie • Ann & John Luke • Mandy & Gus Macintosh •
- John Matthews & Karrie Mooradian • Kenji & Monica Matsuo • David Mole • Karen & Sam Mooradian •
- Ronald & Jo Mosier • Marthann Mulleavy • John & Elaine Murphy • Celeste Ostrye • Kasey O'Sullivan •
- Jacquelyn O'Sullivan • Maggie Outhouse • Jay & Donna Packer • Nancy Pierson • Jonathan Prentice •
- Lisa Reed • Diane Rhodus • Mark Riebs • Alyce Rohrer • Jean Rowe • Hal & Dora Ryerson • Keiko Sakatani •
- Barbara Schneider • Anne Shirvanian • Gail & Larry Skiles • Ray & Linda Smith • Frank Spencer •
- Alan Stauffer • Dorothy Steeves • Rob & Wendy Stockly • Lavette Teague • Anna Thomas • Betty Thorne •
- Alan & Michelle Tierney & Family • Gordon & Diane Tomaske • Jerry Vessey • Jill Wagner •
- Scott & Lori Walter • Lois Walton • Adrienne Wilson • Rosemary Wimmer • Rev. Canon Roger Wood •
- Pat Woods • Indrani Wye •

Thanks to all, *Gary*



### A Note of Thanks for Fr. Bamberger's 25th Anniversary Celebration

A very warm thank-you to one and all for the outstanding support so many of you gave to the success of the 25th Anniversary Reception for Fr. Bamberger and his family. Approximately 150 parishioners and friends attended the festivities. To coin a well-known phrase, I sincerely appreciate your gifts of time and talent to create such a memorable evening.

Ross Kellock, Jr. Warden



### The Verger View

I generally don't call special work parties, but Friday, December 17th is your opportunity to participate in assisting the Altar Guild in "greening" the church. The greening event is an excellent opportunity for the Youth Group to show its support of the Altar Guild. Greening the church involves putting up cedar boughs all over the nave of the church. There may be other general clean-up tasks if climbing ladders doesn't appeal to you. Looking forward, recall that the scheduled work party days are the first Saturday of the even numbered months; thus the first one in 2012 will be February 7. Work parties are a major help in keeping up the grounds of our parish and will count toward your outreach hours for next year. And don't forget our regular work party on December 10, 9:00 to noon.

*Mike Beach, Verger*

## ONGOING STEWARDSHIP

### Treasure - Time - Talent

The 2012 Stewardship campaign has come to a close. Thank you to all parishioners who have already turned in their 2012 Stewardship Pledge cards. We did not quite reach our goal of 100% return of pledge cards, but we came close! If you haven't returned your pledge card, feel free to send it in to the church office; we're still happy to take it and get a little closer to our 100% goal!

This month we would like to acknowledge the following people who used their time and talent serving as envoys for our Stewardship campaign:

Pat Woods, Jackie O'Sullivan, Gary and Gloria Griffiths, Sam and Karen Mooradian, Mike Beach, Carol George, Susan Clifton, Diane Rhodus, Jean Rowe, Lisa Reed, Jobi Harrell, Cameron Cox, Michelle Tierney, Lavette Teague, Ross Kellock, Pam Harrison, Joy Barry, and Ted Calleton

***Thank you all for your commitment to the  
Stewardship of the Church of the Ascension.***

*If you know of someone who should be acknowledged in this column, please contact Stewardship  
Committee Chairman Gary Griffiths.*

### Financial Snapshot Jan.—Nov. 2011

Amount Pledged	183,333.37
Amount Received	204,652.14
<b>Difference</b>	<b>21,318.77</b>

## Where Does My Money Go?

This will be my final article on how we use the money that we receive from our parishioners.

Thus far, we have examined the funds and volunteerism that was found in 5 of our core ministries. These included: Presence, Outreach, Fellowship, Pastoral Care, and Formation.

Last month, we took a look at the Administrative costs connected with running the Church and the importance of our volunteers in this field.

This month, we will review the 6<sup>th</sup> and most important area of our core ministries, the one that we are most familiar with; **Worship**.

This area, along with Presence, is the ministry to which the majority of our funds is directed. It includes the salaries of our Rector, our assisting Priests, and our Director of Music/Organist.

But Worship, like so many of our core ministry groups, involves the work of many volunteers. To name all those that are involved in Worship would take many pages. Therefore, I have chosen to identify the leaders of each of these groups and hope that each volunteer knows how grateful we are for his/her service.

Under the leadership of our Rector, the following groups are essential parts of the ministry known as Worship:

Our **Acolytes** include the young people who serve at the altar. Their responsibilities include lighting the candles, leading our processions, etc. Our Verger Mike Beach oversees this program. Mike Beach also leads the **Chalice Bearers**, who assist with the administration of the consecrated wine at Sunday services.

The **Altar Guild** is responsible for maintaining and cleaning all of our vestments, vessels, etc. that are used each Sunday. Nan Dougall and Carolyn Johnson lead this group.

The **Bread Makers**, led by Karen Mooradian, are invaluable as they mix and bake our Communion bread.

Our **Choir**, which offers music every Sunday at the 10:15 Eucharist from September until June, is led by Dr. Debora Huffman.

Our **Ushers/Greeters**, who assist at both of our Sunday services making visitors feel welcomed and presenting the bread and wine to be consecrated at the altar, are led by Roger Keith.

Our **Wedding Guild**, led by Lynne Holl, is responsible for arranging all the weddings held at Ascension.

As I conclude this series of articles, I am in awe at the number of volunteers that make our Church the wonderful home that it has become. We are the Village Church of which so many are proud thanks to all of you.

Gary

## Ascension Book Shelf/Ann's Cozy Corner Christmas List



**This month, we have a wonderful selection of titles sure to solve almost any gift-giving conundrum!**

- Donna Packer** *Women Food and God: An Unexpected Path to Almost Everything* by Geneen Roth “Roth has taken the sum total of her experiences and combined it with spirituality, psychology, and self-awareness to explain women’s true hunger.”
- Rheta King** *How I Killed Pluto and Why it Had it Coming* by Mike Brown “Filled with both humor and drama, this is an engaging first-person account of the most tumultuous year in modern astronomy, which he inadvertently caused.”
- Keiko Sakatani** *Wesley the Owl: the Remarkable Love Story of an Owl and His Girl* by Stacy O’Brian. “This love story begins when a young, compassionate CalTech biologist adopts an adorable, abandoned baby barn owl. Told with wit and wonder, this memoir relates the touching, frustrating, and funny events of an almost two-decade relationship between Stacy and her owl, enhanced by wonderful photos of their life together.”
- Karen Mooradian & Nan Dougal** *Vision, Trips, Crowded Rooms: Who and What You See Before You Die* by David Kessler “Kessler brings us stunning stories from the bedsides of the dying that will educate, enlighten, and comfort us all.” Karen has also found *Embraced by the Light* by Betty J. Eadie and Curtis Taylor to be comforting when working through the loss of a loved one. “Betty’s journey offers a simple message that can transform our lives today, showing us our purpose and guiding us to live the way we were meant to; joyously, abundantly, and with love.”
- Barbara Larson** *Strength in What Remains* by Tracy Kidder, “This inspiring account of one man’s remarkable American journey and of the ordinary people who helped him is a brilliant testament to the power of will, second chances, and the heroism inherent in ordinary people; it is a story about a life based on hope.”
- Jay Packer** has read each of these multiple times and hopes to read them again: *Falling Upward* by Fr. Richard Rohr is “a complex, thoughtful exploration of the counterintuitive aspects of spiritual maturity.” *Good Poems for Hard Times* Garrison Keillor, ed. “Keillor has a great ear for poetry; the title says it all.” *Winter Count* by Barry H. Lopez, is a collection of “graceful, haunting, immaculately crafted short stories.” Jay’s favorites are “Buffalo” and “The Orrery.”
- Jackie O’Sullivan** *The Historian* by Elizabeth Kostova “is not your teen-aged daughter’s vampire tale! Beautifully researched and elegantly written, Kostova weaves a tale that draws the reader into the lives of three generations of scholars touched by the appearance of mysterious books and tragic deaths.” *Quest for the Living God* by Elizabeth Johnson “One of the leading contemporary Roman catholic theologians, Johnson has stirred controversy with the Roman Catholic American Bishops. If you are looking for a scholarly, yet lively and accessible exploration of the living Triune God, this book will not disappoint.” *Christianity: the First Three-thousand Years* by Diarmaid MacCulloch This Oxford professor, author of *The Biography of Thomas Cranmer*, is one of Jackie’s favorites. “If you are not daunted by books that can double as doorstops, you will love this lively, scholarly sweep that is so much richer than a typical “survey.”
- Kathy Anderson** *Our Lady of the Lost and Found: A Novel of Mary, Faith, and Friendship* by Diane Schoemperien “The woman introduces herself as “Mary. Mother of God. You know. ‘Mary.’ Mary is looking for a little R & R. As the story of their visit unfolds, so does the story of Mary, one of the most complex and powerful female figures of all time, and her changing image in culture, art, history, as well as the thousands of recorded sightings that have placed her everywhere from a privet hedge to the dented bumper of a Camaro. Told with humor and grace, this book is an absorbing tour through Mary’s history and a thoughtful meditation on spirituality, our need for faith, and our desire to believe in something larger than ourselves.”
- Colette Ostry** *The Success Principles: How to get From Where You Are to Where You Want to Be* by Jack Canfield “Co-creator of the bestselling Chicken Soup for the Soul series. . .Canfield turns to the principles he’s studied, taught, and lived in this practical and inspiring guide that will help aspiring people to get from where they are to where they want to be.” *Wine and War* by Donald Kladstrup “This is the thrilling and harrowing story of the French wine producers who undertook ingenious, daring measures to save their cherished crops and bottles as the Germans closed in on them, a tribute to extraordinary individuals who waged a battle that, in a very real way, saved the spirit of France
- Linda Smith** *Making Peace With God* by Harold Bloomfield, M.D., Philip Goldberg, Ph.D. “How often do we wish to pray, to meditate, or to otherwise relate to a higher power only to find ourselves stymied by confusion or doubt? This book leaves us with a renewed understanding of ourselves and a clearer sense of our spiritual calling.”

*A blessed Advent and Happy New Year to all! The Ascension Bookshelf will appear quarterly beginning in March.*

## Notes From the Loft

The music of Handel's *Messiah* continues to be featured throughout Advent:

- Advent 2, 12/2—*O Thou That Tellest* with Keiko Sakatani singing the aria
- Advent 3, 12/9—*The People that Walked in Darkness* sung by Mark Riebs

On December 18, Advent 4, in keeping with the celebration of the song of Mary, the choir will present Robert Powell's *Magnificat*.

Some of our more traditional music will be sung during communion throughout Advent: *Drop Down, Dew* arranged by Paul Ladd, Jr.; *Remember Christians All* by Thomas Ravenscroft; and Adolf Lehmann's *Ave Maria*.

Having spent four weeks in preparation for the coming of Christ, Christmas Eve will be a marvelous celebration of his birth! Two anthems will be featured at both the 5:00 and the 11:00 services:

- *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day* arranged by Malcolm Pearce
- *Once As I Remember* by Eleanor Daley

During the 10:30 p.m. Hymns and Carols service, the following anthems will be presented:

- *Ding Dong! Merrily on High* arranged by Charles Wood
- *Cradle Song* by John Rutter
- *Good People All, This Christmastime* by Eugene Butler
- *Nativity Carol* by John Rutter
- *I Offer My Heart* by Aaron David Miller

Because Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, the music will continue! Again, selections from *Messiah* will be presented: *Rejoice, He Shall Feed His Flock, and Come Unto Me*, sung by Susan Beach, Keiko Sakatani, and Colette Ostrye, respectively.

The choir and I present this music to you as our gift in honor of Christ's birth with the hope that it will enrich your celebration of the birth of our Lord.

Speaking of gifts, let me recommend some wonderful CD's for your gift list—or just for your own personal enjoyment throughout the holidays(!): three albums produced by the incomparable Chanticleer, each of which includes the exquisite Franz Biebl "Ave Maria," *Our Heart's Joy*; *A Chanticleer Christmas*; and *Fireside Christmas with Chanticleer*. I recently purchased these from Musical Heritage Society, and they're glorious! Satisfaction guaranteed!

A most blessed Christmastide to you all,

*Debora Huffman*, Director of Music and Organist



## First Time...

This time last year, Ascension was not my church home. I had no idea that in one short year (and so much change later!) that I would be a part of such an amazing place. Since that wonderful day in August when I joined the staff here at Ascension, I have been blessed with many new people in my life, new experiences, and a new outlook. Perhaps it is the nature of everything being new or for the 'very first time,' but I'm still enjoying it all! Yes, I do have the eyes of a neophyte and sometimes see things only on the surface...but at the surface I see so many beautiful things.

The mission of Ascension was the first thing that attracted my notice. This is actually the first church I have ever attended where the mission is so clear and, um, - short. Only seven words to describe six areas: **Worship, Formation, Fellowship, Pastoral Care, Outreach, Presence**. Yet these seven words, no matter how simple they appear on the surface, are charged with the essence of our baptismal vows. Operating out of the idea that a mission statement is a way for parishioners to express their vision of themselves to others, I was very curious to see how the Episcopal Church of the Ascension would measure up to such a lofty mission statement!

As I continue to learn more each week about the church of the Ascension and each of you, I am learning that the depths of this community are vast. I have seen you comfort each other, work together, disagree and then turn around and laugh with each other. These are all signs of a healthy church...working together to fulfill our call as God's Stewards on this earth. So even though I'm still so new, if I were to describe this church to my friends and those who do not yet know of Ascension, I'm not sure if I would even bother using all seven words. I can sum up Ascension in one word: **LOVE**.

Blessings, *Jobi*

## Directory Photos

When you look at your directory picture, do you recognize yourself? Your kids? Do your friends recognize you? If not, it is time to update (it will be a great way to break in your new Christmas camera!). Send a recent .jpeg (with a simple background) to:

[parish@ascension-sierramadre.com](mailto:parish@ascension-sierramadre.com), stop by the office, or grab Mike Beach after Mass and say "Cheeeese!"



*Our vision is that **The Episcopal Church of the Ascension** serves Christ today for those who will come to know Christ tomorrow.*

**WORSHIP, FORMATION, PASTORAL CARE, FELLOWSHIP, OUTREACH, PRESENCE**  
 25 E. Laurel Avenue, Sierra Madre, CA 91024 ~ 626-355-1133 [www.ascension-sierramadre.com](http://www.ascension-sierramadre.com)

## December 2011/January 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>27</b> <b>1st Advent</b> 8a.m. Mass 9a.m. Ed. Hour & Choir 10:15a.m. Mass <b>Noon Wreath-making &amp; Potluck</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 11:00 a.m. Prayer in the Chapel	<b>30</b> 5:45p.m. Yoga 6p.m. Mass 7:30p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>1</b> 7a.m. Mass 9a.m. Forum 10:30a.m. Staff Meeting	<b>2</b> <b>DIOCESAN CONVENTION</b>	<b>3</b> <b>DIOCESAN CONVENTION</b>
<b>4</b> <b>2nd Advent</b> <b>UTO In-gathering</b> <b>ECPAC In-gathering</b> 8a.m. Mass 9a.m. Ed. Hour & Choir 10:15a.m. Mass	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 11:00 a.m. Prayer in the Chapel	<b>7</b> 5:45p.m. Yoga 6p.m. Mass 7:30p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 7a.m. Mass 9a.m. Forum	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>9a.m.—noon</b> <b>Work Party</b> <b>9:30a.m.—11a.m.</b> <b>Pageant Rehearsal</b>
<b>11</b> 8:00a.m. Mass 9:00a.m. Ed. Hour & Choir Noon PMC	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 11:00 a.m. Prayer in the Chapel	<b>14</b> 5:45p.m. Yoga 6p.m. Mass 7:30p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b> 7a.m. Mass 9a.m. Forum 10:30a.m. Staff Meeting	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>9:00a.m.</b> <b>Greening of the Church</b> <b>9:30a.m.—11a.m.</b> <b>Pageant Rehearsal</b>
<i>O, Lord and Ruler of the House of Israel...</i>	<i>O, Root of Jesse...</i>	<i>O, Key of David...</i>	<i>O, Dayspring of the East...</i>	<i>O, King of the Gentiles</i>	<i>O, Emmanuel...</i>	
<b>18</b> 8a.m. Mass 9a.m. Ed. Hour & Choir 10:15a.m. Mass <b>Noon Youth Group</b> <b>Tree-trimming</b> <b>5p.m.</b> <b>Candlelight Walk</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 11:00 a.m. Prayer in the Chapel <b>7:30p.m. Vestry</b>	<b>21</b> 5:45p.m. Yoga 6p.m. Mass 7:30p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>3:30p.m. Pageant</b> <b>Call</b> <b>5:00p.m.</b> <b>Family Service</b> <b>10:30p.m.</b> <b>Carols</b> <b>11:00p.m.</b> <b>Christ Mass</b>
<b>25</b> <b>Feast of the Nativity</b> <b>11a.m. Mass</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 11:00 a.m. Prayer in the Chapel	<b>28</b> <b>SPIRE ARTICLES DUE</b> 5:45p.m. Yoga 6p.m. Mass	<b>29</b> 7a.m. Mass 9a.m. Forum	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>1</b> <b>ECPAC In-gathering</b> <b>8a.m. Mass TBD</b> 10:15a.m. Mass with Baptism	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 11:00 a.m. Prayer in the Chapel <b>6:00 p.m. Dinner</b> <b>Group Resumes</b> <b>NEXT WEEK</b>	<b>4</b> 5:45p.m. Yoga 6p.m. Mass 7:30p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 7a.m. Mass 9a.m. Forum 10:30a.m. Staff Meeting	<b>6</b> <b>Feast of the Epiphany</b> <b>Noon Mass</b>	<b>7</b>

## STAYING CONNECTED THROUGH THE WEEK



**SEARCH FOR:** Sierra Madre Episcopal Church of the Ascension  
 Connect with fellow parishioners, get updated calendar information, Parish Photo Gallery

**CHANNEL NAME:** AscensionSierraMadre (1 word)  
 Videos of Parish Events, Special Services, and more!