



# Ascension Extension

JUNE 2026

www.ascension-westminster.com

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office@ascension-westminster.com

Church of the Ascension  
23 N. Court St.  
Westminster, MD

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## Rector's Message *Anything but Ordinary*

### *Trinity Sunday and the Season of the Spirit*

Dear Friends in Christ:

On Sunday, May 31, the Church celebrates one of the great feasts of the Christian year: **Trinity Sunday**. Unlike many other feasts, Trinity Sunday does not commemorate a specific historical event in the life of Jesus. Instead, it celebrates the great mystery at the very heart of our faith: we believe in one God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — one God in three divine Persons.

This mystery is not a mathematical puzzle to solve, but a beautiful revelation of who God is. The Father is the source of all life and creation. The Son, the eternal Word of God, became incarnate in Jesus Christ, revealing the face of the Father and coming among us for our salvation. The Holy Spirit continues to dwell within the Church, guiding, strengthening, and sanctifying God's people. The three Persons are distinct, yet perfectly united in an eternal relationship of love.

Every sign of the cross, every baptism, every Eucharist, and every blessing is offered in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Trinity is not a distant doctrine reserved for theologians; it is the living heart of Christian prayer and worship.

*(Continued on p. 2)*

### **Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson**

Day Off: Monday

rector@ascension-westminster.com

### **Church Office Hours**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9:00 am -3:00 pm

office@ascension-westminster.com

**The Church Office will be closed on  
Friday, July 3.**

*Ascension is called to be a family of faith so reflecting the life of Christ,  
that we draw all people to him.*

## June Worship

### June 7

#### **Second Sunday after Pentecost**

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

9:30 am Bible Basics for Youth

10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall  
Children's Sermon

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

### June 14

#### **Third Sunday after Pentecost**

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall  
Children's Sermon

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

### June 21

#### **Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

##### **Father's Day**

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall  
Children's Sermon

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

### June 28

#### **Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall  
Children's Sermon

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

### July 5

#### **Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

##### **(One Worship Service)**

9:00 am H.E. Rite II, Courtyard

*Weather permitting*

**Please bring a lawn chair.**

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

### *Rector's Message continued...*

Trinity Sunday also opens what the Episcopal Church calls the *Season after Pentecost* — the long green season that stretches through the summer and fall until Advent begins again.

You may hear our Roman Catholic neighbors refer to this same period as *Ordinary Time*. That phrase can sound misleading to modern ears, as if these Sundays were somehow routine or less important. But “ordinary” simply comes from the word *ordinal*, meaning counted or numbered weeks: the First Sunday, Second Sunday, Third Sunday, and so forth.

The Episcopal Church generally prefers the expression *Season after Pentecost* because it reminds us that we now live in the age of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost was not simply an event long ago; it opened the age of the Spirit, who continues to live and work within the Church. In fact, older Western calendars — including earlier Roman Catholic usage — also spoke of the Sundays “after Pentecost,” a reminder that this season has long been understood as the life of the Church in the power of the Spirit.

During these weeks, the liturgical color is green — the color of life, growth, and hope. If Christmas and Easter are the mountaintops of the Christian year, this season is the long path of daily Christian living: learning to follow Christ faithfully, learning to love one another more deeply, and growing steadily in discipleship.

As summer begins, there can be a temptation to let Sunday worship slowly be set aside while vacations begin and routines change. Yet the Lord continues to invite us to gather week after week, just as we are, bringing before him our joys, worries, burdens, and hopes. In worship we are fed by Word and Sacrament, strengthened by fellowship, and sent back into the world to share Christ's love.

Summer also tends to be a season when parish giving decreases, even though the daily expenses and ministries of the Church remain steady. If you are traveling or away for part of the summer, I encourage you to continue supporting Ascension through online giving or by mailing your pledge or offering. Your faithful generosity helps sustain the worship, outreach, and mission of our parish throughout the entire year.

This upcoming season is anything but “ordinary.” It is a season of growth in the Spirit.

In Christ's love,  
Pierre-Henry

## Fundraisers

**Buy tickets** for the June 13, Hawaiian Paradise Dinner-Dance.



I am pleased to share that the proceeds from our **Texas Roadhouse April 27 fundraiser** was \$265.00. Between the 10% received from that night and the bake sale, **we raised a total of \$704.00**. Thank you to everyone who helped make this fundraiser such a huge success. Your support, donations, and participation are greatly appreciated.

**Our next Texas Road House fundraiser will be on Monday, July 6, 3:00pm - 10:00pm. Mark your calendar!**

Beverly Baker

Join us for a

**Thom Roland**  
DANCE BAND

**Hawaiian Paradise**  
DINNER-DANCE

Saturday, June 13, 2026  
Church of the Ascension  
Fellowship Hall  
23 North Court Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157  
Island-Inspired Dinner, 4-5:30 pm • Dancing to Live Music, 6-9 pm

Silent Auction Featuring Exciting Items

Put on your tropical attire and join us for an evening of great food, music, dancing and fellowship!  
**\$35.00 per person**

To purchase tickets and for more information, contact Beverly Baker at [blbaker08@comcast.net](mailto:blbaker08@comcast.net)  
[ascension-westminster.com/events](http://ascension-westminster.com/events)

Event Sponsor  
**MYERS-DURBORAW**  
Funeral Homes

## July 5: Eucharist of Thanksgiving for the Nation

**Celebrate**  
**AMERICA'S**  
**250TH**

Church of the Ascension  
23 N. Court Street  
Westminster, MD 21157

**SUNDAY, JULY 5**

**EUCHARIST OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE NATION**  
**ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:00 AM**

**CHURCH COURTYARD**  
Weather Permitting

**BRING LAWN CHAIRS!**

[ascension-westminster.com/events](http://ascension-westminster.com/events)

## One Worship Service at 9am

**On Sunday, July 5, one worship service will be held at 9:00 am** in the church courtyard, weather permitting. We are honored to welcome the **Westminster Municipal Band** who will play music during the service. **Please bring lawn chairs.**

**Ascension's military members and veterans will be recognized during the service.** If you or a family member are currently serving in the military or are a military veteran, please notify John Holbert or contact the Church Office.

<b>Worship Assistants: June 2026</b>					
<b>June Altar</b> Janice Hobart, Jill Horn, Emelia Howe, Deb Vana					
<b>Guild: Team 2</b>					
	<b>Usher(s)</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Chalicians</b>	<b>Worship Slides</b>
<b>June 7</b> 8:00 am		Roberta Wilhelm			
<b>June 7</b> 10:15 am	1. 2.	Olivia Carpenter		1. Kim Tompkins 2. 3. 4.	Karen Lance
<b>June 14</b> 8:00 am	Bill Sears	Kevin McIntyre			
<b>June 14</b> 10:15 am	1. 2.	David Kreider	Kat Dittrich	1. Helen Lang 2. 3. 4.	
<b>June 21</b> 8:00 am	Roberta Wilhelm	Mary Lou Berg	Beverly Baker		
<b>June 21</b> 10:15 am	1. 2.	Bill Sears	Kat Dittrich	1. 2. 3. 4.	
<b>June 28</b> 8:00 am		Mary Lou Berg	Beverly Baker		
<b>June 28</b> 10:15 am	1. 2.		Kat Dittrich	1. 2. 3. 4.	Jeanne Cox
<b>July 5</b> 9:00 am (one service)	1. 2.	Ann Fariss		1. 2. 3. 4.	

### Worship Assistants

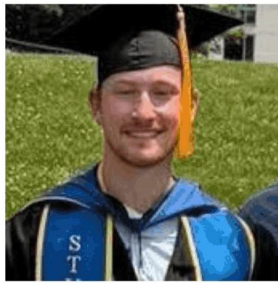
We are looking for people to serve as **Ushers** at both services and as **Worship Slide assistants** for the 10:15 service. No experience needed — if you can click a mouse, you can run the slides! As an Usher, you will welcome and serve our congregation on Sunday morning.

**If you feel called to serve in either of these ways, please contact the Church Office; training will then be promptly scheduled!**

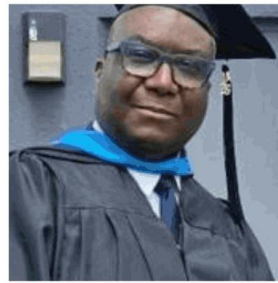
On May 31, after the 10:15 service, St. Martha's Guild will host a special Fellowship Hour to recognize our graduates. Please join us to celebrate their accomplishments and wish them well!



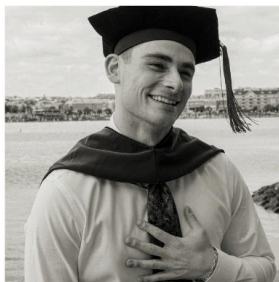
**Avery Arena**



**Domenic Arena**



**Mark Howe**



**Nick Leahy**



**Kadaj Myers**



**Raphael Buisson**



**Luke Gore**



**Roman Vargas**



**Alex Corns**



**Gabriel Hoff**



**Congratulations Graduates  
Class of 2026**



**BIBLE BASICS**  
*with Carrie Goff*  
10:15 am  
June 7  
July 19  
August 9

**Summer**  
**CHILDREN'S SERMON**  
*Fr. Pierre-Henry*  
10:15 am  
June 14 July 12  
August 2

The K-5 Sunday School Class planted flowers in the Children's Garden on Sunday, May 17. Thank you to the children and helpers who made this special activity possible!



Summer Program  
Information and Registration:  
[www.ascension-westminster.com/summer](http://www.ascension-westminster.com/summer)

**Summer Program**  
**Volunteers**  
**Needed**

For more information,  
please contact:  
Betsy Reinders  
[brr100@comcast.net](mailto:brr100@comcast.net)

### Children's Chapel

Miss Merle and Miss Betsy thank all the children who attended Children's Chapel with us throughout the year. We have joyfully seen them grow in Christ and become more confident in sharing their understanding of our Lord Jesus. And...a big thank you to the parents for bringing their children to us and reinforcing each message given.

We hope in their moments of silence, their times of challenges and in their times of joy, that they will remember to turn to God for thanksgiving, forgiveness and gratitude. Have a fun and exciting summer, and we look forward to seeing all the children when the Chapel doors open again in September.

Our last 'great' message to the children going into the summer...

**PUT GOD FIRST!**



### Church Office Notes



### Welcome to the Summer Snapshot



In July and August, church updates, events and highlights will be shared in a mini **Summer Snapshot** newsletter to keep you connected, growing and serving all summer long. Please share your contributions by **Monday, June 22**. The Ascension Extension newsletter will return in September 2026.

## The Vestry

Vestry/Officers	Term Ends	Ministry Liaison
Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson		Rector
Kim Tompkins, Sr. Warden	2027	
Bryan Lance, Jr. Warden	2029	Buildings and Grounds
Susan Considine, Treasurer	2029	
Nancy Starner, Assistant Treasurer		
Lorraine Fulton, Registrar	2027	Christian Education (Adults)
David Anderson	2027	Worship Assistants
Deborah Rio	2028	Fellowship
Mark Howe	2028	Stewardship
Melissa Leahy	2028	Outreach, Pastoral Care
Dave Gosnell	2029	Christian Education (Children & Youth)

### Vestry Meeting Highlights – May 26, 2026

*Present:* The Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson, Lorraine Fulton, Kim Tompkins, Deborah Rio, Susan Considine, Dave Gosnell, Bryan Lance

*Absent:* David Anderson, Mark Howe, Melissa Leahy

The meeting began with a time of prayer led by Fr. Pierre-Henry.

Susan Considine reviewed the Financial Reports for April, 2026 (see chart).

The meeting focused on Ascension's financial situation and strategy.

#### A financial snapshot — April 2026

Below is a brief look at how the parish is doing financially — first for the month of April, then for the year so far — alongside what we had budgeted, so we can see how we stand against our plan.

##### April 2026

	Budgeted	Actual	Compared with budget
Income	\$29,765	\$27,476	\$2,289 below budget
Expenses	\$35,062	\$29,388	\$5,674 below budget
Result	(\$5,297)	(\$1,912)	\$3,385 better than budget

##### Year to Date · January–April 2026

	Budgeted	Actual	Compared with budget
Income	\$119,061	\$162,748	\$43,688 above budget
Expenses	\$140,248	\$133,833	\$6,416 below budget
Result	(\$21,188)	\$28,915 surplus	\$50,103 better than budget

*A note on reading these figures.* Amounts in parentheses are deficits — periods in which we spent more than we received. Our expenses are running below budget in part because the diocesan assessment is being held temporarily while we await a decision on a diocesan grant; it has not been removed and will still need to be paid. The year-to-date surplus also reflects the timing of gifts: several ministries redirected funds to the General Fund early in the year, and a number of pledges were paid in full up front. For these reasons, the early-year surplus should not be read as the outlook for the full year.

#### What's on the bank (bank account % Money Market)

Of the \$229,581 in our accounts, only about \$50,705 is fully unrestricted.



- Unrestricted  
22% · \$50,705
- Available by Vestry decision  
18% · \$42,007
- Reserved by Vestry — not to be touched  
32% · \$72,643
- Donor restricted  
28% · \$64,226

Counting all the funds the Vestry is free to direct, roughly **\$92,700** — about 40 cents of every dollar — is available for day-to-day operations. The remaining 60% is reserved or restricted by donors and cannot be spent on general expenses.

### An Important Word About Our Finances

The year-to-date surplus shown on p. 8 is encouraging, but it does not reflect our true ongoing financial picture. Some of our income was received early in the year through annual pledge payments and transfers into the General Fund. While these funds have helped our cash flow, they will not recur later in the year. We also know from experience that giving typically slows during the summer months.

Our 2026 budget includes \$40,000 in anticipated diocesan financial assistance. The Senior Warden, Treasurer, and I will meet with the Diocesan Financial Assistance Committee on June 1, and we expect to receive an answer soon. Even if that assistance is received, we currently project ending the year with a deficit of approximately \$26,000, or about \$2,200 per month. Without that assistance, the projected deficit would be approximately \$66,000, or about \$5,500 per month.

These numbers do not mean that Ascension is in immediate danger, nor do they diminish the many blessings God has given our parish. They do mean, however, that we must be honest about our financial reality and thoughtful about the choices we will face in the years ahead.

The Vestry continues to monitor our finances carefully, to plan prayerfully for the future, and to seek ways to strengthen the long-term financial health of our parish. We are deeply grateful for your faithful generosity and support of Ascension's mission and ministry. Your continued giving throughout the summer months makes a real difference.

Pierre-Henry+



Church Staff	
Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson	Rector
Ann Fariss	Parish Administrator
Lynn Lyon-Vaiden	Communications Associate/Handbell Choir Director
Mary Butler	Organist/Choir Director
Travis Collins	Digital Ministry Associate
Suzanne Walter	Nursery Attendant

## Buildings and Grounds: Cleaning Services & Recycling Update



Cleaning services will still be provided by Vanguard Cleaning Systems for the coming year. Changes to the contract include:

1. On the first floor, cleaning will be done once per week (instead of twice per week) on Wednesday nights (instead of Thursday nights).
2. On the second floor, in the Parlor, and in the Stone Church, cleaning will be done once per month. On the second floor the trash will still be taken out weekly, and the upstairs bathrooms will still be cleaned weekly.
3. Monthly cleaning tasks will be done on the second Tuesday of each month in the afternoon.

Please remember that:

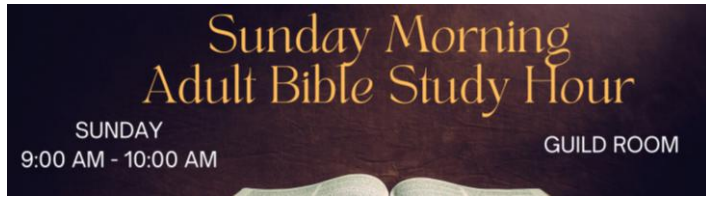
- **The tables in the Fellowship Hall** are not cleaned by the cleaning service. Anyone who is in charge of a gathering or event is responsible for making sure those tables are clean for the next gathering.
- **The Guild Room** in particular hosts multiple meetings each week. Since that room is now only being cleaned once per week, parishioners are encouraged to use the cleaning supplies that are stored under the sink to wipe down the tables after meetings.



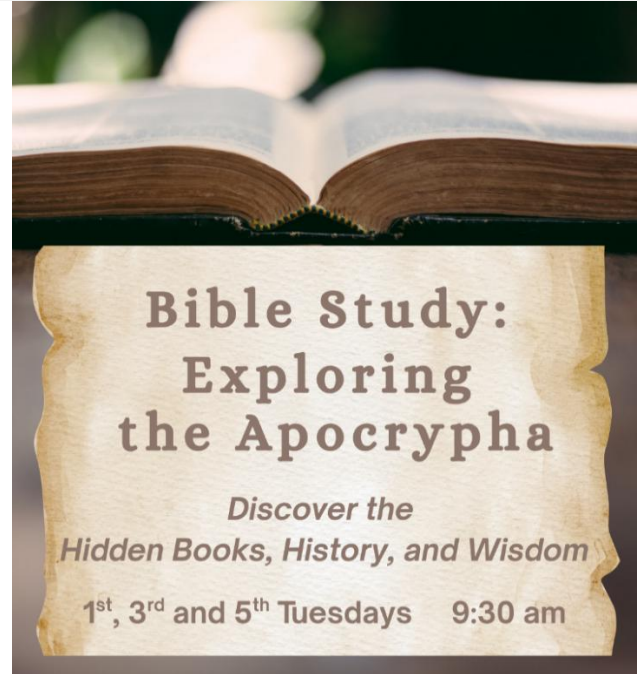
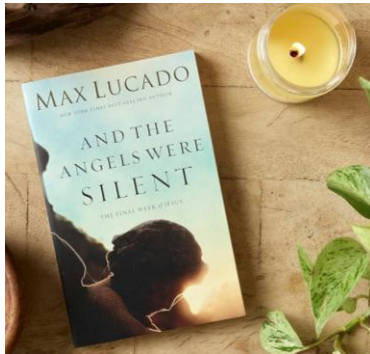
### Recycling at Ascension

Ellen Anderson collects what is put in the blue recycling cans every other week. Clean paper, empty aluminum cans, and empty plastic drink bottles can be put in those cans. Thank you for recycling and thank you Ellen!

**Bible Study**



**Thursday Night Bible Study will continue to meet at 6:30 pm through Thursday, June 11.** Our study and discussion of *And the Angels Were Silent* will then resume in September. It is not too late to join this study. For information, please contact Lynn Lyon-Vaiden.



**Tuesday Morning Bible Study**  
**This study will meet on**  
**June 2, 16 and 30 at 9:30 am in Room #202.**  
 For information, please contact Bill Sears.

**Book Club**

**BOOK CLUB 2026**  
 Join us at 12:30 pm in the Guild Room.

**June 24:** *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West* by Dee Brown

**September 30:** *Switchboard Soldiers: A Novel of the Heroic Women Who Served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps During World War I* by Jennifer Chiaverini

For more information, please contact Cheryl Vecera at 443.794.3691 or [cherylvecera@gmail.com](mailto:cherylvecera@gmail.com)

**1844 Shoppe**

**1844 Shoppe**  
**USA 250**  
**50% OFF**  
**All Red, White, and/or Blue items**  
**June Sale**

Friday & Saturday 10am-1pm  
 23 N. Court St. Westminister, MD

The 1844 Shoppe will be closed: Friday, July 3 & Saturday, July 4  
[ascension-westminster.com/1844-shoppe](http://ascension-westminster.com/1844-shoppe)

# Mistletoe Mart

Website: [mistletoemart.com](http://mistletoemart.com)

**Mistletoe Mart #52 will take place November 12-14, 2026! Please mark your calendars!**

We are currently on track to have **40 artisans** for Mistletoe Mart 2026. Vendor jurying is now complete and the final contracts are in process.

After careful consideration, the decision was made to **increase the admission price from \$5.00 to \$7.00.** (Children 12 and under remain free.) This should result in an additional \$4,000 - \$4,500 admission income. As a reminder, the admission ticket is good for all three days of the Mart.

We have received our beautiful **postcards for 2026!** We will begin to mail to specific vendors so they can advertise the Mart at their summer shows.



The **Mistletoe Mart website will be updated** during May and June to begin to reflect the Mistletoe Mart 2026 dates, vendors for Mistletoe Mart 2026, updated picture gallery and the amount given to community outreach from the Mistletoe Mart 2025 proceeds.

**Please note: This will be Melissa Leahy's last year serving as the lead of the Mistletoe Mart Kitchen.** Therefore, we need someone to shadow and assist Melissa this year and assume the role by Mistletoe Mart 2027. Please contact Melissa to further discuss ([melissazleahy@gmail.com](mailto:melissazleahy@gmail.com)).

Thank you, again, for all of your ongoing support for the Mistletoe Mart! We are grateful!

Kim Tompkins  
Mistletoe Mart Chair

## Fellowship



**Volunteers are needed to host.** We want to keep it VERY simple by providing coffee, and using snacks that are available in the church pantry. Coffee making instructions are provided. All you need to do is make coffee, set out a few platters or baskets of snacks, monitor the coffee and make more if necessary and clean up. There is a sign up sheet on the kitchen door. Training is available! Questions? Please contact Kat Dittrich.

**Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday!**

Congratulations to Larry Embrey who celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at church on Sunday, May 24



**Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday!**

Congratulations to Marion Britton who celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 17.



The Carroll County Coalition  
of the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project  
in partnership with the  
Equal Justice Initiative  
invite you to join us for the

Remembrance and Reconciliation  
Historical Marker Dedication

**Sunday, June 7, 2026 1 pm**

The ceremony will begin at the  
Church of the Ascension  
23 N. Court St., Westminster  
after which attendees will walk together to  
the unveiling of the historical marker at  
98 N. Court St., Westminster



## *From the Rector's Desk*

Dear Friends:

In recent weeks, I have found myself returning often to prayer for our whole parish family. We live in a time when many people carry anxieties about the future, both in the Church and in the world around us. Yet we are reminded again and again that the Church ultimately belongs to Christ, and that the Holy Spirit continues to guide, strengthen, and renew God's people.

At the May 2026 Vestry meeting, we prayed together for wisdom, courage, and peace. Afterward, I adapted that prayer for the whole parish, realizing that its hopes and petitions belong not only to Vestry leaders, but to all of us.

Even as I have been praying about these things, I was deeply encouraged today when a parishioner approached me with the idea of forming a small parish prayer group dedicated to praying for guidance, vision, wisdom, and openness to where the Holy Spirit may be leading us as a church family. I believe that desire itself is already a sign of the Spirit at work among us.

If such a group speaks to your heart, I invite you to let me know. In every season of the Church's life, renewal begins first in prayer.

I share a prayer in the next column and hope that it may bring peace, courage, and hope in the days ahead.

### A Prayer for Our Parish

Gracious and Holy Spirit, source of wisdom, understanding, and peace, be present with us as we gather and when we are alone.

Quiet our fears, calm our anxieties, and keep us from discouragement. Grant us the courage to face the truth honestly, the humility to listen deeply to one another, and the wisdom to seek not our own will, but yours.

Remind us that we are not merely members of an institution, but the living Body of Christ, called to love one another, to serve our neighbors, and to bear witness to the Gospel. Give us hearts rooted in prayer, minds guided by wisdom, and spirits shaped by charity, patience, hope, and generosity.

When conversations become difficult, keep us united in love. When the future feels uncertain, remind us that your Church belongs to you, and that you remain faithful through every season of change and growth. When decisions must be made, help us act faithfully, courageously, and with compassion.

Come, Holy Spirit: renew your Church, strengthen us for your service, and lead us in the way of truth and life. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In Christ's love,  
Pierre-Henry

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**Church of the Ascension**

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