



We believe in sharing love and grace with God and one another.

From the Rector...

Sin is a lot easier to get into than it is to get out of.

Last week as we were winding up our vacation in Vegas and checking out of our hotel, Steve got an email saying that our flight had been delayed for more than four hours. We quickly realized that would cause us to miss our connecting flight home. As we were already headed to the airport, we went the counter to talk with the gate agent.



We really weren't that upset, after all it was 6:30am and this meant that we were going to get another day in Vegas. The gate agent, however, was not in a particularly congenial mood. After telling us he had just gotten to work and didn't know anything about any delayed flights, we pulled up our tickets on our phone and showed him the delay. He became more helpful but not less grumpy. He did confirm that we would miss our connecting flight and the earliest we could get out of Dallas was 9am the next morning. I asked if there was a red eye headed to Dallas that night as I did not relish the idea of spending the night in Dallas. He did not offer much in the way of hope—telling us that most of the flights were full and that there were only two flights to Montgomery from Dallas the next day. Even after his dour predictions, he found us a flight and we were all set to fly out at midnight and get home by noon the next day. We headed back to the hotel—a full day with no agenda ahead.

As easy as it had been to get to Sin City, it seemed that we were a little more than challenged to get out. I think there is something to that notion of ease in getting caught up

in a sinful life and the challenges and struggles it takes to release sin's hold on us and find reconciliation and redemption. I don't think most people wake up in the morning and make an intentional plan to do something sinful. Instead, I think we get a little lost or distracted in life and discover that at some point we have gone off the rails and need to find our way back. That can often be a challenging journey as we have to wrestle with some hard truths about ourselves and our motivations. We may even have to do some penitential work—asking forgiveness of others or taking some action in which to achieve a sense of absolution. Rarely is it enough for us to simply say, I have sinned or I am a sinner and feel some sense of immediate redemption—there is work involved and our willingness to do that work is part of our journey to salvation.

Though the work is rarely easy, there is often a sense of fulfillment or a weight that is lifted from our shoulders when we are able to confess our sins and enter into the penitent life. Confession alone becomes a way of release from the prison of our shame and guilty. Couple that with our willingness to engage the penitent life and you have an opportunity to know true repentance and joy. The trouble is that few of us are willing to admit our wrongs and even less of us are willing to embrace those we have harmed from a place of humility. We are slow to apologize to others because our pride gets in our way. What we don't realize is that the rifts that divide us in our relationships with one another become the rifts that divide us from our relationship with God.

When we are divided from one another, we are divided from God. Sadly, division has become an easy trap to fall into in the modern world. Connecting is much more challenging and takes a lot more work. But in the end, even if we have to take the red eye, we can get there. We can find redemption in our relationships. We can come back home to God.

Steve and I, after a slow start, really enjoyed our bonus day in Vegas and finally made it home. It was a fantastic trip and a great celebration of our thirtieth anniversary. And even though we had a tremendous amount of fun, I'm not sure I will be headed back to Sin City any time soon—it was way too challenging to get back.

Light and Life,

Candice+

candice@coascension.org

SERVE

Lobster Fest!



Click [HERE](#) for Tickets - Deadline Aug 12th!

All proceeds go towards Respite Ministry & Ascension Day School!

Lobster Fest T-Shirts Are Here!



If you ordered a Lobster Fest T-Shirt you can pick them up this Sunday, August 11th in the Small Dining Room after 8:00 service. If you will not be here Sunday you can pick up your shirt in the office next week.

IN-GATHERING BENEFITTING



In July and August we invite parishioners to select items from the ADS Amazon wish list to bless our school and students this school year!



For further information, you can contact Christina Clark
Okarmus or Brandie Johnson

In the months of July and August, the In-Gathering Committee invites parishioners to select and purchase items from the [Ascension Day School Amazon list](#). The mission of ADS is to provide a safe, loving learning environment in which all children are encouraged to grow academically, socially, and spiritually. Help us to love our school by meeting their material needs for this school year!

LOVE IN MOTION

From Compassion to Action, Volunteering is just Love in Motion.....

Be on the lookout for ways you can serve both here at Ascension and in our community! More details to come!

Mercy House Volunteer Sign-up

A new sign up is now available for volunteers to help distribute lunches at Mercy House from August-December. You can view the sign up sheet by clicking [HERE](#). Since August of last year we have been working alongside our friends from St. John's on this outreach project, and two volunteers are needed from 11:00 - 1:00 every Thursday.



The Vineyard Bookstore

Come see what is new at the Vineyard!

You can now Venmo at The Vineyard! Just search for **@ChurchoftheAscension** and look for our logo. Make sure you tell us it is for The Vineyard and offer a brief description of your purchase. All proceeds at The Vineyard go to outreach initiatives.





WORSHIP

Sunday Morning Schedule

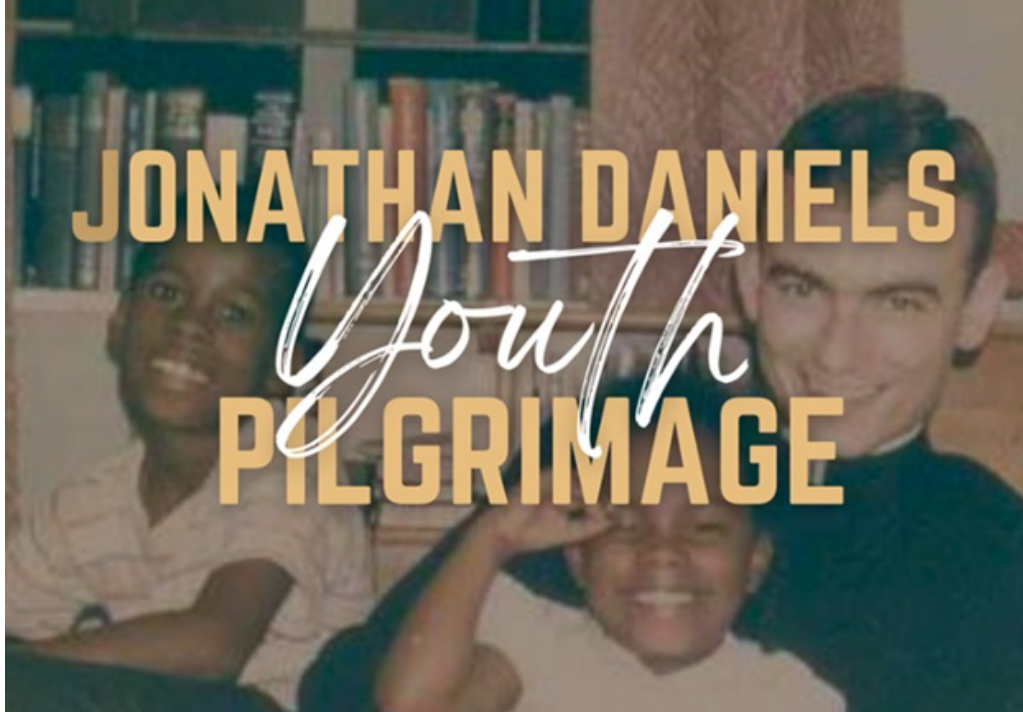
Rite I Service - 8:00 AM - Nave

Summer Breakfast - 8:30 AM - Ascension Hall

Clergy Forum - 9:15 AM - Upper Room

Rite II Service - 10:30 AM - Nave





This weekend Youth from around the Diocese as well as visitors from New York will be spending the weekend at Church of the Ascension and participating in the annual Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage. Jonathan Daniels was an Episcopal seminarian martyred in August of 1965. The Jonathan Daniels pilgrimage has become a fixture for many and a reminder that the equality for which he gave his life is a continuing sacrifice. The Jonathan Daniels Youth Pilgrimage is a weekend of service and remembrance for youth grades 9th-12th grade.

Taize Compline - This Friday!
7:30 PM



Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage!
Saturday, August 10th
Hayneville Courthouse Square – 11am



Jonathan Daniels was an Episcopal seminarian who was active in the Civil Rights Movement to register black voters in Central Alabama. He was shot and died after being arrested and released from prison for his work of activism. Each year, on the Saturday closest to his feast day, people from across the diocese and the country gather to remember his act of sacrificial love. It will be hot—dress casual and cool.



Altar Guild - Vases Needed!



The Altar Guild is running low on flower vases. We use them to take Altar flowers to our members on the prayer list. If you have any you would like to donate, please drop them off at the Clanton Street entrance. There will be a box by the door marked Altar Guild. Medium sized vases are preferred, similar to the size in the pictures above. Thank you!

Attention Venmo Users



As electronic payments become more widely used we ask that anyone who uses Venmo to **please add a short summary of what the payment is for in the description field**. We now accept Venmo for Wednesday night dinner, Sunday morning breakfast, purchases in The Vineyard Bookstore, as well as for giving. This description will help us allocate the resources appropriately. Thanks!



Baseball With the Bishop

Sunday August 25th is **Episcopal Day @ the Park** at the Montgomery Biscuits. Bishop G will be here to throw out the first pitch and watch the game with Episcopalians from the River Region. Tickets are \$15 for all ages and include a buffet meal from 2:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. in the Boxcar picnic area. Game time is 3:30 p.m. that day. You can reserve your tickets online through the diocese website by scanning the QR code above.

They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. - Jeremiah 17:8



Stewardship Update 2024

If you haven't turned in your pledge card it is not too late. You can drop in in the basket during service or bring it by the church office, For more information on pledging click [HERE](#).

Financial Gifts Offered This
Week

Financial Gifts Offered This
Month

Financial Gift Target
Monthly

\$5,469

\$5,469

\$85,500

Total Pledged Amount for 2024 - \$1,025,396
Total Remaining Amount for 2024 - \$452,451



2024 Cursillo Dates

September 12-15 (Drew+ on staff)
October 17-20 (Will & Amy McQueen on staff)

If you would like to attend, please contact Steve Frazer or Sharon Massey for more information.

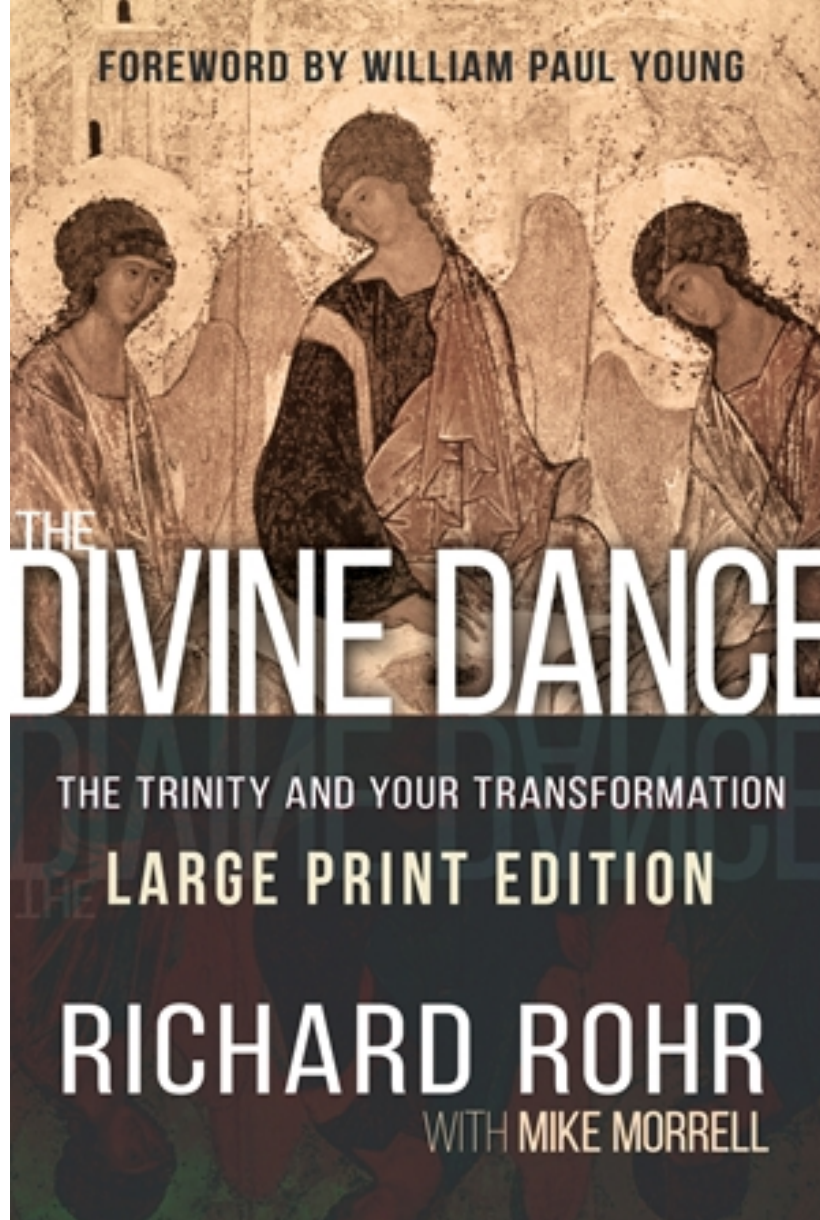
GROW



Now Enrolling For Fall

EfM is a four year study of scriptures, Christian history, ethics, and theology. Students commit to one year at a time. To find out more or enroll for this fall, contact Andy Akin.

**Men's Prayer Breakfast
7:00 AM on Thursdays**



Dive into a study about the Holy Trinity using the book *The Divine Dance: The Trinity and Your Transformation* by Richard Rohr with Mike Morrell. The authors seek to open up for us the mystery of the Holy Trinity by revealing a God that is in community.

Staff Directory

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Fay WorriLOW, Administrative Assistant fay@coascension.org

PRAYER FOR THE ASCENSION

Almighty and everlasting Father, we stand in your presence, awed and silenced by your goodness and wisdom. We rejoice in the outpouring of your Spirit on the Ascension and our ministries. Help each of us to remember that we are walking in your sight, and that you are present with us at every moment. Through your Holy Spirit, guide us in our prayers and enable us to focus our thoughts on you, so that we may be filled with the knowledge of your will. Grant us the wisdom to ask what you would have us do; the strength and courage to carry out your work; and the grace to show our gratitude through good stewardship of your gracious gifts. We ask all things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

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[Visit Our Website](#)

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