

Church of the Ascension

Invites You to Share with us. . .

+ Our Pastoral Staff +

Pastor

Rev. David W. Milliken

Weekend Assistant

Rev. Tim Graff

Parish Business Manager

Serina Sharkey

Director of Maintenance

Brendan Suter

Director of Music

Glenn Gordon

Parish Trustees

Christopher Cudina

Elizabeth Delgado

Religious Education Center

Theresa Carbone, Coordinator of Religious Education

Jeanette MacNish, Coordinator for Grades 7 & 8

Dena Sedlak, Coordinator of First Penance and

First Holy Communion



+ Our Pastoral Life +

PARISH MEMBERSHIP:

We welcome all new parishioners to our parish family. Every family participating regularly in the spiritual life of our parish is encouraged to register at the Rectory. Please inform us if you are moving.

BAPTISM:

It is mandatory to attend a baptism instruction class before scheduling the date for the baptism. Baptism is usually celebrated on the third Sunday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Parents must be registered parishioners and must attend pre-Baptism instruction usually given on the first Sunday of every month at 1:00 p.m. in the Gathering Room. Godparents must be practicing Catholics in good standing. Pre-registration at the Rectory is necessary prior to the Baptism instruction.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Other times by appointment. Communal Penance Services are celebrated seasonally.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK:

Please notify the Rectory of any elderly, shut-ins, or sick at home who wish to receive the Eucharist or Anointing of the Sick. Priests of the parish will be happy to visit parishioners in the hospitals in the area. Please notify the Rectory if someone from your family is in the hospital and wishes a priest to visit.

WEDDINGS:

Please make arrangements at the Rectory with one of the priests of the parish one year in advance.



First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2019

+ Our Parish Mission Statement +

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we, the Catholic Community of the Church of the Ascension, New Milford, commit ourselves to celebrate the Gospel of Jesus in Sacrament and Prayer. We dedicate ourselves to foster a warm and loving parish of concern and service for the individual, family and total community.

+ Our Eucharistic Celebrations +

Saturday

8:30 a.m.

5:30 p.m. (Vigil Mass)

Sunday

7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

Monday - Friday

7:00 a.m. and 8:30am

8:00am Summer

7:30 p.m. (Fridays during Lent)

Holy Days: 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 7:30 p.m.

Please see inside bulletin for Holiday Mass time

+ Our Devotions +

Novena in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

Rosary is prayed Monday through Saturday 7:15 a.m.



PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

RECTORY

256 Azalea Drive, New Milford, NJ 07646

(201) 836-8961 • FAX: (201) 836-5896

Website: www.churchoftheascension.com

E-mail: ascension@optonline.net

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

256 Azalea Drive, New Milford, NJ 07646

(201) 836-3085 • Fax (201) 836-5896

E-mail: ascensionreled@optonline.net

Mass Intentions for the Week



First Sunday of Advent, December 1

- 5:30 Annamma Thomas
7:30 Donald Evans
9:30 Andres S. Villaluna
11:30 Ciro Marra & Family

Monday, December 2, 2019

- 7:00 Frederick Balagot
8:30 Emilia Cruz

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

- 7:00 Timothy Daniel Sullivan
8:30 David Jenkins

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

- 7:00 Mother Brendan O' Carm
8:30 Richard Ward

Thursday, December 5, 2019

- 7:00 Eliseo Melancio
8:30 Edward James Makowski

Friday, December 6, 2019

- 7:00 Nicholas Delaney & Family (L)
8:30 Rolando Guerra

Saturday, December 7, 2019

Memorial

- 8:30 William Darley, Patricia Martin
Kyle Egan
5:30 William & Elizabeth Morris

Second Sunday of Advent, December 8

- 7:30 People of Ascension Parish
9:30 Dona Viduya (L) Thanksgiving
11:30 Mario & Rosauro Cajucum

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

Ascension Parish is supported by people who place their faith and trust in God.

NO FIGURES AT TIME OF PRINTING

Thank you very much for your generosity. You always care for and support our Parish programs, ministries and plant maintenance.

Reading for Sunday December 8, 2019

Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 19 [cf. 7]/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12



On this First Sunday of Advent, the first day of the new Church year, I have a really important message for you. Are you ready for this? It's been brought to my attention by Management that—you're not busy enough!!

Well, the Scriptures don't say it in those words. But children and adults alike are on such jam-packed schedules that it is doing violence to our spirits. We are busy, indeed—but the question that Jesus forces us to face today is — what is the business of our busyness?

We have become almost robotic in "taking care of business" each day. The more frantic we become, the less we are able to take care of the real business of the heart. In A Christmas Carol, do you remember what Marley said to Ebenezer Scrooge when Marley appeared wearing a huge, heavy chain, woven of "cashboxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, and heavy purses..." Marley says, "The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence were, all, my business. The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!" (Chap. 1) Marley wears this chain for misusing his chances to make a difference for others in life.

When Jesus says, "Stay awake," he means take time and silence to pray and choose carefully how to spend your and your family's time. God has a bigger plan at stake. Do our choices build up God's priorities? Or do they waste the short and precious time we have been given to create a more just and loving world, as God's partners? When Jesus returns at "an unexpected hour," may he find us not breathless with exhaustion—but with hopeful expectation!

Thank you to our Service Ministry and to all who donated, collected, and delivered turkeys for our Thanksgiving Turkey Drive. Also, thank you to all who participated in our 44th annual Interfaith Thanksgiving. Special thanks to Glenn Gordon and our choir members for helping us in song-filled thanks to God and to all who helped with the refreshments afterwards. Special thanks to ShopRite and our parishioners for their generous donations of food.

Thank you to Brian Driscoll and our friends at THE BAKERY in Bergenfield, for their generous donation of bread for our Thanksgiving Day celebration. It is always such a treat!

Please take some time to review the information from last week's bulletin about our 2020 Parish ADVENTure. Once again our Service Ministry has our Parish Advent Giving Tree is in place. This and so many other opportunities help each of us to prepare for the Lord's coming.

Advent would not be complete without a very special opportunity to "make straight the way of the Lord" in our hearts and in our lives. Please plan to join us on Monday evening, December 2nd, at 7:30pm here at Ascension for our Tri-Parish Advent Celebration of Reconciliation with Individual Confession. Come and experience this beautiful sacrament as one of God's grace-filled Advent moments. What a treat God has in store for us!

Know that I pray for you every day. Please pray for me, too. God Love You!

Handwritten signature of Fr. David



Transfiguration Academy's **2020 Alumni Mass and Brunch** will be held on Sunday, January 5, 2020 beginning with the 12 Noon Mass at St. John's Church with brunch following in Conlon Hall. This event will honor Sr. Madeline Mary Hanson's many years of service to our community as well as the memory of 2013 alumna Charli Roberts. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by visiting

<http://www.transfigurationacademy.org/tfa/Alumni/>

Donations to the Sr. Trinity Fund which provides scholarships to defray the cost of attending Transfiguration can also be made at this site.

Transfiguration Academy, serving students in grades PreK 2+ through grade 8, is a 2018 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools.

MEMORIALS

"THANK YOU"...to those who have contributed to our Memorials Fund. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please send your donation to the rectory with the coupon below. When an item is purchased we will notify you which item is in memory of your loved one. If you have any questions, please call Fr. David at the Rectory (201)836-8961. Additional Memorials: (circle appropriate memorial)

MEMORIAL CANDLES:	\$150/1 Year
	\$20/30 Days
ALTAR BREAD AND WINE	\$40 per week
ALTAR FLOWERS	\$50
	(per basket/per week)
SANCTUARY CANDLE	\$15 per week

MEMORIAL FUND

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Donation Amt.: _____
 In Memory of: _____
 Date Requested: _____

CAN YOU HELP?

We are in need of Adult Altar Servers to assist at Funeral Masses. Please call the parish office at 201-836-8961 or speak with Father David if you are able to be part of this ministry.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR PARISH INFORMATION
FYERS*FORMS*SCHEDULES*
UPCOMING EVENTS
WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM



Calendar:

- Sunday, December 1st—No Religious Education
- Monday, December 2nd–7th & 8th Grade from 7 pm to 8:15 pm (MPR/SCH)
- Wednesday, December 4th – 9th Grade from 7 pm to 8:15 pm (MPR/SCH)
- Sunday, December 8th—1st thru 6th grade from 10:45 am to 12 Noon (SCH)

Children's Liturgy of the Word will be celebrated at the 9:30 am Mass. All children in Pre-K to 5th grade are invited to join us. What a great way for families to celebrate Mass together.

Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace: As our parish children prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, they are learning about the rite of the sacrament. This week the children will discuss contrition, confession, penance, and absolution. All parishioners are invited to think about how important the Sacrament of Reconciliation is in our own lives as we seek "pardon and peace" in the words of absolution. Please continue to keep these children in your prayers.

Volunteers Needed:

- † We are in need of Aides and Class Parents for our Religious Education Program for the 2019-2020 school year. Anyone interested, please call Theresa Carbone our Coordinator of Religious Education at (201) 836-3085
- † Children's Liturgy of the Word Team member. This is a great opportunity for college students or student teachers to gain experience share their faith and work with students in a relaxed atmosphere. Anyone interested please, call the Religious Education office.

Religious Education Office Hours:

- Monday – Wednesday & Friday: 9 am to 4 pm – In Rectory
- Monday and Wednesday: 6:30 pm to 8:15 pm – In School
- Sunday Mornings: 10 am to 12 Noon – In School
- Closed: Thursday & Saturday
- Other times by appointment



Please remember to patronize
who help make this bulletin possible,
RIEWERTS Memorial Home Inc.
201-384-0700

DECEMBER 1, 2019

Come and Join us...
Church of the Ascension
New Milford

St. John's Church
Bergenfield

St. Mary's Church
Dumont

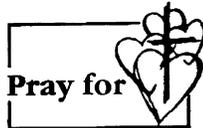
Invite You to Gather Together and Celebrate...
Advent Communal Penance Service
with Individual Confession

*We look forward to celebrating the mystery of Christ's coming
on the feast of Christmas.*

*Let us pray that when he comes
he may find us awake and ready to receive him.*

Monday, December 2, 2019
Church of the Ascension
New Milford
7:30 P.M.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



"To everything there is a season..."

"time to love..."

Vanessa & Mark Habana

"a time to be healed..."

Al Suter, Ann Wall, Joseph Gorgone, Marguerite Morris, Donna Van Kleeck, Margaret Polis, Elsa Obera, Marie Oberst, Jean Francisco, Carmelo Abbruzzesi, Leonard Abbruzzesi, Kitty Tricarico, John Thomas, John Donohue, Concepcion Deus, Eileen Kloeblen, Judith Gonzales, Monica Vivas, Diane Warings, Jane Rodriguez, Herman Ivan Rodriguez, Joel Rivera, Victor Muwonge, Benny Santiago, Aldo Guerra, Evelyn Lawler, Ana Tumang, Mary Anne Meyer, John Quinn, Peggy Evans, and those among us who are sick and in need of our prayers.

"a time to serve..."

Cpt. Jack Massingale, U.S. Air Force, Afghanistan, PFC Ian Belthoff, U.S. Marine Corps., Cherry Point, NC, Sr.A James Penser, Beale AFB, CA and all Men and Women serving in our countries Armed Forces.

"a time for peace..."

President Donald John Trump,
our National Leaders and all World Leaders.

and a time for every purpose under heaven"

Ecclesiastes 3:11

SANCTUARY CANDLE (\$15.), BREAD & WINE (\$40.), AND ALTAR FLOWERS (\$50. each basket) for the week, are available for memorial or special occasions, such as First Communions, Confirmations, Baptisms, Birthdays, Wedding Anniversaries. Please stop by or call the rectory office to check availability.



Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year
Mass will be celebrated on Monday, December 9, 2019
At 7:00am & 8:30am



First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2019

Parish Maintenance & Repairs

NO Children's Liturgy of the Word – 9:30 – Chapel

NO Religious Education 1-6th Grade - 10:45am

Baptism Prep. – 1:00pm – Gathering Room, PC

Monday, December 2, 2019

Pastoral Staff Meeting – 9:00am – Gathering Rm. PC

Confessions at Transfiguration Academy – 1:00pm

Rel. Ed. 7th & 8th Grade – 7:00pm – School

Tri-Parish Advent Penance Service at Ascension-7:30pm

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Woodcrest Center Mass 2:30pm

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Rel. Ed. 9 Grade – 7:00pm – School

Novena – 7:30pm – Church

Boy Scouts – 7:30pm – Fr. Benedict Ctr.

Filipino Core Mtg. – 8:00pm – Gathering Rm. PC

Thursday, December 5, 2019

No events

First Friday, December 6, 2019

Communion Visits to Homebound

Saturday, December 7, 2019

Confessions – 11:00am – Church

Children's Choir – 4:15pm - Church

Second Sunday of Advent, December 8, 2019

Children's Liturgy of the Word – 9:30 – Chapel

Religious Education 1-6th Grade - 10:45am



**AN ADVENT EUCHARISTIC DAY
WILL BE CELEBRATED HERE AT ASCENSION
ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019**

8:30AM MASS

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
ADORATION ALL DAY**

7:30PM EVENING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

OFFERTORY GIFTS

Please let one of our ushers know, prior to Mass, if you would like to bring the Offertory Gifts up to the celebrant, if Mass intention is one that you have requested or if for the intention of your loved one.



CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION'S GIVING TREE

This weekend we invite you to *Share in the Spirit of Christmas* by participating in our parish's traditional **Giving Tree** outreach program. Besides our own local gift giving to children in the area, we also provide gifts to local nursing homes, homeless shelters, a local shelter for unwanted teenage boys, and to children in communities who would, were it not for our program, receive nothing for Christmas. **Please note that due to the requirements of our charities, and our delivery teams, all gifts will be due back by Sunday, December 15th, after the 11:30 Mass. The only exception will be food certificates donated for distribution to our own pantry clients. Please do not bring in gifts after this time as they may not be delivered to the various charities. It is important you do not take an ornament that cannot be returned on time as this may result in someone not receiving a gift this year. Please also remember to securely attach your ornament to the package so that the gift will go to the correct recipient.**

****Please note that unwrapped toys will be given to the Bergen County Sheriff's Department for distribution to local children in need. Please do not wrap these items.**



WELCOME

Newcomers, Visitors and Parishioners

The priests & ministers of Ascension Parish welcome you. If you would like more information about entering more fully into our parish life & ministry, we ask that you complete the form below. You may return by putting into collection basket, mail or stop by the rectory office. Thank You!

I would like....

- _____ to become a Parishioner
- _____ to change my address
- _____ to join a ministry
- _____ to let the Parish know of someone who is ill, or homebound & would like to receive Communion

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

You are invited to make a donation toward the Christmas trees, wreaths and flowers which will be used to decorate our church this festive season.

Donation \$15.00 for Each Intention

One intention for each donation will be listed on the Christmas Flower Donations bulletin insert

Please put your donation and intention in the **Christmas Flower Envelope** or you may use **this form**. Please drop it in the collection basket or in the door mail slot at the parish center. **Please Print all information clearly on form or envelopes.** Thank you!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Please Print

In Memory of: _____

or the Intention of: _____

Donated by: _____

Phone: _____

**AN EASY WAY YOU CAN HELP THOSE IN NEED –
BECOME A VOLUNTEER BAKER!**

Every other month the Service Ministry of Ascension visits the Hackensack shelter to feed dinner to those in need. We always bring with us home-baked goods, which are a big hit with the clients. As we normally feed up to 150 people, we need help from volunteer bakers. All you need to do is to bake a cake, pie, brownies, cupcakes or cookies and drop them off at the rectory by 2 pm on the day of our serving. If a daytime drop is not possible, they can be dropped off the night before. (If you cannot bake, we will also accept store bought goods)

Our next date is on Thursday, DECEMBER 12th.

We could sure use your help. Thank you in advance for supporting our very important ministry.



FOR TURKEY DONATIONS

Members of our Service Ministry thank all who donated to our annual Turkey Drive on Sunday, November 24th. And also those of you who sent in their Price Plus card numbers for us to pick up their earned turkeys at ShopRite. May God bless you for your generosity to our mission to serve the poor. We wish you all a blessed Christmas Season to Come!

