

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 Parish Office. 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 Parish Office 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 Parish Office if someone from your family is in the hospital and wishes a priest to visit.

WEDDINGS:

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



Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

+ 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

One Daily Mass at 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.

PARISH CENTER/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  for the
Intentions *Week*

Second Sunday of Advent, December 6

5:30 William & Elizabeth Morris
7:30 Janet Cronin
9:30 People of Ascension Parish
11:30 Mario & Rosauro Cajucom

Monday, December 7, 2020

8:30 Arthur Milliken
8:30 Consuelo Calleja

The Immaculate Conception

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

8:30 Margaret Wilkinson
8:30 Gloria Patio, Luigi Trapani

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

8:30 Patrick Pickett
8:30 Serina Sharkey, B'day. (L)

Thursday, December 10, 2020

8:30 Mary Ann Mallon
8:30 John Kochuveet

Friday, December 11, 2020

8:30 Arthur "Artie" Castronova
8:30 Janet Cronin, First Anniversary

Saturday, December 12, 2020

8:30 Douglas Duras
5:30 Fortunata Tababan

Third Sunday of Advent, December 13

7:30 Juanita Santiago
9:30 People of Ascension Parish
11:30 Peter Buckley, 57 Anniversary

**PARISH \$ STEWARDSHIP
REPORT**

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

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

November 22, 2020: \$3,385.00
November 29, 2020: \$3,294.00

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

**Readings for Sunday
December 13, 2020**

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54
[Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



We have some themes going in the Scriptures today that might make you very happy—such as Isaiah’s very first word: “Comfort!” The word itself is soothing, as in “comfort food.” Well, today Isaiah brings out the comfort food for the soul. “Comfort, console my people,” says God, because the punishments the Israelites received for being unfaithful to God are finally over. Today, as we get closer to the coming of Jesus, the theme of both Isaiah and John the Baptist is: “Clear a pathway through the desert—even out the rough places—and shout it out: Your God is here!”

How are *we* doing at cleaning up the wilderness of our hearts for the Lord God to enter in? Many times, our hearts can feel as numb and empty as a wilderness—maybe we just hear an echo, as if we’re praying in a void. At other times, we feel so choked with the unjust and cruelty of the world that we don’t realize our hearts are like weed-infested gardens that desperately need clearing out. So it is when John pours water over the baptized at the River Jordan. Their eyes are opened, and they see new hope for their futures. They are so eager to clear out the dirt and weeds of their old lives, that they begin to pour out their sins, repenting, and become eager to change.

What is your idea of repentance? Remember that Isaiah says “Jesus is like a shepherd... gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast...” Don’t we all feel better when someone we’ve hurt wraps their arms around us and says, “It’s okay—it’s all forgiven and forgotten”? The Sacrament of Reconciliation offers that comfort and confidence in the name of Jesus. And when we ask to be changed, Jesus calls us to return to new life by receiving him into our hearts in Communion. Now, THAT’S comfort food!

✘ Don’t forget Tuesday, December 8th is the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**. We will celebrate Mass at 8:30am which will be live-streamed.

✘ Our **Advent Giving Tree** has been prepared to help us to Share the Spirit of Christmas! Further information is in this week’s bulletin. Please bring your gifts to church on or before December 13th. Also, don’t forget to take a copy of **Five Minutes with the Word for Advent**. Copies are at the entrance to the church and in the Parish Center.

✘ Please keep in your prayers the children of our parish who will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Saturday, December 12th.

✘ Please plan ahead to spend some quality time with our Eucharistic Lord on Wednesday, December 16th at our **Parish Advent Eucharistic Day**. Our **Mass with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** will be at 8:30am and will be live-streamed. **Adoration** will follow all day until 7:30pm when we will celebrate **Solemn Advent Evening Prayer and Benediction**. This, too, will be live-streamed. Just one more experience of God’s amazing Advent grace! Come, let us together climb the mountain of the Lord. Please come out and join us.

✘ Please remember to make your final payments for the **2020 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal** in order that our parish may get the proper credit.

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

Fr. David

CHRISTMAS MASS RESERVATIONS

Please remember to make your reservation for Christmas Eve: 5:30pm & 12 Midnight & Christmas Day Masses: 7:30am, 9:30am & 11:30am. ASAP

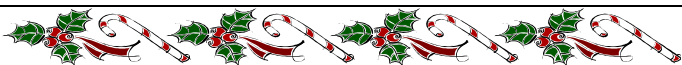
HARRISON HOUSE

Help is needed for 2021...We are in need of ONE more person/family who is/are willing to prepare a meal at home (one time) for 8 people and deliver it to Harrison House (on the grounds of Bergen Regional Medical Center) for the year 2021. Our parish has the 4th Wednesday of each month. Please call Hanna or Mary Lee, Chairpersons of our Aids Ministry, (201) 261-9246. if you can help. Thank you.

BREAKING BREAD

With Daily Mass Propers

Our Hymnals/Missalletes with daily and Sunday readings for the 2021 Liturgical Year are available. You may purchase one beginning this weekend (Nov. 7-8), cost \$6.00 each. Please see Father David after mass or call the parish office (201-836-8961).



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 Parish Office (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: _____



Holy Day without Obligation because of Covid
 One Mass at 8:30am will be celebrated
 on Tuesday, December 8, 2020



Calendar:

December 6, 2020 – 1st to 6th Grades Packet Drop off / Pick Up from 9 am to 10:30 am.
 December 7, 2020 – 7th to 9th Grades Packet Drop off/ Pick Up from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm.
 December 8, 2020 – 1st to 6th grades Chapter 9 reviews are due
 December 9, 2020 – 7th grade Chapter 7 review due, 8th grade Chapter 1 review due, & 9th grade Chapter 7 review due.
 December 12, 2020- First Reconciliation at 11 am in Church-only Reconciliation candidates and parents invited.

Important:

Parents are reminded to have their children do their weekly assignments and submit to Mrs. Carbone the on-line work for the Sunday Program by Tuesday and the Monday & Wednesday Program by Wednesday of each week. 9th Grade Parents please check your emails for the weekly Chapter reviews. Anyone that has any questions please contact Mrs. Carbone. Please make sure that all directions are followed on all sheets in the packet.

NEXT PACKET PICK UP –is Sunday, December 6th 9 am to 10:30 and Monday December 7th from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

Volunteers Needed:

- † We are in need of Aides and Class Parents for our Religious Education Program for the 2020-2021 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 sharing their faith and working with students in a relaxed atmosphere. Anyone interested please, call the Religious Education office.

Religious Education Office Hours:

Monday – Friday: 9 am to 4 pm – In Parish Center
 Other times by appointment

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Give in thanksgiving. “The nuns left lasting impressions on me,” writes a donor. “I shall always be grateful for my Catholic education.” Please join in thanking the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need. Next week’s second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which helps hundreds of religious communities care for aging members. Please give generously.

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

DECEMBER 6, 2020

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

UP-DATED Directives for Parish Liturgical Celebrations during the Covid 19 Pandemic

The guidelines below, given by Cardinal Tobin, apply to all churches and must be observed without exception.

1. Cardinal Tobin continues to dispense the faithful from the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday & Holy Days.
2. In accord with national, state and local health directives, those who show symptoms of COVID-19, who have been exposed to an infected person, or have traveled to unsafe places listed on the CDC.gov website, are not permitted to enter the church for 14 days. *It is recommended that before Mass, everyone should check their temperature at home before coming to Church.*
 - Those who are at risk because of an underlying health issue are strongly encouraged to avoid the risks posed by attendance at public celebrations of the Mass
3. Masks must be worn by all individuals while in the church.
4. Individuals must maintain social distancing (six feet) between each person while in the church.
5. A household may be seated together and not observe social distancing.

A household is defined as those people who have been living together under the same roof in close proximity throughout the quarantine. It does not include relative from other addressed or other extended family.

Note: There still will be a risk for anyone who attends a public Mass. Even with best health practices and strict social distancing, anyone who enters a public space should recognize there is a risk of contracting the coronavirus.

In addition, here at Ascension until further notice, these additional directives must be followed for your safety:

Daily Mass and Week-End Mass Schedule and directives are as follows

- Reservations will be taken on a first come, first served basis.
You may reserve for daily & Sunday Mass for multiple weeks
Please call or E-mail by 3:00pm on Friday.
 - **Full names of those attending, date/time of mass & phone #**
201-836-3085 or ascensionreled@optonline.net
- One Mass will be celebrated at **8:30am** in the Church (Monday-Friday). Our daily Mass will continue to be Livestreamed via Facebook.
- Saturday morning Mass will be celebrated & Livestreamed at **8:30am** in the Church.
- **Saturday Evening Mass will be celebrated in the Church at 5:30pm and on Sunday at 7:30am, 9:30am and 11:30am. Only the 5:30pm Mass will be Livestreamed via Facebook.**
 - Attendance will be taken and no one will be admitted after Mass begins (doors will be locked). There is a limited capacity of 80 people.

All Funerals, Weddings, and Baptisms will follow the same protocol. (80 person capacity)

-Enter side door near rectory

-All visitors, including children, must wear masks, have and use their own hand sanitizer and wipes.

Please wipe down area you have used and take with you any items you use.

-Practice social distancing (6 feet apart). We have roped off pews not to be used.

-You may light candles, please refrain from touching other areas in church.

-Children must remain with adults at all times

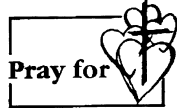
-Bathrooms will not be open

-Please No gathering or socializing in church or on church property

Confessions, please call the parish office, 201-836-8961, to make an appointment.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during these difficult times. God Bless

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



“To everything there is a season...

“a time to be healed...”

Angelita Villaluna, Elnora Gordon, Al Suter, Ann Wall, Joseph Gorgone, Marguerite Morris, Donna Van Kleeck, Margaret Polis, Elsa Obera, Marie Oberst, 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, Aldo Guerra, Evelyn Lawler, Mary Anne Meyer, John Quinn, Peggy Evans, Neil Magbanua, Cardinal Antonio Tagle, Vincent Guido, John Person 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, Sr. A James Penser, Beale AFB, CA and all Men and Women serving in our countries Armed Forces.

For all of our Emergency, Medical & First Responders.

“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



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** burns this week in loving memory of **William & Elizabeth Morris**



BREAD and WINE this week are in loving memory of **William & Elizabeth Morris**



Altar Flowers for this week Donated in loving Memory of **William & Elizabeth Morris**



Second Sunday of Advent, December 6, 2020

Mass at 7:30am, 9:30am & 11:30am in Church
Not Livestreamed

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mass at 8:30am in Church & livestreamed

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Immaculate Conception

Holyday without obligation because of Covid

Mass at 8:30am in Church & livestreamed

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mass at 8:30am in Church & livestreamed

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mass at 8:30am in Church & livestreamed

Friday, December 11, 2020

Mass at 8:30am in Church & livestreamed

Saturday, December 12, 2020

Mass at 8:30am in Church & livestreamed

Mass at 5:30pm in Church & livestreamed

Third Sunday of Advent, December 13, 2020

Mass at 7:30am, 9:30am & 11:30am in Church
Not Livestreamed



**KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS
REMEMBER TO PURCHASE RELIGIOUS
CHRISTMAS STAMPS**



**WE’VE REACHED OUR GOAL!
SHINING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST
2020 ANNUAL APPEAL**

Our parish goal this year is \$37,834. and **100% of every dollar raised above goal will be returned to our parish.** We have passed our goal. We have received \$38,860.00 in pledges. **Thank you** to the 144 families for your donations! Please prayerfully consider making your gift via pledge or direct donation by check, credit card, matching or planned gift today. **Thank you for your support and generosity. God bless.**



Please patronize our advertisers. They help us GROW.

Please remember to patronize who help make this bulletin possible, BERGEN SPINE & REHABILITATION, LLC 201-387-2800 WWW.DRPOLLER.COM

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 Communion, Confirmations, Baptisms, Birthdays, Wedding Anniversaries. Please stop by or call the parish office to check availability.



CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all of us especially the needy in our community. Once again, we invite you to share in the *Spirit of Christmas* by participating in our annual Christmas Giving Tree Program. However, in order to ensure the safety of our community and ourselves, we've made necessary modifications to the program.

GIFT CARD CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

We are asking that all donations made to our Christmas Giving Tree Program be made by gift cards. If you prefer to make a cash donation we will purchase the gift cards for you. Please be guided by the following:

- Gifts for families of St. John's Parish, Fairview: \$10. or \$20. gift cards for Target or Walmart.
- Gifts for residents of N.J. Buddies Harrison House: \$10. or \$20. gift cards for Target.
- Macy's, Walmart or ShopRite.
- Gifts for local families: \$10. or \$20. gift cards for Target.
- Gifts for Ascension Food Pantry clients: \$10. ShopRite gift cards.

Please bring your gift cards to the Parish Center during regular hours or give them to Fr. David. Please place gift cards in envelopes marked "Christmas Giving Tree Gift Card" St. John; Harrison House; local families or Food Pantry. **All cards must be brought in by NEXT Sunday, December 13th.**

We *thank you* for your continued support and wish you good health and peace during this Christmas Season.

HELP US TO FEED THE HUNGRY

FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION – DECEMBER 21st

The following are items most needed to restock our shelves this month. Any item or items you can purchase for our pantry would be greatly appreciated. God Bless you for your continued support of this most important ministry to the poor.

ICED TEA-COOKIES-INSTANT RICE-BREAD CRUMBS
 JELL-O-RAISINS-CANNED PEACHES-CANNED PEARS
 CANNED MUSHROOMS-CANNED BEETS-BEEF STEW
 APPLE JUICE-GRAPE JUICE-CRANBERRY JUICE
 LEMONADE MIX-CHICKEN BROTH-GRATED CHEESE
 CANNED WHITE POTATOES-VEGETARIAN CHILI
 BLACK BEANS-PAPER TOWELS-NAPKINS-DISH SOAP
 WOMENS/MENS SHAVE CREAM

DONATIONS CAN BE LEFT AT THE PARISH CENTER

Your continued support of our ministry to the poor is greatly appreciated.



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: _____

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 parish center 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: _____



**BLESSING & LIGHTING OF OUR PARISH
OUTSIDE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS
NEXT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH
AFTER 5:30pm MASS**