

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.



Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 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  for the Intentions *for the Week*

Second Sunday of Advent, December 8

5:30 William & Elizabeth Morris
 7:30 People of Ascension Parish
 9:30 Dona Viduya (L) Thanksgiving
 11:30 Mario & Rosauro Cajucom

Monday, December 9, 2019

7:00 Little Jimmy & Family (L)
 8:30 Gutierrez & Garcia Families

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

7:00 Zenaida Almendral Alamon
 8:30 John John

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

7:00 Gerard Patrick Lee
 8:30 Patricia Magat

Thursday, December 12, 2019

7:00 John Ackor
 8:30 John J. Donegan

Friday, December 13, 2019

7:00 Juanita Santiago
 8:30 Gina Manvli

Saturday, December 14, 2019

8:30 Inday Troping Ruiz
 5:30 Peter Buckley, 56 Anniversary

Third Sunday of Advent, December 15

7:30 Gregory DeCarlo
 9:30 People of Ascension Parish
 11:30 Robert Barratt

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

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

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| November 25, 2018: | \$5,212.00 |
| November 24, 2019: | \$5,387.00 |
| Fr. Hilary Scholarship: | \$ 599.00 |
| December 2, 2018: | \$4,553.00 |
| December 1, 2019: | \$4,516.00 |
| Maintenance & Repairs: | \$2,347.00 |

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

Reading for Sunday December 15, 2019

Is 35:1-6a, 10/ Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10
 [Is 35:4]/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11



Have you ever owned any action figures? They've been around since G.I. Joe in 1964... including Star Wars, Spiderman, or The Fantastic Four. Today's gospel brings us a real-life action figure— John the Baptist. John was prepared by God in the desert, rough and ready for his task, to announce Jesus to the world. His message? "Reform your lives! The reign of God is at hand."

John says "Turn away from your sins!" But today, he sees dishonest Pharisees and Sadducees coming up for baptism to impress the public. John doesn't pussyfoot around: "**You brood of vipers!... Give some evidence that you mean to reform!**" The Pharisees put on a good outward show, but they had a total lack of spiritual hospitality. They were proud of being Abraham's descendants, but they didn't "walk his walk" by opening their hearts to welcome Jesus. And John knew they had no intention of reforming!

How often are we prone to the same temptations? Christmas is Jesus' ultimate act of hospitality, and Advent is our time to bring Jesus' "ultimate hospitality" to every situation we find ourselves in: bringing greater warmth, openness, love, and welcome everywhere.

What if, during Advent, we saw every conversation as a way to radiate Christ's hospitality? What if we stripped the complaints out of our talk, and practiced the phrase, "Tell me more"... and then listened with patient encouragement? **Hospitality is an action word!**

Above all, let us remember and proclaim in all we say or do: "**Jesus is the Reason for the Season!**"

✘ Our **Advent Giving Tree** has been prepared by our Service Ministry to help us to Share the Spirit of Christmas! Information on the gift tags is available at the church doors. Please bring your gifts to church on or before December 15th. Also, don't forget to take a copy of "**The Word Among Us**". Copies are in the book racks at the entrance to the church.

✘ Don't forget Monday, December 9th is the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**, a holyday **without** obligation to attend Mass. We will celebrate Mass at 7:00am, 8:30am.

✘ Please keep in your prayers the children of our parish who will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time next Saturday, December 14th at 11am.

✘ Next Saturday, as we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, "Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday," we will bless and light our outside Christmas decorations after the 5:30pm Mass. Please join us!

✘ Next weekend we will take up a second collection for the **Religious Retirement Fund**.

✘ Please plan ahead and try to spend a little time with our Eucharistic Lord on Wednesday, December 11th at our **Parish Advent Eucharistic Day**. The principal **Mass with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** will be at 8:30am. **Adoration** will follow all day until 7:00pm when we will celebrate **Solemn Evening Prayer and Benediction**. 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.

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

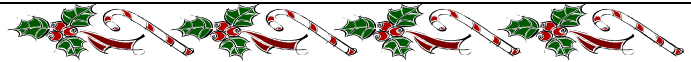
P. David



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's Nativity Pageant and Christmas Concert will held on Tuesday, December 17 at 6:00 PM in Conlon Hall. All are welcome to attend.

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.



Calendar:

Sunday, December 8th—1st thru 6th grade from 10:45 am to 12 Noon (SCH)
 Monday, December 9th—7th & 8th Grade from 7 pm to 8:15 pm (MPR/SCH)
 Wednesday, December 11th – 9th Grade from 7 pm to 8:15 pm (MPR/SCH)
 Saturday, December 14th- First Reconciliation 11 am in Church
 Sunday, December 15th—1st thru 6th grade from 10:45 am to 12 Noon (SCH)

Children's Liturgy of the Word will 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: This week our parish children who will soon be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, will gather for their final preparation session. They will learn about the meaning of conversion and how a return to God's love is celebrated in this sacrament. Parishioners are encouraged to reflect on their own experience of conversion or turning back to God. Please pray for the children as they celebrate their First Reconciliation.

Reminder:

First Reconciliation Parents and Candidates, Reconciliation will take place on Saturday, **December 14, 2019** at 11 am in the Church. We ask that all families please meet in the Church by 10:45 am so we can start on time.

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

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

Church of the Ascension

New Milford, New Jersey

Invites You to Gather Together and Share...

An Advent Eucharistic Day

...a special day to prepare ourselves for Christmas

...a special day of faith and hope

...a special day of prayer for peace

...a special day with our Eucharistic Lord

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

8:30am Mass

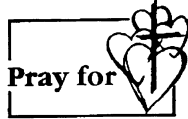
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration all day

7:30pm Evening Prayer and Benediction



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



"To everything there is a season..."

"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



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 8, 2019

Children's Liturgy of the Word – 9:30 – Chapel
Religious Education 1-6th Grade - 10:45am

Monday, December 9, 2019

Immaculate Conception-Holyday without obligation
Rel. Ed. 7th & 8th Grade – 7:00pm – School
Combined Choirs – 7:30pm - Church

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Ministry of Word – 7:30pm – Gathering Room, PC

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Eucharistic Day

Mass & Exposition at 8:30am

Adoration all day, closing at 7:30pm

Rel. Ed. 9 Grade – 7:00pm – School

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

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Hackensack Homeless

Friday, December 13, 2019

Parish trip to Washington, DC

Saturday, December 14, 2019

First Reconciliation – 11:00am – Church

Children's Choir – 4:15pm – Church

Blessing & Lighting of Outside Christmas

Decorations after 5:30pm Mass

Third Sunday of Advent, December 15, 2019

Retired Religious Fund

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

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

Baptism – 1:00pm – Church

Giving Tree Distribution – 2:00pm

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.



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



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**

HELP US TO FEED THE HUNGRY

FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION – DECEMBER 16TH

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.

- PAPER TOWELS-BATHROOM TISSUE-NAPKINS-TISSUES
- SHAMPOO-CONDITIONER-DEODORANT-BATH SOAP
- TOOTHPASTE-TOOTHBRUSHES-LAUNDRY DETERGENT
- PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

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

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.



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: _____



Please remember to patronize
who help make this bulletin possible,
BEUGARD-MC KNIGHT FUNERAL HOME
201-262-5050



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.



**BLESSING & LIGHTING OF OUR PARISH
OUTSIDE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS
NEXT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH
AFTER 5:30pm MASS**