

# 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.



## Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20, 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](http://www.churchoftheascension.com)

E-mail: [ascension@optonline.net](mailto: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](mailto:ascensionreled@optonline.net)

Mass Intentions for the Week

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20

5:30 People of Ascension Parish
7:30 Marcella & Harry Sweeney
9:30 Maria & Evaristo Aponte
11:30 Jesus B. Garcia

Monday, December 21, 2020

8:30 Robert Tarantino
8:30 Mary & James Zadroga

Tuesday, December 22, 2020

8:30 Honorato Pueyo
8:30 Primo Fineza

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

8:30 Angel Dizon, Sr.
8:30 Angelina Verrett

CHRISTMAS EVE, Thursday, December 24

8:30 Ernesto & Henry Volean
5:30 All Ascension Parishioners

Midnight Mass Living & Deceased

CHRISTMAS DAY, Friday, December 25

7:30 All Ascension Parishioners
9:30 Living & Deceased

St. Stephen, Saturday, December 26, 2020

8:30 Thomas & Maureen Meyer
5:30 Howard Stephens

The Holy Family, December 27, 2020

7:30 Juan Redoblado
9:30 Montecucollo & Lewis Families
11:30 Anthony Ameralis, Peter Rogers

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.

Readings for Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25. Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14. Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20. Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14



Back in the 1940's, there was a little boy who sang a popular song—"All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth." He knew exactly what he wanted for Christmas.

But—do we really know what we want? You hear a lot of adults saying, "It's different these days. I can't capture that wonderful Christmasy feeling I used to have as a child."

Down deep, we know it's not the gifts. It is that sense of miracles happening that our hearts really crave. That's why we watch the Hallmark movies and read the Christmas books—trying to catch that spirit. All of the glitzy decorating, the gleaming Christmas trees... the gifts, the colorful wrapping paper, the baking of goodies—all of this should point to only ONE THING: that, yes, something impossible happened! Mary said YES to a seemingly impossible vision for her life!

We worship each week to remember the miraculous birth of Jesus—but the miracles are not over: Christ died as all of us must do, he did the impossible by rising—AND Christ will come again! It may take our lifetime to transmit these mysteries of love to our world. But the Spirit calls us to bring back the miracle of Christmas by doing what Mary did: say yes to the challenges that look totally impossible. We're gathered today to help each other do just that.

On behalf of all of our Ascension family, thank you to our Filipino Community for our parish Simbang Gabi celebration, the Filipino Christmas Preparation. Mass enhanced by our Filipino Choir was reverent and beautiful and the refreshments and entertainment were delightful. Thank you so much!

Our "O Antiphons" are again proudly displayed to remind us during our final countdown to Christmas from December 17th to 23rd, that we must prepare our heart as a warm and welcoming place for the Lord Jesus.

We have inserted in the bulletin the schedule of Masses for the Christmas Season. We welcome all of you, those who celebrate with us daily and weekly, and those who have been away for a while. We invite each of you to celebrate with us, and we ask that you please bring a friend or loved one to celebrate with us as well.

I remind you that Ascension Parish offers many ministries and programs. Our parish relies heavily on your generosity, especially in our Christmas collection, to help support the many needs of our parish. I ask that you seek God's guidance in deciding what you can give for your special Christmas gift to your parish and I pray that you will be as generous as your means allow.

Wishes for a peaceful and joy-filled Christmas for you and all your loved ones!

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

Handwritten signature: 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

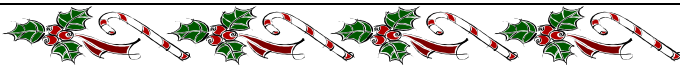
**HARRISON HOUSE**

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)

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

**MEMORIAL FUND**

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR PARISH INFORMATION  
 FLYERS\*FORMS\*SCHEDULES\*BULLETINS  
 UPCOMING EVENTS  
[WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM](http://WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM)



**Calendar:**

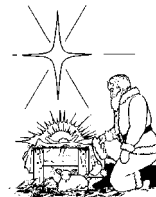
1<sup>st</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> if you have not completed your work to date please complete and submit as soon as possible.  
 January 3, 2021 – Packet Drop off/ Pick up from 9 am to 10:30 am  
 January 4, 2021 – Packet Drop off/ Pick up from 6:30 pm to 7:30pm

**Important:**

I will keep all families posted on whether or not we will begin In-Person class starting in February.

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. 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Christmas Blessings**



**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



**THE PARISH OFFICES  
 WILL BE CLOSED ON  
 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25TH**

DECEMBER 20, 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](mailto: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 front doors of church

**-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.**

-Bathrooms will not be open

-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

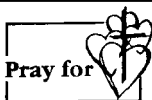
**-Please** No gathering or socializing in church or on church property

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



## FOURTH 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 Amy Irwin 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 **Mary and James Zadroga**



**BREAD and WINE** this week are in loving memory of **Luisa and Manuel Garcia**



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our advertisers.  
They help us GROW.

**BOULEVARD FUNERAL HOME  
& CREMATION SERVICE**

201-692-0100

[www.boulevardfuneralhome.com](http://www.boulevardfuneralhome.com)

Please remember to patronize,  
who help make this bulletin possible



**Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20, 2020**

Mass at 7:30am, 9:30am & 11:30am in Church

**Not Livestreamed**

**Monday, December 21, 2020**

Mass at 8:30am in Church & livestreamed

**Tuesday, December 22, 2020**

Mass at 8:30am in Church & livestreamed

**Wednesday, December 23, 2020**

Mass at 8:30am in Church & livestreamed

**Decorating of Church for Christmas at 2:00pm**

**CHRISTMAS EVE, Thursday, December 24, 2020**

Mass at 8:30am in Church & livestreamed

**Vigil of Christmas**

Masses at 5:30pm & Midnight

Both masses in Church only Midnight Mass  
livestreamed

**CHRISTMAS DAY, Friday, December 25, 2020**

Masses at 7:30am\*9:30am\*11:30am  
in Church only not livestreamed

**Saturday, December 26, 2020**

Mass at 8:30am in Church & livestreamed

Mass at 5:30pm in Church & livestreamed

**Holy Family, December 27, 2020**

Mass at 7:30am, 9:30am & 11:30am in Church

**Not Livestreamed**



**DECORATING OUR CHURCH  
FOR CHRISTMAS**

Parishioners are invited to help decorate the Church on  
Wednesday, December 23rd at 2:00pm.

**All are Welcome!**



**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 parish office to check availability.**

Happy  
  
First Day of Winter

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>**



## Christmas Masses

### Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24, 2020  
5:30pm, and 12:00 Midnight

*Choir Concert with Caroling begins at 11:15pm*

### Christmas Day

Friday, December 25, 2020  
7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am

### Holy Family

Saturday, December 26, 2020  
5:30pm

Sunday, December 27, 2020  
7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am

### Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

### New Year's Eve

Thursday, December 31, 2020  
5:30pm

### New Year's Day

Friday, January 1, 2021  
8:30am and 10:30am

### Solemnity of the Epiphany

Saturday, January 2, 2021  
5:30pm

Sunday, January 3, 2021  
7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am



### 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: \_\_\_\_\_



## A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

O God, whose Son was born in Bethlehem,  
on that wondrous night, lead us to that  
same place, where Mary laid her tiny child.

As we look on in wonder and praise, make us  
welcome Him and all new life, and care for  
His handiwork; the earth, the sky and the sea.

O God, bless us again in Your great love.  
We pray for this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

"For this day is born to you a Savior,  
who is Christ the Lord, in the city of David."  
(Luke 2:11)



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_