

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.



**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 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

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION



Mass Intentions for the Week

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22

5:30 Primo Fineza
7:30 Mary & James Zadroga
9:30 People of Ascension Parish
11:30 Mozia Families, for peace in the family

Monday, December 23, 2019

7:00 Marcella & Harry Sweeney
8:30 Henerato Pueyo

CHRISTMAS EVE, Tuesday, December 24

8:30 Liam Heaslip
5:30 All Ascension Parishioners

Midnight Mass Living & Deceased

CHRISTMAS DAY, Wed., December 25

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

St. Stephen, December 26, 2019

8:30 Paz Alburo

St. John, December 27, 2019

7:00 Gerard Patrick Lee
8:30 Andres & Consuelo Calleja

The Holy Innocents, December 28, 2019

8:30 Marcela Zuniga
5:30 People of Ascension Parish

The Holy Family, Sunday, December 29

7:30 Rose Walsh
9:30 Montecuollo & Lewis Families
11:30 John Delaney & Family

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

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

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| December 9, 2018: | \$5,324.00 |
| December 8, 2019: | \$5,312.00 |
| Immaculate Conception: | \$1,395.00 |
| December 16, 2018: | \$5,723.00 |
| December 15, 2019: | \$5,512.50 |
| Christmas Flowers: | \$1,478.00 |

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

Reading 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

Midnight: 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

How many of you like to read murder mysteries? Maybe you got started as children on the Hardy Boys or Nancy Drew, then moved on to Agatha Christie. Mildred Wirt Benson, who wrote 23 of the original Nancy Drew mysteries as Carolyn Keene, had a clever method for writing those mysteries. She would work out the endings first, then create whatever characters and plots were necessary to reach that ending.

Do you think that is how God, the Great Mystery Author, deals with the stories of **our** lives? In today's gospel, so close to Christmas, some very mysterious things are happening to Joseph, Mary, and the newborn baby, Jesus. If God had not been directing the present towards certain future conclusions, it would simply be a routine story of an unknown baby born on a rural hillside 2000 years ago. But God's immense love for the creation has guided the mystery of Jesus' life since before time.

Isaiah prophesied God would give us a sign— "the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him **Emmanuel** — **God is with us.**" In a few days, we shall celebrate that the prophecy came true in real time and real space, 800 years later. And the greatest mystery is that the "big reveal" of the meaning of Jesus' birth is on-going throughout our lives— if we are watching for the clues.

But what about all of the questions in our lives? Just as in every good mystery, we are kept in suspense until the very end. But when you wake up on Christmas Day, think of how you are wrapped in the arms of the Great Mystery, and how good it is to be alive on the day Jesus our brother is born...the only Answer to the Mystery.

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

✠ 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.

✠ Please plan ahead...On **Monday, December 23rd**, beginning at 6pm, we will decorate our church for the Christmas season. We invite any parishioners who would like to help to join us in the church for this special project.

✠ We have printed 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.

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!

P. David



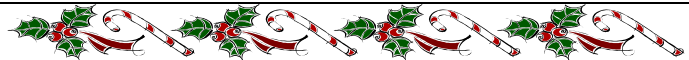
The students, families and staff of Transfiguration Academy wish everyone a blessed, happy Christmas! The school office will be closed December 23, 2019 – January 3, 2020 for Christmas recess.



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. **The deadline for tickets is tomorrow, December 23rd.**

Discover why our students thrive in and outside the classroom:

- Call to pick up registration materials and/or for a tour: 201-384-3627
- Email: principal@transfigurationacademy.org
- Visit our website: transfigurationacademy.org
- Visit us on Facebook



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: _____

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR PARISH INFORMATION
 FYERS*FORMS*SCHEDULES*
 UPCOMING EVENTS

WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM



Calendar:

Sunday, December 22nd—1st thru 6th grade from 10:45 am to 12 Noon (SCH)

Monday, December 23th— No Religious Education

Wednesday, December 25th – Wishing all families a Blessed Christmas

Sunday, December 29nd— No Children's Liturgy of the Word & No Religious Education

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. There will be NO Children's Liturgy of the Word on December 29, 2019. We will resume on January 5, 2020.

Reminder:

First Grade Parent Meeting: All First Grade Parents, there is a **Mandatory Parent** meeting on Sunday, January 12, 2020 at 10:45 am. At least one parent must attend.

When your child/ren are going to be absent from class you must call the Religious Education office and let us know. We will call the home if you do not call us, so **PLEASE** make sure you have a working home or cell number that we can contact you especially in the event of an emergency.

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



DECORATING OUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Parishioners are invited to help decorate the Church on Monday, December 23rd at 6:00pm. **All are Welcome!**

DECEMBER 22, 2019

Dear Parishioners,

The priests and staff of Ascension wish you and your loved ones
a very happy and holy Christmas!

We welcome you all to our celebration of **Christmas 2019** here at Ascension.

We especially welcome those who have been away from Ascension due to
school, illness or living elsewhere for whatever reason.

It is good to have you home again. Welcome to all visitors.

Thank you for choosing to celebrate your Christmas with us.

Christmas is a wonderful and holy time of year.

It is when we become more aware of the many gifts God gives us
at Christmas and all throughout the year – the gift of life, the gift of faith,
and the gift of each other. On Christmas God showed us
how deeply he loved us by taking on flesh and becoming one like us,
so that we could become more like Him.

During this Christmas Season, which continues
until the **Baptism of the Lord** on Sunday, January 12th,
we will also celebrate other important feast days in the life of the Church.

We will observe the **Feast of the Holy Family** on December 29th
with the Blessing of Families at Masses at 5:30pm on Saturday,
and 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am on Sunday.

Then for New Year's Day, January 1st, we will celebrate the
Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation, with Masses
at 5:30pm on Monday, and 8:30am and 10:30am on Tuesday.

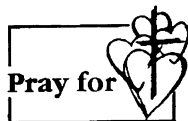
On January 5th we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**
with a special blessing of children at all Masses that weekend.

I encourage you to immerse yourself in the spirit and graces of the season
by participating in the special celebrations
and ask that you bring someone you love with you.

My prayer is that Christ, whose birth we now celebrate,
may dwell in your hearts and in your homes throughout this season of joy.

Merry Christmas!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



"To everything there is a season..."

"a time to be born..."

Veronica Evelyn Taylor and Kaleb Alexander Reyes

"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.

"a time to die..."

Janet Cronin

and a time for every purpose under heaven"

Ecclesiastes 3:11



The SANCTUARY CANDLE
burns this week in loving memory of
Gerard Patrick Lee



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



BOULEVARD FUNERAL HOME
201-692-0100

Please remember to patronize,
who help make this bulletin possible



Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22, 2019

Food Pantry Sunday

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

Monday, December 23, 2019

Decorating of church for Christmas 6:00pm

NO Religious Education

Combined Choirs – 7:30pm - Church

CHRISTMAS EVE, Tuesday, December 24, 2019

Mass at 8:30am

Vigil of Christmas

Masses at 5:30pm with Children's Choir

Midnight Mass with Combined Choirs

CHRISTMAS DAY, Wednesday, December 25, 2019

Masses at 7:30am*9:30am*11:30am

Parish Offices Closed

NO Religious Education

Thursday, December 26, 2019

No events

Friday, December 27, 2019

No events

Saturday, December 28, 2019

Confession – 11:00am - Church

Holy Family Sunday, December 29, 2019

NO Children's Liturgy of the Word

NO Religious Education

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR ASCENSION'S GIVING TREE!

Thanks to your generosity we were able to deliver 225 gifts to those less fortunate. We were also able to give an extra gift to the clients of our food pantry so they can get all they need for their holiday dinner, as well as give gifts to 2 animal shelters. We certainly have a very generous parish! A special thanks goes out to all the members of the ministry who made the ornaments, sorted the packages, and delivered gifts to the various charities. May all who participated know the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ during this holiday season. Merry Christmas!



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.



Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24, 2019
5:30pm, and 12:00 Midnight

Choir Concert with Caroling begins at 11:15pm

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25, 2019
7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am

Holy Family

Saturday, December 28, 2019
5:30pm

Sunday, December 29, 2019
7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

New Year's Eve

Tuesday, December 31, 2019
5:30pm

New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 1, 2020
8:30am and 10:30am

Solemnity of the Epiphany

Saturday, January 4, 2020
5:30pm

Sunday, January 5, 2020
7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am



RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Religious gives thanks. "Thank you hardly seems adequate to convey what it means to us". Says a Catholic, sister of the financial assistance her community received from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Prayer-filled thanks for your donation of \$2,433.00 to last week's second collections.



**THE RECTORY & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICES
WILL BE CLOSED
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH**



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)**



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: _____



St. Joseph KofC Free Throw Championship

St Joseph Knights of Columbus Council is sponsoring it's local Council Championship. All boys and girls age 9 to 14 are invited to participate. All participants will be recognized for their participation. The event will take place on Saturday January 18, 2020 at St. Joseph School Gym. Registration begins at 2:30PM. Competition begins at 3:00PM.

For additional information contact: Bob Osterlof at 201 370 3404 or visit our website @ www.kofc3814.org