

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION



Third Sunday of Advent, December 14, 2014

5:30 Paz Albuero
 7:30 Con & Rose Lynch
 9:00 Anne, Frank & Matthew Lanza
 10:30 People of Ascension Parish
 12:00 Bell-Verrett Family

Monday, December 15, 2014

7:00 Concepcion Martinez (living)
 8:30 Viola Bell

Tuesday, December 16, 2014

7:00 In Thanksgiving, the Fineza family
 8:30 Gregory DeCarlo

Wednesday, December 17, 2014

7:00 Ramon Martinez
 8:30 Alfonso Flores

Thursday, December 18, 2014

7:00 Antonio M. Majul
 8:30 Candelaria Ciron

Friday, December 19, 2014

7:00 Lee, Foram & Comer Families
 8:30 Roy Montecillo (living)

Saturday, December 20, 2014

8:30 Soler-Valdes Family
 5:30 Jesus Garcia

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21, 2014

7:30 People of Ascension Parish
 9:00 Meyer & Tenney Families
 10:30 Maria & Evaristo Aponte
 12:00 Jose I. Piquero

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH



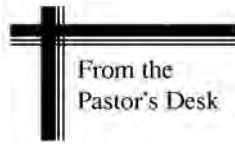
Ascension Parish is supported by people
 who place their faith and trust in God.

Sunday, December 7, 2014: \$7,126.00
Retired Religious: \$2,156.00

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

Readings for the Week of December 14, 2014

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
 Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27
 Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32
 Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
 Thursday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
 Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
 Saturday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
 Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38



From the
 Pastor's Desk

Do you remember Archie Bunker from the show, "All In The Family"? Archie was famous for being an exceedingly conservative blue-collar worker who was often exasperated with his wife Edith's opinions. If Edith got too exuberant, Archie would shout, "Stifle, yourself, Edith! Stifle yourself!"

Today on "Rejoicing Sunday", far from being told to "stifle!" we are being invited to jump for joy at Jesus coming very soon. Edith Bunker's open spirit is something we could learn a lot from in Advent, actually. She let herself be taken over by a spirit of exuberance and childlike joy at the simplest things.

Archie called her naïve; but, in spite of living with a grumpy, critical guy, Edith was wise and resilient. She kept her faith and spirit of wonder in every situation. St. Paul agrees with Edith today: "DON'T stifle the Spirit!" To be who we really are created to be, we need to let the Spirit of God's love flow freely through us and out into the world around us. Let our energy direct our spiritual convictions to create Godly activities in the world. REALLY live in each present moment of your life this Advent by letting the Spirit breathe in you.

✠ Thank you to **Dena Sedlak**, our Coordinator of First Sacraments, Theresa Carbone our Coordinator of Religious Education, our catechists, and all who helped to make our children's first experience of the Sacrament of Reconciliation so beautiful and inspiring. Thanks to the parents and children, too!

✠ Our **Advent Giving Tree** has been prepared to help us to Share the Spirit of Christmas! All gifts are due on Sunday, December 14th. Also, don't forget to take a copy of **Five Minutes with the Word for Advent**. Copies are in the book rack at the entrance to the church.

✠ Our "**O Antiphons**" will return this Wednesday and will be proudly displayed to help us during our final countdown to Christmas from December 17th to 23rd.

✠ 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 15th at 7:30pm, at St. Mary's Church in Dumont 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!

✠ Please plan ahead to spend some quality time with our Eucharistic Lord on Wednesday, December 17th 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 7:30pm when we will celebrate our **Novena Prayers 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.

✠ Don't forget our parish **Simbang Gabi** celebration, the Filipino Christmas Preparation. Mass will be at 7:00pm on Saturday, December 20th. Refreshments will follow after Mass.

✠ Please plan ahead! On Monday, **December 22nd**, we will put up the Christmas trees which will adorn our church. On **Tuesday, 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 at 6:00pm in the church for this special project.

✠ Our **Christmas Mass schedule** has been mailed to all parishioners and is printed in the bulletin. Please keep the schedule handy for ready reference. We remind you of the many ministries and programs offered by Ascension Parish. We look to your generosity, especially at Christmas, to help support the many needs of your parish. Please be as generous to your church as your means allow. 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.

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

Fr. David



TRANSFIGURATION ACADEMY

'Tis the Season of Peace, Joy, and Celebration!



Last Monday, Dec. 8th, the feast the Immaculate Conception, Transfiguration held our traditional Marion Day. While others take this day as a holiday, we devote it to the Blessed Mother, beginning with Mass and

ending with the entire school gathering in Conlon hall for the Rosary.

Celebrating our Blessed Mother being born without original sin, and therefore the perfect individual to be the Mother of our Savior, is a great way to prepare for the coming of her Son, on Christmas Day!

May the Blessed Mother continue to help and protect us all from all harm, mental, physical and spiritual now and throughout our lives.

**Begin the Transformation.
Begin learning lessons for a successful life.
Transfiguration Academy
201-384-3627
www.transfigurationacademy.org**



Calendar:

Sunday, December 14th - K thru 6th grade from 10:15 am to 11:45 am (SCH)

Monday, December 15th ó 8th Graders will meet at 7 pm to 8:45 pm

Wednesday, December 17th ô 9th Grade from 7 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)

Sunday, December 21st- K thru 6th grade from 10:15 am to 11:45 am (SCH)

Childrenø Liturgy of the Word has started at the 9 am Mass. All children in K to 5th grade are invited to join us. What a great way for families to celebrate Mass together.

Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace: Now that our parish children have celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time, they will come together this week to think about the significance of ògoing to confessionö and receiving Godø forgiveness. They will remember what they did and how they felt on this special day. Please continue to pray for them, and encourage our young children as they begin a lifelong practice of celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Congratulationsí to the 16 young people of the parish who received the FIRST PENANCE on Saturday, December 13th. Also, thank you to the parents who have prepared them well. May this be the first of many encounters with Jesus in receiving Penance.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

On Wednesday December 17, 2014 your Sponsor forms are **DUE**.



Volunteers Needed:

We are in need of Class Parents for ALL GRADES in our Religious Education Program for the 2014-2015 school year. Anyone interested, please call Theresa Carbone our Coordinator of Religious Education at (201) 836-3085

Childrenø 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 Location & Hours:

New Location: 356 Azalea Drive

Monday – Wednesday & Friday: 9 am to 4 pm

Location: 1092 Carnation Drive

Monday and Wednesday: 6:30 pm to 8:45 pm

Sunday Mornings: 10 am to 12 Noon

Closed: Thursday & Saturday

Other times by appointment



FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY
NEXT WEEKEND

During the month of December, we are asking for donations of paper products; including toilet tissue, paper towels, facial tissues and napkins. We are also always in need of personal hygiene items such as toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, disposable razors, shave cream, and soap. **Our pantry staff wishes all of our supporters a very blessed Christmas season!** Of special note, Turkey & other donations from Shop Rite and Fairway Markets. (Please patronize these establishments in order for continued support from our Corporate donors). As the Holiday season continues please note that we will still take donations of Turkeys, Hams, Lasagna etc. for our Christmas meal distribution.



ADVENT

WATCH

LISTEN

REJOICE

PREPARE

WEEK THREE

Rejoice in the Lord always! I say it again. Rejoice!

Sunday's Gospel tells stories of Christ among us: Christ the healer, Christ the powerful, Christ the Son of God who joins heaven and earth. Daily Scripture focuses on Jesus the Messiah, as revealed by the ministry of John the Baptist.

Sunday

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Joy is the heart singing! Sometimes we sneak a taste of the batter before the cookies or cake is made. Today, Gaudete Sunday, we do the same with Christmas. The Lord is near! God's reign is at hand - we are not alone! Take some time today for fun and celebration.

Weekdays

Practice trusting God. All Christians are called to share in the reign of Jesus as healer and proclaimers of the Good News of salvation. Sometimes, though, we forget who is Lord. We depend upon our own compassion, or upon our own abilities, upon this program or that medicine. We can work until our fingers are blistered but we alone can't fix the problems of the world. It is God who saves and heals through us. John the Baptist knew that he could only point to someone greater than he. Repeat to yourself today, "It is you I trust, Lord. Save me."

The O Antiphons

On the seven days before Christmas Eve, glorious names of the Messiah *Wisdom, Sacred Lord of Ancient Israel, Flower of Jesse's Stem, Key of David, Radiant Dawn, King of Nations, Emmanuel* are proclaimed in the O Antiphons.

As the final countdown for Christmas starts, let us each take time to prepare our heart as a warm and welcoming place for the Lord Jesus.

Family Advent Wreath Prayer

Joyful God, you offer us the gift of your joy as we continue on our Advent journey. As we light the third candle of our Advent wreath, help us to remember that you are the source of our deepest joy.



"To everything there is a season..."

"a time to be healed..."

Charles Brown, Rose DeEufemia, Dolores Crowley, Frank Mottola, Shirley Busby, Roger Carr, Rev. John McGovern, Andrew Comer, Janet Sweeney, Jack Wall, Eileen Burke, Michael Cullen, Joseph Gorgone, Bob Stasi, Peggy Funesti, Patricia Burke, Eleanor Pompeo, Alyssa Brady, Dolores DeMatteo, Barbara Riley, Alex Kuhr, Barbara Santore, William Schettinger, Yvonne Payne, Rosemarie Salimbene, Marge Bruno, Jim Keane, Monica Vivas, Theresa Ruocco, Kay Harrington, Adem Shavelli, Joseph Albanese, Joe Hartney, Marguerite Morris, 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
All Men and Women serving in our countries Armed Forces.

"a time for peace..."

President Barack Obama, our National Leaders
and all World Leaders.

"a time to die..."

Angela Dal Lago, John O'Connell, Steven LePage

...and a time for every purpose under heaven"

Ecclesiastes 3:11



The SANCTUARY CANDLE burns
this week in loving memory of
Anne & Edward Schrull



**23RD ANNUAL
TOY DRIVE OF NEW MILFORD**

This Sunday, December 14 the New Milford Fire Department, will be collecting unwrapped toys or gift certificates (no stuffed animals please) rain, snow or sun at the following locations:
305 GRAPHIC BLVD. @ 1PM; BROOKCHESTER SHOPPING CENTER @ 1:20PM; SHOPRITE @ 1:45PM; NMFD CO.#2 @ 2:10PM; PERRONE'S FARM @ 2:30PM; B.F. GIBBS SCHOOL @ 2:50PM; 70 RIVER RD. @ 3:05PM; NMFD CO. #1 @ 3:25PM. Thank You!



Third Sunday of Advent, December 14, 2014

Parish Maintenance & Repairs

Children's Liturgy of the Word @ 9:00am
Religious Ed. K-6 @ 10:15am @ School
Giving Tree Sorting

Monday, December 15, 2014

Priests Deanery Mtg. @ 12 noon @ St. Mary's
Religious Education Grade 8 @ 7:00pm @ School

**Tri-Parish Advent Communal Penance Service
7:30pm – St. Mary's, Dumont**

Tuesday, December 16, 2014

Woodcrest Center, Communion Service @ 2:30pm

Wednesday, December 17, 2014-O Wisdom

Advent Eucharistic Day – 8:30am Mass

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament &
Adoration all day**

Religious Education Grade 9 - 7:00pm - School
Novena Prayers and Benediction – 7:30pm- Church
BS Troop 291 @ 7:30pm @ Fr. Benedict Center
BS Troop 291 Committee @ 7:30pm @ Multi-Purpose Rm.
Filipino Core @ 8:00pm @ Gathering Room

Thursday, December 18, 2014-O Sacred Lord

Children's Choir- 3:45pm @ Church
Combined Choirs @ 7:30pm - Church

Friday, December 19, 2014-O Flower of Jesse's Stem

No events

Saturday, December 20, 2014-O Key of David

Confessions @ 11:00am @ 12 Noon @ Church
Simbang Gabi – 7:00pm – Church

Reception follows in the Fr. Benedict Center

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21, 2014

O Radiant Dawn

Food Pantry Sunday
Children's Liturgy of the Word @ 9:00am
Religious Ed. K-6 @ 10:15am @ School
Baptism @ 1:30pm - Church

RELIGIOUS GIVE THANKS

Thank you! We can certainly call you friends because of the way you care for our retired members, writes a religious brother. Your gift to last week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious benefits some 35,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. **May God bless you for your generosity!**



ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Just a reminder for those who made a pledge to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal for 2014. We need \$5,319.50 to fulfill our pledges. If you have not fulfilled your pledge please do so. Every fulfilled Pledge Counts! Thank you.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION'S
GIVING TREE**

ALL GIFTS DUE BACK THIS WEEKEND

Please note that starting on **Sunday, December 14th**, after the 12 noon Mass, we will commence with distribution of all gifts received. **PLEASE DO NOT PLACE ANY GIFTS UNDER THE TREE AFTER THIS TIME. THEY WILL NOT BE DELIVERED!**

As previously stated, we can receive Food Gift Cards at any time. Please hand these to Father David or Father Ernie if they are coming in after December 14th.

The Service Ministry would like to thank everyone for their generosity once again this year. We sincerely wish a Blessed Christmas Season and Happy New Year to you all! God bless you!



TOYS FOR TOTS

Boulevard Funeral Home will be collecting new unwrapped toys this holiday season for Toys for Tots. Donations can be dropped off at 1151 River Road, New Milford from 9-4 daily. All donations will stay local. Please contact 201-692-0100 with any questions.



'Each of us is a Masterpiece of God's Creation.'

The Archdiocesan Respect Life Office and the Pro-Life Commission will host a Pro-Life Mass at noon on January 18, 2015 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, 89 Ridge Street, Newark. January 22, 2015 marks the 42nd anniversary of the legalization of abortion in this country. By attending this special Mass, those who wish to stand up for life but cannot attend the March for Life in Washington DC or the rally in Trenton can still show their support and defend those who cannot defend themselves. For more information, please contact Cheryl Riley at 973-497-4350 or at rileyche@rcan.org



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NATURE'S WAY IRRIGATION, INC.
201-265-8367



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.

Please print clearly on all requests.

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** that you received in the mail or pick one up at doors of church and drop it in the collection basket or in the black mail box outside the rectory door.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

In Memory of: _____

or the Intention of: _____

Donated by: _____

Phone: _____



AVAILABILITY

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 the rectory office if you would like to check date availability.

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: _____