

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION



## Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21, 2014

5:30 Jesus Garcia  
 7:30 People of Ascension Parish  
 9:00 Meyer & Tenney Families  
 10:30 Maria & Evaristo Aponte  
 12:00 Jose I. Piquero

## Monday, December 22, 2014

7:00 Gerard P. Lee  
 8:30 Primo Fineza

## Tuesday, December 23, 2014

7:00 Rose & Nicholas Lanza  
 8:30 Mary Zadroga

## Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24, 2014

8:30 People of Ascension Parish  
 5:30 Vigil Mass  
 12:00 Midnight Mass

## Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25, 2014

8:00 All Ascension  
 10:00 Parishioners  
 12:00 Living & Deceased

## Friday, December 26, 2014

7:00 Jose I. Piquero  
 8:30 Howard Stephens

## Saturday, December 27, 2014

8:30 Harry Sweeney, Tenth Anniversary  
 5:30 Melvin & Dorothy Evans

## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph December 28, 2014

8:00 Juan Redoblado  
 10:00 People of Ascension Parish  
 12:00 Peter Buckley, Fifty-First Anniversary

**PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT**  
*WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH*



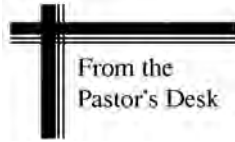
Ascension Parish is supported by people  
 who place their faith and trust in God.

**Sunday, December 14, 2014: \$6,448.00**  
**Parish Maintenance and Repairs: \$3,286.00**

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 21, 2014

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/  
 Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38  
 Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56  
 Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66  
 Wednesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a,  
 16/Lk 1:67-79  
 Thursday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17,  
 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25  
 Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14  
 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20  
 Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or  
 1:1-5, 9-14  
 Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-  
 22  
 Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
 Next Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6,  
 12-14/Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or  
 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:22-  
 40 or 2:22, 39-40



Back in the 1940s, 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.

✠ Thank you to Josie and Anna for planning the wonderful New York City trip to Radio City Music Hall, the Christmas Tree at Rockefeller Center and dinner. I hear that, despite the inclement weather, all had a delightful time and, inspired by the Rockettes, are still doing their high kicks!

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

✠ Please plan ahead! On Monday, **December 22<sup>nd</sup>**, we will put up the Christmas trees which will adorn our church. On **Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**, 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.

✠ 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!

*Fr. David*



**TRANSFIGURATION ACADEMY**

God so loved the world that he gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life ....John 3:16



May the joy and peace of this Christmas Season be with you.

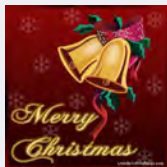
December may be a short school month, but it is among the busiest times of the school year, as we prepare our Christmas Advent services, our "Lunch With Santa", and of course our Christmas Concert, at Conlon Hall.

With all of this going on, as well as your own family preparations, including the shopping for food and gifts and the like, it's easy to forget the "Reason for the Season". Although the saying is somewhat clichéd, the celebration of the birth of Our Lord can never be. The message of peace and the promise of salvation should never be taken for granted or be lost.

We often hear the questions "What does \_\_\_\_\_ want ? Or "What should I get for \_\_\_\_\_?"

The giving of gifts began with the giving of gifts celebrating the birth of Jesus to recognize Him, as the Son of God and Our Savior.

While we are asking what does \_\_\_\_\_ want, let's not forget to ask; What does Jesus want?



We at Transfiguration Academy wish all of you the best Christmas ever and look forward to a New Year filled with faith, hope and good will to all.



**BEGINS ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST**



**Calendar:**

Sunday, December 21st - K thru 6th grade from 10:15 am to 11:45 am (SCH)  
Monday, December 22nd ó No Religious Education  
Wednesday, December 24th ô Christmas Eve ó No Religious Education  
Thursday, December 25th ó MERRY CHRISTMAS  
Sunday, December 28th ó No Religious Education

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

There will be no Children's Liturgy of the Word on Sunday December 28th . We will resume on Sunday January 4, 2015. All students in Pre-K to 5th grade are invited to join us. What a great way for families to celebrate Mass together as a family

**Christmas Blessings**



We in the Religious Education Office wish everyone a **Happy, Healthy and Holy Christmas Season**

**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**



**DECORATING OUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS**

Parishioners are invited to help put up Christmas trees in the Church on Monday, December 22nd at 6:00pm & decorate the Church on Tuesday, December 23rd at 6:00pm.

# ADVENT

WATCH

LISTEN

REJOICE

PREPARE

## WEEK FOUR

*Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.*

The excitement of the coming birth is the theme of Scripture during this final week of preparation for celebrating the Lord's coming in Bethlehem, in the here-and-now and at time's end.

### Sunday

*Luke 1:26-38*

**Get with the program.** The big event is only days away. We will mark the day when the Word, the Wisdom of God, became flesh in Bethlehem. Today's Gospel tells of the announcement to Jesus' family. Sometimes the Lord will make a move in our lives whether we are ready or not.

We are called to keep open our hearts and our lives, to always be prepared.

In perhaps the busiest week of the year, don't lose sight of Jesus.

### Weekdays

**Praise God!** People standing before the Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls, an ocean or a sky full of stars are struck with awe. Creation is so big and we are so little! This week, we enter the aura of Christmas, an event so grand we are filled with wonder.

How much God loves each of us, how amazing that the Lord of creation would become human so that we might be saved. What else can we do but sing praise!

### 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

God, you are the creator of the universe, and you have made us in your own image.

As we light the fourth candle of our Advent wreath, draw us closer to you and to each other during these final days of the Advent season.

Come, Lord Jesus!



*"To everything there is a season..."*

*"a time to be healed..."*

Charles Brown, Rose DøEufemia, 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..."*

**Audrey Gomes**

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

Ecclesiastes 3:11



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



The ALTAR BREAD & WINE  
in loving memory of  
**Luisa & Manuel Garcia**



**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)



**December**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21, 2014**

**O Radiant Dawn**

**Food Pantry Sunday**

Childrenø Liturgy of the Word ó 9:00am

Religious Ed. K-6 ó 10:15am ó School

Baptism ó 1:30pm - Church

**Monday, December 22, 2014-O King of all the Nations**

Trees put up in church ó 6:00pm

NO Religious Education

Combined Choirs with Instruments ó 7:30pm

In Church

**Tuesday, December 23, 2014-O Emmanuel**

Woodcrest Center, Rosary ó 2:30pm

Decorating of church for Christmas ó 6:00pm



**Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24, 2014**

Mass at 8:30am

Parish Offices Closed

Harrison House

No Novena

**Vigil of Christmas Mass**

**5:50pm – Children’s Choir**

**12 Midnight Mass – Combined Choir’s**

**Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25, 2014**

**Masses: 8:00am, 10:00am & 12 Noon**

Parish Offices Closed

**Friday, December 26, 2014**

Parish Offices Closed

**Saturday, December 27, 2013, 2014**

Confessions ó 11:00am ó Church

Holy Family Sunday ó 5:30pm Mass

**Holy Family Sunday, December 28, 2014**

**Masses: 8:00am, 10:00am & 12 Noon**

NO Childrenø Liturgy of the Word

NO Religious Education

**KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS**

Ask for religious Christmas stamps at the post office



THE RECTORY & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE  
WILL BE CLOSED WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH,  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH &  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



**FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY**  
**THIS 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.



**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.**

**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)

- |                             |                                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <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 (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: \_\_\_\_\_



Please patronize  
our advertisers.  
They help us GROW.

**BOULEVARD FUNERAL HOME**  
**& Cremation Service**  
**201-692-0100**



**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: \_\_\_\_\_



**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 42<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:rileyche@rcan.org)