

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

## Mass Intentions for the Week

### First Sunday of Lent, February 22, 2015

5:30 Angelo & Vito Cucco  
 7:30 People of Ascension Parish  
 9:00 Frank & Thomas Meyer  
 10:30 Silveria Herrero  
 12:00 Dorothy Hartney

### Monday, February 23, 2015

7:00 Gerard Patrick Lee  
 8:30 Alloro & Bitetti Families

### Tuesday, February 24, 2015

7:00 Nick, Roseann & Logan (living)  
 8:30 Cathy Trimarchi

### Wednesday, February 25, 2015

7:00 Liberato Meneses  
 8:30 Deceased Members of the Delaney Family

### Thursday, February 26, 2015

7:00 Reparada Fernandez  
 8:30 Joseph Meyer

### Friday, February 27, 2015

7:00 Alina Barsan (living)  
 8:30 John & Jennie Ochs  
 7:30 People of Ascension Parish

### Saturday, February 28, 2015

8:30 Renee Fiduccia Family (living)  
 5:30 Eric J. Comer

### Second Sunday of Lent, March 1, 2015

7:30 People of Ascension Parish  
 9:00 Michael Bruno  
 10:30 Mary Lewis, First Anniversary  
 12:00 Cathy Trimarchi

## PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH



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

**Sunday, February 15, 2015:      \$5,084.00**  
**Food Pantry:                      \$ 957.00**

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 February 22, 2015

Sunday:      Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15  
 Monday:    Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Mt 25:31-46  
 Tuesday:    Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15  
 Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32  
 Thursday:   Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12  
 Friday:      Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26  
 Saturday:   Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48  
 Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10



I'm sure you've noticed all the topsy-turvy weather we've had in recent years. Places that used to be hot are either hotter, or ice cold, and vice versa. Deserts are wetter, and wet places are now dry. It's causing some to say the end of the world is coming soon. To that, we can only say, "Wait and see!"

But while we're waiting, the first Sunday of Lent today shows us how to be both in the water and in the desert and how both are essential to our journey toward God. First, God covenants with Noah, not only with humans, but with every living creature—birds, cattle and every wild beast—everything that lives on the earth. This is a truly inclusive covenant!

As we begin Lent, it's good to remember that when we are pulled away from God by the swift current of confusion, fear, or self-hatred, God is still here in a covenant of love which lasts forever. We next learn from Jesus that the desert is the place to cement that covenant.

Notice that the Spirit had to drive Jesus out into the wilderness. Even Jesus needed divine motivation! But there Jesus becomes intensely aware of the Spirit within him, as the very source of his life, a life that must break open for the life of the world. Only after his desert days is Jesus ready to proclaim God's kingdom: "Reform your lives, and believe in the gospel."

That is the definition of our baptismal call, and you have already been through those waters! So let's go to the desert with Jesus now. How is God calling each of us to live out our baptism?

✠ **LENT** is all around us in the colors, the absence of flowers, the silence, and the symbols. Our Entrance and Penitential Act during Lent take on a new form and on **Fridays in Lent** we have added a Mass at 7:30pm followed by Stations of the Cross. A complete schedule for **Lent 2015** and our **Parish Lenten Calendar of Good Deeds** are available at the doors of the church. Please keep them handy so that you can take advantage of the many grace-filled opportunities our parish offers during this holy season of Lent. Also, we have placed "**Five Minutes with the Word for Lent 2015**" in our parish book rack. Please take one for yourself and even another for a friend. They are my gift to you this Lent.

✠ Have you considered becoming a part of **Open Our Hearts**, our 2015 Lenten program? You can still join a group. Lists of the available groups have been placed on the bulletin board in the front vestibule or see Fr. David or call the Rectory Office.

✠ Again, I offer a great big **THANK YOU** to all who helped in so many ways to make our Parish **MARDI GRAS Dinner Dance** last Saturday such a fun time and great experience for all!! People are still talking about the great time they had!! What a festive Mardi Gras setting! Who could believe that was our gymnasium? Special thanks to the Chairperson, Brendan Suter, and to all the committee members who set up and cleaned up.

✠ **SHARING GOD'S BLESSINGS ANNUAL APPEAL 2015**  
 There is still time to make a pledge. Brochures are in the pews and at the doors of the church. Please consider making a pledge and pray about it. I pray that each parish family will step up and support this beautiful way to answer Jesus' invitation to offer His hope to the poor and needy. May God continue to bless all at Ascension with generous hearts. Give a little! Give a lot! Give something for the Glory of God.

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



**TRANSFIGURATION ACADEMY**

**PK & Kindergarten Showcase  
Feb.28th in Conlon Hall**

See how Transfiguration's excellent PK and Kindergarten programs instill the love of learning, and give children all the advantages of private Catholic school education, in a caring and nurturing environment.

Join us, in Conlon Hall, North Williams St. Bergenfield, for a lite breakfast beginning at 9AM. The Showcase will begin at 10AM. You and your child will have the opportunity to take part in many fun filled activities and events, demonstrating what you can expect from our excellent Early Childhood Education. You will also have the opportunity to speak with the faculty and administration, and take a tour of our Early Childhood Center.

Half-day and full day sessions are available, and we are the only Catholic school accepting children as young as 2 Plus! If you are unable to join us on the 28th, please call the school at 201-384-3627 to arrange a tour, or visit our website: [www.transfigurationacademy.org](http://www.transfigurationacademy.org)

Transfiguration  
*Strengthening Faith, Enlightening Minds and  
Transforming Hearts...One Student at a Time*



Thank you to all who served or donated baked items for 100 guests at the Hackensack Walk-In dinner last week. We appreciate your continued support of this important ministry.



**DONATION TOWARDS SNOW REMOVAL**

If you have not done so **please** consider making a donation to help defray the cost of **Snow Removal** on our parish grounds.

**This is a very expensive item on our budget & we have already been serviced for twenty snow removal and salting services this season amounting to over \$13,000.00.**

This service provides for your safety throughout the winter months. **Thank you!**



**Calendar:**

Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> -- K thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade from 10:15 am to 11:45 am (SCH)

Monday, February 23<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Grade parent/ Student Meeting 7pm in Church

Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Grade from 7 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)

Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> -- K thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade from 10:15 am to 11:45 am (SCH)

Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade from 7 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)

Children's Liturgy of the Word has started at the 9 am Mass. All children in K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us. What a great way for families to celebrate Mass together.



**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

**There is a Mandatory Eighth Grade Parents/Student meeting on February 23, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the Church. All students and parents are to attend if your child would like to be in the Confirmation Class of 2016.**

**Reminder to all 9<sup>th</sup> graders—Please bring in your service hour sheets for review on Wednesday, February 25, 2015.**

**Monday March 2, 2015**—Both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades will have class. Please be on time.

**Sunday 6 March 8, 2015** First Communion Retreat- starting with 9 am Mass. This is a Mandatory Retreat. After Mass all First Communion Candidates will go to class and parents will return at 11:45 am to continue with the retreat. At least one parent must attend. If you are in need of Child Care PLEASE call the Religious Education Office by Tuesday March 3, 2015, so we can arrange for help.

Religious Education Office Location & Hours:

Location: 356 Azalea Drive

Monday 6 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



**SHAW'S, Lock & Door Service  
201-387-0021**



## **TROOP 291 CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION**

### **Breakfast with the Easter Bunny**

**Date: Sunday March 1, 2015**

**Time: 8:00am to Noon**

**Place: Church of the Ascension  
256 Azalea Drive New Milford  
Located in the Father Benedict Center**



**Price: \$8.00 Per Person**

**Children 5 and under Free**

**Reservations preferred - Please call 551-486-5814**

**Tickets will also be available at the door**



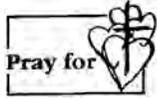
**ALL YOU CAN EAT**

**Pancakes \* Eggs \* Bacon \* Sausage**

**Coffee \* Tea \* Juice \* Hot Chocolate**



**Don't forget your camera...Take a photo with the Easter Bunny**



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

*"a time to be born..."*  
Christopher Mateo Toro

*"a time to be healed..."*  
Rose D'Eufermia, Dolores Crowley, Shirley Busby, Roger Carr, Andrew Comer, Janet Sweeney, Ann & 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, Marguerite Morris, Peggy Evans, Jose Diaz, Justine White, Joe Fazio, 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..."*  
John De Gasperis, Evelyn Abruzzo

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

Ecclesiastes 3:11



The SANCTUARY CANDLE burns this week loving for The Narvaez Family



**REMEMBER DURING LENT**

Mass on Friday's at 7:30pm followed by Stations of the Cross.

Also, we have placed "Five Minutes with the Word for Lent 2015" in our parish book rack. Please take one for yourself and even another for a friend

**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.



**First Sunday of Lent, February 22, 2015**

**Fuel Collection**

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

**Monday, February 23, 2015**

Religious Ed. ó Grade 7 - 7:00pm - School  
CFM ó 7:30pm ó Gathering Room

**Tuesday, February 24, 2015**

Woodcrest Center, Rosary ó 2:30pm  
Open Our Hearts Mtg. ó 7:30pm ó Rectory Mtg. Room

**Wednesday, February 25, 2015**

Harrison House  
Religious Education grade 9 ó 7:00pm - School  
Novena ó 7:30pm - Church  
BS Troop 291 ó 7:30pm ó Fr. Benedict Center  
BS Committee ó 7:30pm ó Multi-Purpose Room  
Filipino OOH Mtg. - 8:00pm ó Gathering Room

**Thursday, February 26, 2015**

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

**Friday, February 27, 2015**

Mass & Stations of the Cross ó 7:30pm ó Church  
Finance Council Meeting ó 7:30pm ó Rectory Mtg. Rm

**Saturday, February 28, 2015**

Confessions ó 11:00am ó Church

**Second Sunday of Lent, March 1, 2015**

**Parish Maintenance & Repairs**  
Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast  
Children's Liturgy of the Word ó 9:00am  
Religious Ed. K-6 ó 10:15am ó School



**FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2015  
7:30PM IN THE RECTORY MEETING ROOM**

**SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR  
PARISH ENERGY THIS WEEKEND**

As you know this winter has been extremely cold with temperatures below freezing on many days. Even with new boilers and our effort to conserve energy by lowering the thermostats costs for energy continues to be astronomical. Our main concern is keeping the church at a comfortable temperature for services throughout the remainder of the winter season. **Please be as generous as you can with this weeks special collection** so we can all continue to enjoy the warmth in our parish church.

# THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

## PARISH TRIP

A Trip is being planned to the Amishlands, Pennsylvania for 3 days from April 15-17, 2015. The price of \$399 per person/\$468 single includes 2 nights lodging, 2 full breakfasts, 2 dinners, ðMosesö at the Millennium Theatre, ðInspireö at the American Music Theatre, guided tour of the Amish Countryside, guided tour of Hershey, with Founderø Hall and Tram ride. Bus transportation, luggage handling, taxes and meal gratuities are included. Cancellation insurance is available upon request and is recommended. A \$50 deposit will hold your reservation and is due by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015. For reservations and info. Call Josie, (201) 265-0485 or Anna (201) 387-2632. Please fill in the coupon below and deposit it at the rectory mailbox with your deposit.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAME OF PERSON YOU ARE SHARING \_\_\_\_\_  
 A ROOM WITH \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make all checks payable to Ascension Church**



Canned meat and fish. Beef Stew, Corned Beef Hash, Spam, Canned Ham, Chicken, Vienna Sausage, Tuna, Sardines, Crab, Salmon. Your donations are much appreciated.

## MEMORIALS

ðTHANK YOUö 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</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: \_\_\_\_\_



## Sharing God's Blessings Annual Appeal

**This year our Parish Goal is \$53,403.00**

There are so many ways God is made visible in the world around us. Our Church of Newark, which serves Hudson, Essex, Union and Bergen counties, sees God in the hundreds of thousands of people it takes care of every year by teaching, sheltering and caring for all who come to it for help.

Here are *some* of the areas that the Sharing God's Blessing is able to impact because of YOUR support!

**Parishes:** The Archdiocese of Newark is compiled of our 219 vibrant parishes throughout our four counties. Many parishes would not be able to keep their doors open if not for the generosity of those who support the Annual Appeal. In addition, those parishes that exceed their Annual Appeal goal receive a rebate that may be used for repairs or assisting those in need at the parish.

**Catholic Education:** The 66 elementary and 28 high schools in the Archdiocese of Newark provide children with a quality education that utilizes modern technology. At the same time, students are instilled with something that never is too old-fashioned: Christ-centered values. Our Catholic Schools have a 100% graduation rate with over 97% of seniors pursuing a college education.

**Seminarian Education & Formation:** The Archdiocese of Newark is blessed with three seminaries in the Archdiocese of Newark that educate and train our future priests. These seminaries are currently educating and forming over 125 men for the priesthood. In several recent years, the Archdiocese of Newark has ordained more men to the priesthood than any diocese in the United States.

**Priest Retirement and Health Care Costs:** After dedicating their lives to the Church, many retired priests continue to serve local parishes. We currently care for and serve over 200 retired priests who have faithfully served our local Church. The Annual Appeal helps to supplement the increasing healthcare costs for our retired priests as well as provide funding for two retirement homes.

**Catholic Charities:** Each year Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark helps more than 80,000 individuals with food, clothing, shelter, special education and social programs from sites around the four counties we serve. This includes the 52,000 people served through in its Emergency Food and Nutrition Food Pantry Network and nearly 6,000 people who were placed in temporary residences while they found jobs and were able to get back on their feet.

**Campus Ministry:** Campus Ministers are based at 10 different college campuses throughout the Archdiocese and are charged with the task of bringing our Faith to thousands of college aged students. These campus ministers help to engage young people in their Faith and bring others to the Catholic Faith through retreats, special events, and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

**Youth Ministry:** CYO provides young people with the opportunity to attend retreats, increase their knowledge of the Catholic Faith, and participate in a wide variety of sports and recreation programs in both summer and year-round programs.

We can only offer assistance because of **your** generosity to the Sharing God's Blessings Annual Appeal.

Won't you please take a moment to fill out a pledge card? Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

To learn more about the ministries of the Archdiocese of Newark, please visit [www.rcan.org/sharing](http://www.rcan.org/sharing), like us on facebook at -Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark or tweet us at @NwkArchdiocese!