

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION



Mass Intentions for the Week

PALM SUNDAY

The Passion of the Lord

March 20, 2016

5:30 Theresa Johnston
7:30 People of Ascension Parish
9:00 Jeffrey Cronin
10:30 Mary Buckley
12:00 Joseph Plog

Monday of Holy Week, March 21, 2016

7:00 Sr. Roberta, C.R.
8:30 Larry Figalora, 11th Anniversary

Tuesday of Holy Week, March 22, 2016

7:00 Xavier & Natalie Habana, Bøday (L)
8:30 Lukose Mattappillil, Birthday (L)

Wednesday of Holy Week, March 23, 2016

7:00 Sr. Roberta, C.R.
8:30 Aniano B. Yabut

HOLY THURSDAY, March 24, 2016

8:30 Morning Prayer
8:00 Mass of the Lord's Supper
11:45 Night Prayer

GOOD FRIDAY, March 25, 2016

8:30 Morning Prayer
12:00 Prayer Service
3:00 Celebration of the Lord's Passion
8:00 Family Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY, March 26, 2016

8:30 Morning Prayer
8:15 Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY

The Resurrection of the Lord

7:30 All
9:00 Parishioners
10:30 Living and
12:00 Deceased

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

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

Sunday, March, 2015:	\$7,497.00
Sunday, March 13, 2016:	\$5,813.00
Maintenance & Repairs:	\$2,529.00

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

Readings for Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17,
22-23/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-
9 or Lk 24:1-12 or Lk 24:13-35

Why did Jesus die? Why did he have to not only die, but die such a horrible and humiliating death? What is the point of it all? It seems that no matter how one approaches this question, there is only one adequate answer, only one answer that even begins to satisfy us. Jesus suffered and died because he loved us more than we can ever imagine and **nothing less could move us**. This answer may not satisfy you if you are looking for a logical explanation for suffering and death. But Jesus' suffering and death are not matters for the head; they are concerns of the heart.

öThere is no greater love than to lay down your life for your friends.ö When Jesus told us that, he was trying to tell us, in the most direct possible way, that his love for us was as wide and boundless as the ocean and as far reaching as the furthest galaxy. This same Jesus Christ is still loving us today at this very moment, with that same unbounded and limitless love.

In the human face of Jesus we see the face of God. And so today, even though we are faced with the suffering of Christ, we, in faith, look beyond that suffering and see the limitless love that endured that suffering. And this love is once again calling out to us for our acceptance. Even God cannot force love on us. May we open ourselves to receive gratefully this wonderful giftö this unbounded, all-forgiving, totally accepting and comforting love of the God who is Love itself.

Gathered and united in Jesus' love, we continue our Lenten journey to Calvary. May we press on with faith and hope and love ready to rejoice at the empty tomb with the risen Christ.

✠ We so need to gather together and share in the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter which help us to celebrate in a very sacred way the awesome gift that Jesus Christ is to us. The events of Holy Week remind us that the victory of Jesus can be ours if our lives find their model in Him. We need to be reminded of the power we share through His Eucharistic presence, His death, His resurrection. Our **Holy Week and Easter Schedule** has been inserted in this week's bulletin. Please keep it handy. Let it be an invitation and reminder for you and your family to participate in the liturgies of this holiest week of the year. We are blessed when you are present. **Please plan on joining us in our celebrations — and bring someone you love with you.**

We will be **decorating our church** for Easter on Holy Saturday, March 26th at 10am. Parishioners are welcome to come and lend a hand.

We, the Priests and Pastoral Staff of Ascension Parish, invite you to celebrate this most holy time with us, and we ask that you **please bring someone you love to celebrate with us as well.**

✠ We also need to be reminded of the warm love and concern we share through our stewardship of time, talent, and treasure. We have included an Easter Offering envelope in your Easter mailing. Please remember the many ministries our parish supports. Remember, too, that we rely heavily upon your donation at Easter to support these ministries and programs. Please, be as generous as your means allow. We so appreciate your efforts.

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



TRANSFIGURATION ACADEMY

SAVE THE DATE!!!

April 15th and 16th ~ 7pm Conlon Hall

Transfiguration Academy Drama Club presents *Mulan, Jr.* Based on Disney's Oscar-nominated film, *Mulan Jr.* is a heartwarming celebration of culture, honor and the fighting spirit. Come see the wonderful talent of our actors, musicians and dancers! It's the perfect opportunity to introduce young children to live theater. We hope to see you all there. Advance tickets coming soon!

The annual **Transfiguration Academy Science Fair** will be held on Tuesday, March 22 at 6 PM in Conlon Hall. Please join us and learn more about our exciting science curriculum.

Tuition Raffle: Do you or someone you know have tuition bills to pay? Buy a raffle ticket - you could win a prize to help pay that tuition bill. First prize is \$2500, 2nd prize is \$1500 and 3rd prize is \$1000 & payable to any accredited school/institution of the winner's choice. Each ticket is \$5 and can be purchased at the school office during school hours.

Easter Recess: The school and school office will close at 12:00 PM, Wednesday, March 23 for Easter Recess and will reopen on Monday, April 4. The faculty, staff and students wish everyone a blessed Easter.

Registration is Ongoing: Parents wishing to provide their children with a quality Catholic education are encouraged to consider Transfiguration Academy. Find out about our Tiger for a Day program - let your child spend a day with us and experience all that we have to offer. For more information and/or to schedule a tour of the school please call (201)384-3627 or email us at principal@transfigurationacademy.org. Please visit our website at transfigurationacademy.org and follow us on Facebook.

IN MEMORY OF...

We have just purchased six new Communion Cups. If you would like to memorialize one in memory of a loved one please speak to Father David or contact the rectory office for more information.



Please patronize our advertisers. They help us GROW.

THE ITALIAN CONNECTION
201-385-2226



Calendar:

Sunday, March 20th -- No Religious Education & Palm Sunday
Monday, March 21st & 7th Grade from 7 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)
Wednesday, March 23rd & No Religious Education
Sunday, March 27th -- No Religious Education & Easter Sunday

Children's Liturgy of the Word 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.



Important Information:

Wednesday March 30, 2016 : 9th Grade Confirmation Retreat will start at 4pm til 10 pm.. All candidates are to report to the Fr. Benedict Center by 4 pm. This is a Mandatory retreat and all must be here. No one will be excused.

Sunday, April 3, 2016: 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.

Religious Education Office Hours:
Monday & Wednesday & Friday: 9 am to 4 pm
Monday and Wednesday: 6:30 pm to 8:45 pm
Sunday Mornings: 10 am to 12 Noon
Closed: Thursday & Saturday
Other times by appointment

ASCENSION PARISH'S 16TH PILGRIMAGE TO THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE DIVINE MERCY

**WHEN: DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
APRIL 3, 2016**

**WHERE: STOCKBRIDGE, MA
COST: \$35.00 PER PERSON**

**PLEASE PICK UP
REGISTRATION FORM
IN CHURCH VESTIBULE OR RECTORY**

Registration Deadline is March 21, 2016



CAMPAIGN
NEWSLETTER
Vol. 10

WE ARE
LIVING
STONES

Church of the
Ascension
March
19th & 20th

We Are Making Progress!

Last weekend was Commitment Weekend at our parish, and we are making progress toward reaching our goal in the *We Are Living Stones* Campaign. ***To the 38 families who made their commitment, we want to extend a special "Thank You!" for joining the other members of our parish family who have committed to this campaign. This brings our total participation to over \$150,000.*** Thank you for your support!

If you have not participated to date, please help us build on this success and reach our goal! The suggested gift chart below shows how a monthly gift can add up to an incredibly generous pledge over the next 4 years.

Daily Sacrifice	Monthly Payments	Quarterly Payments	Annual Payments	Initial (10%) Payment	Sacrificial Pledge
\$9.27	\$281	\$844	\$3,375	\$1,500	\$15,000/ 4-year
\$6.18	\$188	\$563	\$2,250	\$1,000	\$10,000/ 4-year
\$4.63	\$141	\$422	\$1,688	\$750	\$7,500/ 4-year
\$3.09	\$94	\$281	\$1,125	\$500	\$5,000/ 4-year
\$2.47	\$75	\$225	\$900	\$400	\$4,000/ 4-year
\$1.85	\$56	\$169	\$675	\$300	\$3,000/ 4-year

Our goal is within reach! With each additional sacrifice, our goal becomes that much more attainable!

PALM SUNDAY



"To everything there is a season..."

"a time to be healed..."

Rose DeEufemia, Dolores Crowley, Shirley Busby, Ann Wall, Joseph Gorgone, Patricia Burke, Barbara Santore, Jim Keane, Marguerite Morris, Peggy Evans, Donna Van Kleeck, Margaret Polis, Theresa Ruocco, Elsa Obera, Jerry Gordon, Marie Oberst, Ana Tumang, Marcella Sweeney, Tom Crispino, 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..."

**Wilfredo Acio, Marge Bruno,
John McKeon, Rita Hirschak**

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

Ecclesiastes 3:11



PALM SUNDAY, March 20, 2016

Food Pantry Sunday

Masses: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30am, 12:00 Noon

NO Children's Liturgy of the Word

NO Religious Education

Noon Principal Mass with Procession with Palms

Family Stations of the Cross Practice ó 7:00pm

Monday of Holy Week, March 21, 2016

Religious Education Grade 7 ó 7:00 pm ó School

Combined Choirs ó 7:30pm ó Church

Chrism Mass at Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Tuesday of Holy Week, March 22, 2016

Woodcrest Center, Rosary ó 2:30pm

Confessions ó 7:00pm - Church

Wednesday of Holy Week, March 23, 2016

Harrison House

NO Religious Education

Confessions ó 7:00pm - Church

NO Novena

Combined Choirs with Instruments ó 7:30pm

HOLY THURSDAY, March 24, 2016

Tenebrae (Morning Prayer) ó 8:30am ó Church

Altar Server practice ó 9:00am - Church

Mass of the Lord's Supper ó 8:00pm - Church

Adoration until midnight ó Church

Night Prayer ó 11:45pm - Church

GOOD FRIDAY, March 25, 2016

Tenebrae (Morning Prayer) ó 8:30am - Church

Altar Server practice - 9:00am

Good Friday Prayers Service ó 12 Noon - Church

Celebration of the Lord's Passion ó 3:00pm - Church

Family Stations of the Cross ó 8:00pm - Church

HOLY SATURDAY, March 26, 2016

Tenebrae (Morning Prayer) ó 8:30am ó Church

Altar Server Practice ó 9:00am

Church decorating ó 10:00am

NO Confessions

Easter Vigil – 8:15pm - Church



EASTER SUNDAY, March 27, 2016

Masses: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30am, 12 Noon

NO Religious Education

PALM SUNDAY

Holy Week begins with Passion Sunday, or Palm Sunday, and the Gospel story of the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem is read as part of the entrance rite. The Gospel tells us that the people cut branches from the trees and laid them in the road in front of Jesus as part of the procession. Palm is used to celebrate this festive entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. Palms are from a common tree whose branches are readily available. The palm is blessed and people are given a branch to take home. A year later the palm will be burned to form the ash for Ash Wednesday. In other places, churches use olive branches or pussy willows. The blessing in the Sacramentary uses the generic term "branches."

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR PARISH INFORMATION

WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM

OFFICE CLOSED

The Rectory & Religious Education Offices
will be closed on Good Friday, March 25th

AVAILABILITY

SANCTUARY CANDLE (\$15.), BREAD & WINE (\$40.), AND ALTAR FLOWERS (\$50. each basket) for the week. Please stop by or call the rectory office to check availability.



Presence - Care - Service

On Good Friday, our parish will take up the annual Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land. Your financial contribution helps to support the struggling Christian community and to protect Christianity's holiest place. Please be generous.

Altar Servers

We are in need of several Adult Altar Servers to assist at Funeral Masses. If interested, please contact the Rectory (201) 836-8961 and sign up for a training class.



Italian Treasures await you!

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, our parish will travel from October 4 to 13, 2016 to the cities of Milan, Venice, Padua, Florence, Assisi and Rome. What a wonderful time for our pilgrimage with opportunities to enter many Holy Doors of Mercy during our travels. Please see brochures at the doors of the church or stop by the rectory to pick one up for complete information.

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: _____



EASTER FLOWERS



You are invited to make a donation toward the Easter Flowers, which will be used to decorate our Church. Donations may be made in memory of a loved one or a special intention. **Each intention donation is \$15.00** please place form & donation in an envelope marked "EASTER FLOWERS" & drop off at the rectory.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY

In Memory of: _____

For the Intention of: _____

Requested By: _____

Phone: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____



Palm Sunday

"Hosanna to the Son of David;
 blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;
 Hosanna in the highest."
 And when he entered Jerusalem the whole city was
 shaken and asked, "Who is this?" And the crowds
 replied, "This is Jesus the prophet,
 from Nazareth in Galilee."
 - Mt 21:9-11

Holiday Dinner Favorite

Next Sunday is Food Pantry Sunday

Shop Rite is offering a free "Holiday Dinner Favorite" when \$400 is spent using a Shop Rite Price Plus Card. The offer period ends on Saturday, March 26. If you would like to donate your Holiday Dinner Favorite to the Church of the Ascension Food Pantry we will gladly accept it. The items that are offered for free are: Shank Half Ham (up to 12 lbs), Frozen Turkey Breast (6-9 lb average), Shop Rite Turkey (10-14 lb Average) as well as Stouffer Lasagna (90-96 oz). Also if you would like someone from the Service Ministry to pick up your donation at Shop Rite, please leave your Shop Rite Price Plus number at the Rectory.

END OF BULLETIN
ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ENTERED ON THIS PAGE
WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE PRINTED BULLETIN

CHURCH NAME: **Church of the Ascension**

CHURCH CITY: **New Milford, NJ**

ROUTING CODE: **W**

RUN NUMBER: **6**

FILE NAME: **SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2016**

PHONE NUMBER: **201-836-8961**

FAX NUMBER: **201-836-5896**

EDITOR/ CONTACT: **Serina Sharkey**

CURRENT FORMAT: EBSWTD – TEXAS DOUBLE

Comments:
