

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

## *Mass Intentions for the Week*

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

**December 18, 2016**

- 5:30 Peter Buckley, Sixty-Second Anniv.
- 7:30 People of Ascension Parish
- 9:00 Montecuello & Lewis Families
- 10:30 Andrew & Eric Comer
- 12:00 Candelaria Ciron

### Monday, December 19, 2016

- 7:00 Amparo Cabreza
- 8:30 Soler-Valdes Family

### Tuesday December 20, 2016

- 7:00 Jesus Garcia
- 8:30 Angelina Iuliano

### Wednesday, December 21, 2016

- 7:00 Amparo Cabreza
- 8:30 Members of the Oates Family

### Thursday, December 22, 2016

- 7:00 Irene Wisniewske
- 8:30 Primo Fineza

### Friday, December 23, 2016

- 7:00 Maria & Evaristo Aponte
- 8:30 Mary Zadroga

### Christmas Eve

### Saturday, December 24, 2016

- 8:30 Meyer & Tenney Family
- 5:30 **Vigil Mass**
- 12:00 **Midnight Mass**

### Christmas Day

### Sunday, December 25, 2016

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

## PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

### **WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH**

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

<b>December 13, 2015:</b>	<b>\$6,590.00</b>
<b>December 11, 2016</b>	<b>\$5,440.00</b>
<b>Immaculate Conception:</b>	<b>\$1,275.00</b>
<b>November Parish Pay:</b>	<b>\$3,639.80</b>

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

### Readings for

#### Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

**Vigil:** Is 62:1-5/Ps 89/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/  
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

**Night:** Is 9:1-6/Ps 96/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

**Dawn:** Is 62:11-12/Ps 97/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

**Day:** Is 52:7-10/Ps 98/Heb 1:1-6/  
Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-4



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's 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 week, 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's 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.

✠ 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.

✠ We will celebrate our **Tri-Parish Advent Communal Penance Service with Individual Confessions** on Monday evening, December 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm at St. Mary's Church in Dumont. Please join us.

✠ Please plan ahead! On **Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**, we will put up and decorate the Christmas trees which will adorn our church. We invite any parishioners who would like to help to join us at 6:00pm in the church for this special project.

On **Friday, 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 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.

✠ **Please remember that, beginning on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, our Sunday Mass schedule will change. We will celebrate Mass at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am.**

✠ Archbishop Myers has appointed Fr. Ernie Tibay to be the Parochial Vicar at St. Joseph of the Palisades Church in West New York, NJ. Rev. Monsignor Anselm Nwaorgu has been appointed to our parish as our new Parochial Vicar. The change is to occur on January 11, 2017. Let us offer our thanks to Fr. Ernie for his 6 1/2 years here at Ascension and get ready to welcome Msgr. Anselm to our parish.

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!



**TRANSFIGURATION ACADEMY**

The following Transfiguration Academy students in grades 4-8 have made the Principal's List for the first trimester:

- Kyle Esteban (Grade 4)
- Cynthia Jacob (Grade 6)
- Aleena Kuriakose (Grade 6)
- Layla Libanan (Grade 6)

Congratulations! These students received all A+ grades.

The students, faculty and staff wish everyone a healthy and blessed Christmas. The school and school office will close at 12 noon on Thursday, December 22, 2016 and will remain closed until Tuesday, January 3, 2017 for the Christmas recess.

Transfiguration Academy is located at 10 Bradley Avenue in Bergenfield. For more information or to schedule a tour of the school please call (201)384-3627 or email principal@transfigurationacademy.org. Please visit our website at transfigurationacademy.org and follow us on Facebook.



**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.



**KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS  
REMEMBER TO PURCHASE RELIGIOUS  
CHRISTMAS STAMPS**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR PARISH INFORMATION  
[WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM](http://WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM)



**Calendar:**

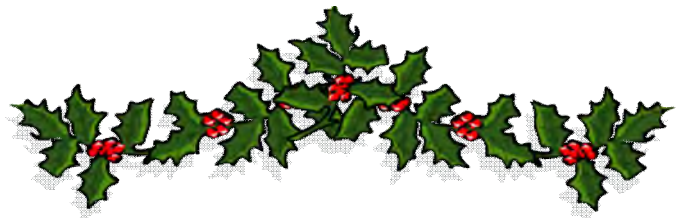
- Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> ó Pre- K thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade from 10:30 am to 11:30 am (SCH)
- Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> ó 8<sup>th</sup> Grade from 7:00 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)
- Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> ó No Religious Education
- Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> ó Merry Christmas to All

Children's Liturgy of the Word will be celebrated at the 9 am Mass. All children in Pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> or January 1<sup>st</sup>. We will resume on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at the 9:30 am Mass.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

**Reminder that the Sunday, Religious Education is from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. It is important that all students are on time for class. Parents with children in Pre-k/K to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade MUST come in to pick up children at 11:30 am. Please be on time for pick-up.**

Please remember that the Parish Mass Schedule will be changing on Sunday, January 8, 2017. The new Mass Schedule will be Saturday, 5:30 pm and Sunday at 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 am.



**Volunteers Needed:**

- Ä We are in need of Aides and Class Parents for our Religious Education Program for the 2016-2017 school year. Anyone interested, please call Theresa Carbone our Coordinator of Religious Education at (201) 836-3085
- Ä 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 in Rectory:

- Monday ó Wednesday: 9 am to 3 pm
- Thursday: 9 am to 12 Noon
- Friday: 9 am to 4 pm
- During Religious Education in School:
- Monday and Wednesday: 6:30 pm to 8:45 pm
- Sunday Mornings: 10 am to 11:45 am
- Other times by appointment

*Come and Join us...*

*Church of the Ascension*

*New Milford*

*St. John's Church*

*Bergenfield*

*St. Mary's Church*

*Dumont*

*Invite You to Gather Together and Celebrate...*

***Advent Communal Penance Service***

***with Individual Confession***

*We look forward to celebrating the mystery of Christ's coming  
on the feast of Christmas.*

*Let us pray that when he comes  
he may find us awake and ready to receive him.*

***Monday, December 19, 2016***

***St. Mary's Church***

***Dumont***

***7:00 P.M.***

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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

*a time to be healed..."*

Rose Dœufemia, Dolores Crowley, Ann Wall, Joseph Gorgone, Jim Keane, Marguerite Morris, Peggy Evans, Don Evans, Donna Van Kleeck, Margaret Polis, Theresa Ruocco, Elsa Obera, Jerry Gordon, Marie Oberst, Ana Tumang, Marcella Sweeney, Jean Francisco, Carmelo Abbruzzesi, Leonard Abbruzzesi, Kitty Tricarico, Rose Ann Botcher, Joan Polis, Elnora Gordon, Thomas Gonzalas, Don Hellrigel, 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, Private Ian Belthoff, U.S. Marine Corps., Camp Gieger, NC, and all Men and Women serving in our countries Armed Forces.

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

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

Ecclesiastes 3:11



The SANCTUARY CANDLE  
burns this week in loving memory of the  
**The Mattappillil Family**



### 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 Communion, Confirmations, Baptisms, Birthdays, Wedding Anniversaries. Please stop by or call the rectory office to check availability.



### **Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18, 2016**

#### **O Lord God of Power and Might**

##### **Food Pantry Sunday**

Children's Liturgy of the Word ó 9:00am - Church  
Religious Education Pre-K-6 ó 10:30am ó School  
Baptism ó 1:30pm ó Church

#### **Monday, December 19, 2016-O Root of Jesse**

Food Pantry Distribution

Tri-Parish Advent Penance Service

At St. Mary's, Dumont ó 7:00pm

Religious Education Grade 8 ó 7:00pm ó School

Combined Choirs ó 8:15pm - Church

#### **Tuesday, December 20, 2016-O Key of David**

Woodcrest Center, Rosary - 2:30pm

#### **Wednesday, December 21, 2016-O Rising Sun**

NO Confirmation Prep

NO Novena

Boy Scouts ó 7:30pm ó Fr. Benedict Center

Combined Choirs with instruments ó 7:30pm - Church

#### **Thursday, December 22, 2016-O King**

Trees put up in Church ó 6:00pm

#### **Friday, December 23, 2016-O Emmanuel**

Decorating of church for Christmas ó 6:00pm

#### **Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24, 2016**

Mass at 8:30am

Vigil of Christmas Masses:

5:30pm Children's Choir

12 Midnight Combined Choirs

#### **Christmas Day, December 25, 2016**

Masses at 8:00am, 10:00am and 12 Noon

Parish Offices Closed

No Religious Education classes



### **DECORATING OUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS**

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



**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22ND**

**An important note on Christmas donations**

We thank all those who are sending special Christmas donations to the parish. We appreciate your generosity during this time of giving.

This year Christmas falls on a Sunday! Since we need to count Christmas donations separately from the regular Sunday collection, we are going to have two collections at all Christmas Masses. If you are using envelopes for your donations, please bring both with you or send the two envelopes marked December 25, 2016. The first collection will be our regular Sunday collection; the second one will be the Christmas collection.

If you are sending your donations electronically, do not forget to update your online profile and set your donations for the holidays! Thank you all for your continuous support of your parish.



**FATHER DAVID'S  
40<sup>TH</sup> ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION WEEKEND**



**JUNE 24 & 25, 2017**

*\*additional information will follow\**



**Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

The search is underway for  
Longest Married Couple in the U.S.  
Do you think you know who they are?  
Maybe it's your parents' grandparents!  
That nice couple who live down the street!  
Nominating a couple is easy! Just send their names, wedding date and where they live and your contact information to:  
wwmelmc2017@gmail.com

Nominations accepted until January 8, 2017.  
Winners will be announced February 2017  
to celebrate World Marriage Day.  
Nominate a couple you know today!



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**ADT Home Security Team  
1-888-862-6429**

**Please remember to patronize,  
who help make this bulletin possible**



**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.

**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 (at doors of church)** or you may use this form. Please drop it in the collection basket or in the black mail box outside the rectory door. **Please Print all information clearly.**

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

**Please Print**

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

or the Intention of: \_\_\_\_\_

Donated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



**Please Notice This**



**BEGINNING ON  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2017  
OUR SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE WILL CHANGE  
WE WILL CELEBRATE MASS AT  
7:30AM, 9:30AM, AND 11:30AM**



**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 Registered Parishioner
- \_\_\_ to change my address
- \_\_\_ to advise you that I am moving out of the area
- \_\_\_ to let the Parish know of someone who is ill, or homebound & would like to receive Communion

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_