

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Mass Intentions for the Week

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

Monday, December 26, 2016

7:00 Peggy Lacey

8:30 Nicola Seidita

Tuesday December 27, 2016

7:00 Peggy Lacey

8:30 Juan Redoblado

Wednesday, December 28, 2016

7:00 Peggy Lacey

8:30 Alphonse Giella

Thursday, December 29, 2016

7:00 Peggy Lacey

8:30 Severina Oliver

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Friday, December 30, 2016

7:00 Peggy Lacey

8:30 Robert Barratt

Saturday, December 31, 2016

8:30 Rose Walsh

5:30 Louis A. DeEufemia

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Sunday, January 1, 2017

8:00 Rev. Msgr. Thomas Ivory, healing

10:00 People of Ascension Parish

12:00 Ethel Rivera

PARISH **\$**TEWARDSHIP REPORT

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

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

December 20, 2015:	\$6,135.00
December 18, 2016	\$5,209.00
Maintenance and Repairs:	\$2,942.00
Food Pantry:	\$1,070.00

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

Readings for Sunday, January 1, 2017

Sunday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67/Gal 4:4-7/
Lk 2:16-21



Merry Christmas! As we think about **Christmas** the image that we are most familiar with is the picture of the infant Jesus asleep in Mary's arms. It is still the choice of Christmas card makers who wish to keep the spirituality of Christmas alive. Gazing on that image of the sleeping baby in its mother's arms, the descriptive word that most easily comes to our lips is **tenderness**.

Tenderness ô even the word itself is full of softness and warmth. With tenderness we have affection, love, fondness, warmth. Tenderness implies a deep sense of the other person as wholly valuable. When we feel tenderness towards another we feel a certain protective affection. We deeply crave the safety and goodness of the one we love God has all of these wonderful feelings for us. Jesus not only reveals the face of God to us. Jesus also reveals the heart of God. As we picture the infant asleep in his mother's arms, we should allow ourselves to experience the tenderness we find there.

God is total and impenetrable mystery. No human person will ever understand the deepest mystery that we call God. But God allows us glimpses into God's own self. Jesus is the most direct way we have into understanding the heart of God. And today we see Jesus as a new-born baby.

We are not afraid of babies, although we may be afraid of tenderness. At times, we don't know what to do with it and so we avoid it. Accepting God's tenderness could very well be our salvation, especially for those of us who are too hard on ourselves, unforgiving, demanding, putting up a brave front, afraid. We need the tenderness of God as shown through the infant Christ. And even though Jesus is no longer a baby, he is still showing us the tender heart of a loving God.

As we celebrate Christmas, let me thank all who have so tenderly and generously given of themselves this Christmas and the days before and after here at Ascensionô

ô Thank You to those who helped to make our church so beautiful for the Christmas Season and to those who contributed for the trees and flowers.

ô Thank you to our Clergy and Pastoral Staff, and to our Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Ushers, Liturgy and Worship Committee members, and especially our Choirs, Instrumentalists and Song Leaders for helping to make the Advent and Christmas liturgies so joyful and so richly meaningful.

ô Thank you to our finance council and our good and faithful Sunday and Monday money counters.

ô Thank you to all the members of the Ministry of the Word, to our Religious Education coordinators, catechists and aides, to those who lead our Children's Liturgy of the Word, to our parents who entrust their children to our care, to our children who joyfully receive God's Word through our Religious Education program, to members of our Baptism Prep Team, and to members of our Marriage Prep Team.

ô Thank you to our Ministry of Service who took care of our Giving Tree and the gifts for the needy, and to all in our Food Pantry who helped to make sure the less fortunate could celebrate Christmas.

ô Thank you to our Ministry of Community Building for providing the many events which keep us joined together in the faith family of Ascension. Living out our faith can include fun events, too.

ô Of course, special thanks to our parishioners for your presence in our Ascension family and for the generous stewardship of treasure so many of you continue to offer to this parish. I always feel so blessed being here among you wonderful people.

ô Thank you to those who sent gifts, cards, and "goodies" to the Rectory for Christmas. Your kind thoughtfulness is always appreciated!

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

The students, faculty and staff wish everyone a healthy and Blessed Christmas. The school and school office will be closed until Tuesday, January 3 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.



THANK YOU

A heartfelt Thank You to all the parishioners who shared their time, talent and treasure with the youth of our parish at our parish Youth Encounter earlier this month. Because of your enthusiasm and stewardship our youth program is off to a wonderful start. Thank you so much for your participation, help, preparing of food and monetary and food donations it was truly appreciated. Christmas Blessing to all Ascension parishioners! Father Teo



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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR PARISH INFORMATION
WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM



Calendar:

Sunday, December 25th ó Merry Christmas to All
Monday, December 26th ó No Religious Education
Wednesday, December 28th ó No Religious Education
Sunday, January 1st ó Happy New Yearø

There will be NO Childrenø Liturgy of the Word on Sunday, December 25th or January 1st. We will resume on Sunday, January 8th 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 3rd 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.

Christmas Blessings



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

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 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 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

DECEMBER 25, 2016

Dear Parishioners,

The priests and staff of Ascension wish you and your loved ones
a very happy and holy Christmas!

We welcome you all to our celebration of **Christmas 2016** here at Ascension.

We especially welcome those who have been away from Ascension due to
school, illness or living elsewhere for whatever reason.

It is good to have you home again. Welcome to all visitors.

Thank you for choosing to celebrate your Christmas with us.

Christmas is a wonderful and holy time of year.

It is when we become more aware of the many gifts God gives us
at Christmas and all throughout the year – the gift of life, the gift of faith,
and the gift of each other. On Christmas God showed us
how deeply he loved us by taking on flesh and becoming one like us,
so that we could become more like Him.

Then for New Year's Day, January 1st, we will celebrate the
Solemnity of Mary Mother of God with Masses at 5:30pm on Saturday,
and 8:00am, 10:00am and 12:00 Noon on Sunday.

On January 8th we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**
with a special blessing of children during Masses at 5:30pm on Saturday, and
7:30am, 9:30am and 11:30am on Sunday.

The Christmas Season concludes with the celebration of the
Baptism of the Lord on Monday, January 9th

I encourage you to immerse yourself in the spirit and graces of the season
by participating in the special celebrations
and ask that you bring someone you love with you.

My prayer is that Christ, whose birth we now celebrate,
may dwell in your hearts and in your homes throughout this season of joy.

Merry Christmas!

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



"To everything there is a season..."

"a time to love..."
Anggene Bacani & Joselito Bacani

"a time to be born..."
Matthew Dionisio

"a time to be healed..."

Rose DøEufemia, 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 Bottcher, 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 **Mary Zadroga**



BREAD and WINE this week are in loving memory of **Mary Zadroga**



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)



Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24, 2016

Mass at 8:30am

Vigil of Christmas Masses:

5:30pm Children's Choir

12 Midnight Combined Choir's

Christmas Day, December 25, 2016

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

Parish Offices Closed

No Religious Education classes

Monday, December 26, 2016

Parish Offices Closed

No Religious Education

Tuesday, December 27, 2016

Woodcrest Center, Rosary - 2:30pm

Wednesday, December 28, 2016

No Confirmation Prep

Novena ó 7:30pm - Church

Thursday, December 29, 2016

No events

Friday, December 30, 2016

No events

New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31, 2016

Mass at 8:30am

Vigil Mass, Mary, Holy Mother of God

New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1, 2017

Parish Maintenance & Repairs

Mary, Holy Mother of God

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

Parish Offices Closed

No Religious Education classes



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 or call the rectory office to check availability.



THE RECTORY & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

CHRISTMAS

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 40TH ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WEEKEND



JUNE 24 & 25, 2017
additional information will follow



HARRISON HOUSE

We give thanks to the many volunteers who represented our parish by preparing meals for the residents of Harrison House, a residence for person with Aids, once a month during 2016!

Help is needed for 2017...We are seeking people who are willing to prepare a meal at home (one time) for 8 people and deliver it to Harrison House (on the grounds of Bergen Regional Medical Center) for the year 2017. Our parish has the 4th Wednesday of each month. If we have twelve volunteers, this means a family or individual will need to prepare only one meal for the year. Please call Hanna or May Lee, Chairpersons of our Aids Ministry, (201) 261-9246. if you can help in this worthwhile ministry. Thank you.



Please patronize
our advertisers.
They help us GROW.

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

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 8TH, 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: _____