

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Mass for the Intentions for the Week

Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 26, 2017

5:30 People of Ascension Parish

7:30 Melvin & Dorothy Evans

9:30 James C. Lacey

11:30 John Montecucollo

Monday, March 27, 2017

7:00 Esther Selitto

8:30 Astrid K. Sigrist

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

7:00 Gerard Patrick Lee

8:30 Cheriyan Vengassery, First Anniv.

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

7:00 Natalie Ava Habana, Birthday (L)

8:30 Mary & Walter Lewis

Thursday, March 30, 2017

7:00 Bob McDonnell, Healing

8:30 Fidelda Sunga

Friday, March 31, 2017

7:00 Biju Lukose

8:30 Rolando Bugallo

7:30 Gloria DaCruz

Saturday, April 1, 2017

Memorial

8:30 Nicolena Curcio

5:30 William & Elizabeth Morris

Fifth Sunday of Lent, April 2, 2017

7:30 People of Ascension Parish

9:30 John Trimarchi

11:30 Edward Delaney

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

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

March 20, 2016: \$6,231.00

March 19, 2017: \$6,703.00

Food Pantry: \$1,189.00

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

Readings for Sunday, April 2, 2017

**Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-8/Rom 8:8-11/
Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45**



Aren't the intricate plots in a soap opera amazing? Soaps imitate life, to a degree, with its inter-twining of characters, conversations, and crises. But to know the whole story, we have to go "behind the scenes" and ask, what motives, feelings, and questions are at play?

Take our story of the blind man today. It begins with the question, "Who sinned, this man or his parents?" This is Jesus' cue to correct the ancient belief that illness and misfortune result from God's punishment for sin. "Neither the man nor his parents sinned." The man is blind "so that the works of God might be made visible through him." The "wild card" here is Jesus—he obviously heals on the Sabbath, breaking the religious law.

So the Pharisees try to discredit Jesus as a sinner who could not come from God. Only the blind man sees clearly: "I was blind, and now I can see—Jesus has to be from God." The Pharisees remain blind because they refuse to see and bow down before the sacred truth: that Jesus is the Son of God, who alone can break the power of evil by healing the man's blindness.

If the Pharisees would admit their blindness, and ask "Who are you, Lord? Help me believe!" they would see Christ. But don't we, too, sometimes cling to the darkness of our own arrogance, certitude, or false judgment? When we judge self-righteously, we expel ourselves from Jesus' community; we claim to see, but we are pitifully blind. Let us instead be blind to anything that causes us to judge someone else.

Take heart! If we feel "expelled" from God's mercy, Jesus comes personally to us in Lent, eager to open the blind eyes of our hearts so we can really see him in each other.

✘ Don't forget that on **Fridays in Lent** we have added a Eucharistic Holy Hour and adoration at 1pm and a Mass at 7:30pm followed by Stations of the Cross.

✘ This weekend let us give a warm welcome to Rev. Richard Kunzman who will preach at all Masses, as he asks our participation in the Cross Catholic Outreach.

✘ Please plan to join the priests and parishioners of St. John's, Bergenfield and St. Mary's, Dumont as we will celebrate our **Tri-Parish Lenten Communal Penance Service with Individual Confessions** at St. John's, Bergenfield on Saturday, April 1st at 1pm.

✘ Please plan ahead to be with us on Friday, April 7th. We will join together for our **Parish Lenten Evening of Recollection** which will begin at 7pm with Stations of the Cross followed by Mass with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Hour, opportunity for individual sacramental Reconciliation, and Benediction. What a beautiful way to prepare ourselves for the holiest week of the year!

✘ Lent is a very good time for us to participate in the **Sharing God's Blessings Annual Appeal for 2017**. Our 2017 goal is **\$43,000.00**. To date we have received \$17,179.00 in pledges from 72 donors. Consider making this part of our Lenten sacrifice. Please, let's pray and work together, that with God's help, we can again surpass our goal.

There is still time to make a pledge. Brochures are 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 "Serve God by Serving Others." May God continue to bless all at Ascension with generous hearts.

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



TRANSFIGURATION ACADEMY

Congratulations! Transfiguration had 5 basketball teams represented in the league finals. All 3 girls' teams took 2nd place and the 5th and 6th grade and 7th grade boys' teams won the championship for their respective divisions. The Academy thanks Athletic Director Craig Von der Osten, the entire coaching staff, the parents, and all of the players for a successful season.

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.

TIGER FOR A DAY - Transfiguration Academy invites you to see why our students excel both in and outside of the classroom. On April 10th and 11th, your child has an opportunity to experience Transfiguration Academy firsthand by being a "Tiger for a Day."

Students in grades K – 8 can spend one of those two days at Transfiguration Academy when the local public schools are closed for the spring break. Each student visitor will be partnered with a student ambassador from the Academy, attend all classes for his or her grade level, receive a complimentary lunch and take home a small gift in remembrance of their "Tiger for a Day" experience. Attendees will get to meet and interact with our students and faculty on a one-to-one basis.

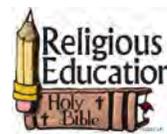
Transfiguration Academy is located at 10 Bradley Avenue in Bergenfield. For more information or to schedule a tour of the school, email principal@transfigurationacademy.org or call (201)384-3627. Please visit our website at transfigurationacademy.org and follow us on Facebook.

ANY EASY WAY YOU CAN HELP THOSE IN NEED BECOME A VOLUNTEER BAKER!

Every other month the Service Ministry of Ascension visits the Hackensack shelter to feed dinner to those in need. We always bring with us home-baked goods, which are a big hit with the clients. As we normally feed up to 150 people, we need help from volunteer bakers. All you need to do is to bake a cake, pie, brownies, cupcakes or cookies and drop them off at the rectory by 2 pm on the day of our serving. If a daytime drop is not possible, they can be dropped off the night before. (If you cannot bake, we will also accept store bought goods!)

Our next date is on Thursday, March 30th.

We could sure use your help. Thank you in advance for supporting our very important ministry!



Calendar:

Sunday, March 26th – Pre- K thru 6th grade from 10:30 am to 11:45 am (SCH)
Monday, March 27th – 8th Grade from 7:00 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)
Wednesday, March 29th-- 9th Grade from 7:00 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)
Sunday, April 2nd – Pre- K thru 6th grade from 10:30 am to 11:45 am (SCH)

Children's Liturgy of the Word will be celebrated at the 9:30 am Mass. All children in Pre-K to 5th grade are invited to join us. What a great way for families to celebrate Mass together.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Today, Sunday, March 26, 2017: First Communion Retreat—starting with 9:30 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.

Beginning today Sunday, March 5, 2017 dismissal for the Sunday Religious Education Program will be at 11:45 am. Dismissal procedures will remain the same.

Reminder that the Sunday, Religious Education is from 10:30 am to 11:45 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 11:45 am. Please be on time for pick-up.

Volunteers Needed:

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 – 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: 9:30 am to 12:00 noon

Other times by appointment

CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH

Please welcome Father Richard Kunzman who will speak at all the Masses on behalf of Cross Catholic Outreach which was founded to create a meaningful link between parishes in America and the priest and nuns working in the Church overseas in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Central and South America. Please be generous I your response to Father's appeal. Brochures will be provided if you which to support this worthy Catholic ministry.

MARCH 26, 2017

Come and Join us...

Church of the Ascension

New Milford

St. John's Church

Bergenfield

St. Mary's Church

Dumont

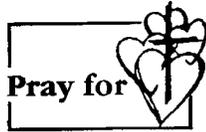
Invite You to Gather Together and Celebrate...

Lenten Communal Penance Service
with Individual Confession

Saturday,
April 1, 2017
St. John's Church
Bergenfield
1:00 P.M.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



"To everything there is a season..."

"a time to be healed..."

Rose D'Eufemia, Dolores Crowley, Ann Wall, Joseph Gorgone, Jim Keane, Marguerite Morris, Don Evans, Donna Van Kleeck, Margaret Polis, Theresa Ruocco, Elsa Obera, Marie Oberst, Ana Tumang, Jean Francisco, Carmelo Abbruzzesi, Leonard Abbruzzesi, Kitty Tricarico, Rose Ann Bottcher, Joan Polis, Elnora Gordon, Thomas Gonzalas, Al Suter, John Thomas, Robert McDonnell, Philip Santore, John Donohue, Jose Caylao Jr., 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., 29 Palms, CA, and all Men and Women serving in our countries Armed Forces.

President Donald John Trump, our National Leaders and all World Leaders.

"a time to die..."

June Hastings, Rosemarie B. Hillmer, Ann Marie Dorf

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

Ecclesiastes 3:11

OFFERTORY GIFTS

Please let one our ushers know, prior to Mass, if you would like to bring the Offertory Gifts up to the celebrant. If Mass intention is one that you have requested or if it is for the intention of your loved one.

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.



SHAW'S LOCK & DOOR SERVICE
201-387-0021

who help make this bulletin possible



Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 26, 2017

Cross Outreach Ministry

Children's Liturgy of the Word 9:30am

Religious Education Pre-K-6 – 10:30am – School

First Eucharist Retreat Day (begins with 9:30 Mass)

Monday, March 27, 2017

Religious Education Grade (8) – 7:00pm - School

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Ministry of Worship – 7:30pm – Rectory Mtg. Room

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Confirmation Prep 7:00-8:45pm

Novena – 7:30pm – Church

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

Filipino Core Mtg. – 8:00pm – Gathering Room

Combined Choirs – 8:15pm - Church

Thursday, March 30, 2017

No events

Friday, March 31, 2017

Holy Hour & Adoration – 1:00pm - Church

Mass & Stations of the Cross – 7:30pm - Church



APRIL FOOLS! First Saturday, April 1, 2017

NO Confessions at Ascension

Tri Parish Lenten Penance Service

St. John's, Bergenfield at 1:00pm

Children's Choir – 4:15pm – Church

Fifth Sunday of Lent, April 2, 2017

Parish Maintenance & Repairs

Children's Liturgy of the Word 9:30am

Religious Education Pre-K-6 – 10:30am – School

Baptism Prep – 1:00pm – Gathering Room



**MINISTRY OF WORSHIP/LITURGY
TUESDAY, MARCH 28TH AT 7:30PM
IN THE RECTORY MEETING ROOM**

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

**WHEN: DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
APRIL 23, 2017**

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

**PLEASE PICK UP
REGISTRATION FORM
IN CHURCH VESTIBULE OR RECTORY
Registration Deadline is April 19, 2017**



REMEMBER DURING LENT

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

Also, we have placed "Five Minutes with the Word for Lent 2017" in our parish book rack. Please take one for yourself and even another for a friend

ADORATION

Our church is committed to providing many opportunities for us to enhance our lenten experience. Beginning Friday, March 10th, we will have an adoration hour with exposition from 1:00-2:00pm. It is a special hour of encounter with the Lord. I encourage all who can to please do so.



Sharing God's Blessings Annual Appeal

Thank you to the 72 parishioners who have made a pledge to this year's Sharing God's Blessings Annual Appeal. We are currently at \$17,179.00 pledged dollars. Please consider making your pledge today. Give a little, give a lot, but please give something for the Glory of God!

This year our Parish Goal is \$43,000.00

EASTER DINNER DONATIONS (Shop Rite)

If anyone would like to donate money to buy a ham for Easter dinner for one of our pantry clients. You may put your donation in an envelope marked "Easter Ham" and give it to one of our Priests, or place it in the collection basket.

Shop Rite is offering a free "Holiday Dinner Favorite" when \$400 is spent using Shop Rite Price Plus Card. The offer period started on Sunday, March 5 and ends on Saturday, April 15. If you would like to donate your Holiday Dinner Favorite to the Church of the Ascension Food Pantry, it will gladly be accepted. 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 to pick up your donation at Shop Rite, please call the rectory and leave your Shop Rite **Price Plus** number.

ACADEMY of the HOLY ANGELS

Admissions Events for prospective students and parents. Families interested in learning about the advantages of a private, Catholic education and unique opportunities available at Academy of the Holy Angels are encouraged to attend our 6th Grade Sneak Peek, Coffee and Conversation, or Spring Open House! For more information or to register please visit:
<https://www.holyangels.org/admissions/admissions-calander>.

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: _____

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR PARISH INFORMATION
WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM

PARISH TRIP TO THE OUTER BANKS, NC

Our Parish will be sponsoring a 4 day, 3 night trip to the Outer Banks, North Carolina from Monday, May 15th to Thursday May 18th. The price of \$550 ddb/\$675 single occ. Per person includes 4 nights lodging, 3 breakfasts, 3 dinners, guided tour of Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Roanoke Island Festival Park, Roanoke Adventure Museum, Graveyard of the Atlantic, Wright Brothers National Memorial, Elizabethan Gardens, Bodie Island Lighthouse, Chicamacomico Life Saving Station, bus transportation, luggage handling, all taxes and gratuities. \$100 deposit will hold your reservation. For info. and reservations call Josie(201)265-0485 or Anna(201)387-2632.

Please Notice This



PARISH "GARAGE" SALE

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017

TIME TO START YOUR SPRING CLEANING!

look for flyer with more information & registration in next week-ends bulletin

**FATHER DAVID'S
 40TH ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY**

JUNE 24, 2017

Mass of Thanksgiving

&

Reception

**Reception information & reservation
 flyer at doors of church
 (please return to rectory office)**

*Commemorative Journal
 (Journal information at doors of church)
 What a wonderful way to say
 Congratulations to our Pastor!*