

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Mass Intentions for the Week

Second Sunday of Advent, December 10

5:30 People of Ascension Parish
7:30 Melvin & Dorothy Evans
9:30 Rose Marie Piro
11:30 Peter Buckley, 54th Anniversary

Monday, December 11, 2017

7:00 Teresita Villafranca Sy
8:30 John John

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

7:00 Teresita Villafranca Sy
8:30 George U. Ruiz (L)

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

7:00 Teresita Villafranca Sy
8:30 Paz Alburo

Thursday, December 14, 2017

7:00 Teresita Villafranca Sy
8:30 Inday Troping Ruiz

Friday, December 15, 2017

7:00 Teresita Villafranca Sy
8:30 Robert Barratt

Saturday, December 16, 2017

8:30 Steve LaPage
5:30 Gregory DeCarlo

Third Sunday of Advent, December 17

7:30 Julian Bagani Habana, Birthday (L)
9:30 People of Ascension Parish
11:30 Alfonso Flores

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

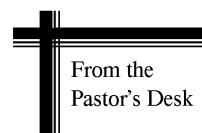
Ascension Parish is supported by people who place their faith and trust in God.

December 4, 2016:	\$6,790.00
December 3, 2017:	\$5,997.00
Religious Retirement:	\$2,441.00

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

Readings for Sunday December 17, 2017

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



A priest, a doctor and an engineer were impatiently waiting behind a slow group of golfers. They complained to the golf course manager. He replied, "Oh, that's a group of blind fire fighters. They lost their sight saving our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we always let them play for free anytime. But I'm so sorry for your delay."

The priest spoke up, "That's so sad. I think I will say a special prayer for them tonight." The doctor said, "Good idea. And I'll contact my ophthalmologist buddy to see if he can help." And the engineer said: "We don't mind waiting... let's treat them to drinks at the clubhouse."

What a difference certain words can make! Suddenly these guys have a context for their waiting. What was meaningless waiting was now full of meaning. And that is how our waiting on God can be—full of meaning and significance. Isaiah says, "A voice cries out: ...make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!" Did you realize that God's power and presence is going to arrive in the midst of our own desert—the parts of us that we think of as sinful wasteland?

But only if we honestly face the worst of what we know about ourselves, and really desire forgiveness and a "new way" through the desert, will that new way be built. Let's use this Advent to increasingly face who we really are, and then honestly ask for forgiveness, so that we are building a highway for God to come on a straight path right to us!

✘ Our **Advent Giving Tree** has been prepared to help us to Share the Spirit of Christmas! Further information is in this week's bulletin. Also, don't forget to take a copy of **Five Minutes with the Word for Advent**. Copies are in the book rack at the entrance to the church.

✘ Please keep in your prayers the children of our parish who received the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Saturday, December 9th.

✘ Advent would not be complete without a very special opportunity to "make straight the way of the Lord" in our hearts and in our lives. Please plan to join us on Monday evening, December 11th at 7:30pm, here at Ascension Church for our **Tri-Parish Advent Celebration of Reconciliation with Individual Confession**. Come and experience this beautiful sacrament as one of God's grace-filled Advent moments. What a treat God has in store for us!

✘ Please plan ahead to spend some quality time with our Eucharistic Lord on Wednesday, December 13th at our **Parish Advent Eucharistic Day**. The principal **Mass with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** will be at 8:30am. **Adoration** will follow all day until 7:30pm when we will celebrate **Solemn Advent Evening Prayer and Benediction**. Just one more experience of God's amazing Advent grace! Come, let us together climb the mountain of the Lord. Please come out and join us.

✘ Please remember to make your final payments for the **2017 Archbishop's Annual Appeal** in order that our parish may get the proper credit.

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

P. David



Transforming Hearts – Winter Clothing Drive

A major part of the mission of Transfiguration Academy is to "transform hearts". During the month of December, we work toward transforming the hearts of our students by participating in a hat, scarves and gloves drive for those less fortunate than us. In this time of giving, our students will donate new winter items that will be collected and distributed by Catholic Relief Services. Any donations of hats, scarves and gloves are greatly appreciated. Items can be dropped off at the school office until Friday, December 22nd.

Upcoming Events:

- Mon. Dec 11:** Penance/Reconciliation Service (grades 3-8)
- Tue. Dec 19:** 6:00 p.m. Christmas Concert in Conlon Hall
- Fri. Dec 22:** 9:00 a.m. Mass & 12:00 p.m. dismissal for Christmas vacation.

Registration is ongoing:

Parents wishing to provide their children with a quality Catholic education and those looking for alternatives to public school are encouraged to consider Transfiguration Academy. To learn more about our academic, athletic, and fine arts curriculum or to schedule a tour of our Academy, located at 10 Bradley Ave in Bergenfield.

Please email principal@transfigurationacademy.org or call the school office at 201-384-3627. Transfiguration Academy is an investment in your child's future and much more affordable than you would expect.

Transfiguration Academy: Strengthening faith, Enlightening minds, and Transforming hearts...one student at a time.



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 Parishioner
- _____ to change my address
- _____ to join a ministry
- _____ to let the Parish know of someone who is ill, or homebound & would like to receive Communion

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____



Calendar:

- Sunday, December 10th – Pre- K thru 6th grade from 10:45 am to 12:00 pm (SCH)
- Monday, December 11th– 7th, 8th, & 9th Grades from 7 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)
- Wednesday, December 13th-- 9th Grades from 7 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)
- Sunday, December 17th – Pre- K thru 6th grade from 10:45 am to 12:00 pm (SCH)

Children’s Liturgy of the Word will 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.

Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace: Now that our parish children have celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time, they will come together this week to think about the significance of the sacrament. They will reflect on the experience of “going to confession” and of receiving God’s forgiveness. They will remember what they did and how they felt on this special day. Please continue to pray for them, and encourage our young children as they begin a lifelong practice of celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

7th, 8th and 9th Grades will meet on December 11, 2017 in the school at 7 pm for class and all will be attending the Advent Tri-Parish Penance Service at 7:30 pm. All parents are encouraged to attend. Students will be dismissed from the Church.

Reminder:

Confirmation Candidates: Sponsor form with Parish Seals, Name and why you chose your Sponsor are all due on December 14, 2017. NO FAX or EMAIL Copies will be accepted.

Please note the change in our hours for classes this school year.

Our Sunday Mornings program is from **10:45 to 12 Noon**. The 7th and 8th graders meet on Monday evenings and 9th graders on Wednesday from 7 pm to 8:45 pm. Students are asked to be here by **6:55 pm in order to start at 7 pm sharp**.

Volunteers Needed:

- † We are in NEED of Substitute Catechists and Class Parents for our Religious Education Program for the 2017-2018 School year. Anyone interested, please call Theresa Carbone our Coordinator of Religious Education at (201) 836-3085.
- † 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:

- Monday – Wednesday & Friday: 9 am to 4 pm – In Rectory
- Monday and Wednesday: 6:30 pm to 8:45 pm – In School
- Sunday Mornings: 10 am to 12 Noon – In School
- Closed: Thursday & Saturday
- Other times by appointment

DECEMBER 10, 2017

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

256 Azalea Drive, New Milford, NJ 07646

INVITES YOU TO ITS

“SIMBANG GABI CELEBRATION”



DATE: December 16, 2017
(Saturday)

TIME: 5:30 P.M.

After Mass, everyone is invited to a Potluck Reception & Entertainment (Christmas Program, Games & Dancing) in the **Fr. Benedict Center.**

For food donation, please contact the following:
Malou Fineza ... (201) 660-5483 Praxy Cruz (201) 576-0302



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



PRAY FOR . . .

“To everything there is a season...”

“a time to be healed...”

Dolores Crowley, Ann Wall, Joseph Gorgone, Jim Keane, Marguerite Morris, Don Evans, Donna Van Kleeck, Margaret Polis, Elsa Obera, Marie Oberst, Jean Francisco, Carmelo Abbruzzesi, Leonard Abbruzzesi, Kitty Tricarico, Joan Polis, Thomas Gonzalas, John Thomas, John Donohue, Concepcion Deus, Deacon Jim Stumbar, Eileen Kloeblen, Richard Gabettie, Judith & Tom Gonzales, Monica Vivas, Diane Warings, Jane Rodriguez, Herman Ivan Rodriguez, Charles Hellriegel, John Delaney, Anita Zucconi, 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, PFC Ian Belthoff, U.S. Marine Corps., Cherry Point, NC, James Penser, Goodfellow, AFB, Texas and all Men and Women serving in our countries Armed Forces.

“a time for peace...”

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

“a time to die...”

Marian Kearns

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

Ecclesiastes 3:11



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** burns this week in loving memory of **Anthony Loonan**



Second Sunday of Advent, December 10, 2017

Parish Maintenance & Repairs

Christians of the Holy Land Religious Articles
For Sale in the Gathering Room
Children's Liturgy of the Word – 9:30am
Religious Education Pre-K-6 – 10:45am

Monday, December 11, 2017

Confessions at Transfiguration Academy – 1:00pm

Tri-Parish Advent Penance Service – 7:00pm

At Ascension Church

Religious Education (grades 7, 8 & 9)

Meet in school and attend Penance Service

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

No events

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Eucharistic Day

8:30am Mass and Exposition Adoration

Confirmation Prep. – 7:00-8:45pm

7:30pm Closing of Eucharistic Day

Boy Scouts – 7:30pm – FBC

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

Combined Choirs – 8:15pm - Church

Thursday, December 14, 2017

Hackensack Homeless

Friday, December 15, 2017

Staff Christmas Party

Saturday, December 16, 2017

Confessions 11:00am – Church

Children's Choir – 4:15pm – Church

Simbang Gabi – 5:30pm – Reception follows FBCtr.

Third Sunday of Advent, December 17, 2017

Food Pantry Sunday

Children's Liturgy of the Word – 9:30am

Religious Education Pre-K-6 – 10:45am

Advent Giving Tree Distribution

Baptism – 1:00pm



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.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR PARISH INFORMATION

WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM



SANTA IS COMING TO TOWN BY FIRE TRUCK SUNDAY DEC. 10

New Milford's Fire Dept. Annual Toy Drive
From 1-4pm. Call Fire Co. 1 at 201-265-1712 or
Fire Co. 2 at 201-265-1631 for a Schedule of locations & times.

O COME
all ye faithful

TRI-PARISH ADVENT
COMMUNAL PENCE SERVICE
WITH INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS
ON MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 11
AT 7:30PM HERE AT ASCENSION

FOOD PANTRY NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH
PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP
OUR SHELVES STOCKED

This month we are particularly low in the following items: Flour-Chicken broth-Hair conditioner-Toothpaste-Bath Soap-Deodorant-Razors.
May God bless you for your continued support of our most important ministry.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS
REMEMBER TO PURCHASE RELIGIOUS
CHRISTMAS STAMPS



RELIGIOUS GIVES THANKS

Thank you for supporting senior religious. A sister from Indiana writes, "Because of your kindness, our elderly sisters will have the comfort, security, and joy of living out their remaining years here in their home. You truly honor them and their many years of service by your generosity." Religious across the United States offer sincere thanks for your generosity to last week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Sharing God's Blessings Annual Appeal

Thank you to the 188 parishioners who have made a pledge to this year's Sharing God's Blessings Annual Appeal. **We are currently at \$36,644.00** 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



Please patronize
our advertisers.
They help us GROW.

Please remember to patronize
who help make this bulletin possible,
RIEWERTS MEMORIAL HOME INC.
201-384-0700



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: _____

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.



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, December 14th.



**BLESSING & LIGHTING OF OUR PARISH
OUTSIDE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS
THIS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH
AFTER 5:30pm MASS**