

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Mass Intentions for the Week

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24

5:30 Alta & Arthur Milliken
7:30 Rita & Louis Camerlengo
9:30 People of Ascension Parish
11:30 John Prisco

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:30 All Ascension Parishioners
Midnight Mass Living & Deceased

The Nativity of the Lord, Christmas Day Monday, December 25

7:30 All Ascension
9:30 Parishioners
11:30 Living & Deceased

Tuesday, December 26, 2017

NO MASS AT 7:00am

8:30 Teresita Villafranca Sy

Wednesday, December 27, 2017

7:00 Gerard Patrick Lee
8:30 Teresita Villafranca Sy

Thursday, December 28, 2017

7:00 Teresita Villafranca Sy
8:30 Maria Luisa del Rosario

Friday, December 29, 2017

7:00 Marcela Zuniga, First Anniversary
8:30 Rose Walsh

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saturday, December 30, 2017

8:30 Greene and Zmudzinski Families
5:30 Robert Barratt

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

New Year's Eve

Sunday, December 31, 2017

7:30 Rose D'Eufemia
9:30 People of Ascension Parish
11:30 Barbara Suter
5:30 Darren S. Drake

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

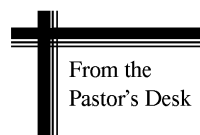
Ascension Parish is supported by people who place their faith and trust in God.

December 18, 2016:	\$5,209.00
December 17, 2017:	\$5,556.00
Food Pantry:	\$1,569.00
Christmas Flowers:	\$2,083.00

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

Readings for Sunday December 31, 2017

Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, [7a, 8a]



From the
Pastor's Desk

Back in the 1940's, there was a little boy who sang a popular song—"All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth." He knew exactly what he wanted for Christmas.

But—do we really know what we want? You hear a lot of adults saying, "It's different these days. I can't capture that wonderful Christmasy feeling I used to have as a child."

Down deep, we know it's not the gifts. It is that sense of **miracles happening** that our hearts really crave. That's why we watch the Hallmark movies and read the Christmas books—trying to catch that spirit. All of the glitzy decorating, the gleaming Christmas trees... the gifts, the colorful wrapping paper, the baking of goodies—all of this should point to only ONE THING: that, yes, **something impossible happened!** Mary said YES to a seemingly impossible vision for her life!

We worship each week to remember the miraculous birth of Jesus—but the miracles are not over: Christ died as all of us must do, he did the impossible by rising—AND Christ will come again! It may take our lifetime to transmit these mysteries of love to our world. But the Spirit calls us to bring back the miracle of Christmas by doing what Mary did: say yes to the challenges that look totally impossible. We're gathered today to help each other do just that.

✠ On behalf of all of our Ascension family, thank you to our Filipino Community for our parish **Simbang Gabi** celebration, the Filipino Christmas Preparation. Mass enhanced by our Filipino Choir was reverent and beautiful and the refreshments and entertainment were delightful. Thank you so much!

✠ We have inserted 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.

✠ I remind you that Ascension Parish offers many ministries and programs. Our parish relies heavily on your generosity, especially in our Christmas collection, to help support the many needs of our parish. I ask that you seek God's guidance in deciding what you can give for your special Christmas gift to your parish and I pray that you will be as generous as your means allow.

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!



Middle States Reaccreditation & Tiger for a Day

The Middle States Association of Elementary Schools recently completed their reaccreditation visit of our Academy. This process involves the entire school community examining where the school is now and planning for the continued improvement of the school over the next seven years. Although the written report will not be available for several months, at the conclusion of the three day visit, the team was very affirming of Transfiguration Academy. They especially commended the quality of the instruction, the community spirit they experienced throughout their visit, and the strong Catholic identity that was evident at the school. They were particularly positive about their interactions with the students, parents, advisory board, faculty and staff.



We appreciate that our students' families have selected Transfiguration Academy as their first choice for their children's academic, social and spiritual needs. On February 21, 22, and 23, we are offering an opportunity for public school children to experience Transfiguration Academy firsthand by being a "Tiger for a Day."

Students in grades K - 8 can spend one of those three days at Transfiguration Academy when the local public schools are closed. Each student visitor will be partnered with a student ambassador from the Academy, attend all classes for his or her grade level, be treated to a hot lunch, and take home a small gift in remembrance of their "Tiger for a Day" experience.

To learn more about our Tiger for A Day program, please email principal@transfigurationacademy.org or call the school office at 201-384-3627.

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

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

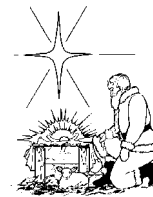


Calendar:

- Sunday, December 24th – No Religious Education
- Monday, December 25th– Merry Christmas- No Religious Education
- Wednesday, December 27th—No Religious Education
- Sunday, December 31st – No Religious Education

There will be NO Children's Liturgy of the Word on December 24th or December 31st. We will resume on Sunday, January 7, 2018. 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.

Christmas Blessings



We in the Religious Education Office wish everyone a

Happy, Healthy and Holy Christmas Season

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

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**.

Reminder:

When your child/ren are going to be absent from class you must call the Religious Education office and let us know. We will call the home if you do not call us, so **PLEASE** make sure you have a working home or cell number that we can contact you especially in the event of an emergency.

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR PARISH INFORMATION
WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM

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 2017** 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.

We will observe the **Feast of the Holy Family** on December 31st
with the Blessing of Families at Masses at 5:30pm on Saturday,
and 7:30am, 9:30am and 11:30am on Sunday.

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

On January 7th 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 8th.

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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT*CHRISTMAS EVE



"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, John Thomas, John Donohue, Concepcion Deus, Deacon Jim Stumbar, Eileen Kloebler, Richard Gabettie, Judith & Tom Gonzales, Monica Vivas, Diane Warings, Jane Rodriguez, Herman Ivan Rodriguez, Charles Hellriegel, John Delaney, Anita Zucconi, Joel Rivera, Albert Ginocchio, 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, Airman First Class 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.

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

Ecclesiastes 3:11



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** burns this week in loving memory of **Gerard Patrick Lee**



BREAD and WINE this week are in loving memory of the **Angel & Maria Luisa Gutierrez**



Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24, 2017

CHRISTMAS EVE

Vigil of Christmas Masses

5:30pm Children's Choir

12 Midnight Combined Choirs

CHRISTMAS DAY, MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2017

Masses: 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am

Rectory Closed

Tuesday, December 26, 2017

No events

Wednesday, December 27, 2017

Harrison House

Novena – 7:30pm - Church

Thursday, December 28, 2017

No events

Friday, December 29, 2017

No events

Saturday, December 30, 2017

Confessions 11:00am – Church

Holy Family Sunday, December 31, 2017

Masses 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am

Mary Mother of God Vigil Mass at 5:30pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY, Monday, January 1, 2018

Mary Mother of God Masses 8:30am & 10:30am

Rectory Closed



Members of the Service Ministry would like to thank all who donated to our Giving Tree this year.

Please know that you have helped to make this Christmas a bit brighter for someone in need.

Thanks also to those elves that helped to make the ornaments, decorate the tree, and deliver the gifts to various charities around Bergen County. May God bless you for your Generosity, and Christmas blessings to all!



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.



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 Masses

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24, 2017
5:30pm, and 12:00 Midnight

Choir Concert with Caroling begins at 11:15pm

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25, 2017
7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am

Holy Family

Saturday, December 30, 2017
5:30pm

Sunday, December 31, 2017
7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

New Year's Eve

Sunday, December 31, 2017
5:30pm

New Year's Day

Monday, January 1, 2018
8:30am and 10:30am

Solemnity of the Epiphany

Saturday, January 6, 2018
5:30pm

Sunday, January 7, 2018
7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am



TRIP TO SIGHT & SOUND'S PERFORMANCE OF "JESUS"

Our Parish will sponsor a 3 day/2night trip to the Amish Lands, Pa. April 11-13, 2018. The price of \$415pp/\$497 single includes 2 nights lodging at the Heritage Hotel, Lancaster, 2 full buffet breakfasts, dinner at Hershey Farm Restaurant, "Jesus" at the Millennium Theatre, dinner and performance of "Showboat" at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre, guided tour of Amish Countryside, Kitchen Kettle Village, trip to Longwood gardens. On our way home, we will make a stop at the Sands Casino with a bonus of \$20 slot free pay & \$5 meal voucher. Bus transportation, luggage handling, taxes and meal gratuities are included. Cancellation ins. is recommended. A \$100 deposit will hold your reservation and is due by January 15th. For info. Call Josie (201) 265-0485 or Anna (201) 387-2632. Please fill in the coupon below and drop off at Rectory with your deposit. Please make all checks payable to "Ascension Church".

NAME _____
PHONE # _____
NAME OF PERSON YOU ARE SHARING A ROOM WITH _____
EMAIL ADDRESS _____



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: _____



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)



THE RECTORY & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH