

# Church of the Ascension

Invites You to Share with us. . .

## + Our Pastoral Staff +

**Pastor**  
Rev. David W. Milliken

**Director of Music**  
Glenn Gordon

**Weekend Assistant**  
Rev. Tim Graff

**Parish Business Manager**  
Serina Sharkey

**In Residence**  
Rev. Brian G. Plate

**Director of Maintenance**  
Brendan Suter

**Parish Trustees**  
Christopher Cudina & Elizabeth Delgado

**Religious Education Center**  
Theresa Carbone, Coordinator of Religious Education  
Jeanette MacNish, Coordinator for Grades 7 & 8  
Dena Sedlak, Coordinator of First Penance and  
First Holy Communion



## + Our Pastoral Life +

### PARISH MEMBERSHIP:

We welcome all new parishioners to our parish family. Every family participating regularly in the spiritual life of our parish is encouraged to register at the Rectory. Please inform us if you are moving.

### BAPTISM:

It is mandatory to attend a baptism instruction class before scheduling the date for the baptism. Baptism is usually celebrated on the third Sunday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Parents must be registered parishioners and must attend pre-Baptism instruction usually given on the first Sunday of every month at 1:00 p.m. in the Gathering Room. Godparents must be practicing Catholics in good standing. Pre-registration at the Rectory is necessary prior to the Baptism instruction.

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Other times by appointment. Communal Penance Services are celebrated seasonally.

### MINISTRY TO THE SICK:

Please notify the Rectory of any elderly, shut-ins, or sick at home who wish to receive the Eucharist or Anointing of the Sick. Priests of the parish will be happy to visit parishioners in the hospitals in the area. Please notify the Rectory if someone from your family is in the hospital and wishes a priest to visit.

### WEDDINGS:

Please make arrangements at the Rectory with one of the priests of the parish one year in advance.



**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**December 9, 2018**

## + Our Parish Mission Statement +

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we, the Catholic Community of the Church of the Ascension, New Milford, commit ourselves to celebrate the Gospel of Jesus in Sacrament and Prayer. We dedicate ourselves to foster a warm and loving parish of concern and service for the individual, family and total community.

## + Our Eucharistic Celebrations +

**Saturday**  
8:30 a.m.

5:30 p.m. (Vigil Mass)

**Sunday**

7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

**Monday - Friday**

7:00 a.m. and 8:30am

7:30 p.m. (Fridays during Lent)

**Holy Days:** 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 7:30 p.m.

Please see inside bulletin for Holiday Mass time

## + Our Devotions +

Novena in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Wednesday 7:30 p.m.  
Rosary is prayed Monday through Saturday 7:45 a.m.



### RECTORY & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

#### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

#### RECTORY

256 Azalea Drive, New Milford, NJ 07646  
(201) 836-8961 • FAX: (201) 836-5896  
Website: [www.churchoftheascension.com](http://www.churchoftheascension.com)  
E-mail: [ascension@optonline.net](mailto:ascension@optonline.net)

#### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

256 Azalea Drive, New Milford, NJ 07646  
(201) 836-3085 • Fax (201) 836-5896  
E-mail: [ascensionreled@optonline.net](mailto:ascensionreled@optonline.net)

Mass  for the Intentions *for the Week*

**Second Sunday of Advent, December 9**

5:30 James & Mary Zadroga  
 7:30 Richard Rosko  
 9:30 Luisa Bautista  
 11:30 Mario & Rosauro Cajucom

**Monday, December 10, 2018**

7:00 Bernard Mallon  
 8:30 John K. John

**Tuesday, December 11, 2018**

7:00 Mary Ann Mallon  
 8:30 Eddie Aponte

**Wednesday, December 12, 2018**

7:00 Bernard Mallon  
 8:30 Marimma & Joseph

**Thursday, December 13, 2018**

7:00 Mary Rose Mallon  
 8:30 Melvin, Dorothy & Don Evans

**Friday, December 14, 2018**

7:00 Patrick Mallon  
 8:30 Inday Tropine Ruiz

**Saturday, December 15, 2018**

8:30 Frank Monti  
 5:30 Robert Barratt

**Third Sunday of Advent, December 16**

7:30 People of Ascension Parish  
 9:30 Maria & Evaristo Aponte  
 11:30 Montecuollo & Lewis Families

**PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

**WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH**

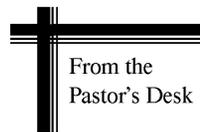
Ascension Parish is supported by people who place their faith and trust in God.

<b>December 3, 2017:</b>	<b>\$5,997.00</b>
<b>December 2, 2018:</b>	<b>\$4,553.00</b>
<b>Religious Retirement:</b>	<b>\$1,967.00</b>

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

**Reading for Sunday  
 December 16, 2018**

**Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/  
 Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18**



Do you remember “**The Sound of Music**”? Julie Andrews running toward the camera, with the beautiful mountain ranges of Austria in the background? Mountains are a significant symbol of freedom in that movie. The von Trapp family climbed those mountains as a route to freedom from the Nazis.

We conquer many mountains in our lives — many of us quit smoking, or join AA and quit drinking, or get off drugs. We learn how to make a smooth way through those mountains in our lives, by taking it one day at a time. Today, the gospel says level the mountains and fill up the valleys to prepare a pathway for our God.

In past years, as children, many of us prepared our hearts for Jesus during Advent. We would get very excited as we made an Advent wreath or worked on “spiritual bouquets” of prayers and good works, for example. But as adults, all this faded. Want to recapture some of that wonder? Adults, try doing some homework this week. Take 15 seconds each day—when you get up would be good—and consciously bring this thought to mind: “Christmas is coming! Jesus is coming! Now is my chance to prepare my heart.”

Then during the day ask yourself one question: “What is my heart’s desire?” You can’t force those magical memories of ginger cookies and sleigh bells. But you can ponder your deepest hopes—for your life, and for the world around you. Advent is the perfect season to stir up hope by reminding us that when we go through the mountains, we go together, as a community. Let’s prepare the pathway of our hearts for Jesus as we go. Above all, let us remember and proclaim in all we say or do: “**Jesus is the Reason for the Season!**”

✘ Thank you to our Service Ministry for sponsoring a Jewelry Sale in the Gathering Room last weekend. The proceeds will be used to buy winter coats for children in cooperation with the Knights of Columbus.

✘ Our **Advent Giving Tree** has been prepared to help us to Share the Spirit of Christmas! Don’t forget to bring in your gifts and put them under the Tree. 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.

✘ Next Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 11am, our parish children will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Please keep our children in special prayer during this week.

✘ 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 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30pm at St. Mary’s Church in Dumont for our **Tri-Parish Advent Celebration of Reconciliation with Individual Confession**. During this beautiful season, come and experience this beautiful sacrament as one of God’s grace-filled Advent moments!

✘ I know Christmas shopping is an important task at this time, but please plan ahead and try to come and spend a little time with our Eucharistic Lord on Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

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

**FATHER DAVID MILLIKEN WILL ESCORT A GROUP TO IRELAND-MAY 12-20, 2019**

You are invited to come away to the magical land of Ireland! Father David will be the escort during a tour which he will celebrate Mass on some days in special sites (such as the Shrine of Our Lady Queen of Ireland in Knock). In addition, sightseeing by a professional guide will include sites in and around Killarney, Blarney, Cork, Dublin, and Galway. Included in the cost of \$3,150.00 per person-two in a room or \$3,800.00 - single occupancy. Round-trip transportation from Church of the Ascension to Newark International Airport, round-trip non-stop Economy airfare and all departure taxes, all transportation and sightseeing by private motor-coach with the services of a professional guide/driver. 7 nights hotel accommodations in First Class hotels, full breakfast and dinner daily, entrance fees, hotel baggage handling, taxes and service charges, tip to the guide/driver.

**Brochures with complete details may be obtained in the parish office.**

On Wednesday, December 5, the New Jersey Department of Education honored **Transfiguration Academy** at a ceremony in Trenton for becoming a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. All are invited to attend the 12:00 Mass on January 27, 2019 at St. John's Church presided by Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R. A reception with light refreshments will follow. More information will be available in early January.



**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)

<b>MEMORIAL CANDLES:</b>	<b>\$150/1 Year</b>
	<b>\$20/30 Days</b>
<b>ALTAR BREAD AND WINE</b>	<b>\$40 per week</b>
<b>ALTAR FLOWERS</b>	<b>\$50 (per basket/per week)</b>
<b>SANCTUARY CANDLE</b>	<b>\$15 per week</b>

**MEMORIAL FUND**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Amt.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Requested: \_\_\_\_\_



**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.



**Calendar:**

Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade from 10:45 am to 12:00 pm (SCH)  
 Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup> -- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade from 7 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)  
 Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> -- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade from 7 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)  
 Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcomed to join us. What a great way for families to celebrate Mass together.

**Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace:** This week our parish children who will soon be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, will gather for their final preparation session. They will learn about the meaning of conversion and how a return to God's love is celebrated in this sacrament. Parishioners are encouraged to reflect on their own experience of conversion or turning back to God. Please pray for the children as they celebrate their First Reconciliation.

**Reminder:**

First Reconciliation Parents and Candidates, Reconciliation will take place on Saturday, **December 15, 2018** at 11 am in the Church. We ask that all families please meet in the Church by 10:45 am so we can start on time.

Confirmation Candidates please remember your SPONSOR Forms are due the Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Volunteers Needed:**

We are in need of Aides and Class Parents for our Religious Education Program for the 2018-2019 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



**BLESSING & LIGHTING OF OUR PARISH OUTSIDE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS THIS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> AFTER 5:30pm MASS**

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

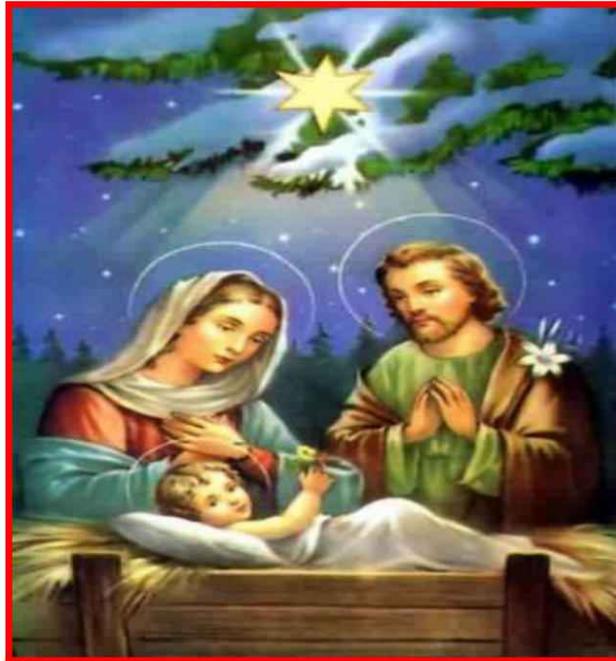
DECEMBER 9, 2018

**CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION**

**256 Azalea Drive, New Milford, NJ 07646**

**INVITES YOU TO ITS**

**"SIMBANG GABI CELEBRATION"**



**DATE: December 15, 2018  
(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      Linda Habana ... (201) 233- 7733  
Hedy Lazaro - (201) 982- 8750



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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

*"a time to be healed..."*

Ann Wall, Joseph Gorgone, Marguerite Morris, 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 Kloeblen, Judith Gonzales, Monica Vivas, Diane Warings, Jane Rodriguez, Herman Ivan Rodriguez, John Delaney, Joel Rivera, Victor Muwonge, Benny Santiago, Aldo Guerra, Evelyn Lawler, Ana Tumang, 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, AIC James Penser, Beale AFB, CA 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**



### OFFERTORY GIFTS

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



### 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.

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



### **Second Sunday of Advent, December 9, 2018**

#### **Parish Maintenance & Repairs**

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

Religious Ed. – 10:45am – School

### **Monday, December 10, 2018**

Transfiguration Academy Confessions 1:00pm

Tri-Parish Advent Penance Service

At St. Mary's, Dumont – 7:30pm

Religious Education Grade 7 – 7:00pm – School

Combined Choirs – 7:30pm - Church

### **Tuesday, December 11, 2018**

Ministry of Word – 7:30pm – Gathering Room

### **Wednesday, December 12, 2018**

#### **Eucharistic Day**

**8:30am Mass & Exposition, Adoration all day**

Confirmation Prep – 7:00-8:45pm

**Closing of Eucharistic Day 7:30pm Church**

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

Combined Choirs – 8:15pm - Church

### **Thursday, December 13, 2018**

Hackensack Homeless

Combined Choirs – 7:30pm - Church

### **Friday, December 14, 2018**

No events

### **Saturday, December 15, 2018**

Confessions – 11:00am – Church

First Reconciliation – 11:00am – Church

Children's Choir – 4:15pm – Church

Simbang Gabi – 5:30 Mass

Reception follows in Fr. Benedict Center

Christians of the Holy Land after all Masses

### **Third Sunday of Advent, December 16, 2018**

#### **Food Pantry Sunday**

Christians of the Holy Land after all Masses

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

Religious Ed. – 10:45am – School

Baptism – 1:00pm – Church

Giving Tree Distribution – 2:00pm



**SANTA IS COMING TO TOWN**

**BY FIRE TRUCK SUNDAY DEC. 9**

**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.**



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**

O COME  
*all ye faithful*

TRI-PARISH ADVENT  
COMMUNAL Penance SERVICE  
WITH INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS  
ON MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 10  
AT 7:30PM AT ST. MARY'S, DUMONT

**Sharing God's Blessings Annual Appeal**

Thank you to the 191 parishioners who have made a pledge to this year's Sharing God's Blessings Annual Appeal. We are currently at \$43,095.00 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 \$40,546.00

**HELP US TO FEED THE HUNGRY  
FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION – DECEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>**

The following are items most needed to restock our shelves this month. Any item or items you can purchase for our pantry would be greatly appreciated. God Bless you for your continued support of this most important ministry to the poor.

HOT COCOA-APPLE SAUCE-MAYONNAISE-OLIVES  
CANNED MUSHROOMS-CANNED SPINACH-RAISINS  
GRATED CHEESE-INSTANT RICE-JAM-COOKIES  
MANDARIN ORANGES-PANCAKE SYRUP-ICE TEA MIX  
FROSTED FLAKES-RICE CRISPIES-CORN FLAKES  
BATHROOM TISSUE-NAPKINS-TISSUES

Your continued support of our ministry to the poor is greatly appreciated.

**BAKED GOODS NEEDED**

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 13th.** We could sure use your help. Thank you in advance for supporting our very important ministry!

**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: \_\_\_\_\_



**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 on form or envelopes.** Thank you!

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

**Please Print**

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

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

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

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

**CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION'S GIVING TREE**

Please note that due to the requirements of our charities, and our delivery teams, all gifts will be due back by **Sunday, December 16th, after the 11:30 Mass.** The only exception will be food certificates donated for distribution to our own pantry clients. Please do not bring in gifts after this time as they may not be delivered to the various charities. It is important you do not take an ornament that cannot be returned on time as this may result in someone not receiving a gift this year. Please also remember to securely attach your ornament to the package so that the gift will go to the correct recipient.

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to help deliver some of these gifts, please call Joan Stephens @ 201-836-6684. May God continue to bless you for your generous support of this ministry of love and care.

**\*\*Please note that unwrapped toys will be given to the Bergen County Sheriff's Department for distribution to local children in need. Please do not wrap these items.**



**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.

