

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.



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 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
E-mail: 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

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Mass Intentions for the Week

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23

5:30 Primo Fineza
7:30 Marcella & Harry Sweeney
9:30 People of Ascension Parish
11:30 Elizabeth Lugo

CHRISTMAS EVE, Monday, December 24

8:30 People of Ascension Parish
5:30 All Ascension Parishioners
Midnight Mass Living & Deceased

CHRISTMAS DAY, Monday, December 25

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

St. Stephen, Wednesday, December 26

7:00 The Brunck Family
8:30 Meyer & Tenney Families

St. John, Thursday, December 27

7:00 Gerard Patrick Lee
8:30 James McGoldrick

The Holy Innocents, Friday, December 28

7:00 Joan Ingalls
8:30 Goerge U. Ruiz (L)

Fifth Day of Christmas, December 29

8:30 Marcela Zuniga
5:30 Robert Barratt

The Holy Family, Sunday, December 30

7:30 People of Ascension Parish
9:30 Bernadeth Pongos-Silva
11:30 Andres Villaluna, Sr.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

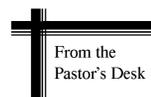
Ascension Parish is supported by people who place their faith and trust in God.

December 17, 2017:	\$5,556.00
December 16, 2018:	\$5,723.50
Food Pantry:	\$1,654.00
Christmas Flowers:	\$2,435.00

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

Reading for Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/
Heb 1:1-6/
Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14



It's often the small things in life that really are so important. The choice of words we say to each other, the way we look at one another, our expressions of affection and so on. The presence of positive words, looks, expressions of affection can make a world of difference in anyone's life. Most of us are fed on the daily bread of routine. We are nourished by our interactions with one another, by a job well done, a meal nicely prepared, a home that is cozy and welcoming.

And so it should really not come as much of a surprise to us that the last Gospel we hear before the feast of Christmas is a story about two women meeting together and having a visit. Mary and Elizabeth greet each other, and "as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting...Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit". God becomes present as two women greet one another. Is this so strange? Doesn't this happen all the time? God is found in the everyday goings on between people. Little things mean a lot.

What do you imagine happened during that time? Probably nothing unusual. Mary and Elizabeth cooked meals, did the dishes, cleaned the house, fetched water, chatted with each other. I suppose that during the last months of Elizabeth's pregnancy she was grateful for the extra help that Mary provided...lots of help with the little things that needed doing. Also, I'm sure that Elizabeth was very thankful for the companionship that Mary brought during those many weeks.

Still some of us don't seem to get it. We keep looking for the big moment when we are finally going to shine. Well, perhaps the big moment has arrived and will continue to arrive each day of our lives as we meet each other in the morning with a kind hello, a caring smile, a welcome hug.

Especially at Christmas, where do we see God best? It is in the simple, loving moments in our everyday life. So, I urge you today, wherever the Christmas season takes you, to be aware, and alert to the presence of Jesus in your midst.

Maybe it will come in watching your family or friends opening presents. If you are in grief at the loss of a beloved friend, or family member, or animal, maybe you will remember how Jesus was often present to you in that beloved one's life, in times of both happiness and struggle. All memories are stored in God's heart, where what is bad is sifted away, while the good lives on forever. We will see these beloved ones again, because of Jesus' great miracle of touching the creation with eternal reunion in God's heart. Believe in the Christmas miracle!

I pray that Christmas joy overwhelms everyone who reads and shares these words!
Jesus is born—Alleluia!!!

✘ Thank you to **Dena Sedlak**, our Coordinator of First Sacraments, Theresa Carbone our Coordinator of Religious Education, our catechists, and all who helped to make our children's first experience of the Sacrament of Reconciliation so beautiful and inspiring. Thanks to the parents and children, too! In this beautiful sacrament, remember, "Forgiveness is Sweet."

✘ We will be **decorating our church** on **Sunday, December 23rd**, beginning at 1pm. Again, Parishioners are welcome to come and lend a hand. For both events, many hands make for less work for all.

✘ Our **Christmas Mass schedule** has been mailed to all parishioners and is printed in the bulletin. Please keep the schedule handy for ready reference. We remind you of the many ministries and programs offered by Ascension Parish. We look to your generosity, especially at Christmas, to help support the many needs of your parish. Please be as generous to your church as your means allow.

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.



St. Joseph KofC Free Throw Championship

St Joseph Knights of Columbus Council is sponsoring it's local Council Championship.

All boys and girls age 9 to 14 are invited to participate. All participants will be recognized for their participation.

The event will take place on Saturday January 19, 2019 at St. Joseph School Gym. Registration begins at 2:30PM. Competition begins at 3:00PM.

For additional information contact: Bob Osterlof at 201 370 3404 or visit our website @ www.kofc3814.org



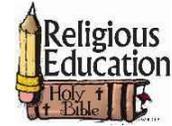
MEMORIALS

“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: _____



Calendar:

Sunday, December 23rd – No Children’s Liturgy or Religious Education

Monday, December 24th – No Religious Education

Wednesday, December 26th – No Religious Education

Sunday, December 30th– No Children’s Liturgy or Religious Education

Children’s Liturgy of the Word will celebrated at the 9:30 am Mass. All children in Pre-K to 5th grade are welcomed to join us. What a great way for families to celebrate Mass together. There will be No Children’s Liturgy on December 23rd or December 30th. We will resume on January 6, 2019.

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 is 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.

Christmas Blessings



We in the Religious Education Office wish everyone a

Happy, Healthy and Holy Christmas Season

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

DECEMBER 23, 2018

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 2018** 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.*

*During this Christmas Season, which continues
until the **Baptism of the Lord** on Sunday, January 13th,
we will also celebrate other important feast days in the life of the Church.*

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

*Then for New Year's Day, January 1st, we will celebrate the
Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation, with Masses
at 5:30pm on Monday, and 8:30am and 10:30am on Tuesday.*

*On January 6th we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**
with a special blessing of children at all Masses that weekend.*

*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!

FOURTH 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, Mary Anne Meyer, Wayne Potosky, 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, A1C 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



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE**
burns this week in loving memory of
Arlene Aubert

BREAD and WINE this week
are in loving memory of
Luisa & Manuel Garcia



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



Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23, 2018

NO Religious Education

Decorating of church for Christmas – 1:00pm

CHRISTMAS EVE, Monday, December 24, 2018

Mass at 8:30am

NO Religious Education

Vigil of Christmas

Masses at 5:30pm Children's Choir

Midnight at 12:00 Combined Choirs

CHRISTMAS DAY, Tuesday, December 25, 2018

Masses at 7:30am*9:30am*11:30am

NO Religious Education

Parish Offices Closed

Wednesday, December 26, 2018

Harrison House

NO Confirmation Prep

Novena – 7:30pm – Church

Thursday, December 27, 2018

No events

Friday, December 28, 2018

No events

Saturday, December 29, 2018

Confessions – 11:00am – Church

Holy Family Sunday, December 30, 2018

NO Religious Education

NOTICE we are now accepting mass intentions for the **2019 Mass Book** for week-day morning masses for either 7:00 or 8:30am. There are **NO** week-end masses available. As always our first Saturday of each month Memorial Mass at 8:30am is always available. Please stop by the office to make your request. Sorry NO telephone or e-mail requests.



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.

Calling All Alumni! Are you an alumnus of Transfiguration Academy, St. John's, St. Mary's, or Ascension? Our newly formed alumni committee is looking for you! If you or someone you know graduated from any of these schools, please share your contact information with our committee so that you can receive information about fellow alumni and special alumni events. Please email your name, email, and cell phone (if you would like to receive text messages) to alumni@transfigurationacademy.org.



Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24, 2018
5:30pm, and 12:00 Midnight

Choir Concert with Caroling begins at 11:15pm

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25, 2018
7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am

Holy Family

Saturday, December 29, 2018
5:30pm

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

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

New Year's Eve

Monday, December 31, 2018
5:30pm

New Year's Day

Tuesday, January 1, 2019
8:30am and 10:30am

Solemnity of the Epiphany

Saturday, January 5, 2019
5:30pm

Sunday, January 6, 2019
7:30am, 9:30am, 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 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: _____

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR PARISH INFORMATION
WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM



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
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH