

Church of the Ascension

Invites You to Share with us. . .

+ *Our Pastoral Staff* +

Pastor

Rev. James T. Brown, M. Div.

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. David W. Milliken

Weekend Assistant

Rev. Tim Graff

Director of Music

Glenn Gordon

Parish Business Manager

Serina Sharkey

Director of Maintenance

Brendan Suter

Parish Trustees

Christopher Cudina
Elizabeth Delgado

Religious Education

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



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 Parish Office. 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 seasonally on Sunday at 1:00 p.m. Parents should 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 Parish Center Gathering Room. Godparents must be practicing Catholics in good standing. Pre-registration at the Parish Office 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 Parish Office 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 Parish Office if someone from your family is in the hospital and wishes a priest to visit.

WEDDINGS:

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



Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024

+ *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 - Thursday

One Daily Mass at 8:00 a.m.

No daily Mass on Friday

Holy Days: 8:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Holiday Mass: 8:00am

+ *Our Devotions* +

Rosary is prayed Monday-Thursday & Saturday after Mass



PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

PARISH CENTER

PARISH OFFICE

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

Mass  for the
Intentions *Week*

Fifth Sunday of Easter, April 28, 2024

5:30pm People of Ascension Parish
7:30 Jesusa D. Robles
9:30 Rino Marchello
11:30 Scott G. Gorman

Monday, April 29, 2024

8:00 Linda Manson

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

8:00 Rino Marchello

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

8:00 Marie Carbone

Thursday, May 2, 2024

8:00 Jose & Constanza Zuniga

Friday, May 3, 2024

No Mass

Saturday, May 4, 2024

Memorial

8:30 Rolando Viduya (L)
Manuel M. Mandat
Clemencia Cabacoy

5:30 William & Elizabeth Morris

Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 5, 2024

7:30 People of Ascension Parish
9:30 Teresa Vazzano
11:30 Rino Marchello

PARISH  STEWARDSHIP
REPORT

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

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

Sunday, April 21, 2024: \$5,156.00
Social Concerns: \$1,182.00
WeShare Social Concerns: \$ 207.77

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

**Readings for Sunday
May 5, 2024**

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/
Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 (see 2b)/
1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17

GOSPEL MEDITATION

My friend and fellow pastor, Father Paul, noticed unsightly, overgrown trees near his parish church. He asked the maintenance crew to cut back the growth, which they happily did, telling him the trees would be much healthier and even fuller after a good pruning. A few days later, Father Paul received a letter from an irate man in the neighborhood who wrote, “Jesus would never prune trees like that. He loves trees, unlike you.”

I suspect that the neighbor was not familiar with this week’s Gospel in which Jesus says of his Father, “**He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit**” (John 15:2) I don’t mean to pick too much on that fellow. He was perhaps ignorant of arboriculture. But I’d wager his main confusion was the pruning and removing quality of God’s love. That confusion afflicts us all to some degree, doesn’t it? It is just so darn easy to react negatively when God cuts something out of our lives and assume it’s not his work at all. In the moment, all we see is the loss, and not the loving desire for future flourishing.

The cross is the great pruning of Christ’s body. Jesus’ rising is the brand-new growth. It is God’s promise to us that all the painful pruning in life is leading us somewhere beautiful. What has been cut back or out in your life? A friend, an opportunity, a sense of certainty, a job, health, a relationship? This week, offer those dry branches to the one who lovingly prunes us in order to make our lives burst with verdant growth.

— Father John Muir



**CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD BLESS
OUR PARISH YOUNG ADULTS
WHO RECEIVED THE SACRAMENT OF
CONFIRMATION
LAST WEEKEND**

**Megan Anastasia Bantilan, Mary Bie,
Sean Michael Bottcher, Kristine Christina Capul,
Eva Isabelle Henrique, Charmagne Catherine Ibe,
Christian Lorenzo Lumba, Erin Theresa Nerona,
Andrew Michael Polanco, Hailey Thaddeus Smith,
Brianna Lucy Zulage**

Sunday Afternoon at the Movies

Join us Sunday May 26th at 1pm in the Parish Center for “**The Scarlet and the Black.**” This is a request of Fr. Jim’s Lenten group. The true story of Msgr. Hugh O’Flaherty’s efforts to safeguard the Jews in Rome during World War II. This is a heavy drama with a twist at the end.

If you will be attending please let the office know.



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 parish center office. Thank You!

I would like....

- _____ to become a Parishioner
- _____ to update my contact information
- _____ 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: _____

***Must be a family member**

**LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA
SIGHT & SOUND THEATRE
FEATURING "DANIEL" &
"WHITE CHRISTMAS"**

**AT THE DUTCH APPLE DINNER THEATRE
DECEMBER 3-4, 2024**

A 2 day – 1 night trip to Lancaster, Pa. includes 1 night’s lodging, 1 breakfast, dinner & show at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre featuring “White Christmas”, “DANIEL” at Sight & Sound Theatre, kitchen kettle village, luggage & handling, taxes & meal gratuities and bus transportation. All for the price of \$399 per person (double occ.) or \$478 per person (single occ.) Cancellation insurance is available and highly recommended. \$100 deposit per person will hold your reservation. For info. call Josie, (201) 265-0485 or Anna (201) 206-4297. Make all checks payable to: Ascension Church and drop off at Parish Center. Please indicate on envelope “Parish trip”.

SANCTUARY CANDLE, BREAD & WINE, AND ALTAR FLOWERS for the week, are available for memorial or special occasions, such as First Communions, Confirmations, Baptisms, Birthdays, Weddings Anniversaries. Please stop by or call the parish office to check availability.



Calendar:

Sunday, May 5th – May Crowning at the 11:30 Mass



Congratulations to our Confirmation Candidates: Megan Anastasia Bantilan, Mary Bie, Sean Michael Bottcher, Kristine Christina Capul, Eva Isabelle Henrique, Charmagne Catherine Ibe, Christian Lorenzo Lumba, Erin Theresa Nerona, Andrew Michael Polanco, Hailey Thaddeus Smith, Brianna Lucy Zulage

Important:

ALL STUDENTS should have the On-Line Chapter Review be completed by now, if not please complete ASAP. This is a very important part of our program and if not completed your child may not move to the next grade. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Carbone in the Religious Education office at 201-836-3085.

New Registration forms for the 2024-2025 School year were sent home to all families already in the program on March 24, 2024. Please check with your child. If you have a child that is entering the 1st Grade in the Fall and wish to register your child in our program, please call 201-836-8961 or stop by the Religious Education Office in the Parish center during office hours- 9am to 4 pm daily.

All families are encouraged to come to Mass each week and parents as also asked to review ALL PRAYERS with your child, they can be found in the back of each book.

Volunteers Needed:

In order for Children’s Liturgy of the Word to start we are in need of volunteers to help with it at the 9:30 am Mass. This is a wonderful was in families can go to Mass together each week and is open to all children in in the Parish. If you would like to help PLEASE call Mrs. Carbone in the Parish Center. 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.

We are in need of Catechists and Substitutes for our Religious Education Program for the 2024-2025 school year. Anyone interested, please call Theresa Carbone our Coordinator of Religious Education at (201) 836-3085

Religious Education Office Hours:

Monday – Friday: 9 am to 4 pm – Parish Center
Other times by appointment

APRIL 28, 2024

ITALIAN NIGHT

Tickets are now on sale for “Italian Night” which will be held on Saturday, May 11th, 2024 from 7:00-10:00pm. An Italian Buffet Dinner will be served along with soda, coffee, tea and dessert. **BYOB**. Music and dancing by DJ “ABE” all for the price of \$25.00 per person.

**TICKETS ARE ON SALE AFTER ALL MASSES
ALSO AT: churchoftheascension.com “We Share”**

For information please contact:

Pauline: 201-261-5132

or

Mary: 201-836-3831

To make this night a success, we need many hands to make this possible.

Please volunteer for one of the following:

ITALIAN NIGHT VOLUNTEER

NAME: _____ **PHONE:** _____

SET-UP: _____ **CLEAN-UP AFTER AFFAIR IS OVER:** _____

SERVE FOOD: _____ **SELL 50/50:** _____

Please return to collection basket or parish office

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



“To everything there is a season...

“a time to be healed...”

Joanne Albanese, Michael O’Connor, Louis Vallis, Marguerite Morris, Mary Anne Meyer, Rebecca Tababan, Stephen Cronin, Kaitlin Abreu, Gerard Lee and those among us who are sick and in need of our prayers.

Family Members: PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE SOMEONE ON OUR PRAYER LIST.

Prayer list will be updated every three months
Next renewal date May 5, 2024

Please call office to renew or remove name

“a time to serve...”

Staff Sgt. James Penser, Langley AFB, VA and all Men and Women serving in our countries Armed Forces.

For all of our Emergency, Medical & First Responders.

“a time for peace...”

All of our National and World Leaders.

“a time to die...”

Joseph Favorito

and a time for every purpose under heaven”
Ecclesiastes 3:11



The SANCTUARY CANDLE
burns this week in loving memory of
Scott G. Gorman



BREAD and WINE this week
Donated in loving memory of
Scott G. Gorman



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 for the intention of your loved one.



Mother’s Day Spiritual Bouquet Cards are available at the Parish Center Office.

As you know, all Masses will be offered for the Mother’s, living and deceased, of parishioners on Mother’s Day & remembered throughout the month of May. If you would like a card for your Mother, Grandmother, Godmother, Mother-In-Law, Wife, Aunt, Sister, Daughter, Friend or anyone who has been like a mother to you.

Offering for each card is \$10.00

HOME MISSION APPEAL

Support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal today! Nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are unable to fund the essential pastoral work needed in their communities. Your support funds religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training and other programs that build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States. Please be generous. More information can be found at www.uscch.org/home-missions.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

OUR 5:30PM MASS ON SATURDAY IS LIVE STREAMED AND APPEARS ON YOU TUBE FOR OUR HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS TO VIEW.

**HAVE SOMETHING FOR OUR BULLETIN??
PLEASE SUBMIT ALL ITEMS FOR BULLETIN
NO LATER THAN 9:00AM ON MONDAY
BEFORE PRINTING DATE**

ascension@optonline.net

Thank you for your cooperation



WE SHARE-ONLINE GIVING
**PLEASE GO TO OUR PARISH WEBSITE
FOR A DIRECT LINK FOR
INFORMATION/INSTRUCTIONS**
www.churchoftheascension.net

ANNUAL ²⁰²⁴ APPEAL

Thank you for your prayers and support!

The 2024 Annual Appeal is underway! We have \$34,514.00 already pledged. This is approximately 94% of our goal of \$36,642.00.

The outpouring of support from many parishioners like you helps sustain the important ministries across the Archdiocese of Newark. These programs help to make our own parish a more vibrant place of worship.

If you have yet to give, please pick up a pledge envelope at the back of the church or visit www.rcan.org/sharing or by scanning the QR code.



MEMORIALS

If you would like to contribute to this fund in memory of your loved one. Please call the Parish Office (201) 836-8961 or stop by the office (located in the Parish Center-256 Azalea Drive)) to check availability.

Memorials: (circle appropriate memorial)

- ALTAR BREAD AND WINE \$25 per week
- ALTAR FLOWERS \$65 (per basket/per week)
- SANCTUARY CANDLE \$15 per week

MEMORIAL CANDLES:

___ SACRED HEART or ___ BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

<u>Donation Amount</u>	
\$25/1 month	\$100/5 months
\$45/2 months	\$120/6 months
\$65/3months	\$200/1 year
\$85/4months	

MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF: _____

DATE REQUESTED: _____

REQUESTED BY: _____

Phone: _____ Donation Amount: _____

Please return completed form with your check made payable to Ascension Church

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR PARISH INFORMATION
 FLYERS*FORMS*SCHEDULES*BULLETINS
 UPCOMING EVENTS
WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

In order to seat this council your help is needed. Look around you and recommend people you think would be a good fit for this council. You may also recommend yourself. If you have not been part of any group in the parish you may be the perfect person for this important committee.

Members may be part of a ministry (i.e. Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Choir, etc) but NOT on any parish committees (i.e. Events, Social Concerns, etc.) with the exception of the member who is on both finance and Pastoral Council.

Parish Pastoral Council Recommendation

I would like to recommend: _____

For membership on the Parish Pastoral Council as:

- ___ 21 & under ___ 22 to 55 ___ 56 & over
 - ___ Filipino ___ African American ___ Indian
 - ___ General ___ General ___ Finance Council
- (please return to parish office or in collection basket)



Please help us to keep our shelves stocked over these cold winter months by donating one or more of the following most needed items:

- PAPER TOWELS, NAPKINS, FACIAL TISSUE,
- APPLE JUICE, CRANBERRY JUICE,
- CANNED PINEAPPLE,
- CANNED MANDARIN ORANGES,
- SUGAR AND FLOUR.

FOOD PANTRY DROP BOX

Please note, our pantry is not manned every day. Therefore, it is imperative that you do not leave any perishables in the Pantry Box outside of the pantry. If you have a perishable to donate, call the parish office and they will contact a staff member to get back to you and arrange a time that you can drop it off to us. Thank you for your cooperation.

Your continued generosity to our ministry is very much appreciated. God bless!



CatholicMatch.com/NJ
 MANY THANKS TO OUR ADVERTISERS
 Who make this bulletin possible