

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

Parish Trustees

Elizabeth Delgado
Todd Henderson

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.



The Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
March 2, 2025

+ 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

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

Mass  for the
Intentions *Week*

The Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, March 2, 2025

5:30pm People of Ascension Parish
7:30 Stacey Longden
9:30 Arthur M. Babiak
11:30 JoAnn J. Labrador

Monday, March 3, 2025

8:00 Richard Johnson

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

8:00 Dalton Family

ASH Wednesday, March 5, 2025

8:00 Gerard Patrick Lee
7:30 People of Ascension Parish

Thursday, March 6, 2025

8:00 Agnes Balagot

Friday, March 7, 2025

No Mass

Saturday, March 8, 2025

8:30 Susan Paul (L-III)
5:30 William & Elizabeth Morris

First Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 9, 2025

7:30 People of Ascension Parish
9:30 Phyllis Adams
11:30 John Barratt

PARISH  STEWARDSHIP
REPORT

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

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

Sunday, February 23, 2025: \$5,197.00
Social Concerns: \$1,053.00
WeShare Social Concerns: \$ 208.94

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

**Readings for Sunday,
March 9, 2025**

**Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13,
14-15 (see 5b)/Rom 10:8-13/
Lk 4:1-13**

GOSPEL MEDITATION

One of the things that older pastors and younger priests occasionally quarrel about is the proper balance between work and prayer. I know one pastor who complains that his younger associate ignores the people and the parish because he wants to spend more time in prayer. And the young priest complains that the pastor gives him too much work to do and no time to pray. The Lord's words this Sunday speak into this tension with an image that can help us find a proper balance between life and prayer.

Jesus says, **"For every tree is known by its fruit. For people do not pick figs from thorn bushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles"** (Luke 6:44). When we are deeply rooted and cultivating our relationship with Jesus, we are going to bear the fruit of that love in our lives. No fruit, no good prayer. How do we know that we are praying well? We are experiencing concrete fruits of love for others in our lives.

Someone who prays well will, sooner or later, burst forth the "figs" and "grapes" of acts of love. But without concrete commitment to deeds of selfless service to others, our prayer time is as useless as thorn bushes and brambles. Let's recommit ourselves to be men and women of prayer *and* service. And hopefully the pastors will help their associates to pray *and* serve fruitfully...with minimal quarreling.

— *Father John Muir*

Ash Wednesday

Good stewards realize they really don't own anything. It all belongs to God. It is not so much that God owns them, but they are not ours because we are called to offer them to him.

The reality is that you and I were born naked and with nothing. We will die naked and with nothing. If we really could possess something material, there would be a way to take it with us. But alas, it all slips through our grasp and passes away. And even though all of us came from dust and to dust we will return, through Jesus Christ we will live forever in a perfect state. The only thing we can take with us? Our hearts and whether or not we loved.

ANNUAL ²⁰²⁵ APPEAL

Please respond to the most recent Annual Appeal mailing and join us in supporting the vital ministries that can only be done together. We are grateful to share that we have already received \$16,540.00 in pledges—thank you to all who have given so generously! Your support of the 2025 Annual Appeal helps sustain the mission of Christ in our Archdiocese.

Our goal of \$37,520.12 can only be reached through your generosity and sacrifice. If you have not yet made your gift, we invite you to prayerfully consider doing so today. To make an online gift, please visit rcan.org/sharing.

Thank you for your prayers, your generosity, and your faithful support of our Catholic mission. May God bless you abundantly!



“JUBILEE 25”

The year 2025 will be a very special year for the catholic church. After 25 years, Pope Francis has declared 2025 a year of jubilee. Jubilee is a special holy year of grace and pilgrimage. It takes place every 25 years. This year’s theme is “Pilgrims of Hope”. A year of hope, prayer, celebration and renewal of our faith.

Pope Francis opened the holy door of St. Peter’s Basilica on Christmas Eve, December 24th, 2024. The opening of the holy door represents the journey from sin to grace for every Christian and marks the beginning of the jubilee year.

Through prayer, may we arrive at the holy door with our hearts ready to welcome the gifts of grace and forgiveness that the jubilee offers us.

Here at Ascension, we opened “Jubilee 25” on January 5th, 2025, the Feast of the Epiphany. The jubilee will offer us an opportunity to participate in the various events that is planned and also in which we may obtain plenary indulgences

We look forward to this holy year here at ascension.

We Will Start The Jubilee Year Off With The Following Events:

- *March 6-Lenten Program begins
*April 6-11:30 Mass for Health Care Workers
*May 31-12:30 Mass for the Anointed

More to come!

OUR PANTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP

We are in great need for the next few months of personal hygiene items. We could really use some help with donations of shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, tooth paste, shaving cream and bar soap. Also, mayonnaise, mustard, Jell-O and laundry detergent. Please keep an eye out for sales for these items and help us if you can. Even just one item can help us to supply these to those in need. Thank you once again for your generosity to this most important ministry to those in need!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: OUR 5:30PM MASS ON SATURDAY IS LIVE STREAMED AND APPEARS ON YOUTUBE FOR OUR HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS TO VIEW.



Calendar:

- Sunday, March 2nd – 1th thru 5th grades from 10:45 am to 12 Noon (Parish Center)
Monday, March 3rd – 6th, 7th & 8th Grades in Parish Center from 6:55 pm to 8:15 pm
Wednesday, March 5th—Ash Wednesday- Mass at 7:30 pm
Sunday, March 9th – 1th thru 5th grades from 10:45 am to 12 Noon (Parish Center)

Important:

Reminder:

Remember that all On-Line Work is due on the following days:

- † For Sunday Program (1st to 5th Grades) by Wednesday of each week
† For Monday Night Program (6th to 8th Grades) by Thursday of each week
† For Wednesday Night Program (9th Grade) by Friday of each week.

Parents Please Remember that this work MUST be completed each week.

All families as asked when emailing or calling your child out to please make sure that you give us their name and grade to help make sending the work by email easier.

Parish Lenten Soup Supper:

Lenten Soup Supper Tickets are on sale from any Confirmation Candidate, or in the Parish Center for \$10 each, before 3/21/2025 or at the door for \$15.

Volunteers Needed:

- † We have resumed Children’s Liturgy of the Word at the 9:30 am Mass, for all children in in the Parish. What a great way to go to Mass as a family. 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 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:

- Sunday – 9:00 to 12:15 when class is in session
Monday – Wednesday & Friday: 9 am to 4 pm in the Parish Center
Monday & Wednesday Evenings: 6:30pm to 8:15 pm



2025 LENTEN REGULATIONS

Lent is the time for the faithful to be "ever more attentive to the word of God and prayer, to prepare themselves by penance for the renewal of their baptismal promises" at Easter (cf. Paschalis Solemnitatis, 6). The virtue and practice of penance is a necessary part of the preparation for Easter. Penitential practices such as fasting and abstinence are to be encouraged by the Church.

1. **The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.**

On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted, and two (2) smaller meals, which, if added together, would not exceed the main meal in quantity.

Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.

On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence.

2. **The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence "substantially", or as a whole, is a serious obligation.**
3. **The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.**
4. **The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends from the First Sunday of Lent, March 9 to The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, June 15, 2025.**

**Canon 920, § 1. All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.*

THE EIGHT SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“To everything there is a season...

“a time to love...”

Wesley Francisco & Isamara Martinez

“a time to be healed...”

Marguerite Morris, 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 May1, 2025

Please call office to renew or remove name

“a time to serve...”

Staff Sgt. James Penser, Ramstein AFB, Germany. 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.

and a time for every purpose under heaven”

Beckmastes 3/11

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

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.

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

PART TIME MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS MANAGER FOR ASCENSION CHURCH NEEDED

Please see website: www.churchoftheascension.com For complete position description



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

Donation Amount

\$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



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Bergen New Bridge Health www.newbridgehealth.org/carerite-now

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION



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 be prayed for or receive Communion

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

*must be self or family member

SPECIAL COLLECTION

This week our special Collection supports the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Your donation helps restore the Church and build the future in more than 25 countries still struggling to recover from former communist rule and now grappling with the war in Ukraine. Funds from this collection support reconstruction, education, formation, and poverty outreach. Thank you for your generosity to the collection today.

For more information please visit www.usccb.org/ccee. #iGiveCatholicTogether also accepts funds for this collection if you prefer to donate online.



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



SIGN-UP FOR
LENT FAITH SHARING GROUPS

In church this weekend after mass

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday evening

March 7th-April 11th

7:30pm in the church

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

Monday, March 10th at 7:00pm

St. Joseph, Oradell

Monday, March 24th at 7:00pm

St. Mary, Dumont

Saturday, March 29th at Noon

St. John, Bergenfield

Monday, March 31st at 7:00pm

St. Therese, Cresskill

Monday, April 7th at 7:00pm

St. Peter, River Edge

ASCENSION ANNUAL SOUP SUPPER

Friday, March 28, 2025

Please Notice This



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

(items will be included as space permits)

ascension@optonline.net

Thank you for your cooperation



MARCH 5, 2025

MASS & DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

ONLY AT

8:00AM & 7:30PM