

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION



Second Sunday of Advent, December 7, 2014

5:30 William & Elizabeth Morris
 7:30 People of Ascension Parish
 9:00 Arthur Milliken
 10:30 Mario & Rosauo Cajucom
 12:00 Chacko Pallath

The Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 8, 2014

7:00 Gerard Patrick Lee
 8:30 Dona Viduya (living Thanksgiving)
 7:30 Margaret Bitetti

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

7:00 Emily Rala-Killogh
 8:30 Tony Poli

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

7:00 Jonalyn Carranceja
 8:30 Freya & John (living)

Thursday, December 11, 2014

7:00 Jack & Marianna Rafferty
 8:30 Tara & Joey Delaney (living)

Friday, December 12, 2014

7:00 Vincentza Licitra
 8:30 Amador Girado

Saturday, December 13, 2014

8:30 Gregory Poli
 5:30 Paz Albuero

Third Sunday of Advent, December 14, 2014

7:30 Con & Rose Lynch
 9:00 Anne, Frank & Matthew Lanza
 10:30 People of Ascension Parish
 12:00 Bell-Verrett Family

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT
 WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH



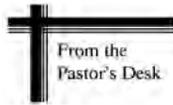
Ascension Parish is supported by people who place their faith and trust in God.

Sunday, November 23, 2014: \$7,650.00
Sunday, November 30, 2014: \$6,470.00

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

Readings for the Week of December 7, 2014

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
 Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
 Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
 Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
 Friday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
 Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



A priest, a doctor and an engineer were impatiently waiting behind a slow group of golfers. They complained to the golf course manager. He replied, "Oh, that's a group of blind fire fighters. They lost their sight saving our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we always let them play for free anytime. But I'm so sorry for your delay."

The priest spoke up, "That's so sad. I think I will say a special prayer for them tonight." The doctor said, "Good idea. And I'll contact my ophthalmologist buddy to see if he can help." And the engineer said: "We don't mind waiting! Let's treat them to drinks at the clubhouse."

What a difference certain words can make! Suddenly these guys have a context for their waiting. What was meaningless waiting was now full of meaning. And that is how our waiting on God can be full of meaning and significance. Isaiah says, "A voice cries out: 'Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!' Did you realize that God's power and presence is going to arrive in the midst of our own desert—the parts of us that we think of as sinful wasteland?"

But only if we honestly face the worst of what we know about ourselves, and really desire forgiveness and a "new way" through the desert, will that new way be built. Let's use this Advent to increasingly face who we really are, and then honestly ask for forgiveness, so that we are building a highway for God to come on a straight path right to us!

✠ This weekend we ask God to bless with security and peace the retired religious sisters, brothers and priests who have built up His kingdom in this local Church and throughout our nation. May God's grace help us to be generous in giving to the **RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS**.

✠ Our **Advent Giving Tree** has been prepared to help us to Share the Spirit of Christmas! Further information is in this week's bulletin. 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.

✠ Don't forget Monday, December 8th is the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**, a holyday of obligation. We will celebrate Mass at 7am, 8:30am, and 7:30pm.

✠ Please keep in your prayers the children of our parish who will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time next Saturday, December 13th.

✠ Next Saturday, December 13th, as we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, "Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday," we will bless and light our outside Christmas decorations after the 5:30pm Mass. Please join us!

✠ 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 15th at 8pm, at St. Mary's Church in Dumont for our **Tri-Parish Advent Celebration of Reconciliation with Individual Confession**. Come and experience this beautiful sacrament as one of God's grace-filled Advent moments. What a treat God has in store for us!

✠ Please plan ahead to spend some quality time with our Eucharistic Lord on Wednesday, December 17th 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 our **Novena Prayers 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.

✠ Please remember to make your final payments for the **2014 Archbishop's Annual Appeal** in order that our parish may get the proper credit. **We still need \$5,319.50 to fulfill our pledges.**

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

Fr. David



TRANSFIGURATION ACADEMY

Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses. (Pope Paul VI, Address to the Members of the Consilium de Laicis)

As secularizing trends in society become more pronounced we need teachers, catechists and administrators who are not merely professionally skilled - though this is vital - but also deeply committed to Christian virtue and Catholic faith. Lay educators, who now play such a key role in Catholic education, should be encouraged to contribute their initiative, their creativity, and their competent, conscious, and enthusiastic labor to this task. (Lay Catholic in Schools: Witnesses to Faith)

The above was incorporated into a document entitled "The Role of Catholic School Teachers, Catechists and Leaders", written by Archbishop Chaput O.F.M. of Philadelphia. It is a perfect description of the Lay Faculty of Transfiguration: teachers who are professionally skilled, highly degreed and credentialed, but also creative, caring and devoted to their profession, their students and Catholic education.

But just as important, they are tireless in their efforts and serve as excellent role models. They lead by example, both in and out of the classroom, providing extra help on their own time, and participating in our many charitable efforts throughout the school year: conducting food and clothing drives, serving food at the Hackensack Family Shelter, moderating our many extra-curricular activities, raising money for cancer research and disaster relief, and many more too numerous to mention in this space.

Over the past 9 years, we have worked diligently to distinguish Transfiguration from other schools. This outstanding faculty has led the way not only in academic achievement, but in developing in our students the Christian values of Reverence, Respect and Responsibility.

Why not have your child begin the Transformation. Make an appointment to discuss how Transfiguration Academy can benefit your child. Call us at 201-384-3627.

HACKENSACK WALK-IN DINNER

Our next Hackensack Walk-in Dinner is Thursday December 11, 2014. We are in great need of baked goods for our growing number of clients. This is a very important part of our dinner. Please consider donating either home baked or store bought items for the dinner. Donations can be left at the rectory on Thursday by 2:00 PM. The Service Ministry and its clients greatly appreciate all of your support over the year and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!



Please patronize our advertisers. They help us GROW.

BBZ LIMOUSINE SERVICE, INC.
201-501-0615



Calendar:

- Sunday, December 7th - K thru 6th grade from 10:15 am to 11:45 am (SCH)
- Monday, December 8th - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception - Holy Day of Obligation
7th & 8th Graders will meet at 7 pm and go to 7:30 pm Mass.
- Wednesday, December 10th - 9th Grade from 7 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)
- Saturday, December 13th - First Reconciliation - 11 am in the Church
- Sunday, December 14th - K thru 6th grade from 10:15 am to 11:45 am (SCH)

Children's Liturgy of the Word has started at the 9 am Mass. All children in K to 5th grade are invited 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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

First Reconciliation Parents and Candidates, Reconciliation will take place on Saturday, December 13, 2014 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.

IMPORTANT CHANGE FOR 7TH & 8TH GRADES: CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2014

- Monday December 8, 2014 -- 7th & 8th Grades will meet -- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception -- All will be going to Mass at 7:30 pm
- Monday December 15, 2014 -- 8th Grade will meet



Volunteers Needed:

We are in need of Class Parents for ALL GRADES in our Religious Education Program for the 2014-2015 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 Location & Hours:

- New Location: 356 Azalea Drive**
- Monday – Wednesday & Friday: 9 am to 4 pm
- Location: 1092 Carnation Drive
- Monday and Wednesday: 6:30 pm to 8:45 pm
- Sunday Mornings: 10 am to 12 Noon
- Closed: Thursday & Saturday
- Other times by appointment

ADVENT

WATCH

LISTEN

REJOICE

PREPARE

WEEK TWO

*A herald's voice in the desert crying,
"Make ready the way of the Lord, clear him a straight path."*

Scripture for Advent's second week focuses on John the Baptist challenging us to prepare the way for the Lord by repenting of all our sin.

Sunday

Mark 1:1-8

Listen to the prophets. John's challenging message about the corruption in his day was not easy for the powerful to hear. Yet the poor flocked to John, who told them that God is available to everyone, like water in the river. People of privilege find prophets unsettling. Listen to those who proclaim equality and justice in our day. Listen for the truth from those who criticize unjust social structures, even those structures from which we benefit.

Weekdays

Examine your conscience. This once common practice seems all but lost in an age that has lost its sense of sin. Yet we cannot enter the fullness of celebration without frankly admitting our shortcomings and asking God to change our hearts. End each day this week by prayerfully reflecting upon the events, conversations and activities of the day.

Advent Feast Days

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary (December 8)

God is gracious. On this day we celebrate an outpouring of grace,
God's creation of the Virgin Mary as one without sin.
She always points us to her son, Jesus, as the way to share in God's grace.
Pray that God will help you open your heart to the possibilities of grace around you.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12)

Listen to the poor. It is no accident that Mary reveals herself to the poor, as she did to Juan Diego, a peasant nobody at Tepeyac, Mexico. In God's reign, the poor and the lowly are lifted up.
Listen to the powerless ones today. Get in touch with your own littleness before God.

Family Advent Wreath Prayer

Blessed God, we listen to your Word especially on this day, the Lord's Day.
As we light the second candle of our Advent wreath,
we ask you to help us listen to your messengers
and to turn back to God with all our hearts.



"To everything there is a season..."

"a time to be healed..."

Charles Brown, Rose DøEufemia, Dolores Crowley, Frank Mottola, Shirley Busby, Roger Carr, Rev. John McGovern, Andrew Comer, Janet Sweeney, Jack Wall, Eileen Burke, Michael Cullen, Joseph Gorgone, Bob Stasi, Peggy Funesti, Patricia Burke, Eleanor Pompeo, Alyssa Brady, Dolores DeMatteo, Barbara Riley, Alex Kuhr, Barbara Santore, William Schettinger, Yvonne Payne, Rosemarie Salimbene, Marge Bruno, Jim Keane, Monica Vivas, Theresa Ruocco, Kay Harrington, Adem Shavelli, Joseph Albanese, Joe Hartney, Marguerite Morris, 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
All Men and Women serving in our countries Armed Forces.

"a time for peace..."

President Barack Obama, our National Leaders
and all World Leaders.

"a time to die..."

James Ochs, Laura Ann Abdalafar

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

Ecclesiastes 3:11



The SANCTUARY CANDLE burns this week in loving memory of
William & Elizabeth Morris

BREAD and WINE this week
are in loving memory of
William & Elizabeth Morris



Altar Flowers for this week are
in loving Memory of
William & Elizabeth Morris

**RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR**

To all our friends going to Radio City on Tuesday, December 9th, the bus will depart Ascensionø Parking Lot at 12pm **Promptly**. Please be there by 11:30-11:45 In order to be seated. It is important that we leave on time because of the city traffic. Any problems, contact Josie 201-417-6996 or Anna 201-206-4297.

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 the rectory office if you would like to check date availability.



Second Sunday of Advent, December 7, 2014*Pearl Harbor

Religious Retirement Fund

Childrenø Liturgy of the Word ø 9:00am
Religious Ed. K-6 ø 10:15am ø School
Baptism Prep. ø 1:15pm ø Gathering Room

Monday, December 8, 2014

The Immaculate Conception, Holy Day of Obligation

Masses: 7:00 & 8:30am & 7:30pm

Religious Education grade 7 & 8

Combined Choirs

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Bus departs for parish trip to Radio City at noon
Woodcrest Center, Mass ø 2:30pm

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Religious Education Grade 9 - 7:00pm - School
Novena ø 7:30pm- Church
BS Troop 291 ø 7:30pm ø Fr. Benedict Center
Filipino Core ø 8:00pm ø Gathering Room

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Hackensack Homeless
Childrenø Choir- 3:45pm ø Church
Altar Server Practice ø 4:30pm
Combined Choirs ø 7:30pm - Church

Friday, December 12, 2014

No events

Saturday, December 13, 2014

Confessions ø 11:00am ø Church
First Reconciliation ø 11:00am - Church
Blessing & Lighting of Outside Christmas Decorations
After 5:30pm Mass

Third Sunday of Advent, December 14, 2014

Parish Maintenance & Repairs

Childrenø Liturgy of the Word ø 9:00am
Religious Ed. K-6 ø 10:15am ø School
Giving Tree Sorting

SUPPORT RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

øYour generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry,ø writes a religious sister. Your gift to todayø collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital support for the retirement needs of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. It also helps ensure that younger members can continue the good works of their elders!

Please give generously to this weekø collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.



ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Just a reminder for those who made a pledge to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal for 2014. We need \$5,319.50 to fulfill our pledges. If you have not fulfilled your pledge please do so. Every fulfilled Pledge Counts! Thank you.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION'S GIVING TREE

We invite you to *Share in the Spirit of Christmas* by participating in our parish's traditional **Giving Tree** outreach program. Besides our own local gift giving to children in the area, we also provide gifts to local nursing homes, homeless shelters, a local shelter for unwanted teenage boys, and to children in communities who would, were it not for our program, receive nothing for Christmas. **Please note that due to the requirements some of our charities, and our delivery teams, most gifts will be due back by Next Sunday, December 14th. However, some will be due back at an earlier date. It is imperative that you observe the dates, for return of gifts. 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.**



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.



**BLESSING & LIGHTING OF OUR PARISH
OUTSIDE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS
NEXT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH
AFTER 5:30pm MASS**

23RD ANNUAL TOY DRIVE OF NEW MILFORD

On Sunday, December 14 the New Milford Fire Department, will be collecting unwrapped toys or gift certificates (no stuffed animals please) rain, snow or sun at the following locations: **305 GRAPHIC BLVD. @ 1PM; BROOKCHESTER SHOPPING CENTER @ 1:20PM; SHOPRITE @ 1:45PM; NMFD CO.#2 @ 2:10PM; PERRONE'S FARM @ 2:30PM; B.F. GIBBS SCHOOL @ 2:50PM; 70 RIVER RD. @ 3:05PM; NMFD CO. #1 @ 3:25PM. Thank You!**



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.

Please print clearly on all requests.

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** that you received in the mail or pick one up at doors of church and drop it in the collection basket or in the black mail box outside the rectory door.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

In Memory of: _____

or the Intention of: _____

Donated by: _____

Phone: _____



Holy Day of Obligation

Monday, December 8th, 2014

Mass Schedule 7:00 & 8:30am & 7:30pm

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: _____

**END OF BULLETIN
ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ENTERED ON THIS PAGE
WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE PRINTED BULLETIN**

CHURCH NAME: Church of the Ascension

CHURCH CITY: New Milford, NJ

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FILE NAME: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 7, 2014

PHONE NUMBER: 201-836-8961

FAX NUMBER: 201-836-5896

EDITOR/ CONTACT: Serina Sharkey

CURRENT FORMAT: EBSWTD – TEXAS DOUBLE

Comments:
