

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

## Mass Intentions for the Week

### Second Sunday of Advent, December 6, 2015

5:30 William & Elizabeth Morris  
7:30 Melvin & Dorothy Evans  
9:00 Claudia Costello  
10:30 People of Ascension Parish  
12:00 Mario & Rosauro Cajucom

### Monday, December 7, 2015

7:00 Peggyann Haubert  
8:30 Arthur Milliken

### The Immaculate Conception

### Tuesday, December 8, 2015

7:00 Robert Mascarelli  
8:30 Norman Mintz  
7:30 Antonino Speciale

### Wednesday, December 9, 2015

7:00 Jean Sapunarich  
8:30 David Jenkins

### Thursday, December 10, 2015

7:00 Rolando Buendia  
8:30 John John

### Friday, December 11, 2015

7:00 John Coringrato  
8:30 Amador Girado

### Saturday, December 12, 2015

8:30 John Coringrato  
5:30 Joseph Puccio, Jr.

### Third Sunday of Advent, December 13, 2015

7:30 Harry Sweeney  
9:00 Rosemarie Piro, Thirtieth Anniversary  
10:30 Patricia Drake  
12:00 People of Ascension Parish

## 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 22, 2015:	\$5,987.50
Sunday, November 30, 2014	\$6,470.00
Sunday, November 29, 2015:	\$5,856.00
October ParishPay:	\$3,244.81

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

### Readings for Next Sunday December 13, 2015

Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-6/  
Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18



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!"

✠ 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.

✠ Don't forget Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> is the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**, a holyday of obligation and the Opening of our Jubilee Year of Mercy. We will celebrate Mass on Tuesday at 7am, 8:30am and at 7:30pm.

✠ Next Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, our parish children will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Please keep our children in special prayer during this week.

✠ Next Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, as we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, 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 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30pm here at Ascension for our **Tri-Parish Advent Celebration of Reconciliation with Individual Confession**. During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, 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 16<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!

*Fr. David*



**TRANSFIGURATION ACADEMY**

Congratulations to all of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who competed in the Queen of Peace Academic contest on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. Transfiguration's 4 teams competed against more than 20 other teams and won 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> place. The student participants were:

Bianca Abantao, Joshua deCastro, Matthew Manahan  
 Jillian Arrizon, Alyssa De La Rosa, Nayelis Pequero  
 Geneva Ascrate, Paolo Go, Felix Raju, Althea Bernard  
 Tanya Gomez, Oscar Ramirez, Robert Cajucom,  
 Yashaan Hafizka, Carlo Rivera, Enrico Cortezano  
 Chacko Jacob, David Robinson, Jahsiem Davis  
 Irene Jacob

Thank you to all who volunteered for and/or attended our 2 successful fundraisers in November: Pocketbook Bingo and Thanksgiving Dinner.

Our Student Council is holding its annual winter weather clothing drive. Donations of hats, gloves, and scarves are greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at the school office. All donations will be given to Catholic Charities for distribution to those in need.

Mark your calendars! Transfiguration Academy's annual Christmas Concert will take place on Tuesday, December 22. There will be a performance at 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM.

Transfiguration Academy is located at 10 Bradley Avenue in Bergenfield. For more information or to schedule a tour of the school please call (201)384-3627 or email [principal@transfigurationacademy.org](mailto:principal@transfigurationacademy.org). Please visit our website at [trasfigurationacademy.org](http://trasfigurationacademy.org) and follow us on Facebook.

**Food Pantry is in need of the following**

Facial Tissue, Toilet Tissue, Paper Towels, Napkins, Razors, Shaving cream, Shampoo, Conditioner, Bath Soap and Deodorant.



**SUPPORT ELDERLY RELIGIOUS**

Aging religious need your help. In the United States today, there are more than 33,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. These religious worked tirelessly in Catholic schools, hospitals, and agencies, usually for little to no pay. As a result, many religious communities lack adequate savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to today's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more please be generous.



**Calendar:**

Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup> -- K thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade from 10:15 am to 11:45 am (SCH)  
 Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Grade from 7 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)  
 Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Grade from 7 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)  
 Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup> -- K thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade from 10:15 am to 11:45 am (SCH)

Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 9 am Mass. All children in K to 5<sup>th</sup> 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 12, 2015 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.



**Volunteers Needed:**

- We are in need of Catechists for our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade program. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders meet on Monday evenings from 7 pm to 8:45 pm, anyone interested is asked to call the Religious Education Office during the week.
- We are in need of Class Parents for ALL GRADES in our Religious Education Program for the 2015-2016 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  
 Monday and Wednesday: 6:30 pm to 8:45 pm  
 Sunday Mornings: 10 am to 12 Noon  
 Closed: Thursday & Saturday  
 Other times by appointment



**Holy Day of Obligation**  
**Tuesday, December 8th, 2015**  
**Mass Schedule 7:00 & 8:30am & 7:30pm**

Great Company

Church of the Ascension

and

Fr. David Milliken

Great Food

invite you to join us for

# Italian Treasures

10 Spiritually Uplifting, Fun-Filled Days  
in Milan, Venice, Padua,  
Florence, Assisi and Rome

Tuesday, October 4 -12, 2016

Directed by NUOVO TOURS

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Great Times

Great Memories

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\$2765 per person/  
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\$400, deposit  
due ASAP



Questions? More Info?  
See Fr. David



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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

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

Rose Døufemia, Dolores Crowley, Shirley Busby, Ann & Jack Wall, Joseph Gorgone, Patricia Burke, Barbara Santore, Marge Bruno, Jim Keane, Marguerite Morris, Peggy Evans, Donna Van Kleeck, Margaret Polis, Theresa Ruocco, Robert Barratt, Elsa Obera, Jerry Gordon, Marie Oberst, Anthony Triggiano, 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..."*

Anita Barbagallo

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

Ecclesiastes 3:11



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE**  
burns this week in loving memory of the  
**Sedlak, Lombardelli, Bosch & Johnson Families**

**BREAD and WINE** this week  
are in loving memory of the  
**Sedlak, Lombardelli, Bosch & Johnson Families**



**Altar Flowers** for this week are  
in loving Memory of the  
**Sedlak, Lombardelli, Bosch & Johnson Families**



### Second Sunday of Advent, December 6, 2015

#### **Religious Retirement Fund**

#### **Bethlehem Crafts Olive Wood Sale after all Masses**

#### **In the Gathering Room**

Children's Liturgy of the Word - 9:00am ó Church/GRm

Religious Education ó 10:15am ó School

Baptism Prep. ó 1:30pm ó Gathering Room

### Pearl Harbor \* Monday, December 7, 2015

Pastoral Staff Meeting ó 9:00am ó Rectory Mtg. Room

Religious Education, Grade 7 ó 7:00pm ó School

### Tuesday, December 8, 2015

#### **The Immaculate Conception, Holy Day of Obligation**

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

Woodcrest Center, Mass ó 2:30pm

### Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Religious Education (grade 9) ó 7:00pm - School

Novena ó 7:30pm ó Church

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

Filipino Core Meeting ó 8:00pm ó Gathering Room

### Thursday, December 10, 2015

Hackensack Homeless

Altar Server Training ó 4:30pm - Church

Combined Choirs ó 7:30pm - Church

### Friday, December 11, 2015

Altar Server Training ó 4:30pm - Church

### Saturday, December 12, 2015

First Reconciliation - 11:00am - Church

Children's ó 4:00pm ó Church

#### **Blessing & Lighting of Outside Christmas Decorations After 5:30pm Mass**

Maharajah USA Christmas Party ó 7:00pm ó FBC

### Third Sunday of Advent, December 13, 2015

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

Children's Liturgy of the Word - 9:00am ó Church/GRm

Religious Education ó 10:15am - School



### **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.

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

**ST. FRANCIS GIFT SHOP  
CHRISTMAS FAIR  
KNICKERBOCKER RD. TENAFLY  
10:00AM-4:00PM**

### **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.

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



**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 Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. However, some will be due back at an earlier date. It is imperative that you observe the dates we will publish in next week's bulletin for the 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.



**BLESSING & LIGHTING OF OUR PARISH  
OUTSIDE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS  
NEXT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH  
AFTER 5:30pm MASS**

**Angels and Pins**



How many angels fit on the head of a pin?

This is an age old question which has perplexed many philosophers and theologians as well as college students. Although the answer may not seem to have any deep ramifications for everyday living, there are certain questions which do impact daily existence. One such question is, "Do I have enough money to buy food today?" So many people do not. Catholic Charities through its food pantry program distributes thousands of pounds of food to local parishes throughout the Archdiocese. In the spirit of Christmas giving, please help Catholic Charities continue its mission by donating your unwanted clothing, shoes, small appliances, linens, sheets, towels, stuffed animals, and books (no reference books) to the Catholic Charities donation bin located on your church grounds. You just may be a "Christmas angel" to a hungry person. Thank you.



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

**Sharing God's Blessings Appeal**

Just a reminder for those who made a pledge to the Sharing God's Blessings Appeal for 2015. If you have not fulfilled your pledge please do so. Every fulfilled Pledge Counts! Thank you.

**BETHLEHEM HANDICRAFTS**

OLIVE WOOD RELIGIOUS ARTICLES HANDMADE BY THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN BETHLEHEM, THE HOLY LAND. ON SALE IN THE GATHERING ROOM THIS WEEK-END AFTER ALL MASSES.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

The search is underway for  
Longest Married Couple in the U.S.  
Do you think you know who they are?  
Maybe it's your parents' grandparents'  
That nice couple who live down the street!  
Nominating a couple is easy! Just send their names, wedding date and where they live and your contact information to:  
www.melmc2015@gmail.com  
Nominations accepted until January 10, 2016.  
Winners will be announced February 2016  
to celebrate World Marriage Day.  
Nominate a couple you know today!



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CHURCH CITY: **New Milford, NJ**

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EDITOR/ CONTACT: **Serina Sharkey**

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**Comments:**

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