

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

## Mass Intentions for the Week

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

5:30 Josph Puccio, Jr.  
7:30 Harry Sweeney  
9:00 Rosemarie Piro, Thirtieth Anniversary  
10:30 Patricia Drake  
12:00 People of Ascension Parish

### Monday, December 14, 2015

7:00 Steve Dancause  
8:30 Anita Barbagallo

### Tuesday, December 15, 2015

7:00 Mary Rose Mallon  
8:30 Bernard Mallon

### Wednesday, December 16, 2015

7:00 Julian Bayani Habana, Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Bøday  
8:30 Gregory DeCarlo

### Thursday, December 17, 2015

7:00 Gus Bell  
8:30 Alfonso Flores

### Friday, December 18, 2015

7:00 Antonio M Mavul  
8:30 Candelaria Ciron

### Saturday, December 19, 2015

8:30 Soler-Valdes Family  
5:30 People of Ascension Parish

### Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20, 2015

7:30 Con & Rose Lynch  
9:00 Viduya Family, Thanksgiving  
10:30 Maria & Evaristo Aponte  
12:00 Peter Buckley, 52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

## PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

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

Sunday, December 7, 2014:	\$7,126.00
Sunday, December 6, 2015:	\$6,590.00
Retired Religious:	\$1,550.00

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 20, 2015

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45



This is the third Sunday of Advent, called òGaudete (Rejoice) Sunday,ò the day that John the Baptist tells the Jews that the coming Messiah wants more from them than simply being in Abraham's bloodline! To us this means, as John puts it, òWhoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise. Don't lie and accuse others falsely; take only what is owed to you and quit complaining.ò

To anyone who thinks church teachings are stuffy, boring, for old people, and out of touch with the real worldò listen up. The message of Advent is timely and shocking. It actually asks us, in no uncertain terms, to curb our power and our consumption. Our college degrees, our bank accounts, and our fancy bloodlines mean nothing.

All that does matter is how you share what you have, or use the power that you have in the world to create new life for someone who needs you. That is the source of joy on òRejoicing Sunday.ò That is the way for us to prepare for Jesus.

Simple people have done it for generations. Immigrants cared for each other in their neighborhoods. Let's create neighborhood with each other, not simply be satisfied with lots of clothes and shoes rotting in the closet.

How can we put St. John the Baptist's words into practice. Think creativelyò how can you DO real preparation for Jesus this Advent?

✠ Don't forget to bring in your gifts and put them under our **Advent Giving Tree**. Distribution will be done this week.

✠ Our "**O Antiphons**" will return this week and be proudly displayed to help us during our final countdown to Christmas from December 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>.

✠ Advent would not be complete without a very special opportunity to òmake straight the way of the Lordò 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!

✠ Please plan ahead to join us for our **ADVENT EUCHARISTIC DAY** on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. We will begin at 8:30am Mass with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Adoration of our Eucharistic Lord will continue throughout the day until 7:30pm when we will celebrate Evening Prayer and Benediction. May we take this opportunity to let Jesus enter our lives more fully as we await his coming.

✠ Don't forget our parish **Simbang Gabi** celebration, the Filipino Christmas Preparation. Mass will be at 7:00pm on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Refreshments will follow after Mass.

✠ Please plan ahead! We invite any parishioners who would like to help to join us in the church for these special projects...On **Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**, beginning at 6pm we will put up the Christmas trees which will adorn our church. On **Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**, beginning at 6pm, we will decorate our church for the Christmas season.

✠ We have inserted in the bulletin the schedule of Masses for the Christmas Season. We welcome all of you, those who celebrate with us daily and weekly, and those who have been away for a while. We invite each of you to celebrate with us, and we ask that you please bring a friend or loved one to celebrate with us as well.

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



**TRANSFIGURATION ACADEMY**

Thank you to all who participated in and/or attended the Book Fair held at the Barnes & Noble in Riverside Square.

Thank you to the Home School Association who sponsored Lunch With Santa this past Friday. All students, staff and faculty were treated to a free holiday lunch.

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 [transfigurationacademy.org](http://transfigurationacademy.org) and follow us on Facebook.



**Calendar:**

Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup> -- K thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade from 10:15 am to 11:45 am (SCH)

Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades from 7 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)

Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Grade from 7 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)

Sunday December 20<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:** Now that our parish children have celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time, they will come together this week to think about the significance of the sacrament. They will reflect on the experience of going to confession and receiving God's forgiveness. They will remember what they did and how they felt on this special day. Please continue to pray for them, and encourage our young children as they begin a lifelong practice of celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**Congratulations!** to the 20 young people of the parish who received the FIRST PENANCE on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Also, thank you to the parents who have prepared them well. May this be the first of many encounters with Jesus in receiving Penance.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES**

On Wednesday December 16, 2015 your Sponsor forms are DUE.



**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

**Food Pantry is in need of the following**  
Facial Tissue, Toilet Tissue, Paper Towels, Napkins,  
Razors, Shaving cream, Shampoo, Conditioner,  
Bath Soap and Deodorant.



**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**

DECEMBER 13, 2015

*Come and Join us...*  
***Church of the Ascension***  
*New Milford*

***St. John's Church***  
*Bergenfield*

***St. Mary's Church***  
*Dumont*

*Invite You to Gather Together and Celebrate...*  
***Advent Communal Penance Service***  
*with Individual Confession*

*We look forward to celebrating the mystery of Christ's coming  
on the feast of Christmas.*

*Let us pray that when he comes  
he may find us awake and ready to receive him.*

***Monday, December 14, 2015***  
***Church of the Ascension***  
***7:30 P.M.***

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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

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

Rose D'Efemia, 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.

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

Ecclesiastes 3:11



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE**  
burns this week in loving memory of the  
**Anita Barbagallo**

**BREAD and WINE** this week  
are in loving memory of the  
**Rosemarie Piro, Thirtieth Anniversary**



**Altar Flowers** for this week are  
in loving Memory of the  
**Peggy Ann Haubert**



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

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

Children's Liturgy of the Word - 9:00am - Church  
Religious Education @ 10:15am - School

### **Monday, December 14, 2015**

Priest Deanery 3 Meeting @ 1:00pm @ St. Joseph  
Religious Education, Grade 8 @ 7:00pm @ School  
**Tri-Parish Advent Communal Penance Service**  
**At Ascension Church - 7:30pm**

### **Tuesday, December 15, 2015**

Woodcrest Center, Communion Service @ 2:30pm  
Parish Events @ 7:30pm @ Gathering Room

### **Wednesday, December 16, 2015**

**Advent Eucharistic Day 8:30am Mass**  
**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament &**  
**Adoration All Day**  
Religious Education (grade 9) @ 7:00pm - School  
**Novena Prayers & Benediction - 7:30pm**  
Boy Scouts @ 7:30pm @ Fr. Benedict Center  
Filipino Core Meeting @ 8:00pm @ Gathering Room

### **Thursday, December 17, 2015 - O Wisdom**

Combined Choirs @ 7:30pm - Church

### **Friday, December 18, 2015 - O Sacred Lord**

No events

### **Saturday, December 19, 2015 - O Flower of Jesse's Stem**

Confessions @ 11:00am @ Church  
Children's Choir @ 4:00pm @ Church  
**Simbang Gabi - 7:00pm - Church**

**Reception follows in the Fr. Benedict Center**

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20, 2015**

#### **O Key of David**

#### **Food Pantry Sunday**

Children's Liturgy of the Word - 9:00am - Church  
Religious Education @ 10:15am @ School  
Baptism @ 1:30pm - Church



**PARISH EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2015**  
**7:30PM IN THE GATHERING ROOM**

### **RELIGIOUS GIVES THANKS**

“We cannot begin to repay all who contribute,” writes a Catholic sister. “So we pray to God, who is never outdone in generosity, to reward you.” Heartfelt thanks for your donation to last week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. May God bless you for your goodness!



### **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**

**ALL GIFTS DUE BACK THIS WEEKEND**

Please note that starting on Sunday, December 13, after the 12 noon Mass, we will commence with distribution of all gifts received. **PLEASE DO NOT PLACE ANY GIFTS UNDER THE TREE AFTER THIS TIME.**

**THEY WILL NOT BE DELIVERED!**

As previously stated, we can receive Food Gift Cards at any time. Please hand these to Father David or Father Ernie if they are coming in after December 13.

The Service Ministry would like to thank everyone for their generosity once again this year. We sincerely wish a Blessed Christmas Season and Happy New Year to you all! God bless you!

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

**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.



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

**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.

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

**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:  
 wwwmelmc2015@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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EDITOR/ CONTACT: **Serina Sharkey**

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**Comments:**

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