

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Mass for the Intentions } for the Week

The Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, January 3, 2016

5:30 William & Elizabeth Morris
 7:30 Melvin & Dorothy Evans
 9:00 John Coringrato
 10:30 People of Ascension Parish
 12:00 Macaria Maglaqui

Monday, January 4, 2016

7:00 MaryAnn Mallon
 8:30 Nellie & Thomas Heavey (living)

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

7:00 Bernard Mallon
 8:30 Jolly & Janet Orquiza, 31 Anniv. living

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

7:00 Gerard Patrick Lee
 8:30 Fortunato Alesna

Thursday, January 7, 2016

7:00 Alfraiz Cajucum
 8:30 Isagani Reyes

Friday, January 8, 2016

7:00 Angel Cabezudo
 8:30 Patrick Delaney

Saturday, January 9, 2016

8:30 Melba Barroso
 5:30 David Jenkins

The Baptism of the Lord

Sunday, January 10, 2016

7:30 People of Ascension Parish
 9:00 John Coringrato
 10:30 Phil & Julie Carbone
 12:00 Lisa Polisenio

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

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

Total Christmas 2014:	\$33,559.00
Christmas 2015	\$18,301.00
Sunday, December 28, 2014:	\$5,525.00
Sunday, December 27, 2015:	\$6,956.00
Christmas Flowers:	\$2,822.00

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 January 10, 2016

Is 40:1-5, 9-11 or Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 104:1b-4,
 24-25, 27-30/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7 or Acts 10:34-
 38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



The word *epiphany* means the showing forth or the shining forth of Jesus to the world, as the light and life of the entire cosmos, for all time. But we modern Christians don't understand how this *epiphany* of Jesus as a helpless baby is a shock right from the start, because it is the last thing the Jews expected their Messiah to be.

Like many of us, the Jews of Jesus's time seemed unable to get beyond the visible, to the Invisible. But the Wise Men say: God lies here in the flesh! Christ has finally appeared as the light of all nations, and the salvation of the whole creation! The Magi symbolize those of us who have eyes to see, who rush to bow down in wonder and gratitude, offering our gifts with humility. As the bumper sticker says, *Wise men (and women) still seek him.*

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, we are challenged to see that humility is the foundation of any true community: a marriage, a small prayer group, a parish, or the entire Church. Only by facing the whole truth about ourselves can we serve others with mercy, compassion and honesty. So when we picture the wealthy and privileged Magi, bowing down in homage, bringing precious gifts to this tiny Baby, we see how it should always be for Christians: a life of service, but not as in the world, with the poor bowing and scraping to the rich. Jesus again turns the tables!

Finally, although the Magi prepared for their journey, it had a surprise twist. They planned to return to Herod, but were warned in a dream not to. So they returned to their home country by another route. How many times have we had a life plan, when we had to take another route? Maybe it is a surprise visitor, an unplanned child, a proposal, an illness, a new job. Then we can only trust as God leads us on a detour, taking us home by a route we might not have chosen.

✠ On this Epiphany Day, as we remember the Wise Men bringing their gifts to the child Jesus, let me thank all who have so generously given of themselves this Christmas here at Ascension:

o Thank You to those who helped to make our church so beautiful for the Christmas Season and to those who contributed for the trees and flowers.

o Thank you to our Clergy and Pastoral Staff, and to our Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Ushers, Liturgy and Worship Committee members, and especially our Choirs for helping to make the Advent and Christmas liturgies so joyful and so richly meaningful.

o Thank you to our good and faithful Sunday and Monday money counters.

o Thank you to all the members of the Ministry of the Word, to our Religious Education coordinators, catechists and aides, to those who lead our Children's Liturgy of the Word, to our parents who entrust their children to our care, and to our children who joyfully receive God's Word through our Religious Education program.

o Thank you to those who took care of our Giving Tree, all who donated gifts for the needy, and to all in our Food Pantry who helped to make sure the less fortunate could celebrate Christmas.

o Of course, special thanks to our parishioners for your presence in our Ascension family and for the generous stewardship of treasure so many of you continue to offer to this parish. I always feel so blessed being here among you wonderful people.

o Thank you to those who sent gifts, cards, and goodies to the Rectory for Christmas. Your thoughtfulness is always appreciated!

May Epiphany remind us of the gifts we are called to be to one another each and every day!

✠ The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, January 10th, concludes the Christmas Season. We will take down our Christmas decorations on Monday, January 11th, after the 8:30am Mass. As always, we invite our parishioners to come and lend a hand. Many hands make for less work for all.

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



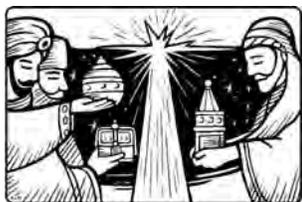
TRANSFIGURATION ACADEMY

Transfiguration Academy News

The next Home School Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 12 at 7:00 PM in Conlon Hall. Attendance is required.

Mark your calendars! Catholic School Schools week begins on Sunday, January 31 with a pancake breakfast and an expo by all of our classes to be held in Conlon Hall from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. This year's theme is Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service. Parishioners of all of our parishes are invited and encouraged to attend this event to see the outstanding work that is being done at Transfiguration. A full schedule of activities for the week will be available soon.

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. Please visit our website at transfigurationacademy.org and follow us on Facebook.



Epiphany of Our Lord

"Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

MATTHEW 2:11

The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow. Each of us is called to open our gifts before Jesus, offering Him what He needs. If you have trouble with this idea, keep one of the Magi from your Nativity set on your desk all year as a reminder to bring your gifts to Jesus.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR PARISH INFORMATION
WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM



Calendar:

Sunday, January 3rd -- K thru 6th grade from 10:15 am to 11:45 am (SCH)

Monday, January 4th to 8th Grade from 7 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)

Wednesday, January 6th -- 9th Grade from 7 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)

Sunday, January 10th to K thru 6th 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 5th grade are invited to join us. What a great way for families to celebrate Mass together.



Important Information:

9th Grade Confirmation candidates: Reminder that Sponsor form & Why you Chose your Sponsor were due on 12/16/15, if you did not hand in either one, they **MUST** be handed in on Wednesday 1/6/16.

There will be a 1st Grade Parents Meeting on Sunday, January 10th at 10:15 am in the Fr. Davis Multi-Purpose Room. **This is a Mandatory Meeting** and at least one parent must attend.

There is a **Mandatory Eight Grade Parents & Student** meeting on **January 25, 2016** at 7:00 pm in the Church. **All students and parents are to attend if your child would like to be in the Confirmation Class of 2017.**

Volunteers Needed:

- We are in need of Catechists for our 7th and 8th Grade program. The 7th and 8th 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 to 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

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

+1-973-0021 (Office)

+1-862-8696 (Cell)

Great Times

Great Memories

Great Price:
\$2765 per person/
double occupancy
\$400, deposit
due ASAP

Questions? More Info?
See Fr. David



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



"To everything there is a season..."

"a time to be healed..."

Rose DeEufemia, 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, 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
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



Epiphany of the Lord, Sunday, January 3, 2016

Parish Maintenance and Repairs
Children's Liturgy of the Word
9:00am ó Church/Gathering Room
Religious Ed. ó 10:15am ó School
Baptism Prep. ó 1:15pm ó Gathering Room

Monday, January 4, 2016

Pastoral Staff Meeting ó 9:00am ó Rectory
Religious Education grade 8 ó School
CFM ó 7:30pm ó Rectory Meeting Room

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Woodcrest Center, Mass ó 2:30pm

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Religious Education ó 7:00pm - School
Novena ó 7:30pm ó Church
Boy Scouts ó 7:30pm ó Fr. Benedict Center
Contemporary Choir ó 8:00pm ó Church
Filipino Core Mtg. ó 8:00pm ó Gathering Room

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Traditional Choir ó 7:30pm - Church

Friday, January 8, 2016

Communion visits to the homebound
Buildings & Grounds ó 7:30pm ó Rectory

Saturday, January 9, 2016

Confessions ó 11:00am ó Church
Children's Choir ó 4:00pm - Church

Baptism of the Lord, Sunday, January 10, 2016

Children's Liturgy of the Word
9:00am ó Church/Gathering Room
Religious Ed. ó 10:15am ó School
First Grade Parent Mtg. ó 10:15am
Sto. Nino 12 Noon Mass
Baptism ó 1:30pm ó Church

Ministries

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS MEETING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2016

7:30PM IN THE RECTORY MEETING ROOM



Please patronize
our advertisers.
They help us GROW.

WOODCREST HEALTH CARE CENTER
201-967-1700

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 or call the rectory office to check availability.

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: _____

The Archdiocese Reports all Allegations of Abuse

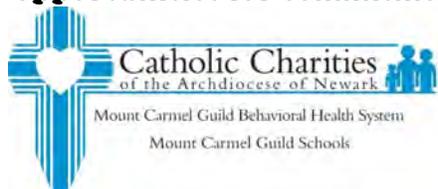
The Archdiocese of Newark takes very seriously any and all complaints of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, Religious and lay staff of the Archdiocese. We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct to inform the Archdiocese immediately so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse.

Although we will report all allegations of abuse immediately to the appropriate County Prosecutor, we encourage anyone with an allegation of abuse also to reach out to the Prosecutor.

Individuals who report an allegation of sexual misconduct may do so by calling the Victim's Assistance Coordinator of the Archdiocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection at (201) 407-3256.

The phone numbers for the County Prosecutors within the Archdiocese are: Bergen - (201) 226-5689

The New Year brings new opportunities for commitment



As the New Year begins, most people wonder what will unfold over the upcoming months. Through our uncertainty we are asked to trust in the Lord for his guidance and support. As we all trust in the Lord, Catholic Charities is also placing its trust in your kindness to support our mission. One way to do this is by cleaning out your closets and donating any unwanted clothing, small appliances, shoes, linens, sheets, towels, stuffed animals and books (no reference books) to the Catholic Charities donation bin located on your Church grounds. May your continued generosity brighten every day of the New Year. 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 throughout 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: _____



St Joseph Knights of Columbus Council is sponsoring its local Council Championship. All boys and girls age 9 to 14 are invited to participate. All participants will be recognized for their participation. The event will take place on Saturday January 23 at St. Joseph School Gym. Registration begins at 2:30PM Competition begins at 3:00PM. For additional information contact: Bob Osterlof at 201 370 3404 or visit our website at kofc3814.org

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

Are you 65 years of age or older? A Charitable Gift Annuity may be right for you. It not only benefits you, it also benefits your loved ones and the Church. Find out today how to establish a gift annuity by contacting Theresa Lynch in the Planned Giving Department at (973) 497-4042 or by e-mail at lynchthe@rcan.org.

Below are our current gift annuity rates:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Rate</u>
65	4.7%
70	5.1%
75	5.8%
80	6.8%
85	7.8%
90 + up	9.0%