

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION



Mass Intentions for the Week

Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 6, 2016

5:30 William & Elizabeth Morris
7:30 People of Ascension Parish
9:00 Michael Bruno
10:30 John Montecucollo
12:00 Jose Z. Garcia

Monday, March 7, 2016

7:00 Svetko Svorinic
8:30 Agnes Balagot

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

7:00 Francis X. White
8:30 Lukose&Daisy Mattappillil, Anniv.(L)

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

7:00 Svetko Svorinic
8:30 Nick, Roseann & Logan (L)

Thursday, March 10, 2016

7:00 Elizabeth Connolly, healing
8:30 Thanksgiving

Friday, March 11, 2016

7:00 Peggy Evans, healing
8:30 David Kampt
7:30 Jose Urmatam

Saturday, March 12, 2016

8:30 Ida Grimaldi
5:30 Carmen Perez

Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 13, 2016

7:30 Con & Rose Lynch
9:00 Rosemarie Piro
10:30 Bryan Fitz Patrick
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, March 1, 2015: \$7,748.00
Sunday, February 28, 2016: \$6,276.00

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 March 13, 2016

**Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-6/
Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11**

Today we hear a story about a dramatic family situation which for centuries has been called "The Prodigal Son." We all know who that refers to, right? The wayward, "wild child" who squandered his dad's money on wine, women, and song (and I don't mean the "Ave Maria").

Well, maybe not. Some theologians suggest that perhaps this story should be re-named "The Prodigal Father." Fr. Andrew Greeley goes so far to suggest that this story be re-named "The Nutty Father." Because the word "prodigal" can refer to a wasteful spendthrift or to someone who is extravagant in their generosity and love—forgiving beyond all boundaries, as the father in this story did. It is this last definition that gave the Pharisees problems.

They asked Jesus, "How can you eat and drink with sinners?" For Jesus, the merciful love of God is almost the opposite of their ideas of how a good, "righteous" Jewish father should behave. Because the father's forgiving actions were very shocking to Jesus' listeners.

In the Middle East, if a son demands his share of the inheritance early, it is his way of wishing his father dead. So, in the story, when the son finally crawls home, no one can believe it—the father sees the son and runs to him, and as the gospel says, "Then the celebration began."

What about the older son's jealousy? All of us at some point are both of those brothers. We can also be the Father, the forgiver for the troubled one who needs extra understanding, and for the jealous one. God always says to us both "Welcome home" AND "Beloved, you are with me always, and everything I have is yours."

"Why do you eat with sinners?" Jesus answers: Because God rejoices and invites us to rejoice, too. Will I join in the rejoicing? One moment of true repentance, or of true forgiveness, is all that is needed.

✠ Thank you to our 9th Grade Confirmation Candidates for hosting our annual **Parish Lenten Fish and Chips Dinner** on Friday, March 4th. Bravo! job well done!

✠ Remember, we have placed "**Five Minutes with the Word for Lent 2016**" in our parish book rack. Please take one for yourself and even another for a friend.

✠ We are offering parishioners an opportunity to purchase **PALM CROSSES**. The Crosses, fashioned from palm with an attractive purple, red or yellow bow, can be used for grave sites or for our homes. The price is \$10.00 and the crosses will be distributed after all Masses on March 12th and 13th, the weekend before Palm Sunday. Please complete the form in the bulletin and return it to the Rectory Office by March 11th.

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

Fr. David



TRANSFIGURATION ACADEMY

Transfiguration Academy News

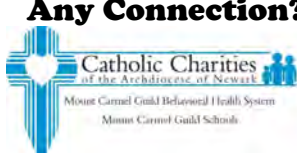
Transfiguration Academy Alumni Excel: Paramus Catholic High School recently commended students who achieved 2nd quarter honors and we are proud that so many Transfiguration alumni made the list of top students. **President's List:** Angelo Cadiente, Sarah Garcia, Antoinette Nabukenya, Julianne Robert, Alexios Rossmann, C. Xavier Rossman; **First Honors:** Lucia Castaneda, Catherine Gallagher, Elena Nattes; **Second Honors:** Justine Abriam, Raymond Meagher, Kelsey Sanders. Congratulations to all!

Thank you to everyone who supported **International Night** by donating their time and/or delicious multicultural cuisine, the hard work of many parents and staff, and the outstanding performances by our exceptionally talented students. It was an enjoyable evening and great success. Visit our school Facebook page for photos and videos from International Night and learn more about why so many families choose Transfiguration for its excellent academics, strong sense of community and diversity.

Tuition Raffle: Do you or someone you know have tuition bills to pay? Buy a raffle ticket - you could win a prize to help pay that tuition bill. First prize is \$2500, 2nd prize is \$1500 and 3rd prize is \$1000 - payable to any accredited school/institution of the winner's choice. Each ticket is \$5 and can be purchased at the school office during school hours.

Registration is Ongoing: Parents wishing to provide their children with a quality Catholic education are encouraged to consider Transfiguration Academy. For more information and/or to schedule a tour of the school please call (201)384-3627 or email us at principal@transfigurationacademy.org. Find out about our Tiger for a Day program - let your child spend a day with us and experience all that we have to offer. Please visit our website at transfigurationacademy.org and follow us on Facebook.

Lent - Sacrifice - Clothing Bins - Any Connection?



Lent is a time of sacrifice in order to bring us closer to Christ. As we move closer to Christ, we become more charitable. Would you be willing to sacrifice your time and efforts to go through your closet and donate any unwanted clothing, shoes, small appliances, linens, sheets, towels, stuffed animals, and books (no reference books) for the Catholic Charities clothing bin? If you do, you have made the connection.



Calendar:

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

Confirmation Students: Please remember that your Confirmation Name and Letter to Bishop Marconi are **DUE WEDNESDAY, March 16, 2016.**

Wednesday March 30, 2016 : 9th Grade Confirmation Retreat will start at 4pm til 10 pm.. All candidates are to report to the Fr. Benedict Center by 4 pm. This is a Mandatory retreat and all must be here. No one will be excused.

Volunteers Needed:

- Ä 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.
- Ä 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
- Ä 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



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CAMPAIGN
NEWSLETTER
Vol. 8

WE ARE
LIVING
STONES

Church of the
Ascension
March
5th & 6th

Commitment Weekend is fast approaching!

What are you asked to do?

- > *Pray* – We all know the power of prayer and through prayer we will be successful. Please pray for a successful campaign and the needs it will fund.
- > *Share with others* – Tell your friends, family and fellow parishioners about the campaign and the positive effect it will have on our parish.
- > *Financially Support the Campaign* – We ask each family to prayerfully consider what their financial sacrifice will be.
- > *Remember*, we are not asking for an equal amount from each family but an **equal sacrifice.**

Commitment Weekend is Next Weekend!

The ***We Are Living Stones*** Campaign Commitment Weekend will take place next weekend at our parish.

When making your gift, please utilize the personalized pledge card you received at a campaign reception, or one included in the personalized campaign packets mailed out to every registered parishioner yet to respond.

Many parishioners across the Archdiocese, and within our parish, have already made significant sacrifices to bring the campaign to over **\$30 million** pledged. These gifts have been for \$5,000, \$10,000, \$25,000 and higher over a four-year pledge period. If you have been blessed with the ability to make a sacrifice at this level, we ask you to set the pace as a leader in the campaign.

As you make your gift, please remember...

- Pledges are not legally binding.
- Payments on pledges are deductible for income tax purposes as provided by law.
- Payment reminders will be sent according to the payment schedule you select (monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually).

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



"To everything there is a season..."

"a time to be healed..."

Rose DeEufemia, Dolores Crowley, Shirley Busby, Ann 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, Ana Tumang, 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



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR PARISH INFORMATION
WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM

IN MEMORY OF...

We have just purchased six new Communion Cups. If you would like to memorialize one in memory of a loved one please speak to Father David or contact the rectory office for more information.



SUNDAY MARCH 13TH*DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
SET YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR



Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 6, 2016

Peter's Pence
Orders taken for Palm Crosses
Children's Liturgy of the Word ó 9:00am
Religious Education ó 10:15am ó School
RCIA ó Scrutiny 2 ó Noon Mass

Monday, March 7, 2016

Pastoral Staff Meeting ó 9:00am -Rectory
Religious Education grade 7 ó 7:00pm - School

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Woodcrest Center, Rosary ó 2:30pm
Ministry of Worship/Liturgy ó 7:30pm - Rectory

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

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

Thursday, March 10, 2016

Combined Choirs ó 7:30pm - Church

Friday, March 11, 2016

Mass/Stations of the Cross ó 7:30pm

Saturday, March 12, 2016

Confessions ó 11:00am ó Church
Children's Choir ó 4:00pm ó Church
Distribute Palm Crosses

Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 13, 2016

Daylight Saving Time Begins
Parish Maintenance and Repairs
Distribute Palm Crosses
Children's Liturgy of the Word ó 9:00am
Religious Education ó 10:15am ó School
RCIA ó Scrutiny 3 ó 10:30am Mass



**MINISTRY OF WORSHIP/LITURGY
TUESDAY, MARCH 8TH AT 7:30PM
IN THE RECTORY MEETING ROOM**

AVAILABILITY

SANCTUARY CANDLE (\$15.), BREAD & WINE (\$40.), AND ALTAR FLOWERS (\$50. each basket) for the week. Please stop by or call the rectory office to check availability.



ARE YOU CELEBRATING YOUR FIFTH, TWENTY-FIFTH OR FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR?

The Archdiocese of Newark is preparing the annual tradition of honoring those couples in our Archdiocese who will be celebrating Christian marriage Anniversaries this year. The Anniversary Liturgies will be celebrated by Archbishop John J. Myers in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark as follows:

**May 1, 2016 at 3:00pm
For Fifty Years**

**April 24, 2016 at 3:00pm
For Twenty-Five and Five Years**

Please notify the parish office no later than April 4 if you would like to attend one of the celebrations.

PLACES TO VISIT IN



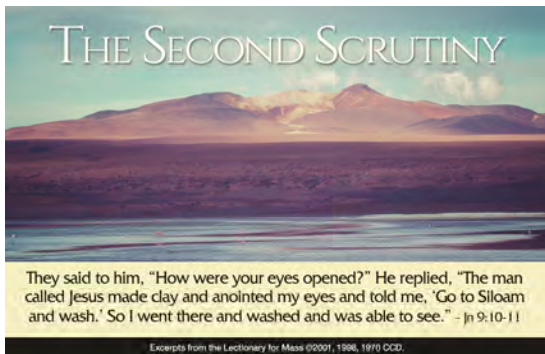
Italian Treasures await you!

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, our parish will travel from October 4 to 13, 2016 to the cities of Milan, Venice, Padua, Florence, Assisi and Rome. What a wonderful time for our pilgrimage with opportunities to enter many Holy Doors of Mercy during our travels. Please see brochures at the doors of the church or stop by the rectory to pick one up for complete information.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

You may have noticed at Mass during Lent that we used the Apostles' Creed instead of the Nicene Creed. The origins of the Apostles' Creed are believed to predate the Nicene Creed. It is universally recognized by many Christians as a shared statement of our faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Apostles' Creed may be used at any Sunday Mass, but the church particularly recommends its use during Lent and Easter Time. Why? Because the words of this ancient Creed have been used for centuries as the basis of our baptismal promises, and the seasons of Lent and Easter put a strong focus on baptism. During Lent we prepare those who will be baptized at Easter while readying ourselves to renew our own baptismal promises. As we recite the Apostles' Creed, it will stir up in our hearts our commitment to Christ which was first made at our own baptisms and prepare us to renew our promises this Easter.



REMEMBER DURING LENT

Evening Mass on Friday's at 7:30pm followed by Stations of the Cross.

Also, we have placed "**Five Minutes with the Word for Lent 2016**" in our parish book rack.

Please take one for yourself and even another for a friend

Holiday Dinner Favorite

Shop Rite is offering a free "Holiday Dinner Favorite" when \$400 is spent using a Shop Rite Price Plus Card. The offer period starts on Sunday, February 14 and ends on Saturday, March 26. If you would like to donate your Holiday Dinner Favorite to the Church of the Ascension Food Pantry we will gladly accept it. The items that are offered for free are: Shank Half Ham (up to 12 lbs), Frozen Turkey Breast (6-9 lb average), Shop Rite Turkey (10-14 lb Average) as well as Stouffer Lasagna(90-96 oz). Also if you would like someone from the Service Ministry to pick up your donation at Shop Rite, please leave your Shop Rite Price Plus number at the Rectory.

MEMORIALS

øTHANK YOUø 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: _____