

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Mass Intentions for the Week

Second Sunday of Advent, December 4, 2016

5:30 William & Elizabeth Morris
 7:30 Con & Rose Lynch
 9:00 Frederick Balagot
 10:30 Regina & Brian McCann
 12:00 People of Ascension Parish

Monday, December 5, 2016

7:00 Angelito Barredo
 8:30 Fortunata Tababan

Tuesday December 6, 2016

7:00 Francisco Vizcarra
 8:30 Adeline Getson

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

7:00 Angelo Licitra
 8:30 Arthur Milliken

The Immaculate Conception

Thursday, December 8, 2016

7:00 Mario & Rosauro Cajucom
 8:30 People of Ascension Parish
 7:30 Steven LePage

Friday, December 9, 2016

7:00 Gerard Patrick Lee
 8:30 Serina Sharkey, Birthday (L)

Saturday, December 10, 2016

8:30 John John
 5:30 Steven LePage

Third Sunday of Advent, December 11, 2016

7:30 Con & Rose Lynch
 9:00 Jack Wall
 10:30 People of Ascension Parish
 12:00 Richard Mechler, First Anniversary

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

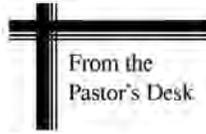
Ascension Parish is supported by people who place their faith and trust in God.

November 22, 2015:	\$5,987.50
November 20, 2016:	\$6,287.00
November 29, 2015	\$5,856.00
November 27, 2016:	\$5,927.00
Catholic Relief Services:	\$1,232.00
October ParishPay:	\$3,404.80

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

**Readings for
 Sunday, December 11, 2016**

**Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146/Jas 5:7-10/
 Mt 11:2-11**



Have you ever owned any action figures? They've been around since G.I. Joe in 1964 including Star Wars, Spiderman, or The Fantastic Four. Today's gospel brings us a real-life action figure—John the Baptist. John was prepared by God in the desert, rough and ready for his task, to announce Jesus to the world. His message? "Reform your lives! The reign of God is at hand."

John says "Turn away from your sins!" But today, he sees dishonest Pharisees and Sadducees coming up for baptism to impress the public. John doesn't pussyfoot around: **"You brood of vipers!... Give some evidence that you mean to reform!"** The Pharisees put on a good outward show, but they had a total lack of spiritual hospitality. They were proud of being Abraham's descendants, but they didn't "walk his walk" by opening their hearts to welcome Jesus. And John knew they had no intention of reforming!

How often are we prone to the same temptations? Christmas is Jesus' ultimate act of hospitality, and Advent is our time to bring Jesus' ultimate hospitality to every situation we find ourselves in: bringing greater warmth, openness, love, and welcome everywhere.

What if, during Advent, we saw every conversation as a way to radiate Christ's hospitality? What if we stripped the complaints out of our talk, and practiced the phrase, "Tell me more!" and then listened with patient encouragement? **Hospitality is an action word!**

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 by our Service Ministry to help us to Share the Spirit of Christmas! Information on the gift tags is available at the church doors. Please bring your gifts to church on or before December 11th. 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 Thursday, December 8th is the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**, a holyday of obligation to attend Mass. We will celebrate Mass at 7:00am, 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 10th at 11am.

✘ Next Saturday, 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!

✘ Please plan ahead and try to spend a little time with our Eucharistic Lord on Wednesday, December 14th 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 7:00pm 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.

✘ 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 19th, at 7pm 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 remember that, beginning on Sunday, January 8th, 2017, our Sunday Mass schedule will change. We will celebrate Mass at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am.**

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



TRANSFIGURATION ACADEMY

We thank the Home School Association, the Boys Scouts, and all who attended the Thanksgiving Dinner.

The students of Transfiguration Academy collected over 1,000 items for the St. John food pantry during the month of November. Pre-K 4A collected the most items, 188, and will be able to dress down for 2 school days.

Congratulations to Transfiguration Academy 8th grade students who participated in the Queen of Peace Academic Games on November 19th. One team, the Teen Tigers finished in the top 5!

Barnes & Noble Book Fair: On Saturday, December 10th all Transfiguration Academy friends and family are invited to join us at a Book Fair at Barnes & Noble at Riverside Square.

Transfiguration Academy earns a % of all purchases so just give the cashier a voucher at checkout.

Our students will be showcasing their artistic talent with live events on Saturday.

We will have a school table staffed with Ambassadors on Saturday and hand out school literature

Use Book Fair ID Number: **11832391** at the store on December 10-11 or when you purchase on-line between December 10 & 16.

Discover why our students thrive in and outside the classroom:

- É Call to pick up registration for a tour: **201-384-3627**
- É **Email: principal@transfigurationacademy.org**
- É **Visit our website: transfigurationacademy.org**
- É **Visit us on Facebook** to experience how engaged our students and families are.

Transfiguration Academy is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools and serves students in Grades PreK 2+ through Grade 8.



Calendar

Sunday, December 4th & Pre- K thru 6th grade from 10:30 am to 11:30 am (SCH)

Monday, December 5th & 8th Grade from 7:00 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)

Wednesday, December 7th & 9th Grade from 7:00 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)

Sunday, December 11th & Pre- K thru 6th grade from 10:30 am to 11:30 am (SCH)

There will be Children's Liturgy of the Word Sunday, December 4.

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 10, 2016** 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.

Reminder that the Sunday Religious Education is from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. It is important that all students are on time for class. Parents with children in Pre-k/k/K to 3rd grade MUST come in to pick up children at 11:30 am. Please be on time for pick-up.

All 7th, 8th and 9th graders are asked to be here at 6:55 pm as Classes start at 7 pm sharp

It has come to the attention of the Religious Education office that when a HOME or EMERGENCY phone numbers are called, these numbers are not being answered. It is Very important that we have a number that will be answered in the event of a true emergency; we are not able to consent to treatment for any child that may need emergency treatment. Please make sure that we have a number that will be answered.

Volunteers Needed:

- Ä We are in need of Aides and Class Parents for our Religious Education Program for the 2016-2017 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 in Rectory:

Monday & Wednesday: 9 am to 3 pm

Thursday: 9 am to 12 Noon

Friday: 9 am to 4 pm

During Religious Education in School:

Monday and Wednesday: 6:30 pm to 8:45 pm

Sunday Mornings: 10 am to 11:45 am

Other times by appointment

WELCOME: Newcomers, Visitors and Parishioners

The priests & ministers of Ascension Parish welcome you. If you would like more information about entering more fully into our parish life & ministry, we ask that you complete the form below. You may return by putting into collection basket, mail or stop by the rectory office. Thank You!

I would like....

- ___ to become a Registered Parishioner
- ___ to change my address
- ___ to advise you that I am moving out of the area
- ___ to let the Parish know of someone who is ill, or homebound & would like to receive Communion

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____



**Holy Day of Obligation
Thursday, December 8th, 2016
Mass Schedule 7:00 & 8:30am & 7:30pm**

WELCOME

CARDINAL JOSEPH W. TOBIN, C.Ss.R.



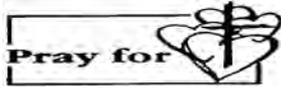
His Holiness Pope Francis has named Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R. as the sixth archbishop of the Archdiocese of Newark. Cardinal Tobin will become the first cardinal in the history of the archdiocese.

You are invited to join the priests, consecrated religious and laity of the archdiocese as we celebrate Cardinal Tobin's Installation Mass:

Friday, January 6, 2017 at 2:30pm
Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark

General, open seating will be on a first come basis, with the Cathedral Basilica opening at approximately 11:00am.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



"To everything there is a season..."

"a time to be healed..."

Rose Døufemia, Dolores Crowley, Ann Wall, Joseph Gorgone, Jim Keane, Marguerite Morris, Peggy Evans, Don Evans, Donna Van Kleeck, Margaret Polis, Theresa Ruocco, Elsa Obera, Jerry Gordon, Marie Oberst, Ana Tumang, Marcella Sweeney, Jean Francisco, Carmelo Abbruzzesi, Leonard Abbruzzesi, Kitty Tricarico, Rose Ann Bottcher, Joan Polis, Elnora Gordon, Thomas Gonzalas, Don Hellrigel, 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, Private Ian Belthoff, U.S. Marine Corps., Camp Gieger, NC, and all Men and Women serving in our countries Armed Forces.

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

"a time to die..."

Jane Smith Dellavough

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

Ecclesiastes 3:11



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



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



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

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT, BEGINNING ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH, 2017, OUR SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE WILL CHANGE. WE WILL CELEBRATE MASS AT 7:30AM, 9:30AM, AND 11:30AM.



Please patronize
our advertisers.
They help us GROW.

**WOODCREST Health Care Center
201-967-1700**

Please remember to patronize,
who help make this bulletin possible



Second Sunday of Advent, December 4, 2016

Religious Retirement

Childrenø Liturgy of the Word 6 9:00am - Church
Religious Education Pre-K-6 6 10:30am 6 School
Baptism Prep 6 1:15pm 6 Gathering Room

Monday, December 5, 2016

Pastoral Staff Meeting 6 9:00am - Rectory
Religious Education Grade 8 6 7:00pm - School

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Woodcrest Center, Mass - 2:30pm
Ministry of Word 6 7:30pm 6 Gathering Room

Pearl Harbor*Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Confirmation Prep 6 7:00-8:45pm
Novena 6 7:30pm 6 Church
Boy Scouts 6 7:30pm 6 Fr. Benedict Center
Filipino Core Mtg. 6 8:00pm 6 Gathering Room
Combined Choirs 6 8:15pm - Church

Thursday, December 8, 2016

The Immaculate Conception, Holy Day of Obligation
Masses: 7:00 & 8:30am & 7:30pm

Hackensack Homeless

Friday, December 9, 2016

No events

Saturday, December 10, 2016

First Reconciliation 6 11:00am
Childrenø Choir 6 4:15pm 6 Church
Blessing & Lighting of Outside Christmas Decorations
After 5:30pm Mass

Maharajah USA Christmas Party 6 7:00pm 6 FBC

Third Sunday of Advent, December 11, 2016

Parish Maintenance & Repairs

Childrenø Liturgy of the Word 6 9:00am - Church
Religious Education Pre-K-6 6 10:30am 6 School



**MINISTRY OF WORD MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6 AT 7:30PM
IN THE GATHERING ROOM**



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 10TH
AFTER 5:30pm MASS**



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 11th. However, some will be due back at an earlier date. It is imperative that you observe the dates 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.**

****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.**

SUPPORT ELDERLY RELIGIOUS

Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives to others-educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today, many are frail, elderly, and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Funds for Religious helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. **Please give generously to today's collection.**



**SANTA IS COMING TO TOWN
BY FIRE TRUCK SUNDAY DEC. 11**

**New Milford's Fire Dept. 25TH ANNUAL Toy Drive.
From 1-4pm. Call Fire Co. 1 at 201-265-1712 or
Fire Co. 2 at 201-265-1631 for a Schedule of locations & times.**

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

**FATHER DAVID'S
40TH ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION WEEKEND**



JUNE 24 & 25, 2017

****additional information will follow****



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.

**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** (at doors of church) or you may use **this form**. Please drop it in the collection basket or in the black mail box outside the rectory door. **Please Print all information clearly.**

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Please Print

In Memory of: _____

or the Intention of: _____

Donated by: _____

Phone: _____

**AN EASY WAY YOU CAN HELP THOSE IN NEED
BECOME A VOLUNTEER BAKER!**

Every other month the Service Ministry of Ascension visits the Hackensack shelter to feed dinner to those in need. We always bring with us home-baked goods, which are a big hit with the clients. As we normally feed up to 150 people, we need help from volunteer bakers. All you need to do is to bake a cake, pie, brownies, cupcakes or cookies and drop them off at the rectory by 2 pm on the day of our serving. If a daytime drop is not possible, they can be dropped off the night before. (If you cannot bake, we will also accept store bought goods!) We could sure use your help.

Our next date is on Thursday, December 8th.

Thank you in advance for supporting our very important ministry!



Members of our Service Ministry would like to thank all who participated in making this year's Turkey Drive a big success. We collected at total of 190, turkeys, helping to make Thanksgiving Day a blessed event for 190 families in need. Thank you also to those who stood out in the cold for hours collecting and sorting the turkeys. A very special thanks to John and Jeanie O'Malley for volunteering the use of their truck and helping to deliver a good deal of turkeys. God bless all who participated and donated!