

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Mass for the Intentions *for the Week*

EASTER SUNDAY

The Resurrection of the Lord

8:30 Easter Vigil

7:30 All Parishioners

9:30 Living and

11:30 Deceased

Monday, April 17, 2017

7:00 Helen Greene, First Anniversary

8:30 Joseph & Thomas Meyer

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

7:00 Cornelio Z. Guerarra

8:30 Camilo C. Libanan

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

7:00 Shijo Stephen

8:30 Ann Ryan

Thursday, April 20, 2017

7:00 Melvin & Dorothy Evans

8:30 Jasmine Mattappillil, Birthday (L)

Friday, April 21, 2017

7:00 Anne O'Connor

8:30 Lukosc Mattappillil, Birthday (L)

Saturday, April 22, 2017

8:30 Robert Czechowski

5:30 Michael O'Hara

Divine Mercy Sunday, April 23, 2017

7:30 People of Ascension Parish

9:30 Jack Wall

11:30 Helen Greene

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

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

Sunday, April 10, 2016: \$5,560.00

Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017: \$8,106.00

Food Pantry: \$1,366.00

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

Readings for Divine Mercy Sunday April 23, 2017

Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

Christ is Risen! Christ is truly Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!! Alleluia!!!

By his death and Resurrection, Jesus has destroyed sin and death forever!! And he has done it, not by brute force and violence, but by being the Suffering Servant who willingly laid down his life so that we and every creature loved into life by God would have that life forever. Who would not want to say "Amen! Alleluia!" to that!?

Today, Jesus' beloved friend, Mary Magdalene, comes as a seeker, needing closure and proof of what seems unbelievable. She is desperately grieving and longing to see her Lord.... Just as we feel when someone we love has died. We have that sense of unreality, "I can't believe they're really gone." But today we learn that Jesus and all of our loved ones are still alive! It is like a dream that we almost can't believe!

Mary came to the tomb, looking for the dead Jesus. But through the miracle of Easter, she finds the living Lord. Or, better, the living Lord finds her. Because, even if we are grieving, disillusioned with life, or filled with fear or shame at something in our life—God never stops calling us by name.

And that is exactly why we are all here today. We gather together to "re-member" the Body of Christ—to re-tell the stories of faith, to eat and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus, "in memory of Him." Mary said, "I have seen the Lord." Let us hold these words of life close to our hearts as we celebrate with joy this Easter feast.

We find the Easter Jesus' words of life where we find men and women alive with love for neighbors, near and afar. We find the Easter Jesus' words of life when we see people caring for each other in all of the difficulties that life can bring, the many storms we weather in our own daily lives. We find the Easter Jesus' words of life in our parish priests and our pastoral staff who care for us in our need. We find the Easter Jesus' words of life in the many ministers who serve us so faithfully at our Eucharistic Liturgies: altar servers, lectors, special ministers of the Eucharist, leaders of our Children's Liturgy of the Word, cantors, choirs, ushers, liturgy planners, decorators, and sacristans. We find the Easter Jesus' words of life in our parish ministers who visit the homebound and those in Woodcrest Center, nursing homes and hospitals. We find the Easter Jesus' words of life in the members of our Word, Worship, Community Building and Service Ministries. We find the Easter Jesus' words of life in the members of our parish Finance Council and Buildings and Grounds Committees. We find the Easter Jesus' words of life in our parishioners who minister to us through social events that allow us to see the Risen Jesus not only in the confines of the church building, but in all of our parish life. We find the Easter Jesus' words of life in our parishioners who serve the hungry poor through our parish Food Pantry, and Hackensack walk-in for the homeless. We find the Easter Jesus' words of life in the caring, concern, and faith sharing of our catechists, parents, and students of our Religious Education Programs and Transfiguration Academy. We find the Easter Jesus' words of life when we see parents taking care of their children, even though it means giving up so much, so often. We find the Easter Jesus' words of life in our parishioners' lively faith and generous stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure, like the hours spent in preparing liturgical ceremonies, decorating our church for special Holy Days, and our generous response to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. We find the Easter Jesus' words of life in the leaders and participants of our parish Lenten Program.

Easter calls us to live with a hope-filled, positive and encouraging attitude. We find the Easter Jesus' words of life whenever you and I bring some genuine life to another person. There are so many ways in which we can bring new life to our family and friends. It seems we can never get enough gentle and genuine encouragement in our lives. When we live Jesus' Easter words, we are helping people to believe in the new life that Jesus offers through the earth-shattering event we call the Resurrection. On this Easter day I offer a special **THANK YOU** to all who allow the risen Jesus to bring new life to Ascension. May we, in turn, speak Jesus' Easter words of new life to one another. May the risen Jesus continue to Easter in each of us. Alleluia! Alleluia!! Alleluia!!!

✘ **Five Minutes with the Word for Easter** booklets are available for you in the book rack in the back of the church. Please take one for yourself and feel free to take a couple to share with your friends. They'll appreciate the thought!

✘ Any Ascension liturgical minister (Altar Server, Lector, Eucharistic Minister) who has a family member receiving the Sacrament of Eucharist for the first time and/or the Sacrament of Confirmation, and would like to serve in the liturgy, please call Fr. David at the Rectory as soon as possible.

Happy Easter, everyone! Know that I pray for you every day. Please pray for me, too. God Love You! A Blessed and Joyous Easter to you and your family.

Fr. David



TRANSFIGURATION ACADEMY

The faculty, staff and students of Transfiguration Academy wish all a happy and blessed Easter! School will reopen after Easter break on Monday, April 24th.

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. The drawing will be held on Saturday, May 6 at 8:00PM in Conlon Hall.

Registration for the 2017/18 School Year

Registration continues for grades PK – 7. Transfiguration Academy invites you to see why our students excel both in and outside of the classroom. Any interested student is encouraged to spend a day at the Academy to experience firsthand the school’s strong academics and faith-filled community.

Transfiguration Academy is located at 10 Bradley Avenue in Bergenfield. For more information or to schedule a visit or a tour of the school, email principal@transfigurationacademy.org or call (201)384-3627.

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



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Calendar:

Sunday, April 16th – Happy Easter – No Religious Education
 Monday, April 17th – 8th Grade from 7 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)
 Wednesday, April 19th – 9th Grade from 7 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)
 Sunday, April 23rd -- K thru 6th grade from 10:15 am to 11:45 am (SCH)

There will be NO Children’s Liturgy of the Word on Sunday April 16th. Our Last Children’s Liturgy for this school year will be April 23, 2017.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Confirmation Candidates: Service Hours and Service Hours Report were due on Wednesday April 5, 2017 and any other paperwork, please bring to Mrs. Carbone ASAP in the Rectory.

First Eucharist: There will be a MANDATORY Rehearsal Tuesday April 25, 2017 in the Church at 7 pm. All First Eucharist candidates and one parent are to meet at 6:50 pm so we can start on time.

Registration for 2017-2018:

Registration forms the 2017-2018 School year have been distributed to all students, please look for them in your child’s backpack. Kindly fill out the forms and return them along with the fees to the Religious Education office before June 30th. All families that are new to the program are asked to come to the Religious Education Office and pick up a Registration Form. For more information please call us at 201-836-3085.

Reminder that the Sunday, Religious Education is from 10:30 am to 11:45 am. It is important that all students are on time for class. Parents with children in Pre-k/K to 3rd grade MUST come in to pick up children at 11:45 am. Please be on time for pick-up.

Volunteers Needed:

† 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: 9:30 am to 12:00 noon
 Other times by appointment



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: _____

APRIL 16, 2017

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

We welcome you all to our celebration of **Easter 2017** here at Ascension.

We especially welcome those who have been away from Ascension due to school, illness or living elsewhere for whatever reason. It is good to have you home again. Welcome to all visitors.

Thank you for choosing to celebrate your Easter with us.

Easter is the most beautiful and holiest time of year, when we celebrate Jesus' new life shared with us at Easter and all throughout the year – the gift of life, the gift of faith, and the gift of each other.

We invite you to share in many important celebrations of Jesus' new life shared with us during the seven weeks of the Easter Season and beyond.

On the weekend of April 30, we will celebrate **First Holy Communion** at specific weekend Masses.

On Monday, May 1st we will celebrate Mass with Cardinal Tobin at 7:30pm in St. Peter's Church in River Edge (Fifth Avenue).

On Sunday, May 7th, during the 9:30am Mass we will celebrate our **Crowning of our Blessed Mother**.

On Sunday, May 7th at 1pm, we will celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit into the lives of our young men and women in the **sacrament of Confirmation**.

We will observe **Mother's Day** on May 14th and we will celebrate the **Blessing of Mothers** at all weekend Masses.

We will celebrate our **Parish Feast Day, Ascension Thursday**, May 25th with great fanfare as we celebrate the 7:30pm Mass,

which is followed by our **"Make your own Ice Cream Sundae."**

What a special day for us!

On June 4th, the **Solemnity of Pentecost**, we celebrate the special presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

We end the Easter Season

on the weekend of June 11th, **Most Holy Trinity Sunday**.

On Sunday, June 18th, we will celebrate **Corpus Christi** at 11:30am Mass followed by our annual Corpus Christi Procession.

We will observe **Father's Day** on this weekend of June 18th with the **Blessing of Fathers** at all weekend Masses.

I encourage you to immerse yourself in the spirit and graces of the season by participating in these special celebrations and I ask that you bring someone you love with you.

My prayer is that the Risen Christ may live in your hearts and in your homes throughout this season.

A Most Blessed Easter!

EASTER SUNDAY



PRAY FOR . . .

"To everything there is a season..."

"a time to be healed..."

Dolores Crowley, Ann Wall, Joseph Gorgone, Jim Keane, Marguerite Morris, Don Evans, Donna Van Kleeck, Margaret Polis, Theresa Ruocco, Elsa Obera, Marie Oberst, Ana Tumang, Jean Francisco, Carmelo Abbruzzesi, Leonard Abbruzzesi, Kitty Tricarico, Rose Ann Bottcher, Joan Polis, Thomas Gonzalas, John Thomas, Robert McDonnell, Philip Santore, John Donohue, Jose Caylao Jr., 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., 29 Palms, CA, and all Men and Women serving in our countries Armed Forces.

"a time for peace..."

President Donald John Trump, our National Leaders and all World Leaders.

"a time to die..."

Ann McNulty

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

Ecclesiastes 3:11



The Sanctuary Candle burns this week
In loving memory of
James & Mary Zadroga



**FATHER DAVID'S
40TH ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY
JUNE 24, 2017**

**Mass of Thanksgiving & Reception
Reception information & reservation
flyer at doors of church
(please return to rectory office)**

ASAP

**tickets are first come first served
Commemorative Journal
(Journal information at doors of church)
What a wonderful way to say
Congratulations to our Pastor!**



EASTER SUNDAY, April 16, 2017

Masses: 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30am

NO Religious Education

Monday, April 17, 2017

Religious Education, Grade 8 – 7:00pm - School

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

No Events

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Confirmation Prep, Grade 9 – 7:00 – 8:45pm

Novena – 7:30pm - Church

Filipino Core Mtg. – 8:00pm – Gathering Room

Thursday, April 20, 2017

Ministry of Service – 7:00pm – Gathering Room

FDM 40 Committee Meeting – 7:30pm - TBA

Friday, April 21, 2017

No Events

Saturday, April 22, 2017

8:30am Mass followed by Divine Mercy Novena

Confessions – 11:00am – Church

K of C Beefsteak – 6:30pm – Fr. Benedict Center



Divine Mercy

SUNDAY, April 23, 2017

Divine Mercy Pilgrimage

Children's Liturgy of the Word at 9:30am Mass

Religious Education Grades PreK-6 – 10:30am

Baptism – 1:00pm - Church



**ASCENSION YOUTH GROUP EASTER EGG HUNT
EASTER SUNDAY
AFTER THE 9:30 MASS
ALL CHILDREN 10 AND YOUNGER ARE INVITED
BRING YOUR EASTER BASKET
& JOIN IN THE FUN!**

OFFERTORY GIFTS

Please let one our ushers know, prior to Mass, if you would like to bring the Offertory Gifts up to the celebrant. If Mass intention is one that you have requested or if it is for the intention of your loved one.



PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
This Easter,
may we remember
why this season is celebrated
above all others.
When we see eggs and rabbits,
remind us of the joys
brought by all new life,
both through springtime in nature,
and eternal life through
Your resurrection.

When we see bright
ribbons and colors,
may we remember the
joy of this season,
at the conclusion of Lent.
Above all, help us remember
the greatest gift of all,
Your conquest of death and sin,
which saved all of us
from eternal death
and opened heaven's gates
for us all.
Amen.



Our beautiful *Divine Mercy*, Paschal Candle this year is donated in memory of Alfhonse Giella as requested by his loving wife & family.



**MANY THANKS TO OUR ADVERTISERS
BOULEVARD FUNERAL HOME
AND CREMATION SERVICE
201-692-0100
who help to make this bulletin possible**



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR PARISH INFORMATION
WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM**



EASTER FLOWERS

You are invited to make a donation toward the Easter Flowers, which will be used to decorate our Church throughout the Easter Season. Donations may be made in memory of a loved one or a special intention. **Each intention donation is \$15.00** please place form & donation in an envelope marked "EASTER FLOWERS" & drop off at the rectory. **One intention will be noted for each donation of \$15.00. All others will be noted as donations.**

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY

In Memory of: _____

For the Intention of: _____

Requested By: _____

Phone: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____



Sharing God's Blessings Annual Appeal

Thank you to the 101 parishioners who have made a pledge to this year's Sharing God's Blessings Annual Appeal. We are currently at \$21,739.00 pledged dollars. Please consider making your pledge today. Give a little, give a lot, but please give something for the Glory of God!

This year our Parish Goal is \$43,000.00



**ASCENSION PARISH'S 16TH PILGRIMAGE
TO THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF
THE DIVINE MERCY**

**WHEN: DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
APRIL 23, 2017**

**WHERE: STOCKBRIDGE, MA
COST: \$35.00 PER PERSON**

**PLEASE PICK UP
REGISTRATION FORM
IN CHURCH VESTIBULE OR RECTORY
Registration Deadline is April 19, 2017**