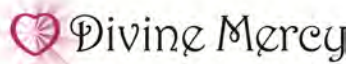


CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION



Alleluia! Alleluia!! Alleluia!!!

If last Sunday was the greatest day of the Christian year, you might think we have a pretty hard act to follow today. But we call the next 40 days “the Easter Season” because Easter Sunday was not simply a one-day fireworks display, and then... ashes. Easter was the greatest miracle in history, and Jesus wants us to stay firmly fixed in that “miracle mindset” for life.

Do you feel this dramatic new consciousness? If “not so much”, don’t worry—like the apostles, we all still have a great deal to learn about what resurrection means. For example, the apostles knew about the empty tomb—wouldn’t you think they’d be celebrating that their Savior had risen as he promised? Yet, Jesus finds them all quivering with fear behind closed doors, as if nothing amazing has just happened.

Jesus respects the apostles’—and our—doubts and fears, because he knows they simply arise out of being human. But scared bunny rabbits hiding behind the furniture cannot preach the amazing power of the resurrection. So Jesus must transform the apostles from fear to courage. First, he breathes “Peace” on them—and then he takes Thomas by the hand, literally, and leads him—one wound at a time—through the mystery of Jesus’ wounded but living body.

Thomas realizes the unimaginable miracle—God’s generous love has transformed death into life. Thomas can only fall on his knees in wonder, “My Lord and my God!” Only this kind of awe and reverence can inspire us to do the healing, proclaiming, and sharing that the apostles then did. Please, I pray that each of us will spend some quiet time in religious imagining. Let Jesus take your hand and lead you, wound by wound, to the miracle of the Resurrection. Then let your renewed spirit live it out joyfully to others, every moment of every day! Alleluia! Alleluia!! Alleluia!!!

✠ Today, on this eighth and last day of the Octave of Easter, we celebrate **Divine Mercy Sunday**. Based on the revelations from Jesus to St. Maria Faustina, the focus of this feast is on God’s unbounded love and mercy for us shown so visibly in Jesus’ Paschal Mystery and continually poured out upon us through the sacraments. As we bring mercy to others, we will experience the Divine Mercy that our loving God wishes us to receive with open and grateful hearts. **Ask for Mercy. Receive Mercy. Be Merciful!**

✠ **THANK YOU...** to all who helped to make our Triduum and Easter celebrations so very special—our pastoral staff, and our many ministers. Special thanks to all who again “Eastered” our church. What can I say?...**BRAVO!** ... absolutely magnificent!! That’s what makes our parish such a visible sign of God’s love—a faith-filled community worshipping and working together! Thanks, also to our Parish Youth Group for the awesome Easter Egg Hunt! Everyone had a wonderful time! May God bless our Ascension community as we continue together building HIS kingdom.

✠ **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!

✠ Let us join in special prayer for the children in our parish family who will be receiving Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time next weekend. They and their families have been preparing for this great event for some time now, learning what the Eucharist is all about and what it means to be part of the Eucharistic community. May our children and their families always be eager to receive Jesus at his Table of Life.

✠ 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.

✠ There is still time to participate in the **Sharing God’s Blessings Annual Appeal for 2017**. Our 2017 goal is **\$43,000.00**. To date we have received \$22,499.00 in pledges from 104 donors. Consider making this part of your sacrifice. Brochures are in the pews and at the doors of the church. Please consider making a pledge and pray about it. I pray that each parish family will step up and support this beautiful way to “Serve God by Serving Others.” May God continue to bless all at Ascension with generous hearts.

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

Divine Mercy Sunday, April 23, 2017

5:30 Michael O’Hara
7:30 People of Ascension Parish
9:30 Jack Wall
11:30 Helen Greene

Monday, April 24, 2017

7:00 Anne Browne
8:30 Astrid K. Sigrist

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

7:00 Theresa D’Amato
8:30 Anna Joseph

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

7:00 Ellen Link
8:30 Mattappillil Family (L)

Thursday, April 27, 2017

7:00 Frank Pugliese
8:30 Patrick Delaney & Family (L)

Friday, April 28, 2017

7:00 Ellen Link
8:30 Justine Mattappillil, Birthday (L)

Saturday, April 29, 2017

8:30 Virginia T. Marquez
5:30 Christine Homayounif

Third Sunday of Easter, April 30, 2017

7:30 James Peter Jones
9:30 Rita Capezzuto
11:30 Ellen Link

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

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

Easter 2016:	\$21,041.00
Easter 2017:	\$21,111.00
Easter Flowers:	\$ 1,490.00
Good Friday:	\$ 1,660.00

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

Readings for Sunday April 30, 2017

Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11/1
Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35



TRANSFIGURATION ACADEMY

Save the Date! The Drama Club will present “Alice @ Wonderland” on Friday, May 5th and Saturday, May 6 at 7:00PM in Conlon Hall. For more information and tickets call or visit the school office.

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.

EASTER MUSIC

Are you looking for a wonderful way to keep the splendor of this Easter Season in your heart? We have wonderful Easter Music CD’s, “The Triumph of the Cross”, on sale for \$10. Please stop by the rectory office to purchase yours.

Knights of Columbus 50/50 Cash Raffle For 8th Grade Scholarships

St. Joseph Council No. 3814 of Oradell/New Milford is sponsoring a **50/50 Cash Raffle to raise \$2,000. for our 8th Grade Scholarship Program.** With your help we can reach our fundraising goals and you will have a chance to win one of three cash prizes. Raffle tickets are \$20 each. The Raffle drawing will be held on Saturday, May 20th, at 9:00PM at the Columbian Club hall at 199 River Road, New Milford, NJ. Winner need not be present to win. For tickets, contact Jeff Walters at (201) 925-7174, or leave a message on the Council phone at (201) 262-9722.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR PARISH INFORMATION
WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM



Calendar:

Sunday, April 23rd – K thru 6th grade from 10:15 am to 11:45 am (SCH)
Monday, April 24th – 7th Grade from 7 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)
Wednesday, April 26th – 9th Grade from 7 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)
Sunday, April 30th -- K thru 6th grade from 10:15 am to 11:45 am (SCH)

Children’s Liturgy of the Word will be celebrated at the 9:30 am Mass. All children in Pre-K to 5th grade are invited to join us. What a great way for families to celebrate Mass together.

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

APRIL 23, 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!

DIVINE MERCY 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..."

Soledad Santos, Martin O'Keefe

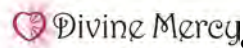
...and a time for every purpose under heaven"

Ecclesiastes 3:11



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** burns this week in loving memory of
Rose D'Eufemia

BREAD and WINE this week are in loving memory of
Rose D'Eufemia



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

Monday, April 24, 2017

Religious Education, Grade 7 – 7:00pm – School
CFM – 7:30pm – Rectory Meeting Room

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

First Communion Rehearsal – 7:00pm - Church

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Harrison House
Confirmation Prep, Grade 9 – 7:00 – 8:45pm
Boy Scouts – 7:30pm – Fr. Benedict Center
Novena – 7:30pm - Church
Filipino Core Mtg. – 8:00pm – Gathering Room
Combined Choirs – 8:15pm - Church

Thursday, April 27, 2017

Dinner – 7:30pm – Fr. Benedict Center

Friday, April 28, 2017

No Events

Saturday, April 29, 2017

Confessions – 11:00am – Church
Children's Choir – 4:15pm – Church
First Eucharist Mass 5:30pm

Sunday, April 30, 2017

First Eucharist at 9:30 & 11:30 Mass
NO Children's Liturgy of the Word
Religious Education Grades PreK-6 – 10:30am



PASTORAL VISIT OF OUR NEW ARCHBISHOP

CARDINAL JOSEPH TOBIN, C.Ss.R.

Cardinal Tobin has advised that he will be making a pastoral visit to our Deanery on **Monday, May 1st**, the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker. He will first have a dinner meeting with the priests of the deanery, then offer **Mass at 7:30pm** for all the people of our parishes who come, and conclude with a town hall meeting to hear people's thoughts and concerns. This will all be held at **St. Peter the Apostle Church in River Edge**, the parish of our Dean, Fr. Michael Sheehan. Please join us in this Mass and meeting with Cardinal Tobin.

OFFERTORY GIFTS

Please let one of 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.

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.



Sharing God's Blessings Annual Appeal

Thank you to the 104 parishioners who have made a pledge to this year's Sharing God's Blessings Annual Appeal. We are currently at \$22,499.00 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

CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

Support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal today! Right now, over 40 percent of dioceses in the United States are considered home missions because they are unable to fund essential pastoral work needed in their communities. Your support funds programs--such as religious education, seminary formation, and lay ministry training--to build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States. Please be generous. More information can be found at

www.usccb.org/home-missions

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: _____



Please patronize our advertisers. They help us GROW.

GRACE DRIVING SCHOOL
201-967-2922



EASTER FLOWERS

You are invited to make a donation toward the Easter Flowers, which will continue 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: _____

**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!*



In Memory Of

- Ann Schwartz
- Helen & Gerard Quinn
- Cudina & Boylen Families
- Marlene Hellriegel
- Stephen Hellriegel
- McCann & McKenna Fam.
- Blake & Lacey Families
- Pedro & Cianabg Gyerra
- Luco & Macaria Aquino
- Victoria Elope
- Romeo DeLaVictoria
- Jose & Aurea Lopez & Fam.
- Napoleon & Raquel Bonaparte
- Martin & Nick Families
- John Coringrato

Donated By

- Mr & Mrs A. Gutierrez
- Robert Quinn
- Christopher Cudina
- Donald Hellriegel
- Donald Hellriegel
- Mrs Eileen McCann
- Mrs Eileen McCann
- Nandy & Velma Caringal
- Mr & Mrs Natividad
- Dulce DeLaVictoria
- Dulce DeLaVictoria
- Mr & Mrs Gregory Martin
- Mr & Mrs Gregory Martin
- Mr & Mrs Gregory Martin
- Mr & Mrs Gregory Martin