

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

## Mass Intentions for the Week

### Third Sunday of Advent, December 17

5:30 Gregory DeCarlo  
7:30 Julian Bagani Habana, Birthday (L)  
9:30 People of Ascension Parish  
11:30 Alfonso Flores

### Monday, December 18, 2017

7:00 Teresita Villafranca Sy  
8:30 Candelaria Ciron

### Tuesday, December 19, 2017

7:00 Jose U. Ruiz, Jr. (L)  
8:30 Soler-Valdes Family

### Wednesday, December 20, 2017

7:00 Frank & Irene Wisniewski  
8:30 Jesus Garcia

### Thursday, December 21, 2017

7:00 Maria & Evaristo Aointe  
8:30 Meyer & Tenney Families

### Friday, December 22, 2017

7:00 Con & Rose Lynch  
8:30 Primo Fineza

### Saturday, December 23, 2017

8:30 Florencia Dolotina  
5:30 Alta & Arthur Milliken

### Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24

#### Christmas Eve

7:30 Rita & Louis Camerlengo  
9:30 People of Ascension Parish  
11:30 John Prisco

## PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

### WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

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

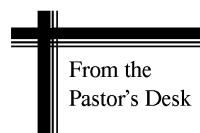
December 11, 2016:	\$5,440.00
December 10, 2017:	\$4,399.00
Maintenance & Repairs:	\$2,706.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$1,040.00
National Shrine:	\$ 779.00

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

### Readings for Sunday December 24, 2017

#### Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38  
Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25  
Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14  
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12 Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20  
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14



From the  
Pastor's Desk

Do you remember Archie Bunker from the show, "All In The Family?" Archie was famous for being an exceedingly conservative blue-collar worker who was often exasperated with his wife Edith's opinions. If Edith got too exuberant, Archie would shout, "Stifle, yourself, Edith! Stifle yourself!"

Today on "Rejoicing Sunday", far from being told to "Stifle!" we are being invited to jump for joy at Jesus coming very soon. Edith Bunker's open spirit is something we could learn a lot from in Advent, actually. She let herself be taken over by a spirit of exuberance and childlike joy at the simplest things.

Archie called her naïve; but, in spite of living with a grumpy, critical guy, Edith was wise and resilient. She kept her faith and spirit of wonder in every situation. St. Paul agrees with Edith today: "DON'T stifle the Spirit!" To be who we really are created to be, we need to let the Spirit of God's love flow freely through us and out into the world around us. Let our energy direct our spiritual convictions to create Godly activities in the world. REALLY live in each present moment of your life this Advent—by letting the Spirit breathe in you.

✘ Thank you to Dena Sedlak, our Coordinator of First Sacraments, Theresa Carbone, our CRE, our catechists, and all who helped to make our children's first experience of the Sacrament of Reconciliation so beautiful and joyful (and sweet, too). Many thanks to the parents and children who made the day special!

✘ Our **Advent Giving Tree** has been prepared to help us to Share the Spirit of Christmas! All gifts are due on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. 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.

✘ Our "**O Antiphons**" are again proudly displayed to help us during our final countdown to Christmas from December 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>.

✘ Don't forget our parish **Simbang Gabi** celebration, the Filipino Christmas Preparation. Mass will be at 5:30pm on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. After Mass the celebration continues with refreshments in the Fr. Benedict Center.

✘ Please plan ahead...On Thursday, **December 21<sup>st</sup>**, we will put up the Christmas trees which will adorn our church. On **Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**, beginning at 6pm, we will decorate our church for the Christmas season. We invite any parishioners who would like to help to join us at 6:00pm in the church for this special project.

✘ Our **Christmas Mass schedule** has been mailed to all parishioners and is inserted in the bulletin. Please keep the schedule handy for ready reference. We remind you of the many ministries and programs offered by Ascension Parish. We look to your generosity, especially at Christmas, to help support the many needs of your parish. Please be as generous to your church as your means allow. We invite each of you to celebrate with us, and we ask that you please bring a friend or loved one to celebrate with us as well.

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

*P. David*



**Enlightening Minds  
Alumni Earn Honor Roll Recognition**

This is the time of year when some of the local Catholic high schools write to inform us of alumni who are doing exceptionally well academically. We are pleased to announce the following Transfiguration Academy alumni have earned honor roll recognition.

**Paramus Catholic:**

President's List: Kenneth Calle, Raymond Meagher, Julianne Robert, Jeffrey Tharakan

First Honors: Joseph Abriam, A. Blaise Rossmann, M. Jude Rossmann  
Second Honors: Justine Abriam, Lilliana Alava, Robert Cajucom, Lucia Castaneda, Catherine Gallagher

**St. Joseph:**

Honor Roll: Justyn Henry Malloy

**Upcoming Events:**

**Tue, Dec 19:** 6:00 p.m. Christmas Concert in Conlon Hall

**Fri, Dec 22:** 9:00 a.m. Mass & 12:00 p.m. dismissal for Christmas vacation.

**Registration is ongoing:** Parents wishing to provide their children with a quality Catholic education and those looking for alternatives to public school are encouraged to consider Transfiguration Academy. To learn more about our academic, athletic, and fine arts curriculum or to schedule a tour of our Academy, located at 10 Bradley Ave in Bergenfield, please email [principal@transfigurationacademy.org](mailto:principal@transfigurationacademy.org) or call the school office at 201-384-3627. Transfiguration Academy is an investment in your child's future and much more affordable than you would expect. **Transfiguration Academy: Strengthening faith, Enlightening minds, and Transforming hearts...one student at a time.**

**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.



**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 Parishioner
- \_\_\_ to change my address
- \_\_\_ to join a ministry
- \_\_\_ to let the Parish know of someone who is ill, or homebound & would like to receive Communion

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



**Calendar:**

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> – Pre- K thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade from 10:45 am to 12:00 pm (SCH)

Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> Grade from 7 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)

Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>—No Religious Education

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – No Religious Education

Children's Liturgy of the Word will celebrated at the 9:30 am Mass. All children in Pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us. What a great way for families to celebrate Mass together. There will be NO Children's Liturgy of the Word on December 24<sup>th</sup> or December 31<sup>st</sup>. We will resume on Sunday, January 7, 2018.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

**Please note the change in our hours for classes this school year.**

Our Sunday Mornings program is from **10:45 to 12 Noon.**

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders meet on Monday evenings and 9<sup>th</sup> graders on Wednesday from 7 pm to 8:45 pm. Students are asked to be here by **6:55 pm in order to start at 7 pm sharp.**

**Reminder:**

When your child/ren are going to be absent from class you must call the Religious Education office and let us know. We will call the home is you do not call us, so **PLEASE** make sure you have a working home or cell number that we can contact you especially in the event of an emergency.

**Volunteers Needed:**

† We are in NEED of Substitute Catechists and Class Parents for our Religious Education Program for the 2017-2018 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 – Wednesday & Friday: 9 am to 4 pm – In Rectory

Monday and Wednesday: 6:30 pm to 8:45 pm – In School

Sunday Mornings: 10 am to 12 Noon – In School

Closed: Thursday & Saturday

Other times by appointment



**DECORATING OUR CHURCH  
FOR CHRISTMAS**

Parishioners are invited to help put up Christmas trees in the Church on Thursday, December 21st at 6:00pm & decorate the Church on Friday, December 22nd at 6:00pm. **All are Welcome!**

*Christmas 2017 at Ascension*

**Christmas Preparation**

**Confessions**

**Individual Confessions**

Saturday, December 16, 2017  
11am – 11:30am  
Saturday, December 23, 2017  
11am – 11:30am

**Simbang Gabi**

Filipino Christmas Preparation  
Saturday, December 16, 2017  
5:30pm (*Reception in FBC follows Mass*)

**Christmas Masses**

**Christmas Eve**

Saturday, December 24, 2017  
5:30pm, and 12:00 Midnight  
*Choir Concert with Carolling begins at 11:15pm*

**Christmas Day**

Sunday, December 25, 2017  
7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am

**Holy Family**

Saturday, December 30, 2017  
5:30pm  
Sunday, December 31, 2017  
7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am

**Solemnity of Mary Mother of God**

**New Year's Eve**

Sunday, December 31, 2017  
5:30pm

**New Year's Day**

Monday, January 1, 2018  
8:30am and 10:30am

**Solemnity of the Epiphany**

Saturday, January 6, 2018  
5:30pm  
Sunday, January 7, 2018  
7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am



*A Happy and Holy Christmas to all!*



# THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## 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, Elsa Obera, Marie Oberst, Jean Francisco, Carmelo Abbruzzesi, Leonard Abbruzzesi, Kitty Tricarico, Joan Polis, John Thomas, John Donohue, Concepcion Deus, Deacon Jim Stumbar, Eileen Kloeblen, Richard Gabettie, Judith & Tom Gonzales, Monica Vivas, Diane Warings, Jane Rodriguez, Herman Ivan Rodriguez, Charles Hellriegel, John Delaney, Anita Zucconi, Joel Rivera, Albert Ginocchio,

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, PFC Ian Belthoff, U.S. Marine Corps., Cherry Point, NC, Airman First Class James Penser, Goodfellow, AFB, Texas 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..."*

Dennis Subrizi

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

Ecclesiastes 3:11



The SANCTUARY CANDLE  
burns this week in loving memory of  
Mary & James Zadroga



BREAD and WINE this week  
are in loving memory of the  
Luisa & Manuel Garcia



### 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 Communions, Confirmations, Baptisms, Birthdays, Wedding Anniversaries. Please stop by or call the rectory office to check availability.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR PARISH INFORMATION  
[WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM](http://WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM)



### Third Sunday of Advent, December 17, 2017\* O Wisdom

#### **Food Pantry Sunday**

Children's Liturgy of the Word – 9:30am  
Religious Education Pre-K-6 – 10:45am  
Advent Giving Tree Distribution  
Baptism – 1:00pm

### Monday, December 18, 2017\*O Sacred Lord

Food Pantry Distribution  
Religious Education (grade 8)  
Combined Choirs with Instruments – 7:30pm - Church

### Tuesday, December 19, 2017\*O Flower of Jesse's Stem

Parish Events – 7:30pm – Gathering Room

### Wednesday, December 20, 2017\*O Key of David

NO Confirmation Prep.  
Novena – 7:30pm – Church  
Boy Scouts – 7:30pm – Fr. Benedict Ctr.

### Thursday, December 21, 2017\*O Radiant Dawn

Trees put up in church – 6:00pm  
Combines Choirs with instruments – 8:00pm - Church

### Friday, December 22, 2017\*O King of all the Nations

Decorating of church for Christmas – 6:00pm

### Saturday, December 23, 2017\*O Emmanuel

Confessions 11:00am – Church  
Children's Choir – 4:15pm – Church

### Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24, 2017

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

Vigil of Christmas Masses  
5:30pm Children's Choir  
12 Midnight Combined Choirs

### CHRISTMAS DAY, MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2017

Masses: 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am  
Rectory Closed



Meetings

PARISH EVENTS MEETING  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19 AT 7:30PM  
IN THE GATHERING ROOM



### TOYS FOR TOTS



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.



KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS  
REMEMBER TO PURCHASE RELIGIOUS  
CHRISTMAS STAMPS



**CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION'S  
GIVING TREE**



**ALL GIFTS DUE BACK THIS WEEKEND**

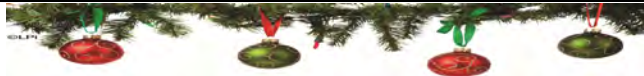
Please note that we are requesting that all gifts be placed under the tree by 12:30pm on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, due to the scheduling of various organizations and of our delivery volunteers.

**PLEASE DO NOT PLACE ANY GIFTS UNDER THE TREE AFTER THIS TIME.**

**THEY WILL NOT BE DELIVERED!**

As previously stated, we can receive Food Gift Cards at any time. Please hand these to Father David if they are coming in after December 17.

The Service Ministry would like to thank everyone for their generosity once again this year. We sincerely wish a Blessed Christmas Season and Happy New Year to you all! God bless you!



**TRIP TO SIGHT & SOUND'S PERFORMANCE OF  
"JESUS"**

Our Parish will sponsor a 3 day/2night trip to the Amish Lands, Pa. April 11-13, 2018. The price of \$415pp/\$497 single includes 2 nights lodging at the Heritage Hotel, Lancaster, 2 full buffet breakfasts, dinner at Hershey Farm Restaurant, "Jesus" at the Millennium Theatre, dinner and performance of "Showboat" at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre, guided tour of Amish Countryside, Kitchen Kettle Village, trip to Longwood gardens. On our way home, we will make a stop at the Sands Casino with a bonus of \$20 slot free pay & \$5 meal voucher. Bus transportation, luggage handling, taxes and meal gratuities are included. Cancellation ins. is recommended. A \$100 deposit will hold your reservation and is due by January 15<sup>th</sup>. For info. Call Josie (201) 265-0485 or Anna (201) 387-2632. Please fill in the coupon below and drop off at Rectory with your deposit. Please make all checks payable to "Ascension Church".

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF PERSON YOU ARE SHARING A ROOM WITH \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_



Please patronize  
our advertisers.  
They help us GROW.

**Please remember to patronize  
who help make this bulletin possible,  
BEAUGARD-MC KNIGHT FUNERAL HOME  
201-262-5050**



**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: \_\_\_\_\_

**2018 KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS  
FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP**

Saint Joseph's Knights of Columbus is sponsoring the Local Council Championship on Saturday January 20, 2018

All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the Council Level competition.

All participants will be recognized for their participation in the event. Each respective age division winner will proceed to the District competition.

All participants are required to provide proof of age (copy of birth cert.) and written parental consent. Age eligibility is determined by the age of the contestant as of January 1, 2018.

For additional information contact: Bob Osterlof at 201-370-3404. kofc3814@gmail.com

**Date:** Saturday January 20, 2018

**Time:** 2:30 P.M. Registration, 3:00 P.M. START

**Place:** St. Joseph School Gym, Elm Street Oradell New Jersey.

**Happy**



**First Day of Winter**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21ST**