

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Mass Intentions for the Week

First Sunday of Lent, February 18, 2018

5:30 Angelo & Vito Cucco
7:30 People of Ascension Parish
9:30 Barbara & James Miele
11:30 Herman Duro

Monday, February 19, 2018

7:00 Bernard Mallon
8:30 Teresita Villafranca Sy

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

7:00 Teresita Villafranca Sy
8:30 Mary Rose Mallon

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

7:00 Maloney Family
8:30 Con & Rose Lynch

Thursday, February 22, 2018

7:00 Gerard Patrick Lee
8:30 Teresita Villafranca Sy

Friday, February 23, 2018

7:00 Teresita Villafranca Sy
8:30 Maria Conidi
7:30 James O'Reilly

Saturday, February 24, 2018

8:30 Thomas & Frank Tenney
5:30 James Zadroga

Second Sunday of Lent, February 25, 2018

7:30 Anna K. John
9:30 People of Ascension Parish
11:30 Lena Scoppa

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

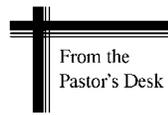
Ascension Parish is supported by people who place their faith and trust in God.

February 12, 2017:	\$5,894.00
February 11, 2018:	\$4,811.00
Fuel:	\$2,519.00

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

Readings for Sunday February 25, 2018

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10,
15, 16-17, 18-19 [9]/Rom 8:31b-34/
Mk 9:2-10



The first Sunday of Lent today shows us how to be both in the water and in the desert—and how both are essential to our journey toward God. First, God covenants with Noah, not only with humans, but with “every living creature... birds, cattle and every wild beast... everything that lives on the earth...” This is a truly inclusive covenant!

As we begin Lent, it's good to remember that when we are pulled away from God by the swift current of confusion, fear, or self-hatred, God is still here in a covenant of love which lasts forever. We next learn from Jesus that the desert is the place to cement that covenant.

Notice that the Spirit had to “drive Jesus out into the wilderness.” Even Jesus needed divine motivation! But there Jesus becomes intensely aware of “the Spirit within him, as the very source of his life, a life that must break open... for the life of the world.” Only after his desert days is Jesus ready to proclaim God's kingdom: Reform your lives, and believe in the gospel.”

That is the definition of our baptismal call, and you have already been through those waters! So—let's go to the desert with Jesus now. How is God calling each of us to live out our baptism?

✠ Thank you to Josie McEwan, Anna Gorgone, Pauline Alfis, Greg and Janice Cucco and Veronica Bruno for the beautiful **Marriage Anniversary Liturgy Reception** last Sunday. Everyone had a great time. It was truly special!

✠ Congratulations to our Boy Scouts who received the **Ad Altare Dei** Award last Sunday at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. May our Scouts be blessed always with a desire to serve God and country.

✠ We have begun the **Sharing God's Blessings Annual Appeal for 2018**. Thank you to our parish families who have already contributed to the 2018 Appeal.

Cardinal Tobin has set our 2018 goal at \$40,546.00. There is still time to make a pledge. Brochures are in the pews and at the doors of the church. Please, I ask that all of our parish families consider the great good we of Ascension can do with God's grace when we choose to help the neediest of our Archdiocese. Help us to reach and even surpass our goal. **Give a lot; give a little; but please give something!**

✠ **Let's listen to some of Pope Francis' words for Lent:** “It's so rotten, gossip. At the beginning, it seems to be something enjoyable and fun, like a piece of candy. But at the end, it fills the heart with bitterness and also poisons us.”

“I tell you the truth... I am convinced that if each one of us would purposely avoid gossip, at the end, we would become a saint! It's a beautiful path!”

“Do we want to become saints? Yes or no?” he queried, as the crowds replied, “Yes!”

“Yes? Do we want to live attached to gossip as a habit?” Pope Francis continued, “Yes or no? No? Okay, so we are in agreement! No gossip!”

Jesus offers the example of the Fifth Commandment, “Do not kill,” and goes on to add, “but I say to you: Whoever is angry with his brother will be guilty before the court.”

“With this, Jesus reminds us that even words can kill,” explained the Pope. “When it is said that someone has the ‘tongue of a serpent,’ what does it mean? That his words kill.”

“Therefore, not only must one not make an attempt on the life of others, but one must not even pour on him the poison of anger and hit him with slander, nor speak ill of him. And here we arrive at gossip. Gossip can also kill, because it kills the reputation of the person.”

✠ One last item... When you leave Mass on weekdays and weekends please pick up any debris that is around you. It is embarrassing when preparing for a funeral to enter church and I see candy wrappers and the like in the pews and on the floor, especially in the lavatory. Please help to keep our church building clean and neat. It is God's house. Thank you for your attention to this.

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



Deanery 3 Catholic Challenge

Transfiguration Academy hosted the annual Deanery 3 Catholic Challenge on January 30, 2018, the Tuesday evening of Catholic Schools Week. Fourteen students from the Academy of St. Therese in Cresskill, St. Joseph's in Oradell, St. Peter Academy in River Edge, the Academy of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Tenafly, and Transfiguration Academy took part in the challenge which posed a wide variety of Catholic trivia questions to each student. The winners were Cynthia Jacob, Transfiguration Academy, 1st place winner of \$100; Jacqueline LaMastra, Academy of St. Therese, 2nd place winner of \$50; and Caroline Tharakan, Transfiguration Academy, 3rd place winner of \$25. Congratulations to our winners and all of the students who participated.

Upcoming events open to the public (please contact the Academy for more information):

Wed, Feb 21, Thu, Feb 22, & Fri, Feb 23: "Tiger for a Day"

Program Students in grades K – 8 can spend one of those three days at Transfiguration Academy when the local public schools are closed for winter recess. Each student visitor will be partnered with a student ambassador from the Academy, attend all classes for his or her grade level, receive a complimentary lunch and take home a small gift in remembrance of their "Tiger for a Day" experience. Attendees will get to meet and interact with our students and faculty on a one-to-one basis. If you want to learn more about Transfiguration Academy, directly from the students, click on this video:

<https://youtu.be/I2bF37YBpbs>

Fri, Mar 2: 9:00 a.m. First Friday Mass and 12:00 p.m. dismissal with 8th grade bake sale in Conlon Hall. All proceeds go towards graduation expenses.

Registration for the 2017/2018 Academic Year has begun:

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 for grades PreK2 through 8 or to schedule a tour of our Academy, please email principal@transfigurationacademy.org or call the school office at 201-384-3627.

Transfiguration Academy: Strengthening faith, Enlightening minds, and Transforming hearts...one student at a time.



Calendar:

Sunday, February 18th --- No Children's Liturgy or Religious Education

Monday, February 19th – No Religious Education

Wednesday, February 21st –9th Grade from 7 pm going to Mass at 7:30 pm

Sunday, February 25th --- Pre- K thru 6th grade from 10:45 am to 12:00 pm (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.



Confirmation Class of 2019:

There will be a **Mandatory 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat** on Saturday, February 24, 2018. We ask that all Candidates for 2019 Confirmation Class to meet in the Fr. Benedict Center (School Gym) at 2:30 pm Sharp. Parents are to meet the children in the Church at 5:20 pm for Mass at 5:30 pm. Any questions please call Mrs. Carbone in the office.

All Parents:

When calling your children out for Religious Education on Sundays, please make sure that you call the Religious Education phone number 201-836-3085. If you call the Rectory number, we do not receive that message until Monday Morning.

Please note the change in our hours for classes this school year. Our Sunday Mornings program is from **10:45 to 12 Noon**. **Parents with children in Pre-k/K to 3rd grade MUST come in to pick up children at 12 Noon. Please be on time for pick-up.** The 7th and 8th graders meet on Monday evenings and 9th 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.**

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



✠ LENTEN FASTING and FEASTING ✠

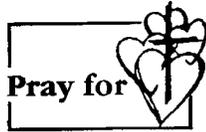
- ✠ **Let us...**
- ✠ ...**fast** from complaining and **feast** on gratitude
- ✠ ...**fast** from harsh judgments and **feast** on kind thoughts
- ✠ ...**fast** from worry and **feast** on trust in God to provide
- ✠ ...**fast** from discouragement and **feast** upon hope
- ✠ ...**fast** from bitterness and **feast** on forgiveness
- ✠ ...**fast** from hatred and **feast** upon returning good for evil
- ✠ ...**fast** from anger and **feast** on patience
- ✠ ...**fast** from pettiness and **feast** on becoming mature
- ✠ ...**fast** from jealousy and **feast** on praying for trust
- ✠ ...**fast** from gossiping and **feast** on controlling your tongue
- ✠ ...**fast** from sin and **feast** on virtue
- ✠ ...**fast** from giving up and **feast** on perseverance

2018 LENTEN REGULATIONS

1. The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.
On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.
On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence.
2. The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence “substantially”, or as a whole, is a serious obligation.
3. The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.
4. The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends from the **First Sunday of Lent, February 18, 2018 to the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, May 27, 2018.**

*Canon 920, §1. *All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.*

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



"To everything there is a season..."

"a time to be born..."

Maddox Kyle Madamba

"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 Kloebler, Richard Gabettie, Judith Gonzales, Monica Vivas, Diane Warings, Jane Rodriguez, Herman Ivan Rodriguez, Charles Hellriegel, John Delaney, Anita Zucconi, Joel Rivera, Albert Ginocchio, Victor Muwonge, Bob Quinn, 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.

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

Ecclesiastes 3:11



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.



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who help make this bulletin possible



First Sunday of Lent, February 18, 2018

Food Pantry Sunday

NO Religious Education



Monday, February 19, 2018

Food Pantry Distribution

NO Religious Education

CFM – 7:30pm – Rectory Meeting Room

Combined Choirs – 7:30pm - Church

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

Ministry of Word – 7:30pm – Gathering Room

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

NO Religious Education

Novena 7:30pm - Church

Thursday, February 22, 2018

No events

Friday, February 23, 2018

Mass & Stations of the Cross & 7:30pm

Saturday, February 24, 2018

Confessions 11:00am – Church

Children's Choir – 4:15pm – Church

Second Sunday of Lent, February 25, 2018

Children's Liturgy of the Word – 9:30am – Church GR

Religious Education Pre-K-6 – 10:45am



MINISTRY OF WORD
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20 AT 7:30PM
IN THE GATHERING ROOM

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 Communion, 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



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 2018" in our parish book rack. Please take one for yourself and even another for a friend



ARE YOU CELEBRATING YOUR 5th*25th or 50th

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 Cardinal Joseph Tobin in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark as follows:

April 29, 2018 at 3:00pm
For Five and Twenty-Five Years

May 6, 2018 at 3:00pm
For Fifty Years

Please notify the parish office no later than March 26 if you would like to attend one of the celebrations.

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: _____



FEED THE HUNGRY

HELP US TO THIS SUNDAY IS FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY

The following are items most needed to restock our shelves this month. Any item or items you can purchase for our pantry would be greatly appreciated. God Bless you for your continue support of this most important ministry to the poor.

- COOKIES*CRACKERS*TOILET TISSUE*
- PAPER TOWELS*TISSUES*NAPKINS*
- HAIR CONDITIONER*RAZORS*
- SHAVE CREAM*DEODORANT*TOOTH PASTE*
- TOOTH BRUSHES*BATH SOAP*
- BODY WASH*MOSITURIZER

Your continued support of our ministry to the poor is greatly appreciated.



MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT BREAKFAST

On Sunday, February 25, 2018 between 9:00am-12:00 noon all men, 18 years and older, are welcome to nourish their Catholic Faith by exploring membership in this wonderful Brotherhood of the Knights of Columbus. Drop by Council Hall, 199 River Road (off Main Street in New Milford), before or after each Mass on Sunday February 25 for a delicious hot breakfast and a chance to hear a presentation and receive important literature.

Want more information? Contact Grand Knight Robert Luongo at 201-539-7726 or by email at bluongo761@yahoo.com.



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

Full Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Phone: _____