

Church of the Ascension

Invites You to Share with us. . .

+ Our Pastoral Staff +

Pastor

Rev. David W. Milliken

Director of Music

Glenn Gordon

Weekend Assistant

Rev. Tim Graff

Parish Business Manager

Serina Sharkey

In Residence

Rev. Brian G. Plate

Director of Maintenance

Brendan Suter

Parish Trustees

Christopher Cudina & Elizabeth Delgado

Religious Education Center

Theresa Carbone, Coordinator of Religious Education

Jeanette MacNish, Coordinator for Grades 7 & 8

Dena Sedlak, Coordinator of First Penance and

First Holy Communion



+ Our Pastoral Life +

PARISH MEMBERSHIP:

We welcome all new parishioners to our parish family. Every family participating regularly in the spiritual life of our parish is encouraged to register at the Rectory. Please inform us if you are moving.

BAPTISM:

It is mandatory to attend a baptism instruction class before scheduling the date for the baptism. Baptism is usually celebrated on the third Sunday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Parents must be registered parishioners and must attend pre-Baptism instruction usually given on the first Sunday of every month at 1:00 p.m. in the Gathering Room. Godparents must be practicing Catholics in good standing. Pre-registration at the Rectory is necessary prior to the Baptism instruction.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Other times by appointment. Communal Penance Services are celebrated seasonally.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK:

Please notify the Rectory of any elderly, shut-ins, or sick at home who wish to receive the Eucharist or Anointing of the Sick. Priests of the parish will be happy to visit parishioners in the hospitals in the area. Please notify the Rectory if someone from your family is in the hospital and wishes a priest to visit.

WEDDINGS:

Please make arrangements at the Rectory with one of the priests of the parish one year in advance.



Third Sunday of Advent December 16, 2018

+ Our Parish Mission Statement +

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we, the Catholic Community of the Church of the Ascension, New Milford, commit ourselves to celebrate the Gospel of Jesus in Sacrament and Prayer. We dedicate ourselves to foster a warm and loving parish of concern and service for the individual, family and total community.

+ Our Eucharistic Celebrations +

Saturday

8:30 a.m.

5:30 p.m. (Vigil Mass)

Sunday

7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

Monday - Friday

7:00 a.m. and 8:30am

7:30 p.m. (Fridays during Lent)

Holy Days: 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 7:30 p.m.

Please see inside bulletin for Holiday Mass time

+ Our Devotions +

Novena in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Wednesday 7:30 p.m.
Rosary is prayed Monday through Saturday 7:45 a.m.



RECTORY & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

RECTORY

256 Azalea Drive, New Milford, NJ 07646

(201) 836-8961 • FAX: (201) 836-5896

Website: www.churchoftheascension.com

E-mail: ascension@optonline.net

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

256 Azalea Drive, New Milford, NJ 07646

(201) 836-3085 • Fax (201) 836-5896

E-mail: ascensionreled@optonline.net

Mass  for the Intentions *for the Week*

Third Sunday of Advent, December 16

5:30 Robert Barratt
7:30 People of Ascension Parish
9:30 Maria & Evaristo Aponte
11:30 Montecuello & Lewis Families

Monday, December 17, 2018

7:00 Julian Bayani Habana, Birthday (L)
8:30 Alfonso Flores

Tuesday, December 18, 2018

7:00 Antonio M. Majul
8:30 Candelaria Ciron

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

7:00 Peter Buckley, 55th Anniversary
8:30 Soler/Valdes Family

Thursday, December 20, 2018

7:00 Jesus Garcia
8:30 Vidal/Tolentino Families

Friday, December 21, 2018

7:00 Normita L. Crystal
8:30 Arlene Aubert

Saturday, December 22, 2018

8:30 Frank Monti
5:30 Primo Fineza

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23

7:30 Marcella & Harry Sweeney
9:30 People of Ascension Parish
11:30 Elizabeth Lugo

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

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

December 10, 2017:	\$4,399.00
December 9, 2018:	\$5,324.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$1,208.00
Maintenance & Repairs:	\$2,597.00

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

Reading for Sunday, December 23

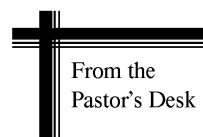
Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-18 [4]/
Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

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 Jn 1:1-5, 9-14



This is the third Sunday of Advent, called “Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday,” the day that John the Baptist tells the Jews that the coming Messiah wants more from them than simply being in Abraham’s bloodline! To us this means, as John puts it, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise. Don’t lie and accuse others falsely; take only what is owed to you and quit complaining.”

To anyone who thinks church teachings are stuffy, boring, for old people, and out of touch with the real world—listen up. The message of Advent is timely and shocking. It actually asks us, in no uncertain terms, to curb our power and our consumption. Our college degrees, our bank accounts, and our fancy bloodlines mean nothing.

All that does matter is how you share what you have, or use the power that you have in the world to create new life for someone who needs you. That is the source of joy on “Rejoicing Sunday.” That is the way for us to prepare for Jesus.

Simple people have done it for generations. Immigrants cared for each other in their neighborhoods. Let’s create neighborhood with each other, not simply be satisfied with lots of clothes and shoes rotting in the closet.

How can we put St. John the Baptist’s words into practice. Think creatively—how can you DO real preparation for Jesus this Advent?

✘ Don’t forget to bring in your gifts and put them under our **Advent Giving Tree**. Distribution will be done this week.

✘ Our “**O Antiphons**” will return this week and be proudly displayed to help us during our final countdown to Christmas from December 17th to 23rd.

✘ Don’t forget our parish **Simbang Gabi** celebration, the Filipino Christmas Preparation. Mass will be at 5:30pm on Saturday, December 15th. Refreshments will follow after Mass.

✘ Please plan ahead... We will be putting up the **Christmas Trees** in our church on **Friday, December 21st**, beginning at 6pm. Parishioners are welcome to come and lend a hand.

We will be **decorating our church** on **Sunday, December 23rd**, beginning at 1pm. Again, Parishioners are welcome to come and lend a hand.

For both events, many hands make for less work for all.

✘ We have inserted in the bulletin the schedule of Masses for the Christmas Season. We welcome all of you, those who celebrate with us daily and weekly, and those who have been away for a while. 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.

✘ **Ireland—the Land of Saints and Leprechauns** awaits you! Our parish will travel to the cities of Shannon, Killarney, Blarney, Cork, Knock (special Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady Queen of Ireland), and Galway from May 12th to 20th. Let Fr. David know if you are interested and he will give you a brochure, or stop by the rectory. We will have an informational meeting with Ann Breslin (Great Experiences) in January 2019.

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

FATHER DAVID MILLIKEN WILL ESCORT A GROUP TO IRELAND-MAY 12-20, 2019

You are invited to come away to the magical land of Ireland! Father David will be the escort during a tour which he will celebrate Mass on some days in special sites (such as the Shrine of Our Lady Queen of Ireland in Knock). In addition, sightseeing by a professional guide will include sites in and around Killarney, Blarney, Cork, Dublin, and Galway. Included in the cost of \$3,150.00 per person-two in a room or \$3,800.00 - single occupancy. Round-trip transportation from Church of the Ascension to Newark International Airport, round-trip non-stop Economy airfare and all departure taxes, all transportation and sightseeing by private motor-coach with the services of a professional guide/driver. 7 nights hotel accommodations in First Class hotels, full breakfast and dinner daily, entrance fees, hotel baggage handling, taxes and service charges, tip to the guide/driver.

Brochures with complete details may be obtained in the parish office.

OFFERTORY GIFTS

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



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: _____



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.



Calendar:

Sunday, December 16th – 1st thru 6th grade from 10:45 am to 12:00 pm (SCH)
 Monday, December 17th -- 8th Grade from 7 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)
 Wednesday, December 19th -- 9th Grade from 7 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)
 Sunday, December 23rd – No Children’s Liturgy or Religious Education

Children’s Liturgy of the Word will celebrated at the 9:30 am Mass. All children in Pre-K to 5th grade are welcomed to join us. What a great way for families to celebrate Mass together. There will be No Children’s Liturgy on December 23rd or December 30th. We will resume on January 6, 2019.

Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace: Now that our parish children have celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time, they will come together this week to think about the significance of the sacrament. They will reflect on the experience of “going to confession” and receiving God’s forgiveness. They will remember what they did and how they felt on this special day. Please continue to pray for them, and encourage our young children as they begin a lifelong practice of celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Volunteers Needed:

We are in need of Aides and Class Parents for our Religious Education Program for the 2018-2019 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



Please patronize our advertisers. They help us GROW.

Please remember to patronize who help make this bulletin possible, EAST-WEST ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS, INC. 201-384-0125

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR PARISH INFORMATION
WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM

Christmas 2018 at Ascension

Christmas Preparation

Confessions

Monday, December 10, 2018
Tri-Parish Penance Service
7pm at St. Mary's, Dumont
Saturday, December 23, 2018
11am – 11:30am

Simbang Gabi

Filipino Christmas Preparation
Saturday, December 15, 2018
5:30pm (*Reception in FBC follows Mass*)

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24, 2018
5:30pm, and 12:00 Midnight
Choir Concert with Carolling begins at 11:15pm

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25, 2018
7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am

Holy Family

Saturday, December 29, 2018
5:30pm
Sunday, December 30, 2018
7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

New Year's Eve

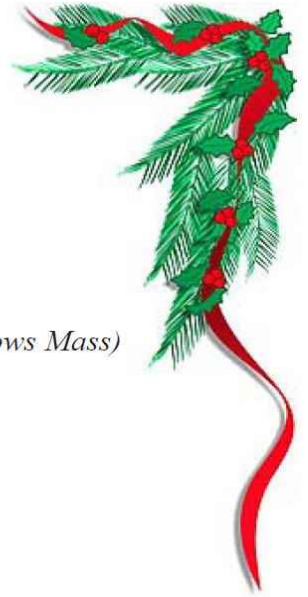
Monday, December 31, 2018
5:30pm

New Year's Day

Tuesday, January 1, 2019
8:30am and 10:30am

Solemnity of the Epiphany

Saturday, January 5, 2019
5:30pm
Sunday, January 6, 2019
7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am



A Happy and Holy Christmas to all!

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



"To everything there is a season..."

"a time to be healed..."

Ann Wall, Joseph Gorgone, Marguerite Morris, 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, Judith Gonzales, Monica Vivas, Diane Warings, Jane Rodriguez, Herman Ivan Rodriguez, John Delaney, Joel Rivera, Victor Muwonge, Benny Santiago, Aldo Guerra, Evelyn Lawler, Ana Tumang, Mary Anne Meyer, Wayne Potosky
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, A1C James Penser, Beale AFB, CA and all Men and Women serving in our countries Armed Forces.

"a time for peace..."

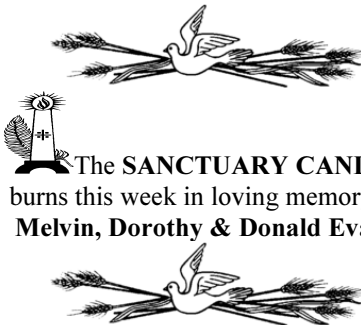
President Donald John Trump,
our National Leaders and all World Leaders.

"a time to die..."

Richard Thomas

and a time for every purpose under heaven"

Ecclesiastes 3:11



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.



Third Sunday of Advent, December 16, 2018

Food Pantry Sunday

Christians of the Holy Land after all Masses
Children's Liturgy of the Word -9:30am
Religious Ed. – 10:45am – School
Baptism – 1:00pm – Church
Giving Tree Distribution – 2:00pm

Monday, December 17, 2018

Food Pantry Distribution
Religious Education Grade 8 – 7:00pm – School
Combined Choirs with instruments – 7:30pm - Church

Tuesday, December 18, 2018

No events

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Confirmation Prep – 7:00-8:45pm
Novena – 7:30pm - Church
Boy Scouts – 7:30pm – Fr. Benedict Center

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Children's Choir – 3:45pm - Church
Combined Choirs – 7:30pm - Church

Friday, December 21, 2018

Trees and lights put up in church – 6:00pm

Saturday, December 22, 2018

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23, 2018

NO Religious Education
Decorating of church for Christmas – 1:00pm



DECORATING OUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Parishioners are invited to help put up Christmas trees & lights in the Church on Friday, December 21st at 6:00pm & decorate the Church on Sunday, December 23rd at 1:00pm. **All are Welcome!**

Happy



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21ST



**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 16th, 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 16.

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!

Sharing God's Blessings Annual Appeal

Thank you to the 191 parishioners who have made a pledge to this year's Sharing God's Blessings Annual Appeal. We are currently at \$43,095.00 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 \$40,546.00



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: _____

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



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 on form or envelopes.** Thank you!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Please Print

In Memory of: _____

or the Intention of: _____

Donated by: _____

Phone: _____



BAKED GOODS NEEDED

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!)

Our next date is on Thursday, December 13th. We could sure use your help. Thank you in advance for supporting our very important ministry!



HELP US TO FEED THE HUNGRY

FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION – DECEMBER 17th

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 continued support of this most important ministry to the poor.

- HOT COCOA-APPLE SAUCE-MAYONNAISE-OLIVES
- CANNED MUSHROOMS-CANNED SPINACH-RAISINS
- GRATED CHEESE-INSTANT RICE-JAM-COOKIES
- MANDARIN ORANGES-PANCAKE SYRUP-ICE TEA MIX
- FROSTED FLAKES-RICE CRISPIES-CORN FLAKES
- BATHROOM TISSUE-NAPKINS-TISSUES

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

