

Church of the Ascension

Invites You to Share with us. . .

+ Our Pastoral Staff +

Pastor

Rev. James T. Brown, M. Div.

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. David W. Milliken

Weekend Assistant

Rev. Tim Graff

Director of Music

Glenn Gordon

Parish Business Manager

Serina Sharkey

Parish Trustees

Elizabeth Delgado

Todd Henderson

Religious Education

Theresa Carbone, Coordinator of Religious Education

Jeanette MacNish, Coordinator for Grades 7 & 8

Dena Sedlak, Coordinator of First Penance and

First Holy Communion



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 Parish Office. 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 seasonally on Sunday at 1:00 p.m. Parents should 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 Parish Center Gathering Room. Godparents must be practicing Catholics in good standing. Pre-registration at the Parish Office 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 Parish Office 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 Parish Office if someone from your family is in the hospital and wishes a priest to visit.

WEDDINGS:

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



The Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 28, 2025

+ 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 - Thursday

One Daily Mass at 8:00 a.m.

No daily Mass on Friday

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

Holiday Mass: 8:00am

+ Our Devotions +

Rosary is prayed Monday-Thursday & Saturday after Mass



PARISH CENTER

Monday - Friday

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Closed 12 noon-1:00pm

PARISH CENTER

PARISH OFFICE

256 Azalea Drive, New Milford, NJ 07646

(201) 836-8961 • FAX: (201) 836-5896

Email: Secretary@churchoftheascension.com

Website: www.churchoftheascension.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

256 Azalea Drive, New Milford, NJ 07646

Email: reled@churchoftheascension.com

(201) 836-3085 • Fax (201) 836-5896

Mass for the
Intentions Week

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, September 28, 2025

5:30pm Dominic Nguyen

7:30 Mary Ann Mallon

9:30 John Trimarchi

11:30 People of Ascension Parish

Monday, September 29, 2025

8:00 Bridget O'Shea

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

8:00 Leonardo Marchesani

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

8:00 Manuel Garcia

Thursday, October 2, 2025

8:00 Ciriaco Guce

Friday, October 3, 2025

No Mass

Saturday, October 4, 2025

Memorial

8:30 Liwayway Caragay

Mary Rose O'Shea

Abraham Thomas

5:30 People of Ascension Parish

Twenty-Seventh Sunday

in Ordinary Time - October 5, 2025

7:30 Adam Menzck

9:30 Patrick Mallon

11:30 Judith Klocek-Sexton

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

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

Sunday, September 21, 2025 \$4,609.00

Maintenance & Repairs: \$2,276.00

WeShare Maint. & Repairs: \$1,424.01

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

Readings for Sunday

October 5, 2025

Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/2

Tm 1:6-8, 13-14/Lk 17:5-10

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Luke 16:19-31

I am embarrassed to admit that I frequently find myself dining and socializing with people who have millions and sometimes billions of dollars. I've eaten more caviar, lobster and wagyu steak than most people on the planet. I justify it by saying it's part of my job. But I have seven pairs of nice jeans and expensive shoes.

So it is rather uncomfortable to hear Our Lord say: **"My child, remember that you received what was good in your lifetime, while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented"** (Luke 16:25). Fellow rich people (and if you're American, you're rich), do we not vehemently though quietly object to this parable's karma-esque reward system? Why bless the rich man just to curse him later? And curse Lazarus just to bless him later? So Americans go to hell, while Burundians and Afghans go to heaven? What is going on?

One clue is that the condemned rich man doesn't complain of injustice. Rather, he simply begs to help his brothers to repent. Of what? We don't know exactly. Perhaps another clue is that the rich man now seems more like the downtrodden Lazarus. He knows what it is to be hungry and thirsty, to be wounded in the gutter; that he deserved *that*, not fancy meals and clothes. Maybe the rich man finally understands how to receive true blessings, but it is too late for him. But not for me. Not for us.

— Father John Muir

Question: Can a divorced Catholic receive holy Communion?

Answer:

Unfortunately, too many people today — Catholics and non-Catholics alike — mistakenly believe that divorce separates one from the Communion of the Church and that divorced persons may not receive Communion. However, as the Church has communicated in a number of places, the issue at hand is not the reality of divorce, but is more often the reality of re-marriage outside of the Church (such as in the case of a Catholic who was previously married within the Church, divorced, and remarried without receiving an annulment). Divorced persons are called to live chastely as single people and to observe the same call to avoid sin as anyone else who desires to receive the Eucharist. Beyond this, however, Pope Francis has reminded us that the healing power of the Eucharist can be especially significant for those who have "endured separation, divorce, or abandonment ... divorced people who have not remarried, and often bear witness to marital fidelity, ought to be encouraged to find in the Eucharist the nourishment they need to sustain them in their present state of life." (*Amoris Laetitia*, no. 242) Moreover, he continues, "The local community and pastors should accompany these people with solicitude, particularly when children are involved or when they are in serious financial difficulty." (*AL*, no 242)

As Pope Francis has also reminded us, the Eucharist is "not a prize for the perfect," but "a powerful medicine and nourishment" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 47). Because we all stand in need of healing and wholeness, the Church invites all who seek to live their faith in integrity and devotion to come and receive the grace offered in the Eucharist.

©LPi



“JUBILEE 25”

The year 2025 will be a very special year for the catholic church. After 25 years, Pope Francis has declared 2025 a year of jubilee. Jubilee is a special holy year of grace and pilgrimage. It takes place every 25 years. This year’s theme is “Pilgrims of Hope”. A year of hope, prayer, celebration and renewal of our faith.

Pope Francis opened the holy door of St. Peter’s Basilica on Christmas Eve, December 24th, 2024. The opening of the holy door represents the journey from sin to grace for every Christian and marks the beginning of the jubilee year.

Through prayer, may we arrive at the holy door with our hearts ready to welcome the gifts of grace and forgiveness that the jubilee offers us.

Here at Ascension, we opened “Jubilee 25” on January 5th, 2025, the Feast of the Epiphany. The jubilee will offer us an opportunity to participate in the various events that is planned and also in which we may obtain plenary indulgences.

We look forward to this holy year here at Ascension.

September 30 - Tour of The Sacred Heart Basilica

October 19 – International Food Festival

January 4, 2026 – Pilgrims of Hope Concert

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

**OUR 5:30PM MASS ON SATURDAY IS LIVE
STREAMED AND APPEARS ON YOUTUBE FOR
OUR HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS TO VIEW.**

BULLETIN EMAIL ADDRESS

**HAVE SOMETHING FOR OUR BULLETIN?? PLEASE
SUBMIT ALL ITEMS FOR BULLETIN NO LATER
THAN 9:00AM ON MONDAY BEFORE PRINTING DATE
(items will be included as space permits)**

bulletin@churchoftheascension.com

NOTE: All submissions must go to this email address

Thank you for your cooperation

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 for the intention
of your loved one.**



MANY THANKS TO OUR ADVERTISERS

CareRite Now

Bergen New Bridge Health

Inserra Supermarkets

www.newbridgehealth.org/carerite-now

Who make this bulletin possible



Calendar:

Sunday, September 28th -- 1st thru 5th grades from 10:45 am to 12 Noon (Parish Center)

Monday, September 29th -- 6th, 7th & 8th Grades in Parish Center from 6:55 pm to 8:15 pm.

Wednesday, October 1st -- 9th Grade in Parish Center from 6:55 pm to 8:15 pm

Sunday, October 5th -- 1st thru 5th grades from 10:45 am to 12 Noon (Parish Center)

Important:

On Tuesday, October 7, 2025, there will be a MANDATORY Parent meeting for all students making their First Reconciliation this year. We will meet at 7 pm in the Parish Center Chapel at 7 pm. Letters were mailed and emailed to all families.

Please remember that all On-Line Work is due on the following days:

For Sunday Program (1st to 5th Grades) by Wednesday of each week

For Monday Night Program (6th to 8th Grades) by Wednesday of each week

For Wednesday Night Program (9th Grade) by Friday of each week.

Parents, Please Remember that this work MUST be completed each week. – All ON-LINE REVIEWS are to be sent to reled@churchoftheascension.com

Registrations are still being accepted for this school year. If you wish to register your child or know anyone who wishes to register in our program and are in need of a registration form, please call 201-836-3085 or stop by the Religious Education Office in the Parish center during office hours- 9am to 4 pm daily. Forms can also be found on the parish website, www.churchoftheascension.com.

All families are encouraged to come to Mass each week and parents as also asked to review ALL PRAYERS with their child; they can be found in the back of each book.

Volunteers Needed:

We in need of help with Children’s Liturgy of the Word at the 9:30 am Mass, which will restart in the Fall, for all children in the Parish. If you would like to help, PLEASE call Mrs. Carbone in the Parish Center. This is a wonderful opportunity for college students or student teachers to gain experience, share their faith and work with students in a relaxed atmosphere.

We need Substitutes for our Religious Education Program for the 2025-2026 school year. Anyone interested, please call Theresa Carbone, our Coordinator of Religious Education at (201) 836-3085.

Religious Education Office Hours:

Monday – Wednesday & Friday: 9 am to 3:30 pm – Parish Center

Sunday Mornings: 10:15am to 12:15 am

Monday and Wednesday Evenings: 6:30 pm to 8:15 pm

INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL

An International Food Festival will be held on

Sunday, October 19th at 2pm in the

Fr. Benedict Center (YMCA GYM).

We need your help in making this event a very special and successful one. We need donations of ethnic dishes to be made by you, our parishioners. Some examples are: American, Filipino, Italian, Indian, Nigerian, Spanish, Asian, etc.

If it is a hot dish, it must be in an aluminum throw away pan that fits in the warming rack, (1/2 tray or full tray). Label name of dish on tray. All dishes must be delivered to the YMCA by 12:45pm.

If you would like to participate, please fill out the form below and drop off at the Parish Center. Any questions, call Josie (201)265-0485 or Anna (201)206-4297.

International Food Festival

Yes, I would like to make an ethnic dish.

NAME _____

PHONE # _____

NAME OF ETHNIC DISH _____

PLEASE CHECK OFF ONE OR MORE:

HELP SERVE FOOD _____

SET-UP _____ ON SATURDAY, OCT. 18TH AT 2:30PM IN
THE YMCA GYM.

CLEAN-UP _____

AFTER AFFAIR ON SUNDAY, OCT. 19TH



PRAY FOR...

"To everything there is a season..."

"a time to be healed..."

Marguerite Morris, Rebecca Tababan, Stephen Cronin, Kaitlin Abreu, Gerard Lee, Marguerite Raptopoulos and those among us who are sick and in need of our prayers.

Family Members: PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE SOMEONE ON OUR PRAYER LIST.

Prayer list will be updated every three months

Next renewal date November 1, 2025

Please call office to renew or remove name

"a time to serve..."

Tech Sgt. James Penser, Ramstein AFB, Germany. And all Men and Women serving in our countries Armed Forces.

For all of our Emergency, Medical & First Responders.

"a time for peace..."

All our National and World Leaders.

and a time for every purpose under heaven"

Ecclesiastes 3:1



The SANCTUARY CANDLE
burns this week in memory of
Mary & Frank Macaluso

On their Heavenly "80th Wedding Anniversary"



BREAD and WINE this week
Donated in memory of
Luzminda Dela Cruz



BLESSING OF ANIMALS

Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4th AT 11:30AM

In the Blessed Mother Courtyard

In honor of The Feast of Saint Francis we are looking for gently used sheets, pillow cases, towels, and blankets (without stuffing) to help make life a bit easier for our furry friends in local shelters. We will also take gently used toys (no rope or rawhide), bowls, collars or leashes. You can leave items in the Food Pantry Box outside of the pantry and we will pick them up for delivery to the shelter. What a perfect way to do some fall cleaning in your linen closet and put items to a good use. Any questions, you can leave a message with the parish office for Joan Stephens and I will return your call. Thank you for your help!

SAVE THE DATE!

On **Sunday, January 4th 2026, at 4 pm**, our Parish will host a Choir Concert, directed by Glenn Gordon, entitled

Pilgrims of Hope.

The concert will celebrate the closing of our *Jubilee Year of Hope* and will feature choirs from Ascension,

St. John's, and St. Mary's.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

More information is coming soon.



"New Way to Donate to Our Food Pantry:

As our food collections have dwindled quite a bit, we thought we might try something new.

Each month we will publish four items as "Item of the Week". Just think, if every family donated one of the items, we would have enough to provide them to our client for several months! Items can be dropped in our pantry bin during any week of the month. This way you can check on sales wherever you do your shopping. And for a hint, places like dollar stores sometimes have prices way lower than grocery stores! So lets give it a try!

October:

Week 1-Canned Spinach

As always, we are grateful to have such a giving parish that supports our very important ministry to our neighbors in need. God bless all who help us! "



WE SHARE-ONLINE GIVING
PLEASE GO TO OUR PARISH WEBSITE
FOR A DIRECT LINK FOR
INFORMATION/INSTRUCTIONS
www.churchoftheascension.net

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

PART TIME MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS MANAGER FOR ASCENSION CHURCH NEEDED

Please see website:
www.churchoftheascension.com
For complete position description

ARE YOU COMPUTER SAVVY?

We are looking for a couple of people who know their way around websites. If this is you, please call the Parish office. We are looking for a couple of people who are able to update our parish website in a timely manner. This does not require a lot of time. Once the site is mastered you would put up and take down information and keep the site current and attractive.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (OCIA)

Have you been baptized Catholic and are missing a sacrament (Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation)?

Have you been baptized in another denomination and would like to join the Catholic Church?

Are you unbaptized and would like to become Catholic?

If you answered yes to any of these questions then please give the parish office a call. We would like to begin classes as soon as possible.

SANCTUARY CANDLE, BREAD & WINE, AND ALTAR FLOWERS for the week, are available for memorial or special occasions, such as First Communions, Confirmations, Baptisms, Birthdays, Weddings Anniversaries. Please stop by or call the parish office to check availability.

MEMORIALS

If you would like to contribute to this fund in memory of your loved one. Please call the Parish Office (201) 836-8961 or stop by the office (located in the Parish Center-256 Azalea Drive)) to check availability.

Memorials: (circle appropriate memorial)

ALTAR BREAD AND WINE \$25 per week
ALTAR FLOWERS \$65 (per basket/per week)
SANCTUARY CANDLE \$15 per week

MEMORIAL CANDLES:

___ SACRED HEART or ___ BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Donation Amount

\$25/1 month	\$100/5 months
\$45/2 months	\$120/6 months
\$65/3months	\$200/1 year
\$85/4months	

MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF: _____

DATE REQUESTED: _____

REQUESTED BY: _____

Phone: _____ Donation Amount: _____

Please return completed form with your check
made payable to Ascension Church

VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE
FOR PARISH INFORMATION
FLYERS*FORMS*SCHEDULES*BULLETINS
UPCOMING EVENTS
WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM

HARRISON HOUSE

We give thanks to the many volunteers who represented our parish by preparing meals for the residents of Harrison House, a residence for person with Aids, once a month during 2025!

Help is needed for 2026... We are seeking people who are willing to prepare a meal at home (one time) for 8 people and deliver it to Harrison House (on the grounds of Bergen Regional Medical Center). Our parish has the 4th Wednesday of each month. If we have twelve volunteers, this means a family or individual will need to prepare only one meal for the year. Please call Hanna or Mary Lee., (201) 566-4187. If you can help in this worthwhile ministry. Thank you.



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 parish center office. Thank You! I would like....

- ___ to become a Parishioner
- ___ to update my contact information
- ___ 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: _____

*Must be a family member