

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-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 5, 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

Respect Life Sunday

October 5, 2025

5:30pm People of Ascension Parish

7:30 Adam Menzek

9:30 Patrick Mallon

11:30 Judith Klocek-Sexton

Monday, October 6, 2025

8:00 Beatriz Santos

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

8:00 Msgr. Thomas Ivory

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

8:00 Joan Murray

Thursday, October 9, 2025

8:00 Paddy O'Shea

Friday, October 10, 2025

No Mass

Saturday, October 11, 2025

8:30 Kathleen O'Shea

5:30 William & Elizabeth Morris

Twenty-Eight Sunday

in Ordinary Time October 12, 2025

7:30 People of Ascension Parish

9:30 Guido Family

11:30 Margaret McEwan Bitetti

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

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

Sunday, September 28, 2025 \$4,515.00

Social Concerns: \$1,188.00

WeShare Social Concerns: \$ 173.07

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

Readings for Sunday

October 12, 2025

2 Kgs 5:14-17/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4
(see 2b)/2 Tm 2:8-13/Lk 17:11-19

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Luke 17:5-10

A priest friend of mine received a call from a family whose elderly mother was dying. Within thirty minutes, he was at her bedside, offering the consolation of the sacraments, anointing her with the oil of the sick, and commending her soul to God. She passed not long after, and for months, her family spoke of their deep gratitude for his presence. When I phoned him to commend his faithful ministry, he simply said, "I was just doing my job."

His words brought to mind Jesus' teaching this week in Luke 17:10: **"So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"** In a world that often seeks recognition and applause, the Lord invites us into a different mindset — one of humble service. The priest did not see his response as extraordinary; he saw it as a grace to fulfill his vocation.

How tempting it is to seek affirmation for doing what I ought to do! Yet Jesus reminds us that true discipleship is not about grandstanding but about quiet faithfulness. It is enough to have served. It is enough to have loved. It is enough to be grateful that we were given the chance to do our duty in the first place. Whether in priesthood, parenthood, or any vocation, what peace-soaked freedom there is in simply doing what is asked of us. No more, no less. Jesus, that is how you quietly love us.

— Father John Muir



Dear God,

Help us to hear Your voice,
especially when You speak on behalf
of the voiceless,
the overlooked, and the forgotten.

Keep our ears attuned,
and work through us in a way that loves,
blesses, assures, supports, and strengthens LIFE.
Amen.



“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.

January 4, 2026 – Pilgrims of Hope Concert



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



Calendar:

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

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

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

Sunday, October 12th – 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

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.

Please see this graphic below prepared by the Archdiocese of Newark that helps to explain the Archdiocesan wide We Are His Witnesses Initiative. Please note, the facts and figures presented are a diocesan overview, not parish specific.

OUR PARISH LISTENING SESSIONS ARE SCHEDULED FOR
MONDAY, OCTOBER 20 - 6PM-8PM
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22 - 6PM-8PM
MEET IN THE CHURCH



WHAT IS IT?

Launched by Cardinal Tobin in June 2025, and inspired by *Evangelii Gaudium*, this is an invitation to "PASTORAL CONVERSION"—a call for every member of the Church to take shared responsibility in renewing our Catholic presence by embracing evangelization and missionary outreach while adapting to today's cultural and social norms.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THIS INITIATIVE?



Renew Missionary Purpose



Deepen Parish Vitality



Foster Shared Listening & Action

WHY IS RENEWAL NEEDED NOW?

A CHANGING LANDSCAPE SINCE 1998*:

- Mass attendance ↓ 53%
- Baptisms ↓ 61%
- Marriages ↓ 75%
- Funerals ↓ 56%



FEWER PRIESTS TO SERVE*:



- Only 127 priests under 50
- By 2044, fewer than 131 pastors available

*In the Archdiocese of Newark

YET, THE POPULATION IS GROWING!



Each county is projected to grow 3%+



More people to reach with Christ's love



HOW WILL THIS WORK? Our faith must respond to today's realities.

We will walk together in faith, listening, discerning, and acting to bring Christ to the world.

AREAS OF MISSION FOCUS:

1. Evangelization and Outreach – How will we share the Gospel with all people in our area?
2. Pastoral Care of the Faithful – How will we care for all Catholics in our parish communities?
3. Long-Term Sustainability – How will we provide support for parishes into the future?

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS TO GUIDE US:

1. Where are we now?
2. Where is God calling us to go?
3. How will we get there together?

GUIDING VALUES:

1. *Synodality* - Listening, walking together
2. *Subsidiarity* - Trusting local wisdom
3. *Solidarity* - Unity in diversity

WHO'S INVOLVED?

1. Clergy, religious, lay leaders, and YOU
2. Guided by Bishop Saporito & RCAN Commissions
3. Cardinal Tobin listens—but makes final decisions



HOW TO PARTICIPATE:



- Join parish listening sessions
- Stay open to change



- Share feedback and ideas
- Support and pray for your community and the entire Archdiocese

Stay connected with your parish and the Archdiocese to follow the progress of this important initiative.

Visit WeAreHisWitnesses.org for updates, resources, and more.





"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

John Coringrato



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

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



**RESPECT LIFE RAFFLE TICKETS
ON SALE**

**AFTER ALL MASSES
NEXT WEEKED-OCTOBER 11 & 12**

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.

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.

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

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.



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Who make this bulletin possible

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

PART TIME MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS MANAGER FOR ASCENSION CHURCH NEEDED

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

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.

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.

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



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 2-Canned Peaches

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! "



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