

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 Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 26, 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

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 26, 2025

5:30pm Peter Buckley
7:30 Andres Villaluna, Sr.
9:30 Corazon Anunciacion
11:30 People of Ascension Parish

Monday, October 27, 2025

8:00 Gerard Patrick Lee

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

8:00 Oscar Anthony Poli

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

8:00 Enrique Blanco, Sr.

Thursday, October 30, 2025

8:00 Balagot/Viduya Family

Friday, October 31, 2025

No Mass

All Saints Day

Saturday, November 1, 2025

Memorial

8:30 Bredget Mallon

Mary O'Shea

5:30 People of Ascension Parish

All Souls Day

November 2, 2025

7:30 All Souls Novena

9:30 All Souls Novena

11:30 All Souls Novena

PARISH \$ STEWARDSHIP REPORT

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

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

Sunday, October 19, 2025 \$4,966.00

World Mission: \$ 999.00

WeShare World Mission: \$ 130.50

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

Readings for Sunday

November 2, 2025

Wis 3:1-9/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/
Rom 5:5-11 or Rom 6:3-9/Jn 6:37-40



WHAT IS WE ARE HIS WITNESSES?

We Are His Witnesses is a pastoral initiative launched by Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Newark, on Pentecost in June 2025. It invites all of us to walk together on a journey—a path of pastoral conversion. Inspired by the Word of God and rooted in Pope Francis's *Evangelii Gaudium* (*The Joy of the Gospel*), this initiative calls on the entire Church to reimagine parish life, mission, and ministry in response to a changing world.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THIS INITIATIVE?

- Renew our sense of purpose as missionary disciples.
- Deepen parish vitality through evangelization, pastoral care, and sustainability.
- Engage all members of the Church in listening, discernment, and shared action.

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING NOW?

We face several significant challenges. The landscape of the Archdiocese of Newark has undergone significant changes. Parish membership, Mass attendance, and Sacramental participation have all declined. The number of priests to serve as pastors is decreasing.

Yet our region's population is growing—offering new opportunities for evangelization. Faith is no longer a dominant cultural influence. In this new era, each of us—bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and laypeople—shares responsibility to live as disciples and bring Christ to the world.

HOW HAS THE LANDSCAPE OF THE ARCHDIOCESE CHANGED?

Over the last two decades, the Archdiocese has experienced significant changes in participation, sacramental life, and clergy availability:

Decline in Key Areas (Since 1998):

- Mass attendance has decreased by 53%
- Baptisms are down 61%
- Marriages have declined by 75%
- Funerals are down 56%

Fewer Priests Available to Serve:

- There are currently 381 priests in active ministry (including religious orders and retired priests)
- 254 priests (66%) are age 50 or older
- 127 priests (34%) are under age 50
- By 2044, most priests currently 50+ will have retired (assuming retirement at age 70–75)
- In 2023, 205 priests were available to serve as pastors
- By 2044, that number is projected to drop to between 104 and 131, depending on ordinations (estimated at 1–4 per year).



“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

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.

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.

VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE

FOR PARISH INFORMATION

FLYERS*FORMS*SCHEDULES*BULLETINS

UPCOMING EVENTS

WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM



Calendar:

Sunday, October 26th – 1st thru 5th grades from 10:45 am to 12 Noon (Parish Center)

Monday, October 27th – 6th, 7th & 8th Grades in Parish Center from 6:55 pm to 8:15 pm

Wednesday, October 29th -- 9th Grade in Parish Center from 6:55 pm to 8:15 pm

Sunday, October 26th – 1st thru 5th grades from 10:45 am to 12 Noon (Parish Center)

Important:

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 2023-2024 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

Calendar:

OCTOBER 26, 2025

“JUBILEE 25” INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL

Thank you to all for your overwhelming support of our International Food Festival. For our hard working committee, all the delicious and ethnic dishes, and to you who came.

This truly was a mission of hope for our parish.

Happy Jubilee 25,
Josie and Anna





"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



BREAD and WINE this week

Donated in loving memory of

John Edward Rooney



TURKEY TO DONATE?

Do you have a Shop Rite turkey that you would like to donate to our food pantry?

No need to pick it up.

If you qualify for a free turkey-please call the parish office, 201-836-8961, and give us your Telephone Number/Shop Rite number. We will be happy to pick it up for you & give it to the needy and less fortunate.

SORRY, NO TURKEY'S JUST NUMBERS

Thank you!

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL "ALL SOULS" OFFERINGS ARE ALLOCATED TO OUR PARISH PRIEST



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.

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



Set clocks back at 2:00am on Next Sunday, November 2nd



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

**PART TIME
MAINTENANCE
OPERATIONS MANAGER
FOR ASCENSION CHURCH
NEEDED**

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

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



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.



**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



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.



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 4-Raisins**

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! "

FOOD PANTRY DROP BOX

Please note: our pantry is not manned every day. Therefore, it is imperative that you do not leave any perishables in the Pantry Box outside of the pantry. If you have a perishable to donate, call the parish office and they will contact a staff member to get back to you and arrange a time that you can drop it off to us. Thank you for your cooperation.



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