

# 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

### **Director of Music**

Glenn Gordon

### **Director of Maintenances**

Brendan Suter

### **Weekend Assistant**

Rev. Tim Graff

### **Parish Business Manager**

Serina Sharkey

### **Parish Trustees**

Christopher Cudina

Elizabeth Delgado

### **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



## + 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 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 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 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 Epiphany of the Lord January 2, 2022

## + 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 OFFICE HOURS**

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

### **PARISH CENTER**

#### **PARISH OFFICE**

256 Azalea Drive, New Milford, NJ 07646

(201) 836-8961 • FAX: (201) 836-5896

Website: [www.churchoftheascension.com](http://www.churchoftheascension.com)

E-mail: [ascension@optonline.net](mailto: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](mailto:ascensionreled@optonline.net)

Mass  for the  
Intentions *Week*

**The Epiphany of the Lord**

**Sunday, January 2, 2022**

5:30 William & Elizabeth Morris

7:30 Jovita Balagot

9:30 Anne & Harry Sommo

11:30 People of Ascension Parish

**Monday, January 3, 2022**

8:00 Edward Herbst

**Tuesday, January 4, 2022**

8:00 William F. Harahan

**Wednesday, January 5, 2022**

8:00 Gerard Patrick Lee

**Thursday, January 6, 2022**

8:00 Matthew Camerlengo

**Friday, January 7, 2022**

No Mass

**Saturday, January 8, 2022**

**Memorial**

8:30 Joseph A. Graffagnino

Theresa Guido

Consuelo Mendoza,

Conigonda Barlas

**The Baptism of the Lord**

**Sunday, January 9, 2022**

5:30 John Hurley

7:30 People of Ascension Parish

9:30 Anne & Harry Sommo

11:30 Frank Abramonte

**PARISH  STEWARDSHIP  
REPORT**

***WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH***

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

**December 19, 2021:** \$4,465.00

**Immaculate Conception:** \$1,180.00

**Social Concerns:** \$1,052.00

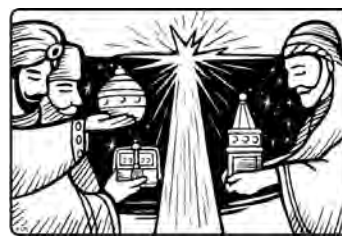
Thank you very much for your generosity. You always care for and support our Parish programs, ministries and plant maintenance.

**Readings for Sunday**

**January 9, 2022**

Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]

Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



**GOSPEL MEDITATION**

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: “Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.” Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, “Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God’s love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being.”

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

*“...They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.”*

*(MATTHEW 2:11)*

What gifts do you give to the Lord? Pope St. Gregory said that these three gifts represent what we should give God every day. Gold – we should reflect Christ’s wisdom in all our relationships. Frankincense – represents our daily prayer and adoration to God. Myrrh – is a symbol of our daily sacrifices that we unite with Jesus for the sake of others.



**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 change my address/update my parish contact information
- to join a ministry
- to let the parish know of someone who is ill

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR PARISH INFORMATION  
FLYERS\*FORMS\*SCHEDULES\*BULLETINS  
UPCOMING EVENTS  
[WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM](http://WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM)



We sincerely thank **Michael Mittenzwei of Boulevard Funeral Home, New Milford and Beaugard-McKnight Funeral Home, River Edge** for the beautiful parish calendars. We are very appreciative of their generosity to Ascension parish.

**SUPPORT the COLLECTION for the CHURCH in LATIN AMERICA**

*Next week* we will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. For many in Latin America and the Caribbean, a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers all present obstacles to practicing the faith. Your support for the collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our Catholic faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ. To learn more about how your gifts make a difference, visit [www.usccb.org/latin-america](http://www.usccb.org/latin-america).



*Happy New Year's*

**Calendar:**

Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> – Group A on line work due by Tuesday, January 11, 2022. Group B on line work due by Tuesday, January 18, 2022.  
Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> – No Religious Education  
Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade in Parish Center from 6:55 pm to 8:15 pm.  
Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> – Group A on line work due by Tuesday, January 11, 2022.  
Group B on line work due by Tuesday, January 18, 2022.  
Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade BOTH GROUP A & GROUP B in Parish Center from 6:55 pm to 8:15 pm.

**REMINDER to All:**

**Reminder that Mrs. Carbone will be in the Parish Center for any family that may need assistance with their child's work from 9:30 to 11:30 am. She can be reach at 201-836-8961 only.**

**Please use the time we are off from class to make sure that your child is up-to-date with all their packet work and online work. If you have any questions please call me in the office.**

**All 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders are asked to be here at 6:55 pm as Classes start at 7 pm sharp. Please meet Mrs. Carbone in the Courtyard of the Statue of Mary.**

**Volunteers Needed:**

We are in need of Aides and Class Parents for our Religious Education Program for the 2021-2022 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 – Parish Center  
Monday and Wednesday: 6:30 pm to 8:45 pm – Parish Center  
Closed: Thursday & Saturday  
Other times by appointment



For a synodal Church  
communion | participation | mission



## Pray

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may  
journey together to eternal life

and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

We ask special blessings on the Church of Newark.

May we cherish this opportunity to pray, listen, and discern so that we may continue the  
mission of Christ as missionary disciples.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.

Amen.

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



**“To everything there is a season...**

**“a time to die...”**

**Ida Rose Ascolese & John Macari**

**“a time to be healed...”**

Marian Pueyo, Al Suter, Joseph Gorgone, Marguerite Morris, Donna Van Kleeck, Elsa Obera, Marie Oberst, Carmelo Abbruzzesi, Leonard Abbruzzesi, Kitty Tricarico, John Thomas, John Donohue, Concepcion Deus, Eileen Kloeblen, Judith Gonzales, Monica Vivas, Diane Warings, Jane Rodriguez, Herman Ivan Rodriguez, Joel Rivera, Victor Muwonge, Evelyn Lawler, Mary Anne Meyer, Neil Magbanua, Vincent Guido, Amy Irwin, Louis Vallis, Jerry Speciale, Sari Contreras, Deacon Harold L. Bates, Jr. 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, Staff Sgt. James Penser, Beale AFB, CA and all Men and Women serving in our countries Armed Forces.

**For all of our Emergency, Medical & First Responders.**

**“a time for peace...”**

All of our National and World Leaders.

**and a time for every purpose under heaven”**

*Ecclesiastes 3:11*



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** burns this week in loving memory of **William & Elizabeth Morris**



**BREAD and WINE** this week Donated in loving memory of **William & Elizabeth Morris**



**Altar Flowers** for this week Donated in loving Memory of **William & Elizabeth Morris**



**Thank you to all who sent cards, gifts and goodies to the parish center. Your thoughtfulness is truly appreciated.**

**We wish you all a Blessed Christmas Season and a Happy, Healthy New Year!**

### Memorials Available

Our Sunday Lectionaries have seen better days and are being replaced. If you would like to donate one in memory of a loved one please contact the parish office.

Year B \$100



**WE SHARE-ONLINE GIVING**  
**PLEASE GO TO OUR PARISH WEBSITE**  
**FOR A DIRECT LINK FOR**  
**INFORMATION/INSTRUCTIONS**

[www.churchoftheascension.net](http://www.churchoftheascension.net)

**OR CONTACT DIRECTLY**

**WeShare Donor Customer Service Phone Number:**  
800-950-9952 (press #3 and then press #2)

**WeShare Customer Service Email:**

[weshare@4lpi.com](mailto:weshare@4lpi.com)



**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 Communions, Confirmations, Baptisms, Birthdays, Wedding Anniversaries. Please stop by or call the parish office to check availability.



Please patronize our advertisers. They help us GROW.

**A LAUNDRY CHUTE**

**725 River Road, New Milford**  
**201-262-WASH (9274)**

**Please remember to patronize, who help make this bulletin possible**



On behalf of the residents (Care One-New Milford) and staff, we want to thank you so much for all your generous donations!

This means the world to the residents!  
Thank you for cheering them up this holiday season!

**Adult Altar Servers for Funerals Needed**

This is a great ministry for anyone who has a free day, are retired or works from home with flexible hours.

- When we have a funeral you will get a phone call asking if you are available; if you are you say yes if not no.
- You will be trained and commissioned.
- This ministry gives a lot of comfort to families during very difficult moments of their lives.

Please consider this ministry—give it a try you might be surprised. Please call the office to sign up.

**POSTURE AT MASS**

When the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Roman Missal was published the overwhelming majority of people have misread one of the instructions.

At the preparation of the gifts number 29 says: standing at the middle of the altar, facing the people, extending and then joining his hands, he (the celebrant) says: “Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.”

Then it says: The people rise and reply.

This means that the congregation does not stand until the celebrant has finished his invitation. Then, the congregation stands and then responds.

**COVID DIRECTIVES FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK**

**“The Communion Rite**

\*The Sign of Peace should be offered but continue to be made without physical contact.

\*Communicants will continue to receive Communion in the hand. If not fully vaccinated, they lower their masks to consume the host, then replace their masks. The chalice is still prohibited for the assembly.”

Please note: the only option for receiving communion at this time is in the hand.

**Thank you for your cooperation & understanding.**

**FEAST OF SANTO NINO**  
**9:30AM MASS**  
**JANUARY 9, 2022**  
**Blessing of Infant Jesus statues at end of Mass**



**ASCENSION PARISH YouTube CHANNEL**  
**IS UP AND RUNNING**  
**You can view our Sunday 5:30pm Vigil Mass celebration.**

**Go to YouTube.com and sign into:**  
**ascensionchurchnewmilfordnj**



Ascension Church will sponsor a trip to the Wind Creek Casino. Bethlehem, Pa. on Tuesday January 25, 2022. The bus will leave Ascension parking lot at 9:30 am. The cost is \$35 per person with a return of \$25 playing voucher. All checks should be payable to Ascension Church and mailed or dropped off at the parish center. Vaccination is required. For further info, call Josie (201)265-0485 or Anna (201)387-2632.



The members of The Ministry of Service want to give a heartfelt *Thank You* to all of our Parishioners who participated in our Christmas Giving Tree Program. We believe Ascension Parish is truly blessed with generous people. Your donations of cards and gifts totaled over \$3500. and we also thank you for following the guidelines which made the distribution of the cards and gifts easier.

- St. John’s/Fairview: \$1260.
- Harrison House: 475.
- Local Families: 525.
- Food Pantry Clients: 1240.

*Your generosity will reach the hearts of many in need this Christmas.*



**THE PARISH OFFICES**  
**WILL BE CLOSED ON**  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>**