

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 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time February 20, 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

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 *Week*

Sunday, February 20, 2022

- 5:30 Angelo & Vito Cucco
7:30 Thanksgiving the Genuino
Family (L)
9:30 Cheriyan Vengassery
11:30 People of Ascension Parish

Monday, February 21, 2022

- 8:00 Dorothy Kerkowski

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

- 8:00 Gerard Patrick Lee

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

- 8:00 Ernesto Almarines

Thursday, February 24, 2022

- 8:00 Cathy Trimarchi

Friday, February 25, 2022

No Mass

Saturday, February 26, 2022

- 8:30 Anna John

Sunday, February 27, 2022

- 5:30 Michael Bruno
7:30 Eugene Pueyo (L)
9:30 People of Ascension Parish
11:30 Heather Bates

**PARISH  STEWARDSHIP
REPORT**

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

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

February 13, 2022: \$3,430.00

Fuel Collection: \$ 933.00

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

**Readings for Sunday
February 27, 2022**

Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 [cf.
2a]/1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Sometimes, Jesus' teachings don't seem to make practical sense. When we hear things like love your enemies and do good to them, turn the other cheek when struck, give to anyone who asks, do to others as you would have them do to you, be merciful, stop judging, forgive, and give to others, we get a bit unsettled. After all, it's okay for God to do all of these things, but does He really want us to do them, too? Many good-hearted Christians really draw the line with some of these ideals and say, "No way!" They even remark that if someone did something hurtful to someone they loved, they would have no reservations seeking severe retribution. There is still this persistent thinking, even among those who consider themselves Christian, that a violent action deserves a violent response. Somehow, we continue to justify this.

Yet, it is most clearly against the very grain of the Gospel. Part of our difficulty has more to do with understanding God's love. We wrongly think that sinful or hurtful actions and evil people somehow are seen as lesser in God's eyes. They are not. God loves the sinner as much as He does the saint. And, both of these inclinations exist in every human being, even those who consider themselves holy. Both the capacity for good and the disposition toward evil exist in every one of us. Viktor Frankl has this to say when reflecting on the Holocaust: "Our generation is a realistic generation because we have learned what a human being really is. When all is said and done, man is that same creature who invented the gas-chambers of Auschwitz; but he is also that being who walked upright into those chambers with the prayer 'Shema Yisrael' on his lips."

If we believe in God, we have to act like God. Whether we like that idea is another issue. If we don't then perhaps, we need to reconsider our faith and whether we really believe in Jesus Christ. We are made in the image of God, not the image of ourselves. The Christian must, at all costs, leave resentment and the need for retaliation behind, lose defensiveness and bring into the mind and heart the realization of who we represent in this world.

St. Polycarp of Smyrna/February 23

As a disciple of St. John, the Evangelist, St. Polycarp was able to hear about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection directly from those who witnessed it. Because Polycarp was ordained as Bishop of Smyrna by St. John, he is one of three chief Apostolic Fathers, along with Clement of Rome and Ignatius of Antioch.

During his life Polycarp defended the Church against heresies. His important writing, the *Letter to the Philippians*, quoted the Gospels and Acts of the Apostles, stressing Paul's authority in the Church and setting out clear arguments against the gnostic heresy that denied Christ's divinity.

The early period of the Church was a dangerous time to be a Christian and like many, St. Polycarp was martyred. He was captured by Romans and sentenced to burn at the stake. However, the fire did not touch him, instead rising up like sails around him. Seeing that the flames would not injure Polycarp, the Romans stabbed him instead. The Martyrdom of Polycarp is perhaps the earliest fully preserved account of a Christian martyr.



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!

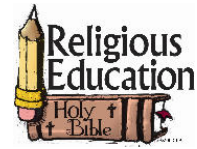
I would like....

- _____ to become a Parishioner
- _____ to change my address
- _____ 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: _____



Calendar:

Sunday, Feb. 20th – Group A- Please make sure ALL ONLINE work is completed by Feb. 22nd
 Group B - Please make sure ALL ONLINE work is completed by March 1st
 Monday, February 21st -- No Religious Education
 Wednesday, February 23rd – No Religious Education

IMPORTANT:

Mandatory 1st Eucharist Parent meeting on **February 22, 2022** at 7:00 pm in the Church. You will receive a notice in the mail and in your email concerning this meeting. All social distancing guidelines will be followed. All attendees will enter in the side door by the Rectory and be directed to a seat. Everyone must wear a mask.

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.

All 7th, 8th and 9th 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



FEED THE HUNGRY

HELP US TO

FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION – FEBRUARY 21st

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.

- EGG NOODLES-CANNED YAMS**
- LEMONADE MIX-BAKED BEANS**
- JELL-O-PUDDING-VEGETARIAN CHILI**
- MENS SHAVE CREAM**
- SHAMPOO-CONDITIONER-**
- WOMENS DEODORANT**

DONATIONS CAN BE LEFT AT THE PARISH CENTER
Your continued support of our ministry to the poor is greatly appreciated.



**THE PARISH CENTER & ALL OFFICES
WILL BE CLOSED
ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2022**

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



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.

Please visit our parish website (www.churchoftheascension.com) and go to our direct link to access the Vatican and Archdiocesan Synod websites and view Cardinal Tobin's video message. Or you can go directly using www.rcan.org/synod2023.



“To everything there is a season...

“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, Amy Irwin, Louis Vallis, Jerry Speciale, Sari Contreras, Deacon Harold L. Bates, Jr., Pete Malatesta, Jean Thomson, Rebecca Tababan 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



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**

Annual Appeal the 2022

Our parish goal is \$36,600. Thank you to the 51 families/individuals who have made a pledge. So far we have donor pledges amounting to \$19,669.19. You may pick up a brochure, which outlines areas of support, at the front vestibule of church, in the parish office or direct link on our parish website. You may also visit rcan.org/sharing to make a gift today. Please prayerfully consider making your gift via pledge or direct donation by check, credit card, matching or planned gift today. There is also a direct link on our website. Give a little, give a lot, please give something.

Thank you for your support.



Please deposit old palm in box in the front vestibule of church that you would like to dispose of.

It is imperative that you remove all staples, string, rubber bands etc. from palm branches, as they will be burned and used for our Ash Wednesday Services on March 2.



Please patronize our advertisers. They help us GROW.

**BERGEN SPINE & REHABILITATION, LLC
201-387-2800**

Please remember to patronize those who help make this bulletin possible

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.

LIVE LENT 2022

Sign-up for our Lenten Groups will take place after all masses this weekend
February 19/20, 2022
All are welcome!



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

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.



THANK YOU to continue to give so generously to help defray the cost of **Snow Removal** on our parish grounds. This is a collection that provides for your safety throughout the winter months. So far our cost for snow removal and salting of lots & walk-ways is over **\$12,000.00**. If you haven't done so, please consider making a contribution today. Thank you!

“But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend without expecting anything back...” (LUKE 6:35)

Easier said than done, right? But, if we are to imitate Christ, most of us need to practice mercy and compassion more frequently. Start with the little daily annoyances that we experience, the unkind word or hateful glance we receive. Instead of plotting revenge on that person, try saying a quick prayer for that person. Praying for our enemies doesn't change them, it changes us. Mercy and compassion will keep us on the path to holiness.

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.



MEMORIALS

If you would like to contribute to this fund, please send your donation to the parish center with the coupon below. If you have any questions, please call the **Parish Office (201) 836-8961**.

Please 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: _____