

# Church of the Ascension

Invites You to Share with us. . .

## + Our Pastoral Staff +

### Pastor

Rev. David W. Milliken

### Weekend Assistant

Rev. Tim Graff

### Parish Business Manager

Serina Sharkey

### Director of Maintenance

Brendan Suter

### Director of Music

Glenn Gordon

### Parish Trustees

Christopher Cudina

Elizabeth Delgado

### Religious Education Center

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 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 Rectory 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.



## Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 23, 2020

## + 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 - Friday

7:00 a.m. and 8:30am

8:00am Summer

7:30 p.m. (Fridays during Lent)

**Holy Days:** 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 7:30 p.m.

**Please see inside bulletin for Holiday Mass time**

## + Our Devotions +

Novena in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

Rosary is prayed Monday through Saturday 7:15 a.m.



### PARISH CENTER

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday

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

### PARISH CENTER/RECTORY

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)

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

## Mass Intentions for the Week

### Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 23, 2020

5:30 Thomas Meyer  
7:30 People of Ascension Parish  
9:30 C.V. Cheriyan  
11:30 Giuseppe DePalo

### Monday, February 24, 2020

7:00 Benny Santiago  
8:30 Catherine Trimarchi White

### Tuesday, February 25, 2020

7:00 Ann Marie Vrola  
8:30 Anna John

### Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020

7:00 Aida Milagros Majul  
8:30 Reparada Fernandez  
7:30 Benny Santigo

### Thursday, February 27, 2020

7:00 John Quinn, Healing (L)  
8:30 Fortunata & Romana Tababan

### Friday, February 28, 2020

7:00 Jean Sapunarich, Birthday Rememb.  
8:30 Aleyamma Abraham

### Saturday, February 29, 2020

8:30 Dominick Romano  
5:30 Eleanor Parow

### First Sunday of Lent, March 1, 2020

7:30 Janet Cronin  
9:30 Celia Y. Deleon  
11:30 Yolanda Delamar

## PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

### WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

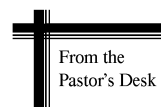
Ascension Parish is supported by people who place their faith and trust in God.

February 17, 2019: \$5,332.00  
February 16, 2020: \$4,928.00  
Social Concerns: \$ 989.00

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

### Reading for Sunday March 1, 2020

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17 [cf. 3a]/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11



How many of us could “offer no resistance to the wicked,” as Jesus tells us to do today? Can you imagine being loving to your killers, instead of fighting back? After all, we live in the age of “The Terminator,” where getting revenge is not only considered right and lawful—it is pursued with gleeful vengeance! But as Jesus describes God’s will today, it is great-hearted and merciful, going far beyond the bare minimum required by law.

So, if mercy is God’s will, why did the old Jewish law state, “An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth”—doesn’t that sound a little bloodthirsty? No, the purpose of the old law was not vengeance; it was for justice, to “even things out”. The law limited the amount of revenge someone might take against an offender. “An eye for an eye” was actually the beginning of mercy. It meant that if someone stole some of your sheep, you could not just pull out all the big guns and “blow the guy away”, Terminator-style. But then, Jesus provokes anger by saying that even “equal justice” is not all that God wants. Jesus says, go the extra mile, freely give without being asked... so Jesus is announcing a complete reversal of the old way of thinking.

Jesus’ statements, especially “Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you,” are meant to provoke us to imagine a God who is beyond anything we’ve ever known. Yes, Jesus preaches a vision of a NEW world, not just an improvement on the old! Jesus shows us what God’s reign of peace and justice will be.

These shocking examples that overturn the normal order of life “reflect the character of God.” But not everyone is happy to learn that this is how God is! Are you?

✘ Thank you to Josie McEwan, Anna Gorgone and all who helped set up, serve and clean up for the beautiful Marriage Anniversary Liturgy Reception. It was truly special and enjoyed by all!

✘ This weekend we end Ordinary Time and enter into the penitential season of Lent. Let us bid farewell to the Easter word, **ALLELUIA**, as we sing it boldly in our songs this weekend until we sing it again joyfully at Easter.

✘ This Wednesday is **ASH WEDNESDAY**. We begin the Holy Season of Lent. Please see the flyer in the bulletin for our **Lent 2020 Schedule**. We have also inserted our **2020 Lenten Calendar** which invites each of us to do a good deed every day in Lent. On the Book Rack in the back of church you will find “**The Word Among Us**.” Please take a copy and use it throughout this holy season.

✘ I invite all of our parishioners to become a vital part of our 2020 Lenten program which offers opportunities for parishioners to meet Jesus more personally through the Lenten Scriptures, our Sunday liturgies, small faith-sharing groups, catechesis, and activities. In addition to the usual Adult Sharing Groups, Family and Teen Groups are also available. I hope and pray that we will respond to Jesus’ call and take an active part in this process. Together, may we let the light of Christ shine even more brightly in our parish! If you haven’t signed up, flyers are in the front of the church.

✘ The Annual Archdiocesan Catholic Men's Conference: “I am my Brothers’ Keeper” and the Women's Conference: “Alive in Christ: The Eucharist...His Heart in My Heart”. We are encouraging all our parishioners to participate fully in this faith-filled event. The cost is \$30 which includes, Registration, Continental Breakfast and Lunch. Further details are in the bulletin. For more information, please contact the Parish Office.

✘ Our Ascension Boy Scout Troop 291 will sponsor a Parish Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, from 8am to 12 Noon in the Fr. Benedict Center. You may purchase tickets at the door. Please, come over, share breakfast together, and support their efforts.

Know that I pray for you every day. Please pray for me, too. God Love You!



**Congratulations!**

Transfiguration Academy student Hans Victor Sto Tomas has been accepted into the 2021 freshman class of Regis High School in New York City.

Transfiguration Academy Alum Joshua Naviamos, Class of 2019, along with another freshman at Bergenfield High School's STEM program, conducted research into chlorophyll and drug-resistant antibiotics, resulting in the high school being named a New Jersey state winner in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest and receiving \$15,000 in technology and classroom supplies.

Transfiguration Academy knows that testing isn't the only measure of your child's education. **Discover why our students thrive in and outside the classroom:**

- Call to pick up registration materials and/or for a tour: **201-384-3627**
- **Email: [principal@transfigurationacademy.org](mailto:principal@transfigurationacademy.org)**
- **Visit our website: [transfigurationacademy.org](http://transfigurationacademy.org)**
- **Visit us on Facebook** to experience how engaged our students and families are

Transfiguration Academy, serving students in grades PreK 2+ through grade 8, is a 2018 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools.



**MEMORIALS**

“THANK YOU”...to those who have contributed to our Memorials Fund. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please send your donation to the rectory with the coupon below. When an item is purchased we will notify you which item is in memory of your loved one. If you have any questions, please call Fr. David at the Parish Office (201)836-8961.

Additional Memorials: (circle appropriate memorial)

|                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>MEMORIAL CANDLES:</b>    | <b>\$150/1 Year</b>          |
|                             | <b>\$20/30 Days</b>          |
| <b>ALTAR BREAD AND WINE</b> | <b>\$40 per week</b>         |
| <b>ALTAR FLOWERS</b>        | <b>\$50</b>                  |
|                             | <b>(per basket/per week)</b> |
| <b>SANCTUARY CANDLE</b>     | <b>\$15 per week</b>         |

**MEMORIAL FUND**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Amt.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Requested: \_\_\_\_\_



**Calendar:**

Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>– 1<sup>st</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade from 10:45 am to 12 Noon (SCH)

Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade from 7 pm to 8:15 pm (MPR/SCH)

Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>– 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, & 9<sup>th</sup> Grades Meet at 7 pm- going to Mass at 7:30 pm

Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade from 10:45 am to 12 Noon (SCH)

Children's Liturgy of the Word will be celebrated at the 9:30 am Mass. All children in Pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us. What a great way for families to celebrate Mass together.



This week the young people of the parish who are preparing for Eucharist reflected on their baptism. Through Baptism we are initiated into the life of Christ and his Body, the Church. Our membership in the Christian community is both a privilege and a responsibility. How are we as a parish witnessing the Holy Spirit's presence to others?

**Reminder:**

On Wednesday, February 26, 2020 all 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades will meet at 7 pm in the School and then going to the Church for 7:30 pm Mass. All must attend and parents are also encouraged to attend. Students will be dismissed at the end of Mass to their parents.

**When your child/ren are going to be absent from class you must call the Religious Education office and let us know. We will call the home if you do not call us, so PLEASE make sure you have a working home or cell number that we can contact you especially in the event of an emergency.**

**Volunteers Needed:**

† 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.

† We are in NEED of Catechists and Substitute Catechists for our Religious Education Program for the 2020-2021 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 4 pm – Parish Center  
 Monday and Wednesday: 6:30 pm to 8:15 pm – In School  
 Sunday Mornings: 10 am to 12 Noon – In School  
 Closed: Thursday & Saturday  
 Other times by appointment



**ARMBRUSTER LANDSCAPING**  
**201-967-1489**

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

✠ **ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020** ✠

✠ We will celebrate Mass at 7am, 8:30am and 7:30pm. Ashes will be distributed ONLY during these liturgies.

✠ **LENTEN SEASON** ✠



✠ We are all invited to be part of our Lenten program, “**LIVE LENT 2020**,” which offers opportunities for parishioners to encounter Christ through integrating the Sunday liturgies, small faith-sharing groups, catechesis, and family activities. It is another opportunity in Lent to meet other parishioners and to let Jesus enter your life more deeply, rekindle the fire of the faith we share, and let the light of Christ shine brightly in our parish!

✠ To remind us of the penitential nature of the season of Lent, the Entrance and **Penitential Act at Mass** will take on a new form for the five (5) Sundays of Lent:

There will be NO Entrance Song. The Celebrant and Ministers will enter in silence. The Sign of the Cross, Greeting and Introduction to the Penitential Rite follow. We will kneel for a brief examination of conscience and then together pray the “I Confess...”. The Celebrant’s conclusion will be followed by a sung “Kyrie”, after which we will stand for the Collect.

✠ A **Lenten Calendar** has been inserted in the bulletin which suggests good deeds for each day of Lent.

✠ During Lent we offer an **additional Mass ONLY on Fridays at 7:30pm** after which we will pray the **Stations of the Cross**.

✠ On Saturday, March 28, we will celebrate a **Tri-Parish Lenten Communal Penance Service** at 1pm at St. John the Evangelist Church in Bergenfield.

✠ On Friday, April 3, we will join together for our **Family Lenten Evening of Recollection** which will begin with our Parish Soup Supper to be followed by Stations of the Cross, Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Hour, opportunity for sacramental Reconciliation, and Benediction.

✠ **2020 LENTEN REGULATIONS** ✠

1. The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.  
On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.  
On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence.
2. The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence “substantially”, or as a whole, is a serious obligation.
3. The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.
4. The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty\*) extends from the **First Sunday of Lent, March 1, 2020 to the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, June 7, 2020.**

\*Canon 920, §1. *All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year:*

## SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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

*"a time to be healed..."*

Al Suter, Ann Wall, Joseph Gorgone, Marguerite Morris, Donna Van Kleeck, Margaret Polis, Elsa Obera, Marie Oberst, Jean Francisco, 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, Aldo Guerra, Evelyn Lawler, Ana Tumang, Mary Anne Meyer, John Quinn, Peggy Evans, 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, PFC Ian Belthoff, U.S. Marine Corps., Yokosuka, Japan, Sr.A James Penser, Beale AFB,CA and all Men and Women serving in our countries Armed Forces.

*"a time for peace..."*

President Donald John Trump,  
our National Leaders and all World Leaders.

*and a time for every purpose under heaven"*

Ecclesiastes 3:11

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

### OFFERTORY GIFTS

Please let one of 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 WEBSITE FOR PARISH INFORMATION  
FYERS\*FORMS\*SCHEDULES\*  
UPCOMING EVENTS

[WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM](http://WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM)



**Sunday, February 23, 2020**

**Church in Central & Eastern Europe**

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Religious Education – 10:45am – 1-6 Grade

**Monday, February 24, 2020**

Religious Education Grades 7 & 8 – 7:00pm

CFM – 7:30pm – PC/Gathering Room

Combined Choirs – 7:30pm - Church

**Tuesday, February 25, 2020**

**No events**



**ASH WEDNESDAY\*Day of Fast & Abstinence**

**Mass Celebrated at 7:00 & 8:30am & 7:30pm**

**Collection for Ash Wednesday**

Woodcrest Center – 2:30pm – Mass/Ashes

Harrison House

Religious Education grades 7, 8 & 9 meet in school  
& attend 7:30pm Mass

NO Novena

**Thursday, February 27, 2020**

Children's Choir – 3:45pm - Church

Combined Choirs – 7:30pm - Church

**Friday, February 28, 2020**

Mass/Stations of the Cross – 7:30pm - Church

**Saturday, February 29, 2020**

Confession – 11:00am – Church

Children's choir – 4:15pm – Church

Set up for Pancake Breakfast - FBC

**First Sunday of Lent, March 1, 2020**

**Parish Maintenance & Repairs**

Pancake Breakfast – 8:00-12:00 – Fr. Benedict Ctr.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Religious Education – 10:45am – 1-6 Grade

Baptism Prep. – 1:00pm – PC/Gathering Room

### CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

This week, our special collection supports the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Your donation today helps restore the Church and build the future in more than 20 countries still struggling to recover from Communist rule. Funds from this collection support reconstruction, education, formation, and poverty outreach. Please be generous to the collection today. For more information, please visit [www.usccb.org/ccee](http://www.usccb.org/ccee)



**ARE YOU CELEBRATING YOUR  
5th\*25th or 50th  
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR?**

The Archdiocese of Newark is preparing the annual tradition of honoring those couples in our Archdiocese who will be celebrating Christian marriage Anniversaries this year.

The Anniversary Liturgies will be celebrated by Cardinal Joseph Tobin in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark as follows:

**May 3, 2020 at 3:00pm  
For Fifty Years**

\*\*\*

**April 19, 2020 at 3:00pm  
For Five & Twenty-Five Years**

Please stop by the parish office no later than March 23 to complete registration form if you would like to be included in one of the celebrations.



**REMEMBER DURING LENT**

Evening Mass on Friday's at 7:30pm  
followed by Stations of the Cross.

Also, we have placed "**Five Minutes with the Word  
for Lent 2020**" in our parish book rack. Please take  
one for yourself and even another for a friend

**SHINING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST  
2020 ANNUAL APPEAL**

Appeal weekend is March 7 & 8, 2020. Our parish goal is \$37,834. and 100% of every dollar raised above goal will be returned to our parish. You may pick up a brochure, which outlines areas of support, at the doors of church or in the parish office. Please prayerfully consider making your gift via pledge or direct donation by check, credit card, matching or planned gift today. Thank you for your support.

**THE FOLLOWING TRIPS ARE PLANNED FOR 2020**

TRIP TO CAPE COD AND RHODE ISLAND, JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> – 12, 2020. Price of \$979 per person dbl. occ./\$1198 person single occ. Includes 4 nights lodging, 4 breakfasts, 4 dinners, tour of 2 mansions in Rhode Island, guided tour of Provincetown which includes a whale watching cruise, ferry to Nantucket includes a tour, ferry to Martha's Vineyard, includes a tour, guided tour of Cape Cod National Seashore Visitor's Center, guided tour of Hyannis which includes the John F. Memorial, trip to Mohegan Sun Casino, luggage handling, all taxes and meal gratuities and motorcoach transportation. Deposit of \$100 per person due by March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Balance due by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

TRIP TO LANCASTER, PA. NOVEMBER 18 – 20, 2020. Price of \$439 per person dbl. occ./\$539 per person single occ. includes 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners, "Queen Esther" at Sight & Sound Theatre, "Deck The Halls" at The American Music Theatre, Elva's Chalk Art Presentation at Barnyard Studio, Kitchen Kettle Village, visit to Byers Choice LTD Visitor's Center, Christmas Museum & Creche Collection, luggage handling, all taxes & meal gratuities and motorcoach transportation. Deposit of \$100 per person due by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Balance due by Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Cancellation insurance is highly recommended.

For reservations and info. call Josie (201)265-0485 or Anna (201)387-2632. All checks are payable to: Ascension Church, 256 Azalea Drive, New Milford, NJ 07646



**FEBRUARY 26, 2020**

**MASSES WILL BE CELEBRATED**

**7:00AM, 8:30AM & 7:30PM**

**ASHES WILL ONLY BE DISTRIBUTED  
AT THESE TIMES**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**2020 Catholic Men's Commission and  
Women's Commission**

**Catholic Men's Conference: Saturday, February 29, 2020, at  
Seton Hall University**

This year's theme, for the English track, is "*Be Not Afraid: Man of God... I am my Brother's Keeper!*" The speaker for the English track will be **Paul Kim**, who is the founder of the Triumph Men's Conference. His background includes a BA in Philosophy (Franciscan University of Steubenville), an MA in Marriage and Family Therapy (Hope International University), religious formation with the Community of the Franciscans Friars of the Renewal (NYC), and **Bishop John Flesey**, who is a retired auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Newark and a popular retreat master and teacher. The master of ceremonies will be Father John Gordon. The day begins at 8:00 am with registration and ends at 4:00 pm with Mass.

**Women's Commission Day of Reflection: Saturday, March 7,  
2020, at Seton Hall University.**

This year's theme is "*Alive in Christ: The Eucharist... His Heart in My Heart*". The English track will feature keynote speakers **Sr Bethany Madonna, S.V.**, who professed her perpetual vows as a Sister of Life in 2015 and serves her community as the Vocation Director, **Colleen Kelly Rayner**, founder of CKR Retreats. who is a dynamic speaker whose authentic witness ignites joy-filled evangelization and catechesis, and **Dr. Dianne Traflet, J.D., S.T.D.**, who is the Associate Dean and Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology, is the director of the Institute for Christian Spirituality and is a key leader in the Center for Diaconal Formation. She will also be the emcee for the day.

The day begins at 8:00 am with registration and ends at 4:00 pm with Mass.