

# 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.



### **First Sunday of Lent**

**March 6, 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)



## Lenten Fasting and Feasting...

Let us...

- ...fast from complaining and feast on gratitude
- ...fast from harsh judgments and feast on kind thoughts
- ...fast from worry and feast on trust in God to provide
- ...fast from discouragement and feast upon hope
- ...fast from bitterness and feast on forgiveness
- ...fast from hatred and feast upon returning good for evil
- ...fast from anger and feast on patience
- ...fast from pettiness and feast on becoming mature
- ...fast from jealousy and feast on praying for trust
- ...fast from gossiping and feast on controlling your tongue
- ...fast from sin and feast on virtue
- ...fast from giving up and feast on perseverance

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

One of the greatest temptations human beings face is leaving the truth of who they are, where they came from and who created them in pursuit of more personal satisfactions. When we consider all that desires our attention in a given day, there are many lures that attract us to illusions about ourselves. We can easily find ourselves distracted or tired, preoccupied with preserving our status in life, social relationships, current trends, and corporate demands, and intrigued by pursuing what we perceive to be the “path of least resistance.” The daily concerns of life can quickly take our eyes off of our truth, making the empty promises of worldly accomplishments and ideologies seem so attractive. What is at risk in giving into this temptation?

We cease giving thanks to and worshipping our Creator as we pursue our own self-sufficiency, power, and prestige. We replace the true God with a “pet” one. While many do not totally dismiss the idea of God and pretend to remain at least remotely connected, they do not invest themselves heart, mind, and soul in the relationship either. That is why we are so easily swayed. If something attractive comes along, we lunge for it. After all, having a position above and over everyone else is a good thing, isn’t it? In more honest moments, many have to admit that they believe this to be true. The Evil One is very convincing. But he can only gain control if we allow him to.

About temptation, St. Basil remarks, “As the pilot of a vessel is tried in the storm, as the wrestler is tried in the ring, the soldier in the battle and the hero in adversity, so is the Christian tried in temptation.” And here is found the reason for Lent. It is a wonderful opportunity to get a handle on the attractive lures of illusion that easily captivate us and bring us off track. It is also a time for some honest reflection rooted in prayer, fasting, and selfless giving that can bring us to temptation’s remedy: love. Love of his Father gave Jesus resistance. It can do the same for us.

## Mass Intentions for the Week



### First Sunday of Lent, March 6, 2022

- 5:30 William & Elizabeth Morris
- 7:30 Frederick Balagot
- 9:30 Ann Wall
- 11:30 People of Ascension Parish

### Monday, March 7, 2022

- 8:00 Agnes Balagot

### Tuesday, March 8, 2022

- 8:00 Art Castronova

### Wednesday, March 9, 2022

- 8:00 Michael Bruno

### Thursday, March 10, 2022

- 8:00 Venessa Habana, Birthday (L)

### Friday, March 11, 2022

No Mass

### Saturday, March 12, 2022

- 8:30 Eddie Aponte

### Second Sunday of Lent, March 13

- 5:30 People of Ascension Parish
- 7:30 Jeffrey Cronin
- 9:30 Leandro Cabacoy
- 11:30 Juanita Santiago

## PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

### WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

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

February 27, 2022: \$3,908.00

Social Concerns: \$1,064.00

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

## Readings for Sunday March 13, 2022

Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14/Phil 3:17—4:1 or 3:20—4:1/  
Lk 9:28b-36



Please visit our parish website ([www.churchoftheascension.com](http://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](http://www.rcan.org/synod2023).

## Annual Appeal <sup>the 2022</sup>

Our parish goal is \$36,600. Thank you to the 70 families/individuals who have made a pledge. So far we have donor pledges amounting to \$17,954.19. 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](http://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.

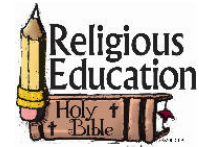
*"I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O Lord, have given to me." (DEUTERONOMY 26:10)*

This line from the Old Testament offers two challenges. First, do you give to God from your "first fruits" - the first and best that you have to offer, or do you give from what you have leftover? Second, do you realize that everything you have and that everything you are has been given to you by God? Ask God for a grateful and generous heart, every day, in all circumstances.

**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.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS  
NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>  
SET CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR



### **Calendar:**

Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> –Group A- Please make sure ON-LINE work is completed by March 1<sup>st</sup>  
Group B - Please make sure ONLINE work is completed by March 8<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> -- 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Group B in Parish Center from 6:55 pm to 8:15 pm  
Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade in Parish Center from 6:55 pm to 8:15 pm

### **IMPORTANT:**

**IF YOU HAVE NOT PICKED UP OR DROPPED OFF YOUR CHILD'S PACKET PLEASE DO SO THIS WEEK. DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PACKETS IN THE MAILBOX AS YOU MUST PICK UP NEW PACKET.**

### **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 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

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



# ARCHDIOCESE of NEWARK

## 2022 LENTEN REGULATIONS

Lent is the time for the faithful to be "ever more attentive to the word of God and prayer, to prepare themselves by penance for the renewal of their baptismal promises" at Easter (cf. *Paschalis Solemnitatis*, 6). The virtue and practice of penance is a necessary part of the preparation for Easter. Penitential practices such as fasting and abstinence are to be encouraged by the Church.

1. **The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.**

**On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted, and two (2) smaller meals, which, if added together, would not exceed the main meal in quantity.**

**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 6, 2022 to The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, June 12 2022.**

***\*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.***



## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



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

**“a time to be healed...”**

Al Suter, Joseph Gorgone, Marguerite Morris, Marie Oberst, Mary Anne Meyer, Deacon Harold L. Bates, Jr., Rebecca Tababan, Stephen Cronin and those among us who are sick and in need of our prayers.

**PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE SOMEONE ON OUR PRAYER LIST.**

**\*Prayer list will be updated every three month\*  
Please call office to renew or remove name**

**“a time to serve...”**

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.

**“a time to die...”**

**Kevin O'Reilly**

**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**



**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**



### **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: \_\_\_\_\_

### **HELP US TO FEED THE HUNGRY FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION – MARCH 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.

BAKED BEANS-COOKIES-CRACKERS  
CRANBERRY JUICE  
JELL-O-SAUERKRAUT-FROSTED FLAKES  
RAISIN BRAN-RICE KRISPIES  
MENS/WOMENS SHAVE CREAM-NAPKINS

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



**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)



STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
EVERY FRIDAY EVENING  
BEGINNING MARCH 4th-APRIL 8th  
7:30PM IN THE CHURCH

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE  
MONDAY, MARCH 14th AT 7:00PM  
ANNUNCIATION, PARAMUS

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER  
FRIDAY, APRIL 8th  
5:30PM-7:00PM  
FR. BENEDICT CENTER/SCHOOL GYM



**PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION**

During this Lenten Season please consider Stewardship, the sharing of your talents and time with any of the many ministries we offer here at your parish. Sing in our Choirs (adult/children)\*Help plan our Parish Events\*Become an Altar Server (adult/child).

Yes I am willing to share my talent & time, please contact me

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Ministry: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print and return to the parish office or in collection basket)

**Lent – Sacrifice - Clothing Bins -Any Connection?**

Lent is a time of sacrifice in order to bring us closer to Christ. As we do so, we become more charitable. Would you be willing to sacrifice your time and efforts to go through your closet and donate any used clothing, small appliances, shoes, linens, sheets, towels, stuffed animals, novels, and children’s books to the Catholic Charities clothing bin? If you do, you have made the connection and you have moved closer to Christ. Thank you.

**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.

**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.

**PARISH TRIPS**

**BUS TRIP TO ATLANTIC CITY MARCH 29, 2022**

Ascension Parish will sponsor a trip to Resorts Casino, AC on Tuesday, March 29th 2022. The cost is \$37 pp. with a return of \$20 free play. The bus will leave Ascension parking lot at 9am. You must have ID to get a promotions card.

**CAPE COD, MASSACHUSETTS 5 DAYS, 4 NIGHTS JUNE 20-24, 2022**

4 nights lodging at the Fairfield Inn in Hyannis, 4 breakfasts, 4 dinners, admission to 2 Newport mansions including The Breakers, Guided tour of Provincetown, Martha’s Vineyard, Sandwich & Hyannis and Kennedy Memorial, a whale watching cruise or dune ride, admission to the Heritage Museum & Gardens and visit to Mohegan Sun Casino. The price of \$1,015pp dbl. occ./\$1298pp single includes all of the above and luggage handling, taxes, gratuities and bus transportation

**PENNSYLVANIA’S AMISH HOLIDAY TOUR NOV. 30-Dec.1<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

2 days, 1 night includes 1 night’s lodging, 1 breakfast, 1 dinner, “David” at the Sight & Sound Theatre, “Home for the Holidays” performance at the American Music Theatre, tour of President’s Buchanan’s home “Wheatland” or Strasburg rail road train ride, and Bird in Hand Farmer’s Market. Price per person dbl. occ. \$329/398 single occ. Includes all of the above plus luggage handling, taxes, gratuities and bus transportation.

For reservations and info. call Josie (201)265-0485 or Anna (201)206-4297



**ROMAN PIZZA & RESTAURANT**  
201-265-9371

**15% off coupon in bulletin**

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