

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.



Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 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

One Daily Mass at 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

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

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION



Mass Intentions for the Week

Third Sunday of Advent, December 13

5:30 Fortunata Tababan
7:30 Juanita Santiago
9:30 People of Ascension Parish
11:30 Peter Buckley, 57 Anniversary

Monday, December 14, 2020

8:30 Joanne Bouffard-Vogt, First Anniv.
8:30 James & Annie Kate Cassidy

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

8:30 Eleanor Boullion
8:30 Robert Barratt

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

8:30 Julian Bagani Habana, B'Day (L)
8:30 Berney Mallon
8:30 Ana Tumang, B'Day (D)

Thursday, December 17, 2020

8:30 Gerard Patrick Lee
8:30 Alfonso Flores

Friday, December 18, 2020

8:30 Antonio Majul
8:30 Candelaria Ciron

Saturday, December 19, 2020

8:30 Soler/Valdes Family
5:30 People of Ascension Parish

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20

7:30 Marcella & Harry Sweeney
9:30 Maria & Evaristo Aponte
11:30 Jesus B. Garcia

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

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

December 6, 2020: \$3,794.00
Maintenance & Repairs: \$1,605.00

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

Readings for Sunday December 20, 2020

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5,
27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Although it has been interrupted by COVID-19, Disneyland, the home of Mickey and Minnie and all their friends, is called “the happiest place on earth.” Yet some people think Disneyland represents a false, shallow, or materialistic version of reality—surely it could bear no resemblance to the Gospel message? But when Disneyland opened in 1955, Walt Disney said he wanted “this happy place...(to be) a source of joy and inspiration to all the world.”

Walt Disney himself had the opposite of a happy childhood—abuse, school failures, and later business failures. But his life’s dream was always to bring people back to their original innocence and joy in living, to restore happiness. Walt Disney wrote: “The worst of us is not without innocence, although buried deeply it might be. In my work I try to reach and speak to that innocence, showing it the fun and joy of living...showing it that the human species, although happily ridiculous at times, is still reaching for the stars.” Today, we hear similar messages: Isaiah saying, “Rejoice! I’ve got good news for the poor!” Mary saying “My spirit rejoices in God,” and Paul giving advice on how to live with deep happiness. We would love to be this joyful, but the pursuit of happiness seems more like a struggle, especially this year as we are challenged by COVID-19 and the changes it has brought to our lives. We wonder, “How is it possible to be truly joyful in this world?”

It is simple. The saints can be happy for one reason: they pour ALL their joys and ALL their tragedies into the one place big enough to hold every memory in existence forever—God’s heart. It is God’s heart that loved YOU into existence. As time draws near to hear the Christmas story again, it is good to recall how that story will “end”—that the power of Jesus’ Resurrection “dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy!” (from the “Exultet” at the Easter Vigil)

✠ Thank you to Dena Sedlak, our Coordinator of First Sacraments, Theresa Carbone, our CRE, our catechists, and all who helped to make our children’s first experience of the Sacrament of Reconciliation so beautiful and joyful (and sweet, too). Many thanks to the parents and children who made the day special!

✠ This weekend we ask God to bless with security and peace the retired religious sisters, brothers and priests who have built up His kingdom in this local Church and throughout our nation. May God’s grace help us to be generous in giving to the **RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS.**

✠ Our **Advent Giving Tree** has been prepared to help us to Share the Spirit of Christmas! All gift cards are due on Sunday, December 13th. Also, don’t forget to take a copy of **Five Minutes with the Word for Advent.** Copies are in the book rack at the entrance to the church.

✠ Our “**O Antiphons**” will again proudly displayed to help us during our final countdown to Christmas from December 17th to 23rd.

✠ Don’t forget our parish **Simbang Gabi** celebration, the Filipino Christmas Preparation. Mass will be at 5:30pm on Saturday, December 19th. Due to COVID-19, there is NO reception after Mass

✠ Please plan ahead...On **Wednesday, December 23rd**, beginning at 2pm, we will decorate our church for the Christmas season. We invite any parishioners who would like to help to join us at 2:00pm in the church for this special project.

✠ Our **Christmas Mass schedule** has been mailed to all parishioners and is inserted in the bulletin. Please keep the schedule handy for ready reference. We remind you of the many ministries and programs offered by Ascension Parish. We look to your generosity, especially at Christmas, to help support the many needs of your parish. Please be as generous to your church as your means allow. We invite each of you to celebrate with us, and we ask that you please bring a friend or loved one to celebrate with us as well.

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

Fr. David



CHRISTMAS MASS RESERVATIONS

Please remember to make your reservation for Christmas Eve: 5:30pm & 12 Midnight & Christmas Day Masses: 7:30am, 9:30am & 11:30am. ASAP

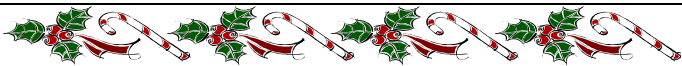
HARRISON HOUSE

Help is needed for 2021...We are in need of ONE more person/family who is/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) for the year 2021. Our parish has the 4th Wednesday of each month. Please call Hanna or Mary Lee, Chairpersons of our Aids Ministry, (201) 261-9246. if you can help. Thank you.

BREAKING BREAD

With Daily Mass Propers

Our Hymnals/Missalletes with daily and Sunday readings for the 2021 Liturgical Year are available. You may purchase one beginning this weekend (Nov. 7-8), cost \$6.00 each. Please see Father David after mass or call the parish office (201-836-8961).



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)

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: _____

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



Calendar:

December 15, 2020 – 1st to 6th grades Chapter 10 reviews are due

December 16, 2020 – 7th grade Chapter 8 review due, 8th grade Chapter 2 review due, & 9th grade Chapter 8 review due.

Important:

Parents are reminded to have their children do their weekly assignments and submit to Mrs. Carbone the on-line work for the Sunday Program by Tuesday and the Monday & Wednesday Program by Wednesday of each week. 9th Grade Parents please check your emails for the weekly Chapter reviews. Anyone that has any questions please contact Mrs. Carbone. Please make sure that all directions are followed on all sheets in the packet.

If you have not picked up your child’s book or packet, please call the office as soon as possible to make arrangements.

Volunteers Needed:

- † We are in need of Aides and Class Parents 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
- † Children’s Liturgy of the Word Team member. This is a great opportunity for college students or student teachers to gain experience sharing their faith and working with students in a relaxed atmosphere. Anyone interested please, call the Religious Education office.

Religious Education Office Hours:
 Monday – Friday: 9 am to 4 pm – In Parish Center
 Other times by appointment



**BLESSING & LIGHTING OF OUR PARISH
 OUTSIDE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS
 THIS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH
 AFTER 5:30pm MASS**

DECEMBER 13, 2020

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

UP-DATED Directives for Parish Liturgical Celebrations during the Covid 19 Pandemic

The guidelines below, given by Cardinal Tobin, apply to all churches and must be observed without exception.

1. Cardinal Tobin continues to dispense the faithful from the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday & Holy Days.
2. In accord with national, state and local health directives, those who show symptoms of COVID-19, who have been exposed to an infected person, or have traveled to unsafe places listed on the CDC.gov website, are not permitted to enter the church for 14 days. *It is recommended that before Mass, everyone should check their temperature at home before coming to Church.*
 - Those who are at risk because of an underlying health issue are strongly encouraged to avoid the risks posed by attendance at public celebrations of the Mass
3. Masks must be worn by all individuals while in the church.
4. Individuals must maintain social distancing (six feet) between each person while in the church.
5. A household may be seated together and not observe social distancing.

A household is defined as those people who have been living together under the same roof in close proximity throughout the quarantine. It does not include relative from other addressed or other extended family.

Note: There still will be a risk for anyone who attends a public Mass. Even with best health practices and strict social distancing, anyone who enters a public space should recognize there is a risk of contracting the coronavirus.

In addition, here at Ascension until further notice, these additional directives must be followed for your safety:

Daily Mass and Week-End Mass Schedule and directives are as follows

- Reservations will be taken on a first come, first served basis.
You may reserve for daily & Sunday Mass for multiple weeks
Please call or E-mail by 3:00pm on Friday.
 - **Full names of those attending, date/time of mass & phone #**
201-836-3085 or ascensionreled@optonline.net
- One Mass will be celebrated at **8:30am** in the Church (Monday-Friday). Our daily Mass will continue to be Livestreamed via Facebook.
- Saturday morning Mass will be celebrated & Livestreamed at **8:30am** in the Church.
- **Saturday Evening Mass will be celebrated in the Church at 5:30pm and on Sunday at 7:30am, 9:30am and 11:30am. Only the 5:30pm Mass will be Livestreamed via Facebook.**
 - Attendance will be taken and no one will be admitted after Mass begins (doors will be locked). There is a limited capacity of 80 people.

All Funerals, Weddings, and Baptisms will follow the same protocol. (80 person capacity)

-Enter front doors of church

-All visitors, including children, must wear masks, have and use their own hand sanitizer and wipes.

Please wipe down area you have used and take with you any items you use.

-Practice social distancing (6 feet apart). We have roped off pews not to be used.

-You may light candles, please refrain from touching other areas in church.

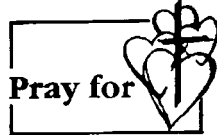
-Children must remain with adults at all times

-Please No gathering or socializing in church or on church property

Confessions, please call the parish office, 201-836-8961, to make an appointment.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during these difficult times. God Bless

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



“To everything there is a season...

“a time to be healed...”

Angelita Villaluna, Elnora Gordon, Al Suter, Ann Wall, Joseph Gorgone, Marguerite Morris, Donna Van Kleeck, Margaret Polis, 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, Aldo Guerra, Evelyn Lawler, Mary Anne Meyer, John Quinn, Peggy Evans, Neil Magbanua, Cardinal Antonio Tagle, Vincent Guido, John Person Amy Irwin 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, Sr. A 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...”

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

and a time for every purpose under heaven”
Ecclesiastes 3:11



Third Sunday of Advent, December 13, 2020

Mass at 7:30am, 9:30am & 11:30am in Church

Not Livestreamed

Monday, December 14, 2020

Mass at 8:30am in Church & livestreamed

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Mass at 8:30am in Church & livestreamed

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Parish Eucharistic Day

Mass at 8:30am in Church & livestreamed

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mass at 8:30am in Church & livestreamed

Friday, December 18, 2020

Mass at 8:30am in Church & livestreamed

Saturday, December 19, 2020

Mass at 8:30am in Church & livestreamed

Mass at 5:30pm in Church & livestreamed

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20, 2020

Mass at 7:30am, 9:30am & 11:30am in Church

Not Livestreamed



**AN ADVENT EUCHARISTIC DAY
WILL BE CELEBRATED HERE AT ASCENSION
ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020**

8:30AM MASS

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
ADORATION ALL DAY**

7:30PM EVENING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION



**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.



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They help us GROW.

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**KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS
REMEMBER TO PURCHASE
RELIGIOUS CHRISTMAS STAMPS**





**CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION'S
GIFT CARD**

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

ALL GIFTS DUE BACK THIS WEEKEND

Please bring your gift cards to the Parish Center during regular hours or give them to Fr. David. Please place gift cards in envelopes marked "Christmas Giving Tree Gift Card" St. John; Harrison House; local families or Food Pantry. **All cards must be brought in by Noon this Sunday, December 13th.**

We *thank you* for your continued support and wish you good health and peace during this Christmas Season.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

You are invited to make a donation toward the Christmas trees, wreaths and flowers which will be used to decorate our church this festive season.

Donation \$15.00 for Each Intention

One intention for each donation will be listed on the Christmas Flower Donations bulletin insert

Please put your donation and intention in the **Christmas Flower Envelope** or you may use **this form**. Please drop it in the collection basket or in the door mail slot at the parish center. **Please Print all information clearly on form or envelopes.** Thank you!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Please Print

In Memory of: _____

or the Intention of: _____

Donated by: _____

Phone: _____

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Support aging religious. Our second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Many senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little or no pay. Today, religious communities often do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your gift help provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders. Please be as generous as your means allow.



HELP US TO FEED THE HUNGRY

FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION – DECEMBER 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.

- ICED TEA-COOKIES-INSTANT RICE-BREAD CRUMBS
- JELL-O-RAISINS-CANNED PEACHES-CANNED PEARS
- CANNED MUSHROOMS-CANNED BEETS-BEEF STEW
- APPLE JUICE-GRAPE JUICE-CRANBERRY JUICE
- LEMONADE MIX-CHICKEN BROTH-GRATED CHEESE
- CANNED WHITE POTATOES-VEGETARIAN CHILI
- BLACK BEANS-PAPER TOWELS-NAPKINS-DISH SOAP
- WOMENS/MENS SHAVE CREAM

DONATIONS CAN BE LEFT AT THE PARISH CENTER

Your continued support of our ministry to the poor is greatly appreciated.



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: _____

