

# 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 Rectory. 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 Rectory 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 Rectory if someone from your family is in the hospital and wishes a priest to visit.

### **WEDDINGS:**

Please make arrangements at the Rectory with one of the priests of the parish one year in advance.

## **Third Sunday of Advent**

**December 15 2019**

## + 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.

### **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)

Mass  for the  
Intentions *for the Week*

**Third Sunday of Advent, December 15**

5:30 Peter Buckley, 56 Anniversary  
7:30 Gregory DeCarlo  
9:30 People of Ascension Parish  
11:30 Robert Barratt

**Monday, December 16, 2019**

7:00 Patrick Delaney  
8:30 Nikolaos Hronopoulos

**Tuesday, December 17, 2019**

7:00 Julian Bayani Habana (L) B'day  
8:30 Alfonso Flores

**Wednesday, December 18, 2019**

7:00 Thomas G. Burns  
8:30 Candelaria Ciron

**Thursday, December 19, 2019**

7:00 Margaret Rooney  
8:30 Soler-Valdes Family

**Friday, December 20, 2019**

7:00 Joseph Delaney  
8:30 Jesus Garcia

**Saturday, December 21, 2019**

8:30 Meyer & Tenney Family  
5:30 Primo Fineza

**Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22**

7:30 Mary & James Zadroga  
9:30 People of Ascension Parish  
11:30 Mozia Families, for peace in the family

**PARISH  STEWARDSHIP  
REPORT**

**WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH**  
Ascension Parish is supported by people  
who place their faith and trust in God.

**NO FIGURES  
AT TIME OF PRINTING**

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

**Reading for Sunday  
December 22, 2019**

**Is 7:10-14/ Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c,  
10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24**



Today, the prophet, Isaiah paints a fantastic dream of the fulfillment of all the hopes we could have—no more illness, death, injustice, or violence. Right now, we live in a world gone wild with problems. But Isaiah is saying, that's all temporary. Because here is the ultimate truth of how things are: "Here is your God...(who) comes to save you!"—the justice and mercy of God is coming to take eternal victory over all of our problems: ***"Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; Then will the lame leap like a stag, the tongue of the dumb sing."***

Isaiah reminds us *to envision the impossible becoming actual*—which is exactly what is going to happen at Christmas. Jesus made this dream come alive in real-time. God gave Isaiah this vision, so that we could take hope, and see the future with God's eyes. God can make all things new. This is what we celebrate today. Now the trick is to take that wonderfully hopeful idea and allow it to enter our communal and individual world. God needs hearts and imaginations that are wide open and unafraid. Together, let's "wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ!" We so need this encouragement desperately.

Above all, let us remember and proclaim in all we say or do: **"Jesus is the Reason for the Season!"**

✘ 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!

✘ Our **Advent Giving Tree** has been prepared to help us to Share the Spirit of Christmas! We ask that all gifts be brought in this Sunday (Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>) by 1pm for delivery. Also, please 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 return for this Tuesday and will be proudly displayed to help us during our final countdown to Christmas from December 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>.

✘ Don't forget our parish **Simbang Gabi** celebration, the Filipino Christmas Preparation. Mass will be at 5:30pm on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. Refreshments in the Fr. Benedict Center will follow after Mass.

✘ Please plan ahead...On **Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**, we will put up and decorate the Christmas trees which will adorn our church. We invite any parishioners who would like to help to join us at 6:00pm in the church for this special project.

On **Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**, beginning at 6pm, we will decorate our church for the Christmas season. We invite any parishioners who would like to help to join us in the church for this special project.

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



Transfiguration Academy's **2020 Alumni Mass and Brunch** will be held on Sunday, January 5, 2020 beginning with the 12 Noon Mass at St. John's Church with brunch following in Conlon Hall. This event will honor Sr. Madeline Mary Hanson's many years of service to our community as well as the memory of 2013 alumna Charli Roberts. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by visiting

<http://www.transfigurationacademy.org/tfa/Alumni/>

Donations to the Sr. Trinity Fund which provides scholarships to defray the cost of attending Transfiguration can also be made at this site.

**Transfiguration Academy's Nativity Pageant and Christmas Concert** will held on Tuesday, December 17 at 6:00 PM in Conlon Hall. All are welcome to attend.

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 Rectory (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, December 15<sup>th</sup>—1<sup>st</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade from 10:45 am to 12 Noon (SCH)

Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>—7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade from 7 pm to 8:15 pm (MPR/SCH)

Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade from 7 pm to 8:15 pm (MPR/SCH)

Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</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 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.

**Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace:** Now that our parish children have celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time, they will come together this week to think about the significance of the sacrament. They will reflect on the experience of "going to confession" and receiving God's forgiveness. They will remember what they did and how they felt on this special day. Please continue to pray for them, and encourage our young children as they begin a lifelong practice of celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### Volunteers Needed:

† We are in need of Aides and Class Parents for our Religious Education Program for the 2019-2020 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 – In Rectory

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



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>

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

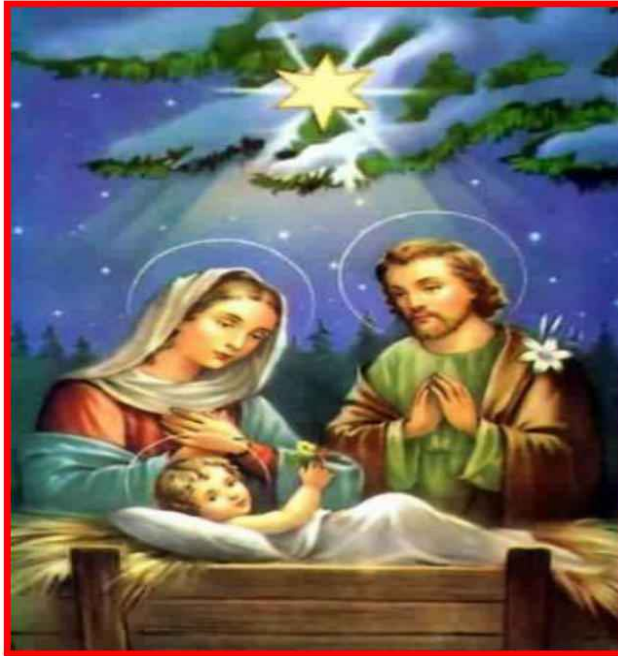
DECEMBER 15, 2019

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

256 Azalea Drive, New Milford, NJ 07646

INVITES YOU TO ITS

## “SIMBANG GABI CELEBRATION”



**DATE:** December 21, 2019  
(Saturday)

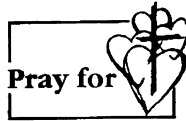
**TIME:** 5:30 P.M.

After Mass, everyone is invited to a Potluck Reception & Entertainment (Christmas Program, Games & Dancing) in the **Fr. Benedict Center.**

For food donation, please contact the following:  
Malu Fineza - (201) 660-5483      Hedy Lazaro - (201) 982-8750  
Sophie Flores - (201) 403-1122



## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



*"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, Benny Santiago, 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., Cherry Point, NC, 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



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE**  
burns this week in loving memory of  
**Marcella & Harry Sweeney**

**BREAD and WINE** this week  
are in loving memory of  
**Jean Sapunarich**



### Third Sunday of Advent, December 15, 2019

#### **Retired Religious Fund**

Children's Liturgy of the Word – 9:30 – Chapel  
Religious Education 1-6<sup>th</sup> Grade - 10:45am  
Baptism – 1:00pm – Church  
Giving Tree Distribution – 2:00pm

### Monday, December 16, 2019

Food Pantry Distribution  
Rel. Ed. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – 7:00pm – School  
Combined Choirs – 7:30pm - Church

### Tuesday, December 17, 2019

Parish Events - 7:30pm – Gathering Room, PC

### Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Rel. Ed. 9 Grade – 7:00pm – School  
Boy Scouts – 7:30pm – Fr. Benedict Ctr.  
Filipino Core Mtg. – 8:00pm – Gathering Room, PC  
Combined Choirs – 8:15pm - Church

### Thursday, December 19, 2019

Combined Choirs – 7:30pm - Church

### Friday, December 20, 2019

Trees & lights put up in church – 6:00pm

### Saturday, December 21, 2019

Confession – 11:00am - Church  
Children's Choir – 4:15pm – Church  
Simbang Gabi – 5:30pm Church  
Reception follows in Fr. Benedict Center

### Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22, 2019

#### **Food Pantry Sunday**

Children's Liturgy of the Word – 9:30 – Chapel  
Religious Education 1-6<sup>th</sup> Grade - 10:45am



### DECORATING OUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Parishioners are invited to help put up Christmas trees & lights in the Church on Friday, December 20th at 6:00pm & decorate the Church on Monday, December 23rd at 6:00pm. **All are Welcome!**

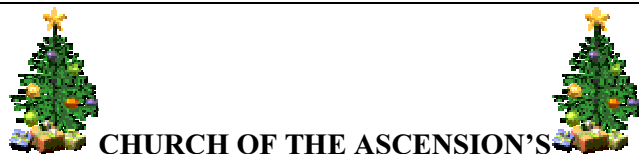


### **TOYS FOR TOTS**

**Boulevard Funeral Home** will be collecting new unwrapped toys this holiday season for Toys for Tots. Donations can be dropped off at 1151 River Road, New Milford from 9-4 daily. All donations will stay local. Please contact 201-692-0100 with any questions.



**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 rectory office to check availability.



**CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION'S  
GIVING TREE**

**ALL GIFTS DUE BACK THIS WEEKEND**

Please note that we are requesting that all gifts be placed under the tree by 12:30pm on Sunday, December 15th, due to the scheduling of various organizations and of our delivery volunteers.

**PLEASE DO NOT PLACE ANY GIFTS UNDER THE TREE AFTER THIS TIME.**

**THEY WILL NOT BE DELIVERED!**

As previously stated, we can receive Food Gift Cards at any time. Please hand these to Father David if they are coming in after December 15th.

**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 generous.



**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 rectory 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: \_\_\_\_\_



Please remember to patronize  
who help make this bulletin possible,  
**EAST-WEST ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS, INC.**  
201-384-0125



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



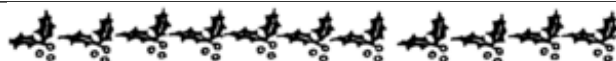
**HELP US TO FEED THE HUNGRY**

**FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION – DECEMBER 16TH**

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.

- PAPER TOWELS-BATHROOM TISSUE-NAPKINS-TISSUES
- SHAMPOO-CONDITIONER-DEODORANT-BATH SOAP
- TOOTHPASTE-TOOTHBRUSHES-LAUNDRY DETERGENT
- PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

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



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

