

# *Ascension Church*

## New Milford, NJ

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Dear Parish Family,

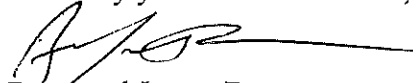
This weekend we are introducing our Increased Offertory Program at all of the Masses. We will outline what Ascension Parish is embarking on over the course of the next 2 months as well as the reasons we need to address our Sunday offertory collection. By now you should have received the mailing or will be receiving it within the next few days, which further explains the importance and urgency of this program. After prayerful reflection (and discussion), we ask you to complete the confidential reply card enclosed in the mailing. Please bring to the Lord in prayer your commitment of treasure to Ascension Parish. You are invited to return it using the envelope provided via USPS, merely drop it into the Sunday collection basket, or you may bring it directly to the parish office by October 15.

Below is a summary of what we will be embarking on, why we are addressing these needs, and how you can be a part of it. In the upcoming weeks you will be provided with more information and updates about our progress. You will also be hearing from your fellow parishioners when they share their experiences through lay witness talks.

Thank you in advance for your prayers, your faith and your consideration of this important endeavor. Please do not hesitate to contact me or our parish office with any questions or concerns.

May God continue to bless you and all of us who are the parish community of Ascension Parish.

Sincerely yours in Jesus Christ,



Reverend James Brown  
Pastor

### **Ministry Growth and Outreach!**

Our parish has many ministries and active groups. We are blessed to have a Religious Education Program, with multiple volunteer opportunities, Ministries of Worship and Adult Faith Formation opportunities. These are among the many examples of how together we live our lives in a Christ-like way.

Our Community Outreach Programs continue to provide services responsive to the needs of the larger community and our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. And we are especially conscious of the needs of the Mission Church throughout the world.

### **Why must we address our offertory?**

In order to serve the needs of our parish community, our expenses have necessarily increased. With the participation of our Finance Committee, the expanded ministries and parish expenses are closely monitored to ensure that our finances remain fiscally strong.

Our Sunday collections continue to trend downward and do not meet our financial obligations. Therefore, it is extremely important that we remain prudent in addressing the operations of our parish to ensure fiscal integrity.

### **We invite you to consider.....**

We invite each registered household to reflect on their current financial support and prayerfully consider increasing that commitment to the parish. A consistent and modest increase from all our parishioners will help us to better address our existing financial needs, as well as plan for our future.