



ASCENSION

Roman Catholic Church
86-13 55th Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373

Parish Mission Statement

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we, the people of Ascension, strive to be united in Christ through worship and prayer, grow in Christ through God's word and the sacraments, and serve Christ in one another by sharing time, talent and treasure.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 24, 2023



From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Ascension Family,

The parish had an Advent recollection last December 14 with the theme "Advent in the light of Eucharistic Revival." It was given by Rev. Fr. Ray Basilius who has a doctorate degree in Religious Education from Fordham University and an Adjunct Associate Professor in the department of theology at St. John's University. We are grateful for his inspiring but challenging thoughts on the theme.

After the recollection, I accompanied him to his car. I saw at the back of his car a sticker which says, "Keep Christ in Christmas." I think that sticker expresses a sad truth, namely, that Christ has been left out of his own birthday party. The greatest event that changed the whole history of mankind is not the reason and concern for the celebration of Christmas for many people. In many places, people celebrate a Christ-less Christmas. The greatest mystery of God's love is replaced by frantic shopping and partying.

Let us put Christ back into Christmas. That, I think, is the challenge of the sticker for all of us. Christmas carols, christmas cards, christmas trees and christmas gifts are only a few of the many traditions which come alive with the celebration of Christmas every year. They are all tied together with various meanings and memories from as long as our childhood days. However, these customs, beautiful as they are, do not touch the very heart of Christmas, but are only extensions of its central meaning. If we are looking for the real message of this day, we should not search for it in the shopping malls, or in TV Christmas Specials. We should turn to the Church to hear why this day has such deep significance although we have heard

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MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday: 7:00 & 9:00AM

Saturday : 9:00 AM

: 5:00 PM (Vigil Mass)

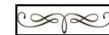
Sunday : 8:30 | 10:00 | 11:30AM

1:00 PM (Spanish)

1st Sunday @ 5:00 PM (Cebuano)

2nd Sunday @ 5:00 PM (Tagalog)

4th Sunday @ 5:00 PM (Divine Mercy)



Rev. Anacleto S. Asebias, Jr.
Pastor

Rev. Kyrian C. Echekwu
Parochial Vicar

Sr. Mary Genevieve Ofori-Atta, HDR
Director of Religious Education

Peter Roland
Music Director

Terry Guevara
Parish Secretary

Romulo Quiblat
Parish Council Chair

Maryann Nepomuceno
Parish Finance Chair

Fernando Velazquez
Maria San Pedro
Parish Trustees

Yolanda De Castro
Director of Stewardship

Rectory Office Hours: Monday - Friday

9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon | 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM | 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Telephone: (718) 335-2626 | Fax: (718) 335-4181

Email: ascensionrcchurch@gmail.com | Website: www.ascensionparishelmhurst.org

SCHOOL: Saint Adalbert Catholic Academy

<https://saintadalbertca.org>

52-17 83rd Street, Elmhurst, NY 11373

718-424-2376 / Fax: 718-898-7852

the story countless times before. Perhaps the most significant words from the account of Christ's birth by Luke are: "GLORY TO GOD . . . PEACE ON EARTH . . ." This message that resounded on the first Christmas holds the key to the attitude we should have to the birth and person of Jesus, the Son of God.

Glory to God is a brief but powerful prayer of adoration acknowledging his infinite power and love. In the Old Testament the "praise and glory to God" is usually linked to God's saving action on the people, which saves them from the power of the enemy. They are not just words, but words that sprung from a concrete experience of God's power - God's saving action, an experience of God's love for his chosen people.

The Incarnation, the birth of Jesus, is the deepest expression of God's love for sinful mankind. St. Ignatius of Loyola has a contemplation on the Incarnation. In the beginning, he suggests we join the Blessed Trinity looking down on the world before the coming of Christ. It is a world "without Christ." We see the diversity of people of different races, cultures, languages, color, attire, customs, etc. They live an aimless life, sinning, suffering and dying. Before the coming of Christ, the world was in the grip of sin and Satan's power. Humanity was incapable of saving itself. By becoming one of us, and dying for us, Christ broke the power of Satan - the power of sin and death. His birth was indeed an event of great glory of God's power and love. We can rightly join the angels as they sing *Glory to God*.

The second part of the angelic song is *Peace on earth*, which is the Lord's mission statement set to music. We need to work and pray for it, because our suffering world is filled with violence, hatred and mutual mistrust. The Lord Jesus, the Prince of Peace, has been born, but the very reason of his birth is still awaiting birth in our hearts. We have not taken seriously the message of the Prince of Peace. We give glory to God when we extend ourselves to another and thereby create a small atmosphere of peace on earth. Our kind words naturally invite other kind words from our neighbor, and that could start a pleasant chain reaction that will produce peace on earth. Selfishness breeds contempt, and hatred turns to war. But love, like a seed, germinates and grows into everlasting goodness.

The Christmas gifts we give to one another should remind us of the greatest gift God has given us: the gift of his Son Jesus Christ, the very mystery we celebrate at Christmas. Is it not sad, and even tragic, to celebrate Christmas without Christ. Is it not sad to simply greet one another "Happy Holidays" rather than "Merry Christmas." Those trying to take Christ out of Christmas would not stand a chance if we Christians were really Christians.

Merry Christmas to all!

Praying for you all,
Fr. Anacleto

SACRAMENTS

Baptism

2nd Saturday of the month @ 11:00 AM, Baptism Class is the last Saturday of the month preceding the baptism @ 9:00 AM, pre-registration is needed, available in English & Spanish instruction. Please call the rectory to schedule, at least one month ahead of desired date. For further information and for the requirements of the godparents, please call the Rectory office.

Confession

Saturday @ 4:00 – 4:40 PM and by appointment

Marriage

Couple should contact the rectory office for information and registration at least 6 months prior to the date of marriage.

Anointing of the Sick

Call the rectory to arrange for a Priest's visit



CHURCH OFFERING

December 17, 2023

1st Collection - TO BE PROVIDED

2nd Collection - AT A LATER DATE

Upcoming Collections

December 24th - Church Maintenance

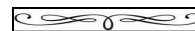
December 25th - Catholic Charities*

December 31st - Upkeep of Rectory & Grounds

*Correction: Due to an error in printing by the envelope company the second collection on December 25th, Christmas Day is for Catholic Charities.

Online Giving

If you are interested in donating online, please visit the parish website. Parishioners can schedule their contribution to be made weekly, bi-weekly or monthly.



Religious Education

Faith Formation Classes are held Sundays from 8:45 AM to 11:00 AM. Classes take place at the Ascension School, 86-37 53rd Avenue, (across the street from the firehouse). The classes run from September through June. Classes are for children in grades 1 through 8th. Proof of baptism is required for children who are being registered for the first time, as well as birth certificate. For further information on registration please call the Rectory Office at 718-335-2626.

Volunteers Needed: If you would be interested in volunteering for the Faith Formation Program, please call the Parish Office at 718-335-2626

or e-mail ascensionfaithformationoffice@gmail.com

Religious Education Calendar

There will be no classes for the children in the Religious Education Program on Sunday, December 24th and Sunday, December 31st. Classes will resume at the school on Sunday, January 7th.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Are you an unbaptized adult but want to be baptized in the Catholic church? Or, are you baptized non-Catholic who desires to be a Catholic? Or, are you baptized Catholic in need of the Sacrament of Confirmation? The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is the place for you. Registrations are presently being accepted at the Rectory Office. For further information please call the Rectory office at 718-335-2626.



Saturday, December 23rd

5:00 PM People of the Parish

Sunday, December 24th

8:30 AM Jesusa Policarpio

10:00 AM Macaraeg Family (L)

11:30 AM In Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

1:00 PM Miembros del Grupo de Oracion Ministerio Inmenso Dios y sus familias (L)

5:00 PM Maranan Family (L) & (D)

9:00 PM Jovita Osorio, Gabino Corona, Salomon Corona Joseph Flores (L), Wendy Pajarito (L)

11:00 PM Lorna Francisco (L) & Family & Teresita Duero (L) & Family

Monday, December 25th - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

8:30 AM Elmira, Gloria and all Deceased Members of the Tanoy Family

10:00 AM Emma and Rodrigo Rosado

11:30 AM In Honor of the Nativity of Jesus

1:00 PM Hector Velazquez-Mejia

Tuesday, December 26th - St. Stephen, The First Martyr

7:00 AM Christmas Mass Remembrance Julio & Margarita Velasquez John A. & Winifred Larson

9:00 AM Marilyn Manahan (L) & Family

Wednesday, December 27th - St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

7:00 AM Christmas Mass Remembrance Leonila M. Agcaoili (L)

9:00 AM Jairo & Ines Granda

Thursday, December 28th - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

7:00 AM Christmas Mass Remembrance Glenison Dmonte (L)

9:00 AM Josefa Celina A. Colago (L)

Friday, December 29th - St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

7:00 AM Christmas Mass Remembrance Luisito Alibutod

9:00 AM Gerard Barrins

Saturday, December 30th

9:00 AM Christmas Mass Remembrance Salome E. Farillas

Pray for the Sick:



Rosa Tan, Carmen Moredo, Sandra P. Carvajal, Julissa Martinez, Luis Arnulfo, Elizabeth Yee, Elie Fornilda, Jose Reynel Vigoya, Joel Rivera, Sursatti Shaw, Gloria Patricia Rios, Harold, Diego y Kennedy Gomez, Elisa Marquina, Maria Daulo, Jose M. Rosado, Karla Nicole

Paredes, Romelia Arenas, Rubiela Arenas, Enrique Soto, Eduardo D. Soto, Teresita Danseco, Evangeline & Victoria Danseco, Nazarette Serion, Greta Tasyco, Nerissa Infante, Laura Kreft, Shirley Ann Gundran, Egbert Nuñez, Avelina Quilung, Dennis Anthony Calimlim, Exelito Valencia, Bonifacio Guiab, Margie Bulwag, Egbert Nuñez, Maria Dala Rosa George, Renato Go, Leticia Maranan, Denise Giglio, Rustico Castellano, Beth Bagnol Enriquez. To add names, please call the Parish Office.

MEMORIALS

December 24 - December 30



**Altar Bread and Wine has been donated
In Loving Memory of
Emma and Rodrigo Rosado
Requested by: Rosado Family**

**Sanctuary Lamp will burn for
Lety and Terry Maranan and Family
Requested by: a friend**



**Altar Flowers has been donated
In Loving Memory of
Salvatore, Maria and Michael Modica
William and Christina Jones
Requested by: Modica and Jones Family**

**Altar Candles will burn
In Loving Memory of
Lydia B. Caibal**



**Advent Candles will burn
In Loving Memory of
Joventino and Angeles Maranan
Requested by: Maranan Family**

Memorials are available, kindly contact Rectory Office.



**EUCARISTIC REVIVAL 2022-2024
EXPLANATION OF THE MASS**

After a series of short catechesis on the sacrament of the Eucharist, we will now have a series of short explanation of the different parts of the Mass.

Gospel: The *Gospel* is the center of the Liturgy of the Word, because it contains the words and deeds of Jesus. As such, it is distinguished from the other readings by special marks of honor: it has its own Book of the Gospels; it is acclaimed by the Alleluia or other gospel acclamation; it is incensed; it is kissed and signed with the cross; all people stand in sign of reverence; and only an ordained person can read it. The Sign of the Cross *on the forehead* signifies our desire to meditate the Gospel in our mind; the sign *on the lips*, our commitment to preach it throughout the world; and the sign *on the heart*, our pledge to treasure it with love.

Gospel Procession: During the singing of the Alleluia, the priest puts incense in the thurible and blesses it. With hands joined he makes a profound bow before the altar, then he holds up and carries the Book of the Gospels from the altar to the ambo. The altar servers (acolytes) who carry the thurible and the candles walk ahead of him. When the priest says, "A reading from the Holy Gospel . . .," he makes the Sign of the Cross with his thumb on the book, his forehead, lips, and chest. Everyone else does this as well. Then, the priest incenses the book with three double swings, to the center, the left and the right. After the reading of the Gospel, the priest kisses the book himself. A question (*Continuation on page of Saint's Corner*)



Annual Catholic Appeal 2023
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

**United in Communion,
United in Charity**

Summary Report as of December 11, 2023

Goal: \$51,617
Pledged: \$49,819.42
Received: \$46,076.80

To donate on-line: <https://catholicfoundationbq.org/annual-catholic-appeal/Checks> can be made out directly to:

Annual Catholic Appeal
Diocese of Brooklyn P.O. Box 310
Kensington, CT 06037-0310

Remember, that no gift is too small. Thank you.

Spanish Corner:

El Sacramento del Bautismo

Tenemos Bautismo en español el tercer sábado del mes a las 11:00 AM La clase pre-bautismal será el sábado antes del bautismo a las 9:00 AM Se requiere inscripción previa para la clase y el Bautismo, lo menos con un mes de anticipación. Llamar a la oficina parroquial para más información y para los requisitos de los padrinos.

Clases De Educación Religiosa para Niños/Jóvenes

Las clases de Educación Religiosa para los niños/jóvenes del primero a octavo grado toman lugar los domingos de 8:45 AM a 11:00 AM de septiembre a junio. Las clases toman lugar en la Escuela Asunción, 86-37 53rd Avenue, (frente la estación de bomberos). Se requiere prueba de bautismo y acta de nacimiento para todo niño registrado por primer vez. Para más información en español llamar al 718-335-2626, en el horario de día de lunes a viernes.

Nuestra parroquia necesita catequistas y voluntarios para el programa de educación religiosa. Animamos a los que puedan a compartir su fe Católica, su tiempo y talento. Si le interesa, favor de llamar a la Oficina Parroquial, 718-335-2626.

Campana Católica Anual Del 2023

Unidos en Comunión Unidos en Caridad

Más que nunca, necesitamos su ayuda para difundir la luz de Cristo en nuestra ciudad y vecindarios contribuyendo a la Campana Católica Anual del 2023. Su participación lo une en la fe con otros en la iglesia para hacer buenas obras durante tiempos desafiantes con nuevas formas innovadoras:

Haga su donación hoy en [Annual Catholic Appeal.org](http://AnnualCatholicAppeal.org) o envíe un texto con las siglas ACA al 917-336-1255. Para donar en línea: <https://catholicfoundationbq.org/annual-catholic-appeal/>

Recuerden que cualquier cantidad será aceptada. Gracias.

Registro Parroquial

Si asiste a esta Iglesia le sugerimos que se registre como miembro de nuestra parroquia. Formularios de inscripción están disponibles en la oficina parroquial. Los sobres de donación vienen con registro y utilizándolos nos permiten darle un informe de sus contribuciones para fines impositivos. Tener su nombre en nuestros registros es la única manera que tenemos de certificar que usted es un católico practicante, ya que tenemos que hacer para personas que se les pide que sirvan de patrocinadores (padrinos) de bautismo o confirmación.

Horario de Misas en Español

Solemnidad de la Natividad del Señor Solemnidad de Santa María, Madre de Dios

Misa anticipada por Navidad:

Domingo, 24 de diciembre 9:00 pm

Día de Navidad: Lunes, 25 de diciembre 1:00 pm

La Oficina Parroquial estará cerrada el lunes 25 de diciembre.

Misa por la Solemnidad de María, Madre de Dios:

Lunes, 1^o de enero 1:00 pm

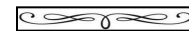
La Oficina Parroquial estará cerrada el lunes 1^o de enero.

Calendario de Educación Religiosa

No habrá clases de Educación Religiosa el domingo 24 de diciembre y el domingo 31 de diciembre. Regreso a clases será el domingo 7 de enero en la escuela.

PRAYER GROUPS & DEVOTIONS

- Monday:** **Miraculous Medal Novena**
Mondays @ 9:30 AM
- Tuesday:** **Spanish Prayer Group @ 7:00 PM**
- Wednesday:** **Our Lady of Perpetual Help**
Novena @ 9:30 AM | Novena Mass
@ 7:00 PM (1st Wednesday)
- Thursday:** **Rosary Making Ministry** - to request supplies and/or pick up rosaries, please email:
marie_panas@msn.com
- Friday:** **Holy Hour / Exposition & Benediction**
1st Friday @ 9:30 AM Mass
- Our Lady of Fatima | Most Sacred Heart of Jesus & Black Nazarene**
1st Friday – Angelus | Rosary | Novena to Our Lady of Fatima @ 6:00 PM &
Mass @ 7:00 PM
- Divine Mercy Devotion Prayer Group & Choir**
3rd Friday 7:30 PM - 10:00 PM (Lower Church)
- Saturday:** **2000 Hail Mary**
1st Saturday @ 9:30 AM
- Lady of Mary Mediatrix of all Grace**
2nd Saturday @ 9:30 AM
- El Shaddai**
2nd, 3rd and 4th Saturday
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (Lower Church)
- Sunday:** **Ascension Parish Rosary Society**
1st Sunday @ 10:00 AM
- Religious Education Children's Choir**
2nd, 3rd, 4th and if applicable 5th Sunday @ 11:15 AM-12:30 PM
- Divine Mercy Devotion Prayer Group and God the Father of All Mankind Devotion Prayer Group**
4th Sunday @ 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (Lower Church)
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (Church)
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (Lower Church)
- CFC Christian Life Program***
1st, 2nd, 3rd, and if applicable 5th Sunday
@ 2:00 to 5:00 PM (Lower Church)
4th Sunday of the month @ 3:00 to 6 PM (Lower Church)



EVENTS / NEWS & UPDATES

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th 5:00 pm Vigil in English; 9:00 pm Vigil in Spanish; 11:00 pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25th 8:30 am, 10:00 am, 11:30 am, 1:00 pm in Spanish. The Rectory Office will be closed on Christmas Day, Monday, December 25th.

Holy Mother of God Mass Schedule: Sunday, December 31st: 5:00 pm Vigil Mass in English

Sunday, January 1st: 9:00 a.m., 10:00 am, 11:30 am in English; 1:00 pm Spanish Mass
The Rectory Office will be closed on Monday, January 1st.

Our Lord Jesus the Black Nazarene: Novena will start on Sunday, December 31st with 4:00 pm Rosary/Jesus Nazarene Novena
5:00 pm Mass

Monday, January 1st: 4:00 pm Rosary/Jesus Nazarene Novena;
5:00 pm Mass

Tuesday, January 2nd through Monday, January 8th: 6:00 pm Rosary/Novena 7:00 pm Mass

Tuesday, January 9th: 7:00 pm Feast Day Mass; 8:00 pm Procession/offering flowers

**Eucharistic Revival
(continuation)**

has been asked, "Should the priest or deacon who reads the Gospel lift up the Book of the Gospels (or a Lectionary) while saying 'The Gospel of the Lord'?" The answer given is: at the words, "The Gospel of the Lord," the priest does not raise the Gospel book in order to show it to the assembly. The priest pronounces those words with hands joined while looking at the people since he is speaking to them. Then the priest venerates the book with a kiss.

Homily: The *homily*, which is the explanation and actual application of the Word of God for the people, replicates the preaching of Jesus at the synagogue of Nazareth. After proclaiming the reading of the Scriptures, which were written in Hebrew - a language that only the scholars could understand, Jesus explained them in Aramaic, which was the spoken dialect of the simple people (Luke 4:16-31). The word *homily* comes from the Greek *homilein*, which means "familiar conversation." The homily is not a lecture of a professor to the students, nor a sermon of a judge to wrongdoers, but the lovely conversation of a father to his beloved children.

Saint's Corner:

St. Stephen
December 26

St. Stephen is the first Christian martyr. All we know of Stephen is found in the book of the Acts of the Apostles, chapters six and seven. He was one of the seven deacons appointed by the apostles to carry out the task of social and charitable service to those in need so that the apostles can focus on the preaching of the Word of God. Stephen is described as a man filled with grace and power, who worked great wonders among the people.

Certain Jews, members of the Synagogue of Roman Freedmen, debated with Stephen but proved no match for the wisdom and spirit with which he spoke. He was seized and tried before the Sanhedrin. His speech before the Sanhedrin brought anger to the crowd. They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit....Lord, do not hold this sin against them"(Acts 7:59-60).

Stephen died exactly like Jesus: falsely accused, brought to unjust condemnation because he spoke the truth fearlessly. And he died like Jesus forgiving his enemies. By so doing he became the first model of how a follower of Christ should die, that is trusting God and forgiving one's enemies. That is also our task: trusting God and forgiving our enemies. But we will not be able to do that on our deathbed, unless we begin to do it now. Trust in God and forgiveness of our enemies must be practiced day after day.

Stephen was just a human being like us. He was a convert to Christianity. But with his baptism, he was filled with the Holy Spirit, as we were. That same Holy Spirit can strengthen us in our weakness if we give our lives fully to the Lord Jesus. Stephen's heroism was not unique to him. It continues to be repeated by many hundreds of thousands of martyrs and millions of other Christians every day.

May the shining example of Stephen inspire us and may his prayer strengthen us.

**NEW TO OUR PARISH?
WELCOME! PARISH MEMBERSHIP:**

New parishioners are to register in the Parish. Please notify the Parish Office of any changes in address or phone number.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

Email _____

_____ I wish to receive a registration form

_____ I have an address change

_____ I am moving out of the Parish

Please cut out and return to Parish office or drop in the collection basket. Thank you.

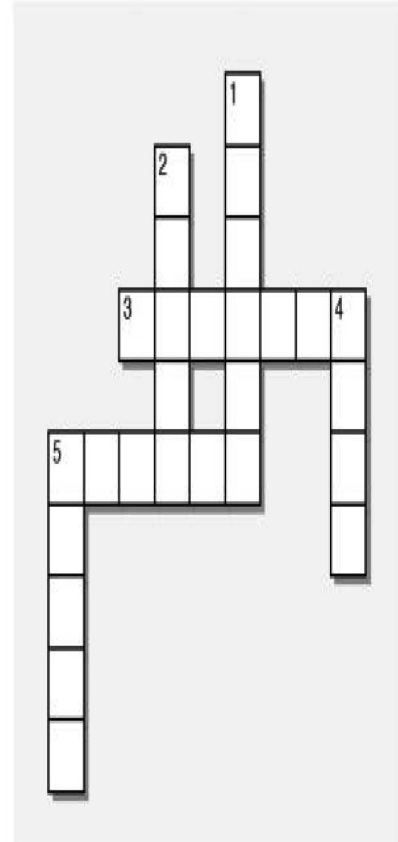


Catholic Mom
HOLY CROSS
FAMILY MINISTRIES

Sunday Gospel Activities

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

LUKE 1:26-38



Across

3. The name of the Angel that appeared to Mary

5. Mary is betrothed (engage) to _____

Down

1. Today is the _____ Sunday of Advent

2. "Hail, Full of _____! The Lord is with you."

4. Today's Gospel is from the Gospel according to _____.

5. Mary will have a son and name him _____

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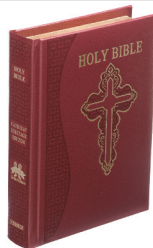
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