



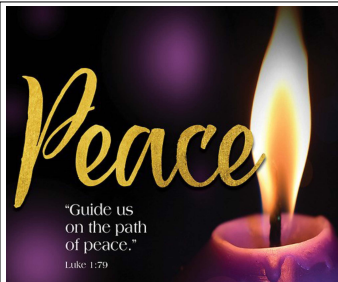
ASCENSION

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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 10, 2023



Dear Ascension Family,

Blessings of peace and good health! I hope everybody was able to read the Letter of our Bishop, Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan. The subject of the letter could serve as a good topic for our conversations and discussions at home, at work, and group gatherings, especially in this liturgical season we are in.

Next week, I will be sharing with you more information about what Bishop Brennan's letter spells out.

We are in the season of Advent. "Prepare" is the main message for these days, but scripture's meaning and emphasis stands in sharp contrast to our frantic, stress-filled preparations these weeks before Christmas. Many of us are probably caught up in preparations for Christmas with daily reminders of the number of shopping days before Christmas. What a contrast to the call to "prepare" which we hear in the gospel reading today.

The Church's call to celebrate Advent properly seems like "a voice crying out in the desert." Advent seems lost in the rush of Christmas celebrations. Christmas caroling and parties by schools and offices, as well as churches, are taking place. There are practical reasons why it is this way. Although it is liturgically correct to delay singing Christmas carols until Christmas Eve, you cannot really plan many Christmas events between December 25 and the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, the actual days of the Christmas season. Schools are closed as are many offices during the week between Christmas and New Year. People are on vacation, or simply out of town. The parish which is strict about keeping Advent seems to be out-of-step with the rest of the world. So, how do we keep a proper celebration of Advent with its message of "Prepare the way of the Lord?"

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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

MASS SCHEDULE

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

Saturday : 9:00 AM

: 5:00 PM (Vigil Mass)

Sunday : 8:30 0:00 | 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

John the Baptist, who would probably be considered some kind of weirdo in our day, comes upon the scene with urgent message from Isaiah's prophecy: "prepare the way of the Lord." John the Baptist fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament about God's messenger who would announce the coming of the long-awaited Messiah, as the gospel reading today tells us.

John the Baptist preaches a fiery message of a "baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin." This baptism is different from Christian baptism that we have, which is a sacrament of God's grace. John's baptism is a sign of repentance, which for us is our response to God's call to receive Christ into our lives. The Greek work for repentance is *metanoia*, which literally means "turning around facing another direction." It is no casual saying of "I am sorry" or "Pardon me." It is an honest and thorough and often painful soul-searching. It is a deep awareness of the need for God's cleansing power in our lives. It marks a new beginning made possible by a loving God. It means new priorities and values, a new way of looking at the world. God wants to change us in order to bring us joy and peace and fulfillment. Because we continue to fail, repentance is a daily experience for us. God's faithful love and mercy reach out to us every day.

"Prepare the way of the Lord!" John the Baptist calls on each of us to stop in the middle of our frantic preparations for Christmas to hear the message of Advent. We are called to examine ourselves, to repent and turn daily in a new direction - towards God. God calls us to "prepare," but not only in the ways of modern society. Advent and Christmas are wonderful times of the year. Parties and family gatherings and the giving and exchanging of gifts are part of the joy of this season. But let us commit ourselves to celebrating Advent properly with its message, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

God bless us 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 3, 2023

1st Collection - \$5,548.00

2nd Collection - \$2,240.00 (Christmas Flower Offering)

Upcoming Collections

December 8th - The Immaculate Conception

December 10th - Religious Retirement Fund

December 17th - My Christmas Gift to My Church

December 24th - Church Maintenance

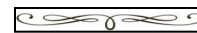
December 25th - Catholic Charities*

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

Reconciliation Monday

The schedule of confession on Reconciliation Monday, December 18th is as follows: 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM and 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM.

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA)

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 Order of Christian Initiation for Adults is the place for you.

For further information please call the Rectory office at 718-335-2626.



Saturday, December 9th

5:00 PM Allberto Marquez

Sunday, December 10th

8:30 AM Amado Francisco

10:00 AM Maria Assumption Montebon

11:30 AM In Honor of the Immaculate Conception

1:00 PM Amelia & Roberto Ramirez
Rosalba Trespalacios

5:00 PM Emmanuel Velayo, Sr.
Beth Bagnol Enriquez (L)
Judge James Stewart Himalalaoan (L)
Steven Simon (L), Procopio & Virginia Quinto
Richard Erickson, Jr. & Sofia Pacuño,
Terso Pacuño, Nimfa Espejon Wong,
Evelia Pariñas, Teodoro Peneda

7:00 PM Mass - Our Lady of Guadalupe

Monday, December 11th - St. Damasus I, Pope

7:00 AM All Souls in Purgatory

9:00 AM Gloria, Elmira & all deceased members of the
Tanoy Family

10:00 PM Vigil Mass - Our Lady of Guadalupe

Tuesday, December 12th - Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:00 AM Erlinda Tiangco

9:00 AM Lynie Guadalupe F. Gatchalian (L)

6:00 PM Mass - Our Lady of Guadalupe

Wednesday, December 13th - St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

7:00 AM All Souls in Purgatory

9:00 AM Lucy Navarro

Thursday, December 14th - St. John of the Cross, Priest and
Doctor of the Church

7:00 AM Erlinda Tiangco

9:00 AM Florante Bariso (L)

Friday, December 15th

7:00 AM Joventino & Angeles Maranan

9:00 AM George & Robert Tavaris

Saturday, December 16th

9:00 AM Eugene Gatchalian (L)
Gaudencio Dublin Montana
Hubert Lyle Montana Abad
Carlito (L) & Merlina Geronimo (L) & Family
Amy Urcia (L)
Reynaldo Belmonte, Teresita Belmonte (L)
Lorna Junio
Blanca Delgado

Please pray for: Deceased members of our families



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 Tasayco, 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 10 – December 16



Altar Bread and Wine has been donated
In Loving Memory of
Randolph Balz

Sanctuary Lamp will burn
In Loving Memory of
Antoinette M. Renta



Altar Flowers has been donated
In Loving Memory of
(please contact the Rectory Office to request a flower memorial)

Altar Candles will burn
In Loving Memory of
Erlinda Tiangco



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.*

Lectionary & Evangelarium: The *Lectionary* is the liturgical book which contains all the readings for the Mass. The word comes from the latin *legere* which means “to read.” The *Evangelarium*, or Book of the Gospels, which may be used on Sundays and Solemnities, is the book that contains only the readings of the Gospel. The word *Gospel*, from the Old English *Good* and *Spel*, means “Good News.” It is the literal translation of the Latin *Evangelium*, hence the Book of the Gospel is also called Evangelarium.

Weekday Readings: The *weekday readings* are divided into *two-year cycle*: Cycle One for the odd-numbered years (example 2019, 2021, etc.); and Cycle Two for the even-numbered years (example 2018, 2020, etc.). The purpose of the weekday readings is to proclaim in two years the major passages of the Scriptures, from the Book of Genesis to the Book of Revelation. The weekday Mass has no second reading. The Gospel readings are arranged so that portions of all four Gospels are read every year, and they remain the same in the two cycles.

(Continuation on page of Saint's Corner)



**United in Communion,
United in Charity**

Summary Report as of December 4, 2023

Goal: \$51,617
Pledged: \$46,506.06
Received: \$42,120.13

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 Religiosas Para Adultos

La Orden de la Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos (OICA) son clases para adultos necesitados de recibir los sacramentos de Bautismo, Comunión o Confirmación. Las clases de OICA también son para adultos que no son Católicos, pero están interesados en ser Católico.

Para información sobre el programa y atención en español, llamar al 718-335-2626, en el horario de día de lunes a viernes.

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.

Campaña 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 Campaña 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](https://catholicfoundationbq.org/annual-catholic-appeal/) 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.

Novena de Misas En Honor a la Virgen de Guadalupe

Sábado 9 de diciembre y domingo 10 de diciembre: 6:00 pm Rosario y 7:00 pm Santa Misa, hospitalidad a las 8:00 pm

Lunes 11 de diciembre: 7:30 pm Procesion, 9:00 pm Rosario, 10:00 pm Santa Misa, 11:00 pm Serenata, hospitalidad a las 11:30 pm

Martes 12 de diciembre: 5:00 pm Rosario, 6:00 pm Santa Misa 7:00 pm hospitalidad

Confesions por Adviento

A parte del horario de confesión los sábados a las 4:00 pm en esta temporada de Adviento, tendremos confesión el Lunes de Reconciliación, 18 de diciembre de 9:30 am - 11:00 am y 4:30 pm a 6:00 pm. Los padres y los estudiantes en el Programa de Educación Religiosa deberán de aprovechar el horario de confesión los sábados y Lunes de Reconciliación.

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

Our Lady of Guadalupe: Monday, December 11: Procession at 7:30 pm, Rosary at 9:00 pm, Holy Mass at 10:00 pm, Serenata at 11:00 pm, followed by fellowship in the lower church.

Tuesday, December 12: Rosary at 5:00 pm, Holy Mass at 6:00 pm, followed by fellowship in the lower church. All are invited to partake in the celebrations.

Parish Advent Recollection: Thursday, December 14 at 7:00 pm in the church. The recollection will be given by Rev. Fr. Ray Basilius.

Simbang Gabi: Will start on Friday, December 15th at every 7:30 pm.

Reconciliation Monday, December 18: The schedule for confession is as follows: 9:30 am - 11:00 am and 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm.

A Christmas Market: St. Gregory's Theatre Group in Bellerose will stage their 2nd annual "A CHRISTMAS MARKET" on December 14th, from 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm in the Oak Room/Church Basement at St. Gregory The Great Church, 242-20 88th Avenue, Bellerose, NY. There will be live musical entertainment for your enjoyment while you shop for gifts from the various vendors in the market place. Refreshments will be available at the Christmas Café. Raffles and prizes, 50/50 and SANTA will pay a visit from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Something for the whole family!

Eucharistic Revival
(continuation)

Sunday Readings: The *Sunday readings* are divided into **three-year cycle: Year A** (centered on the Gospel of Matthew); **Year B** (centered on Mark); and **Year C** (centered on Luke). The first week of Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year with the corresponding Sunday readings. For instance, 2022 is Year C; 2023 is Year A; 2024 is Year B; and so on. In the Sunday readings, the First Reading and the Responsorial Psalm are connected with the Gospel, while the Second Reading, usually taken from the Letters of St. Paul, has a theme of its own.

The Ambo: The *Ambo*, from the Greek word *ambon* meaning “mountain,” is an elevated lectern or pulpit from which the Liturgy of the Word is proclaimed. The Ambo reminds us of a holy mountain because, in the Old Testament, God spoke to Moses from Mount Horeb-Sinai (Exodus 3:1-3); and in the New Testament, Jesus spoke to his disciples from the Mount of Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-2). The Ambo ought to be solemn and majestic, and exclusively reserved for the Liturgy of the Word. A much smaller lectern should be used by the commentator or by other ministers.

Saint’s Corner:

St. Lucy
December 13

Lucy lived around the year 300. We know few facts about her. She came from a wealthy family in Sicily. She had become a Christian and she loved the Lord Jesus deeply enough to give her life totally to his service. This one fact says a great deal about her.

According to a story, Lucy brought food at night to her fellow Christians in hiding because of persecution. To keep her hands free to carry these provisions and to light her way, she balanced candles on her head. This is the origin of the Swedish custom in which a young daughter begins the Christmas season by bringing coffee and cakes to her family in the morning of this day with lights wreathed in her hair.

Another fact about her life is that a man wanting to be her husband was enraged and reported her of being a Christian to the authorities. She was arrested, tortured and then put to death after having her eyes plucked out.

We all remember the injunction of our parents to take care of our eyes. Just as we can lose eyesight, we can also lose the gift of faith. St. Lucy represents all the people of faith in our world today, young and old, whose faith is a light in the darkness.

One can easily imagine what a young Christian woman had to contend with in pagan Sicily in the year 300. If you have trouble imagining, just glance at today’s pleasure-at-all cost world and the barriers it presents against leading a good Christian life.

Veneration of St. Lucy spread throughout the early Church. Now Lucy is mainly invoked by those who suffer from eye ailments.

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.



Sunday Gospel Activities

2nd Sunday of Advent, Mark 1: 1-8

I B L W M A B L E Z G Z T T U C D Y U K
X X O H Q O K Y F U B J W P Z W H O E L
W D U C E X K T U U I A S O E P U J R S
X G G G Z U G M P S B O L F B U N M A P
T R H W U R Z D L D Z L A L W D A S P I
E O U Y H J F O Z G B B D O C Z D T E R
P W M L J C Q S S V A K N O G V R S R I
I N X O Q R P T T Y J W A S L U O U P T
M Z Y H X F E K Y R Q Z S E J V J C B O
K H Q V P T S J I O A T R N C Y L O A T
U F L X E D B X M W B I C B E H O L D R
L M Y K L T L U K C J Y G V C S X Q N E
W E F H Q R L G V I O X Z H O R Z R L S
G S O I Q U K H D W Y A A Y T P Y F C E
W S T F B Q K P O E R D L V J H D I Y D
S E O V X P D J B N J V U Y Q C O S N I
H N Q H O X H B O A E K P W O A E A T G
T G P U E T J H H U U Y N I K T T F N F
A E L E W W P R E N U F N U F E W X W O
P R O L A J H Z W V K U N W P E I T I A

BEHOLD	JORDAN	PREPARE
CRYING	LOCUSTS	SANDALS
DESERT	LOOSEN	SPIRIT
HOLY	MESSENGER	STRAIGHT
HONEY	PATHS	

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THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER.