

# ASCENSION

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

#### Farish 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.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT **DECEMBER 17, 2023**



Dear Ascension Family,

Blessings of peace and good health!

I presume that everybody read the letter of our bishop, Most Rev. Robert J. Brennan, the Bishop of Brooklyn, Parish partnership has been proposed. In QN6 Deanery, consisting of the parishes of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Resurrection-Ascension, Our Lady

of Hope, Our Lady of Mercy, St. Margaret, Ascension, St. Adalbert, Our Lady of the Angelus, and Sacred Heart, a partnering plan has been drawn up as follows: Our Lady Queen of Martyrs is partnered with Our Lady of Mercy; Our Lady of Hope with St. Margaret; Resurrection-Ascension with Our Lady of the Angelus; Ascension with St. Adalbert; Sacred Heart with St. Pancras in another deanery. This partnering of parishes is based on their proximity, consistent pastoral trends, and finances.

This parish partnership is a three-step process. The first step is that of partnering, whereby the two pastors work together instead of duplicating like programs. Possible changes to the Mass schedule and possible collaborations of pastoral programs are areas to work on starting in the first step. The second step is parish "twinning," that is, appointing one pastor to serve the two parishes which remain canonically and financially separate entities. The third step is the canonical merger of the twinned parishes, that is, uniting the two parishes into a single parish.

Openness is key to the success of this on-going process. It is a natural human tendency to want to stay with what is familiar and comfortable. However, for our own good and the good of the wider Church, we sometimes have to go beyond our comfort zone. Parish Partnership requires that we be open to doing things differently.

continue next page

#### 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 83<sup>rd</sup> 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 | 10:00 | 11:30AM

1:00 PM (Spanish)

1st Sunday @ 5:00 PM (Cebuano)

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday @ 5:00 PM (Tagalog)

4<sup>th</sup> 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

We are in the 3rd Sunday of Advent, which is traditionally known as *Gaudete Sunday*. The Latin word *Gaudete* means, "Rejoice." The rose-colored candle is lighted on this Sunday, a liturgical symbol of joy.

But why should we rejoice? What gives us a cause for rejoicing? We need to ask that question especially in a world where there is so much misery, so much to be sad about, so much to mourn. In a world torn by so much violence, war, abject poverty and many forms of oppression, sometimes it is hard to find a reason for rejoicing. The gospel reading today gives us a clue why we should rejoice. The gospel reading speaks of John the Baptist telling his hearers that the Messiah is "one among you whom you do not recognize . . . whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." In other words, the Savior is among us, and so let us rejoice.

Francis of Assisi is called the joyful saint. This sense of joy was with him, despite the deprivations of voluntary poverty. His sense of joy came from the assurance that all would be well in God's providence. His joyful attitude went hand in hand with thanksgiving for all of God's gifts in creation. He was thankful for Brother Sun and Sister Moon. He was thankful for the flowers that bloomed and the birds that flew. He was even thankful for the approach of Sister Death.

As we celebrate this Sunday of joy, may we have the joys of St. Francis of Assisi. It is a joy based on faith, that God in his provident way will take care of his people. It is a joy based on hope, that in God's plan all will be well. It is a joy based on love, that true happiness consists is loving and being loved.

The message of *Gaudete* Sunday is that we find true happiness when we let God enter into our lives. When that happens then our priorities also shift. We will discover that true happiness does not depend on accumulation of wealth, honor, and praises. True happiness consists in being faithful to God. True happiness lies not on the consumption of things but on loving people.

With the coming of Christmas, the consumerist culture dictates to us that our joy is in buying and gathering things. It is time to remind ourselves where true joy lies. It is the continued presence of Christ in us and among us that gladdens our hearts, even in the midst of suffering. Joy is never within our power without the presence of Christ in us. Only Christ can fill us with the fullness of joy.

Praying for you all, Fr. Anacleto

#### **SACRAMENTS**

#### **Baptism**

2<sup>nd</sup> 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 10, 2023

1<sup>st</sup> Collection - \$8,097.00 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection - \$3,213.00 (Religious Retirement Fund)

#### **Upcoming Collections**

December 17<sup>th</sup> - My Christmas Gift to My Church December 24<sup>th</sup> - Church Maintenance December 25<sup>th</sup> - Catholic Charities\* December 31<sup>st</sup> - Upkeep of Rectory & Grounds

\*Correction: Due to an error in printing by the envelope company the second collection on December 25<sup>th</sup>, 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 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, (across the street from the firehouse). The classes run from September through June. Classes are for children in grades 1 through 8<sup>th</sup>. 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 18<sup>th</sup> is as follows: 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM and 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM.

#### **Religious Education Calendar**

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



### Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>

5:00 PM Katherine (L), Joseph (L) & Elianna Arambulo (L)

### Sunday, December 17th

8:30 AM People of the Parish

10:00 AM Tom (L) & Minda Colago (L)

11:30 AM In Honor of St. Lucy

1:00 PM Ester Espinola & Tomas Alonso

Jazmin Alonso (L) Joseph Casines

Nelly, Marlene & Loayza Davila

Romeo Marquez

Carlos Yahir Pilamunga (L) Daniel (L) & Javier Hurtado (L)

Dora Ureña

### Monday, December 18th

7:00 AM Jaena R. Fornilda (L) 9:00 AM Oliver Navarro (L)

# Tuesday, December 19th

7:00 AM Joseph Castellano & Castellano Family (L)
9:00 AM Christian (L), Miriam (L), Cian (L), Mari (L)
& Maverick Duero (L)

Wednesday, December 20th

7:00 AM Rory Domitrovits 9:00 AM Juliet & Errol Fern

Thursday, December 21st - St. Peter Cansius, Priest and Doctor

of the Church

7:00 AM Myrna Cauilan (L) 9:00 AM Jose Arcillas

# Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>

7:00 AM Jose Rosado (L) 9:00 AM January Navarro (L)

# Saturday, December 23rd

9:00 AM Philomena O'Connor

Bridget & William Ginty

Rosita Galvez Amy Urcia (L)

Constantina Paredes & Juan & Andres Acosta

Please pray for: Deceased members of our families

# Car Doghest Sympathy

#### 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 17 - December 23



Altar Bread and Wine has been donated In Loving Memory of Blanca Cruz

Sanctuary Lamp will burn In Loving Memory of Gerardo A. Salvador





#### 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 Juliet Fern





### Advent Candles will burn In Loving Memory of

Joventino and Angeles Maranan Requested by: Maranan Family

Memorials are available, kindly contact Rectory Office.

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#### 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.

First Reading: After the Collect all sit. Then the lector (reader) goes to the ambo and reads from the Lectionary placed there before Mass. The Lectionary has rubrics which are not to be read aloud, for example: First Sunday of Advent, Year B, First Reading, Isaiah 63:16-17, or the heading "Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down." All that is proclaimed before the reading, in this example, is: "A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah." Also, the lector should not hold up the lectionary when saying "The Word of the Lord." At the end of the reading there may be a period of silence for all to meditate on what has been heard.

**Responsorial Psalm:** The *Responsorial Psalm* used in the Mass is taken from the Book of Psalms or from a canticle of the Scriptures. It should be sung, especially on Sundays, because psalms are essentially prayers in the form of songs. It is called *responsorial* because the psalmist sings the verses, and the people reply with the response antiphon. The Responsorial Psalm is usually related to the First Reading, and has the purpose to involve the people in worship and praise. It is to be sung or recited at the ambo, and cannot be substituted by non-biblical song or texts.

(Continuation on page of Saint's Corner)





# **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-catholicappeal/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 53<sup>rd</sup> 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 o envié 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.

#### **Confesion 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.

### 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, 1º de enero 1:00 pm La Oficina Parroquial estará cerrada el lunes 1 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 (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday)

Thursday: Rosary Making Ministry - to request supplies and/

or pick up rosaries, please email:

marie\_panas@msn.com

Friday: Holy Hour / Exposition & Benediction

1<sup>st</sup> 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** 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday @ 9:30 AM

El Shaddai

2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday

 $1:00\ PM$  -  $4:00\ PM$  (Lower Church)

Sunday: Ascension Parish Rosary Society

1st Sunday @10:00 AM

Religious Education Children's Choir

2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and if applicable 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday @ 11:15

AM-12:30 PM

Divine Mercy Devotion Prayer Group and God the Father of All Mankind Devotion

Prayer Group

4<sup>th</sup> 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\*

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and if applicable 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday

 $@\ 2:00\ to\ 5:00\ PM\ (Lower\ Church)$   $4^{th}\ Sunday\ of\ the\ month\ @\ 3:00\ to\ 6\ PM\ (Lower\ Church)$ 

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#### **EVENTS / NEWS & UPDATES**

**Simbang Gabi:** Will start on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at every 7:30 pm.

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

#### **Christmas Mass Schedule**

**Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24**<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm Vigil; 9:00 pm Vigil in Spanish; 11:00 pm Midnight Mass

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

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

# Eucharistic Revival (continuation)

**Second Reading:** The *Second Reading* is always taken from the new Testament, and mostly from the Letters of St. Paul. It has a theme of its own, and it is read only on Sundays, Solemnities and Feasts.

Alleluia or Gospel Acclamation: The *Alleluia* is an acclamation of praise and glory for God, which is found in the Book of Tobit 13:18. It derives from the Hebrew words *Allelu* and *la*, meaning "All hail to Him Who is!" as equivalent to "Glory in the Highest." St. John the Evangelist said that the angels and saints in heaven sing the Alleluia to their God (Revelation 19:1). During Lent, the Alleluia is replaced by the Gospel Acclamation, in order to be solemnly sung again during the Easter Vigil. The people should stand for the singing of the Alleluia or the Gospel Acclamation.

#### Saint's Corner:

#### St. John of the Cross

December 14

St. John of the Cross was born in 1542 near Avila, Spain. His father died shortly after John's birth. And so John grew up in poverty. For a while he was apprenticed to a weaver, then became a servant at the hospital of Medina for seven years. The director of the hospital took a liking for John and arranged for him to study at the local Jesuit school. During his studies he already began to lead a life of prayer and mortification. In 1563, at the age of 21 he entered the Carmelite monastery of Medina. He studied theology at the University of Salamanca and was ordained in 1567.

John of the Cross is known as the partner of St. Teresa of Avila in seeking to establish an austere brand of the Carmelite Order that would observe the rigor of its primitive rule. These efforts at reform were met with opposition and personal attack. In one of the many episodes of hostility toward his effort, John was placed under house arrest by some fellow Carmelites who wanted to retain a more moderate rule. Eventually, John escaped and pursued the cause of reform. He lived in various places as superior of reformed convents. He also wrote during those years his great masterpieces about the spiritual life among them are *Ascent of Mt. Carmel, The Dark Night of the Soul*.

John died in 1591 at age 49. He was canonized in 1726 by Pope Benedict XIII and declared Doctor of the Church in 1926 by Pope

His life shows us that making reform entails sacrifice, work and hostility. People do not easily surrender their investment in the status quo.

John also teaches us that the dark night is a difficult but transforming grace. Some see the dark night as the loss of light and nothing more. John shows us that the dark night is the period before a great spiritual morning. The dark night can make us a saint.

# NEW TO OUR PARISH? WELCOME! PARISH MEMBERSHIP

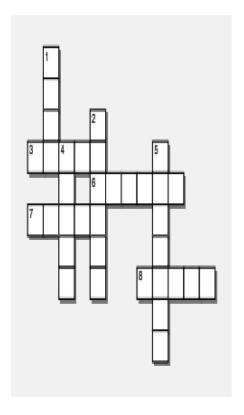
WELCOME! PARISH MEMBERSHIP:
New parishioners are to register in the Parish. Please notify the Parish
Office of any changes in address or phone number.
Name
Address
Phone:
Email
I wish to receive a registration form
I have an address change
I am moving out of the Parish
Please cut out and return to Parish office or drop in the collection
basket. Thank you.



# **Sunday Gospel Activities**

Third Sunday of Advent

John 1:6-8, 19-28



#### Across

3. The opposite of tying shoelaces.	Down	
6. This is a kind of shoe we wear today	1. Today's Gospel is from the Gospel	
n the summer that was common during	according to	
lesus time on earth.	2. Dry land; a land mass with no water	
7. When we speak, we use our	4. Today is the Sunday of Advent.	
B. "He was not the, but came to estify to the"	5. John the Baptist says, 'I you with water, but the one who is coming after me" will baptize with the Holy Spirit!	

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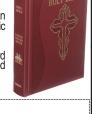
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