

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 IN ORDINARY TIME JANUARY 28, 2024



From the Pastor's Desk

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time January 28, 2024 Mark 1:21-28

Dear Ascension Family,

Blessings of peace and good health! As your pastor, I would like to thank everyone for their unwavering support and

generosity in reaching our goal for the 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal. In fact, we exceeded our goal. Our goal is \$51,617.00, and the final amount reached is \$66,831.06. A special thanks to our Director of Stewardship, Yolanda De Castro. Thank you very much!

In the time of Jesus, the Jews had two centers where they celebrated and nurtured their faith: the temple in Jerusalem and the local synagogue. The temple was the only place where they offered sacrifices and/or ritual offerings. It was in the synagogue where they gathered every Saturday (Sabbath) and conducted religious services which consisted of readings (with commentary) from the Law and the Prophets, and prayers. The readings were done by well-instructed members of the assembly or by visitors who were experts in Scripture.

The gospel reading tells us that Jesus was teaching in the synagogue of Capernaum. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught with authority. He would often say in complete boldness, "You have heard how it was said . . . but I say to you." The authority he spoke with was essentially his own. He did not quote from other teachers as was the custom of many teachers at that time. He spoke as one who knew what he was talking about and new that he was speaking the words of God.

But, more importantly, this authority **in speech** was backed by something even more impressive: the authority **to act** in mighty deeds. His miracles, the casting out of demons, his curing the sick who come to him were but manifestations of his power. In other words, with Jesus, word and action went together. The words from God which he spoke were wedded to the acts of God which he performed. Because of this Jesus amazed and mystified his listeners.

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 52-17 83rd Street, Elmhurst, NY 11373 https://saintadalbertca.org 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)

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, HDRDirector 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 The gospel reading today presents Jesus healing the man who was possessed by an unclean spirit. The people in the gospel reading reacted by asking, "What is this?" What is the meaning behind Jesus' power to expel the unclean spirit? It means that Jesus has come to destroy the power of Satan. It means that the kingdom of Satan, which enslaved people since Adam's sin, is now giving way to the kingdom of God. But it does not mean that Satan is not putting up a fight.

I am reminded of a story about a rich man, who was also very stingy. By God's grace, he underwent conversion. He realized that he was only the caretaker of his wealth. Not long after his conversion, there came to his door a poor neighbor who needed food. The rich man decided to give his poor neighbor a ham from his smokehouse. On his way to the ham the devil whispered to him: "Give him the smallest ham you can find."

The rich man had a struggle with his old stingy spirit, but finally his new generous spirit won out. He picked our the largest ham he could find. "You are a fool," the devil sneered. But the converted rich man silenced him: "If you don't stop, I will give him every ham I have."

Now what does the gospel reading say to each one of us? Although there are reported cases of demon possession in our modern society, these are not many. But in our modern society Satan operates in a more subtle way. Each of us, to some extent, has an unclean spirit in us. In fact, the "unclean spirit" that Jesus casts out of the man in today's gospel reading serves as a symbol of the voice of evil that sometimes speaks within us - the voice of pride, greed, anger, lust, self-righteousness, revenge. We can be "possessed" by "demons" who discourage us and plague us with fear when we consider the unpopular position that we know is right; or the "demon" of rationalization that falsely justifies actions, or inactions, that we know in our heart is contrary to the values and teachings of Jesus; or the "demon" of selfishness that keeps us from being generous as we should be. We all have a responsibility when it comes to spreading God's kingdom on earth. Yet how much energy, time, talent, or resources do we devote to this?

No matter what form the evil one takes we can always count on Christ to help us. Our Lord drove out the devil many times during his life on this earth, as the gospel reading today shows us. But Satan is putting up a fight. He even succeeded in killing Christ not on the cross. It looked as if the evil one had finally and completely won. But the resurrection gave Christ the victory. Jesus has given us the grace and the means to triumph with him over the devil.

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

January 21, 2024

1st Collection - \$6,059.00

2nd Collection - \$1,872.00 (Fuel Offering)

Sto. Niño - \$4,764.00

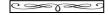
Upcoming Collections

January 28th - Churches in Need

February 4th - Fuel Offering February 11th - Faith Formation February 14th - Ash Wednesday February 18th - Black and Indian Missions February 25th - Youth Ministry

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

January 28th, Sunday, First Communion Child and Parent meeting at the school at 8:30 AM, followed by Mass at 11:30 AM. At least one parent must attend with child.

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, January 27th

5:00 PM Maria Modica

Sunday, January 28th

8:30 AM People of the Parish 10:00 AM Tom Konchalski

11:30 AM Stephen George & Maggie Sweeney

1:00 PM Gladys Peña

Miembros del Grupo de Oracion Ministerio

Inmenso Dios (L)

Francisco Guaman, Mercedes Fajardo Jaime Cosme Pajarito, Facunda Pano Alicia Oropeza (L), Tiburcio Xochimitl (L)

Sofia Xochimitl (L) Rosa Cahuasqui

Jacinta de la Asuncion Gaitan Lopez Familia Codallos (L) & Silva (L)

Francisca Espinoza (L)

5:00 PM Salome & Saturnino Calaro

Monday, January 29th

7:00 AM Arturo Soriano 9:00 AM Josefina Sullivan

Tuesday, January 30th

7:00 AM Elie T. Fornilda (L) 9:00 AM Marie Joy Bordeos (L)

Wednesday, January 31st - St. John Bosco, Priest

7:00 AM Robert & George Tavaris 9:00 AM Allan Bernardino (L)

Thursday, February 1st

7:00 AM Leandro C. Maranan (L) 9:00 AM **Bartholomew Barrins**

Friday, February 2nd The Presentation of the Lord

Cornelio T. Fornilda (L) 7:00 AM 9:00 AM Manuel & Amelia Tiangco

6:30 PM San Guillermo 8:30 PM Spanish Mass

Saturday, February 3rd - St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr, St.

Ansgar, Bishop, BVM

9:00 AM **Purgatorial Society**

Please pray for:

Deceased members of our families



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, Cely DeBorja. To add names, please call the Parish Office.

Pray for the Sick:

MEMORIALS

January 28 – February 3



Altar Bread and Wine has been donated In Loving Memory of

Pedro L. Morales

Sanctuary Lamp will burn for

Fernando Velasquez





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 Lucia Sforza



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.

Offertory Procession: In the *Offertory Procession*, the faithful bring forward the Bread and Wine for the Consecration, that are placed on the altar; and other gifts in cash or kinds, which are placed in a suitable place but away from the altar. In the order of procession bread and wine must always come last. The Procession of the Gifts is accompanied by the offertory song.

Offerings in Cash and Kinds: The faithful wholeheartedly and generously offer their gifts in cash or kinds, intended for the poor or for the needs of the Church. The offering of Cain was rejected, because he grudgingly offered some spoiled fruits of the soil; while the offering of his brother Abel was accepted, because he generously offered the best lambs of his flock (Genesis 4:2-5). According to the Scriptures, one tenth of our net income - known as "tithing" - should be offered to the Lord and to charity (Leviticus 27:30-32); and it should be offered wholeheartedly, because "the Lord loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Bread and Wine: The Bread and Wine are the matter of the Eucharist. The unleavened Bread for the Consecration must be made of flour from wheat and water, the wine of grapes. The bread is also called "host" from the Latin word hostio, meaning "victim" for a sacrifice. In the first centuries, the priest broke the bread into small pieces and gave to the faithful, as Jesus did at the Last Supper; but as the number of communicants increased, the Church decided for practical purposes to use individual hosts.

(Continuation on page of Saint's Corner)



United in Communion, **United in Charity**

Summary Report as of January 22, 2024

Goal: \$51,617 Pledged: \$68,541,06 Received: \$66,831.06

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 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 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.

Reunión de Padres y Estudiantes en Preparación para la Primera Comunión

Habrá una reunión para los padres y estudiantes en preparación para la Primera Comunión el domingo, 28 de enero a las 8:30 AM en la escuela, seguido por la Misa de 11:30 AM. Si los dos padres no pueden asistir, un padre deberá de estar presente.

Fiesta de la Presentación del Señor

El viernes 2 de febrero celebramos La Fiesta de la Presentación del Señor. Tendremos la bendición de las velas durante las Misas de 7:00 am, 9:00 am y 6:30 pm. (Estas Misas son en inglés.) También tendremos Misa en español a las 8:30 pm. Favor de traer sus velas.

San Blás

El sábado 3 de febrero conmemoramos a San Blás con la bendición de gargantas durante la Misa de las 9:00 am.

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)

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EVENTS / NEWS & UPDATES

Feast of San Guillermo:

February 1st: Holy Rosary at 6:30 pm Mass at 7:00 pm

February 2nd: Holy Rosary at 6:00 pm Mass at 6:30 pm

February 3^{rd} : Holy Rosary at $6:30~pm\,$ Mass at $7:00~pm\,$

February 4th: Holy Rosary at 6:30 pm Mass at 7:00 pm

February 5th: Holy Rosary at 6:30 pm Mass at 7:00 pm

February 6th: Holy Rosary at 6:30 pm Mass at 7:00 pm

February 7th: Holy Rosary at 6:30 pm Mass at 7:00 pm

February 8th: Holy Rosary at 6:30 pm Mass at 7:00 pm

February 9th: Holy Rosary at 6:30 pm Mass at 7:00 pm

Feast Day, Saturday, February 10th: Holy Rosary at 6:00 pm Procession/Flower Offering (inside the church) at 6:30 pm followed by Mass at 7:30 pm Main Celebrant: Rev. Fr. Anacleto S. Asebias, Jr., Pastor

Happy Fiesta 2024! San Guillermo, Pray for us.

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord: Friday, February 2, 2024. The blessing of the candles will be during the Masses at 7:00 am, 9:00 am and 6:30 pm. In the evening there will be a Spanish Mass at 8:30 pm. Please bring your own candles for blessing.

Memorial of St. Blaise: Saturday, February 3, 2024. There will be blessing of the throats during the 9:00 am Mass.

Eucharistic Revival (continuation)

Mixing of Water and Wine: The priest pours wine and a little water into the chalice to signify the two natures of Christ, divine It also signifies the participation of the faithful (water) to the sacrifice of Christ (wine).

Saint's Corner:

St. Francis de Sales January 24

Francis, born in 1567, was destined by his father to be a lawyer so that the young man could eventually take his place as a senator from the province of Savoy in France. So Francis was sent to Padua to study law. After his studies, he returned home and, in due time, told his parents he wanted to become a priest. His father strongly opposed it, but after much patient persuasion on the part of Francis did his father finally consent.

Francis was ordained to the priesthood and at thirty-five he became bishop of Geneva (Switzerland). Francis lived during the difficult years following the Protestant Reformation. His diocese was then a center for the Calvinist (Calvinism was one of the Protestant sects). While administering his diocese, he set out to convert the Calvinists. Aside from preaching and distributing pamphlets, he wrote to explain true Catholic doctrine, his gentle character was a great asset in winning souls.

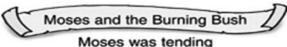
Francis was known for his gentleness. As he said himself, it took him twenty years to conquer his quick temper, but no one ever suspected he had such a problem. His perennial gentleness won for him the title of "Gentleman Saint." He practiced his own axiom, "A spoonful of honey attracts more flies than a barrelful of vinegar." He treated everyone, even his opponents with respect. He never took differences personally and was never cutting or biting in his response to opponents.

The wisdom of Francis de Sales is shown in his statement that no person's nature is so good that it cannot be distorted by sin and no person's nature is so bad that it cannot be transformed by God's grace.

NEW TO OUR PARISH?

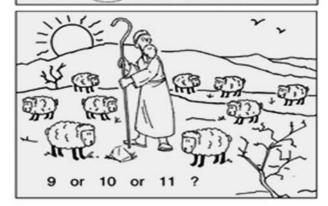
WELCOME! PARISH MEMBERSHIP:			
New parishioners are to register in the Parish. Please notify the Parish			
Office of any changes in address or phone number.			
Name			
Address			
Phone:			
Email			
I wish to receive a registration form			
I have an address change			
I am moving out of the Parish			
Please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

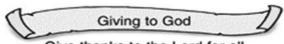
Children's Section:



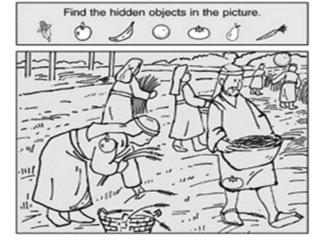
the flocks in the desert.

Help Moses count the sheep. Circle) the correct number.





Give thanks to the Lord for all He has given to you.





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