



# ASCENSION

Roman Catholic Church  
86-13 55<sup>th</sup> 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.*

## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME FEBRUARY 11, 2024



### *From the Pastor's Desk*

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
February 11, 2024  
Mark 1:40-45

Dear Ascension Family,

Blessings of peace and good health!

In the time of Jesus, leprosy was a dreaded disease. It was believed to be highly contagious. Thus lepers were forbidden to enter any populated place. They had to keep a certain distance from healthy people. They are to shout "unclean," lest they accidentally came in contact with the healthy. Lepers were shunned by everyone except their fellow lepers. Since there was no cure for leprosy, their situation was hopeless.

However, the leper in the gospel reading today had heard about Jesus who could cure people, even those with incurable diseases. He dared to violate the law that commanded lepers to avoid anyone. The leper threw himself at the feet of Jesus and begged for healing. "If you wish, you can make me clean." Here we see the compassion of Jesus. Though everyone else flees from the leper, Jesus did not. Instead Jesus did the unthinkable. He not only healed the leper, but he reached out and touched him - a gesture of love and care, even if this touching would render Jesus himself ritually unclean.

In our lives today, we rarely meet lepers, if ever. I don't remember being in the presence of one. As for the dirty, homeless poor, we occasionally meet them, probably in the subway, but our encounters are as fleeting as they come. And then there are the truly needy among us whose experiences spark the most little interest within us, like those less fortunate for whom we give a dollar at the second collection.

continue next page

### MASS SCHEDULE

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

**Saturday : 9:00 AM**

**: 5:00 PM (Vigil Mass)**

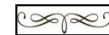
**Sunday : 8:30 | 10:00 | 11:30AM**

**1:00 PM (Spanish)**

**1<sup>st</sup> 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

### 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](mailto:ascensionrcchurch@gmail.com) | Website: [www.ascensionparishelmhurst.org](http://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

But surely we have our own version of lepers in our lives. You know, the leper's worst suffering was not the leprosy itself, but the pain of being rejected by everyone. When we reject people we are in effect treating them as "lepers," even though we may not be conscious of this. Definitely, there are people we consciously ignore and whose presence we loathe. Just think of our enemies. How long have we decisively refused to have any contact with the people who hurt us in the past?

The story of the leper in the gospel reading today tells us that Jesus is the friend of the outcasts, that he rejects no one who comes to him. When we were children, our parents (if they were good parents) punished us when we were bad, and rewarded us when we were good. We grew up thinking God would do the same. If we want God to reward and bless us, we must first do something to deserve his blessing. Yet if we are honest every one of us has to admit that most of the time we are not deserving. Repeatedly we have forfeited any claim we might have on God for his blessing and reward. The logical conclusion is that our situation is hopeless - as hopeless as the leper's situation before he encountered Jesus.

The good news is that our situation is not hopeless. God loves us as we are. He does not love us because we are good enough, for we are not. God loves us because he is so good that he wants to share his love and goodness with us. But for this good news to bear fruit in our lives, we need to do what the leper did. We must recognize the hopelessness of our situation and come to Jesus for healing. The leper needed no reminder of his hopelessness. The society which shunned him reminded him of it at every moment.

Unfortunately, many of us have difficulty recognizing the things in our lives that cry out for Jesus' healing touch. We have worn a mask for so long that we can no longer see the real self behind the mask. As such Jesus cannot reach us with his healing touch. But, if we acknowledge our need for Jesus, as the leper did, then we too will experience his healing touch.

The gospel reading challenges us to seek healing as the leper did, so that we can adopt the same mind that was in Christ. Jesus Christ welcomes outcasts and gives hope where there is no hope. He cures the incurable and forgives the unforgivable.

Jesus Christ can change our life. We have only to admit our need - and come to him.

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**

February 4, 2024

1<sup>st</sup> Collection - \$5,572.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection - \$2,149.00 (Fuel Offering)

#### **Upcoming Collections**

February 11<sup>th</sup> - Faith Formation

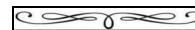
February 14<sup>th</sup> - Ash Wednesday

February 18<sup>th</sup> - Black and Indian Missions

February 25<sup>th</sup> - 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 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](mailto:ascensionfaithformationoffice@gmail.com)

### **Religious Education Calendar**

There will be no classes for the children in the Religious Education Program on Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup> (President's Day). Classes will resume at the lower church on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM for students and parents for Eucharistic Adoration. Mass will follow at 10:00 AM.

### **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, February 10<sup>th</sup>**

5:00 PM Evan Fornilda

**Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 AM People of the Parish

10:00 AM Hospitalite Notre Dame de Lourdes (L)

11:30 AM Gon Daulo

1:00 PM Soledad Ibarra Urrutia, Sonia Aragon Urrutia  
Socorro Castillo, Almas del Purgatorio  
Ministerio Inmenso Dios (L)  
Señor de los Milagros  
Fredy Chavez, Ligia Chavez (L),  
Jose Rodrigo Chavez (L)  
Victor E. Pilamunga, Camila Pilamunga (L)

5:00 PM Healing of the sick (L)  
Gaudencio Bullen, Crestita Bullen

**Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 AM Liam Cintron

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

**Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 AM Pascalina D'Souza

9:00 AM Pablo Buenviaje

**Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>** - Ash Wednesday

7:00 AM Eligio Rivera

9:00 AM Loreto Cabreira

3:30 PM Prayer Service

7:00 PM Nepomuceno Family (L)

8:30 PM Pedro Xochimiltl (L) & Filomena Tlelo (L)  
Jesus Tlachino (L) & Sofia Xochimiltl (L)

**Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 AM Nick Wasukevich

9:00 AM Freddy Lachica (L)

**Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 AM Sebastian & Pauline Tavaris

9:00 AM Eligio Rivera

**Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>** - The Seven Holy Founders of the  
Servite Order

9:00 AM Rebecca Navarro (L)

Please pray for:

Marion Ebner



**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, Boni-  
facio Guiab, Margie Bulwag, Egbert Nuñez, Maria Dala Rosa George, Renato  
Go, Leticia Maranan, Denise Giglio, Rustico Castellano, Beth Bagnol Enriquez,  
Cely DeBorja, Vanessa Velasquez, Maggie Riego de Dios. To add names,  
please call the Parish Office.

**MEMORIALS**

February 11 – February 17



**Altar Bread and Wine has been donated  
In Loving Memory of  
Mary Gagliardi**

**Sanctuary Lamp will burn  
In Loving Memory of  
Philomena Sciarrino**



**Altar Flowers has been donated  
In Loving Memory of**

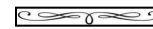
*(please contact the Rectory Office to request a flower memorial)*

**Altar Candles will burn  
In Loving Memory of  
Gon Daulo**



Requested by: Helen Navarro

**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.*

**Transubstantiation:** The *Transubstantiation* is the sacramen-  
tal act by which the substance of the bread and wine is changed  
into the substance of the Body and Blood of Christ. This hap-  
pens during the *Consecration* (which I discussed last week). In  
the *Transubstantiation*, the *accidents* of the Bread and Wine  
remain unchanged, such as the color, shape, and weight, but the  
substance becomes that of the Body and Blood of Christ. This  
great miracle, which happens in every Mass, cannot be ration-  
ally demonstrated, but it is accepted by faith. As Jesus said to  
the Jews who doubted the real presence of Jesus in the conse-  
crated species: “Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and  
drink his blood, you do not have life within you”(John 6:53).

**Memorial Acclamation:** In the *Memorial Acclamation*, pro-  
claimed after the *Consecration*, we profess the whole mystery  
celebrated in the Eucharist, which is the reenactment of the pas-  
sion, death, and resurrection of Christ. It was introduced in the  
Mass by Pope Paul VI in 1969; previously, the only acclama-  
tions of the people during the Eucharistic Prayer were the *Sanctus*  
or Holy and the *Great Amen*.

*(Continuation on page of Saint's Corner)*



**Annual Catholic  
Appeal 2023**  
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

**United in Communion,  
United in Charity**

Summary Report as of February 5, 2024

Goal: \$51,617  
Pledged: \$68,741.06  
Received: \$67,031.06

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 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.

### 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.

### Miércoles de Ceniza

Miércoles de Ceniza, 14 de febrero, Misa en español a las 8:30 PM

### Via Crucis

Via Crucis en español será todos los domingos durante Cuaresma a las 8:15 PM en la Iglesia.

### Día de los Presidentes

El lunes 19 de febrero celebramos el Día de los Presidentes y es Fiesta Civil. Nuestro horario de Misa es 7:00 AM y 9:00 AM. La Oficina Parroquial estará cerrada.

### Calendario de Educación Religiosa

No habrá clases de Educación Religiosa el domingo 18 de febrero (Día de los Presidentes). Regreso a clases será el domingo 25 de febrero en el sótano de la iglesia a las 8:30 AM para todos los estudiantes y los padres (un padre deberá de estar presente) para Adoración Eucarística. La Misa será a las 10:00 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 (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday)
- 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**  
1<sup>st</sup> Friday – Angelus | Rosary | Novena to Our Lady of Fatima @ 6:00 PM & Mass @ 7:00 PM  
**Divine Mercy Devotion Prayer Group & Choir**  
4<sup>th</sup> Friday 7:30 PM - 10:00 PM (Lower Church)
- Saturday:** **2000 Hail Mary**  
1<sup>st</sup> 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**  
1<sup>st</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month @ 3:00 to 6 PM (Lower Church)  
\* \* \* \* \*
- Rosary Making Ministry**  
To request supplies and/or pick up rosaries, please email: marie\_panas@msn.com



## EVENTS / NEWS & UPDATES

**Ash Wednesday:** February 14<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday. Our schedule of Masses are: 7:00 AM and 9:00 AM Masses, 3:30 PM Word Service, 7:00 PM English Mass and 8:30 PM Spanish Mass.

**Stations of the Cross:** The Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday during Lent after the 9:00 AM Mass and at 6:30 PM.

**President's Day:** Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> is President's Day. The Rectory Office will be closed. The Mass schedule is 7:00 AM and 9:00 AM.

**Statement of Contributions:** The Statement of Contributions for 2023 for all registered parishioners has been prepared. If you need a copy for tax purposes please call the Rectory Office to request one.

***Eucharistic Revival***  
***(continuation)***

**Doxology and Great Amen:** The *Doxology*, from the Greek word *doxa*, meaning “glory,” is a Trinitarian hymn of praise which concludes the Eucharistic Prayer. The people confirm and approve with the Great Amen, an Hebrew word which means “so be it.” The Doxology derives from a similar practice in the Jewish synagogue, where each section of the service ended with a short hymn of praise.

**Saint’s Corner:**

**Paul Miki and Companions**  
February 6

Nagasaki, Japan, is familiar to Americans as the city on which the second atomic bomb was dropped, killing hundreds of thousands. Four centuries earlier, it was the scene of another tragedy. Twenty-six Christians were crucified on a hill, now known as the Holy Mountain, overlooking Nagasaki.

These martyrs of Japan were Jesuit and Franciscan priests and brothers as well as lay people, young and old. Like Jesus, all died crucified and pierced with a lance.

Among those put to death were three young boys: *Louis Ibaraki* was 12 years old; *Anthony Deinan* was 13; *Thomas Kozaki* was 14. They were accustomed to serve at Mass. The Japanese officials thought that the sight of the three young boys being put to death for their Christian faith would frighten others. But the very opposite happened, because the courage of the boys won the hearts of all.

Paul Miki, a Jesuit and a native of Japan, has become the best known among them. He was a good preacher and knew how to reach the Japanese mind and heart. Even after he had been tied to his cross, he continued to preach from this improvised pulpit. This is what he told the crowd of Nagasaki who were watching the 26 Christians die: “I am a true Japanese. The only reason for my being killed is that I have taught the doctrine of Christ. I certainly did teach the doctrine of Christ. I thank God it is for this reason I die . . . After Christ’s example I forgive my persecutors. I do not hate them. I ask God to have pity on all, and I hope my blood will fall on my fellowmen as a fruitful rain.”

When missionaries returned to Japan in the 1860s, at first they found no trace of Christianity. But after establishing themselves they found that thousands of Christians lived around Nagasaki and that they had secretly preserved the faith.

**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:**



Catholic Mom  
HOLY CROSS  
FAMILY MINISTRIES

**Sunday Gospel Activities**

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time; Mark 1:40-45

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

CLEAN

LEPER

PROOF

ENTER

MOSES

SPREAD

IMPOSSIBLE

OFFER

STERNLY

JESUS

PITY

STRETCHED

KNEELING

PRIEST

WISH

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 Also located in Bayside & Whitestone

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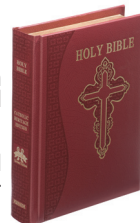
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