



# 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.*

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT FEBRUARY 18, 2024



### *From the Pastor's Desk*

First Sunday of Lent  
February 18, 2024  
Mark 1:12-15

Dear Ascension Family,

Blessings of peace and good health!

With the imposition of ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday, we began the season of Lent. It is a period of approximately 40 days when we prepare ourselves for the proper observance of the Lord's Paschal Mystery, namely, his Passion, Death and Resurrection. It ends six weeks later - at the start of the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.

The short gospel reading today has two parts. The first part describes the 40-day retreat of Jesus in the desert which ended with his temptation by Satan. The version of Mark on the temptation of Jesus does not have the details of the other evangelists. Mark simply tells us that Jesus was tempted by Satan without describing the nature of the temptation. Probably the reason is that Mark wants to show that Jesus fought against the devil throughout his life. His temptation during his 40-day retreat in the desert was just the beginning. He continued to be tempted up to the end. While hanging on the cross, a bystander taunted him, *"He saved others; he cannot save himself. . . Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him"* (Mt 27:42). But Jesus overcame all the temptations because he submitted himself to God's action rather than to the wiles of Satan.

Victory over Satan is not easy because he masquerades as an angel of light (2 Cor 11:14). If he were to appear to us as he really is, we would be frightened that we would flee from him and not submit to his temptations. Therefore, to ensnare us, Satan disguises himself as good. Satan does not appear as a repulsive  
continue next page

### MASS SCHEDULE

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

**Saturday : 9:00 AM**

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

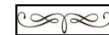
**Sunday : 8:30 | 10:00 | 11:30AM**

**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

character. He appears as an attractive, charming character. He appears to have your best interests at heart - as when he offered Jesus bread and all the kingdoms of the world. All temptation comes under the guise of good. And the strength of a temptation is in proportion to its attractiveness.

The second part of the gospel reading talks about the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus when he announced the coming of God's Kingdom with repentance as the prerequisite for acceptance into it, "The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Right at the beginning of his public ministry Jesus has spelled out what his followers - you and I, should do. The instruction of Jesus contains two points. The first is to "repent." "To repent" means to recognize the evil in our lives and turn our back on it. It means to face up to sin in our lives and to turn away from it. The second point of Jesus' instruction is to "believe in the gospel." This means to believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that he came to save us. It is as victor over Satan in the desert that Jesus calls on his followers to repent, and believe in the good news.

Turning away from our sinful ways, however, is not easy. Let us never think that Satan has given up because he was defeated by Christ. Rather, Satan attacks the followers of Christ who remain vulnerable to his seductions. Satan is more wily and more powerful than us when we are left to ourselves. That is why we need to cling to Christ, the victor over Satan.

I am reminded of Mother St. Teresa of Calcutta. Someone asked her, "Mother, where do you get your energy?" Mother Teresa's reply was: "We begin everyday with the Lord Jesus Christ, and end every day with him."

So the question: Do you begin and end the day with the Lord Jesus Christ? Perhaps you have grown negligent. If so, you can resolve this Lent to begin again. And you can make time and space in your life for the Lord, not just at the beginning and end of the day. You can decide to give the Lord some time *during* the day. As you drive your car, or stand in the checkout line while shopping, during your lunch or another pause at work: turn to the Lord, pray any prayer you know, or simply be silent, lifting your mind and heart to the Lord.

In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul describes his own experience of struggle against sin. He says, "I do not understand what I do. . . . For I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want. . . . What an unhappy man I am! Who will deliver me from this mortal body? Thanks be to God . . . Jesus Christ!" United with the Lord Jesus Christ, the conqueror of Satan, we can fight against the evil one and emerge triumphant like Christ.

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 11, 2024

1<sup>st</sup> Collection - \$7,788.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection - \$2,162.00 (Faith Formation)

### **Upcoming Collections**

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

February 25<sup>th</sup> - Youth Ministry

March 3<sup>rd</sup> - Easter Flower Offering

March 10<sup>th</sup> - Catholic Relief Services

March 17<sup>th</sup> - Faith Formation

March 24<sup>th</sup> - My Easter Gift to Church

March 28<sup>th</sup> - Holy Thursday

March 29<sup>th</sup> - Holy Land Sanctuaries (Good Friday)

March 31<sup>st</sup> - Retired Priests

## 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 17<sup>th</sup>**

5:00 PM Fernando Velasquez (L)

**Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 AM People of the Parish

10:00 AM Emma & Rodrigo Rosado

11:30 AM John (L), Tania (L) & Jaxon Farillas (L)

1:00 PM Ruth Florez  
Almas del Purgatorio  
Gabriel Arango  
Faustino Hernandez, Luz Valenzuela  
Franklin Castillo  
Alvaro Tlachino (L), Nancy Tlachino (L)  
Pedro Xochimiltl (L), Pedro Flores (L)

**Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>** - President's Day

7:00 AM Reverend James J.M. Reynolds

9:00 AM Mary O'Brien

**Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 AM Val & Rachel Tavaris

9:00 AM Audrey Miranda

**Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>** - St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

7:00 AM Severiano & Florencia Madlambayan

9:00 AM Bernard Bernardino (L)

**Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>** - The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

7:00 AM Angeles C. Maranan

9:00 AM Miguel "Mike" Morte

**Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>** - St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

7:00 AM Philomena O'Connor

9:00 AM Erlinda & Manuel Tiangco

**Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 AM Elpidio Rosal  
William Boetel  
Marissa Santos (L)



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, Cely DeBotja, Vanessa Velasquez, Maggie Riego de Dios. To add names, please call the Parish Office.

**MEMORIALS**

February 18 – February 24



**Altar Bread and Wine has been donated  
In Loving Memory of  
Miguel Morte**

**Sanctuary Lamp will burn  
In Loving Memory of  
Marion Ebner**



**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**  
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.*

**The Communion Rite:** The *Communion Rite* is the part of the Mass where we partake of the Body and Blood of Christ. It comprises the following: ***Our Father, Sign of Peace, Lamb of God, Communion, and Prayer after Communion.***

**The Our Father:** The *Our Father* is the model of all Christian prayers, because it was taught by Jesus himself (Matthew 6:9-13). The proper position for praying the Our Father is standing, with outstretched arms and open palms, similar to Jesus on the cross. This is because Jesus is the Son of the Father by nature, while we are children by adoption, and we are accepted as such only if we resemble him.

**Sign of Peace:** The *Sign of Peace* is done in obedience to the command of Jesus, who said: "If you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift"(Matthew 5:23-24). The Sign of Peace, which each person offers to those who are nearest and in sober manner, ought to express peace, communion and charity. The manner of the exchange of peace is *(Continuation on page of Saint's Corner)*

**2024 Annual Catholic Appeal**



Information on this year's appeal will be provided shortly. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to reaching our goal for this year.

The 2024 Annual Catholic Appeal supports the mission of our parish and the daily work of the Church in Brooklyn and Queens in ways no one parish can accomplish alone.

Once we exceed our goal, we will then receive 100% of all funds raised above this figure directly back to our parish for operations and improvements. Donations for this year are being accepted. Donate at Annual Catholic Appeal.org or text ACA to 917-336-1255.

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.

### Campaña Católica Anual Del 2024

Más que nunca, necesitamos su ayuda para difundir la luz de Cristo en nuestra ciudad y vecindarios contribuyendo a la Campaña Católica Anual del 2024. Su participación lo une en la fe con otros en la iglesia para hacer buenas obras.

Dentro de unas semanas durante las misas a través de nuestra diócesis y en nuestra parroquia llevaremos a cabo un fin de semana de compromiso pidiendo el apoyo de todos los que puedan.

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.

### Via Crucis

Via Crucis en español será todos los martes durante Cuaresma a las 7:00 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](mailto:marie_panas@msn.com)



## EVENTS / NEWS & UPDATES

**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.

**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.

**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)***

determined by the Conference of Bishops. It may be given by shaking hands, embracing, nodding at others, or cheek kissing. At the time of the Apostles, the Sign of Peace was given exclusively by kissing on the cheek, as St. Paul said: "Greet one another with a holy kiss"(Romans 16:16). While the Sign of Peace is being given, the following may be said: "The peace of the Lord be with you always;" the response is: "And with your spirit." During Easter Time, the greeting is "The Lord is risen," and the response is: "He is truly risen."

**Saint's Corner:**

**St. Scholastica**  
February 10

St. Scholastica was the twin sister of St. Benedict, the founder of the Benedictine order. She was born in the year 480 of wealthy parents. Scholastica and Benedict were brought up together until he left for Rome to continue his studies.

After her brother established his famous monastery at Monte Cassino, she founded a monastery of nuns about five miles away from her brother. She visited her brother once a year. They would meet in a farmhouse because she was not allowed inside the monastery of men. On those occasions Benedict and Scholastica would spend their time together in prayer and in conversation about spiritual matters.

On one occasion, they had met for a long while and nightfall was approaching. Benedict rose to leave but Scholastica begged him to stay with her until the next day. Benedict refused her request because he did not want to spend a night outside the monastery, thus breaking his own monastic rule.

Scholastica asked God to let her brother remain and a severe thunderstorm broke out, preventing her brother's departure. Benedict cried out, "God forgive you, Sister. What have you done?" Scholastica replied, "I asked a favor of you and you refused. I asked it of God and he granted it."

Brother and sister parted the next morning after their long moment of prayer and spiritual conversation. As it turned out, that was the last time they would see each other because three days after Scholastica died.

Scholastica and Benedict gave themselves totally to God and gave top priority to deepening their friendship with him through prayer. They sacrificed some of the opportunities they would have to be together as brother and sister in order to better fulfill their vocation to the religious life.

**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:**

**Countdown  
to  
Easter**



**Catholic Mom**  
HOLY CROSS  
FAMILY MINISTRIES

				Ash Wednesday	Holy Saturday				
				2	Good Friday				
				3	Holy Thursday				
				4	37				
8	7	6	5	First Sunday of Lent	36	35	Palm Sunday	34	33
9	10	Second Sunday of Lent	11	12	Fifth Sunday of Lent	29	30	31	32
				13	28				
				14	27				
				15	26				
				16	25				
				Third Sunday of Lent	24				
				17	23				
				18	Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)				
				19	22				
				20	21				

**Directions:**

Color one box on the cross every day during Lent. When the cross is filled, the next day will be Easter. You can also use this cross as a sacrifice tracker and color one box each day you fulfill your Lenten promise.

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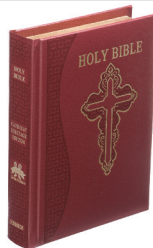
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