



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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 17, 2024



From the Pastor's Desk

Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 17, 2024
John 12:20-33

Dear Ascension Family,

Greetings of peace and good health! In the gospel reading today Jesus speaks of "his hour." He has spoken of this hour before. Right at the start of his ministry he mentioned it - during the wedding feast at Cana. At that moment he made the remark that his hour has not come yet. When his mother Mary asked him to help the newlyweds, Jesus responded saying, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour had not yet come"(John 2:4). Now he speaks of his hour as having come at last.

What was this "hour" Jesus had in mind? The hour in question was the hour of his death. It was an hour of supreme self-giving in which he made a complete sacrifice of himself for us. Of course, human as he was, Jesus struggled to face his approaching death, hoping and praying that it might come to pass, "yet not my will but yours be done"(Luke 22:41). Jesus' humanity was not a disguise that he put on for the period of his earthly life to conceal his true nature as God's Son. Jesus really experienced what we experience, and suffered as we suffer. In today's gospel passage, Jesus was troubled but he rejected the temptation to ask the Father to save him from what was to come: "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour.

From the point of view of the world, that hour was an hour of failure. Worse, it was an hour of shame and humiliation. In reality, however, the Cross is not the place of Jesus' final defeat, but of his ultimate triumph. Jesus confessed his
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)

1st Saturday @ 5:00 PM (Cebuano)

2nd Saturday @ 5:00 PM (Tagalog)

4th Saturday @ 5:00 PM (Divine Mercy)



Rev. Anacleto S. Asebias, Jr.
Pastor

Rev. Kyrian C. Echekwu
Parochial Vicar

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

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>

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faith in this victory when he said in today's gospel reading; "Now the ruler of this world will be driven out." It was "this world's ruler" - Satan, or the personification of evil - who brought Jesus to the Cross. But in this passage Jesus confessed his faith that Satan's triumph would be an illusion. The empty tomb of Easter showed that the victor in the cosmic conflict on Calvary was not the "ruler of this world," but Jesus Christ.

The price of that victory was Jesus' death. Jesus explained this dark mystery by stating that it is a law of life that already exists in nature. "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." The grain of wheat, or any seed, when preserved in safety, is unproductive. Only when it is buried in the ground does it bear fruit, and that in far greater abundance than itself. In other words, the death of a seed is not death but a process of releasing the power of the seed to be a source of life for many other seeds. Jesus himself was going to be that seed. He must die in order to bear much fruit.

Here Jesus is not introducing anything new as, for example, when he gives us his new commandment (*see* John 15:12). No! He is simply describing how life functions. Paradoxically, Jesus tells us that life comes from death. This seemingly contradictory statement is true. In fact, we could say that this paradox is the most basic paradox of the universe. It boils down to this: the way to glory, for Jesus and us, is death to self. Through that will come resurrection.

John O'Brien, a spiritual author, wrote the following in his beautiful book *The Art of Courageous Living*: "It is one of life's paradoxes that in pursuing happiness we miss it, while in forgetting about ourselves and seeking to bring happiness to others we find it" (p. 162). Indeed the truly happy people are those who have accepted to die to themselves and who live for others. Even the so-called secular world remembers nothing of those people who lived a self-centered life. But the secular world honors those who spent their lives, or lost their lives, for the well-being of others and country. It is only by spending our lives for others that we eventually preserve them for ourselves.

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

March 10, 2024

1st Collection - \$5,662.00

2nd Collection - \$2,170.00 (Catholic Relief Services)

Upcoming Collections

March 17th - Faith Formation

March 24th - My Easter Gift to Church

March 28th - Holy Thursday

March 29th - Holy Land Sanctuaries (Good Friday)

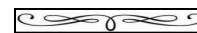
March 31st - Retired Priests

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.

Parish Registration

If you have recently moved to the area or if you are a long-time resident, please consider registering at the parish. You may fill out the "New to our Parish?" form provided on the last page of this bulletin and drop it in the collection basket. Or, you may stop by the Rectory Office to pick up a registration form. We look forward to welcoming you to the Parish. If you have any questions please feel free to call, 718-335-2626.



Confirmation Candidates' Church Service Project

Saturday, March 23

Preparation of the palm branches at the lower church from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM. All students who will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation are required to attend.

Classes Cancelled Religious Education

Easter Sunday, March 31

There will be no class for the students in the Religious Education Program on Easter Sunday, March 31. The classes will resume Sunday, April 7 at 8:30 AM at the school.



Saturday, March 16th

5:00 PM Joaquin Galviz

Sunday, March 17th

8:30 AM People of the Parish

10:00 AM Emma & Rodrigo Rosado

11:30 AM In Honor of St. Joseph

1:00 PM Josefina Mejia (L)
Orlando Ramos
Fatima Panameño
Luisa Toxqui
Alvaro Tlachino (L)
Lucas Toxqui (L) & Family
Heriberto Altamirano (L)
Carlos Pilamunga (L)
Margarita Perez
Byron Galan (L)
Oscar Marchena Diaz
Gabriel Arrango;
Candida Flores
Antonio Flores
Esperanza Castro
Juan Portillo (L)
Angela Garcia (L)
Emma Ramos
Carina Ramos (L)
Sandra Ramos (L)
Keila Ramos (L)

Monday, March 18th - St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

7:00 AM Val & Rachel Tavaris
9:00 AM Alicia Villacorta

Tuesday, March 19th - St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 AM Santiago Creus
9:00 AM Conversion of Sotelo & Montana Families (L)

Wednesday, March 20th

7:00 AM Genaro Suelo
9:00 AM Terry Laviña (L)

Thursday, March 21st

7:00 AM Gon Dauilo
9:00 AM Rosita Tan

Friday, March 22nd

7:00 AM Magno & Diosa Lorilla
9:00 AM Leonor Canlas

Saturday, March 23rd - St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop

9:00 AM Philomena O'Connor
Tennie DeGuzman (L)
Antonieto Cabactulan
Marco Gonzalez

MEMORIALS

March 17 – March 23



**Altar Bread and Wine has been donated
In Loving Memory of
Rosita Tan**

**Sanctuary Lamp will burn
In Loving Memory of
Carmela Puglisi**

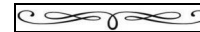


**Altar Flowers has been donated
In Loving Memory of**
(please contact the Rectory Office to request a flower memorial)

**Altar Candles will burn
for
Teresa and Linda Reale and family**



Memorials are available, kindly contact Rectory Office.



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 Dauilo, Jose M. Rosado, Karla Nicole Paredes, Romelia Arenas, Rubiela Arenas, Enrique Soto, Eduardo D. Soto, Teresita Danseco, Evangeline & Victoria Danseco, Nazarete Serion, Greta Tasayco, Nerissa Infante, Laura Kreft, Shirley Ann Gundran, Egbert Nuñez, Avelina Quilung, Dennis Anthony Calimlim, Exelito Valencia, Bonifacio Guingab, 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, Teresa Reale, Rosario G. Ocampo. To add names, please call the Parish Office.

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.

Proyecto de Servicio en la Iglesia estudiantes en preparación para la Confirmación

Todos los estudiantes que recibirán Confirmación deberán de estar presentes en el sótano de la iglesia el sábado 23 de marzo de 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM para la preparación de los ramos.

Clases de Educación Religiosa Cancelada

Domingo de Pascua de la Resurrección, 31 de marzo

No habrá clases para los estudiantes en el Programa de Educación Religiosa el Domingo de Pascua de la Resurrección, 31 de marzo. Regresan a clases el domingo 7 de abril a las 8:30 AM en la escuela.

Via Crucis

Via Crucis en español será todos los martes durante Cuaresma a las 7:00 PM en la Iglesia.

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.

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)
- 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**
4th 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)
* * * * *
- Rosary Making Ministry**
To request supplies and/or pick up rosaries,
please email: marie_panas@msn.com



EVENTS / NEWS & UPDATES

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.

St. John's University Speech and Hearing Center: Free speech and hearing screenings and hearing aid help are being offered up until April 25, 2024. The Center is located at 152-11 Union Turnpike, Flushing, NY. For more information or to schedule an appointment please call the Center at 718-990-6480.

Fr. Troike Summer Leadership Program: Cathedral Prep in Elmhurst will be accepting registrations for their 2024 Summer Leadership Program on April 26 thru June 3. The program begins on July 1 thru July 26. Cost: \$500 per student. For further information on the program please call: 718-592-6800 Ext 150 or email: cpadmissions@cathedralprep.org

Saint's Corner:

**St. Patrick
March 17**

A blessing in disguise is a problem (difficulty, accident, suffering, natural disaster) that eventually becomes a benefit or advantage. For example, someone can say: "The violent rain-storm we had was a blessing in disguise, because it extinguished the forest fires that were devastating the area.

When St. Patrick was only 16 years old, something bad happened to him which eventually proved a blessing in disguise: he was kidnapped from his native England by Irish pirates about the year 405 and sold as a slave to a pagan master whom Patrick served as a shepherd for six years. There, he experienced hunger and isolation. But that turned out for Patrick to be a blessing in disguise because his long days of solitude and silence in the midst of nature brought him to review his growing-up years and to make a complete turn-around of his life. Writing in his *Confessions* or spiritual autobiography of those six years of shepherding he said: "Constantly I used to pray in the daytime. Love of God increased more and more, and my faith grew so that in a single day I said as many as hundred prayers and at night nearly as many.

After six years of captivity, Patrick was able to escape in miraculous circumstances and was restored to his family. But he had grown so attached to Ireland that he eventually decided he had to go back and evangelize that island. He studied theology and was ordained a priest, and for some years exercised his priestly ministry. Meanwhile Pope St. Celestine I, had sent a certain bishop Palladinus to begin the evangelization of Ireland, but Palladinus died within a year and produced a very little fruit. That was when, around the year 432, Patrick was ordained a bishop and sent to replace Palladinus and carry on his work of evangelization.

Thanks to his heroic labors, Ireland was practically converted when he died on this day around the year 461. This extraordinary result was due to his courage (his life was in danger almost daily), his tenacity against opposition to his work (the pagan priests were bitterly hostile to him) and his personal holiness (Patrick prayed much and led a life of extreme mortification). Only a saint could have accomplished so much in so little a time.

One lesson we can learn from St. Patrick's life is that some of the worst things that can happen to us can turn out to be blessings in disguise. For a Christian, in fact, *everything* can become a blessing in disguise. Because, as St. Paul says, "all things work to the advantage of those who love God"(Romans 8:28).

**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

5th Sunday of Lent, March 21, 2021

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

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ETERNAL	HONOR	PRESERVE
FATHER	LIFE	SERVES
FOLLOW	LOSES	WHEAT
GALILEE	LOVES	WORLD

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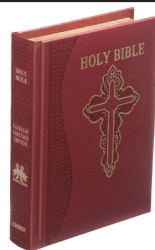
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