



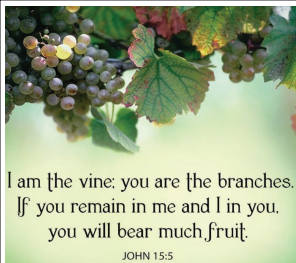
ASCENSION

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 EASTER APRIL 28, 2024



I am the vine; you are the branches.
If you remain in me and I in you,
you will bear much fruit.
JOHN 15:5

From the Pastor's Desk

Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024
John 15:1-8

Dear Ascension Family,

Blessings of peace and good health!

A man who had been found guilty of rape and murder of a teenage girl was condemned to death by electric chair. Further investigation revealed that the man had actually murdered at least 30 other girls. After his execution, his mother was interviewed. She was in tears when she made the following statement; "We grieve because he is still our beloved son despite everything. We did not bring him up to become what he became. But, when he left home, something happened to him and he changed."

Sad to say, the story of this family is the story of many families. Parents bring up their children the best way they can, setting a good example for them. And the children respond well to such care for a while. As long as they remain in the protective atmosphere of the family, they show every sign of becoming responsible adults. But then comes the day when they leave the family. Some children fulfill all the promises of their upbringing and become as good as their parents. But some give in to the bad influence of their new surroundings. Deprived of the vital support of their family roots, they gradually lose their capacity to resist evil. Parents can grieve over the fact, but what can they do? Even some children who stay at home turn out badly too. After all, parents cannot live their children's lives for them. The children must eventually decide for themselves. The drama is not that children are free, but rather that freedom can be used for choosing death instead of life.

continue next page

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday: 7:00 & 8:00AM

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)

3rd Saturday @ 5:00 PM (God the

Father of all Mankind)

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

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 83rd Street, Elmhurst, NY 11373

718-424-2376 / Fax: 718-898-7852

In today's gospel reading, we are dealing with a similar situation. In reference to Jesus we are all faced with the same crucial decision for our lives: Will we live our lives in Jesus or not? Will his teaching inspire our lives or not? Will we remain in his loving presence or not? That is the question. To illustrate this point, Jesus compare himself to a vine. He uses the image of the vine because the vine is found everywhere in Palestine. He could use any fruit-bearing tree as his point of comparison. As long as the branch is not broken off and keeps on receiving the sap of the tree, it can live. But it withers and dies as soon as it is cut off from the tree. Perhaps, if Jesus were preaching today, he might compare living our life in him to that of connecting an electronic gadget to an electric outlet. As long as the gadget is connected it can perform marvelous functions, like having instant communication to people thousand of miles away through the internet. But pull out the plug and everything is dead, no matter how sophisticated the gadget.

Likewise Jesus tells us that we can be spiritually alive - experiencing peace and joy in our hearts, giving ourselves in generous service to others, only if we are united with him. Separated from him, Jesus tells us, we can do nothing. But then Jesus adds that the branch that already bears fruit is pruned so that it may bear abundant fruit. Jesus is here alluding to the various difficulties and trials of life. When we experience setbacks and sufferings in any form, we naturally ask: "Why me? What have I done to deserve all this?" Jesus' words in today's gospel reading do not answer such questions. Rather they are a challenge: to view setbacks and sufferings as *opportunities for spiritual growth*. They are occasions when we must learn to trust more in God's providence, to be more selfless, more loving and forgiving. Union with the Lord is the key to Christian fruitfulness.

But the temptation today is to be completely autonomous from God. It is to cut off the connection of the branches from the vine. Given our technological advances, when we seem to be capable of doing anything we can imagine, we are tempted to be on our own. We want to make our own rules, even in the moral sphere, disregarding the laws of nature and the laws of God. The Russian novelist Fodor Dostoyevsky's theme about the consequences of a godless world has become a real one for us. To whom are we accountable? Either God exists or does not exist. If God exists, we certainly have to abide by his commandments. If God does not exist then anything is permissible. There are people today who are doing everything they could to set aside the reality of God so that they can make their own rules and live their own lives without God's interference.

We need to stay connected to the vine, the living Lord, so that we can be what God wants us to be - the glory of God and the joy of humanity. Such is the dream of the heavenly vine grower for each one of us.

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

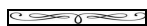
Saturday @ 4:00 – 4:40 PM and by appointment

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

April 21, 2024

1st Collection - \$4,844.00

2nd Collection - \$2,150.00 (Upkeep of Rectory & Grounds)

Upcoming Collections

April 28th - Fuel Offering

May 5th - Church Maintenance

May 9th – Ascension of the Lord

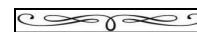
May 12th - Youth Ministry

May 19th - Catholic Communications

May 26th – Upkeep of Rectory & Grounds

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 Classes for Children

Faith Formation Classes are held Sundays from 8:45 AM to 11:00 AM. The classes run from September through June. Registrations for Faith Formation are presently being accepted at the Rectory Office for classes from: 1st - 8th Grades. Proof of baptism is required for children who are being registered for the first time. For further information on registration please call the Rectory Office at 718-335-2626.

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA)

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 Order of Christian Initiation for Adults is the place for you.

For further information please call the Rectory office at 718-335-2626.



Saturday, April 27th

5:00 PM Romeo Marquez

Sunday, April 28th

8:30 AM People of the Parish

10:00 AM Maria Assumption Montebon

11:30 AM Theresa Hoover

1:00 PM Larry Altamirano (L)
Hernan Perez (L)
Jaime Perez (L)
German Perez (L)
Marta Calderon (L)
Melania Lajara
Rodolfa Romero

Monday, April 29th - St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and
Doctor of the Church

7:00 AM William Ong

8:00 AM Jefferson Tavaréz Ramirez

Tuesday, April 30th - St. Pius V, Pope

7:00 AM Tom M. Colago (L)

8:00 AM Antoinette McNelis

Wednesday, May 1st - St. Joseph the Worker

7:00 AM Sebastian & Pauline Tavaris

8:00 AM Jovita Fernandez (L)

Thursday, May 2nd - St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor
of the Church

7:00 AM Val & Rachel Tavaris

8:00 AM Mary Gallagher

Friday, May 3rd - Ss. Philip and James, Apostles

7:00 AM Norinda Del Fierro

8:00 AM Michael Barrins

7:00 PM Mass

Saturday, May 4th

9:00 AM Purgatorial Society

Please pray for:

Deceased members of our families



MEMORIALS

April 28 – May 4



**Altar Bread and Wine has been donated
In Loving Memory of
Parish Purgatorial Society**

Sanctuary Lamp will burn

**In Loving Memory of
Hector & Monica Remache
Requested by: Children**



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

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

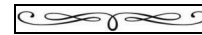
**Altar Candles will burn
In Loving Memory of
Irma B. Chua**



**Paschal Candle will burn
In Loving Memory of**

**Joventino and Angeles Maranan
Requested by Maranan 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 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 Guingab, Margie Bulwag, Egbert Nuñez, Maria Dala Rosa George, Leticia Maranan, Denise Giglio, Rustico Castellano, Beth Bagnol Enriquez, Cely DeBorja, Vanessa Velasquez, Maggie Riego de Dios, Teresa Reale, John Castaneda, Lizzette Sanchez, Janet P. Cordi. To add names, please call the Parish Office.

2024 Annual Catholic Appeal

Called to Communion, Participation & Mission

The 2024 Annual Catholic Appeal supports the mission of our parish and the daily work of the Church in Brooklyn and Queens.



Our goal for this year is \$51,617. 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

This weekend, April 28th at all the Masses our parish will be conducting our in-pew commitment weekend asking for the support of all who are able.

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.

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.

Clases de Educación Religiosa 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

La 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. Inscripciones para el programa del próximo año escolar se están actualizando al presente. Se requiere prueba de bautismo para todo niño/a registrado por primer vez. Para mas información en español llamar al 718-335-2626, en el horario de día de lunes a viernes.

Flea Market

Recaudación para la Parroquia el próximo domingo 5 de mayo. Patrocinado por la comunidad hispana. Para más información o ser voluntario, llamar a la oficina parroquial al 718-335-2626.

Campaña Católica Anual Del 2024

Unidos en Comunión Unidos en Caridad

La meta de nuestra Iglesia Asunción es \$51,617. Después de sobrepasar nuestra meta, recibiremos 100% de los fondos recaudados por encima de esta cifra directamente para nuestra parroquia. Estamos aceptando donaciones para este año. Haga su donación hoy en Annual Catholic Appeal.org o envíe un texto con las siglas ACA al 917-336-1255.

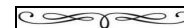
Para donar en línea: <https://catholicfoundationbq.org/annual-catholic-appeal/> Envíe su cheque directamente a: Annual Catholic Appeal, Diocese of Brooklyn P.O. Box 310 Kensington, CT 06037-0310.

Este domingo 28 de abril tendremos el fin de semana de compromiso de la ACA para pedirle su apoyo.

Recuerden que cualquier cantidad será aceptada. Gracias.

PRAYER GROUPS & DEVOTIONS

- Monday:** **Miraculous Medal Novena**
Mondays @ 8:30 AM
- Tuesday:** **Spanish Prayer Group @ 7:00 PM**
- Wednesday:** **Our Lady of Perpetual Help**
Novena @ 8:30 AM | Novena Mass
- Friday:** **Holy Hour / Exposition & Benediction**
1st Friday @ 8:30 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
- God the Father of All Mankind Devotion Prayer Group**
3rd Saturday @ 4:00 PM Novena (Church)
followed by the 5:00 PM Mass
- Divine Mercy Devotion Prayer Group**
4th Saturday @ 4:00 PM Novena (Church)
followed by the 5:00 PM Mass
- 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
- 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 6:00 PM (Lower Church)
- * * * * *
- Rosary Making Ministry**
To request supplies and/or pick up rosaries,
please email: marie_panas@msn.com



EVENTS / NEWS & UPDATES

Ascension of the Lord Feast Day: In preparation for our feast day of The Ascension of the Lord, we have a nine-day Novena at 6:30 PM and Mass at 7:00 PM, to start on Friday, May 3rd. Our feast day celebration will be on Sunday, May 12th with a procession at 3:00 PM followed by a concelebrated Mass at 4:00 PM. After the Mass there is fellowship in the lower church.

Spanish Community Flea Market: Sunday, May 5th | If interested in helping please contact the rectory office at 718-335-2626.

Donate Your Car: Running or not you can donate your car to the Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn. Money will come back to Ascension Church | IRS Tax Deduction | Free Towing | Any Condition | Any Model | 718-491-2525 | or visit: svdpauto-brooklynqueens.org

Saint's Corner:

St. Athanasius

May 2

St. Athanasius was born of Christian parents around the year 297 in Alexandria in Egypt. He received an excellent education, and as a teenager went to live for a few years the life of a hermit in the desert under the spiritual guidance of the great St. Anthony of Egypt. After this experience Athanasius returned to Alexandria, was ordained a deacon at the age of 21, and became the secretary of the local bishop, Alexander.

During Athanasius' time the Church was ripped apart by a heresy known as Arianism. This heresy took its name from a man named Arius, a priest from Athanasius' own city of Alexandria. Arius began to spread a doctrine denying the divinity of Christ. He proclaimed that Christ was not eternal with God the Father nor of the same substance as God the Father, but was a creature of the Father and therefore had a beginning in time. In other words, Arius taught that Christ was not fully God but a lesser god, a human being who became divine. Athanasius fought with all his might this heresy. He taught that Jesus was truly God and truly man. In Jesus God became man, not man becoming God.

Arianism quickly spread because they were strongly supported by the emperors of the Roman Empire. Eventually, all the bishops met in the Council of Nicaea (near present-day Istanbul, Turkey) in the year 325. This Council of Nicaea condemned Arianism and gave us the famous Nicene Creed which we recite every Sunday when we use the longer form of the Creed. The Council nailed down the truth about Jesus once and for all, "God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, consubstantial with Father." This Creed is an echo of that first major heresy in the Church. However, despite its solemn condemnation, Arianism continued to be taught because of the support of the Roman emperors.

Athanasius succeeded Bishop Alexander as bishop of Alexandria three years after the historic Council of Nicaea and fought Arianism for the next 45 years. During those 45 years he was slandered, persecuted and was exiled or banished five times from Alexandria, spending a total of 17 years in exile. For six of those 17 years, he had to hide among the hermits of the Egyptian desert because the Arians wanted to kill him.

Athanasius is a saint not only because he affirmed the true faith but also because he was "faithful under fire." He is a good model for us. When all goes well, it is easy to be a Christian. When our faith is challenged, especially by our culture, the real depth of our faith is exposed. When we are engaged today in a "culture war", we can look to the example of St. Athanasius and ask his intercession that we would remain "faithful under fire" as he was.

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 Easter

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

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BEAR FIRE PRUNED
BRANCH FRUIT REMAIN
BURNED GLORIFIED THROWN
DISCIPLES GRAPES VINE

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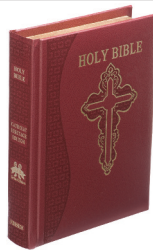
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