



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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT FEBRUARY 22, 2026



From the Pastor's Desk

First Sunday of Lent
February 22, 2026
Matthew 4:1-11

Dear Ascension Family.

A blessed Lent! The imposition of Ashes last Wednesday ushered in the season of Lent with a powerful reminder for all of us in the need to straighten our lives, "Repent and believe in the Gospel" in view of our mortality and the inevitability of death, "Remember, you are dust, and unto dust you will return." The cross on our foreheads (ashes were traced on our foreheads in the shape of the cross) is also a powerful reminder, not only that we have a Savior, but also of the price tag Jesus is willing pay to save us and bring us back to God.

Lent is a blessed time for self-examination and humble recognition: *I am not as I should be; I have not live the life that I should live; I have not made the choices that I should have chosen.* Amid this unworthiness is also the recognition that there is a God who believes that I am worth dying for and can become the person that I should be - God's beloved child in whom He is well pleased.

We are on the First Sunday of Lent, and the gospel reading is about the temptations of Jesus. Satan tempted Jesus three times. All three temptations were enticements to substitute a lesser good over a greater good. For example, the 1st temptation to turn stones into bread is not so much a temptation to indulge one's appetite - appetite for food, for Jesus was hungry, but rather a temptation to substitute the lesser for the greater, namely, bread for the word of God. Thus Jesus responded to the temptation by saying, "Man does not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

In the 2nd temptation Satan tries to lure Jesus into substituting his ways for God's ways. God the Father wanted a Messiah who would be humble in serving his people. Satan suggests being a Messiah who would be doing spectacular things, like jumping from the parapet of the Temple with the angels catching him. Jesus could have gained many instant followers if he had jumped unhurt from the parapet of the Temple to the amazement of the

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MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday: 8:00 AM

Saturday : 8:00 AM

: 5:00 PM (Vigil Mass)

Sunday : 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM

1:00 PM (Spanish)

1st Saturday @ 5:00 PM (Cebuano Choir)

2nd Saturday @ 5:00 PM (Tagalog Choir)

**3rd Saturday @ 5:00 PM (God the Father
of all Mankind with El Shaddai Choir)**

4th Saturday @ 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

Darlene Bastillada Wilson
Coordinator of Youth Ministry

Edna Mosquera
Parish Secretary

Romulo Quiblat
Parish Council Chair

Diona Nicolo
Finance Council Chair

Maria San Pedro
Parish Trustees

Rectory Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon | 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Saturday 9:00 AM - 12 Noon | 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Telephone: (718) 335-2626 | Mobile: (718) 737-6232 | Fax: (718) 335-4181

Email: ascensionrc@aol.com | Website: www.ascensionparishelmhurst.org

SCHOOL: Saint Adalbert Catholic Academy <https://saintadalbertca.org>

crowd. But Christ chose the way of weakness and suffering. Thus Jesus responded to Satan by saying, "You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test."

In the 3rd temptation Satan tries to seduce Jesus into substituting worldly power and glory for God's power and glory. God the Father wanted Jesus to achieve power and glory through his suffering and death on the cross. Satan suggests that Jesus can have instant success by simply worshiping him. Thus Jesus responded by saying, "The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve."

All three temptations are different attempts to substitute a lesser good for a greater good. He was confronted with those temptations not only in the desert after his baptism, but throughout his ministry.

Let us remind ourselves that, if Jesus himself was tempted, it is only natural for us to be tempted too. There is nothing wrong with being tempted, contrary to what some Christians might think. In fact, temptations are *excellent* for the soul - provided they are not foolishly sought out, of course - because they enable us to grow as sons and daughters of God. In fact, the *New American Bible* entitles the first section of the Letter of James: "The Value of Trials and Temptation." Indeed, temptations are *valuable*. Without them spiritual growth is hardly possible.

During this period of Lent, let us examine our lives in this area of temptations: What is my greatest temptation right now? How do I react to it? Do I pray for God's help when it comes? Do I seek a healthy diversion that will help me ignore it? How can others help? Do I make of each temptation a means of getting closer to God? Do I see temptations as a valuable opportunity to choose God and to grow in love of him?

Christ victory over Satan is guaranteed, but it still has to be worked out in our lives. That is why we have to go through the training periods of discipline to toughen ourselves so that we will emerge better prepared and stronger for our struggles with the devil. The time-proven Lenten disciplines recommended by the Church, which consists of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, are absolutely of great help for us. It is in view of this that there is a Lenten regulation of fasting and abstinence.

Let us pray for one another for a meaningful and fruitful Lent.

In Christ,
Fr. Anacleto

ENSURING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL

The Diocese of Brooklyn has reached an agreement with the New York State Attorney General to enhance child safety measures. This agreement required updated training for all clergy, employees, and volunteers who work with children. The new training is designed to provide valuable information to help adults ensure the safety of children and adults during interactions.

If you are working with children in any capacity, please log in to your account at Virtus.org and complete any of the outstanding training items. If you have any questions, please contact 718-965-7300 X6076.

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

February 15st, 2026

1st Collection - \$5,325.00

2nd Collection - \$2,133.00 (Church Maintenance)

Upcoming Collections

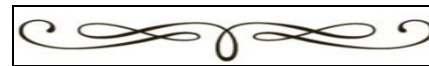
February 22nd - Black & Indian Missions

March 1st - Easter Flower Offering

March 8th - Church Maintenance

Online Giving

If you are interested in donating online, please visit the parish website at www.ascensionparishelmhurst.org. Parishioners can schedule their contribution to be made weekly, bi-weekly or monthly



JESUS NEEDS YOU

(Priestly & Religious Vocations)

Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for forty days of prayer and fasting.



Are you open to be led by the Holy Spirit into the state in life that God has prepared for you? If you are considering a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, contact the Vocation Office at 718-827-2454 or email: vocations@diobrook.org



Saturday, February 21st

5:00 PM People of the Parish

Sunday, February 22nd

9:30 AM Angeles C. Maranan
Delma Bordeos (L)
Jovita Fernandez (L)

11:30 AM Audrey Miranda
Aura Gil (L)
Nilsa Rosado (L)

1:00 PM Minor Alfredo (L) & Juracan Rosales (L)
Candelaria Perez (L)
Victor Eduardo Pilamunga

Monday, February 23rd - St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

8:00 AM Nancy Tlachino (L)

Tuesday, February 24th -

8:00 AM William Boetel
Eduard Cullen
Renato Go

Wednesday, February 25th -

8:00 AM Elmira, Gloria and all the Deceased
Members of the Tanoy Family

Thursday, February 26th -

8:00 AM Anonymous

Friday, February 27th - St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

8:00 AM Edward G. Huntington

Saturday, February 28th -

8:00 AM Priscilla Mera (L)
Conchita Navarro
Jovencito Paculba (L)

Please pray for:

Deceased members of our families



MEMORIALS

February 22 - February 28



Altar Bread and Wine has been donated
In Loving memory of
Joseph Cossentino



Sanctuary Lamp will burn in
Loving Memory of
Castellano & Cabreira Family



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
Edgar Mosquera

Memorials are available, kindly contact Rectory Office



Pray for the Sick:

Rosa Tan, Lydia Go, Remedios Sioco Louie, Julissa Martinez, Luis Arnulfo, Elizabeth Yee, Joel Rivera, Gloria Patricia Rios, Harold, Diego y Kennedy Gomez, Elisa Marquina, Maria Daulo, Karla Nicole Paredes, Romelia Arenas, Rubiela Arenas, Enrique Soto, Eduardo D. Soto, Teresita Danseco, Evangeline & Victoria Danseco, Nazarette Serion, Nerissa Infante, Laura Kreft, Shirley Ann Gundran, Avelina Quilung, Dennis Anthony Calimlim, Ex-elito Valencia, Bonifacio Guingab, Margie Bulwag, Egbert Nuñez, Maria Dala Rosa George, Leticia Maranan, Denise Giglio, Beth Bagnol Enriquez, Cely DeBorja, Teresa Reale, Janet P. Cordi, Cristian Ardila, Rey Garcia, Susan, Elena Rivera, Lizzete Sanchez Ricardez, Aquino Zapanta, Jose Luis Peralta, Antonio Miele, Ruby Tan, Ben Gil, Jevonn Christoff Tan, Julieta Mercado, Renato Mercado, Ivan Tasayco, Mario Tasayco, Ruth Dioquino, Margarita Vasquez, Arlene Mary Ruth Rustia-Songcuan and Hans Aristotle Rustia, Jenny Chua, Ruena Chua, And Catherine Fraser, Victoriano Arroyo Barrientos, Ernesto Tapia, Josafat Palacios, Sergie Hasen Tan, Lele Uy, Damian Rudy Hernandez Velasquez, Francen Ong, Maria Fe De Jesus, Dina Niestwmpski. To add names, please call the Parish Office.



2026 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 2026 Annual Catholic Appeal supports the mission of our parish and the daily work of the Church in Brooklyn and Queens.

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 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

Las clases de Educación Religiosa para los niños/jóvenes del primero a octavo grado toman lugar los domingos de septiembre a junio. Se requiere prueba de bautismo y acta de nacimiento para todo niño registrado por primer vez. Para mas información en español llamar al 718-335-2626, en el horario de día de lunes a viernes.

Primer día de clases domingo, 7 de septiembre.

Garantizando un Lugar Seguro Para Todos

La Diócesis de Brooklyn ha llegado a un acuerdo con la Fiscalía General del Estado de Nueva York para reforzar las medidas de seguridad infantil. Este acuerdo exige entrenamiento actualizado para todo el clero, empleados y voluntarios que trabajan con niños. El nuevo entrenamiento está diseñado para proporcionar información valiosa que ayuda a los adultos a garantizar la seguridad de niños y adultos durante las interacciones.

Si trabaja con niños, inicie sesión en su cuenta en Virtus.org y complete cualquiera de los elementos de entrenamiento pendientes. Si tiene alguna pregunta, comuníquese al 718-965-7300 X6076.

EVENTOS / NOTICIAS Y ACTUALIZACIONES

Declaración de Contribuciones

Si esta registrado y necesita una Declaración de Contribuciones para el año **2025** por motivo de impuestos, favor de comunicarse con la Oficina Parroquial y se lo enviaremos.

Via Crucis

Via Crucis en español será todos los martes durante Cuaresma a las 7:00 PM en el sotano de la iglesia.

EVENTS / NEWS & UPDATES

Statement of Contributions

The Statement of Contributions for **2025** for all registered parishioners has been prepared. If you need a copy for tax purposes please call the Rectory Office to request one.

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday during Lent at 6:30 PM. Except for first Friday, which will be at 6:00 PM.

PILGRIMAGE FOR 800 YEARS

Jubilee of St. Francis Assisi. March 1-9, 2026. Rome, Italy and much more for only \$2,500.

Chaplain Fr. Anacleto S. Asebias Jr.

For Info: Hilda Mantalaba 646-508-4871.

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
Parish Choir Practice
3rd Friday 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM (Lower Church)
Divine Mercy Devotion Prayer Group Choir Practice
4th Friday 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM (Lower Church)
Religious Education Children's Choir
2nd, 3rd, 4th and if applicable 5th Friday @ 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (Lower Church)
- Saturday:** **2000 Hail Mary**
1st Saturday @ 8:30 AM
Lady of Mary Mediatrix of all Grace
2nd Saturday @ 8:30 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 and 3rd Saturday
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (Lower Church)
Youth Ministry
4th Saturday
1:00 PM - 4:30 PM (Lower Church)
- Sunday:** **Ascension Parish Rosary Society**
1st Sunday @ 9:30 AM (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 6:00 PM (Lower Church)
Rosary Making Ministry
To request supplies and/or pick up rosaries, please email: marie_panas@msn.com



Religious Education Classes for Children Change in Class Schedule for September 2025

All students enrolled in Faith Formation classes are to be at the school building (P.S. 211Q Grand Avenue) at 9:00 AM, 9:15 AM Attendance

General opening prayers/Sunday Gospel reading and sharing

Class 9:30 AM—10:45 AM

10:45 AM—11:00 AM students gather their belongings

11:00 AM students and teachers walk to the Church

11:30 AM Mass with parents

After the Mass children are dismissed and can be picked up by parents.

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.

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:



SUNDAY GOSPEL ACTIVITIES

He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry.
Matthew 4:2



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

ANGELS	DEVIL	SERVE	TEMPTED
BREAD	GOD	SON	TEST
DESERT	JESUS	SPIRIT	WORD
	KINGDOMS	STONES	WORSHIP



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