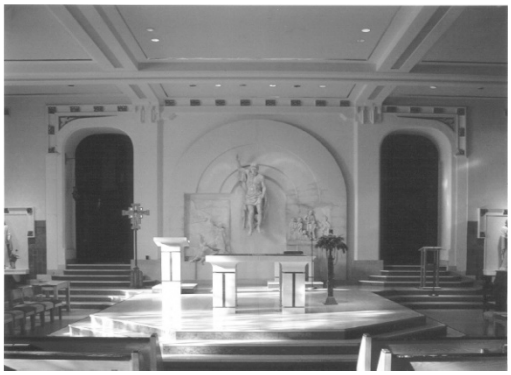
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017

The Parish of Resurrection-Ascension

Stewardship



Our Way of Life

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Resurrection-Ascension Church is a diverse community that gathers together to celebrate the Eucharist. We recognize that the Lord is the source of all that we have and all that we do. We hope that through our sharing of the Eucharist, the Sacraments, and our belonging to the parish – we may obtain a deeper relationship with the Lord.

As a people of faith, we are striving to grow in our ability to live out our understanding of "Stewardship" through the sharing of our Time, Talent and Treasure. We trust that, through God's grace we may reach out to others, welcoming them, while respecting and supporting one another.

Pastoral Staff
Rev. Salvatore J. Amato, Pastor
Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Thelen, Part-Time Associate Pastor
Mr. Emanuel Bologna, Director of Music
Mrs. Joann Heppt, Academy Principal
Ms. Joyce Mennona, Dir. of Religious Education & Parish Outreach
Rev. Basilio Monteiro, Weekend Presider

Church
85-25 61st Road, Rego Park, New York 11374

Rectory
61-11 85 Street, Rego Park, New York 11374
Phone: (718) 424-5212 Fax: (718) 639-8679
General E-Mail: **rachsch@aol.com**
Sacramental Certificate Requests: **rarectory@aol.com**
Website: **www.rachurch.net**

Rectory Staff
Debbie Gross *(Receptionist)*- **dlgrectory@aol.com**
Carmen Chang -**espanolatra@aol.com**
(Receptionist en Español- Saturdays 9am -1pm)
Heather Belon *(Bookkeeper)*- **hbelonra@aol.com**
Cathy Mesa- **ratuition@aol.com**
(Tuition Officer/Rectory Receptionist)

Rectory Hours
Monday through Friday: 9am - 12noon, and 1pm - 5pm
(closed for lunch 12noon - 1pm)
Saturday: 9am – 1pm, CLOSED SUNDAY

Weekend Mass Schedule
Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am
12:30pm (Spanish)

Weekday Mass Schedule
Monday – Friday 9:00am
Saturday 9:00am

Rite of Reconciliation (Confession)
Saturday 11:00am to 11:30am

Academy
85-25 61st Road
Phone: (718) 426-4963 FAX: (718) 426-0940
E-mail: **raschool443@aol.com**
Website: **www.racatholicacademy.org**

Faith Formation and Pastoral Outreach
85-18 61st Road, Rego Park, New York 11374
Phone: (718) 533-7898
E-Mail: **jmennona@hotmail.com**

Music Office
Phone: (718) 651-6359
E-Mail: **rachurchmusic@aol.com**

Youth Ministry
Jim Shearer Phone (917) 597-8807
E-Mail: **milkit4@yahoo.com**

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LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

RESURRECTION-ASCENSION CHURCH, REGO PARK

Today is The Third Sunday of Advent (B). The Readings are found at #1008 in the Parish Hymnal.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 18th
9:00am Marilyn Haughney, req by her husband, John

Tuesday, December 19th
9:00am Concetta and Francesco Dioguardi, req by the Dioguardi family

Wednesday, December 20th
9:00am McCarthy and McNulty families, req by Angela McCarthy

Thursday, December 21st
9:00am Peggy Bartichek, req by Eileen Gillespie

Friday, December 22nd
9:00am Patrick Tully, req by his wife

Saturday, December 23rd
9:00am- For the People of the Parish
-Celia McGoldrick, req by her husband, Patrick
-in thanksgiving to God, req by Hui Chen
-Mercedes Martinez, req by her family
-John Timozek, req by Kurt and Simone Burger
-Patrick and Joseph O'Dea, req by their family
-Dorothea Mooney, req by Trellies Sanchez
-for the intentions of the O'Neill family, req by the Mesa family

5:00pm Anthony Pappalardo, req by his wife, Renee, and family

Sunday, December 24th -Fourth Sunday of Advent (11: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29 Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38)
8:00am Nancy Kerrane, req by William Kerrane, and family
9:30am Andy Hagarty, req by his wife, Anne, and family
11:00am in thanksgiving to God, req by Hui Chen
12:30pm Julio Rodriguez (bday), req by the Lopez family

Christmas Eve- Sunday, December 24th
5:00pm- SPECIAL "FAMILY" LITURGY
11:30pm- Christmas Carols
followed by MIDNIGHT MASS

Christmas Day- Monday, December 25th
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
Masses: 9:30am, 11:00am in English
(no Spanish mass on Christmas)

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES COLLECTION

Next weekend, you will have the opportunity to make a donation to our Thanks for the Memories Collection. The revenue from this collection goes to our parish school. An envelope has been provided in your tithing packet. Thank you for your generosity.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

The Sick and/or Hospitalized: Vahide Atlas, Josephine Bravchok, Peggy Brennan, Stephanie Bojarski, Martha Chaves, Mercedes Coral, Richard DeNardo, Louis F. Rossi Favia, Ida Fernandes, Steve Ferrugio, Agnes Finegan, Msgr. Vincent Fullam, Eileen Grubb, George J. Harms, George M. Harms,Pat Holahan, Claire LaRocca, James Leung, Kathy O'Connell, Joseph A. Oliveri, Jr., Zoila Orellana, Susan Patina, Brendan Phelan, Michael Pratley, Grace Radonicic, Frank Rahill, Maureen Rahill, Barbara Ravert, Jovina Rios, Julio Rosado, Frank Russo, Madeline Silecchia, Rose Tantillo

Deceased: Hendrik Manusama

WINE & HOSTS AND MEMORIAL CANDLES

The **Wine and Hosts** will be used this week **in loving memory of Peggy Bartichek,** as requested by Eileen Gillespie.

SUNDAY SCHOOL & CLW

Sunday School and CLW will not meet next Sunday.

RA CHRISTMAS CARDS

RA Christmas cards are still on sale! These cards are available at the Rectory, 12 cards for $10.

SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

The last meeting for the Advent Scripture discussion will take place this Tuesday, December 19th from 10-11am in Fr. Feely Hall. All are welcome. Bring a friend. Facilitator: John Cleary (718) 662-6069.

HELP WANTED

Please join us in decorating the Church for Christmas on Saturday, December 23rd, after the 9am Mass. Meet us in the gym for some refreshments and holiday cheer as a prelude to making our church beautiful!

CHRISTMAS SPIRITUAL BOUQUET CARDS AND FLOWER ENVELOPES

These items are available at the entrances to the church for your use, as well as in your tithing packets for next weekend. The Christmas Spiritual Bouquet intentions will be remembered at all the Christmas Masses.

A special THANK YOU to **Peggy Guez,** who prepares our Giving Tree stars year after year.

BE AN ANGEL

A heartfelt **thank you** to all of you who donated to our "Be An Angel" gift program to help serve the needy in our parish. We also wish to thank all those who generously contributed to our St. Vincent Society Outreach collection, and brought food items. What a blessing to be with so many who are willing to share and give of themselves! Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK….

WITH SINCERE THANKS…..

On December 6th/7th, many of you were generous in the giving of your Christmas Gift to our church. Please know that your gift is very much appreciated, and will be helpful, in the meeting of expenses for parish programs, repairs, and whatever may be deemed necessary for the balance of this year, and the forthcoming year. In the event you were unable to give your gift to the Church, please feel free to do so on this date or, in the near future.

"WE WAIT IN JOYFUL HOPE FOR THE COMING OF OUR SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST"

It's official!! The signs and reminders are all around us. The Christmas countdown began –prior to—and shortly after—our national observance of Thanksgiving. The newspapers, radio, and television *hammer away* at "***how many days remain until Christmas***". All around us there are signs that Christmas is coming. For example:

* Stores are filled with Christmas decorations
* Christmas music has been playing on the radio and television (and, unfortunately, will no longer be heard on Dec. 26th and thereafter, until……...)
*Christmas cards have begun to arrive in our mailboxes.
*Christmas parties—have been—or will—take place at work, at school, and within our Church groups.

Obviously, there are plenty of signs that Christmas is coming. However, over 2000 years ago, when Jesus was born, there were *no big signs to announce* ***this very significant event*** about to happen. In other words, there were no ads that could be announced on the radio, or TV, stating: "Coming soon! A Savior will be born in a stable near you!" Consequently, when Jesus was born, *many people were surprised*! But, as the word of His birth spread, some people began to remember that the prophets had also told them "God was going to send a Savior". Then, they came to know that *this baby*, *born in a stable*, ***was God keeping His promise***.

Just as Christmas is a wonderful, and joyous, time to celebrate the birth of Jesus it is, also, a time to remember how *Jesus promised that He would come again.* It is noteworthy that we do not read much about that in the newspapers and we do not hear much talk about it on the radio, or television. However, during these past few weeks, the Scripture readings continued to remind us that Jesus announced the need to "be prepared and to watch for His return." Therefore, as we look forward to Christmas day, we join the Church in anticipation of the day *when Jesus will (also) come again*.

Since this weekend is often referred to as "Gaudete Sunday", (the Latin word for "Rejoice"), it also signifies that we are beyond the mid-point of Advent as we approach the feast of Christmas. Notably, the third candle on the Advent wreath is rose, or pink in color, and stands, in contrast, to the three remaining purple candles. May the lighting of this third candle serve as a reminder that just as the people of Israel found hope in the promises of God, we, too, can find hope and joy in the promise of Jesus that "He will come again" as we pray the following at each Mass: ***"we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ".***

YES, YOU ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND MASS TWICE THIS CHRISTMAS –ON BOTH SUNDAY, AND MONDAY.

The insert with this weekend's bulletin, (from America Magazine), provides a more expanded explanation as to why attendance for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and the Christmas Liturgy—[which begins on Dec. 24 at 5 P.M.] *CANNOT be a "two for the price of one" situati*on. In fact, the Advent liturgies move us toward the feast of Christmas, as highlighted by the Scriptural references, and prayers, that indicate these are, really, two distinct, and separate, observances. Although we are very familiar with the events, and story, leading up to the birth of Christ, our liturgies are designed in such a way as to unfold God's design that conclude with a seasonal observance prior to describing the actual—not to mention the surprising-- events surrounding the birth of Christ.

To eliminate any confusion, it is possible for someone to attend a Saturday evening vigil for the Fourth Sunday of Advent observance, and to attend a Sunday evening Vigil Mass for Christmas, at 5 P.M., since both vigils are two distinct liturgical observances. The bottom line is that: "when consecutive obligations occur on Saturday-Sunday, or Sunday-Monday, the faithful must attend Mass TWICE in order to fulfill TWO SEPARATE—AND DISTINCT—liturgies/obligations. As mentioned above, please take the time to read the insert for a more comprehensive explanation concerning our call to worship for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, as well as The Feast of Christmas.

In Christ, *Fr. Amato*

☺ RESURRECTION – ASCENSION ☺ CATHOLIC ACADEMY NEWS

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved honors this trimester:

Grade 5: Emily Avaricio, Amaris Braun, Isabella Chase, James Gaffney, Kielan Santos, Liam Sweeney, Santiago Uribe
Grade 6: Rachele Bifulco, Leslie Chiu, Sydney Ewald, Jeremy Fernandes, Micah Gagarin, Noelle Imburgia, Seraphina Ng, Janelle-Stephanie Pascual, Dylan Rosa, Erica Yu
Grade 7: Matthew Alvarez, Karalyn Chiu, Natalie Kizior, Elizabeth Quercia, George Tena Valladares
Grade 8: Isabel Caamaño, Raffi Chirinian, Samantha Del Rosario, Samantha Fernandes, Manuel Roxas, Aidan Sweeney

Congratulations to the following students who have received honors at their respective high schools:

Msgr. McClancy Memorial High School
Principal's List: Andrea Cruz, Nadine Walker
First Honors: Michael Nooney, Stephanie Quercia
Second Honors: Nicholas Nanan, Matthew Wenz

St. Francis Preparatory School
Honors: Jeremy Rakotonirina, Eryka Roseburg, Brian Yabut

PLEASE NOTE—SPECIAL RECTORY HOURS

On Thursday, December 21st, the Rectory will be closing at 12:30pm. It will re-open on Thursday at 9am.

FALL FOUR SEASONS RAFFLE

Drawing to be held TOMORROW! To date, **TWO winners will each receive $765**. Please have all tickets in by 10am tomorrow. The more entries, the higher the prize!! Good luck to all!

A Glimpse at your contributions… December 9/10:

	Cash	Checks	Total
Saturday-5:00pm (English)	$ 172	$1,130	$1,302
Sunday 8:00am (English)	$ 284	$ 862	$1,146
9:30am (English)	$ 544	$ 450	$ 944
11:00am (English)	$ 486	$ 792	$1,278
12:30 pm (Spanish)	$ 458	$ 334	$ 792
	$1,944	$3,568	$5,512

Contributions made via Online Giving: $606 via 52 enrollees)
Total weekly collection:$6,118 ***(this week's deficit=$3,533)***
Weekly goal needed to meet parish expenses: $9,651
Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish!

CHRISTMAS GRAND PRIZE BOOSTER WINNERS

1st Prize $500 Mr. & Mrs. John Linahan, RP
1st Prize $500 Annette O'Connell, Nesconset
2nd Prize $250 Margaret Lydon, Jackson Heights
2nd Prize $250 Brendan Grogan, Jr., MV
3rd Prize $125 Mary Fullam, MV
3rd Prize $125 Emanuel Bologna, MV

Congratulations to all our winners!

New subscribers are always welcome and, "YOU NEED TO BE IN IT – TO WIN IT"! For further info, kindly call the rectory 718-424-5212, ext. 16.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, December 18th
-Morning Prayer 8:30am Church
-Food Pantry 10-12noon PCC, Golden Age 12noon FFH
-Basketball Practice 5-9:30pm Gym
-Yoga 6pm FFH Garden, NA 7:30pm PCC

Tuesday, December 19th
-Morning Prayer 8:30am Church
-Scripture Discussion 10-11am FFH Main
-Children's Choir 3pm
-School Christmas Concert 7pm Gym
-No Track, No Basketball Practice
-English Classes 6-8pm PCC
-Spanish Prayer Group 7-9pm FFH Chapel

Wednesday, December 20th
-Food Pantry 10-12noon PCC
-Spanish Choir 6pm, English Choir 7:30pm Church
-Basketball Practice 5-9:30pm Gym, NA 7:30pm PCC

Thursday, December 21st- St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
-Morning Prayer 8:30am Church
-Toddler Time 9:30-10:30am CMR
-Rectory Closes 12:30pm
-English Classes 6-8pm PCC
-Basketball Practice 5-9:30pm Gym

Friday, December 22nd
-Student of the Month Assembly 8:15am Gym
-CODA 10am PCC
-School Dismissal 12noon
-Twirling 4-7pm, Basketball Practice 7:15-9:30pm Gym
-Spanish Bible Study 7-9:30pm

Saturday, December 23rd- St. John of Kanty, Priest
-Decorating of the Church after the 9am Mass
-OCA 10am PCC, No Basketball
-Spanish Classes 3-5pm, Spanish Service 5-7pm PCC
-Divine Mercy 4:15pm Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Sunday, December 24th- Fourth Sunday of Advent
-No Children's Liturgy at the 9:30am Mass
-No Sunday School, No Youth Group
-No Basketball
-Alanon 12noon PCC

Our Lady of Hope Widow/Widower Bereavement Support Group

meets the first, and third, Tuesdays of each month from 1:30-3pm in the rectory. If you have experienced the loss of a spouse, come join us and see if our group could be helpful during your grieving process. For questions call Barbara Reilly at 718-440-2439.

Yes, you have to go to Mass twice this Christmas (Sunday and Monday).

Carol Zimmermann - Catholic News Service December 06, 2017

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Although Christmas this year is the day after the fourth Sunday of Advent, Catholics looking to count a Sunday evening Mass Dec. 24 for both that Sunday obligation and Monday's Christmas Mass obligation will have to think again.

The U.S. bishops already saw this coming at the beginning of the year and said Catholics should attend separate Masses for the two days.

A newsletter issued in February by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Divine Worship noted that a "two-for-one" Mass cannot occur in the very rare circumstances when two of the six holy days of obligation -- the feast of the Immaculate Conception or Christmas -- fall the day before or after Sunday.

"When consecutive obligations occur on Saturday-Sunday or Sunday-Monday, the faithful must attend Mass twice to fulfill two separate obligations," the committee said.

The reason Catholics might consider the idea of receiving dispensation from a Monday Mass likely stems from the U.S. bishops' vote in 1991 to lift the obligation to attend Mass on holy days of obligation that fall on Saturdays or Mondays. But that vote was only for three of the six holy days: the feast of Mary, Mother of God, Jan. 1; the feast of the Assumption, Aug. 15; and the feast of All Saints, Nov. 1.

When consecutive obligations occur on Saturday-Sunday or Sunday-Monday, the faithful must attend Mass twice to fulfill two separate obligations.

This does not apply to Christmas and the feast of the Immaculate Conception, which is Dec. 8. Most dioceses have transferred observance of the feast of the Ascension from the Thursday 40 days after Easter to the following Sunday.

The committee's newsletter offers a nuanced explanation of the required Mass attendance on holy days falling before or after Sundays, noting that a "dubium," which is Latin for a request for clarification, about the possibility of "simultaneous fulfillment of obligations was answered in the negative by the Sacred Congregation for the Clergy and approved by Blessed Pope Paul VI in 1970." The committee notes that this clarification was not issued as a conclusive and authoritative interpretation, but it has weight since it was backed by the Vatican and the pope.

The newsletter also points out that in the absence of a "definitive interpretation by the Holy See, attendance at the evening Mass shared by the two holy days is indeed sufficient to fulfill both obligations, " but the caveat here is that the church's intention in providing vigil Masses was "never envisioned as a legal loophole, and, hence, separate obligations remain."

The divine worship committee also holds out hope that Catholics would want to go to Mass two days in a row, saying: "It would be hoped, of course, that Catholics foster a love for the sacred liturgy and hold a desire to celebrate the holy days as fully as is reasonably possible."

It would be hoped, of course, that Catholics foster a love for the sacred liturgy and hold a desire to celebrate the holy days as fully as is reasonably possible.

There also is the tiniest amount of wiggle room. The committee acknowledges that situations arise where fulfilling Mass obligations on consecutive days is either impractical or impossible for an individual or a family and in these cases pastors can grant individual dispensations. Similarly, diocesan bishops "may examine their regional circumstances and grant general dispensations or commutations, while permitting their pastors to make judgments in individual cases," the committee said, but such judgment calls are exceptions to the general rule.

The bishops' committee also has looked ahead to when this will happen again. In the next 12 years, Christmas will fall either on a Saturday or a Monday four times and the feast of the Immaculate Conception will fall on either of those days three times.

Paulist Father Larry Rice, director of the University Catholic Center at the University of Texas at Austin, said he hasn't heard anyone ask about a dispensation for the Christmas liturgy, but he suspects some will try to combine the Sunday and Monday Masses. They also might go to the Saturday evening vigil for Sunday and the Sunday vigil for Christmas, which is OK.

He said the big challenge for parishes this year will be decorating for Christmas liturgies, especially parishes with afternoon Masses on Sunday that will only have a few hours to "turn the church over from Advent to Christmas." Another challenge will be getting volunteers to help set up churches for Christmas Eve.

Some parishes are moving up the time of their Sunday Masses on the fourth Sunday of Advent to accommodate the quick turnaround.

Father Rice told Catholic News Service the rare event of a Monday Christmas "sounds to me like an opportunity to simplify, although Christmas isn't generally a time people are looking for that."

2017 CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve- Sunday, December 24th
5:00pm- SPECIAL "FAMILY" LITURGY
11:30pm- Christmas Carols
followed by MIDNIGHT MASS

Christmas Day- Monday, December 25th
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
Masses: 9:30am, 11:00am in English

The Rectory will be CLOSED on
Monday, December 25th
and Tuesday, December 26th.
The Rectory Staff would like to wish all of our parishioners a joyous Christmas!!
It will re-open on
Wednesday, December 27th at 9:00am.

2018 MEMORIALS

The Memorials for the entire year of 2018 are now open. You may stop in the Rectory during regular business hours to reserve the Memorials for Wine & Hosts, Sanctuary Lamp, Altar Candles, etc. Please note that **No** phone requests will be taken. The donation remains $25.

2018 MASS BOOK OPENING
(July-August-September only)

The Mass Book is now open for your Mass intentions. You may come to the rectory during regular business hours to make your requests. Please remember, the rectory closes from 12noon-1pm. We are limiting Mass requests to 5 Masses. If you can be flexible with the DATE and TIME, we will take requests by mail. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for confirmation of your mail-in requests. No phone requests will be taken.
Reminder: the offering for a Sunday Mass is $25 per Mass, weekday Masses remain $15.
Saturday Masses at 9am will continue to include collective intentions at $10 each, for a maximum of 10 intentions.

Thank you to all that took a star, and dropped off their gifts for our **GIVING TREE,** which benefits Hour Children. We thank you for your participation and generosity year after year. God bless you during this Advent Season!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR PARISHIONERS….

We wish to inform you that the contributions toward the **Retired Religious Fund**—which was taken up on the weekend of December 9/10 amounted to $1,951 as compared with the year, 2016 $2,275. A word of *"thanks" to Sister Virginia*, who arranged for the Religious Sisters to speak at the Masses, during the weekend of December 2/3. Our gratitude and appreciation is also extended to the following who spoke at our parish Masses: *Sr. Roberta Kerins (5 P.M. Mass), Sr. Virginia Blend (8 A.M. Mass), Sr. Aileen Halleran(9:30 A.M. Mass) and Sr. Barbara Buckbee (11 A.M. Mass).*

Their presentations helped to enlighten—as well as inform—us in terms of *how* the funds are allocated for so many of our *well-deserving* and *retired* religious, who have dedicated their lives, through their various means of service, within the life of the Church. A word of "thanks" is also extended to our faithful worshippers who contributed so generously to this (as well as many other) worthy cause(s). (Additional envelopes are also available at the Church entrances--especially for those who may not have had the opportunity to contribute this past weekend, due to the weather, resulting in a considerably reduced attendance).

REFLECTION ON A CHRISTMAS CRÈCHE

As we approach the Feast of Christmas (& throughout this season,) we will look on our images of sheep and cattle, shepherds, Mary, Joseph and Jesus so that whenever we gaze on our manger scene, such figures may tell the story of how humans, angels & animals found the Christ in this poor place. Let us pray that our house may be filled with hospitality, joy, gentleness & thanksgiving & our steps may always be guided in the way of peace. Grant this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.