

# WEEKLY NOTICES

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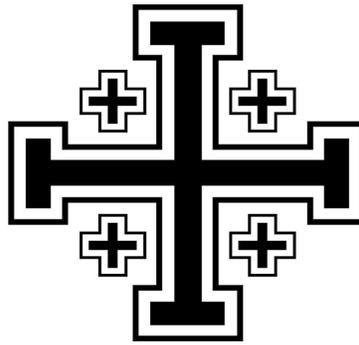
## The Church of the Ascension

*in the City of New York*

The Reverend Daniel S. Kearney, *Pastor*

Serving the Upper West Side, Manhattan Valley,  
and Morningside Heights communities since 1895

*Sirviendo las comunidades del Upper West Side,  
Manhattan Valley, y Morningside Heights desde 1895*



**SUNDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2025**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)**  
**III DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO (DOMINGO GAUDETE)**

### WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

5:30 p.m. Vigil - Bilingual (*Cantor and organ*)

9:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. - Spanish (*Coro; Mariachi band*)

11:00 a.m. - English (*Choir and organ*)

6:00 p.m. - English (*Cantor and Jazz trio*)

### WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

Monday, Wednesday & Friday (12:00 p.m.) - Communion Service in English

Monday - Friday (7:00 p.m.) - Mass in Spanish

Tuesday and Thursday (12:00 p.m.) - Mass in English

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### ASSISTING CLERGY AND STAFF

The Reverend Daniel LeBlanc, OMI  
The Reverend Louie Hotop, SJ  
Deacon Nelson Falcon  
Preston Smith, *Director of Music*

The Reverend Philip Florio, SJ  
Deacon Daniel Corniel  
Mary Santorello, *Director of Faith Formation*  
Cipriano Lantigua, *Home Ministry*

Lucas Gonzalez and Mireya Vilma, *Facilities*  
Sareda Rodriguez (M-F), Jeffery Salazar (M-F), Jose Velazquez (Weekend), *Reception*

*Dear Parishioners and Friends of Ascension:*

Today is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete Sunday is always celebrated on the Third Sunday of Advent. *Gaudete*, taken from the first word of the entrance antiphon, means "rejoice." The penitential purple of Advent is replaced today with rose, the color of joy. Today, the third candle on the Advent Wreath is lit. Today's liturgy gives a hint that something is on the horizon. Possibly dating back to the middle ages, when the season of Advent bore an overly penitential character, the rose color signaled joyfully that the church was close to Christmas. Although today the rose color is still a sign of anticipated Christmas joy, we understand the continuity of Advent as a season of joyful expectation. Today's liturgy helps heighten that expectation which will carry through to the celebration of Christmas.

In many Latin American countries, it is a custom to celebrate a novena of Masses on the mornings immediately preceding Christmas. These masses are called 'Aguinaldos.' To that end, we will celebrate these early morning Masses on the 8 days before the 25<sup>th</sup> of December (including Saturday and Sunday). The masses begin this Wednesday (December 17th.) and continue up to (and including) Wednesday, December 24th. The Masses will be at 6:00AM followed by some hot chocolate or coffee. The Masses will be celebrated in Spanish. These are masses with music and they are very uplifting. All are invited to attend.

Tomorrow (Monday, December 15th) has again been set aside by the Archdiocese of New York (and the Diocese of Brooklyn) as Reconciliation Monday. Tomorrow confessions will be heard in all churches in the Archdiocese of New York, and in the Diocese of Brooklyn. Because of our evening Mass, confessions here at Ascension will be heard from 3-7p.m.

Once again, as an Ascension Community, we have so much for which to be grateful. We are once again asking that each wage earner consider making a monetary Christmas gift of \$250 - \$500 to the Christmas collection, if you are able. We are grateful for whatever you are able to give. I would also like to once again invite and encourage everyone to consider our automated gift-giving system -- Faith Direct (Ascension Church's Code is "NY588"). We really need more to support Ascension through online giving. Please see the link for Faith Direct -- <https://ascensionchurchnyc.org/httpsmembershipfaithdirectnetgivenowny588>

Finally, I remind you that beginning **Sunday, January 4, 2026**, the **9:30 AM Spanish Mass** will be moved **15 minutes earlier**, to **9:15 AM**. This slight adjustment will ensure a smoother transition between the 9:15 AM Mass and our growing 11:00 AM English Mass, allowing each community the time and space needed to celebrate fully and without rushing. As our richly

diverse parish continues to evolve, these small adjustments help us honor the beauty, reverence, and vibrancy of all our Sunday liturgies.

As a community of faith, let us join our hearts in prayer for an end to the many different wars and conflicts that are taking place across the globe. In these troubled times, we seek God's mercy and guidance for peace to prevail in these regions and throughout the world. Together, through our collective prayers and actions, may we contribute to a world marked by peace, justice, and love.

*Peace, Father Kearney*

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*Queridos feligreses y amigos de Ascensión:*

*Hoy es el Domingo Gaudete. El Domingo Gaudete se celebra siempre el tercer domingo de Adviento. Gaudete, tomado de la primera palabra de la antífona de entrada, significa «alégrense». El color púrpura penitencial del Adviento se sustituye hoy por el rosa, el color de la alegría. Hoy se enciende la tercera vela de la corona de Adviento. La liturgia de hoy da una pista de que algo se avecina. Posiblemente desde la Edad Media, cuando la temporada de Adviento tenía un carácter excesivamente penitencial, el color rosa señalaba con alegría que la iglesia estaba cerca de la Navidad. Aunque hoy en día el color rosa sigue siendo un signo de la alegría anticipada de la Navidad, entendemos la continuidad del Adviento como una temporada de alegre expectación. La liturgia de hoy ayuda a aumentar esa expectación que se prolongará hasta la celebración de la Navidad.*

*En muchos países latinoamericanos, es costumbre celebrar una novena de misas en las mañanas inmediatamente anteriores a la Navidad. Estas misas se llaman «Aguinaldos». Con ese fin, celebraremos estas misas matutinas los 8 días anteriores al 25 de diciembre (incluidos el sábado y el domingo). Las misas comienzan este miércoles (17 de diciembre) y continúan hasta el miércoles 24 de diciembre (incluido). Las misas serán a las 6:00 a. m., seguidas de chocolate caliente o café. Las misas se celebrarán en español. Son misas con música y muy inspiradoras. Todos están invitados a asistir.*

*Mañana (lunes, 15 de diciembre) ha sido nuevamente designado por la Arquidiócesis de Nueva York (y la Diócesis de Brooklyn) como el Lunes de Reconciliación. Mañana se escucharán confesiones en todas las iglesias de la Arquidiócesis de Nueva York y en la Diócesis de Brooklyn. Debido a nuestra misa vespertina, las confesiones aquí en Ascension se escucharán de 3 a 7 p. m.*

*Una vez más, como comunidad de Ascensión, tenemos mucho por lo que estar agradecidos. Una vez más, pedimos a cada asalariado que considere hacer una donación monetaria de entre 250 y 500 dólares para la colecta de Navidad, si puede. Agradecemos cualquier cantidad que pueda aportar. También me gustaría*

invitar y animar una vez más a todos a que consideren nuestro sistema automatizado de donaciones: Faith Direct (el código de la iglesia Ascension es «NY588»). Realmente necesitamos más apoyo para Ascension a través de donaciones en línea. Por favor, consulten el enlace de Faith Direct: <https://ascensionchurchnyc.org/httpsmembershipfaithdirectnetgivenowny588>

Por último, les recuerdo que a partir del domingo 4 de enero de 2026, la misa en español de las 9:30 a. m. se adelantará 15 minutos, a las 9:15 a. m. Este pequeño ajuste garantizará una transición más fluida entre la misa de las 9:15 a. m. y nuestra creciente misa en inglés de las 11:00 a. m., lo que permitirá a cada comunidad disponer del tiempo y el espacio necesarios para celebrar plenamente y sin prisas. A medida que nuestra parroquia, rica en diversidad, sigue evolucionando, estos pequeños ajustes nos ayudan a honrar la belleza, la reverencia y la vitalidad de todas nuestras liturgias dominicales.

Como comunidad de fe, unamos nuestros corazones en oración para que cesen las numerosas guerras y conflictos que tienen lugar en todo el mundo. En estos tiempos turbulentos, buscamos la misericordia y la guía de Dios para que prevalezca la paz en estas regiones y en todo el mundo. Juntos, a través de nuestras oraciones y acciones colectivas, contribuyamos a un mundo marcado por la paz, la justicia y el amor.

Paz, Padre Kearney

## THIS WEEK *Esta semana*

### CALENDAR *Calendario*

#### Saturday, *sábado*

##### 12.13

9am-2pm St. Vincent food/clothing distribution (Center)  
 11am-1pm Choir dress rehearsal (Church)  
 1-4pm Decorating of the church with trees/wreaths  
 4-5pm Confessions  
 4-10pm Christmas Party for the Spanish (Center)  
 5:30pm Bilingual mass with cantor & organ

#### Sunday, *domingo* (Advent III "Gaudete")

##### 12.14

9:25-10:45am Choir rehearsal (Parish Center)  
 9:30am Misa en Español  
 9:30-10:30am Religious Education (Center and School Cafeteria)  
 11am English mass with choir and organ (Church)  
 11am-12pm Order of Christian Initiation of Adults/OCIA in Spanish (Library)  
 12:30pm Misa en Español  
 1:45pm Choir warmup for 3pm concert (Center and Church)  
 2pm Spanish baptism (Church)  
 3pm Christmas Concert: Ascension Choir with organ and brass quartet (Church)  
 4:30-5:30pm Religious Education (Center and School Cafeteria)  
 5pm Jazz mass rehearsal (Church)  
 6pm English mass with jazz

#### Monday, *lunes*

##### 12.15

12noon English communion service  
 7pm Misa en Español

#### Tuesday, *martes*

##### 12.16

12noon English mass  
 7pm Misa en Español

#### Wednesday, *miércoles*

##### 12.17

12noon English communion service  
 6-8pm Men's Group Christmas Party (Center)  
 7pm Misa en Español

#### Thursday, *jueves*

##### 12.18

12noon English communion service  
 7pm Misa en Español

#### Friday, *viernes*

##### 12.19

10am Adoration/Adoración – all day (Church)  
 12noon English communion service  
 3-6pm Food Pantry assembly (Center)  
 7pm Misa en Español

#### Saturday, *sábado*

##### 12.20

10am-4pm Food Pantry distribution (Center)  
 4-5pm Confessions  
 5:30pm Bilingual mass with cantor & organ

#### Sunday, *domingo* (Advent IV)

##### 12.21

9:25-10:45am Choir rehearsal (Choir room and Parish Center)  
 9:30am Misa en Español  
 9:30-10:30am **NO RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES TODAY**  
 11am English mass with choir and organ (Church)  
 11am-12pm Order of Christian Initiation of Adults/OCIA in Spanish (Library)  
 12:30pm Misa en Español  
 3-5pm Concert by "Walkirios" – Spanish (Church)  
 4:30-5:30pm **NO RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES**  
 5pm Jazz mass rehearsal (Church)  
 6pm English mass with jazz

#### MASS INTENTIONS *Intenciones de Misas*

##### 12.13

5:30pm Nadia Dano, Domingo Antonio Heredia

##### 12.14

9:30am Benditas ánimas del purgatorio, Domingo Antonio Heredia, Epifanio Veras, Acción de gracias a San Judas Tadeo  
 11am Fritz C. Smith, Jr. (father of Preston Smith)  
 12:30pm María Patricia Angarita Pulido, Aniel García, Aniel García Jr., Rafael Reynoso, Ana Reynoso

##### 12.15

7pm Benditas ánimas del purgatorio, Rafael Marino Correa

##### 12.16

12pm Rafael Baldemora, Maria Matilde Nuñez, Manuel Nuñez, Luis Nuñez  
 7pm Benditas ánimas del purgatorio, Nelly Cruz

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- 12.17**  
7pm *Benditas ánimas del purgatorio*, Rafaela Francisca Castillo, Nelly Cruz
- 12.18**  
7pm *Benditas ánimas del purgatorio*, María Rosa Esperanza Martínez, Angelina Rodríguez, Evelyn Pichardo, Nelly Cruz
- 12.19**  
7pm *Benditas ánimas del purgatorio*, Luis Antonio Peña Valdez, Humberto Anderson Valdez, Nelly Cruz
- 12.20**  
5:30pm Leticia Gonzalez, Nelly Cruz

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK** *Lecturas de la semana*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent** (“Gaudete”) Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

**Monday [Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church] Memorial** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday** Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Lk 7:18b-23

**Thursday** Is 54:1-10/Lk 7:24-30

**Friday** Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Jn 5:33-36

**Saturday [Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church] Optional Memorial** Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38

**All are welcome, especially newcomers and visitors.**

Following mass you are encouraged to introduce yourself to the ushers and complete a visitor’s card. Interested in receiving Flocknotes/Parish news?

*Todos son bienvenidos. Se anima a los recién llegados y visitantes a que, tras la misa, se presenten a los ujieres y rellenen una tarjeta de visitante. ¿Le interesa recibir Flocknotes/noticias de la parroquia?*



**Thank you for your weekly support of Ascension.**

Please consider a gift of any amount through:

*Gracias por su apoyo semanal a Ascension. Por favor, considere hacer una donación de cualquier importe a través de:*

Flocknotes



Faith Direct



**ATTEND TODAY!**  
**14 DECEMBER – ADVENT III**

**FREE CONCERT AT 3PM**

**(DEDICATED TO RESIDENTS OF 201 WEST 107<sup>TH</sup> STREET.)**

**DANIEL PINKHAM’S**  
**CHRISTMAS CANTATA**

**(PLUS ANTHEMS & CONGREGATIONAL CAROLS)**

SUNG BY ASCENSION CHOIR

PRESTON SMITH, *CONDUCTOR*

GUEST ORGANIST JASON ROBERTS & BRASS QUARTET  
*(DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH)*

**The Church of the Ascension**

**TOY DRIVE**

Bring joy this Christmas by donating to families in need

- New Unwrapped Toys For All Ages
- New Unwrapped Gifts For Teens
- Wrapping Paper/Tape

Donations collected through 12/19/25

Ways to give:

- Leave donations in the box in the rectory
- Ship directly to rectory  
C/O Ascension Toy Drive
- Ship through Target Registry using QR code:

**RECUERDA:**

**A PARTIR DEL DOMINGO 4 DE ENERO 2026 (EPIFANÍA) LA MISA DE LAS 9:30 AM EN ESPAÑOL SE ADELANTARÁ 15 MINUTOS, A LAS 9:15 AM.**

**THE FAMILY OF FRITZ C. SMITH, JR. (1933-2025)**

EXPRESSES APPRECIATION FOR THE MANY ACTS OF KINDNESS AND SYMPATHY SHOWN TO THEM IN THEIR RECENT LOSS.

THANK YOU FOR THE FLOWERS AND CARDS.

-PRESTON



**Christmas Eve:**

**5:15pm** Prelude music

**5:30pm** Mass with full choir, organ and trumpet (English)

**9:30pm** Lessons and Carols

**10:00pm** Mass with full choir, organ and trumpet (English, with bilingual readings and homily)

**Christmas Day:**

**10:45am** Prelude music

**11:00am** Mass with full choir and organ (English)

**12:30pm** Mass with *Walkirios* musicians (Spanish)