

---

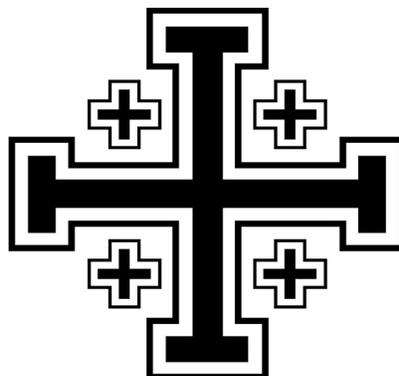
# The Church of the Ascension

*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, 1 FEBRUARY 2026**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
***IV DOMINGO ORDINARIO***

## WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

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

9:15 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

---

## 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:*

This Thursday and Friday – February 5th and 6 – the Catholic community of New York and the wider Church will witness a historic moment in the life of the local Church as Bishop Ronald A. Hicks is formally installed as the next Archbishop of New York. After weeks of anticipation and prayer, we are invited to rejoice in this new chapter of leadership for the Archdiocese, and to offer Archbishop-elect Hicks our prayers, support, and encouragement.

Ronald Hicks was born on August 4, 1967, in Harvey, Illinois, and grew up in a suburb of Chicago. From an early age, he felt drawn to the priesthood. He attended Quigley Preparatory Seminary South before earning a Bachelor's degree in philosophy at Loyola University Chicago and both a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry from the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary. He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago on May 21, 1994.

Father Hicks served faithfully in parish ministry and seminary formation before embarking on a distinctive chapter of missionary service in Latin America. Beginning in 2005, he spent five years in El Salvador as the regional director of Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH), a Catholic home for orphaned and abandoned children serving more than 3,000 young people across Latin America and the Caribbean. During that time, he learned to speak Spanish fluently and deepened his pastoral heart for parishioners, especially the marginalized and immigrant communities.

Upon returning to the United States, Father Hicks returned to seminary formation and later served as vicar general of the Archdiocese of Chicago. In 2018, Pope Francis named him an auxiliary bishop of Chicago, and in 2020, he was appointed the sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois – a vibrant diocese of over half a million Catholics in a mix of urban, suburban, and rural communities adjacent to Chicago. As Bishop of Joliet, Bishop Hicks was known for his pastoral care, his commitment to priestly formation, and his engagement with diverse parish communities. His ministry in Joliet prepared him well for the broader responsibilities he will now assume in New York.

This Thursday, February 5th, the Archdiocese of New York will gather for Vespers – Evening Prayer – at St. Patrick's Cathedral, when Bishop Hicks will take canonical possession of the Archdiocese. This ancient liturgical act marks the moment he officially becomes the shepherd of the local Church of New York in the eyes of the Church and civil law.

Then, on Friday, February 6th, Archbishop-elect Hicks will be the principal celebrant of the Mass of Installation at St. Patrick's Cathedral. This solemn Eucharist will be the public inauguration of his ministry as the Metropolitan Archbishop of New York, one of the

largest and most culturally diverse Catholic communities in the United States, counting more than 2.5 million Catholics from a staggering array of backgrounds, cultures, and traditions.

As the Ascension community, we wholeheartedly offer Archbishop Hicks our prayers and support in these early days of his new ministry. His task is both sacred and immense: to shepherd this great local Church with compassion, courage, and fidelity to the Gospel. He now carries the responsibility of caring for more than 2.5 million Catholics from every culture and corner of the world – a Church as diverse as the city itself.

In a special way, he will be called to protect and defend the most vulnerable among us: the poor, the elderly, families struggling to make ends meet, and especially our immigrant brothers and sisters. So many of these neighbors – often unseen and underappreciated – are the very people who keep a city like New York running each day through their hard work, faith, and quiet sacrifice. The Church must always be a place of welcome, dignity, and advocacy for them, and we trust that Archbishop Hicks' years of ministry in Latin America and with immigrant communities have prepared his heart well for this mission.

May the Lord grant him wisdom and strength as he leads the Archdiocese in faith, hope, and love.

I am also happy to share that we have invited Archbishop Hicks to celebrate the Feast of the Ascension with us on Thursday, May 14. We await his reply with joyful hope and look forward to welcoming him to our parish community.

*Peace, Father Kearney*

---

*Queridos feligreses y amigos de Ascensión:*

Este jueves y viernes, 5 y 6 de febrero, la comunidad católica de Nueva York y la Iglesia en general serán testigos de un momento histórico en la vida de la Iglesia local, con la instalación formal del obispo Ronald A. Hicks como el próximo Arzobispo de Nueva York. Después de semanas de expectativa y oración, se nos invita a regocijarnos en este nuevo capítulo de liderazgo para la Arquidiócesis y a ofrecer al Arzobispo electo Hicks nuestras oraciones, apoyo y aliento.

Ronald Hicks nació el 4 de agosto de 1967 en Harvey, Illinois, y creció en un suburbio de Chicago. Desde temprana edad, sintió la vocación al sacerdocio. Asistió al Seminario Preparatorio Quigley South antes de obtener una licenciatura en filosofía en la Universidad Loyola de Chicago y una Maestría en Divinidad y un Doctorado en Ministerio de la Universidad de St. Mary of the Lake/Seminario Mundelein. Fue ordenado sacerdote para la Arquidiócesis de Chicago el 21 de mayo de 1994.

El Padre Hicks sirvió fielmente en el ministerio parroquial y la formación sacerdotal antes de emprender un capítulo distintivo de servicio misionero

en América Latina. A partir de 2005, pasó cinco años en El Salvador como director regional de Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH), un hogar católico para niños huérfanos y abandonados que atiende a más de 3.000 jóvenes en América Latina y el Caribe. Durante ese tiempo, aprendió a hablar español con fluidez y profundizó su corazón pastoral hacia los feligreses, especialmente las comunidades marginadas e inmigrantes.

Al regresar a los Estados Unidos, el Padre Hicks retomó la formación sacerdotal y posteriormente sirvió como vicario general de la Arquidiócesis de Chicago. En 2018, el Papa Francisco lo nombró obispo auxiliar de Chicago, y en 2020, fue nombrado sexto Obispo de la Diócesis de Joliet, Illinois, una diócesis vibrante con más de medio millón de católicos en una mezcla de comunidades urbanas, suburbanas y rurales adyacentes a Chicago.

Como Obispo de Joliet, el Obispo Hicks fue conocido por su cuidado pastoral, su compromiso con la formación sacerdotal y su participación con diversas comunidades parroquiales. Su ministerio en Joliet lo preparó bien para las responsabilidades más amplias que ahora asumirá en Nueva York. Este jueves 5 de febrero, la Arquidiócesis de Nueva York se reunirá para las Vísperas —la Oración Vespertina— en la Catedral de San Patricio, donde el Obispo Hicks tomará posesión canónica de la Arquidiócesis. Este antiguo acto litúrgico marca el momento en que se convierte oficialmente en el pastor de la Iglesia local de Nueva York, tanto ante la Iglesia como ante la ley civil.

Luego, el viernes 6 de febrero, el Arzobispo electo Hicks será el celebrante principal de la Misa de Instalación en la Catedral de San Patricio. Esta solemne Eucaristía será la inauguración pública de su ministerio como Arzobispo Metropolitano de Nueva York, una de las comunidades católicas más grandes y culturalmente diversas de los Estados Unidos, con más de 2.5 millones de católicos de una asombrosa variedad de orígenes, culturas y tradiciones.

Como comunidad de la Ascensión, ofrecemos de todo corazón al Arzobispo Hicks nuestras oraciones y apoyo en estos primeros días de su nuevo ministerio. Su tarea es sagrada e inmensa: pastorear esta gran Iglesia local con compasión, valentía y fidelidad al Evangelio. Ahora tiene la responsabilidad de cuidar a más de 2.5 millones de católicos de todas las culturas y rincones del mundo, una Iglesia tan diversa como la propia ciudad.

De manera especial, estará llamado a proteger y defender a los más vulnerables entre nosotros: los pobres, los ancianos, las familias que luchan por llegar a fin de mes y, en particular, a nuestros hermanos y hermanas inmigrantes. Muchos de estos vecinos, a menudo invisibles y poco valorados, son quienes, con su arduo trabajo, fe y sacrificio silencioso, hacen que una ciudad como Nueva York funcione cada día. La

Iglesia siempre debe ser un lugar de acogida, dignidad y defensa para ellos, y confiamos en que los años de ministerio del Arzobispo Hicks en América Latina y con las comunidades inmigrantes han preparado bien su corazón para esta misión.

Que el Señor le conceda sabiduría y fortaleza mientras guía a la Arquidiócesis en la fe, la esperanza y el amor. También me complace compartir que hemos invitado al Arzobispo Hicks a celebrar la Fiesta de la Ascensión con nosotros el jueves 14 de mayo. Esperamos su respuesta con gozosa esperanza y deseamos darle la bienvenida a nuestra comunidad parroquial.

*Paz, Padre Kearney*

## **THIS WEEK** *Esta semana*

### **CALENDAR** *Calendario*

#### **Sunday, domingo (4th Sun in Ord Time)**

##### **02.01**

- 9am-12:30pm Spanish prayer retreat with Petra Falcon  
*(Dining room)*
- 9:15am *Misa en Español*
- 9:20am Choir rehearsal *(Choir room & Center)*
- 9:30-10:30am Religious Education *(Cafeteria & Library)*
- 11am English mass with *organ & choir (Church)*
- 11am-12pm Order of Christian Initiation of Adults/OCIA in Spanish *(Library)*
- 12:30pm *Misa en Español*
- 2-4pm Candlemas Spanish party *(Center)*
- 4:30-5:30pm Religious Education *(Cafeteria & Library)*
- 5pm Jazz mass rehearsal *(Church)*
- 6pm English mass *with jazz*

#### **Monday, lunes (Candlemas)**

##### **02.02**

- 12noon English communion service
- 6pm Neighborhood assn. meeting *(Library)*
- 7pm *Misa en Español*

#### **Tuesday, martes (Memorial of Saint Blaise)**

##### **02.03**

- 12noon English mass with Blessing of Throats
- 6-10pm Culinary school *(Center)*
- 7pm *Misa en Español con la bendición de las gargantas*
- 7-8:30pm OCIA *(Dining room)*

#### **Wednesday, miércoles**

##### **02.04**

- 12noon English communion service
- 6:30-8:45pm Men's group *(Center)*
- 7pm *Misa en Español*

#### **Thursday, jueves**

##### **02.05**

- 11am English mass
- 12:30pm *Misa en Español*
- 7pm *Misa en Español*
- 7:30pm Emaus group *(Center)*

#### **Friday, viernes**

##### **02.06**

- 10am Adoration/Adoración – *all day (Church)*
- 12noon English communion service
- 7pm *Misa en Español*

## Saturday, *sábado*

02.07

4-5pm Confessions  
5:30pm Bilingual mass with cantor & organ

## Sunday, *domingo* (5th Sun in Ord Time)

02.08

9:15am *Misa en Español*  
9:20am Choir rehearsal (Choir room & Center)  
9:30-10:30am Religious Education (Cafeteria & Library)  
11am English mass with organ & choir (Church)  
12:10pm Monthly coffee hour (Dining room)  
11am-12pm Order of Christian Initiation of Adults/OCIA in Spanish (Library)  
12:30pm *Misa en Español*  
4:30-5:30pm Religious Education (Cafeteria & Library)  
5pm Jazz mass rehearsal (Church)  
6pm English mass with jazz

## MASS INTENTIONS *Intenciones de Misas*

Sat, 01.31

5:30pm Gloria Carrasco

Sun, 02.01

9:15am *Ánimas del purgatorio, Acción de gracias a la Virgen de la Altagracia*, Augusto Madera, Gloria Carrasco  
11am Joseph Kearney  
12:30pm Aniel García  
6pm Mary Ella Nugent

Mon, 02.02

7pm *Ánimas del Purgatorio*, Dionicio Antonio Rodríguez, Por los difuntos de familia Rodríguez

Tues, 02.03

7pm *Ánimas del Purgatorio*, Rafael de Peña

Wed, 02.04

7pm *Animas del Purgatorio*

Thurs, 02.05

7pm *Ánimas del Purgatorio*

Fri, 02.06

7pm *Ánimas del Purgatorio*, Rebeca Rueda, Irene Nene Jordán, Ernesto Valverde

Sat, 02.07

5:30pm Mario Rojas

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

### *Lecturas de la semana*

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** Dt 18:15-20/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28

**Monday [Presentation of the Lord Feast]** Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

**Tuesday [Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr]** Heb 12:1-4/Mk 5:21-43

**Wednesday** Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Mk 6:1-6

**Thursday [Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr Memorial]** Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Mk 6:7-13

**Friday [Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs Memorial]** Heb 13:1-8/Mk 6:14-29

**Saturday [Saint Jerome Emiliani; Saint Josephine Bakhita, Virgin]** Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Mk 6:30-34

## Last week's collections:

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – \$2,495

**Thank you for your weekly support of Ascension.** Please consider a gift of any amount: *Gracias por su apoyo semanal a Ascension. Por favor, considere hacer una donación de cualquier importe a través de:*

Flocknotes



Faith Direct



## 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?*



## The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple (known as "Candlemas")

On Candlemas, celebrated annually on February 2nd, many Christians believe that Jesus' mother Mary presented him to God at the Temple in Jerusalem after observing the traditional 40-day period of purification following his birth. According to a New Testament gospel, a devout and elderly Jewish man named Simeon held the baby in his arms and said that Jesus would be a light "to lighten the Gentiles" (Luke 2: 32). Simeon's words became known as the *Nunc dimittis*. It is for this metaphor of light and hence the blessing of candles that we call it "Candlemas." (Some Christians even observe the practice of leaving Christmas decorations up until Candlemas.) **Today at 11am** we will celebrate (a day early) the Candlemas liturgy and procession of light as the entrance rite. Then the mass proceeds with the appointed readings for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (since Candlemas is officially on Monday, February 2.) The Choir sings "When to the Temple Mary went" (Johann Eckard) and a setting of the *Nunc dimittis* (Ralph Vaughan Williams).