



Love is Born

St. Anastasia Catholic Church

Welcome

- For more than a century, St. Anastasia Parish has been providing leadership in multiple areas of: catechetical training, spiritual formation, spiritual nourishment through sacraments, Sacred Liturgy, devotional opportunities, pilgrimages and much more. These blessings are forging and deepening relationships, building bridges in our community, unifying our parish and school and serving the spiritual needs of the City of Fort Pierce. We are a parish of faith, each of us, growing in our commitment to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. We strive daily to support each other and our neighbor with our time, talents and treasures. We participate in God's Mission and His commissioning to, "...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28: 19-20).

St. Anastasia Catholic Church

PASTOR

FR. RICHARD GEORGE II

PAROCHIAL VICAR

FR. JACOB EDWIN

PRIEST ASSISTING

FR. JAMES BOWMAN

SAN JUAN DIEGO CENTRO

FR. JAMIE DORADO

DIRECTOR OF PARISH DEVELOPMENT

MELANIE WILES

ST. ANASTASIA SCHOOL

DR. KEVIN HOFFNER



MASS TIMES

MONDAY - SATURDAY...

8:15AM

SATURDAY...4:00PM VIGIL

SUNDAY...7:45AM, 9:30AM,

11:30AM & 5:00PM

ADORATION CHAPEL

NOW OPEN WITH ACCESS CODE

CONFESSION

SATURDAYS: 3:00PM - 4:00PM

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Connect with Us

**Christmas is a great time of celebration – but let us never forget Christ.
The celebration of the Birth of Baby Jesus demands space in our hearts!**

**Let us take utmost care that during this Christmas, Jesus, the Tiny and
Tender Baby does not get drowned in the avalanche of cakes and sweets.**

Buried in the frenzy of shopping and decorations.

Drunk in the dirt of revelry and partying.

Lost in the celebrations with Santa Claus and exchanging of gifts.

**Rather, let us make sure that Jesus, the precious and beautiful infant,
is held close to the heart and given a pledge of our life and love.**

Is lavished with kisses of our true promises and renewed consecration.

**Is showered with true smiles of our Love for Him, His Word, His Eucharist &
His Church.**

Yes, Jesus is, and He alone is, and ought to be, the Reason for this Season!

**May He be born, not just in the crib in houses or church, but in our Hearts and
Lives! Happy Birthday to our Dearest and Beloved Baby Jesus!**

**Congratulations to our Blessed Mamma for Her “Yes” and to Blessed Joseph
for his care!**



**A Blessed &
Holy Christmas to All!**

Father Edwin



The Birth of Jesus



In the land of Judea, in the days of Herod the kind, there lived in the town of Nazareth a young woman named Mary. She was promised in marriage to a carpenter named Joseph, who belonged to family that was descended from David, the great King of Israel.

One day, some time before Mary's marriage to Joseph, the angel Gabriel, sent by God, appeared to Mary as she sat in her house. "Hail, most favored one, the Lord is with you," he told her. "Blessed are you among women."

The angel's greeting confused and troubled Mary. "Don't be afraid," he said to her. "You have found favor with God. Soon, you will have a son, and you shall call him Jesus. He will be great and his kingdom will have no end."

Mary was more confused than ever. "How can this be?" she asked the angel. "I am not yet Joseph's wife."

"The Holy Spirit will come to you," the angel answered." The son born to you will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God."

Then the angel told Mary more surprising news. Her cousin, Elizabeth who was much older than Mary, was having a child. For years, she and Zacharias, her husband, had been without children, but now at last they were expecting a baby. "With God, all is possible," said the angel to Mary.

"I am the servant of the Lord," Mary answered. "Let it happen as you say." When she looked again, the angel was gone.

Mary told no one of the angel's visit, but one morning soon after, she went up into the hill country to visit her cousin. Just as the angel had said, Elizabeth was expecting a child. As Mary entered the house, the baby leaped in Elizabeth's womb. Elizabeth was filled with

God is with Us

the Holy Spirit, and suddenly she knew about Mary's baby, and who the child was to be.

"You are blessed among women, and blessed is your child," was Elizabeth's joyful greeting to her young cousin in the doorway.

Mary's faith in God grew strong, and she was troubled no longer. "My soul praises the Lord, and I rejoice in God," she returned her cousin's greeting. "For he has done great things to me. From now on, all people will call me blessed."

Mary stayed with Elizabeth and Zacharias for three months then went home to Nazareth. Soon after, Elizabeth's child was born, a son whom she and Zacharias called John.

One night in Nazareth, while Joseph slept, an angel appeared to him in a dream. "Take Mary as your wife," the angel said. "She is carrying a child, but it is of the Holy Spirit. You shall call him Jesus, for he will save people from their sins."

So Joseph and Mary were soon married, and the time for the birth of the child drew near.

The kingdom of Judea, in those days, was under the rule of the Romans. The Jewish people followed their own customs, but they had to obey the laws made by the Romans. From the Emperor Augustus, a command went out announcing a new tax. Each man was to go to the place of his birth and register there for the tax.

So Joseph left Nazareth with Mary and traveled to Bethlehem, where the family of King

David lived. The little town was crowded with visitors like Joseph and Mary. Any minute now, Mary's child was to be born, but Joseph and Mary could find no room in any of the inns. Finally, a kindly innkeeper offered them a stable to shelter them for the night.

There Mary gave birth to her son. She wrapped the baby in soft swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger to sleep.

Not far away, some shepherds were watching over their sheep in the fields. They looked up and saw an angel of the Lord coming down to them. The glory of the Lord shone all around, and the shepherds were afraid.

"Do not fear, for I bring you news of great joy," the angel said to the shepherds. "Today, a Savior has been born to you – the Messiah who will save all the people. You will find him in Bethlehem, a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Suddenly, all around, there was the singing of heavenly voices, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill toward men."

Then the angel was gone. "Let us go see this baby that the Lord has told us about," the shepherds said to one another. They hurried to Bethlehem and, after some searching, found the stable where Mary and Joseph were staying with the baby.

After they saw him. The shepherds told everyone, far and wide about the baby and the angel. Then they returned to their flocks, praising God for what they had heard and saw.

The dark night of the soul

Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito, Dioceses of Palm Beach



Pope Francis has been addressing the subject of discernment during his Wednesday audiences. This is an important subject for him, as a Jesuit, since discernment is a central part of the spirituality of the

founder of the Jesuits, St. Ignatius of Loyola. St. Ignatius expressed the principles of discernment in his monumental work, “The Spiritual Exercises.”

The pope has most recently discussed the nature of consolation and desolation as part of discernment. He explained how these dispositions need to be recognized and accepted in the process of making a good decision, as it is necessary to understand what motivates us so as not to make hasty decisions spurred by the emotion of the moment.

We have all had experiences of consolation and desolation within our lives, and we continue to have them frequently. Consolation certainly is a

more acceptable experience in its positive influence. However, as Pope Francis points out, desolation is also a positive influence and can many times help us, despite its negative experience. In fact, desolation is a necessary part of life.

Desolation can naturally occur through the difficult things we face in life, such as the loss of a loved one, an illness, a grave disappointment, a bad day or many other major or minor setbacks. Desolation can also occur in our spiritual life when it seems that God is not present to us, when we find it difficult to pray or when there is a state of feeling empty. Pope Francis explains that, “Desolation causes an ‘unrest in the soul’: when one is sad it is as if the soul is shaken. It keeps us alert, it fosters vigilance and humility, and protects us from the whims of fancy. These are indispensable conditions for progress in life, and hence also in the spiritual life.”

During this season of Advent, as we prepare for Christmas, whether we realize it or not, we experience many consolations as well as desolations. We are consoled by the realization of the presence of Christ in our lives as we prepare to celebrate His birth, but we feel desolation when His presence does not seem to be there. We are



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especially desolate when the distractions of shopping and preparing for Christmas take away our peace. We especially experience desolation when the existence of the perfect Christmas, in which family life has no tension and the perfect gift is given and received, just does not happen. It is good for us to realize that the perfect Christmas will never happen in this world. Advent is a good time to make decisions based on our consolations and desolations, and especially to use the desolations to grow in our relationship with the Lord.

On Dec. 15, we will celebrate the feast of St. John of the Cross, a mystic of the 16th century who was quite familiar with the consolations and desolations that are experienced in life and the spiritual life. Probably his best-known work is “The Dark Night of the Soul,” in which he describes how the soul goes forth under the cover of night to meet God. Many have found this work to be a source of great insight which touches every aspect of the spiritual life. One aspect is that God is closest to us when He may seem farthest away. Rather than entering more and more deeply into oneself in the experience of desolation, St. John of the Cross encourages us to look upward, outside of ourselves, to God.

He reminds us that even when we feel isolated, we never are since Christ is always close to us. The darkest time can be the brightest if we have the proper perspective of faith.

We soon will be approaching, on Dec. 21, the shortest day of the year in terms of daylight. Shortly after that, daylight hours will slowly begin to increase each day. This is a reminder of nature that darkness brings light even when it seems not present. The dark night leads to the light of Christ.

As we continue in this season of Advent, as we celebrate the feast of St. John of the Cross and as we approach the darkest day of the year, Pope Francis’ words are good ones to keep before us: “Do not fear desolation, face it with perseverance. Do not evade it. And in desolation, try to find Christ’s Heart, to find the Lord. And the answer will always come, always!”

**Jesus
is the
Reason
for the
Season**



RECOMMIT

Increased Offertory
Online Giving

**30 Ministries &
Supported Charities**



**2,000 Parishioners
700+ Families**

ONE HOLY CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH

THANKS TO ALL THOSE
WHO HAVE RECOMMITTED SO FAR

Please look for our Recommit Campaign in your mailbox or our pews and be sure to return your pledge card or drop it in the offertory basket.

OUR GROWING PARISH
NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT



What Can I Give Jesus for Christmas?

Dear Jesus,
Materially, there is nothing I can give You. That is not something You want. You desire ME. So, in the inner recesses of my heart I give you: the Gold of my will, the Incense of my adoration, the Myrrh of my pains. and then I ask the Blessed Mother to lovingly place You in my heart. I want this will of mine to be yours, that you may exchange it with Your Divine Will.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY DECEMBER 24th:
4:00pm: Parishioners of St. Anastasia
For the Candle Wall Intentions
9:00pm: Parishioners of St. Anastasia
For the Candle Wall Intentions

SUNDAY DECEMBER 25th:
7:45am: Parishioners of St. Anastasia
For the Candle Wall Intentions
9:30am: Parishioners of St. Anastasia &
For the Candle Wall Intentions
11:30am: Parishioners of St. Anastasia
For the Candle Wall Intentions

No 5:00PM

MONDAY DECEMBER 26th:
8:15am: † Matthew Noelke
by Mike & Susan O'Connor
For the Candle Wall Intentions

TUESDAY DECEMBER 27th:
8:15am: † Joe Balls by Laverne Siters
For the Candle Wall Intentions

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 28th:
8:15am: Fr. George by Craig & Patty
For the Candle Wall Intentions

THURSDAY DECEMBER 29th:
8:15am: Fr. George by Craig & Patty
For the Candle Wall Intentions

FRIDAY DECEMBER 30th:
8:15am: Isabelle Macias - Happy Birthday
by Family
For the Candle Wall Intentions

SATURDAY DECEMBER 31st:
8:15am: Mary Anne Nedavni - Happy Birthday
by Mom
For the Candle Wall Intentions
4:00pm: Nancy Perez by Trabulsy Family
For the Candle Wall Intentions

SUNDAY JANUARY 1st:
7:45am: Garey Bosworth
by Carole Jean
For the Candle Wall Intentions
9:30am: Parishioners of St. Anastasia &
Delapaz, Khuc-Lemus &
Torres Hurtado Families
as New Parishioners
For the Candle Wall Intentions
11:30am: Healing of Brenda Voyer by Family
For the Candle Wall Intentions
5:00PM Susan Anastasio by Denise & Vic Battista
For the Candle Wall Intentions

MONDAY JANUARY 2nd:
8:15am: † Alfonso Giron
by Glorida Pauls
For the Candle Wall Intentions

TUESDAY JANUARY 3rd:
8:15am: † Alfonso Giron
by Glorida Pauls
For the Candle Wall Intentions

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 4th:
8:15am: Bertha Giron
by Glorida Pauls
For the Candle Wall Intentions

THURSDAY JANUARY 5th:
8:15am: † † Lucy Lenzi & Lugene Longo
by Daughther / Sister
For the Candle Wall Intentions

FRIDAY JANUARY 6th:
8:15am: † Linda Muscolino
by Nieces & Nephews
For the Candle Wall Intentions

SATURDAY JANUARY 7th:
8:15am: Nadia Dimitroff - Happy Birthday
by Nieces & Nephews
For the Candle Wall Intentions
4:00pm: † Mike Hogan
by Rise Family
For the Candle Wall Intentions

SUNDAY JANUARY 8th:
7:45am: † Margaret Murphy
by Tom Murphy & Family
For the Candle Wall Intentions
9:30am: Parishioners of St. Anastasia & Immaculate
DeMartino, Fred Denton & Ortiz & Cenedia
Families - New Parishioners
For the Candle Wall Intentions
11:30am: † Rosaire Voyer
by wife Claire
For the Candle Wall Intentions
5:00PM † Paul Johnstone
by Mom, James & Russ
For the Candle Wall Intentions



Adoration Chapel Candles

December 30th - January 6th: For the Intentions of Darlene Francis & Father Edwin by Charles and Angela Martignetti

January 7th - January 18th: For the Intentions of Father Bowman & Father George by Charles and Angela Martignetti

A Little Story for Christmas



Before Emmanuel was born, his brother and sister felt that they were enough - and they certainly kept things busy at home. There was a lot of noise in the house after school when they were fighting for the couch, the TV, or the favorite snack. One time, even as Christmas drew near, there were a lot of loud temper tantrums: she had ruined his video game and he had thrown her doll and taken her favorite snack. For these two, it was almost like Emmanuel would never come.

They weren't really expecting him, but Mom and Dad knew that he would arrive. They tried to remind the kids but it wasn't easy. However, on December 25th, all was quiet in the house. And that was the day Emmanuel came too, very quietly. He could have been the centre of attention, but he was the kind of baby that could not be heard unless you were very quiet. His brother and sister began to understand that. Actually it was like that even when he was older. It was because you didn't expect him, they said.

Emmanuel was Jesus, and we are his brothers and sisters. A little noisy at times, a little selfish, and sometimes we just don't expect him. We feel that we are enough. Even today, unless we stop to visit him, and come up quietly to the crib to talk to him in our hearts, we might never realize that God has come.

