

Good News!

Douglaston/Little Neck, New York

Saint
Anastasia
Church

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 15, 2026



Jesus said to his disciples: "I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven."

"You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment. But I say to you, whoever is angry with brother will be liable to judgment."

"You have heard that it was said, You shall not commit adultery. But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

"Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow. But I say to you, do not swear at all. Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.' Anything more is from the evil one." — Matthew 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37



45-14 245th St. (Rev. John J. Gribbon Way)
Douglaston, NY 11362-1135

StA.NYC
St. Anastasia Church

Phone: (718) 631-4454
Fax: (718) 631-1774

Website: www.sta.nyc
Email: info@sta.nyc

saint Anastasia church

Established 1915

Rectory Office Hours

Monday — Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

(718) 631-4454

Parish Mission Statement

To Proclaim the good news of Christ's love through our active involvement, as a Parish community, in works of Charity, Faith, Worship and Justice.

All Are Welcome!

NO MATTER what your present status is in the Catholic Church;
NO MATTER your family situation;
NO MATTER where you are in the practice of faith;
NO MATTER what your personal history, age, background;
NO MATTER what your self-image may be;
YOU are invited, welcomed, respected & loved at St. Anastasia

Parish Directory

Rev. David J. Dettmer
PASTOR

Rev. Lianjiang P. Bai
PAROCHIAL VICAR

Deacon Joseph Chu
ASSOCIATE STAFF MEMBER

Rev. Anthony Rucando
IN RESIDENCE

Mrs. Eula Buckley
SECRETARY

Mrs. Mary Burns
BOOKKEEPER

Faith Formation & School of Religion

PHONE (718) 225-5191
EMAIL dff@sta.nyc

Mrs. Rose Ruesing
DIRECTOR

Music Ministry

Mrs. Stephanie Larkin
DIRECTOR

Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy

Mrs. Miriam Bonici
PRINCIPAL

45-11 245th Street (Rev. John J. Gribbon Way)
Douglaston, NY 11362-1134

PHONES: (718) 631-3153, (718) 631-3155

WEB SITE: www.dwcaonline.org

EMAIL: dwisdom@dwcaonline.org

Parish Membership

All new families are welcome to the Parish and every family should be properly registered. Registration forms are available at the Rectory or in the rear of the church.

Use of the electronic giving (PARISHSOFT/Faith Direct) or envelope system is required if statement of contribution is sought for tax purposes. All parishioners should use either one of the donation forms. If you move or change your address, please notify the Rectory by mail.

Sacrament of Baptism

Please call the Rectory or Faith Formation Office for dates of baptisms. No more than four families will be scheduled for a Baptism at one time. Please call the Rectory at 718-631-4454 or the Faith Formation Office at 718-225-5191. After the initial intake, you will be asked to go to the Rectory to pick up a checklist and handbook. You will also have to schedule a private class and will need a copy of your child's birth certificate.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Time available: Saturday 11 AM—3 PM and Sunday 2:30 PM—3 PM. Couples must make arrangements six months prior to the selected date of their marriage and fully participate in the Pre-Cana program.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

It is the process for adults wishing to become Catholic, complete their sacramental initiation, or attain full membership in the Church. For further information, please contact Mrs. Rose Ruesing.

Liturgies

Weekend Masses

- 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass on Saturday
- Sunday: 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and 12 noon

Weekday Masses

- Monday thru Saturday at 8:30 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

- Saturdays from 4:00 - 4:30 PM in the Church

Holy Days and Special Liturgies

- Mass schedules for holy days are printed on Sundays before the feasts and solemnities occur. For advance information, please call the Rectory Office

Devotions

- Miraculous Medal Novena: Mondays after the 8:30 AM Daily Mass
- Rosary: Before the Daily Mass Monday - Saturday.


Flocknote



Receive text messages to stay connected to our parish. Go to stanyc.flocknote.com to register, or text **stanyc** to 84576.

- This is a free service but your carrier's text and data rates may apply.

- Text STOP to 84576 to stop texts.



Pray the Rosary

Before the 8:30 a.m. Daily Mass
at 7:45 a.m.

Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m. in the Church

Tuesday Rosary Themes
February 3rd
Feast of the Presentation of
the Lord

February 10th
Our Lady of Lourdes and St.
Scholastica

February 17th
The Holy Face of Jesus

February 24th
Sts. Jacinta and Francisco

Join Us as We Begin the Penitential Season

ASH WEDNESDAY

8:30 a.m. Mass
4:00 p.m. Prayer Service
7:00 p.m. Mass

ASHES FOR THE HOMEBOUND WILL BE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

ST. ANASTASIA PARISH
DOUGLASTON, NY



Encounter God Daily Through FORMED.org

formed LENT CALENDAR 2026						
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15	MONDAY FEBRUARY 16	TUESDAY FEBRUARY 17	WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18	THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19	FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20	SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21
ORDINARY TIME	ORDINARY TIME	ORDINARY TIME	ASH WEDNESDAY Epistle 11 Heart of Prayer	LENT Whole 40	LENT Emmanuel Episode 1	LENT The Three Temptations with Fr. Brant Pitre
			CHILDREN Day 1 - A Time to Repent	CHILDREN Day 2 - A Time to Give Things Up	CHILDREN Day 3 - A Time to Watch Someone's Face	CHILDREN Day 4 - A Time to Cry
			SPANISH Miércoles de Ceniza	SPANISH Jueves de Pasión	SPANISH Viernes de Pasión	

As we journey through this sacred season of Lent, the Church calls us to return to what is essential: a deeper relationship with God through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Lent is the time to divest ourselves of distractions, reconcile with God, and rekindle the fire of the Holy Spirit.

St. Anastasia's subscription to FORMED.org makes this journey accessible and enriching for every day of Lent. Dive into inspiring videos, reflections, and studies that draw you closer to Christ.



Scan QR Code for
Formed Lent Calendar, or
Go to:

www.sta.nyc/lent26

ST. ANASTASIA SENIOR GROUP

EVERY TUESDAY

10:00 a.m. until 2:00p.m.

Parish Center

(corner of 245th Street and Northern Blvd).

Bring lunch, play cards and games.
Socialize with friends and make new ones!

10:00 a.m. Mahjong

11:00 a.m. Pokeno

We are looking for canasta players!

If interested, please call:

Rectorry (718-631-4454) or

Faith Formation Office (718-225-5191)

Keep a look out for new events and games!



Living the Faith

JOURNEY TO THE FOOT OF THE CROSS: BISHOP RICKEN OFFERS 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER FOR LENT

Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay, Wisconsin, former chairman of the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), offers “10 Things to Remember for Lent”:

1. Remember the formula. The Church does a good job capturing certain truths with easy-to-remember lists and formulas: 10 Commandments, 7 sacraments, 3 persons in the Trinity. For Lent, the Church gives us almost a slogan—Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving—as the three things we need to work on during the season.

2. It’s a time of prayer. Lent is essentially an act of prayer spread out over 40 days. As we pray, we go on a journey, one that hopefully brings us closer to Christ and leaves us changed by the encounter with him.

3. It’s a time to fast. With the fasts of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, meatless Fridays, and our personal disciplines interspersed, Lent is the only time many Catholics these days actually fast. And maybe that’s why it gets all the attention. “What are you giving up for Lent? Hot dogs? Beer? Jelly beans?” It’s almost a game for some of us, but fasting is actually a form of penance, which helps us turn away from sin and toward Christ.

4. It’s a time to work on discipline. The 40 days of Lent are also a good, set time to work on personal discipline in general. Instead of giving something up, it can be doing something positive. “I’m going to exercise more. I’m going to pray more. I’m going to be nicer to my family, friends, and coworkers.”

5. It’s about dying to yourself. The more serious side of Lenten discipline is that it’s about more than self-control—it’s about finding aspects of yourself that are less than Christ-like and letting them die. The suffering and death of Christ are foremost on our minds during Lent, and we join in these mysteries by suffering, dying with Christ and being resurrected in a purified form.

6. Don’t do too much. It’s tempting to make Lent some ambitious period of personal reinvention, but

it’s best to keep it simple and focused. There’s a reason the Church works on these mysteries year after year. We spend our entire lives growing closer to God. Don’t try to cram it all in one Lent. That’s a recipe for failure.

7. Lent reminds us of our weakness. Of course, even when we set simple goals for ourselves during Lent, we still have trouble keeping them. When we fast, we realize we’re all just one meal away from hunger. In both cases, Lent shows us our weakness. This can be painful, but recognizing how helpless we are makes us seek God’s help with renewed urgency and sincerity.

8. Be patient with yourself. When we’re confronted with our own weakness during Lent, the temptation is to get angry and frustrated. “What a bad person I am!” But that’s the wrong lesson. God is calling us to be patient and to see ourselves as he does, with unconditional love.

9. Reach out in charity. As we experience weakness and suffering during Lent, we should be renewed in our compassion for those who are hungry, suffering, or otherwise in need. The third part of the Lenten formula is almsgiving. It’s about more than throwing a few extra dollars in the collection plate; it’s about reaching out to others and helping them without question as a way of sharing the experience of God’s unconditional love.

10. Learn to love like Christ. Giving of ourselves in the midst of our suffering and self-denial brings us closer to loving like Christ, who suffered and poured himself out unconditionally on the Cross for all of us. Lent is a journey through the desert to the foot of the Cross on Good Friday, as we seek him out, ask his help, join in his suffering, and learn to love like him.





Fact of Faith

WHY IS LENT FORTY DAYS?

The Lenten season is a time of preparation for the liturgical celebration of the suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Christ. Many Catholics spend that time on the three practices of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is also a time to participate in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

The season of Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday until the evening of Holy Thursday. If Sundays are excluded from the count, the season lasts forty days. The forty-day length of Lent is rooted in the biblical usage of the number forty. Forty is typically indicative of a time of testing, trial, penance, purification, and renewal. In the New Testament, forty days is the length of Jesus' time of trial in the desert in preparation for his public ministry, proclaiming the Gospel.

Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts,

and the angels ministered to him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand.

The forty-day period of Jesus' trial in the desert echoes a number of events in the Old Testament:

- The face of the earth was cleansed and purified during the promised period of days and nights that rain poured down during the great flood—"I will bring rain down on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and so I will wipe out from the surface of the earth every moving creature that I have made" (Gen 7:4).
- The face of the earth was renewed during a forty-day period after the mountain tops appeared and the waters of the great flood receded—"The tops of the mountains appeared. At the end of forty days Noah opened the hatch of the ark that he had made" (Gen 8:5-6).
- Moses spent forty years as a shepherd in the desert before God called him to lead the Israelites out of slavery—"Moses fled when he heard this and settled as an alien in the land of Midian . . . Forty years later, an angel appeared to him in the desert near Mount Sinai in the flame of a burning bush" (Acts 7: 29-30).
- Moses fasted for forty days and nights on Mount Sinai before receiving the tablets of the covenant—

"So Moses stayed there with the LORD for forty days and forty nights, without eating any food or drinking any water, and he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the ten commandments" (Ex 34:28).

- The Israelites spent forty years wandering in the desert, as a time of testing, trial and purification of the people, before reaching the Promised Land—"Now the Israelites had wandered forty years in the desert, until all the warriors among the people that came forth from Egypt died off because they had not obeyed the command of the LORD" (Jos 5:6; see Num 32:13).

- The prophet Elijah spent forty days in the desert before encountering God on Mount Horeb—"Elijah] got up, ate and drank; then strengthened by that food, he walked forty days and forty nights to the mountain of God, Horeb" (1 Kgs 19:8).

- The Ninevites were given forty days before God was going to destroy the city, allowing time for repentance and conversion—"Jonah began his journey through the city, and had gone but a single day's walk announcing, 'Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed,' when the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth" (Jon 3:4-5).

Grow+Go



February 15, 2026

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 15:15-20 | 1 Cor 2:6-10 | Mt 5:17-37

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that "unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." In Matthew 23:3-5, Jesus says, "Do and observe all things whatsoever [the scribes and Pharisees] tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice ... All their works are performed to be seen." What Jesus is inviting us to see is that to authentically live the commandments requires more than mere external compliance with the letter of the law. It's also not about putting on a show so that others think we're "holy." Rather, it's about the quiet, inner transformation of our hearts. The Gospel tells us it's not enough that we avoid murder; God wants to free us from anger and wrath. It's not enough to avoid unfaithfulness in marriage; God wants to give us hearts that are pure and free from lust. Our task is to open our hearts to the transforming power of his commandments which, if we live them, lead us to fullness of life.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In our second reading, St. Paul speaks about some challenges we face when sharing the faith with others. There are those who are unable to grasp God's wisdom, which is different from the wisdom of this age. God's wisdom is mysterious, hidden, and can only be understood and grasped through a revelation of the Spirit. This is an important concept for us as evangelizers. Sometimes no matter how hard we try, no matter how eloquent we are at explaining something, those who are not ready to receive what we have to share will not be able to receive it. In order for others to understand the Gospel, the Spirit must open their hearts to receive it. While we are responsible to share the Gospel as well as we're able, it is up to the person before us to respond to God's invitation.

PRAY

Accepting the Lord's teaching in the commandments requires humility, and understanding their true meaning and depth is the result of the Spirit's work in our lives. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you true insight to live the commandments with your whole heart. Consider using these lines from today's psalm in your prayer: "Open my eyes, that I may consider the wonders of your law. Instruct me, O Lord, in the way of your statutes, that I may exactly observe them. Give me discernment, that I may observe your law and keep it with all my heart."



LENTEN MORNING OF REFLECTION

PRESENTED BY
FR. PAUL KIM

FEBRUARY 21, 2026
9:30 A.M.

OUR LADY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
PARISH CENTER
203 ST. BETWEEN 34TH AND 35TH AVE.
BELOW THE CHURCH.

PLEASE REGISTER BY CALLING THE OLBS
RECTORY (718)229-5929, USING THE
SIGN-UP SHEET ON THE BULLETIN BOARD,
OR THE QR CODE.



BAGELS AND COFFEE WILL BE SERVED.

Are you looking for a way
to jumpstart your spiritual
journey this Lent?



THOMAS BERRY PLACE

A PASSIONIST MINISTRY

THOMAS BERRY PLACE

FEBRUARY 2026

EVENT SCHEDULE

18 FEBRUARY

ASH WEDNESDAY

DAY OF PRAYER

9:30 AM

"Prepare Your Heart for Lent"

Presented by Fr. Jim O'Shea, CP

\$35 per person - reservations required

27 FEBRUARY

MEN'S RETREAT

7 PM

Be the Change You Want to See
with Anthony Mullen

The retreat begins with dinner on Friday and concludes after Mass and Dinner on Saturday. You are welcome to stay Saturday night for breakfast and personal reflection on Sunday.

The cost for the Retreat is \$225 (Friday-Saturday) or \$300 (Friday-Sunday) - **reservations required**

SAVE THE DATE

COMEDY NIGHT

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

Join us for Dinner and a Night of Laughs
in support of TBP!

with Karin Margaret, Danny Calabrese,
Ron Carroll and Host Doug Bauer!

\$60 per person - reservations required



Thomas Berry Place

86-45 Edgerton Boulevard • Jamaica Estates, NY
www.ThomasBerryPlace.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER

929-357-6700 X205

Big City Catholics Podcast

A LEGACY OF
FAITH AND SERVICE:
INSIDE THE
CATHEDRAL CLUB



Big City
Catholics
Podcast

E189

Cathedral Club President Harry D'Onofrio and spiritual director Father Michael Falce join this episode of Big City Catholics to explore the Cathedral Club's legacy of lay Catholic leadership. The conversation highlights the club's bipartisan community, expanding scholarship support for Catholic education in

Brooklyn and Queens, and its mission to mentor young people and live out faith through service. [Listen Now!](#)

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Robert Brennan
on Facebook



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Brennan on Facebook.

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Central to our mission is the ability to make our seminars and retreats available to ALL, especially our sisters and brothers with limited financial means.

Consider making a donation today to help Thomas Berry Place. Your generosity is pivotal in expanding our circle of hospitality to embrace all of God's beloved.

The mission at Thomas Berry Place is to listen carefully, and intentionally respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor; to create a place of sacred hospitality, spiritual experience, and restoration; to provide a space for encounter, dialogue, education and service, working toward an integral human ecology.

Your support today is a catalyst for real change, propelling the mission and ministry of Thomas Berry Place to even greater heights.

Please feel free to contact us today to make a donation by check (made payable to Thomas Berry Place) or credit card.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

DIVINE WISDOM CATHOLIC ACADEMY Spring Fling Raffles

DRAWING: March 20, 2026

Tuition Raffles - \$25 each or 5 for \$100

All Other Raffles - \$5 each



101 Tuition Raffle

Win Tuition Credit for
2026-27 Academic Year!

Tuition for 1 Child in Grade K-8

Value: \$1,000 to full tuition

(based on tickets sold)



102 50/50 Raffle

Win 50% of Tickets
Purchased



103 Dream Big

Spring Fling Lotto
Tree

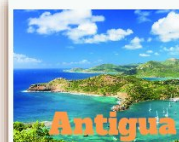
Value: Priceless



104 Make it Rain

\$500 Bucket of Cash

Value: \$500



105 Island Escape

Antigua One Week
Lodging for 2
(Airfare not Incl.)

Value: \$2,500



106 Orlando Magic

2 bedroom resort villa
Orlando, FL
12/26/26 - 1/2/27
(Airfare not incl.)

Value: \$2,500



107 Apple Tech

Apple A16 11" iPad
Wi-Fi 128 GB

Value: \$350



108 Instant Style

Dyson Airwrap
Multistyle & Dryer

Value: \$650



109 Cozy Up

\$200 Ugg Gift Card
& Throw Blanket

Value: \$300



110 Family Game Night

Nintendo Switch 2
& Mario Kart World
Bundle

Value: \$500



111 Feel the Beat

Apple AirPods Max
Headphones with
Pro-Level Noise
Cancellation - Blue

Value: \$550

**Enter!
to Win!**



112 NYCFC Fun

NYCFC Framed 10x18" MS
Cup Champions
Photograph & \$200 MLS
Gift Card

Value: \$275



To buy raffles,
scan or go to:

Tickets on Sale Now! <http://bidpal.net/dwcasspringfling2026>

*Your support through this fundraiser goes directly towards enhancing
our academic & enrichment programs.*

THE DIVINE WISDOM JOURNEY BEGINS!

**Registration Now Open for
September 2026**

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

Monday-Friday | February 23-27

8:30 - 10:30 AM & 1 - 2:30 PM

Building Strong Foundations for Bright Futures

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- ✓ Meet Teachers & Leadership Team
- ✓ Discover Our Outstanding Academics & Enrichment Programs
- ✓ Take a Tour of our Technology-Enriched Facilities

For More Information or to Schedule Your Tour:

Contact us: 718.631.3153
Visit: dwcaonline.org
email: office@dwcaonline.org
45-II 245 Street Douglaston NY 11362



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- ✓ Spanish Program



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE YOUR PRIVATE TOUR!

Contact Us: 718.631.3153
Scan QR code →
45-II 245 St. Douglaston NY 11362



JOIN US FOR SEASON 5!
TUESDAY MORNINGS AT 9:30 BEGINNING
FEBRUARY 3
THURSDAY EVENINGS AT 7:00 BEGINNING
FEBRUARY 5



Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church Parish Center
203 Street between 34th and 35th Avenue

Join Us

for an Evening of Live
Flamenco, Food, and Fun!

DIVINE WISDOM'S ANNUAL

Spring Fling

Fri | Mar 20th | 6-11 PM

Raffles & silent auctions benefiting
DWCA enrichment programs

Marbella Restaurant
220-33 Northern Blvd.
Bayside, NY 11361

Evening casual attire
Adults only
\$75 by 3/06

2026

Stations of the Cross



Fridays of Lent at 7:00 PM
Inside the church

Diocese of Brooklyn

Vocations: Discover Your Calling

"What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him, this God has revealed to us through the Spirit."

Are you considering following the will of God in the consecrated life or priesthood? Contact the Vocation Office at 718-827-2454 or email: vocations@diobrook.org

This Week on **formed**[™] Forming Catholics for *Life*.

Use "**st. anastasia ny**" to signup at **formed.org**



Lent | What Catholics Believe

Join Fr. Scott Bailey, a priest in the Archdiocese of Denver, as he answers some of the Internet's most asked questions about Lent. What is Lent? Why is it 40 days long? Or even, what should I give up for Lent? Find out in this episode of What Catholics Believe.



Whole 40

Sit down with Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Elizabeth Klein to discuss the purpose of the season of Lent, how to prepare for it, and why it is such a fruitful season in our life of faith.



Heart of Prayer

Heart of Prayer invites participants into an intimate and peaceful retreat with Bishop Andrew Cozzens. Set in the beautiful Chateau on the Augustine Institute Campus, Heart of Prayer reveals the beauty and transcendence of a prayer life, as Bishop Cozzens draws from Scripture and the saints to offer guidance that is practical and down-to-earth.

Children's activity sheets are located in the back of the church



Love and Serve



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Imagine that you are a bus driver on a frigid winter afternoon. A teenager steps on, shivering and fumbling for exact change. "Hey, I need to get home. I'm short—just ten cents," he admits, looking embarrassed. The rule is clear: buses require only exact change. You, the driver, see that he's cold, tired, and clearly not trying to cheat. Do you wave him on or ask him to step off? Most would let the teen on the bus because the rules and laws are there to prevent fare evasion, not to leave kids stranded. This tension mirrors today's readings: God's Law isn't a cold barrier but an invitation to a fuller life. Jesus proclaims in the Sermon on the Mount: *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill."* — Matthew 5:17. Like a seed becoming a flower, what it was always meant to be, Jesus deepens the Law's intent. The Pharisees and the crowd that gathered to listen to Jesus deliver the Sermon on the Mount knew the Law written on stone tablets that Moses brought down from Mount Sinai, but Jesus, on this mount near the Sea of Galilee, would go on to demand righteousness and integrity exceeding theirs. Jesus deepens our understanding of God's Law. The Law is not merely a set of rules but a blueprint for a loving and communal life. Jesus challenges us to look beyond mere compliance. For example, the commandment against killing extends to anger and contempt in our hearts. This teaching reveals that true righteousness encompasses our intentions and emotions, not just our actions. It forms a holistic understanding of the Law that penetrates deeply into our hearts.

Our readings today challenge that "minimum" mindset. They invite us to look past the surface of our actions and peer into the very disposition of our hearts. The Old Testament passage for today clarifies that our life is not dictated by fate or circumstance. *"If you choose, you can keep the commandments; loyalty is doing the will of God. Set before you are fire and water; to whatever you choose, stretch out your hand."* — Sirach 15:15,16. We are not predestined. God gives us a choice and lets us choose how we daily orient our lives. The Church teaches, *"The more one does what is good, the freer one becomes. There is no true freedom except in the service of what is good and just. The choice to disobey and do evil is an abuse of freedom and leads to 'the slavery of sin.'"* — Catechism §1733.

St. Augustine captures the spirit of God's Law, *"Love God, and do what you will."* This isn't a license to sin. Rather, it means that if our heart is truly aligned with the love of God, our "will" will naturally desire brotherly charity. God's commandments are not burdensome rules that we must live by; they are paths to deeper communion with Him and the world. As Lent dawns this week, stretch toward "water". Commit to a daily heart examen, finding anger, grudges, lusts, half-truths, and turn them to love, forgiveness, and works of mercy. In these forty days of prayer, fasting, and alms, let Christ's Spirit fulfill the Law in you, choosing life anew.

Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord.
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Bread & Wine Memorial



Brian M. Powell
February 15 — 21, 2026

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions



February 2026

For children with incurable diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

Prayer Intentions



In the kindness of your prayers, remember those born into eternal life.

Remember the sick, homebound, and those in need of our prayers:

Eva Bedell	Theodore Koumou
Fred Bedell	Anthony Logerfo
Ann Cavaseno	Alfina Manca
Joyce Daino	Barbara Mascia
John Dietzler	TJ McSherry
Paolo DiGregorio	Margaret Murphy
Ralph DiScala	Yolanda Stivanello
Jo Ann Ferrari	Antoinette Taub
Josephine Finocchiaro	Barbara H. Timmerman
Joan Guerra	Gregory Wiehl
Victoria Guerra	



St. Anastasia Parish Registration



Thank you for attending Mass with us today.

If you have not previously registered or are considering registering with our parish, please complete a **Parish Registration Form** located in the rear of the church then return it to the rectory.

Parish Family: Why Register?

If you have not already registered, it is important to do so. If and when you are asked to be a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation, you will need a letter from the parish. Letters cannot be given to those who are not registered parishioners. Please be sure to keep your information updated with the parish, especially with changes to address and phone number.

Mass Intentions



Sunday, February 15, 2026
5:00 p.m. Vigil Virginia O'Brien
Brian Payne

8:00 a.m. People of St. Anastasia Parish

10:00 a.m. Wilfred Sheridan

12:00 noon Francia & Francisco Bernal
Vincenza Parisi

Monday, February 16, 2026

8:30 a.m. Francesco, Angela, Umberto Savocchi
M. C. George

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

8:30 a.m. Eugene Ferguson
Peter Real Sr.

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

8:30 a.m. Dolores M. Murphy
Deuber Family
7:00 p.m. People of St. Anastasia Parish

Thursday, February 19, 2026

8:30 a.m. Eugene Ferguson
Robert Gambeski

Friday, February 20, 2026

8:30 a.m. Oscar O'Connell Ferguson (Living)

Saturday, February 21, 2026

8:30 a.m. Maria Petruso
Vito Mammana

Sunday, February 22, 2026

5:00 p.m. Vigil John Cuniff
Richard Kauke

8:00 a.m. Fr. Eucharistico Sultana
Matthais Bai

10:00 a.m. Rocco & Antonella D'Amelio
Antonio Chuy

12:00 noon People of St. Anastasia Parish

