



# ST. ANASTASIA CATHOLIC CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 24TH, 2023

*Fourth Sunday of*  
**ADVENT**



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**PASTOR**

Rev. Leszek Semik

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR**

Rev. Greg Rozborski

**PRIEST IN RESIDENCE**

Rev. Msgr. Gregory Cox

**DEACON**

Jose "Joe" Viola

**PASTORAL ASSOCIATE**

Dianalee Dupree

**BUSINESS MANAGER**

Fred Balsz

**WEEKEND MASSES**

Saturday: 5PM Vigil

Sunday: 7:30AM, 9AM,  
11AM, 5PM

**DAILY MASSES**

Mon, Wed, Fri: 6:30 AM, 8AM

Tues, Thu, Sat: 8AM

**CONFESSION**

Wednesdays: 5:15 - 5:45PM

Saturdays: 3:30 - 4:45PM

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Mon-Fri: 8:30AM - 4:30PM

*Closed for lunch 12:30-1:30*

**(CLOSED WEEKENDS)**

7390 W. Manchester Ave

Los Angeles, Ca 90045

(310) 670-2243

**Contact Us:**

Parish@st-anastasia.org

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

Christmas Greetings!

As the Christmas season approaches, it brings with it a time of reflection, joy, and profound gratitude. In this season, we are reminded of the greatest gift ever given – the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a time to celebrate the hope, peace, love, and joy that comes from God.

I want to encourage you to remember those in other areas of the world, especially at this time, as war continues in Ukraine and Israel. I am reminded once again of the fact that the only time there will ever be peace on this earth is when the Prince of Peace is ruling and reigning!

This world seems to have the mentality lately that the best way to have “peace on earth” is to somehow move away from the Prince of Peace. As we know, this is never going to be a successful move, and this time of year gives us another wonderful opening to share the fact that Jesus came to this earth over 2,000 years ago to bring peace to a people.



Let me declare to you “loud and clear”, this world needs MORE of Jesus Christ, not less! It is both our duty and our privilege to share the Good News with people around us, and we want to be clear with our message, both inside the Church walls, as well as outside.

While our heart’s desire is to see “Peace on Earth,” we know that the only time there will ever be true lasting peace on this earth is when Jesus comes in all His glory and power. One day this will happen! Until that day though, we are to declare and share that peace in our hearts and is attainable through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

As we gather with friends and family this Christmas, let us remember those who are less fortunate and those who are alone during this season. Let’s extend our hands in love and service, embodying the spirit of Christ who came not to be served, but to serve.

This Christmas, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on the blessings in your lives and the grace that God has bestowed upon us. Let us also look forward to the coming year with hope and faith, trusting that God will continue to guide and protect us.

May your Christmas be filled with the joy and peace that comes from knowing and loving God. And may the coming year bring you and your loved ones happiness, health, and abundant blessings.

On behalf of Msgr. Gregory Cox, Fr. Greg Rozborski, myself, and the entire staff here at St. Anastasia, I want to wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Rev. Leszek Semik

## BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deadline for any pulpit announcements is **Thursdays by 12N**. If you have any announcements for the bulletin, please email [bulletin@st-anastasia.org](mailto:bulletin@st-anastasia.org). January 7th bulletin content due: **Thursday, December 28th**.

## LIVE THE LITURGY

### Inspiration of the week

*God’s plans are not always what we imagined. Sometimes they make us hesitate. Be like Mary. Say “Yes, Lord” – and God will show you that His imagination is better than yours.*



# MASS INTENTIONS, WEEKLY READINGS, & MASS CELEBRANTS

## DAILY PRAYERS

### PERSONAL PRAYER IN THE CHURCH TENT

MONDAYS & FRIDAYS: 6AM - 5PM

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS: 7AM - 5PM

WEDNESDAYS: 6AM - 6PM

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS: 7AM - 6PM

### DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET + ADORATION

In the Tent - Wednesdays at 5PM

### DAILY ROSARY

Monday-Saturday following all 8AM Masses and after 6:30AM Masses on Mon, Wed and Friday

(6:30AM Mass temporarily suspended during renovation. Mass Intentions are privately prayed).



## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

### BAPTISM:

Parents and Godparents are required to participate in a pre-Baptism Preparation Course. Please email [Ddupree@st-anastasia.org](mailto:Ddupree@st-anastasia.org). Call Dianalee Dupree at: 310-670-2243 Ext. 51 or Email: [DDupree@st-anastasia.org](mailto:DDupree@st-anastasia.org) for information on the completion of all requirements. All requirements are to be completed **4 weeks prior to a scheduled Baptism.**

### FIRST RECONCILIATION, HOLY COMMUNION & HS CONFIRMATION:

Please contact Dianalee Dupree  
Call: 310-670-2243 Ext. 51 or Email: [DDupree@st-anastasia.org](mailto:DDupree@st-anastasia.org)

### Adult Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist (OCIA):

for information on becoming Catholic contact Parish Office at 310-670-2243 or Email: [parish@st-anastasia.org](mailto:parish@st-anastasia.org)

### MARRIAGE:

Engaged couples must contact the Office 6 months before their proposed wedding date. Call the Parish Office: 310-670-2243.

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

Sacrament for the Sick is celebrated upon request of the family. **DON'T WAIT UNTIL THEIR CONDITION BECOMES DIRE.** Call the Parish Office 310-670-2243 or Email: [parish@st-anastasia.org](mailto:parish@st-anastasia.org)

### MASS INTENTIONS & PRAYER REQUESTS:

Arranged by contacting the Parish Office with names of loved ones.  
Call the Parish Office 310-670-2243 or Email: [parish@st-anastasia.org](mailto:parish@st-anastasia.org)

**Note: Due to privacy and confidentiality laws, permission must be given by a family member to publish a loved one's name for mass intentions and prayer requests.**

### FUNERAL PLANNING:

Call the Parish Office 310-670-2243 to arrange funeral or memorial services.

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Birthday ★ Support ♦ Anniversary ♥ Memorial †

### SUN, December 24th: 4th Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve

Day: Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38  
Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

7:30 AM - Fr. William Williams †

9 AM - Msgr. Royale M. Vadakin †

11 AM - Theresa Reilly ★

4PM - Christmas Eve -Children's Mass

6PM - Christmas Eve - Vigil Mas

10PM - Christmas Eve - Night Mass

### MON, December 25th: The Nativity of the Lord

Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

8 AM -The Nativity of the Lord

10 AM - The Nativity of the Lord

### TUESDAY, December 26th: St. Stephen, First Martyr

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

8 AM - Glenn Allred, Sr. ★ †

### WED, December 27th: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

6:30 AM - Stephen Coles ♦ (privately prayed)

8 AM - Bernadeta Semik †

### THUR, December 28th: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18

8AM - Fr Michael Bova ♦

### FRIDAY, December 29th: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

6:30 AM - Fr. Michael Bova ♦ (privately prayed)

8 AM - Fr Michael Bova ♦

### SATURDAY, December 30th:

1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

8 AM - Jenn Lenz ★

5PM - St. Anastasia Parishioners ♦

## NEXT SUNDAY'S MASS CELEBRANTS & READINGS

SAT: 5PM	Fr. Leszek
SUN: 7:30AM	Fr. Rozborski
SUN: 9AM	Fr. Leszek
SUN: 11AM	Msgr. Cox
SUN: 5PM	No Mass. New Years Eve

**First Reading:** "Your own issue shall be your heir." The Lord took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be." (Gn 3:4-5)

**Psalm:** The Lord remembers his covenant for ever. (Ps 105)

**Second Reading:** By faith he received power to generate, even though he was past the normal age—and Sarah herself was sterile. (Heb 11:11)

**Gospel:** "The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. (Lk 2:40)



# FAITH FORMATION

## GOSPEL MEDITATION ~ ENCOURAGING DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

### The Nativity of the Lord

**“She gave birth to her firstborn son.”** The pain of childbirth is something that boggles my mind. I’m sure I couldn’t handle it. I can’t even watch scenes in movies in which a woman gives birth. I understand it’s a beautiful part of nature, but there’s still something awful about it and the attendant suffering.

Which is why it’s worth pondering an often neglected and currently unpopular part of the Church’s theology around the birth of Christ, his was miraculous because it caused no pain to his mother. Even her physical virginity remains intact. Of course, we modern scientific people scoff at such an idea.

Without obsessing over the obstetrical details, we discover a glorious illumination in the symbolic meaning of this birth that we moderns find so embarrassing. God comes into the world in an utterly non-violent way. He himself will suffer his own bloodshed but will never shed that of others. He is so peaceful and non-violent that he will even rise from the dead without breaking the seal of the tomb. All of humanity, in the Church, will give birth to him in the Church free from the terrible pain due to original sin. How badly we need the truth of this miraculous birth today!

Let’s delight in this great mystery and miracle of Jesus’s birth. He is the Prince of Peace and always nonviolent. We need not fear him, ever.

— Father John Muir @LPi



### EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

#### The Journey

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, “Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?” I have been on this earth for 40+ years. I have had 40+ Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.



Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn’t go as you had hoped, remember is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

### BAPTISMAL MINISTRY IS BACK!

We are excited to be re-introducing St. Anastasia’s Baptismal Ministry Team! The importance of this Ministry is to help parents and godparents understand the meaning of baptism, and help them embody their roles as leaders in their child’s faith journey. The Ministry will begin meeting in January, and meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm. If you are interested in joining this Ministry, please reach out to Dianalee Dupree at [DDupree@St-Anastasia.org](mailto:DDupree@St-Anastasia.org).



**DID YOU KNOW?**

**DEC 23RD-24TH**

#### What is a trial balloon?

One of the best ways safe adults can help children who are suffering from abuse is to recognize and listen to their disclosures — even if they are done in stages or in subtle ways. A child may float a “trial balloon” disclosure, meaning he may use a single sentence or phrase to see if a safe adult will respond appropriately. Be on the lookout for sudden disclosures like, “I don’t want to go to So-and-so’s house anymore,” and try responding in a way designed to let the child continue to open up: “Do you want to tell me why?” or “Let’s talk about that,” for example. For more information, read the VIRTUS® article “Test Balloons or Trial Balloons” at <https://lacatholics.org/did-you-know/>



# PARISH LIFE & SCHOOL

## END OF YEAR GIVING

We are so thankful for the generosity shown in your contributions to St. Anastasia throughout the year. As we close out 2023, be sure to capitalize on your charitable contributions for the tax year! Won't you consider St. Anastasia in your end-of-the-year giving? Be sure to check out online giving to set up automatic contributions throughout the year as well! Access the giving section on our website, or by scanning this QR Code, to see the many ways you can support our Church and school. Thank you for making St. Anastasia a part of your tax-deductible giving!

*Grateful,  
Thankful and Blessed*



## ST. MARGARET'S CENTER

Thanks to you, our wonderful parishioners, we were able to raise **\$5,904** for St. Margaret's Center in the 2023 year! And a special thanks to Senobia Nelson, Jay Nelson, Silvia Dretzka and Lois Bass for their dedication to serving the community.



## PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The Parish Office wishes you and your families a belssed and beautiful Christmas Season. We pray that Christ's birth brings you abundant joy this Christmas and every day of the New Year. In observance of the holidays our office will be closed December 25th & December 26th.



## ST. ANASTASIA SOCIAL CLUB

Join your St. A's friends for a fabulous day trip to beautiful Palm Springs for an exciting tribute show of 3 legends!

**Neil Diamond • Donna Summer • Diana Ross**

Package Includes

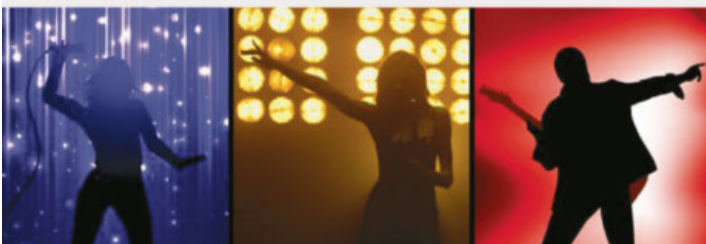
- Deluxe motorcoach transportation
- 2 Hour Casino play at Morongo
- Ticket to the 3 Legend Tribute Show
- Bottled Water & Driver Gratuity

**\$85**

When: Wednesday, February 7th, 2024

Where: Departs from St. Anastasia at 8:30 am - return by 6pm

Contact Laurette Bibeau for details 310-670-2488



## SCHOOL APPLICATIONS & TOURS AVAILABLE

The application and enrollment process for St. Anastasia's 2024-2025 school year is **OPEN!** Share the news with your family and friends. Interested in a tour? Please email Clare Thomason, Admissions Director at [cthomason@st-anastasia.org](mailto:cthomason@st-anastasia.org). The direct link for our application is: <https://secure.gradelink.com/370/enrollment>



## MINISTRY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

**December 29th: Prayer Group** (Every Friday 6pm-8pm)  
Location: Parish Office Conference Room

**January 3rd: Adult Choir** (Every Wednesday at 6:15PM)

**January 3rd: Men's Morning Hour** (Every 1st Wednesday of the month after 6:30AM Mass) Location: Parish Office Conference Room

**January 9th: Bible Study** (Every Tuesday 9-10:30 am or 7:30-9 pm) Location: Parish Hall

**January 18th: Companions on the Journey** (Every 3rd Thursday of the month at 10AM) Location: Parish Office Conference Room

**Altar Care Ministry** (Every Thursday after 8AM Mass and Rosary) Location: Diamond Courtyard w/ light refreshments and treats.

**Ministry of Consolation** The Ministry of Consolation is on winter Break. New session dates to be announced.





# BEYOND OUR PARISH

## ST. MARGARET'S CENTER

Are you looking for a job where you can use your gifts and talent to serve others? St. Margaret's Center is seeking employees who are passionate about serving



unhoused and low-income households within the LAX communities. Responsibilities: Answering high call volume, making referrals and appointments, general office duties, coordinating delivery of services, and more.

Minimum Requirements: Bilingual (Spanish), Microsoft Office skills, ability to multi-task, sensitivity to participants' cultural and socioeconomic characteristics. Email resume or for more info: [mescandon@ccharities.org](mailto:mescandon@ccharities.org)

## RE CONGRESS

What started in 1956 as an institution for religious education teachers has grown into a celebration of Catholic faith that includes people of all ministries and vocations. RECongress begins with Youth Day - a day-long gathering of high school aged young people. Youth Day features a keynote speaker, workshops, and a Liturgy planned by young people, for young people. The excitement continues Friday - Sunday when adults from across the country and around the globe are welcomed to the Anaheim Convention Center for workshops, entertainment, Eucharistic Liturgies, exhibits, and multi-cultural expressions of faith. The Adult Days boasts offerings in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese and an exhibit hall showcasing religious art, music, publishing houses, academic institutions, Catholic apostolate groups, diocesan ministries, and national organizations.

We look forward to welcoming you!



## WESTCHESTER MENTAL HEALTH GUILD



WESTCHESTER MENTAL HEALTH GUILD FUNDRAISER

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Lights Tour & Contest

**DECEMBER 9 - 26 5 - 9 P.M.**

Experience the joy of the Holidays with a self-driving tour for Westchester Mental Health Guild's FUNdraiser supporting Airport Marina Counseling Service.

Get your loved ones in the car, put on your holiday music, buckle up & enjoy viewing the dazzling lights from your vehicle.

- Decorated holiday homes in the Westchester & Playa del Rey community.
- For a minimum donation of \$12 per car, receive one voting ballot and a map of the homes on the tour.
- Vote for your favorite by December 21, when prizes will be awarded to the Fan Favorite Winner, and First & Second Runners-up.

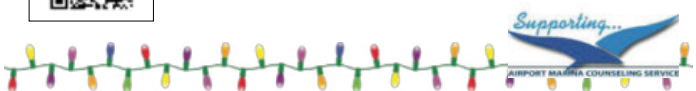
#### NEW THIS YEAR - VIP EXPERIENCE TICKETS

- Tour the holiday homes in a coach van with a Tour Guide.
- Refreshments (wine, water, sodas) & snacks provided.
- A stop at the past winners' home to see their special decorations up close.
- Two nights only - December 15 & 17. \$50 per person. Space is limited!

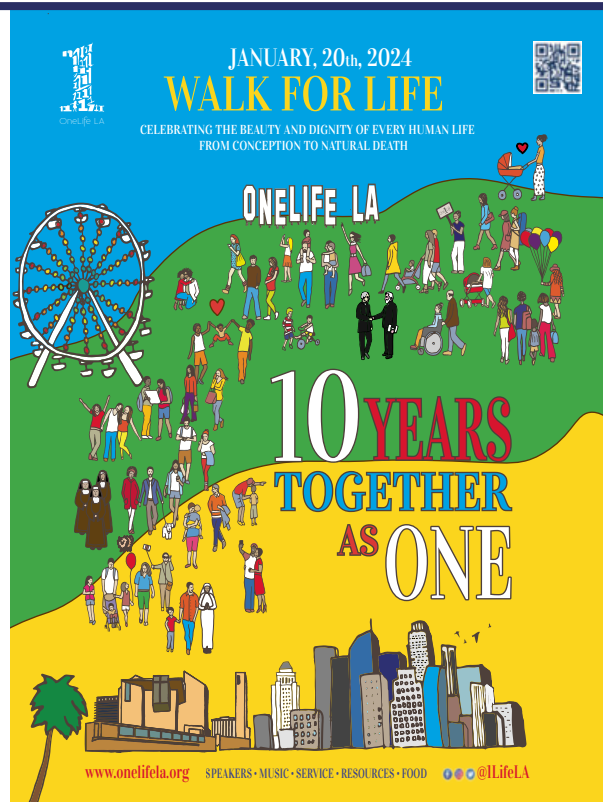
#### ALL TICKETS AVAILABLE AT



<http://2023holidaylightstour.eventbrite.com>



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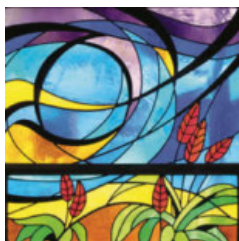
  
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### PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Parish Finance Council: David Mora.....670-2243  
Men's Club: Chris Turkmany.....200-8021  
Knights of Columbus.....821-2324  
Arts and Education: Andy Kozlowski.....670-3152  
Safety Committee.....Channing Pourchot...670-2243

### LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Ministry of the Eucharist: Linda Schmidt.....397-5691  
To the Home Bound..... 670-2243  
Ministry of the Word: Carl Pentis.....649-4238  
Antoinette Luxford.....338-1140  
Ministry of Music: Kate Comstock.....670-2243  
*MusicMinistry@st-anastasia.org*  
Ministry of Ushers: Damon Le Blanc  
*csrleblanc@gmail.com*  
Courtyard Hospitality: Sr. Teresita.....216-2001  
Altar Care: Rose De Leonardis.....567-2707  
Altar Server Committee: Mary Paquin .....502-6653

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213-637-7248

[www.la-archdiocese.org/org/vocations](http://www.la-archdiocese.org/org/vocations)

# ST. ANASTASIA CATHOLIC CHURCH

### ST. ANASTASIA CATHOLIC CHURCH

7390 W. Manchester Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90045  
310-670-2243 Office  
310-670-5052 Fax

Website: [www.St-Anastasia.org](http://www.St-Anastasia.org)

Email: [parish@st-anastasia.org](mailto:parish@st-anastasia.org)

### ST. ANASTASIA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

8631 S. Stanmoor Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90045  
310-645-8816 Office



### PASTORAL TEAM

Pastor:	Fr. Leszek J. Semik
Associate Pastor:	Fr. Greg Rozborski
Priest in Residence:	Msgr. Gregory A. Cox
Deacon:	Jose "Joe" Viola
Pastoral Associate:	Dianalee Dupree
Business Manager:	Fred Balsz
Parish Secretary:	Nora Jayne Mallen
Director of Music Ministry:	Kate Comstock
Parish Office Assistant:	Theresa Reilly
Safety Administrator:	Kenneth Lance
Bulletin Editor:	Danielle Gulalo
School Principal:	Angelica Krestin
School Vice Principal:	Amanda Kraivanger
Director of Mission Advancement:	Vickie Farmer
Health and Academic Registrar:	Linda Schmidt
School Bookkeeper:	Pauline Diaz
Director of Admissions:	Clare Thomason
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