

## **Saint Anastasia Ministry Directory 2020**

*“See the face of Christ revealed in every person standing at your side.”*

### **Introduction:**

Dear Parishioner of Saint Anastasia,

Thank you for your interest in the call to ministry. We thank God that our parish has long been blessed with active, engaged, and enthusiastic members who understand that the life of the parish family extends well beyond Sunday Mass. It is manifest each day through the efforts of our ministry volunteers. They live their faith through commitment to the dozens of ministries that serve the faithful in many different ways. These generous men and women strengthen our faith and our community and bring the Gospel and Christ’s love to all.

Please take time to read through this booklet and learn about the many opportunities to be of service at Saint Anastasia’s. For more information about a particular ministry, to speak to someone in charge, or to volunteer (we hope!), please call 201-837-3354 and leave your name and phone number. Someone will return your call promptly.

Thank you!

**Message from Fr. Joseph D’Amico, Pastor**

**Message from Fr. Danny Pabon, Parochial Vicar**

## **The Ministries**

### **Altar Liners**

This ministry consists of laundering and ironing the altar cloths used during Mass, known as purificators and corporals. These are the small white cloths embroidered with a red cross used during the Offertory, the Consecration, and the Eucharist. They must be laundered and ironed every week. In fact, a volunteer in this ministry must like to iron!

However, with enough volunteers on a rotating basis, you should be called upon only once every four to six weeks. Volunteers are given about four dozen cloths, which must be returned washed and ironed the next week.

### **Altar Servers**

Altar servers, both boys and girls, assist the priest and deacon during Mass. They prepare the altar and the sacred vessels before the Liturgy. The altar server is also the cross bearer at the beginning and end of Mass. At Saint Anastasia's, we have been blessed: some of our servers have started in Fourth Grade and continued all the way through high school. (In 2017, one of our former longtime altar servers, Carl Caceres, began his training as a priest.)

We are always looking for new servers for the Saturday evening and Sunday Masses. Just one hour of training is required.

### **Black Catholics**

This group presents an opportunity for any parishioner who would like to celebrate history and community. Members highlight the contributions of African-Americans to the Catholic Church and the community during Black History Month in February. We sponsor a parish breakfast after the 10 AM Mass on Sunday to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday in January. Other activities include Mother's Day

and Father's Day recognition, participation in an Archdiocesan scholarship event, and multicultural fundraising efforts. We meet quarterly to plan these programs.

### **Bowery**

Our mission to bring food and clothing to the homeless on the Bowery every Saturday morning has flourished for some 40 years. We have about 60 volunteers involved, but new members of the team are always needed and welcome.

Volunteers may either make sandwiches on Friday mornings at the Rectory; pick up donations of baked goods and bread from local stores; make a large container of hearty homemade soup; or deliver everything as part of a team to several stops in Lower Manhattan on Saturday mornings. The stops in the parish van include Maryhouse, a women's shelter founded by Blessed Dorothy Day; a community soup kitchen; and giving out food to more than 100 people who line up every week on a corner of Houston Street. They are deeply appreciative of our visit.

Volunteers are scheduled to participate once every four weeks.

### **Breakfast with Santa**

Once a year, our parish is blessed with a beautiful and extremely popular Christmas celebration for our children and grandchildren, thanks to the efforts of many volunteers. Along with a delicious and generous breakfast, children get to tell Santa their wish list in person. There is also a gift table, and the breakfast is filled with a wonderful sense of the holiday spirit.

Volunteers are needed for everything from planning, grocery shopping, cooking, and decorating, to serving and cleaning up. Seeing the children's faces light up is its own reward!

## **Catholic Daughters**

Catholic Daughters of the Americas is one of the oldest and largest organizations of Catholic women. In 2017, Saint Anastasia Court 1041 celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> year! Our motto is “Unity and Charity.”

We sponsor events such as breakfasts and dinners to raise money to donate to charities, including those that help cancer patients and disaster relief victims, and for scholarships.

We meet every first Sunday of the month at 11:15 AM, immediately following the 10 AM Mass, in the Rectory community center.

## **Choir (Adults)**

The Saint Anastasia Choir has a wide and well-deserved reputation for the excellence, professionalism, and spirituality of our music ministry. We have been blessed for decades with the talents of Musical Director Charles Warren; with current and former members of the legendary Metropolitan Opera; and with those members of the parish who praise God with their hearts and their voices. The choir uplifts the entire church family every Sunday at the 10 AM Mass, at Midnight Mass on Christmas, during Holy Week, at the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday, at the Gospel Mass dedicated to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and on other special occasions.

Choir members meet on Thursday evenings for practice, work hard to learn new music, and bring both musical and spiritual harmony to the parish family all year round. The choir has brought the faithful at Saint Anastasia’s to tears, to their feet in applause, and in all things, closer to God.

## **Choir (Children's)**

The St. Anastasia's Children's Choir is a place where children can learn how to work together for the glory of God! There's singing as well as meeting new kids who will become friends. Children who can play instruments are also invited to enrich the choir and showcase their talents. Anyone age 5 to 16 is welcome to join us. We meet every Sunday around 10:45 AM to practice for the 11:30 AM Family Mass.

## **Cursillo**

St. Anastasia's is considered one of the most active Cursillo communities in the Archdiocese of Newark. The Cursillo movement has been active in this parish for more than a half century! So far, there are nearly 150 St. Anastasia parishioners who have participated in Cursillo Weekends.

The word "cursillo" means "little course" in Spanish. The initial experience is a three-day retreat where new members take part in prayer and reflection as they deepen their faith, supported by a Cursillo team. Following the first weekend course, each new member is invited to monthly Group Reunions. Many of our Cursillo parishioners have been meeting in these reunions for more than 35 years.

Cursillo builds Christian community. Cursillistas have a heightened sense of commitment to promoting Christian beliefs in their families, parishes, communities and workplaces.

Each year, Cursillo weekends are held in the spring and fall. Men and women have separate weekend experiences. Please consider learning more about this wonderful opportunity to enliven your faith.

## **Decorating Committee**

The decorating committee's primary task is handling the decorating of the altar and the church for Christmas and Easter. We do this the day before each of these Holy Days. We normally accomplish this in about three hours. Volunteers are welcome.

## **Eucharistic Ministers**

The willingness to serve as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist reflects not only a response to the Baptismal call to serve the people of God but also a commitment to Christ to share in the preaching, teaching and leading aspects of the church. A minister offers the Eucharist, recognizes the Body of Christ in those to whom he or she offers the Body and Blood, and ultimately acts as the Body of Christ by fully participating in the life of the parish and the wider community.

Ministers agree to a monthly schedule, prepare properly and prayerfully for service, and arrive on time dressed appropriately for Mass.

If you are a registered member of Saint Anastasia, participate regularly in the sacramental life of the parish and practice your faith through a prayerful relationship with God, please consider volunteering for this sacred ministry.

## **Faith Formation**

This ministry is the teaching of our Catholic faith to our children and young people, as they proceed through the sacraments, from Baptism through Confirmation. Through weekly classes, teachers deepen understanding of the faith, prayer, worship and morality in their young students.

Teachers also recognize that the student's family is a "mini-church" where our youth develop their faith, their understanding of the Church, and the formation of values. Our ministry is designed to help and support our parents, whose influence is primary.

We are ALWAYS in need of teachers who can lead classes. They are held every Wednesday from 4 PM to 5:30 PM for Grades 1 through 8. Classes for Grade 9 (Confirmation instruction) are held monthly in the evening.

## **Family Promise**

Saint Anastasia proudly belongs to Family Promise, the only organization in Bergen County dedicated to providing shelter and support to working families who become homeless. Three times a year, our parish provides one week of shelter and countless hours of support to a number of homeless working parents and their children, with beds and meals at the Little Church, along with hospitality and help with companionship or games and homework assistance for children, and overnight hosting.

About 75 volunteers are needed for each of the three host weeks each year. While other parishes provide some of these volunteers for us, there is still a great need each time for everything from grocery shopping and setting up to cooking and cleaning, serving meals and staying overnight with the families.

This ministry provides essential help to these working parents as they struggle to find permanent homes, keep their jobs, and care for their families. Please consider joining us for a host week.

## **Family Mass**

The Family Mass takes place at 11:30 AM on Sundays. This ministry aims to increase the participation of our parish families with young children. It involves the Children's Choir. The choir members learn children's praise songs. Booklets are available in the pews for the kids in the congregation to join the singing. A Mass booklet – the Magnifikid, a simpler version of the Scripture - is also provided.

A hospitality brunch organized by the volunteers who regularly attend and serve at the Mass occurs on the first Sundays of each month to help families get acquainted. Families and children and grandchildren of all ages are welcome.

## **Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)**

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) is when the children leave the congregation to celebrate and reflect on the Sunday Gospel reading in an age appropriate way. Attending Mass together is a part of being a Catholic Family, while Children's Liturgy of the Word allows children to enter the celebration more fully by catering to their needs. The children are led by dedicated parishioners, through prayers, songs and readings that are adapted to their level of understanding.

Currently CLOW leaders rotate approximately once a month. CLOW leaders must be PGC (Protecting God's Children) certified. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Bivins at the parish rectory.

## **FAST**

The Filipino American Society of Teaneck (FAST) is an independent organization of Filipino-Americans from Teaneck and other neighboring towns in Bergen County. Its purpose is to cultivate the Filipino heritage and culture among its members while serving the community. With faith a significant part of the Filipino culture, FAST has become an energetic ministry at Saint Anastasia's.

Its members participate in different activities for community outreach and religious growth. A few examples are fundraisers for outreach missions to the Philippines, Peru, Bolivia, and Haiti; daily hosting of the Holy Rosary during the months of May and October, concluded by a Benediction service; and medical outreach programs for the parishioners in partnership with Holy Name Medical Center.



## **Finance Council**

The parish Finance Council acts as an advisor and sounding board to the Pastor and the overall Parish Leadership Team, including the Parish Council. It is meant to be an “independent governance and control” mechanism for the parish related to financial matters. Its mission is to ensure the long-term financial health and stability of the parish.

A parishioner interested in joining the Finance Council should possess financial, legal, and/or accounting acumen; a genuine commitment to the parish’s long-term financial and operational health; be willing to work in a collaborative manner, and engage in open and honest debate and deliberations. The council usually meets four or five times a year.

Finance Council members will be appointed directly by the Pastor.

## **Haiti Support Group**

This mission is devoted to working in solidarity with the people of Haiti, whose lives were affected by the devastating earthquake in 2010 and by subsequent disasters. Through fundraising and mission trips to Haiti, we help the people and their families meet their basic, everyday needs with the ultimate goal of enabling all to become productive and self-sufficient members of their communities.

Especially for children and teens, our ministry supports the Cardinal Stepinac Orphanage in Haiti through the “GodParenthood” program, and we also support SAKALA, a youth group in Haiti.

Our parish meetings are held on the third Saturday of every month at 9:30 AM in the Redmond Center.

## **Hospitality Ministry on Sunday**

Every Sunday morning after the 10 and 11:30 Masses, coffee, pastries, and fellowship are provided in the Redmond Center. This ministry, which is extremely popular and well attended, brings parishioners together in a warm, friendly atmosphere and helps form real community in Christ.

Volunteers are always needed to commit to one Sunday a month in some way: organizing the pick-up, set-up or clean-up after each Mass. This ministry is central to the Sunday worship experience.

## **Human Development/Social Justice**

Our ministry's mission revolves around the U.S. Catholic Bishops' seven themes of Catholic Social Teachings:

The Life and Dignity of the Human Person; the Call to Family, Community, and Participation; Rights and Responsibilities; the Option for the Poor and Vulnerable; the Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers; Solidarity; and Care for God's Creation.

We do this by supporting actions such as the walk-in dinner program for the homeless in Hackensack, the Family Promise ministry; our parish's new refugee support of a family from Afghanistan; and advocacy. Examples of advocacy include our Bread for the World offering of letters in support of legislation in Congress to end world hunger, and Earth Day activities. We are always working for a better and more just world.

We meet on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30 PM in the community center in the Rectory. All parishioners are welcome to join us.

## **Knights of Columbus, Chief Justice White Council**

The Knights of Columbus was founded by Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney in 1882 and is the world's largest lay Catholic organization for men. Members strive to serve the Church and the community, support families and youth, and promote a culture of life. The Knights also offer life insurance, annuities, long-term care, and other financial products as an optional benefit to members.

The local council in Teaneck, Chief Justice White Council, was chartered in 1925 and serves both St. Joseph's and St. Anastasia's parishes. It was named after Edward D. White, the first Catholic justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. The council's meeting hall is located on Windsor Road off Cedar Lane, next to the Teaneck Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

Pope St. John Paul II referred to the Knights of Columbus as "the strong right arm of the Church." The council remains ready to assist the parish, priests, and community. There is no required level of activity for members, but the more active members we have, the more help we can offer.

## **Latin American Catholics and La Esperanza Prayer Group**

Latinos Americanos Catolicos de Teaneck (LACT) and our prayer group, La Esperanza, are two vibrant ministries created for the spiritual needs of the parish's Latin community.

However, we also embrace parishioners who are not Latin.

We celebrate a Spanish Mass every Sunday at 1 PM. Our prayer group meets every Friday at 7:30 PM for a prayer session.

We also have a wide variety of activities during the year, including concerts to Praise the Lord and to raise money for various illnesses; retreats; praying the Rosary; seminars and workshops; Stations of the Cross in Spanish during Lent, and a Christmas Novena.

Please consider joining us.

## **Lectors**

The Lector's ministry is to proclaim the word of the Lord to the gathering, which we do at every Mass. According to the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' website: "When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God Himself speaks to His people...the readings are an element of the greatest importance in the Liturgy." Thus, our ministry is integral to the Mass itself.

Lectors should be comfortable speaking in public and be able to speak clearly. They should be prepared by reading in advance. They should be able to arrive 15 minutes before Mass to set up. This ministry is both necessary and rewarding.

## **Lenten Prayer Groups**

About 100 parishioners already belong to our Lenten prayer groups, and we have room for many more! We need people to host new groups and to join existing ones. The groups meet once a week during Lent in the host's home, where they pray together, and also reflect on and discuss a Lenten topic or theme. Participants report that their journey through Lent and Christ's Passion is enriched and deepened by the company and support of others.

## **Medical Mission to the Philippines**

Saint Anastasia's is blessed to have a wonderful tradition of sending parishioners on missions to Peru, Haiti, Bolivia and the Philippines, bringing medical and dental help and other support services and making new friends all over the world.

The Philippines Support Group of St. Anastasia (PGSA) is a group of parishioners committed to providing health care services to poor Carmelite parishioners in the Philippines. We have already embarked on three missions to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish of Escalante, Negros Occidental, Philippines. On the last mission in January 2017, the group sent a medical team comprising of 26 volunteers that includes physicians, nurses

and non-medical support volunteers with loads of medicines and supplies. They successfully treated 2,000 patients!

The goal of the group is to continue sending medical and dental missions in the years to come, with more doctors, dentists, nurses and volunteers and more medicines and supplies. We are working on a plan to send another team in January 2019.

### **Office of Concern**

Saint Anastasia's food collections throughout the year are supplied to local community food banks through the Food Pantry of Englewood (located at 55 West Demarest Avenue, Englewood 07631). The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 1 PM. Since the parish is one of their donors, you may be interested in volunteering to process the donations the pantry receives, stock their shelves, and help provide the food to those who need it. The food banks are busy all year long, not just during the holidays. Phone: 201-568-1465.

### **Parish Picnic**

On one Saturday every September, the parish hosts the annual picnic on the church grounds. The picnic is open to everyone. It provides fellowship with family and friends and good home cooking. That's because volunteers bring their favorite entrees and desserts to share with others. The parish also supplies hamburgers, hot dogs, and other picnic staples. Games and other activities, such as a Moonwalk and train ride for children, are provided. The picnic ends with attendance at the 5 PM Mass.

While the picnic is very popular with parish families, it requires many volunteers to make it a success each year. A leadership coordinating team of four or five people is needed to organize and manage volunteers as they do the planning, preparation, management, and clean-up work. Please consider being a part of this important effort. It's also fun.

## **RCIA**

**RCIA** stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. It is the way that someone becomes a Catholic. The process takes 18 months and involves five stages: a period of Inquiry (questions); a period of the Catechumenate (learning the Faith); a period of Purification (reflection during Lent leading up to Easter Vigil); the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil); and the postbaptismal teaching.

At Saint Anastasia's, this is a nurturing ministry that involves welcoming, supporting and assisting the candidates during every step of this sacred process, as they prepare to accept the Faith and join the Church and our parish family. Please consider sharing your faith in this special way.

## **Safe Environment**

Several ministries at Saint Anastasia's require volunteers to meet requirements determined by the Archdiocese of Newark to protect children. These ministries include teaching Faith Formation classes, working with the Youth Group, and ushering at Mass. The process in the "Protecting God's Children" program includes a workshop, background checks, and other safeguards. These steps ensure protections for all parishioners and a source of reassurance to parents and others.

## **Senior Luncheon**

The Senior Luncheon sponsored every month by our parish is eagerly anticipated by more than 100 seniors, and it is open to everyone.

It not only consists of the hot meal that is provided in the Redmond Center on the second Friday of every month (except July and August). It is also faith and fellowship, the chance to see friends, and the warmth of the volunteers that make the luncheon so special and well-attended. Those who cannot

attend because they are homebound are not forgotten. Take-out portions of the meal are available for them.

Volunteers start preparing on Thursday before the luncheon, and on Friday, they cook, serve, and clean up. This is a ministry that brings smiles and sunshine to all who attend.

### **Theology Roundtable**

The Roundtable is essentially our parish book club, a reading group that meets monthly and discusses a selected reading on some aspect of faith, religion, or theology. We read both fiction and nonfiction. Some of the books we have read and discussed recently include “Gilead” and “Home” by Marilynne Robinson, “The Alchemist”, “The Gnostic Gospels”, “Strangers in a Strange Land”, and “Who Is Jesus?”

Our group is small, but our discussions are lively. All viewpoints are welcome and respected. New members are warmly invited to join. The beauty of the group is that each participant brings his or her own unique insights to the discussion and understanding of the book. We learn from each other.

The Roundtable offers a wonderful opportunity to read and ponder issues of faith, hear other opinions and perspectives, and deepen our understanding of God and the world.

We meet the first Monday of every month from 9:15 to 10:30 AM, and the books are made available from Amazon.

### **Youth Ministry**

The mission of St. Anastasia’s Youth Ministry is to continue Faith Formation beyond the classroom and into the world we live in. Activities are designed to enhance the faith life of teens in Grades 8-12 through interactive experiences, community service, and just plain fun.

We travel each year to a Catholic youth event and are currently preparing for another mission next summer through Catholic Heart Work Camp. We are focused on fundraising (car

washes, selling Christmas wreaths, pancake breakfasts) and spiritual planning for this mission, and hope to have the support of parishioners during this preparation.

Our Youth Ministry group meets every Monday evening, 7-8:30 PM, in the Little Church. New teen members and adult volunteers are always welcome. We look forward to having our friends join us in Youth Ministry.

## **Ushers**

This is a silent but very visible and important ministry for our parish. Ushers not only reach out to the Lord and help with the celebration of Mass; they also help fellow parishioners to do the same.

We light the candles on the altar, make sure the Sunday bulletins are in strategic places, and make sure we have enough collection baskets ready. We also take up the collection.

We welcome both men and women to join us as ushers. It is a humble job but one that is central to the smooth running of the Mass, from the time the priest enters to the final hymn as people leave. It includes attention to detail and to the needs of the parishioners, such as seating the elderly or disabled or parents with small children.

The only essential requirement is the desire to serve God by serving His people who are attending Mass.