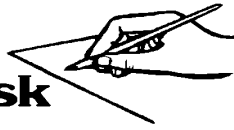


From the Pastor's Desk



Third Sunday of Lent

February 28, 2016

*“Repent, says the Lord:
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*

In today’s gospel, Jesus attacks a misconception his hearers held: tragic death-and illness or other misfortunes-are not the result of sinning. Nonetheless, he issues a clear warning: sinfulness is not to be ignored-we must repent and bear the good fruit of right living. If not, we will perish. We will die an eternal death. The work of Lent is to choose the eternal Life God continuously cultivates within us.

St. Paul in today’s second reading, like Jesus, warns us that our sinful actions will bear dire consequences. Further, since “the end of the ages has come,” there is an urgency about repentance; we cannot put it off-the landowner in today’s parable gave the fig tree one more year to bear fruit.

Many times a tragedy we survived, such as a near fatal accident or a serious illness, is often experienced as a “wake-up call.” Lent is our “wake-up call” to reassess our lives and make choices turning us from sin and leading to fuller Life.

While the gospel demands us to repent and the second reading warns you not to take salvation for granted, the responsorial psalm reminds you of God’s mercy and compassion. The message, however, is not “do what you will and know you’ll be forgiven” but “let us be faithful to this God who loves us so much.” How does this message motivate your own repentance? How does it keep you faithful to the Lenten task of conversion of heart?

In the Good Shepherd,

Fr. Robert



Friday, March 4th following the 8:45 Mass, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for personal Adoration with Benediction at 12:30 P.M. When there is a Funeral Eucharistic Adoration will follow. To assure that the Blessed Sacrament is never left alone, we ask that two people sign up for an hour of Adoration. Please sign up in the Rectory office by Wednesday, March 2nd.



February 21 st , 2016	338 Envelopes	\$8,581.00
Second Collection:		
St. Elizabeth Seton Fund	131 Envelopes	\$2,479.00
We Share (Online Giving)	8 Families	\$195.00

Thank you for your generosity to St. Ephrem Parish!



Parish Goal: \$980,000.00
Amount Pledged: \$1,096,984.00
Paid to Date: \$361,036.19

Your generosity to our Diocese and to our Parish continues to make a difference. Thank You!



JUBILEE OF MERCY

December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016

“We constantly need to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a well spring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it.”

Pope Francis

Stations of the Cross



We will gather to pray the Stations of the Cross Wednesday, March 2nd at 1:00 PM, and 4:00 PM with the Children of our parish and Friday, March 4th at 7:30 PM in church. All are welcome.



Meditation on the Shroud of Turin

Thursday, March 3rd at 7:00 PM in the Church.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Take the opportunity to pray and sing with the Lord, during this period of Adoration. **Monday, March 14, at 7:00 PM.**

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



And he told them this parable: "There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down.

Why should it exhaust the soil?'" - Lk 13:6-7

Mass for the Intentions } for the Week

Saturday, February 27th:

8:45am Vivian DiMauro
5:00pm Teresa-Chao-Nan Kuo
June Battista-Williams
Maria Rosa Napoli
Carmela Oppedisano
Vincenzo Napoli

Sunday, February 28th:

8:00am Patrick Curry & Christopher Hilliard
10:00am Felice Sestito
12:00pm Paolo & Giovanna Mosconi
5:00pm For the People of St. Ephrem's

Monday, February 29th:

7:00am Rosemary Oliva
8:45am Joseph Martin

Tuesday, March 1st:

7:00am Mrs. Madeline Scotto
8:45am John Mollica

Wednesday, March 2nd:

7:00am Jacqueline Jehle
8:45am Rose Lefande

Thursday, March 3rd:

7:00am Jack Murray
8:45am Nicola & Maria Gorizia Ierace

Friday, March 4th:

7:00am Thomas Dorney
8:45am Frances Mascari

Saturday, March 5th:

8:45am Purgatorial Society Mass
5:00pm Marie Cogan Bernstein
The Scudieri & Ruggiero Families
Eleanor Marie Barry
Mario Ardizzone
Ed Gonzalez

Sunday, March 6th:

8:00am Paul & Gladys O'Connor
10:00am Anne Lamia
12:00pm Emanuele & Rosa Chiappa
5:00pm For the People of St. Ephrem's



Pietro Scarso, For the recovery of Christina Flood, Baby Girl Cameron King, Thomas Stephen Ryan, Paul Murphy, Vinny Amato, Edward O'Connor, Adrienne Jacobs, Miriam Ligammari, Patrick Curran, Orazio Arrabito, Silvia Gutierrez-Lopez



BREAD AND WINE
THE BREAD AND WINE FOR ALL MASSES THIS WEEK HAVE BEEN DONATED IN LOVING MEMORY OF FRANCESCO GIANGREGORIO, REQUESTED BY, CAMILLE AREZZO.



Registration for September 2016 is ongoing. Please call the School Office at 718-833-1440 to make an appointment for Early Nursery, Nursery, Pre K, K and grades 1-7. Parents must bring the

following—baptism certificate, birth certificate, immunization record, most current report card/State Test scores for grades 1-7. \$200.00 application fee per child (check/money orders only). All fees are non-refundable. Children must be present at registration for an interview with the principal or faculty member. *Please note: Registration will be scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am-10:30am and 1pm-2pm by appointment only.*

Adult Choir News

We are extending an invitation to come and join our Adult Choir. The generous sharing of time and talent by our choir members is truly a blessing. We encourage all who can contribute, to join us in our music ministry here at St. Ephrem Church. Now is a great time to join us as we are preparing for Holy Week and Easter. Rehearsals are on Monday nights at 7:45pm in the Church. Light refreshments are served.



Children's Choir News

Our children's choir is now accepting new members from 2nd grade through 8th grade. Any children interested in joining our choir may begin attending our weekly rehearsals Thursday, March 3rd. Rehearsals are held weekly in the School Music Room on the 3rd floor from 2:45-3:30pm. The children sing on Sunday's at the 10:00 mass twice a month.

Adult Confirmation



The Sacrament of Confirmation for Adults is celebrated on the Feast of Pentecost on Sunday, May 15, 2016. If you have been Baptized and received First Holy Communion, and would like to be Confirmed please call the Rectory Office

EVENTS AT THE SPIRITUALITY CENTER

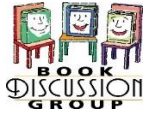


Bereavement Support Group

Monday, February 29 at 7:00 PM.

Scripture Group meets Thursday,

March 3 at 9:30 AM. New members are welcome.



Book Discussion Group meets Thursday, March 3 at 4:00 PM. The book, **The Nightingale** by Kristin Hannah will be discussed. New members are welcome.

Spiritual Direction

Please call Sister Ann at the Spirituality Center at 718-921-9518 for information or to make an appointment.



Diocese of Brooklyn Annual Catholic Appeal 2016
Share the Joy of the Gospel

We are encouraged in a special way in this 2016 Annual Catholic Appeal to share the Joy of the Gospel: by teaching and modeling Christian values; by practicing works of mercy, charity and consolation; by giving to the ACA whose ministries and services share our Catholic faith throughout Brooklyn and Queens.

Our Parish Goal \$104,459.00

All monies collected over goal is returned to St. Ephrem Parish.

Last year we participated in the Generations of Faith Capital Campaign, which incorporated the Annual Catholic Appeal. As we begin the Season of Lent we are being asked to consider the needs of our brothers and sisters in our diocese.

R.C.I.A.: First Scrutiny



The Scrutinies are celebrated on the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent. As Easter draws near, Jane Peck, an elect of our parish, is asked to scrutinize or examine her life so that she may successfully complete her preparation and find Christ in his sacraments. At the 5 PM Mass this weekend we will pray that God gives Jane a true spirit of repentance, a fuller sense of sin and the true freedom that comes with being a child of God. Please remember Jane, her sponsor and catechists in your prayers.

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GOD'S INFINITE MERCY



To help experience this a year of mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis, we will offer a course entitled *God's Infinite Mercy*. In the course we will explore the meaning of mercy as revealed in the Scriptures, the writings of Pope Francis and the church's spiritual and

corporal works of mercy. Most importantly, we will be challenged to respond to God's infinite mercy. The course will be held on Mondays: March 7, 14, April 4 and 11. There will be two opportunities to participate - an afternoon session from 3 PM to 5:30 PM or an evening session from 7 PM to 9:30 PM. Please contact the Office of Faith Formation for more information or to register; 1(718)745-7486 or stephremreligious@gmail.com The donation for the course is \$25. One Leading and Living By Faith (diocesan catechist formation) credit will be granted upon completion of all sessions and assignments. Everyone is welcome - please register as soon as possible

The St. Ephrem Youth Program will be hosting our annual Hoop-It-Up basketball tournament on Friday March 18th and Saturday March 19th, 2016. Hoop-It-Up is 3 on 3, co-ed, half court basketball.



Registration fee is \$30.00 per player and is being done exclusively on line by going to: <https://payableform.appspot.com/forms/sfpgf> There are a limited number of slots available and full teams will be accepted before individual players. Individual players are not guaranteed a slot, so put together your team and register now. For more information, & to get to the registration form, please go to St. Ephrem Youth Program on Facebook or send an e-mail to joeguarin@aol.com.



Many thanks to all our volunteers and sponsors who helped make the 5th annual "swish for kids" a tremendous success. The gym was filled with lots of laughs, smiles and all the kids had a blast with the mens college Basketball teams from St Francis and Mount St Vincent. What a great weekend. A special thanks to the Knights of Columbus 4th degree color guard for honoring us with the pledge of allegiance and the Mount St Vincent princess project ladies who really made the day memorable

For Kids

Best to all of you
Frank Stella
St Ephrem Youth Program
Basketball Coordinator

St. Ephrem Lenten Soup Supper
March 15th at 6:30 PM



Please call the Rectory to make your reservations by Wednesday, March 9th. There will be a free will offering. All are welcomed!

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ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ENTERED ON THIS PAGE
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CHURCH CITY: **Brooklyn, NY**

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EDITOR/ CONTACT: **Lisa Pinsky**

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Comments:
