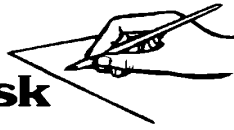


# From the Pastor's Desk



**The Baptism of the Lord  
January 10, 2016**

*“You are my beloved Son,  
with you I am well pleased.”*

Luke begins his narrative of Jesus’ baptism by telling us, “The people were filled with expectation and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ.” John did his job well. He got his hearers fired up and excited with expectation. Could it be that God was finally coming to set Israel free? Finally, after all the generations of waiting under oppressive foes, after longing for so long, God was coming to deliver them.

Well, Jesus wasn’t exactly what the people expected or hoped for. He certainly didn’t make his entrance at the head of a powerful army to overthrow the Romans. If they had reflected on our Isaiah reading, those who were with Jesus at his baptism and throughout his ministry, would have been better prepared for Christ and his ways.

Those of us who respond to the gentle servant God has sent us, Jesus, have in our baptism, entered into a new life in the Spirit. We might say that God could have picked a better crew of workers to accomplish the plans God has for the world. We may not be extraordinary, but the fact is we have been anointed by the Spirit. So, we always have with us the intimate presence of God, the foundation of our lives and the driving energy that sends us into the world. After Jesus’ baptism he went on mission. Our baptism impels us to do similarly, in the many and diverse places God has sent us.

I am delighted to welcome eleven new Altar Servers, who responded to the needs of our parish, as they will be installed to their ministry at the 10:00 AM Mass. I invite you to pray and consider to respond to the needs of our parish and consider being part of a ministry.

On behalf of the Priests’. Deacon Tony, and the Parish Staff we thank you very much for all of your kindness showed to us during this Christmas Season. May this New Year bring you and your loved ones much happiness, peace and joy.

In the Good Shepherd,

*Fr. Robert*



## church support

Christmas Gift to the Church/Christmas Offering:		\$42,797.00
Christmas Flower Offering:		\$3,100.00
Catholic Charities:		\$4,377.00
December 27 <sup>th</sup> 2015:	286 Envelopes	\$10,607.00
We Share (Online Giving)	9 Families	\$205.00

*Thank you for your generosity to St. Ephrem Parish!*



Generations  
of Faith

<b><u>Parish Goal:</u></b>	<b>\$980,000.00</b>
<b><u>Amount Pledged:</u></b>	<b>\$1,096,984.00</b>
<b><u>Paid to Date:</u></b>	<b>\$361,036.19</b>

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

**December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016**



JUBILEE  
OF MERCY

*“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**



### **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

Take the opportunity to pray and sing with the Lord, during this period of Adoration.  
**Monday, January 11, 2016 at 7:00 PM**

*“God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking His mercy.”*

**Pope Francis**



St. Ephrem Church will be collecting non-perishable food items for the OLPH Food Pantry after all weekend Masses, January 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> Thank you for your usually generosity!!!!

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



*After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.*

*Lk 3:21-22a*

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.*

### Mass for the Intentions for the Week

#### Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>:

8:45am Donna & Jerry Montello  
5:00pm David Delaney  
John Ward  
Esther Mutone  
Angela Moraca  
John Anticev

#### Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>:

8:00am Antoinette Gatto  
10:00am Mary Marciano (Sister)  
12:00pm Anne Lamia  
5:00pm For the People of St. Ephrem's

#### Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>:

7:00am Thomas Conroy  
8:45am Maria Alaimo (Living)

#### Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>:

7:00am Philomena Straka  
8:45am James E. Durney

#### Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>:

7:00am Holy Souls in Purgatory  
8:45am Mrs. Madeline Scotto

#### Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>:

7:00am For the People of St. Ephrem's  
8:45am Holy Souls in Purgatory

#### Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>:

7:00am Alice & John Kenny  
8:45am John Sisti

#### Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>:

8:45am Mr. & Mrs. Ignazio & Concetta Rizzuto  
5:00pm Frances Gambino  
Mr. & Mrs. Ignazio & Concetta Rizzuto  
Karen Savage  
Mrs. Madeline Scotto  
Peter James Carlin

#### Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>:

8:00am Gerard & Patricia Strype  
10:00am Carmen Rodriguez  
12:00pm David Durney  
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

#### MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION

We prayerfully remember those parishioners who have gone to the other side of life.

Maria Ortega Stan Bonanno  
Nicholas Rao Robert Bochenski  
Mrs. Madeline Scotto Peter J. Carlin  
May they rest in peace. Amen.



#### 5th Annual Swish For Kids

#### **Basketball Classic Benefitting Frankie's Mission Pediatric Cancer Foundation**

Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM

If you know a child currently battling cancer, in remission or survivor please have the family contact

Mr. Frank Stella.  
(718) 757-6000



#### St. Ephrem

#### Mardi Gras Celebration

#### **Saturday, January 30, 2016**

Following the 5:00 PM Mass  
The Msgr. Peter V. Kain Hall  
(The New School Hall)



Join us for a night filled with fun:

DJ, Hot Food, Chips, Soda, Dessert, Coffee, Basket Raffles, 50/50 Raffle & Much More

**\$20 per person.** (Adults Only)

Individual and Table Reservations Available.

B.Y.O.B., Casual Attire, Mardi Gras Attire Optional

**Tickets are available at the Rectory.**

If would like to donate a new gift or make a monetary donation feel free to bring it to the Rectory!



Registration for St. Patrick/St. Ephrem Learn to Swim program for the 2016 is now opened. The learn to swim registration is \$125 and is LIMITED to the first 60 registrations. This program is BEGINNING

swimmers in grades K-4th grade ONLY. Sibling discounts will be applied at the time of registration. Registrations are only done online at [www.stpsports.org](http://www.stpsports.org). Look for the yellow "Register Now" button on the main page. Only parents with valid email addresses can register their children. Please send an email to [stpsports@gmail.com](mailto:stpsports@gmail.com) with any questions.

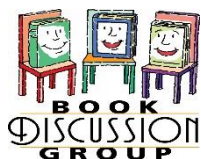
**JANUARY EVENTS AT THE SPIRITUALITY CENTER**



**Bereavement Support Group** meets Monday, January 11 at 7:00 PM.

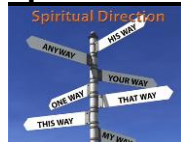


**Scripture Group** meets Thursday, January 14 at 9:30 AM. New members are welcome.



**Book Discussion Group** meets Thursday, January 14 at 4:00 PM. The book, **The Baker's Daughter** by Sarah Mc Coy 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.



**FOUNDATIONS FOR MINISTRY PROGRAM**

Are you thinking about volunteering for a parish ministry? Are you already in ministry or part of the Parish Pastoral Council but

need an update on the teachings of the Catholic Church? Perhaps the Pastoral Institute's Foundations for Ministry Program is for you! This 10-week program, designed for adult learners, covers a different topic each week. For example, The Emerging Role of the Laity; Jesus: His Message, His Ministry; and One Church, Many Faces. Classes begin in January and are being offered at St. Ephrem in English; other sites will offer classes in Spanish, Haitian, Creole and Mandarin. If you are interested, please go to <http://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/get-involved/pastoral-institute/foundations-ministry/> for more information and to register. Registrations online only! For more information you may also contact Eileen Maguire at the St. Ephrem Office of Faith Formation: (718)745-7486 or the Pastoral Institute at (718) 281-9556 or at [pastoralinstitute@diobrook.org](mailto:pastoralinstitute@diobrook.org).

**"Be An Angel" to a St. Ephrem Student**

The "Be An Angel Program" is one of the ways Futures In Education, a Diocesan organization, provides a student with need-based scholarship and the chance for a St. Ephrem parishioner to change the life of a child through a gift of a Catholic education. An 'Angel' is a concerned individual who provides sponsorship to a student in a Catholic school within our Diocese by providing partial tuition assistance starting at \$1500.00 per year. (St. Ephrem School Annual Tuition is \$4,575 per student) The Angel selects which Parish Elementary School they wish to assist. It is the sincere hope and prayer of our principal, Mr. Taormina, that you would select our school. There are many of our own students in need. For more information please call the school office at 718-833-1440.



Saint Ephrem School is proud to announce its students outstanding achievements for the first trimester:

**Grade K**

**Perfect Attendance**

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Chelsea Casero    | Anthony Esposito |
| Massimo Fuschetto | Adriano Grasso   |
| Lily McGoldrick   | Annabelle Zhao   |



**Most Improved**

- |            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| Adam Sayar | James Whiffin |
|------------|---------------|

**Best Effort**

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Chelsea Casero | Logan Fernandes |
| Arianna Ursino |                 |



**Most Cooperative**

- |                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Daniel Frisari | Rocco Guardavaccaro |
| Julia LoFaso   |                     |

**St. Ephrem Baseball Award Ceremony**

**Sunday, January 17, 2016**  
Following the 10:00 AM Mass  
The Msgr. Peter V. Kain Hall

All are players, family and friends are welcomed! Light refreshments will be served.



**Baseball Registration**  
The Msgr. Peter V. Kain Hall

**Sunday, January 17, 2016**  
At the Award Ceremony

**Wednesday, January 27, 2016**  
7:00 to 9:00 PM

**Sunday, January 31, 2016**  
11:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Registration is open to boys and girls of ages 5 to 14.

For more information you can contact  
Sylvester Sichenze at (917) 692 - 1367



**END OF BULLETIN**  
**ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ENTERED ON THIS PAGE**  
**WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE PRINTED BULLETIN**

CHURCH NAME: **Church of St. Ephrem**

CHURCH CITY: **Brooklyn, NY**

ROUTING CODE: **R**

RUN NUMBER: **13**

FILENAME: **03-0402.52b**

PHONE NUMBER: **718-833-1010**

FAX NUMBER: **718-921-5232**

EDITOR/ CONTACT: **Lisa Pinsky**

**CURRENT FORMAT: EBSWUN**

**Comments:**

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