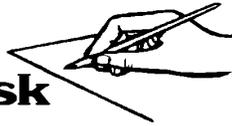


From the Pastor's Desk



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

December 27, 2015

“Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”

The Holy Family provides us the model we need. They were faithful and obedient to the traditions that formed who they were. They were also open to God’s astounding new in-breaking and willing to undergo the change that divine in-breaking invited for their lives. They teach us what it means to be “in [our] Father’s house,” where we learn our religious traditions and form the memories that make us who we are as members of the larger family of God. They teach us that we really belong to God, and everything about our living must reflect that we are most at home “in [our] Father’s house.” The Holy Family also teaches us to be obedient to the unknown and un-understood things to which God might be calling us. They teach us that our lives are about always growing “in wisdom and age and favor.”

It is in giving of ourselves over to God’s unexpected new invitations that we, too, advance in “wisdom and age and favor/before God” and all those who know us. Our families are schools of holiness, for there we learn the memories and traditions that make us who we are and who God wants us to be: holy, God’s beloved children. Holiness is finding the way to be who we are in God’s sight: people of a tradition and people open to God’s new in-breaking.

As we gather together as the parish family of St. Ephrem, may we realize that “we are God’s children.” May we continue to support one another on our faith journey, so that we can see God’s action in our lives and respond with fidelity.

The Parish Staff and I would like to wish you and your loved ones a Happy and Healthy New Year! May this New Year bring us much peace and happiness!

In the Good Shepherd,

Fr. Robert



December 13 th , 2015:	\$10,980.00	390 Envelopes
December 14 th , 2014	\$10,022.00	326 Envelopes
We Share (Online Giving)	\$225.00	10 Families

Thank you for your generosity to St. Ephrem Parish!



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

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

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Food Pantry Thanks Us!

Our parish family received a thank you note from Sr. Lucille Aliperti, CSJ the Food Pantry Director. She expressed her gratitude for our food donation which helps in their distribution.



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

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Lk 2:51-52

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

Mass for the Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 26th:

8:45am Magdalene Oszust
5:00pm Irene Dunn
Helen Thompson

Sunday, December 27th:

8:00am John J. Tuohy
10:00am Domenick Mazzone
12:00pm Raymond Duffy, Jr.
5:00pm For the People of St. Ephrem's

Monday, December 28th:

7:00am All Souls in Purgatory
8:45am Pascale & Lefande Families

Tuesday, December 29th:

7:00am For the People of St. Ephrem's
8:45am Josephine & Frank Prete

Wednesday, December 30th:

7:00am For the People of St. Ephrem's
8:45am Fred Bartone

Thursday, December 31st:

7:00am Robert Molinari
8:45am Virginia & Vincent Ingenito
5:00pm Sal Restivo

Friday, January 1st:

8:00am Mrs. Pauls
10:00am Mate & Data Pocina
12:00pm Angela Mollica

NO 5:00PM MASS

Saturday, January 2nd:

8:45am Purgatorial Society Mass
5:00pm

Sunday, January 3rd:

8:00am For the People of St. Ephrem's
10:00am Domenick Mazzone
12:00pm Josephine & Frank Saccente & Ann Turchiano
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

We are in need of your help!



Can you smile? Can you be kind? Then you're perfect for this ministry. We want our parishioners and guests to feel welcomed and provide any assistance if needed. We can use your help providing this "red carpet treatment." Please consider joining this ministry. We are especially in need at the Saturday, 5 p.m. and Sunday, 5 p.m. Masses. Please contact Mr. Joseph Graffagnino (917) 922 - 5108.



St. Ephrem Intramural Basketball Season

Our new season will kick off on
Sunday, January 3rd
Coaches with their Teams will
gather at the 10:00 AM Mass,
for a spiritual beginning to a great season.

5th Annual Swish For Kids Basketball Classic Benefitting Frankie's Mission Pediatric Cancer Foundation



Sunday, January 24th 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

For Kids



Thank you to Santa's Helpers!

Through the generosity of the parishioners of St. Ephrem, over 500 gifts were sent to Heartshare Human Services and Hour Children to benefit the children served by these agencies.

This would not have been able without the help of so many who packed and organized all the gifts. Helen Chartrand, Al Marciano, Liz Palumbo, Kathy Thompson, Diane Riordan, Matt Riordan, Noreen Sloan, Fran Clyne, Bob & Kim Meyer, Cathy Flynn
Thank You!

DECEMBER EVENTS AT THE SPIRITUALITY CENTER

Bereavement Support Group

A new Bereavement Support Group will begin Monday, January 4 at 7:00 PM in the Spirituality Center. Sessions run on a 6 week cycle. If you recently lost a loved one and would like to join the group for some compassionate listening, honest sharing, and consoling prayer, please come to the Center. Individual (one on one) sessions are available on request.

BEREAVEMENT DEANERY CORNER

For information regarding a Bereavement Support Group please contact:

Sister Jeanne Elaine at 718-238-2600 x178 – St. Patrick Parish
Judy Chiarchiaro at 718-748-1164 – Our Lady of Angels Parish
Sister Ann Martha at 718-921-9518 – St. Ephrem Parish

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.

"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.



**Feast of the Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary, & Joseph**

December 27, 2015

We bless your name, O Lord,
for sending your own incarnate Son,
to become part of a family,
so that, as he lived his life,
he would experience its worries and its joys.

We ask you, Lord,
to protect and watch over this family,
so that in the strength of your grace
its members may enjoy prosperity,
possess the priceless gift of your peace,
and, as the Church alive in the home,
bear witness in this world to your glory.

We ask this thought Christ our Lord.
Amen.

—from **Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers**

Prayer for the New Year

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
R/. Amen.

—Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi



*We wish you and your loved ones
a Happy and Healthy New Year!*

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:
