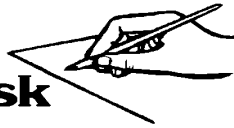


# From the Pastor's Desk



The Epiphany of the Lord

January 3, 2016

*“Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We say his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.”*

The “magi from the east” followed the light of a star. A light of heaven that guided them. A light of revelation that manifested “the new-born king of the Jews” to Gentile wise men. A light of warning that protected this Child from harm until his time had come. Like the magi, we must follow this light to *the* Light. Like the magi, we offer “the child” homage –the gift of our very selves become the Light of his Presence. A Light that guides, reveals, warns.

The mystery we celebrate today is that this “newborn king of the Jews” is as present to us as he was present to the magi who came to do him homage and offer him gifts. Just as this “newborn king of the Jews” manifested himself to the “magi from the east,” symbolizing the Gentiles, so does he now manifest himself to all peoples and all nations at all times. He manifests himself to us. His light, however, does not emanate from a distant star, but from within each of us who is open to his divine Presence, open to his saving love, open to his gift of Life.

We ourselves are the guiding light; we ourselves reveal God’s divine Presence through the goodness of who we are; we ourselves warn others by the way we live and not closing our eyes to this Light. We ourselves are to be the gift offered to others, a gift that shines brightly for all to see because this “newborn king of the Jews” dwells within us and among us. Such a light we behold!

In the Good Shepherd,

*Fr. Robert*

### The Epiphany -- January 3, 2016

“Opening their treasure chests, they offered Him gifts.” Are you beginning to see your life as a gift to be given to the Lord as a priest, deacon, religious sister or brother? Contact the Vocation Office at (718) 827-2454 or email: [vocations@diobrook.org](mailto:vocations@diobrook.org)



December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015: \$ 9,897.00 348 Envelopes  
December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014: \$14,012.50 337 Envelopes  
We Share (Online Giving) \$225.00 10 Families

*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!*

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 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> Thank you for your usually generosity!!!!

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



*They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.  
Mt 2:10-11*

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

### Mass for the Intentions } for the Week

**Saturday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>:**

8:45am Purgatorial Society Mass  
5:00pm

**Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>:**

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

**Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>:**

7:00am Deceased Members of the Sichenze, Amplo and DeMaio Families  
8:45am Settimio Trombetta

**Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>:**

7:00am Philomena Straka  
8:45am Theresa Offitto

**Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>:**

7:00am For the People of St. Ephrem's  
8:45am Deceased Members of the Pologruto Family

**Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>:**

7:00am For the People of St. Ephrem's  
8:45am Mrs. Madeline Scottio

**Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>:**

7:00am For the People of St. Ephrem's  
8:45am Barbara Coscio (Living)

**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



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



**BREAD AND WINE**  
*THE BREAD AND WINE FOR ALL MASSES THIS WEEK HAVE BEEN DONATED IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOSEPHINE DeSTEFANO, REQUESTED BY ROSE AND DONNA.*



### St. Ephrem Intramural Basketball Season

Our new season will kick off on Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>  
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 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.**

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!

**JANUARY 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](mailto:pastoralinstitute@diobrook.org).

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

The "Be An Angel" 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.



**ST. EPHREM'S PURGATORIAL SOCIETY**

will celebrate mass for the following on Saturday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> at the 8:45am Mass:

Gertrude Lovelock Karen Savage  
Mrs. Madeline Scotto



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

**Pre-K**

**Perfect Attendance**

Antonios Ashkar  
James Jarah  
Ethan Murillo



**Most Improved**

Hailey Stauffer  
Sophia Venturelli

**Best Effort**  
Sofia Gallego  
James Jarah  
Joseph Villa



**Most Cooperative**

Amelia McKinney  
Ethan Murillo

**Prayer for Epiphany**

*Dear Jesus,  
though a newborn, the wise men  
knew your greatness.*

*On a hint from the heavens,  
they traveled far from their  
places of comfort*

*so that they could honor you.*

*From their belief in your divinity,  
they gave amazing gifts, offerings that  
symbolized*

*your life, power, and even your death.*

*And because of a dream in the night,  
they altered their well-laid plans to return home  
in order to protect you.*

*May we be so willing to honor, sacrifice, and  
obey,*

*all for love of you,*

*as we meditate on the meaning of this day.*

*Amen.*



**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**

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

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

EDITOR/ CONTACT: **Lisa Pinsky**

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**Comments:**

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