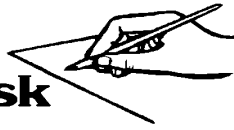


From the Pastor's Desk



Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 13, 2016

“Neither do I condemn you, Go, and from now on do not sin any more.”

Today’s gospel is a story that refuses to be so simply categorized. The gospel account begins with deadly accusation, and ends with divine mercy. It begins with condemnation that would have led the adulterous woman to death, and ends with Jesus’ mercy leading her to new Life. The account begins with human testing of Jesus, and ends with divine invitation to repent. It begins with a narrow focus on application of a law as an excuse for testing the fidelity of Jesus to Jewish covenantal law, and ends with Jesus revealing a new order in which all are called to repentance and an experience of divine mercy. Jesus’ desire for us is not death but new Life. This journey of moving from sinfulness to new Life is both tragic and comic. It is sad and happy. It is a choice. A critical choice.

The “scribes and the Pharisees” use the proscription of the law in an attempt to entrap Jesus. He responds by confronting them with the reality of their own hard-heartedness and sinfulness. They slink away “one by one,” leaving the adulterous woman alone to face Jesus. He extends mercy and compassion as well as judgment and a command to change her life. Do we dare to stand alone before Jesus, bare our own sinfulness, and hear him say to us, “Go, and from now on do not sin any more”?

This week we celebrate the feast of St. Patrick and St. Joseph. Both St. Patrick and St. Joseph have close spiritual and cultural ties to many of our parishioners. The great story of our city which welcomed our ancestors and their culture and most importantly their faith. Both the Irish and Italian’s contributed so much to making our city great. We should be proud and we should celebrate. Immediately following the 8:45 AM Mass on March 17th and March 19th I invite over to the Rectory for light refreshments, so that we can celebrate our heritage and faith. All are welcomed.

In the Good Shepherd,

Fr. Robert



March 6 th , 2016	358 Envelopes	\$10,774.00
Second Collection:		
Landscape Support	171 Envelopes	\$ 1,901.00
We Share (Online Giving)	8 Families	\$195.00

Mass Attendance: 894

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



Our Parish Goal \$104,459.00
Amount Pledged: \$37,220.00
83 Donors
Paid to Date: \$21,992
Reached 35% of Goal

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

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



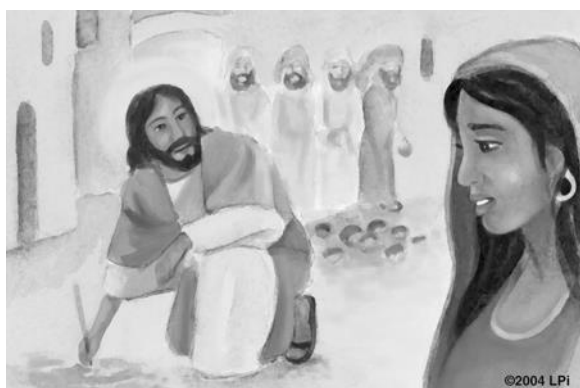
We will gather to pray the Stations of the Cross Wednesday, March 16th at 1:00 PM, and Friday, March 18th at 7:30 PM in church. All are welcome.



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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore." - Jn 8:10-11

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, March 12th:

8:45am Antonio Hernandez
 5:00pm Nicholas Bonilla
 Frank Valenza
 Peter James Carlin
 Claire Varrone
 Kim Heines

Sunday, March 13th:

8:00am David Durney
 10:00am Lola Bell
 12:00pm Bernardo & Giuseppe Chiappa
 5:00pm For the People of St. Ephrem's

Monday, March 14th:

7:00am For the People of St. Ephrem's
 8:45am Margaret Baranello

Tuesday, March 15th:

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

Wednesday, March 16th:

7:00am For the People of St. Ephrem's
 8:45am Jessie Doolan

Thursday, March 17th:

7:00am Peter & Theresa Murray
 8:45am Rosa Cavallaro

Friday, March 18th:

7:00am For the People of St. Ephrem's
 8:45am McGuirk & Delehanty Families

Saturday, March 19th:

8:45am Ierace & Russo Family
 5:00pm Antoinette & Joseph Bonanni
 Frances Gambino
 DeLuca, Scotto & Taranto Families
 Michael Ianniello
 Kathleen O'Connor

Sunday, March 20th:

8:00am Joseph Portelli
 10:00am Ronald Lombardi (Living)
 12:00pm Domenica Pagliughi
 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, Marisa & Rita Schievello, Maria Concetta Conte Bedessi



THE ALTAR CANDLES AND THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNING FOR THE WEEK HAVE BEEN DONATED IN HEALTH AND HAPPINESS FOR JOSEPH SCAVONE.



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.*

CHOIR SCHEDULE

3/19	5:00 Mass	Adult Choir
3/24	7:30 Mass	Both Choir's
3/25	3:00 Service	Adult Choir
3/26	8:00 Mass	Adult Choir
3/27	10:00 Mass	Children's Choir
	12:00 Mass	Adult Choir



HOLY THURSDAY WASHING OF THE FEET

The washing of the feet during the Holy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper is a beautiful ritual full of meaning which represents the service and charity of Christ, who came 'not to be served, but to serve'. With this in mind we are asking for some volunteers that would like to represent the parish family, young and old, by having their feet washed during the Mass on **Holy Thursday, March 24th at 7:30pm**. If you are interested, please call the rectory, leave your name, and phone number.

"Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do."

John 13:15

EVENTS AT THE SPIRITUALITY CENTER

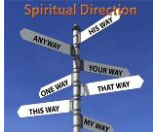


Bereavement Support Group
Monday, March 14 at 7:00 PM.

A Lenten Retreat – “HAVING MERCY”

Session 5 will be held Tuesday, March 15 at 1PM.

All are welcome.



Spiritual Direction

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

HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday

Saturday, **March 19, 2016** Vigil Mass at 5:00 PM

With Adult Choir

Sunday, **March 20, 2016**

8:00 AM, 10:00AM, 12 Noon & 5:00 PM

Reconciliation Monday

Monday, **March 21, 2016**

3:00 PM to 9:00 PM

The Sacred Paschal Triduum

Holy Thursday – March 24th

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

7:30 PM Mass of the Lord’s Supper

Good Friday – March 25th

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

3:00 PM Passion of the Lord

7:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday – March 26th

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

8:00 PM Easter Vigil

(No 5:00 PM Mass and Confessions)

Easter Sunday – March 27th

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12 Noon

(No 5:00 PM Mass)

A Blessed and Happy Easter!

R.C.I.A.: Third Scrutiny

At the 12 Noon Mass today we celebrate the third and final scrutiny in the R.C.I.A. process. We pray for Jane Peck, chosen by God, that she may be conformed to Christ by the grace of the Easter sacraments. We pray also that we, the faith community of Saint Ephrem, may support Jane with our prayers and by our example.



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.

Bay Ridge St. Patrick Day Parade

Sunday, March 20, 2016

9:30 AM Mass at St. Patrick’s Church

Line up on Marine Ave & 3rd Ave

1 PM Parade Kicks off! Reviewing stand

77th St. & 3rd Ave. Face painting shamrocks for children at 1PM.

Join our community in celebrating their Irish Heritage and cheering on the Catholic School Float with children from our Catholic Schools in the neighborhood.



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ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ENTERED ON THIS PAGE
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PHONE NUMBER: **718-833-1010**

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

EDITOR/ CONTACT: **Lisa Pinsky**

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