

From the Pastor's Desk



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
March 20, 2016

Today we mark the beginning of the most solemn week in which we accompany Jesus through his suffering, death and resurrection. This Holy Week we walk with Jesus. Throughout Luke's account of the passion, Jesus is trying to turn his accusers and hearers away from their understanding of kingdom to embracing "the kingdom of God." Even on the cross, Jesus continues to show how different his kingdom is, for he forgives the very one who cause him suffering and death. The gift of his death? He confers on us his kingdom and invites us to be with him in paradise. Which kingdom do we choose?

To prepare ourselves spiritually to walk this week with Jesus, tomorrow Reconciliation Monday, March 21st from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM we will have an opportunity to experience God's everlasting mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Jesus is always inviting us to embrace a new life and to leave behind our "old sinful one."

Palm Sunday begins an extraordinary week – a week that concentrates in a few days the ultimate meaning of our whole Christian life. We must slow ourselves down and make choices so that this week doesn't go by without our taking the time to enter into its meaning. We celebrate in the Liturgies the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, which reflects our lives, in the dying self - all the dying to self that characterizes truly faithful disciples of Jesus, all the dying to self that proclaims our choice to live in God's kingdom. This choice is our way of continuing Jesus' saving mission, our way of making visible our ultimate desire to live forever with God, unite with this Jesus who, suffered, died, and was buried. This Jesus who was raised. Living in this kingdom is possible when we, too, commend ourselves into God's hands.

I hope you will accompany each other, as we walk with Jesus this week. Together we will be with Jesus from the garden where he went to pray after the meal with his friends, as he carries the cross up to Calvary and dies, and to rejoice at the empty tomb because we know he is alive and is Risen! Please consult the Holy Week Schedule so that you may walk with Jesus and pray with each other throughout the Liturgies.

In The Good Shepherd,

Fr. Robert



March 13 th , 2016	352 Envelopes	\$ 9,661.00
Second Collection:		
Easter Flowers	148 Envelopes	\$ 2,027.00
We Share (Online Giving)	8 Families	\$200.00

Mass Attendance: 960

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: \$42,350.00
98 Donors
Paid to Date: \$24,942
Reached 40.5% 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



Our Lady of Perpetual Help High School
Class of 1966 – 50th Reunion
12:30 to 4:30 – Saturday June 4th
at the Bay Ridge Manor
\$60 pp includes beer and wine.

Contact Barbara "Adams" Cashin bcashin@amanet.org or 212-903-7947

5th Annual St. Ephrem Summer Camp



Come join us for a summer full of fun!!! Park visits, activities, weekly trips, water games and much more!! Camp begins on

Monday, July 11th and ends Thursday, August 18th.
For more information, call 718-833-1440.

**Camp is open to all children,
Pre-K to 6th Grade (September, 2016)**

Registration for our Camp
Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at 2:45 PM
St. Ephrem School Cafeteria

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION



"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest." - Lk 19:38

Mass for the Intentions Week

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

Monday, March 21st:

7:00am Margaret Mary Mancuso (1st Anniversary)
 8:45am Kathleen O'Connor

Tuesday, March 22nd:

7:00am Ilario Piscioneri
 8:45am Anthony W. & Josephine DeFina

Wednesday, March 23rd:

7:00am Jerry Mignone
 8:45am Mary Lou Doolan

Thursday, March 24th:

9:00am Morning Prayer
 7:30pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday, March 25th:

9:00am Morning Prayer
 3:00pm Friday of the Passion of the Lord
 7:30pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 26th:

9:00am Morning Prayer
 8:00pm Easter Vigil

Sunday, March 27th:

8:00am Mary & Daniel Kane
 10:00am Michael F. Mathieson
 12:00pm Joseph Losardo



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, Maureen Cashman



BREAD AND WINE

THE BREAD AND WINE FOR ALL MASSES THIS WEEK HAVE BEEN DONATED IN LOVING MEMORY OF LAURA JEAN POGGIOLI, REQUESTED BY THE POGGIOLI AND MAGUIRE FAMILIES.



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

3/24	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 21 at 7:00 PM.

A Lenten Retreat – “HAVING MERCY”

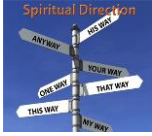
Session 6 will be held Tuesday, March 22 at 1PM.

All are welcome.



Spiritual Direction

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



The remaining sessions of “The 12 Keys to Spirituality Vitality Program” with Richard Johnson (DVD Program) will begin Tuesday, April 5th at 1pm. All are welcome.

**HOLY
WEEK**



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.: Easter Vigil

We ask your prayerful support for our catechumen, Jane Peck as she finalizes her preparation for Easter sacraments. Jane will be fully initiated at the Easter Vigil, she will be baptized, confirmed and receive Eucharist. Pray that she may continue to find strength in the grace of these sacraments and in our faith community, here at Saint Ephrem.



ATTENTION ALL ENGAGED COUPLES GETTING MARRIED

AT ST. EPHREM’S CHURCH
On Wednesday, April 20th at 7:30pm in the church, we will have our annual Wedding Music Night.

Here you will have the opportunity to listen to all of the music selections, the singers and the different instruments available for your wedding ceremony. This is the **ONLY** night for 2016.

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

Jubilee Year of Mercy – Divine Mercy Devotion



St. Ephrem’s 15th Anniversary of devotion to Divine Mercy.
Monday, March 28th through Saturday, April 2nd at 2:45 PM with:

- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- Reflections of St. Faustina
- Chaplet of Divine Mercy

On **Divine Mercy Sunday, April 3rd** we will recite St. Faustina’s Praises of the Divine Mercy and the Chaplet beginning at 2:30PM. Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Richard Bertone beginning at 3:00 PM.

THE NEXT C.A.P. MEETING WILL BE ON MARCH 22ND IN THE RECTORY BASEMENT MEETING ROOM AT 9:30AM. SEE YOU THEN!!!!

**END OF BULLETIN
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Comments:
