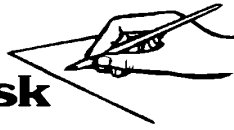


From the Pastor's Desk



Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 6, 2016

“Rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.”

Throughout the gospels we hear how the “the Pharisees and scribes,” did not like that Jesus entertained all the “wrong people.” In today’s parable, the prodigal son entertained all the “wrong desires!” The elder son entertained anger and jealousy, pettiness and closed heartedness! On the other hand, the father tendered reconciliation leading to feasting. In our lives, God tenders mercy and forgiveness leading to new Life. What do we entertain in our hearts? What do we tender in our relationships? With whom do we feast?

Pope Francis reminds us that like the father of the Prodigal Son, “when we return to Him, he welcomes us as children, in his house, because he never gives up waiting for us with love, not even for a moment. And his heart is in celebration for every child that returns.” The Holy Father continues: This “celebration” is found in the joy that God has “for each of us who returns to Him and asks His forgiveness.” “We need never fear approaching God, but should rather remember that God “always awaits us” when we seek his mercy.”

Last Sunday you heard members of the St. Ephrem Pastoral Planning Council (PPC) speak at Mass and explain their function and how they share their gifts and talents with our community. As they mentioned we are in need of new members to continue the work of Pastoral Planning Council so that we can together make St. Ephrem continue to shine in the Diocese of Brooklyn. During the Season of Lent, I ask you to prayerfully consider nominating a fellow parishioner and/or yourself, to serve on the St. Ephrem’s Pastoral Planning Council. I thank you in advance for bringing this “ask” to prayer and I am grateful for those who have served and continue to serve in this role.

In the Good Shepherd,

Fr. Robert



February 28 th , 2016	316 Envelopes	\$10,461.50
Second Collection:		
Music Ministry Fund	164 Envelopes	\$ 2,508.00
We Share (Online Giving)	8 Families	\$195.00

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!



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 9th at 1:00 PM, and 4:00 PM with the Children of our parish and Friday, March 11th 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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



"His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'let us celebrate with a feast because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again.'"

Lk 15:21-22a, 23b-24a

Mass for the Intentions } Week

Saturday, March 5th:

8:45am Purgatorial Society Mass
 5:00pm Marie Cogan Bernstein
 The Scudieri & Ruggiero Families
 Eleanor Marie Barry
 Mario Ardizzone
 Ed Gonzalez

Sunday, March 6th:

8:00am Paul & Gladys O'Connor
 10:00am Anne Lamia
 12:00pm Emanuele & Rosa Chiappa
 5:00pm For the People of St. Ephrem's

Monday, March 7th:

7:00am Deceased Members of the Sichenze, Amplo & DeMaio Families
 8:45am Celestino Catalano

Tuesday, March 8th:

7:00am For graces and blessings
 8:45am Holy Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, March 9th:

7:00am Jennifer Tiedmann & peace for her family
 8:45am Pasquale Marsillo

Thursday, March 10th:

7:00am Msgr. Edward Sweeney (1978)
 8:45am Sr. Bridget Marie Crowe, CSJ

Friday, March 11th:

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

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



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



BREAD AND WINE
THE BREAD AND WINE FOR ALL MASSES THIS WEEK HAVE BEEN DONATED IN LOVING MEMORY OF MRS. MADELINE SCOTTO, REQUESTED BY, THE POLIZZOTTO FAMILY.



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.*

Adult Choir News

We are extending an invitation to come and join our Adult Choir. The generous sharing of time and talent by our choir members is truly a blessing. We encourage all who can contribute, to join us in our music ministry here at St. Ephrem Church. Now is a great time to join us as we are preparing for Holy Week and Easter. Rehearsals are on Monday nights at 7:45pm in the Church. Light refreshments are served.



CHOIR SCHEDULE

3/13	12:00 Mass	Adult Choir
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



Adult Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation for Adults is celebrated on the Feast of Pentecost on Sunday, May 15, 2016. If you have been Baptized and received First Holy Communion, and would like to be Confirmed please call the Rectory Office

EVENTS AT THE SPIRITUALITY CENTER



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



A Lenten Retreat – “HAVING MERCY”
Session 4 will be held Tuesday, February 16 at 1:00 PM. All are welcome.

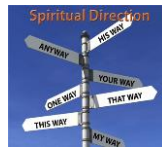


**MORNING PRAYER
HOLY WEEK**

Dates: March 24, 25, 26
(Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday)
Time: 9:00 AM
Place: Church
Leaders: Frank Chiarchiaro, Maria Corrado,
Deborah Mc Laughlin

Spiritual Direction

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



Diocese of Brooklyn Annual Catholic Appeal 2016
Share the Joy of the Gospel

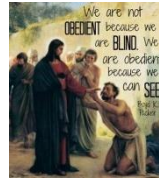
We are encouraged in a special way in this 2016 Annual Catholic Appeal to share the Joy of the Gospel: by teaching and modeling Christian values; by practicing works of mercy, charity and consolation; by giving to the ACA whose ministries and services share our Catholic faith throughout Brooklyn and Queens.

Our Parish Goal \$104,459.00

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

Last year we participated in the Generations of Faith Capital Campaign, which incorporated the Annual Catholic Appeal. As we begin the Season of Lent we are being asked to consider the needs of our brothers and sisters in our diocese.

R.C.I.A.: Second Scrutiny



We continue our prayers for Jane Peck, called by God to the Easter sacraments. At the 10 AM Mass this weekend we celebrate the second scrutiny and pray that Jane may remain faithful to God and by her life give witness to her faith. Please remember Jane, her sponsor and catechists in your prayers

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.

St. Ephrem Lenten Soup Supper
March 15th at 6:30 PM



Please call the Rectory to make your reservations by Wednesday, March 9th. There will be a free will offering. All are welcomed!

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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CHURCH CITY: **Brooklyn, NY**

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FILENAME: **03-0402.52b**

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

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

EDITOR/ CONTACT: **Lisa Pinsky**

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Comments:
