

NEW! Church Building Hours:*Monday through Friday hours:*

7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Saturday hours:

7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Sunday hours:

7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

The Celebration of the Eucharist:*Monday through Friday:* 8:00 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.*Saturday:* 8:00 a.m.; Vigil Mass at 4:00 p.m.*Sunday:* 8:00 am, 10:00 a.m. (Family Mass), 12:00 pm (Adult Choir) and 7:30 pm (Contemporary Choir)**Sacrament of Baptism:**

Baptisms are celebrated on the First and Third Sunday of the month at 2:00 p.m. Parents are asked to contact the Parish Office to make the necessary arrangements.

Beginning January 2016, Baptisms will be at 1:15.**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Confessions are heard in the church on Saturdays from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. and during the week at the Parish House or by appointment with a priest

Sacrament of Marriage:

Couples planning to get married are asked to contact the Parish Office at least one year prior to their wedding date to begin their marriage preparation.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick:

Parishioners, especially those who are entering the hospital, who wish to receive the Anointing of the Sick are asked to contact the Parish Office.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Saturday from 3:00 – 3:45 p.m.

Novenas:

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal: Monday after the 8:00 am and 12:10 pm Masses.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help: Wednesday after the 12:10 p.m. Mass

Parish House (Rectory):

239 East 21st Street, New York, NY 10010-6463 (between Second and Third Avenues)

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

The Parish Office is closed on Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays

Telephone: 212-475-1966 Fax: 212-504-8363

Website: www.epiphanychurch.nycE-mail: epiphanychurch239@gmail.com**The Epiphany School:**

234 East 22nd Street; New York, NY 10010-5601

141 East 28th Street; New York, NY 10016

Telephone: 212-473-4128 Fax: 212-473-4392

Website: www.theepiphanyschool.org**THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY**

The Church of the Epiphany
375 Second Avenue and 22nd Street
New York, NY 10010

Rev. Austin Titus
Pastor

Rev. Arthur Golino
Parochial Vicar

Rev. Msgr. Thomas A. Modugno
In Residence

Rev. Livinus Obianisi
Hospital Chaplain in Residence

Mr. James L. Hayes
Principal, The Epiphany School

Mrs. Kathleen Crimmins
Director of Religious Education

Mrs. Bogna McGarrigle
Director of Music Ministries and Organist

December 13, 2015
Third Sunday of Advent

Epiphany Church is Handicapped Accessible

WELCOME!

Welcome to all new parishioners and visitors at Epiphany parish.

We are happy that you are here with us in the presence of God.

Remember to send your photos to the rectory or e-mail a photo to epiphanytitus@gmail.com. It helps Fr. Austin in a big way!

Announced Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 12, 2015

4:00 pm (vigil) Catherine Hudson

Sunday, December 13, 2015

Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 am Our parishioners
10:00 am Rev. Patrick J. Carroll
12:00 pm Hector Diaz Jr.
7:30 pm Filomena Pinto Pereira



Monday, December 14, 2015

St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

8:00 am Albert J. Ackel
12:10 pm Gilda E. Soderholm

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

8:00 am Brown family (living & deceased)
12:10 pm Thanksgiving for Shella Sabino

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

8:00 am Joseph Walsh
12:10 pm Deceased members of the Koczka family

Thursday, December 17, 2015

8:00 am Frank McLaughlin (living)
12:10 pm Julius Jung

Friday, December 18, 2015

8:00 am Gertrude M.S. Walsh
12:10 pm Carmelo & Theresa Spadaro

Saturday, December 19, 2015

8:00 am Jimmie Dwyer

*May the Souls of the Faithful Departed
Through the Mercy of God, Rest in peace. Amen.*

CHRISTMAS NOVENA MASS ENVELOPES

Christmas Novena Mass envelopes are available at the back of the church.

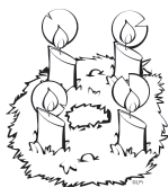
Please return the envelopes before Christmas Eve. They will remain on the altar during Christmas novena Masses.

Octave of Christmas



Advent Wreath Dedications

Wreath Stand & Trimming in remembrance of members of the Wycoco & Stametelaky families, living and deceased.



Candles

Week 1 ~ in memory of Lillian & George Conard, Jack Warmbrand and James Lee

Week 2 ~ in memory of Pilar R. Franzuela and Leticia M. Asuzano
Week 3 ~ members of the Ramos family, José, Luella, Joseph, Amanda, Benjamin, Sydney & Lucas

Week 4 ~ in memory of deceased members of the McElroy family

REMEMBRANCE & SPECIAL INTENTIONS

A wonderful way to remember our loved ones who have passed on and to pray for special intentions, while giving back to God

Mass Intentions (2016 - all Masses now available)

Altar Bread & Wine (\$50 / week)

Sanctuary Lamp (\$20 / week)

Memorialize a Weekday Mass Book (\$25 / copy)

Please make these arrangements at the rectory.

Remembrance

Our Sanctuary lamp during the month of December will burn in remembrance of members of the Wycoco & Stametelaky families living & deceased



The Gifts of Bread and Wine during the month of December are offered in memory of Natalie, Joseph & Patrick Torre



Offerings for Christmas Flowers & Decorations

Envelopes are available at the back of the church.

Please return your offering by December 15.

Once again, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

4:00 PM Family Mass with Youth Choir and Children's Christmas Pageant
10:00 PM Solemn Vigil Mass of Christmas with Adult Choir and Trumpet

Christmas Day

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM - Organist & Cantor
12:00 PM with Adult Choir and Trumpet
There will be no 7:30 Mass on Christmas Day



**SACRAMENT
of
RECONCILIATION**



Advent Reconciliation Monday at Epiphany

December 14 - 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

The sacrament of reconciliation is a great gift from God. Cardinal Dolan has designated this as a day for all Catholics to accept God's gift of forgiveness.



Our average weekly collection is \$12,742, which is less than our average weekly expenses of \$20,482.

We appreciate your generosity.

The Finance Committee has published our Annual Financial Report which is available in the church vestibule.

We encourage parishioners to make their Sunday contribution through *ParishPay* which is available on our parish website www.epiphanychurch.nyc



Christmas Music at Epiphany

Join us now and share the gift of music

We welcome volunteer Singers, Trumpet players & Violinists to join us now as we prepare for Christmas

Sing and play with us during the Christmas Season at Epiphany and join in the music of our parish all year long.

Music is an expression of joy. Come and be joyful with us!



Join St. Peter's University of Jersey City on Tuesday, December 15 for their **Christmas with the National Catholic Choir & Orchestra** Immerse yourself in the sounds of Christmas!

Purchase tickets at www.jcfinearts.org

Enter code: **EPIPHANY** to receive a special discount



JOIN THE LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary is part of the worldwide association of Catholic laity who serve the Church in prayer and the performance of apostolic works.

Today, there are over 3 million members, making it the largest apostolic organization of Catholic lay people.

Meetings are at 6:00 PM every Wednesday in the Rectory. For information, please call Mary at 212-686-7913.



Cub Scout Pack 422

is collecting toys for the children at the New York Foundling Hospital.

Please bring your unwrapped toy to Epiphany on December 13, after the 8am, 10 am & 12pm Masses.

If you cannot bring the gift on Sunday, please deliver it to the rectory **no later than** Tues, Dec 15. **Help us deliver smiles to the children for Christmas!**



ADOPT A FAMILY AT CHRISTMAS

It is not too late to participate!

There are still families in need of your kindness.

For information, please contact:

virginiaurban@yahoo.com or 212-217-3044.

Drop-off: Wed, December 16 - 3:00 to 7:00 PM

at the Epiphany School at 234 East 22nd.

Drivers needed to deliver gifts on Dec 16th!

DEMELLO-STROUD SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE

Saturday, December 19 - 8:00 AM - 4:45 PM

Epiphany Church Hall (2nd Av - 21/22 Sts - Manhattan)

WAKE UP TO THE JOYS OF ADVENT!

"Listen to the song the angels sang when you were born"

- the joyful mysteries of your life
- the revelations that silence brings
- the gift of "distractions" while praying

8:00 - 9:00 Bagels & Coffee

9:00 - 4:45 Interactive discussion, talks, video -

JOY, AWARENESS, SILENCE, LOVE, MEDITATION

Presented by Desmond Towey & Josephine Dixon Hall of the Demello-Stroud Spirituality Center located at Epiphany Church

REGISTER at 917-859-1701 or demellostroud@aol.com

There will be a break for lunch.

Participants may choose to go out for lunch or bring their own lunches.

FREE OF CHARGE

Modest gratitude donations will enable the Center to continue its work.

I NEVER WANTED TO BRING THIS UP, BUT...



If you are a person of faith and listen to the scriptures, you probably ask yourself, "How much should I give to support my church?" An even better question is, "How much am I keeping for myself, compared to what I am giving to the Church, which is the body of Christ?" Christ gave us everything, shouldn't we give Him our best?

Some people like to throw a dollar or two into the basket. If that is all they can afford, we thank them! But that is not true for most of us. Yet the biggest component of our collection each week is single dollar bills.

Please ponder what you give. Make it a true gift of which to be proud. One parishioner suggests that if you're giving a few dollars each week into the collection, try to give one hour's wage instead. So if you make \$60,000 per year, one hour would be \$30.

Whatever guide you follow, your donation should be more than just a tip to God. It should be a heartfelt gift. Imagine your loved one giving you a gift. What would you think if he or she gave you a dollar or two?

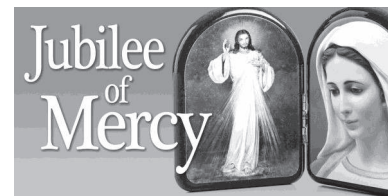
I thank you sincerely for doing the best you can.

Fr Austin

A PARISHIONER WRITES:



Dear Father: I signed up for ParishPay several years ago and committed to a recurring donation each month. I know that expenses have increased over the years, but my donation has not. I love this Church, so I am increasing my monthly donation (and will continue to increase it each year). I hope others will do likewise.



Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy

December 8, 2015 - November 20, 2016

Pope Francis encourages us in this Year of Mercy

"Let us remember the Golden Rule:

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

It is a favorable time to heal wounds, a time to offer everyone the way of Forgiveness and Reconciliation.

Show mercy to others through the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.



A Gift of Beauty & Honor

Epiphany School's graduating class is raising funds for their graduation trip in May 2016.

Honor your loved one by purchasing a poinsettia plant which will decorate Epiphany Church during the Christmas season.

The name of your loved one will be written on a specially designed tag with an ornament as a Christmas keepsake.

Plants are available in pot sizes:

6" (\$25), 8" (\$35), 10" (\$50) & 14" (\$100)

Also available is a 24" boxwood tree (\$200)

Order forms can be obtained in the church narthex.

Please return orders to the rectory

NO LATER THAN Tuesday, December 15

UNDERSTANDING TODAY'S READINGS

(In order to understand God's love, we need to understand what He says)

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

"The Lord, your God...will rejoice over you with gladness and renew you in his love..."

Today's reading reminds us of the joy we will feel when God is with us. Zephaniah presents an image of Jerusalem as a young girl who should be at a party. The danger has passed. The enemies are gone. It is time for rejoicing because God is in their midst. Not only does the city have cause for rejoicing, the prophet loudly proclaims God's joy over the return of his people. God and the people are together; they are reconciled. There is true joy.

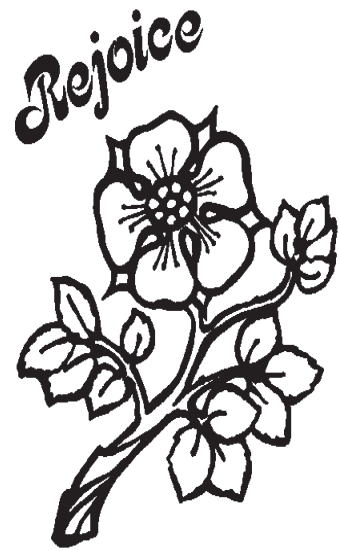


Tomorrow, on Advent Reconciliation Monday, we can draw closer to God and rejoice with Him in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Philippians 4:4-7

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I say again: rejoice!"

Jesus will come to us soon. We celebrate his birth at Christmas and we await his second coming at the end of days. Our waiting time can be filled with anxiety or joy.



Paul gave us this choice. If we await with apprehension, we will not feel the gladness God's coming will bring. Joyful anticipation leads to peace, both for us and for the people in our lives. Joy is never assertive or destructive. It is a gift from God. Joy from God is based in a peace that transcends the limitation of the human mind and heart. If we want to experience God's peace, we must open ourselves up to his presence and accept his gift of joy.

So take the time, slow down. Enjoy the season. Pray in the spirit of thanks for the season. Let God give you his peace.

Luke 3:10-18

"...one mightier than I is coming. He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire."

In this reading, John the Baptist acts in his role as a visionary of future events and encourages the people to exercise their moral conscience. He urges his audience to practical, moral change that would enhance the common good. He then points to One Greater than he: the Messiah.

At the time of John and Jesus, Jews expected four different types of Messiahs. First, a militant messiah to lead them against the Romans; second, a great high priest who would banish corruption from the temple and restore pure worship; third, a great teacher like Moses to explain the Law and lead them in God's ways. All of these Messiahs would rise from among the people.

The last Messiah would appear from nowhere, the "Son of Man" whose authority would come from God himself. He would be God's agent of judgement. This is the Messiah prophesied by John as the "One Greater."

John's encouragement to a moral conscience asks us to prepare ourselves for the coming by becoming what God expects us to be. We are asked to share clothing and food, to practice justice, to maintain personal and professional integrity, to be honest and respectful.

Why the fearful image of unquenchable fire that will accompany the bestowing of the Holy Spirit? How is this "Good News?" This IS Good News because being saved through God's judgement is worth the fearful cost.

Jesus encouraged us in the readings two weeks ago (Luke 21:34-36) to pray for strength during the test and for fortitude to stand before the Son of Man at the Last Judgement. The joy to follow will be well worth whatever fear we suffer.



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In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, we can enhance our moral conscience with practical acts of charity, forgiveness, and compassion - all acts of mercy.

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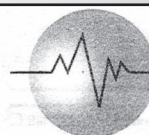
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