

Church of St Monica

413 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075
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 Website: www.stmonicanyc.org

**INCORPORATING THE PARISHES OF ST MONICA, ST STEPHEN OF HUNGARY
 AND ST ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY**

ST STEPHEN OF HUNGARY SCHOOL

Early Bird 2's Program 408 East 82nd Street Phone (212) 288-1989
 Pre-K 3 - 8th grade New York, NY 10028 Fax (212) 517-5877
 Website: <http://www.saintstephenschool.org> Email: info@saintstephenschool.org
 Caroline Walker—Principal

PARISH STAFF

PASTOR: Rev. Donald C. Baker

ASSOCIATES:

Rev. Joe A. Francis

Rev. Joslin (Joseph) Kandachamkunnel Jose

ORGANIST & DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

Mr. David Schaefer

CANTOR & LEADER OF SONG:

Mr. Joseph Neal

MASSES

Sundays: 7:30 AM; 9:00 AM; 10:30 AM
 & 12 Noon (Principal Liturgy & Choir)
 Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM

Weekdays: 7:30 AM & 12 NOON **Saturdays:** 12 NOON

St Stephen of Hungary: Sundays 11:30 AM (until further notice)

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE COMING KINGDOM

Jeremiah could see it coming—the kingship of Jesus and the restoration of Jerusalem. But was anybody listening? Is anybody listening now? It must have been tough being a prophet, but Jeremiah was persistent in his message because he knew that it needed to be heard.

Also persistent in his message is Paul as he encourages the Thessalonians—and all of us—to live in accordance with the kingship that Jeremiah foretold. He encourages us to conduct ourselves in ways of holiness so that we may be well prepared for the king's coming. Finally, Jesus himself tells us to be ever diligent so that we may gain favor before our God and King.

Jeremiah could see the kingship of Jesus coming. As we begin the season of Advent, Paul and Jesus tell us not only how to prepare for the Kingdom, but how to live it day to day.

November 29, 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

WORLD AIDS DAY.
Commemorative Mass
 Tuesday December 1st at 12
 Noon
FAMILY MASS
 Our next Family Mass will be
 Saturday December 5th
 at 5:30 PM
Light Refreshments will be
served after Mass

OFFICE HOURS

Monday 9 AM to 5 PM
 Tuesday 9 AM to 7 PM
 Wednesday 9 AM to 7 PM
 Thursday 9 AM to 7 PM
 Saturday: 10 AM to 2 PM
 The Rectory Office is closed on
 Friday & Sunday

Rosary

After all weekday masses

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Friday after the Noon Mass to 3 PM, with Benediction following the Divine Mercy Chaplet

Devotions

Miraculous Medal on Mondays after each Mass

Divine Mercy

The Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed each weekday afternoon at 3 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

5:00 PM on Saturdays
 Anytime by appointment

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading - The days are coming when the LORD will fulfill the promise made to Israel and Judah (Jeremiah 33:14-16).

Psalm — To you, O Lord, I lift my soul (Psalm 25).

Second Reading — May the Lord make you increase and abound in love that you may be blameless in holiness; conduct yourselves so as to please God (1 Thessalonians 3:12 — 4:2).

Gospel — There will be signs and you will see the Son of Man coming with power and great glory. Be vigilant (Luke 21:25-28, 34-36).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22
 Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
 Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
 Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
 Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
 Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8
 Sunday: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11;

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: First Sunday of Advent
 Monday: St. Andrew
 Tuesday: World AIDS Day
 Thursday: St. Francis Xavier
 Friday: St. John of Damascus; First Friday
 Saturday: First Saturday

Remember your loved ones by dedicating, in their honor, the weekly Bread & Wine, or Sanctuary Light

Bread & Wine
 Rosa Olga Teresa Litrenta

+

Requested by:
 Dr. Maria Litrenta



Banns of Marriage
 III Kim Nicole G. Que
 Louieji M. Fushimi

Mass Schedule

SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 28): VIGIL

5:30 PM The Corning Family)

SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 29) FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30 AM Louis Nemeth
 9:00 AM Carmela Lepore & Anne Hornung
 10:30 AM The McHugh Family (Living & Deceased)
 11:30 AM Mary Filippone (at St Stephens)
 12 NOON Parishioners of St Monica, St Stephen of Hungary and St, Elizabeth of Hungary

MONDAY (NOVEMBER 30): ST ANDREW

7:30 AM Andrew Joseph)
 12 NOON Jimmy Migliore

TUESDAY (DECEMBER 2): WORLD AIDS DAY

7:30 AM Juan Ayestury Litrenta (L)
 12 NOON Living and Deceased Members of the McHugh Family

WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 3): Advent Weekday

7:30 AM Joseph & Gertrude Finn
 12 NOON Rosa Olga Teresa Litrenta

THURSDAY (DECEMBER 4): ST FRANCIS XAVIER

7:30 AM Ralph Cagnetta
 12 NOON Adam Armetta

FRIDAY (DECEMBER 5): Advent Weekday

7:30 AM Carla Betiana
 12 NOON Frank Goonan

SATURDAY (DECEMBER 6TH): Advent Weekday

12 NOON Brian Thompson

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Please remember in your prayers:
 Stan Tice, Kathleen Reddington,
 and
 All victims of Military Activity

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

Robert Pritchard
"I've gone to prepare a place for you."
 Please pray for our deceased parishioners and friends.

BAPTISMS & MARRIAGES:

Please call the rectory office for more information.

COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND:

Anyone who cannot attend church because of illness or age, please contact the parish office, so that arrangements can be made to bring communion to you.



Fr Joe Francis annual Advent Bible Study Class begins on Tuesday, December 8th at 7 PM at the Church of St Monica. It will run for three weeks (Tuesday December 15th & Tuesday December 22nd). All or invited to attend.

DEMELLO-STROUD SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE

Saturday, December 19 - 8:00 AM - 4:45 PM
Epiphany Church Hall, Second Ave, 21-22 st,
Manhattan
WAKE UP TO THE JOYS OF ADVENT
"Listen to the song the Angels sang when YOU were
born!"
Reflections in the Spirit of Anthony Demello, S.J.
8:00-9:00. Bagels and 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: 917-
859-1701/demellostroud@aol.com
FREE OF CHARGE
Modest gratitude donations will enable the Center to
continue its work.

CARDINAL DOLAN YOUNG ADULT MASS w/ Matt Maher and Audrey Assad

You are invited to join the Office of Young Adult
Outreach for a Young Adult Mass presided by
Cardinal Dolan on Wednesday December 9th at 7:30
pm at St Patrick's Cathedral. Confessions and
Adoration with music by Matt Maher and Audrey
Assad will be held from 6:30- 7:30 pm. Please arrive
early. There will be a post-Mass social at a location
TBA. Learn at www.CatholicNYC.com.

THE THREE COMINGS OF ADVENT

*There are three distinct comings of the Lord
of which I know, His coming to humankind, His
coming into humankind, and His coming against
humankind.*

Just a word

From Your Pastor 11-29-15

Giving Thanks

This past week it began; that month - long explosion of color and lights, of parties and family visits, of eating and drinking and shopping and shopping and shopping . . . known euphemistically as the "Holiday" Season.

Nowadays the use of the word "holiday" is politically correct – in that way politicians, but really retailers, offend no one. But the use of that word should give us pause – for the word comes from the older "Holy Day" - from a time when the only days off from work were religious days, on which one rested celebrated and prayed. And that word "holy" – IT comes from the same root word as the words "hale" (i.e. healthy), "healing," and "whole".

Thus the ancients understood that to be healthy, to be whole, to be holy, to be the people God created us to be, requires rest – it requires play, it requires time for contemplation and yes, prayer. It's the whole idea behind keeping a Sabbath day HOLY – and its why we call play and rest RE-creation. Looked at it from THAT perspective, it's hard to imagine calling the next four weeks a holiday!

Which might be why the Church calls it something else. It calls it the Advent Season. Advent, from the Latin word, Adventus: arrival. It is not Christmas – that is the feast it prepares us for. It is that season when we recall all the ways God comes to us – through the words of ancient prophets promising the child called Emmanuel, "God with us"; through the words of John the Baptist announcing the arrival of God's Chosen One; through the promises that God will come at the end of time; and finally, through the promise of an angel to a young girl Mary, that Emmanuel, God's Chosen One would be born to her, and she would call him Jesus.

The Church refuses to race towards the celebration of that birth. The color we wear is purple, the ancient color of kings., and we light a wreath with four candles, each marking off a week and reminding us that the birth of that King is coming, but is not yet. The readings are full of reminders to wait to watch and to pray.

. . .to which I would like to add: to rest and to give thanks: for Advent is also a four-week Sabbath – a time where we watch and pray for the re-creation of the world.

It is my prayer that amidst the demands of the holiday season you find time for Holy Days. To re-create, to pray and give thanks to God for all God's gifts to us, as we prepare for the celebration of the gift of His Son, and all that he means for the wholeness and healing of the world.

And make no mistake – this year what I give thanks for most is all of you.

-FR BAKER

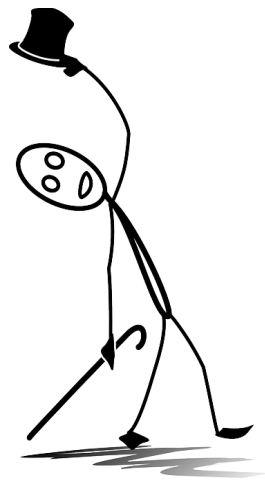
Invitations, News, Thoughts and Prayers

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Advent is a time rich in family traditions. Many of them have been so effectively absorbed into our culture that their religious origins are hidden. Some of us will set candles in our windows tonight. The custom began in Ireland during the so-called "penal" days, extending from 1691 to the "Catholic Emancipation" in 1829 and beyond. There were harsh penalties and fines for not attending the government church. Priests were forced into hiding, but people were resourceful and determined in guarding their faith. At Christmas, Irish families, particularly in the countryside, placed a lighted candle in the cottage window and left the door unlatched, hoping that a priest might come by and celebrate the Christmas Mass for them.

The possibility of the Mass coming into the family home gave rise to other Irish customs at the beginning of Advent. The cottage received a fresh coat of whitewash, the threshold was swept especially clean, and fresh curtains were hung in the windows. The house was scrubbed until it gleamed, including all the pots and pans, and all garments and table linens were laundered. The custom of the Irish window candle was so admired in Catholic Europe that it was widely copied there, and now finds a welcome in households that may not exactly expect a priest to wander in!

-Rev. James Field, Copyright© J. S. Paluch Co.



The Saint Stephen Hungary School Foundation Presents:

**Sketch Night!
An Evening of Music and Comedy**

Friday, January 8, 2016

7-9 pm (doors open at 6:30)

Saint Stephen School Auditorium
Featuring Music by David Patrick Kelly (P'22)

Cabaret by Vicky Dussich (P'25)
Mr. Dan Mullen's A Cappella Group *Out of Office* Comedy by Joan Weiss and Doug Karp
And much more!

Tickets

\$40 per person for General Admission

\$500 for Reserved Table of 8 (includes two bottles of wine)

\$1,000 for VIP Reserved Table for 8 (includes four bottles of wine and a cheese board)

For tickets and more information, please contact Lauren Walker at LWalker@saintstephenschool.org or call (212) 288-1989

**ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**



The Choir at St Monica, led by musical director David Schaefer is happy to announce that the joy returns on Sunday, December 20th at 6 PM.

Join us for a celebration of the sounds of the season, and the usual fun and surprises.

Admission is free, but donations to help support the music ministry at St Monica's are greatly appreciated.

WORLD AIDS DAY

Join us on Tuesday, December 1 at the 12 Noon to commemorate World Aids Day

The World Health Organization established World AIDS Day in 1988. World AIDS Campaign is the leading international organization which plans and implements the observance.

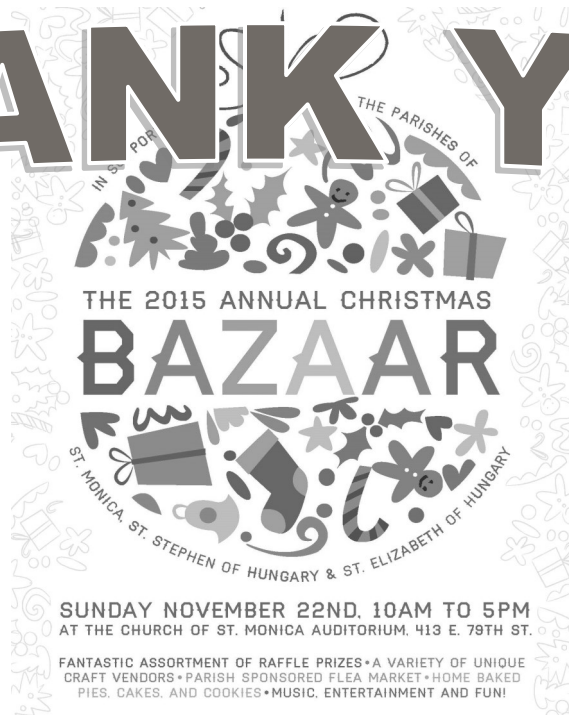
**Saint Ignatius Loyola School
Annual Christmas Fair**

Saturday, December 5th and Sunday, December 6th, 2015

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Saint Ignatius Loyola School, McKinnon Hall, 48 East 84th Street, New York, New York. Free Admission.

Everything you need for holiday gift giving, including decorative accents, housewares, personal items, fragrances, jewelry and more!

THANK YOU



From all of us at the Churches of St Monica, St Stephen of Hungary, and St Elizabeth, we would like to take the opportunity to truly thank our parishioners and friends for helping us have a tremendously successful Christmas Bazaar 2015.

There are so many people to thank for making this annual event happen.

Thank you to ALL our wonderful volunteers, our parish elves, too numerous to mention, who helped make everyone entering our Bazaar feel welcome.

Special Thanks go out to **Eileen Flynn** and her baking crew at her always fabulous bake shop, helping to feed our hungry shoppers.

And we cannot forget our fabulous and multi-talented choir, under the watchful guidance and direction of David Schaefer

Thanks to the children of St Stephen of Hungary School for their beautiful decorations.

Of course, we thank the great Bazaar committee of **Nicole Alessi Morandi, Lilo Adams** and **Patricia Grande** for putting all the pieces into place.

We'd also like to thank the following individuals and companies for their very generous donations that help us create our fabulous raffle prizes:

Berkshire-Omni Hotel	Bistage	Restaurant	Bisto 61	Dr Donald Milione
Kinetic Sports Physical Therapy		Elio's Restaurant	Hom Bom Toys	Keurig
Salvos Pizza Bar	Agata & Valentina	Millesima	Fine Wines	Steeped Tea
Rita Mara	Emily & Mike Ward	Kris Kristel	Leo & Lydia Clemente	
Joseph Catalano	And all our wonderful vendors who participated in our Bazaar			