



Church of St Monica St Stephen of Hungary St Elizabeth of Hungary

Rectory Office

413 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075

Tel: (212) 288-6250

Fax: (212) 570-1562

Website: www.stmonicanyc.org

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) K. Jose

ORGANIST & DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

Mr. David Schaefer

CANTOR & LEADER OF SONG:

Mr. Joseph Neal

MASS SCHEDULE

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)

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

MANIFESTING THE SPIRIT

The Christmas season closes this Sunday with the Baptism of the Lord. This feast is a sister to last week's feast of the Epiphany. Each of them celebrates an "epiphany," or a manifestation of the Spirit of God in Jesus—first in his birth, and now at his baptism.

The divine Spirit is manifested in all of the scriptures for this feast. Psalm 104 highlights the Spirit of God creating and renewing the earth, while the reading from Isaiah describes God restoring Israel. In Luke's account of the baptism of the Lord the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus. And the letter to Titus reminds us that the Holy Spirit was "richly poured out" on us also, through the "bath of rebirth" (Titus 3:5, 6).

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UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 10th, 2016

*Martin Luther King's
Birthday*

*Monday, January 18th
One Mass at 9 AM
The rectory office will be
closed that day*

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

Rectory Office will be closed for
lunch daily from 1 PM to 2 PM

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

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Isaiah speaks of the Servant whom the Lord upholds; he shall bring forth justice to the nations

(Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7) or Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11.

Psalm — The Lord will bless his people with peace (Psalm 29) or Psalm 104.

Second Reading — Jesus was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit; he went out healing and doing good (Acts 10:34-38) or Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7.

Gospel — A voice comes from heaven proclaiming Jesus as the beloved Son, with whom God is well pleased (Luke 3:15-16, 21-22).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-19; Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday:	1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday:	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday:	1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45
Friday:	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday:	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday:	Is 62:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-10; 1 Cor 12:4- 11; Jn 2:1-11

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:	The Baptism of the Lord
Monday:	First Week in Ordinary Time
Wednesday:	St. Hilary
Saturday:	Blessed Virgin Mary

**Remember your loved ones
by dedicating in their honor this week's
Bread & Wine**

MASS INTENTIONS

At the Offertory of the Mass, the prayers of the church on earth are united with the church in heaven. An appropriate way to remember our beloved dead is through the offering of a Mass intention. What better way for us to show our loved ones just how much they mean to us. The 2016 Mass Book is now open.



Mass Schedule

SATURDAY (JANUARY 9): VIGIL

5:30 PM Adam Armetta

SUNDAY (JANUARY 10): THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

7:30 AM Matt & Ann Connolly

9:00 AM Frank Coughlin

10:30 AM Lori Kramer

11:30 AM (at St Stephen's)

12 NOON Parishioners of St Monica, St

Stephen of Hungary and St,

Elizabeth of Hungary

MONDAY (JANUARY 11): Weekday/Ordinary Time

7:30 AM Joseph B. Williams

12 NOON Edward McLaughlin Jr.

TUESDAY (JANUARY 12): Weekday/Ordinary Time

7:30 AM Robert Reuss

12 NOON Rosa Gambino

WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 13): Weekday/Ordinary Time

7:30 AM

12 NOON Frida Perez

THURSDAY (JANUARY 14): Weekday/Ordinary Time

7:30 AM Mary Boer (L)

12 NOON Dennis Rogers

FRIDAY (JANUARY 15): Weekday/Ordinary Time

7:30 AM Doc Emerson (L)

12 NOON Elizabeth Horgan

SATURDAY (JANUARY 16): Weekday/Ordinary Time

12 NOON Priscilla Morse.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**Please remember in your prayers**

David Francis O'Connor, Lilo Adams, James Baker,
Gina Cifello, , Edward Flanagan ,Estrella Flores,
Roseanne Murphy, Lola Brownlow

and

All victims of Military Activity
Please pray for our deceased parishioners and
friends.

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

*Manuel Clement e(1st Anniversary) ,
"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.

**POPE FRANCIS'
"YEAR OF MERCY"
December 8, 2015 –
November 20, 2016**

Seeing the great need for mercy and healing in the world, **Pope Francis** called for the Year of Mercy—a special period, also known as a Holy Year or Jubilee Year, for the Catholic Church. It is a time for the Church across the world to take approximately a year to focus on forgiveness and healing in a special way. Pope Francis has asked us as individuals and as a Church "to be a witness of mercy" by reflecting on and practicing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy (Pope Francis' Announcement of the Year of Mercy). Beginning December 8, 2015, the Holy Year of Mercy will focus on studying and reflecting on mercy, receiving mercy, and being merciful towards others.

THE DIVINE MERCY

An image of the Divine Mercy can now be found in the westside wall of our beautiful church.

Please take the opportunity to join our growing prayer group at 3:00 PM every weekday.

***EXPOSITION OF
THE BLESSED SACRAMENT***

Join us every Friday afternoon after the 12 Noon Mass for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Following the Divine Mercy, there will be Benediction.



Just a word

From Your Pastor 01-10-16

Whew. Christmas has come and gone. I seemed like yesterday that we were putting up Christmas trees, and now we are putting them away.

However I will not soon forget these past few weeks. I was so overwhelmed by the holidays here at St. Monica's - St. Stephen's - St. Elizabeth's.

The Christmas Concert at our school was the first time I felt like Christmas was actually coming. Thank you to our principal, Ms. Caroline Walker, and everyone who made that event such a faith filled celebration. If you have never attended it, next year, check it out.

The Christmas Concert here at St. Monica's was an event I will not soon forget. Everyone had been telling me that it was something special, but even that did not prepare me for the over the top celebration of the the Christmas season we all enjoyed. Thank you to our music director, Mr. David Schaefer, and everyone who sang and played and produced this amazing event.

Our masses at Christmas would not have been possible without the help of so many ushers, servers, choir members, Eucharistic ministers, lectors, and clergy. Thank you all.

The Lift

Many of you have commented on the fact that there is a hole in our front steps! Some have even come to the rectory demanding to know why I am destroying the front of the church (sigh). We are not destroying the steps. However, that is the beginning of the new handicapped access to our church. When complete, there will be an easily - operated lift which will bring people with wheelchairs, walkers and people who have difficulty climbing, safely into our church. The company's designs for the lift integrate it into the front steps. It will look different than before, but certainly will fit into the overall architecture.

. . . And it will be a powerful statement to everyone that ALL people are welcome here – especially our older members.

The arrival of the lift will be bitter – sweet for the 60-70 parishioners who still worship at St. Stephen's. The reason why one mass continued to be celebrated there after August 1, 2015 was because St. Monica's was not handicapped accessible. That will change soon, and with that the 11:30 am mass will come to an end. Once we know more about the date of the lift's completion, we can plan for that sad eventuality. The church at St. Stephen's will continue to be used for the masses and other celebrations at St. Stephen of Hungary school.

So, changes are in store for all of us in the coming year. Yet when we hold fast to the one thing that does not change, God and God's love for us all, and when we share that with others, then change is not something to be feared but to be embraced, for it is a sign that God is with us, and shaping us to be the people God wants us to be, here in Yorkville, in 2016.

Father Baker

Invitations, News, Thoughts and Prayers

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Merry Christmas! Share that cheerful greeting with some folks today. They may wonder if you have had any Elvis sightings lately, attended Star Trek conventions, or were Cleopatra in a previous lifetime. Despite the skeptics, today is solidly within the Christmas season. In fact, in some strands of the Christian tradition it represents the clearest manifestation of the mystery of the Incarnation. On Christmas Day, for example, the Gospel reading is the Prologue of John's Gospel, which reveals the glory of Christ shining through our humanity precisely in his baptism.

At any rate, this is an ancient feast, celebrated first in Egypt sixteen centuries ago. More than most other ancient people, the Egyptians understood the life giving properties of water. On this day, they drew water from the Nile, so central in the history of their people, and reserved it in honor. Many other places copied the custom, so that St. John Chrysostom wrote of people in Antioch gathering at midnight to collect flowing water into vessels they brought from home since "today there is a blessing on the water." At home for dinner tonight, decorate the table with beautiful bowls of water and white candles, toast one another with goblets of sparkling water, and light a Christmas candle in the window one last time.

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

Introduction to Chant Course

Mondays from 7:00-9:30pm, January 18 – May 2

St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers

Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington

Taught by Dr. Jennifer Donelson, DMA

Parish musicians and other interested students are invited to attend this introductory course on the subject of chant. Opportunities for study and music making throughout the course. For more information and rates, please visit nyliturgy.org/workshops

TEMPER AND PRIDE

Temper is what gets most of us into trouble.

Pride is what keeps us there.

—Anonymous

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Very special thanks go out to each and every individual who participated, assisted, or donated to make the holiday celebrations at our churches a truly blessed event. Whether you served, sang, ushered, read or worshipped, your presence here added to the diversity and holiness of the season. As we go forward into the New Year, let us continue the spirit of hope and faith.

POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home, the much anticipated encyclical of Pope Francis on the environment, was released to the world on Thursday, June 18th, 2015. People all over the world eagerly awaited the Pope's call to save God's creation and protect the poor (who are those most harmed by ecological destruction). News coverage was extensive and it generated much interest among people of many faiths around the world. You can find an introduction to the encyclical in a 6 1/2 minute video that features Catholic voices, online at <http://www.yaleclimateconnections.org/2015/06/video-outlines-background-for-pope-francis-papal-encyclical/>, or go to Yale Climate Connections and search "encyclical background".

**THE CHURCH OF ST MONICA
ST STEPHEN OF HUNGARY AND
ST ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY
INVITES YOU TO A**

ST. VALENTINES DAY DANCE
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 13TH, 2016

FROM 7 –10 PM

At the Saint Stephen School Auditorium
408 East 82nd Street

DJ
Entertainment

DANCING

REFRESHMENTS

*Tickets available in St Monica Rectory Office
Beginning Wednesday , January 13th
\$25.00 per person*

*(purchase of ticket at door subject to amount of
pre-event sales)*

To Benefit the ministries of our parish