



THE BELLRINGER

SAINT LUKE'S CHURCH

FOREST HILLS, NEW YORK

JANUARY 2017

Christmas – Epiphany

Season's Greetings!

Though we are back-to-school with a return to regular work schedules and daily patterns, the Christmas season continues.

Our festive celebration of The Nativity culminates on **Friday, January 6th at 7:30pm** with an **Epiphany Day Holy Eucharist**. A Three Kings Procession, Organ and Hymns, Children's Homily and "Three Kings Cake" Reception are all ingredients of our festal conclusion of the Christmas season.

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY
FRIDAY, JANUARY 6 AT 7:30PM



SUNG EUCHARIST
WITH HYMNS AND ORGAN

I realize a Friday evening might not be the most convenient time for families to attend. Yet, in hopes that our families will be able to participate, nursery care will be offered. This liturgy will be a wonderful way to impress upon our children the important faith formation lessons of the birth of Jesus and those who come to the manger to worship the newborn King!

Speaking of children, in recent times, Saint Luke's has been experiencing a new blessing

with so many young girls and boys. Our **Christmas Worship** reached a new high of 222 people! Granted, this is the total of our three Christmas services; but that is an instructive reality. Our early **Christmas Eve 4pm service** for families with young children was an opportunity for 42 people to gather round the crèche and witness the wonder in the eyes and words of babies, toddlers and young school children who helped me tell the story of Jesus birth, sing "Silent Night," and share candy canes. The 10pm **Candlelight Choral Eucharist** was beautiful and moving for the 110 members of the congregation.

And then on **Christmas morning**, 70 people were present—singing, praying, joyously celebrating. Of particular note is how many people were with us then—an all-time high due, I think, to three factors: more and more people realize we offer music on Christmas morning, we have a number of friends who look forward to worshipping with us on Christmas morning, and this year's Christmas Day being a Sunday contributed to the congregation's size. Our Christmas Eve congregation was smaller than usual but this is often the case when a Saturday Christmas Eve allows for a long weekend of travel.

Many parishioners were away for Christmas. Yet many visitors and friends were present—including two Muslim sisters and their Iranian Jewish friend who reveled in our choir's anthems on Christmas Eve and joined in all the congregational carols, expressing to me during the eggnog reception how comfortable and welcomed they felt at Saint Luke's, and trusting ahead of time that they would be welcomed in an

Episcopal church. "Look at us," the more gregarious of the two sisters exclaimed with a joyful smile on her face that rivaled the Christmas Star, "we are Muslims, not the extremes we hear tell of; but Muslims, Jews and Christian people of faith."

Thanks to your faith and open hearts to all, good people of Saint Luke's, you helped edit the Christmas Gospel, showing that there is indeed room in the inn for all!

Yes, Merry Christmas, indeed.

***Interfaith Consortium of
Religious and Community Leaders
January 9 at 7:00pm***

In light of the pre-election rhetoric and post-election realities of fear due to expressions of prejudice and hate, a cross-section of Queens leaders have begun meeting with the intention of interweaving the various ethnic, faith and vulnerable groups for mutual support and action.

The next meeting takes place on Monday, January 9 at 7:00pm, hosted by Rabbi Gerald Skolnik at the Forest Hills Jewish Center (106-06 Queens Blvd; entrance on side of building on 69th Road). Father Tom Reese is part of this leadership group and any parishioners who are interested in attending the meeting are welcome and encouraged to attend. You can speak with Tom ahead of time.

The goal is to give shape to becoming a spiritual community through programs that bring the various groups together in both social and educational forums so as to build bridges between communities and create a more cohesive and vibrant spiritual life for all of us in Queens—a better and more compassionate community and future. Effectively speaking out against hatred and protecting each other as well

as providing comfort and practical cooperation will be possible in solidarity as a spiritual community that witnesses for and respects the dignity and equality of all persons.

Youth Group Game Night

Friday, Jan. 20, 7:00 to 10:00pm

The young people of the parish and their friends are invited to meet in the Parish Hall for food, fun and fellowship. If you have a really awesome board game you'd like to share, bring it along. If you don't, come anyway -- you're sure to enjoy playing the games others bring!



***Saint Luke's Annual Parish Meeting
SUNDAY, JANUARY 22***

Saint Luke's Annual Meeting begins with the 10:30am Holy Eucharist and the Rector's Annual Report. The meeting continues in the parish hall with Vestry elections and all other business.

The Nominating Committee's slate of candidates for Vestry is as follows: Warden (two-year term) Jean Tessier; Vestry (three-year term) Ann Espenschied, Alison Hagge, Jyri Laatikainen (second term) and Emily Taylor; Vestry (one-year unexpired term) Maggie DelRosario.

Following the meeting, there will be a potluck luncheon. Please indicate what dish you will bring to share by signing up on the sheets provided in the narthex and parish hall.
EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Saint Luke's Church



Wings of Song

presents

Jazzical

World-class Pianist

MARK ADAMS

in a Classical and Jazz Concert



Sunday, Jan. 29 at 3:00pm

Complimentary reception follows

**Suggested donation \$15; \$12 for
seniors, students and groups**

**For reservations, 718-268-7772 or
www.gingerbreadplayers.org**

More About Mark...and Velma

Mark Adams is an internationally acclaimed soul and jazz artist who performs regularly around the globe. Mark is one of Saint Luke's own, a parishioner and the son of Velma Adams. A singer and accomplished pianist who frequently acts as music director and accompanist for Gingerbread Players productions, Velma will join Mark at this concert for a four-hand piano arrangement of Mozart's Symphony #40.



January Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 2 Chris and Claire Dippel (A)
- 5 Tess Conte
- 5 Tyson Ho
- 6 Titcha Ho
- 7 Devin Smith
- 8 Michele Kasper
- 11 Alex Torstricw
- 13 Anthony Lenti
- 14 Alice Chodkowski
- 15 Kaden Zacarias
- 19 Ann Chamberlain
- 19 Andrew Dinan
- 21 Zoe Smith
- 21 Michael Riley
- 22 Lara Wang
- 22 Helen Wang
- 24 Kai Laatikainen
- 24 Evette Keating
- 27 James Jonah

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The Very Rev. Thomas F. Reese, Rector