



# God's Holy Mountain

**December is World AIDS Month**

**2025: Safe & Sound—Hold Your Ground!**

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 07**

### **+ 2nd Sunday of Advent**

### **+ Anniversary of Sandy Hook (2012)**

♥ **Happy Birthday Alex Bagwell!**

**+ Deacon Les LaRue, preaching**

(Is. 11: 1-10 & Mt. 3: 1-12)

10:00 am Choir Rehearsal for 11am

11:00 am **Celebration Liturgy** Live-streamed!

12:30 pm Rise of the Resistance (Sanctuary)

1:00 pm MOVIEOLA! (Gallery)

9:00 pm Sylvia's Place Youth Shelter

## **Monday, December 08: Office Closed**

### **+ Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

♥ **Happy Anniv. Montel & Yolanda Cherry-Holmes!**

5:00 pm The Gary Skala Drop-in Clinic (HYS—to 8pm)

9:00 pm MCCNY HYS at Sylvia's Place

## **Tuesday, December 09**

1:00 pm Lunch Distribution (until 3pm)

5:00 pm The Gary Skala Drop-in Clinic (HYS—to 8pm)

9:00 pm MCCNY HYS at Sylvia's Place

## **Wednesday, December 10: IDAHOBIT**

### **♣ Animal Rights Day!**

1:00 pm Lunch Distribution (until 3pm)

5:00 pm The Gary Skala Drop-in Clinic (HYS—to 8pm)

6:00 pm **Q Clinic (3rd floor)**

9:00 pm MCCNY HYS at Sylvia's Place

## **Thursday, December 11**

♥ **Happy Birthday Alexandre Moreira-Dumaine!**

9:00 am Food Pantry

1:00 pm Lunch Distribution (until 3pm)

5:00 pm The Gary Skala Drop-in Clinic (HYS—to 8pm)

6:00 pm **Covenanted Bible/Theology Study w/Rev. Reg via Zoom**

9:00 pm MCCNY HYS at Sylvia's Place

## **Friday, December 12**

### **+ Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

♥ **Happy Birthday John Phelps and Walter Maddox!**

12:15 pm Taize Prayer w/Rev. Brett (Facebook)

5:00 pm The Gary Skala Drop-in Clinic (HYS—to 8pm)

9:00 pm MCCNY HYS at Sylvia's Place

## **Saturday, December 13**

9:00 pm MCCNY HYS at Sylvia's Place

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14**

### **+ 3rd Sunday of Advent**

### **+ Gaudeté Sunday!**

### **+ Gun Violence Awareness Sunday**

♣ **Hannukah begins at sundown**

**+ The Rev. Elder Miller Hoffman, preaching**

(Is. 35: 1-6, 10 & Mt. 11: 2-11)

10:00 am Choir Rehearsal for 11am

11:00 am **Celebration Liturgy** Live-streamed!

9:00 pm Sylvia's Place Youth Shelter

## **\* 11am CELEBRATION LIVE-STREAMED EVERY SUNDAY!**

**\* Pantry and shelter remain open. + For pastoral calls: 332-400-7488**

Please make sure the Church has your cell phone number and email address!

Send to: [RvPatMCCNY@aol.com](mailto:RvPatMCCNY@aol.com)

**MCCNY**   
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NEW YORK

December 7, 2025

✚ Advent II

MCC globally celebrates "57 Years of Offering Our Light to the World"  
53rd Anniversary Year at MCCNY: Safe & Sound—Hold Your Ground!

The Community at Worship 11am

ASL Interpreter (First, second, and third Sundays of the month and special celebrations)

Pat Dash

## PRELUDE

John Fischer, Music Director  
Carolyn Traore, Song Leader  
Heidi Siegell, Soloist

## PROCESSION

"O Ven, O Ven Emanuel/O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

#50/Pink Pages (verses 1-3)  
*Please stand as able*

## WELCOME

The Rev. Elder Pat Bumgardner  
Metropolitan Community Church of New York

## ✚ The Sign of Peace

## THE LESSON

La Lección Primera

The First Lesson

Isaías 11: 1-10

Isaiah 11: 1-10

De ese tronco que es Jesé, sale un retoño; un retoño brota de sus raíces. El espíritu de Dios estará continuamente sobre ese retoño, y le dará sabiduría, inteligencia, prudencia, fuerza, conocimiento y temor de Dios. Ese persona no juzgará por la sola apariencia, ni dará su sentencia fundándose en rumores. Juzgará con justicia a los débiles y defenderá los derechos de los pobres del país. Sus palabras serán como una vara para castigar al violento, y con el soplo de su boca hará morir al malvado. Siempre irá revestido de justicia y verdad. Entonces el lobo y el cordero vivirán en paz, el tigre y el cabrito descansarán juntos, el becerro y el león crecerán uno al lado del otro, y se dejarán guiar por un niño pequeño. La vaca y la osa serán amigas, y sus crías descansarán juntas. El león comerá pasto, como el buey. El niño podrá jugar en el hoyo de la cobra, podrá meter la mano en el nido de la víbora. En todo mi monte santo no habrá quien haga ningún daño, porque así como el agua llena el mar, así el conocimiento de Dios llenará todo el país. En ese tiempo el retoño de esta raíz que es Jesé se levantará como una señal para los pueblos; las naciones irán en su busca, y el sitio en que esté será glorioso.

+ Esta es la Palabra de Dios

TE ALABAMOS, O DIOS

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of its roots. The spirit of God shall rest on this branch, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the reverence of God. The delight of this one shall be in the reverence of God. They shall not judge by what their eyes see or decide by what their ears hear, but with righteousness they shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; they shall strike the earth with the rod of their mouth, and with the breath of their lips, shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around their waist and faithfulness the belt around their loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of God as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of this one, and their dwelling shall be glorious.

+ This is the Word of God

THANKS BE TO GOD

## MUSICAL RESPONSE

MCCNY Choir

La Lección Segunda

The Second Lesson

Matteo 3: 1-12

Matthew 3: 1-12

Por aquel tiempo se presentó Juan el Bautista en el desierto de Judea. En su proclamación Juan decía: "¡Vuélvanse a Dios, porque el reino de los cielos está cerca!" Juan era aquel de quien Dios había dicho por medio del profeta Isaías: "Una voz grita en el desierto: 'Preparen el camino de Dios; ábranse un camino recto.'" La ropa de Juan estaba hecha de pelo de camello, y se la sujetaba al cuerpo con un cinturón de cuero; la comida de Juan era langostas y miel del monte. La gente de Jerusalén y todos los de la región de Judea y de la región cercana al Jordán salían a oírle a Juan. Confesaban sus pecados y Juan los bautizaba en el río Jordán. Pero cuando Juan vio que muchos fariseos y saduceos iban a que los bautizara, Juan les dijo: "¡Raza de víboras! ¿Quién les ha dicho a ustedes que van a librarse del terrible castigo que se acerca? Pórtense de tal modo que se vea claramente que se han vuelto a Dios, y no presuman diciéndose a sí mismos: 'Nosotros somos descendientes de Abraham y de Sarai'; porque les aseguro que incluso a estas piedras Dios puede convertirlas en descendientes de Abraham y de Sarai. El hacha ya está lista para cortar los árboles de raíz. Todo árbol que no da buen fruto, se corta y se echa al fuego. Yo, en verdad, los bautizo con agua para invitarlos a que se vuelvan a Dios; pero la persona que viene después de mí los bautizará con el Espíritu Santo y con fuego. La persona que viene es más poderoso que yo, que ni siquiera merezco llevarle sus sandalias. La persona que trae su pala en la mano y limpiará el trigo y lo separará de la paja. La persona guardará el trigo en el granero, pero quemará la paja en un fuego que nunca se apagará."

+ Esta es la Palabra de Dios

TE ALABAMOS, O DIOS

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the reign of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke, saying, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of God; make the paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to John, and they were baptized by John in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. But when John saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, John said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham and Sarah as our ancestors,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham and Sarah. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry that one's sandals. The one to come will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Their winnowing fork is in hand, and they will clear the threshing floor and will gather the wheat into the granary, but the chaff will be burnt with unquenchable fire."

**+ This is the Word of God**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

## **SELECTION**

## **SERMON**

**Deacon Les LaRue**  
**Metropolitan Community Church of New York**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

## **THE OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS**

**Offering Call**

✚ Please consider an extra gift to the Global Justice Institute!

~ Please prayerfully consider direct donations through your bank or credit card giving.

## **THE CELEBRATION AND SHARING OF COMMUNION**

**Deacon Brenton Buchanon**  
**Deacon Len Richardson**  
**The Rev. Elder Pat Bumgardner**

God is with you  
**AND ALSO WITH YOU**

Let us open our hearts  
**WE OPEN THEM TO GOD**

Let us give God thanks and praise  
**IT IS A GOOD AND JOYFUL THING TO DO**

*MCCNY celebrates an OPEN COMMUNION. Everyone is welcome to share in the Gifts of God for the People of God. (Grape juice is used so that all may freely share in this meal. For those with health concerns, distributors sanitize their hands immediately before the service. Communion wafers for those with wheat or gluten allergies are available upon request. Please let your server know if you need this service.) A prayer of blessing will be offered, unless you request the sacrament only.*

**PLEASE OBSERVE THE SACREDNESS OF THIS SACRAMENT by praying silently or by joining in the singing of hymns.**

## **HYMNS DURING COMMUNION**

"Abranse los Cielos"

#1/Pink Pages

"Heir of All the Waiting Ages"

#29/Pink Pages

"Lo, How a Rose 'ere Blooming"

#41/Pink Pages

## **CLOSING SONG**

**"Prepare Ye the Way of Our God"**

**by Stephen Schwartz**  
*Please stand as able*

*Pre—pare ye the way of our God,  
Pre—pare ye the way of our God,  
Pre—pare ye the way of our God,  
Pre—pare ye the way of our God . . .*

## **BENEDICTION**

❖ *Everyone is welcome to a reception following the service!*

✚ *Stained Glass by Jackson Hall*



# PROGRAMMING at MCCNY

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTION PROGRAM:** Spiritual Direction is a process in which a mentor accompanies one person - the directee - for an extended period of time. Through conversation, prayer, and spiritual exercises, the mentor helps the directee clarify spiritual issues so that s/he can move toward a deeper experience with the Divine. To seek Direction, contact Bishop Reg at 332-400-7488.

**LIVE-STREAMING at MCCNY:** All worship celebrations (9am Traditional and 11am Celebration) are now live-streamed. Go to [facebook.com/mccny](https://facebook.com/mccny) and celebrate with your family of faith!

**BIBLE STUDY & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** The Queer Life & Faith religious education program is led by Bishop Reg Richburg every Thursday at 5 pm. Our discussions connect the Scriptures, our faith, and queer Life. We use educational materials and methodologies that will help look at life from different perspectives: art, videos, and dialogue, among others. Come to one session, some sessions, or all sessions on Zoom.  
Contact: [lambseeker@hotmail.com](mailto:lambseeker@hotmail.com)

**MCCNY E-Prayer Ministry:** If you would like to participate in the prayer ministry or send prayer requests, please contact [prayers@mccny.org](mailto:prayers@mccny.org). You will receive a weekly list of prayer concerns about members and friends of our congregation, the wider MCC community, and social justice issues.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** to list the Church and our phone number among those to be contacted in case of illness or an emergency. Church Pastors will contact and visit you.


**MCCNY has a new phone number! 332-400-7488**

**TRANSGENDER  
SUICIDE HOTLINE**  
(Trans Lifeline):  
**877-565-8860**

**NEW Special Toll Free**  
Suicide & Mental Health Hotline  
for LGBTQ+ Community:

**1-877-330-6366**

*Thank you, Canada!*



**MCCNY**  
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NEW YORK

**CONNECT with MCCNY**

**Website:** [www.mccny.org](http://www.mccny.org)  
**Facebook:** MCCNY  
**Instagram:** @m\_c\_c\_n\_y  
**Youtube:** @MCCNewYork  
**Twitter:** MCCNewYork



# LOOKING AHEAD!

## Christmas Eve by Candlelight

December 24 at 7pm

Gala Holiday Party to follow!

The Rev. Elder Pat Bumgardner, preaching

## Christmas Day with Lessons & Carols

December 25 at 11am

Sumptuous Holiday Brunch to follow!

The Rev. Dr. Brett Degoldi, preaching

To give a gift to a shelter resident or food pantry client,  
mark the memo of your donation "FP Gift or "Shelter Gift."

**GIVE TO  
GJI**



**GIVE TO  
MCCNY**



### WHAT TO DO IF ICE COMES TO YOUR DOOR



#### DO NOT OPEN DOORS

ICE cannot come in without a signed warrant by a criminal court judge. They can only come in if you let them.



#### REMAIN SILENT

ICE can use anything you say against you in your immigration case so claim your right to remain silent!

"Say "I plead the fifth amendment and choose to remain silent".



#### DO NOT SIGN

Don't sign anything ICE gives you without talking to an attorney.



#### REPORT & RECORD!

Report immediately: UWD hotline 1-844-363-1423.

Take pictures & video unless you're on federal government property.  
Take notes of badge numbers, number of agents, time, type of car and exactly what happened!



#### FIGHT BACK!

Get a trustworthy attorney & explore all options to fight your case. If detained, you may be able to get bail - don't give up hope! Join your local team to defend yourself from enforcement!

unitedwedream.org/end  
@UnitedWeDream



### Know Your Power Record and Report:



**Step 1** - Ensure Audio and recording is on and ready to be used and linked to a cloud.

**Step 2** - Get information of the officer's, name, badge and agency.

**Step 3** - Narrate the date, time and location of event.

**Step 4** - Do not disclose the information of your loved ones or yourself to the agents.

**Step 5** - Report it to the **MigraWatch** Hotline and send your video/pics to [migrawatch@unitedwedream.org](mailto:migrawatch@unitedwedream.org)

Always remember you have the power to make choices, you have a choice over your safety, how you respond and what you choose to share.

To learn more about your power and your rights visit:  
[unitedwedream.org/knowyourpower](http://unitedwedream.org/knowyourpower)

While asserting our rights does not guarantee the stop of arrest at the moment, it is important to exercise our rights to facilitate our defense. You are not alone. Our movement is ready to support you, fight for your freedom, and reclaim the humanity of our community.



[unitedwedream.org/knowyourpower](http://unitedwedream.org/knowyourpower)

Text **KnowYourPower** 877-877

## PASTORAL STAFF

The Rev. Elder Pat Bumgardner . . . . .	<b>Pastor</b>
The Rev. Dr. Brett Degoldi . . . . .	<b>Staff Clergy</b>
The Rev. Reg Richburg . . . . .	<b>Staff Clergy</b>
The Rev. Dr. Jim Merritt . . . . .	<b>Staff Clergy</b>
John Fischer . . . . .	<b>Director of Music</b>
Heidi Siegel . . . . .	<b>Music Ministry</b>
The Little Big Band . . . . .	

## MCCNY Charities

LaDedra Brown . . . . .	<b>HYS Program Manager</b>
Kailiah Hayes . . . . .	<b>Food Pantry Manager</b>

## LAY DELEGATES

Deacon Brenton Buchannan	Deacon Jen Heyward
John Fischer	Mary Jane Gibney, alternate

## BOARD OF DEACONS

Deacon Brenton Buchannan	Deacon Philip Pares
Deacon Tressie Carter	Deacon Len Richardson
Deacon Jen Heyward	Deacon Frances Wood
Deacon Les LaRue	

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bp. Pat Bumgardner . . . . .	<b>Moderator</b>
Lyndsey Jones-McAdams . . . . .	<b>Special Events</b>
Rob Franek . . . . .	<b>Public Relations/Outreach</b>
Sam Davis . . . . .	<b>Scribe</b>
Montel Cherry-Holmes . . . . .	<b>Member at Large</b>

## PROGRAMMING

### Religious Education/Membership

Bishop Reg Richburg . . . . .	<b>Facilitator</b>
Deacon Tressie Carter . . . . .	<b>Membership</b>

### Christians of African Descent

Deacon Brenton Buchannan . . . . .	<b>Facilitator</b>
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### E-Prayer Group

Deacon Jen Heyward . . . . .	<b>Facilitator</b>
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<b>Hospitality</b> . . . . .	Deacon Brenton Buchannan
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### Newsletter/Bulletin

Deacon Frances Wood . . . . .	<i>The Query</i> Editor
Deacon Les LaRue . . . . .	<i>The Query</i> /Bulletin Design

### Audio & Virtual Ministries . . . . .

John Phelps
Live-streaming . . . . .
Bob Ferrara
Virtual Worship Leader

### Web Sites . . . . .

John Phelps
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### ASL Interpreter . . . . .

Pat Dash
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### Instagram and Facebook