



SACRED HEARTS & ST. STEPHEN

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Dear Parish Family,

I begin this letter by stating a fact we the family of Sacred Hearts-St. Stephen know only too well; we are the most beautiful church. We are the most beautiful parish in all of Brooklyn. No matter where you go you will all come home to Sacred Hearts- St. Stephen. (Piu bella chiesa, piu bella parrocchia.) I love being your pastor and being here as a member of this parish.

We are a parish family are grateful that we have been a parish alive in the Holy Spirit for one hundred and fifty years. We have a rich past, an active present and promising future. We are grateful to the many pastors and priests, sisters and lay people who laid a strong foundation grounded in faith in Christ Jesus for us to build upon. With praise and thanksgiving to our God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we conclude the yearlong celebration of the hundredth and fiftieth anniversary of our parish.

This year has been one of joy and unity for our parish. It has been a blessing for me to be pastor of Sacred Hearts-Saint Stephen at this time of celebration. For one hundred and fifty years this parish has been a witness to the love of God in this community. This parish lived out this witness through its warm embrace to all who knocked on its doors. Here immigrants from Ireland and Italy found consolation in their struggles to adjust to life in their new homeland. Here they came to celebrate their marriages, baptisms, first sacraments. Here they came in their times of sorrow, in times of loss and here they received a message of hope. As I look from my window at our iconic church tower I can only imagine the decades which this structure built to the Glory of God has been a beacon to all who sought God, community and family. Evidenced by the many who return to our parish for holidays and major events in their lives, this parish has been and continues to be the spiritual home to many near and far. Once you are a member of our parish family you are always a member of our parish family.

Drawing on our rich past, today Sacred Hearts-St. Stephen Parish continues to be alive in the Holy Spirit. We continue to give witness to the presence of the Lord in our community through our celebration of the Eucharist, Faith Formation of our young people and children, celebration of marriages, baptisms, confirmations, first Holy Communions. We continue to proclaim hope and consolation to all who mourn. Striving to preserve our Italian culture and heritage yet remaining open to all who come to us regardless of ethnic or national origin, we invite all to be part of our family. We welcome the new immigration of young people from all over the United States and world. We strive to reach out to believer and non-believer alike in the hope of sharing our faith and our community. It is our intention to welcome all.

Continuing to build on the Gospel Message and on the generations which have preceded us, we hope and pray to continue to be alive in the Holy Spirit by handing on our faith, our traditions and our story to the next generation. We rejoice in the young people and the children who are part of this parish family. As I hear and marvel at the voices of our young people and children singing and praying at Mass, as I have experienced the great love that so many parishioners far and wide have for this parish, I see the promise that the parish church we love to call home will be here for another one hundred and fifty years.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Msgr. Guy Massie".

Msgr. Guy Massie
Pastor