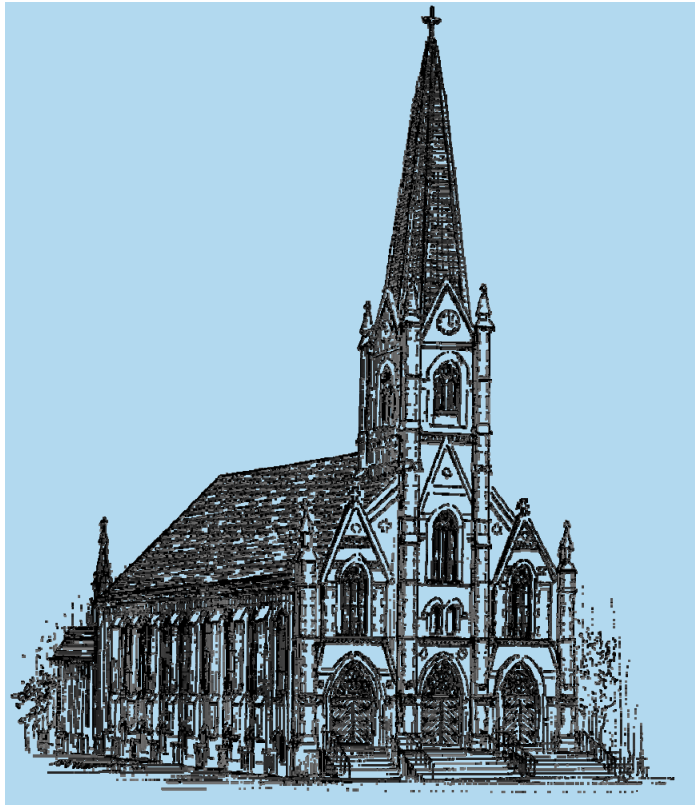

SACRED HEARTS & ST. STEPHEN R.C. CHURCH

WWW.SacredHearts-StStephen.com



***St. Stephen's – Founded 1866
Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary
Founded 1882***

MASSES ON SUNDAYS:

8:00 AM 10:00 AM & 11:45 AM
5:30 PM on Saturday

MASSES ON WEEKDAYS:

Monday 12:00 Noon
Tuesday thru Friday 8:30 AM Sat. 8:30 AM

CONFESSIONS:

Saturdays 4:45 P.M. as well as By Appointment.

For Holiday and Special Mass Schedules, please call the Rectory and press extension number 4 for specific details.

**Rectory: 108 Carroll Street
Brooklyn, N.Y 11231
718-596-7750 tel
718-260-9233 fax**
REV. MSGR. GUY A. MASSIE
Pastor
REV. CLETUS FORSON
Parochial Vicar
MRS. NANCY ARKIN
Director of Faith Formation
Religious Education
JOHN HEYER, II
Pastoral Associate
JAMES LAKE
Parish Organist
EVELYN TROESTER DEGRAF
Choir Director
ROSE MARIE FOGLIA
Administrator
LAURA RAMIREZ-GALEAS
Youth Minister
ANDREW DI MANSO
Sacristan
MICHAEL J. ENG
DONALD J. GLOCKNER, JR.
Parish Trustees and Advisors

BAPTISMS:

Every third Sunday at 1:00 PM.

SICK CALLS:

Please call and arrange for the sacrament of anointing whenever anyone is seriously ill.

MARRIAGES:

Please call the rectory at least 6 months ahead for an appointment with a Priest.

WELCOME:

Adults who are interested in learning more about or joining the Catholic Faith please call the rectory. Adults who have not completed the sacraments of initiation (Eucharist and/or Confirmation) please call the rectory.

ON LINE & CREDIT CARD GIVING: WWW.PARISH-GIVING.ORG.

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Saturday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Office closed Sunday

No evening hours at the present time.

**IF YOU WISH TO SEE A PRIEST, PLEASE TELEPHONE FOR AN APPOINTMENT
PLEASE REMEMBER SACRED HEART & ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH IN YOUR WILL.**

MASSSES for the WEEK

DATES TO REMEMBER THIS WEEK

MON. DECEMBER 21, 2015
Noon All Deceased Members of
The Dellaporte & Marchetti Family
BY: Catherine

TUE. DECEMBER 22, 2015
8:30 Anthony & Anna Massie
Noon Anthony Polito
BY: Carolyn & John Zodda

WED. DECEMBER 23, 2015
8:30 Nancy & Anthony Mannella
BY: Grandchildren
Noon Deceased of The Vergona
and Polizzi Family
BY: Loving Family

THURS. DECEMBER 24, 2015
8:30 Gertrude Zagarella
Birthday Remembrance
BY: Daughter Gertrude
4:30 PM Christmas Family Mass
Midnight Christmas Midnight Mass

FRI. DECEMBER 25, 2015
11:00 AM Christmas Mass

SAT. DECEMBER 26, 2015
8:30 Giorgio Buono
BY: The Lubrano Family
5:30 PM John Vincent Vederame
BY: Mom & Dad

SUN DECEMBER 27, 2015
8:00 Anna & Michael Ruggiero
BY: Loving Family
10:00 Deceased of The Senese
and Piro Family
BY: The Piro Children
11:45 Angie Amato
BY: Husband Sal & Family

Monday

Dec. 21st Mass at Noon

Tuesday

Dec. 22nd Mass at 8:30 AM
Dec. 22nd Noon Mass

Wednesday

Dec. 23rd Mass at 8:30 AM
Dec. 23rd Noon Mass
Dec. 23rd Youth Choir Rehearsal
@ 5:00 PM
Dec. 23rd AA Meeting @ 5:45 PM
in Rectory Hall
Dec. 23rd Adult Choir Practice
@ 6:45 PM

Thursday CHRISTMAS EVE

Dec. 24th Mass at 8:30 AM
Dec. 24th Mass at Noon
Dec. 24th Family Christmas Mass
@ 4:30 PM
Dec. 24th Christmas Carols
@ 11:30 PM
Dec. 24th Midnight Mass

Friday CHRISTMAS DAY

Dec. 25th Mass at 11:00 AM

Saturday

Dec. 26th Mass at 8:30 AM
Dec. 26th Confessions 4:45 PM
Dec. 26th Mass at 5:30 PM

Sunday

Dec. 27th Mass at 8:00 AM
Dec. 27th Mass at 10:00 AM
Dec. 27th Mass at 11:45 AM

Sick Relatives & Friends

Please remember in your prayers the members of our parish and community who are ill, hospitalized or in nursing home care, most especially:

Jonelle Bernardo,	Mario Austi
Raj Sandu,	Marie Mekaluk
Michelle Laquercia	Antoinette DiBuglione,
Dolly Vergona,	Gladys Zodda
Angelo Vergona	Barbara Ann Sasso
Maria Carmen Morial	John Nigro
Kai Nam Eng	Leon Tambwe
Michele Morea	Mary Tarsio
Carol DeMairo	Anthony Gambardella
Valerie Pace	Alissa Aquino
Denise Deacomanolis	Rachel Valenti
Salvatore Gianino	Judith Latalladi
Matthew Ruggiero	



Altar Bread & Wine for the week of December 20th has been donated

In Memory of

CHERISHED PARENTS

JOSEPH & JOSEPHINE CANTONE

Christmas & New Year's Remembrance

Requested by: Children, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren

BISHOP'S APPEAL UPDATE

As of 12/7, 126 donors made their pledge to the 2015 Annual Catholic Appeal. Our goal is \$28,221. Pledges through 12/7 totaled \$42,115.00. Total collected is \$40,677. Thank you for your generosity.

I am the Church, You are the Church,
We are the Church TOGETHER!



The Sanctuary Lamps for the week of 12/20/2015 have been donated

In Loving Memory of

**JOSEPH, CONCETTA &
FRANK FOGLIA**

Love: Rose Marie

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY

EVE OF CHRISTMAS

*FAMILY MASS
WITH CHILDREN'S
PAGEANT
@ 4:30 PM*

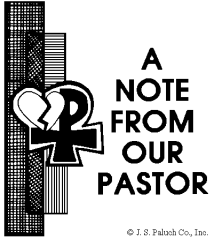
*CHRISTMAS CAROLS
11:30 PM*

*MIDNIGHT MASS
12:00 MIDNIGHT*

*CHRISTMAS DAY
11:00 AM*

CHRISTMAS MASS

*(KINDLY NOTE:
THERE IS ONLY
ONE MASS ON
CHRISTMAS DAY)*



Dear Parish Family:

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Today's readings focus on Mary. Since Christmas is the celebration of the Incarnation (the taking on of flesh) of God among us, Mary is very important. Mary gives flesh to the Word of God. The reason why Mary holds an important place in Catholic and Orthodox theology and spirituality is her role in the Incarnation. Mary makes God more than a concept, she saves us from a too theological or philosophical approach to God. Through the Holy Spirit, she makes God visible. Mary is one of us. Honored in the Gospel, holding a special place in the church and in the hearts of the faithful, she is the first disciple of the Lord. She is the first member of the Church. She is not divine, but human yet she is for us a model of faithfulness to the Word of God.

The world of Art has done a service and disservice to Mary. Icons aim at preserving her holiness and her motherhood. Various forms of western art, in an attempt to portray her, sometimes presented us with an image that was too perfect and too distant. Yet, from the sacred text which is rather silent on Mary, we do have an outline of a strong woman of prayer who seems down to earth. In Luke 1:34f we see that she questions the Angel. She clearly knows the facts of life. How many of us would question an angel? We find her in Cana being concerned over the couple who has just been married because they have no wine. She moves Jesus to perform a sign. We see her enduring sorrow beyond all imagination at the foot of the cross. She seems to struggle to understand Jesus in Mark's Gospel. (Not unlike all souls who seek to follow the Lord.)

For me, Mary is an important partner in the walk of faith. I see her not as a person reserved for women only, but as a companion for any soul who is longing to live a life in the Spirit of God. Carrying Jesus in her womb or in her heart, she is a sign for me that God is present even when he seems absent and distant. A woman who went through times of confusion and upsetment, she reminds me that God does have a plan. God is the many changes which occur in our respective lives. Not unlike a parent who gently reminds us to have patience and wait, she is an example of one who waits on the Lord. She is a sign that God does fulfill his promises.

As a sign of prayer, she teaches us that prayer is a matter for the heart. In Luke 2:20, we learn that she kept all the things regarding Jesus in her heart and reflected on them. Perhaps we can imitate her prayer and reflect on the Word of God made flesh also known as Jesus, all the days of our lives. Just as Mary brings Jesus to us, she can bring us to Jesus in a real and compelling way. Just as Mary gives flesh to the invisible Word of God thus making God visible in Jesus, so too we through practicing our faith, can give flesh to Mercy, Love, Compassion, Justice and Peace by the way we choose to live out the Gospel of Christ Jesus.

Together let us proclaim the Greatness of the Lord who is Jesus!

Msgr. Guy A. Massie

MERRY CHRISTMAS

In December of 1941, America's course and culture were changed by a day that will live in infamy. Pearl Harbor reshaped US history and a darker facet of globalism was revealed in the smoking hulks of once proud battleships. A terrifying day at Hiroshima in 1945 awakened fears that would haunt the pioneering generation of the nuclear age. Men harnessed the power of unthinkable destruction and demonstrated the will to use force. A day in Dallas Texas in 1963 defined a generation-as the news of Kennedy's assassination rocked the globe. And a US Supreme Court decision in 1973 opened the floodgates for an unending slaughter of innocent life, making a mother's womb the most dangerous place in America. And then a day we all simply refer to as 9/11 changed the way we travel, the way we live, and the way we perceive safety—and ourselves.

We can list pivotal days in our lives that have changed our focus, our families and our faith—for better or for worse, from our creation until the last beat of our heart, and nothing compares to the day that everything changed; the day Jesus was born. This baby was born in humble surroundings and troubled times, to a peasant class of an oppressed and conquered race. He came into a world dominated by the Roman empire, that based everything on glory and power. By choice-the Son of God was born into a simple village lifestyle stripped of heros, and blemished by strife and brutality. Even the religious were corrupt and complacent. And not much has changed since that day. Right now we are in the middle of two wars in the Middle East, and tensions around the world increase. Negotiated treaties change nothing as countries experience one crisis after another. From the halls of Congress to the United Nations one can search for the selfless motive of love, only to find it isn't there. "For God so loved the world He gave..." still separates Jesus and the gospel, apart from every philosophy, initiative, amendment and law passed and embraced by our government. In his last days, even Napoleon struggled to understand the nature of God revealed in Jesus Christ. In exile he wrote "Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne and I have founded empires by force, and they are gone. Jesus Christ alone founded His empire on love and at this hour millions of men would die for Him whom they have never seen."

Love is power unequaled by bombs, or bullets and is capable of changing everything it touches. Jesus changed the world because He chose to come to earth as "God with us".. In so doing-Jesus set Himself apart from every king and ruler. Whereas others fought against challenges, He chose to embrace the common man, offering the gift of intimacy and love and hope. What He said in essence was, "I really enjoy being with you. In fact, I love you so much that I want to walk with you every day." This is what His arrival in Bethlehem heralded. While earthly leaders ascend to power, God in the flesh (John 1:1,14) descended-to empower the least, the last, the lonely and the losers. That kind of power originating with Jesus is the kind of power that will change everything. This King didn't change things through institutions or governmental rule, or walls and towers, or moats and armies, but through truth and love, planted as faith, in hearts of ordinary people. He stands apart from other leaders, and presidents and rulers or kings, because He doesn't promote Himself or impose Himself on others, but rather gives of Himself freely. He came like no other, loves like no other, lived like no other and died like no other, only to arise from the dead like no other to blaze a trail through this world into the beyond for everyone that believes in His name. Jesus changed everything by offering a lifelong purpose: to know God and to make Him known. Without Him, our lives are like fishing in a puddle with nothing to be caught. He stands apart as one who offers us joy in His presence, strength in His word, hope in His promises, peace in His providence, meaning in His will, glory in His dwelling and a love that increases as we walk in obedience. Because He came down at Bethlehem, we have been given the opportunity for identity and more important, destiny. Jesus changed everything that day, when He came to earth to begin His journey of opening a way for us to be restored to a right relationship with the Father, not establish another religion. Until Jesus came, all of mankind were like inmates trapped in a prison locked in to an environment of dead religious routine, serving a sentence of death; confined and awaiting parole or death. Jesus came to open the door and offer an escape for the imprisoned soul and all who believe in that one special day in Bethlehem may walk through the opened prison door, set free from religion and sin, into a new world where we are free to walk with Him and experience Him and not just believe in Him, not as some historical figure, but as the living God who resides in us by the Holy Spirit. With Christmas here once more, He still comes to hearts asking for more than just a room at the inn. The Glory of Christmas 2015 is that He is living and still giving and He is asking for your all. When you give Him your heart, He will give you new life. When you give Him your burdens, He will give you His peace. When you give Him your all, He will give you forever and so much more.

Because of that first Christmas morning, when we commit our lives to Jesus, we each have a story, they did then and we can today.

A BLESSED AND MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE!

INFORMATION SHEET

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

Sacred Hearts & St. Stephen #875400

PHONE

718-596-7750

CONTACT PERSON

Rose Marie Foglia

SOFTWARE

Microsoft Publisher® 2002

Adobe Acrobat 8.0®

Windows XP Home® SP3

PRINTER

HP® Laserjet 1320

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Cover + 4 text pages + this page = 6

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TRANSMISSION TIME

Wednesday 1 PM

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS