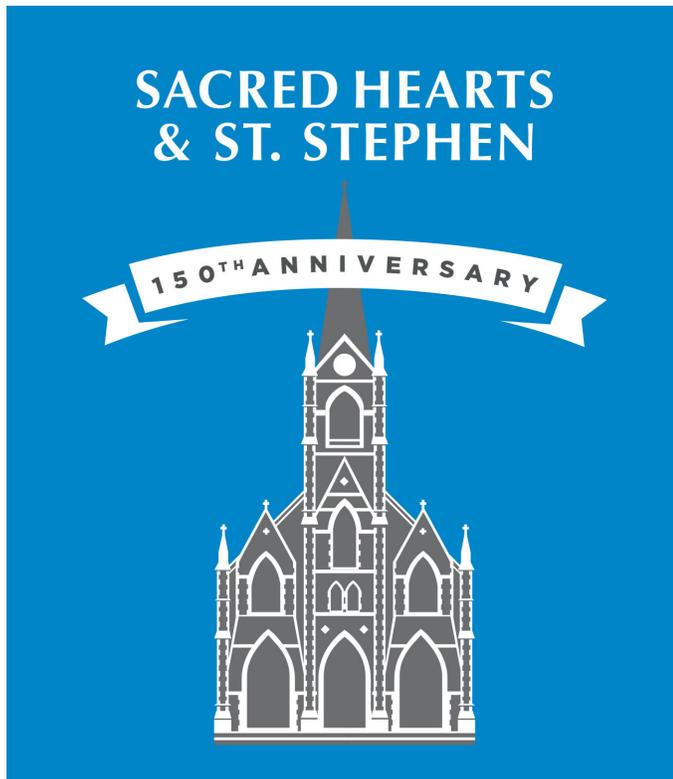

SACRED HEARTS & ST. STEPHEN R.C. CHURCH

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**

Rectory: 108 Carroll Street

Brooklyn, N.Y 11231

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718-260-9233 *fax*

REV. MSGR. GUY A. MASSIE

Pastor

REV. VICTOR KOFI ASHIAGBOR

Associate

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:

To prepare for the sacrament of Baptism, parents and godparents should plan to attend the 10:00 AM Mass on the second Sunday of the month followed by a Baptismal preparation meeting. Parents must come to the Parish Office with a copy of the birth certificate one month before your planned Baptism.

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.

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. MONDAY 15, 2016
Noon Deceased Members of The Piro Family
BY: The Piro Children & Grandchildren

TUE. FEBRUARY 16, 2016
8:30 Catherine Deserio
BY: Her Sister Anna
Noon Ann Pepito
Birthday Remembrance
BY: Loving Daughter Paula

WED. FEBRUARY 17, 2016
8:30 Vincent Ver DeRosa
BY: Andy DiManso
Noon Connie, Ernie & Joey Missoni
BY: Loving Family

THURS. FEBRUARY 18, 2016
8:30 Evelyn & John Vacarro
Noon For The Intentions of
Jack & Jean Falcone
BY: Dorothy Pacella

FRI. FEBRUARY 19, 2016
8:30 Holy Spirit for the People of the Parish
Noon Mary Platania
BY: Mrs. Dora Zanzonico & Family
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

SAT. FEBRUARY 20, 2016
8:30 Fred DiMesa &
Daniel & Salvatore Caria
BY: Marie Caria
5:30 PM Louis Trani
BY: Marie Trani & Family

SUN FEBRUARY 21, 2016
8:00 Kevin Sheehan
BY: Loving Family
10:00 In Thanksgiving for
Our 40th Wedding Anniversary
BY: Lou Ann & Michael Manus
11:45 Angelo Vergona
BY: Loving Family

Monday
 Feb. 15th Mass at Noon

Tuesday
 Feb. 16th Mass at 8:30 AM
 Feb. 16th Noon Mass
 Feb. 16th Generations of Faith Meeting
 @ 6:30 PM Parish House

Wednesday
 Feb 17th Mass at 8:30 AM
 Feb. 17th Noon Mass
 Feb 17th AA Meeting @ 7:00 PM
 Rectory Hall
 Feb.17th Children Choir Practice
 @ 5:45 PM
 Feb 17th Adult Choir Practice
 @ 6:45 PM

Thursday
 Feb. 18th Mass at 8:30 AM
 Feb.18th Mass at Noon

Friday
 Feb 19th Mass at 8:30 AM
 Feb 19th Mass Noon
 Feb 19th Boy Scouts Mtg.
 @ 6:30 PM Cabrini Hall
 Feb 19th Stations of the Cross @ 7:00 PM

Saturday
 Feb 20th Mass at 8:30 AM
 Feb 20th Confessions 4:45 PM
 Feb 20th AA Meeting @ 5:15 PM
 Rectory Hall
 Feb 20th Mass at 5:30 PM
 Feb 20th K of C Night at the Races
 @ 7:00 PM Cabrini Hall

Sunday
 Feb 21st Mass at 8:00 AM
 Feb 21st Mass at 10:00 AM
 Feb. 21st Lenten Family Faith Formation
 @ 11:15 AM Cabrini Hall
 Feb 21st 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, | Matthew Ruggiero |
| Michelle Laquercia | Antoinette DiBuglione, |
| Dolly Vergona, | Gladys Zodda |
| Angelo Vergona | Valerie Pace |
| Maria Carmen Morial | John Nigro |
| Kai Nam Eng | Alissa Aquino |
| Michele Morea | Mary Tarsio |
| Carol DeMairo | Anthony Gambardella |
| Denise Deacomanolis | Rachel Valenti |
| Salvatore Gianino | Judith Latalladi |

Altar Bread & Wine for the week of February 14, 2016 has been donated

In Memory of
NANCY ILARDI

Requested by: **Dan Murphy**



SAVE THE DATES

- Stations of the Cross, Friday, February 12th
 - @ 7:00 PM
- Stations of the Cross, Friday, February 19th at 7:00 PM
- Stations of the Cross with St. Paul's Episcopal Church-Friday, February 26, @ 7:00 PM
- 24 Hours for the Lord: Eucharistic Adoration & Reconciliation, Friday, March 5th (details to follow)
 - Stations of the Cross, Friday, March 11th @ 7:00 PM
- Day of Recollection: Discipleship & The Scandal of the Cross, Sat. March 12th (details to follow)
 - Common Call to Discipleship: Vespers at
 - St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Sun. March 13th
 - @ 4:00 PM
 - Stations of the Cross, Friday, March 18th
 - @ 7:00 PM

ADORATION AND SILENCE IN CHRIST'S PRESENCE CRISTO THERAPY

What is adoration? Why adore the Blessed Sacrament? What does it mean to Adore the Blessed Sacrament?

We as Catholics believe that Christ Jesus is really and truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. We believe that at the consecration at Mass, the bread and wine is changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus. This means that the Jesus who was born in Bethlehem, lived in Nazareth, preached in the land of Israel, the Jesus who was crucified on Calvary in Jerusalem and rose from the dead out of the tomb, is truly really present here in the Eucharist. We believe that the bread and the wine presented at the preparation of the gifts at Mass, through the working of the Holy Spirit present in the congregation and in the priest because of his ordination through the Eucharistic prayer, is changed into the Body and Blood of the Risen Christ. This is a great mystery. Yet if we believe that Jesus is present at Mass and that we encounter Jesus in this sacrament in a unique and wonderful way, I would never absent myself from Mass without a good reason. In the tabernacle in Church or in the Chapel, we reserve or keep the consecrated hosts which were not received during Mass. While reserved for the sick and dying, so the sacrament can be brought to them, the presence of these consecrated hosts give a place for deeper prayer and reflection on this great mystery of the Eucharist.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, which is the real presence of Christ among us, gives us the place and the time to be in silence before the Lord Jesus. It is a place to come for peace of mind. It is the place to de-stress from our overly busy lives. It is the place to come and sit before the Lord to pour our hearts to him not unlike so many who sought him out in his own day as we read in the gospel. It is the place to simply give thanks, to enjoy the presence of the Lord. It is the place to allow God to look at us, to contemplate us, to enjoy the Divine Presence. Please join us for Adoration.

Adoration is every Saturday from 4 PM to 5:15 PM and First Fridays of the month from 7:15 AM to 8:30 AM and from 11:00 AM to noon time. Those who may not be able to attend Mass due to work obligations can at least pray for a time before the Lord. Come, be healed, experience peace and be refreshed.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND ADORATION

Please join us as we pray the Stations of the Cross on Friday Evenings of Lent @ 7:00 PM. Please join us for Adoration of the Lord present in the Blessed Sacrament every Saturday from 4-5:15 PM

Stations of the Cross with St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Friday, February 26th @ 7:00 PM.



**A
NOTE
FROM
OUR
PASTOR**

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Lent a time to:

REMEMBER, REFLECT, RECONCILE, RENEW RESURRECTION

Today is the First Sunday of Lent. Lent is a six week period of preparation for the great feast of Easter. The focus of Lent is our conversation of heart to the Lord. This life long process is highlighted at this season as a preparation for the celebration of the Death and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Since it is through the Death and Resurrection of the Lord that Jesus accomplished our redemption, EASTER is the foundation of our faith.

Lent is also the last six weeks of preparation of catechumens that is those preparing for the reception of the sacrament of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. While those preparing for the reception of these sacraments are to focus more clearly on their spiritual readiness, we who are already baptized are invited to focus on our baptismal promises. While the newly baptized will take their promises for the first time, we are asked to renew our promises and commitment to the Lord at the celebration of Easter. To help us concentrate on our commitment to the Lord Jesus, we are asked to pray, to give to charity and to fast. The focal point of these activities is Christ. These activities are aimed at centering us in the Lord Jesus.

WHERE ARE YOU? ASKED GOD TO ADAM.

This question is essential to consider in this Lenten Season. Where are you in relationship to God? Where are you in relationship to others? Where are you in relationship to yourself? God is forever searching for us. The Lord is seeking us out to share himself, his mercy and his love with us. Where are we?

To assist all of us in answering these challenging questions on this, our Lenten Journey, the following is a copy of our promises made at Baptism. Do you reject sin, so as to live in the freedom of God's children? Do you reject the glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin? Do you reject Satan, the father of sin and the prince of darkness? In short, do you reject everything which is against the Gospel of the Lord Jesus? Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, Our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died and was buried, rose from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of the Father? Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting? As we consider these questions, we might want to ask ourselves do I have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus in the context of the Sacraments, the Holy Scripture, the Church? Is my religious practice just cultural, traditional? Do I want my religious practice to grow into a deep relationship with the Lord Jesus? Can I confess my heart and innermost being that Jesus is Lord? Do I really reject evil? Do I really accept the Gospel? Do I really want to let go of hurts, anger and grudges? Where do I need to grow? We are all in this struggle together. Everyone reading this message is in the struggle to grow more deeply in the faith by keeping our eyes focused on Christ.

Dear Parish Family: It is Lent Again for the First Time!

Today, the First Sunday in Lent, the scripture texts challenges to several major Lenten Themes. Among those themes is the charge to remember, to proclaim and to resist temptation. In the first reading from the Book of Deuteronomy, we are called to remember our spiritual history. Remember who you are. Remember from where you have come. Remember all that God has done for you. Remember how God saved you. Remember that God became incarnate for you in Christ Jesus. Remember that Jesus died for you. So, the first reading asks us who are you? Do you know? Do you want to know? Where are you? Where are you going with relationship to your God?

In the second reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans, we are told that the Word of God is near to us. The Word can mean the written Word of sacred text but it is more accurate to say The Word (who is Jesus) is close to us. The Word being close to us means that we know deep in our hearts what should be. We know deep in our hearts how far we may be from the Word of God. We are called to give assent of the mind and the heart to the faith. We are reminded that we must proclaim the faith by the way we live. We must live with integrity, with truth, with loving and merciful hearts and we must live justly. Lent asks us where are we with these gospel values in our lives?

The Gospel reading speaks to us about the victory of Christ over temptation. We are human. Jesus also shared in our weak humanity. We are tempted to forego our good resolution, to compromise our integrity, forget who we are, to live a lie and, at times, even to live unjustly. The anatomy of a temptation can be learned from the gospel passage. Notice temptation invites us to please ourselves, to live for the moment, to take the easier way rather than working through an issue. "Change these stones into bread." Temptation tells us half truths. Temptations invited us to rationalize our negative behaviors to the point that we actually believe the lies we tell ourselves. Temptations make evil look good, at least for the moment. Temptations twist what is meant for doing good into evil. Notice the temptation of Christ, the Evil one says do great things, jump off the top of the temple and you will be saved. In short, use your gift for doing good for your own advancement. The temptation to power is universal. It is the temptation that says: live for yourself. Use your talent and position for yourself. Get whatever you can for yourself. People will talk of your success and even envy you. We meet temptation to power in many places. Power belongs to God. Authority is given to us for the service of others. Authority is meant to bring about good, never to advance self interest. Yet, many seek to advance in the church, in the parish, in the business, at all costs for self interest, causing pain and hurt to many. This temptation too was endured by Christ.

Christ endured these distractions and he was successful in overcoming the evil one. You and I have been baptized into Christ Jesus. The battle between good and evil is already won by Christ. We need to know the battle is won and we need to realize that we are in Christ and in the end, God wins. Temptations lie to us saying that evil has a chance to succeed. In the end, Victory is won in Christ. If we believe this, then our individual battles with evil, addictions, negative behavior and sin will be easier. Temptations will come about, but do not worry, hold on to the Victor (Christ), you too will be victorious.

LENTEN FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

Fasting and abstaining from food is an ancient Lenten practice. Fasting is found in many Christian and non-Christian communities for both spiritual growth and social justice awareness. Fasting means not eating. This can be done in many ways. One may fast from eating in between meals. One may fast from eating a particular food for a period of time. For example, one may fast on bread or sweets, etc. The fasting need not be a painful experience. The purpose of the self denial is to remind you that Christ gave up his life willing for you. This fasting you are doing is to gently remind you of this article of our faith. Secondly, fasting can help the poor. The money saved from fasting which you otherwise might of spent can be given to the poor or given to help someone else.

To help you with the Fasting and Abstinence, the Catholic Church requires all age 14 and over, not to eat meat on all the Fridays of Lent. This is to remind us of the death of Christ on a Friday. Those ages for 14-59 are asked to fast on Good Friday and Ash Wednesday. This means that one may only eat one main meal. Good Friday is a day of Fasting and Abstinence.

While fasting is commendable, I urge you to also do positive acts for Lent. This is a season that we are being asked to make room for God in our busy lives. It is time to pray in new ways. I may suggest that you pray the Stations of the Cross perhaps two stations a week until Easter. While focusing on the sufferings of Christ, ask yourself where you may be in this particular station. For example, the first station Jesus is condemned to death. Have you or someone you know suffered an injustice? Has someone you know been condemned to death due to a cancer or a terrible sickness which is unfair? If so, then you have found your prayer for this first station of the Cross.

I suggest reading Sacred Text. Perhaps read the Lenten Gospels proclaimed each day at mass during Lent. This will keep you in line with the praying Church. As you read, ask yourself: Where am I in this gospel? What stands out in this gospel for me? Sit with the Gospel for ten minutes a day. It will be a great experience.

I wish you a fruitful Lenten Season.

Msgr. Guy A. Massie

2015 TAX STATEMENTS

Tax statements reflecting your contributions to our parish for the 2015 Fiscal Year are now available. These statements are not automatically sent to all parishioners. Should you wish to receive a statement, kindly call the Rectory Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and speak to Rose Marie Foglia. Kindly have your envelope number available when making this request as well as verification of your current mailing address. Thank you!

The Eucharist...Holy Communion...the Blessed Sacrament...Holy Sacrifice. By many names, we identify the sacred reality made present to us at each Mass, as the celebrant prays the words of consecration. Each name reveals something of God's purpose in this gift of the Son, offered as the "bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation." As Christ prepared to offer himself on the cross, he provided this holy meal as a perpetual remembrance of what sacrificial love really looks like-to give oneself, wholly and completely for the good of the other. As we are invited to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, to be nourished by his body and washed clean by his blood, we are invited to even more: "The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ?" (1Cor 10:16). In partaking of the Lord's body and blood, we are invited to participate in the sacrifice, to love in the same way, a way that holds nothing back and offers all. This way of love calls us to patient endurance, generosity, resolute forgiveness in the face of hurts and wrongdoing. It's a way of love that's costly, that hurts, but one that will surely show the merciful face of Christ to the world.

INFORMATION SHEET

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SOFTWARE

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

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