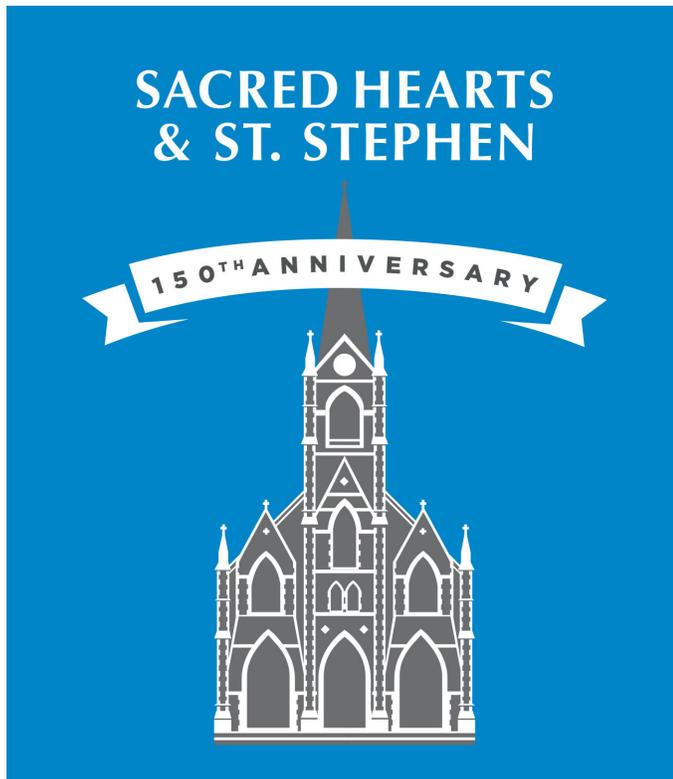

SACRED HEARTS & ST. STEPHEN R.C. CHURCH

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

718-596-7750 tel

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 8, 2016
Noon Birthday Blessings for Marlene Buenaobra

TUE. FEBRUARY 9, 2016
8:30 Joseph Wood
Noon For the Intentions of
 Gina & Steven Eriquez & Family
 BY: Dorothy Pacella

WED. FEBRUARY 10, 2016
ASH WEDNESDAY
7:00 AM For the People of the Parish
8:30 Giuseppe Borrometi
 BY: Carmela Di Rosa
Noon For the Intentions of
 Tina & Nick Cinalli
 BY: A Friend
3:45 PM Prayer Service
7:00 PM Filomena & Antonia Massa
 BY: Loving Family

THURS. FEBRUARY 11, 2016
8:30 Deceased of Fiorentino &
 Lamaestra Family
Noon Joseph Rainieri
 BY: Tina & Nick Cinalli

FRI. FEBRUARY 12, 2016
8:30 Thomas Ahern
Noon Torino Zanzonico
 BY: The Zanzonico Family
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

SAT. FEBRUARY 13, 2016
8:30 Alfred Pipitone
 BY: Mom & Dad
5:30 PM Luigi & Giovanna Barrera &
 Elizabeth DeMeglio
 BY: Loving Family

SUN FEBRUARY 14, 2016
8:00 Michael Deacomanolis
10:00 Maryellen Adinolfi
 BY: Husband Frank
11:45 Santiago Batista
 BY: LouAnne & Michael Manus

Monday
 Feb. 8th Mass at Noon

Tuesday
 Feb. 8th Mass at 8:30 AM
 Feb. 8th Noon Mass
 Feb. 8th Faith Formation Meeting
 @ 7:00 PM Parish House

Wednesday ASH WEDNESDAY
 Feb. 10th Mass at 7:00 AM
 Feb 10th Mass at 8:30 AM
 Feb. 10th Noon Mass
 Feb 10th Prayer Service
 @ 3:45 PM
 Feb 10th AA Meeting @ 5:45 PM
 in Rectory Hall
 Feb.10th Mass at 7:00 PM
Mass and Ashes at the 7, 8:30, Noon & 7:00 PM.
Ashes Only at 3:45 PM

Thursday
 Feb. 11th Mass at 8:30 AM
 Feb.11th Mass at Noon
 Feb 11th Staff Meeting @ 4:00 PM
 Parish House
 Feb 11th K of C Council Mtg
 @ 7:30 PM Cabrini H all

Friday
 Feb 12th Mass at 8:30 AM
 Feb 12th Mass Noon
 Feb 12th Boy Scouts Mtg.
 @ 6:30 PM Cabrini Hall
 Feb 12th Stations of the Cross @ 7:00 PM

Saturday
 Feb 13th Mass at 8:30 AM
 Feb 13th Confessions 4:45 PM
 Feb 13th AA Meeting @ 5:15 PM
 Rectory Hall
 Feb 13th Mass at 5:30 PM

Sunday
 Feb 14th Mass at 8:00 AM
 Feb 14th Mass at 10:00 AM
 Feb 14th 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 | 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 |
| Matthew Ruggiero | |



Altar Bread & Wine for the week of February 7, 2016 has been donated

In Memory of
NANCY ILARDI

Requested by: **The Stella Family & Paula Mazze**



The Sanctuary Lamps for the week of February 7th have been donated

In Memory of
BURTT RUBEN EHRLICH

Requested by: **Camille & Anthony Trani**

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

ADORATION AND SILENCE IN CHRIST'S PRESENCE CHRISTO 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.



**A
NOTE
FROM
OUR
PASTOR**

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Dear Parish Community:

Today is the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time and the last Sunday in Ordinary Time prior to Lent. It is the last Sunday we will sing the Gloria or the Alleluia verse prior to the Gospel. It is the last Sunday we will hear hymns containing the word "Alleluia." Lent is a time of reflection, renewal, reconciliation, and recollection moving us to the resurrection. Today's sacred text prepares us to begin this great season of Lent by calling us to recognize that we like Peter stand before the mystery of God and

reminding us that we are people whose faith is based in the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

In the second reading from 1Corinthians 15, St. Paul states that the foundation of our faith is the Resurrection of Christ Jesus from the dead. This is the oldest written reference to the Resurrection of Jesus that we have. In fact, this letter predates the writing of the gospels. The reading sets the tone for our Lenten Season. Lent is a journey to resurrection. The Redemption accomplished by Christ is found in the death and Resurrection of Christ. While the Cross is central in Lent, we must remember the resurrection is our goal. We pass from death to resurrection. We are called to die to habits, behaviors attitudes which do not always enhance our life in the spirit. Dying to habits and trying to change can be a painful process. We find strength to change in the grace of the victory of Christ. Therefore, we must keep our spiritual eye fixed on the resurrection. How does one get through grief, pain, loss, recovery, sadness, by focusing on the Resurrection of Christ as our hope. Be careful, sometimes we can be focused on the death of Christ that we miss the Resurrection of Christ.

In the Gospel, Peter is awestruck by the great catch of fish. He comes to realize that Jesus is more mysterious than he first anticipated. Peter realizes that he is in the presence of great holiness. Holiness means: totally other. It means recognizing the greatness of the mystery of God which is far beyond our imagination. For Peter he has a WOW moment. WOW moments are those times when for a moment we realize things beyond our wildest dreams. Like Peter, we are left speechless, we feel small, we feel less that we thought only to realize that we have just been elevated to deeper reality. Such moments happen when we realize that is. While we may know that God is, realizing that God is a deeper and more moving reality. It is the moment when we choose to be a believer.

What were your WOW moments?

Rev. Msgr. Guy A. Massie

Article 1146 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that "*...in human life, signs and symbols occupy an important place. As a being at once body and spirit, each person expresses and perceives spiritual realities through physical signs and symbols. As a social being, man needs signs and symbols to communicate with others, through languages, gestures and actions. The same holds true for one's relationship with God.*" Indeed, from the moment the world was spoken into existence, God has intended to communicate something of himself through all of creation, all we experience in the world. The Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote "*...the world is charged with the grandeur of God...*" and, as Catholics, we celebrate this "sacramental" nature of creation in all our liturgical expression, making full use of signs and senses, the "smells and bells." Incense and organ music, candles and colors, statues and stained glass, all these invite us to go beyond the simple appearance of things, to experience and celebrate a deeper reality, the sacred communicated through the ordinary. Nothing greater do we encounter in the liturgy than the simple elements of bread and wine, no mere signs, presented to be transformed and consumed as Christ's real presence, which will in turn transform us. In the coming weeks we will reflect on the profound of these simple elements, ultimately focusing our attention on the significance of the Precious Blood.

SINCERE APPRECIATION AND PRAYERFUL REGARDS FROM GHANA

Let me begin by extending to each and everyone of you a belated Happy New Year. Who would have thought that I would be conveying these words to you from my primary homeland Ghana, and in a different pastoral setting other than in the familiar joyful ecclesial community of Sacred Hearts & St. Stephen's Church, Brooklyn, New York-USA. But that is the basic truth about the dynamics of life, which for the most part is unpredictable. I am, however, happy to be back home—to be closer to my family, especially my mother.

I am presently in residence and helping out at the parish of St. Benedict, Ofankor-Accra, while awaiting official assignment. The pastor of St. Benedict is my friend and classmate, Fr. Felix Quarshire-Sesenyio who visited SHSS some time last year. Anyone who wishes to touch base with me could do so through the Chancery Office (as well as my email: florakwame@gmail.com or cellphone : +233-20-796-0910. C/O The Archdiocesan Chancery, Holy Spirit Cathedral, P. O. Box GP247, Adabraka-Accra Ghana.

To all who either offered me gifts or prayers or both, I render sincerest thankfulness and appreciation for your kindness and generous spirit. To the Parish Staff and all those with whom I worked closely, I say thank you. Last, but first in the debt I owe is to Rev. Msgr. Guy Massie. For his brotherly support and guidance, which have been unwavering since the day I first met him in 2001 till date, there is no sufficient way of saying thank you. May God, the Alpha and Omega of our Faith, Guide and Protect you all.

Rev. Cletus M Kwame Forson

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!

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

INFORMATION SHEET

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SOFTWARE

Microsoft Publisher® 2002

Adobe Acrobat 8.0®

Windows XP Home® SP3

PRINTER

HP® Laserjet 1320

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT

Cover + 4 text pages + this page = 6

SUNDAY DATE OF PUBLICATION

February 7, 2016

TRANSMISSION TIME

Wednesday 1 PM

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

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