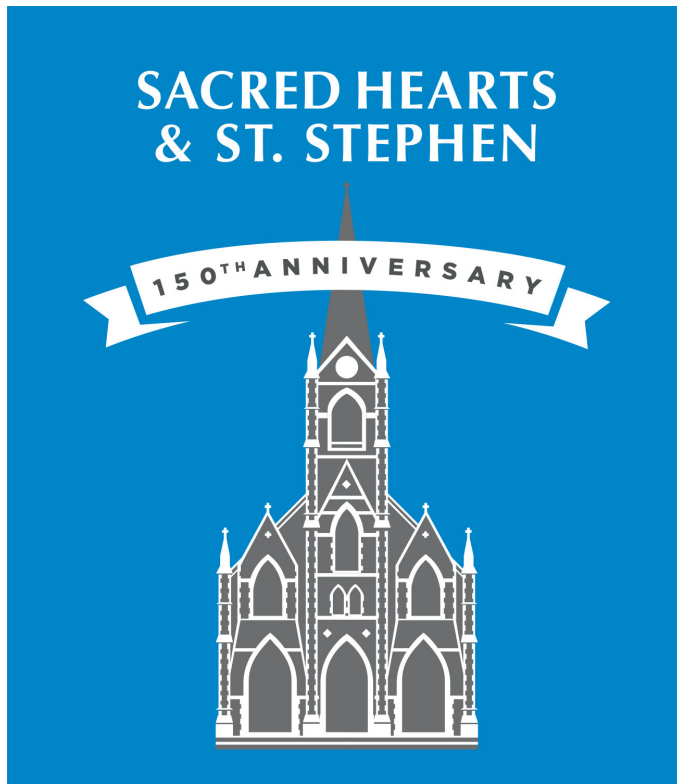

SACRED HEARTS & ST. STEPHEN R.C. CHURCH

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 & 12:00 NOON
5:30 PM on Saturday

MASSES ON WEEKDAYS:

Monday 12:00 Noon
Beginning 11/15/16 thru 4/12/17-Tuesday thru Friday
8:30 AM and Noon
Sat. 8:30 AM

CONFESSIONS:

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

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

ROSE MARIE FOGLIA

Administrator

JAMES LAKE

Parish Organist

EVELYN TROESTER DEGRAF

Choir Director

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.

WELCOME:

Adults who are interested in learning more about or joining the

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



MON. DECEMBER 18 2016

Noon Anthony Polito
BY: Carolyn & John Zodda

TUE. DECEMBER 20 2016

8:30 Louis Trani
BY: Wife, Children & Grandchildren
Noon Giovanna & Luigi Barrera
BY: Loving Family

WED DECEMBER 21 2016

8:30 Louis Valentino, Jr.
BY: Loving Family
Noon Joseph, Concetta & Frank Foglia
BY: Rose Marie

THURS. DECEMBER 22 2016

8:30 Nancy & Anthony Mennella
BY: Grandchildren
Noon John & Rose Groccia
BY: Son Richie & Daughter-in-law Susie

FRI. DECEMBER 23, 2016

8:30 Lucy & Paul Pensabene
BY: Louis & Angela
Noon Anthony Polito
BY: Wife Rosemary, Children & Grandchildren

SAT. DECEMBER 24 2016 Christmas Eve

8:30 Biagio Lubrano
BY: Wife, Children & Grandchildren
4:30 Christmas Family Mass
Midnight Traditional Christmas Eve Mass

SUN DECEMBER 25, 2016 Christmas Day

11:00 AM Christmas Day Mass***
***This will be the only Mass celebrated
on this day!

UPS AND DOWNS ELEVATOR NEWS

The first physical signs of preparation work for the installation of our church elevator began this past week. You will notice that a portion of the church vestibule ceiling on the Hicks Street side where the elevator will be installed, has been opened in order to evaluate the choir loft floor beams. A large opening has been made in the Cabrini Hall floor where the elevator shaft will be constructed to evaluate the depth and thickness of the church foundation at that point. These openings are essential and will allow our engineer to properly draw the plans to be filed with the NYC Building Department as well as to prepare the guidelines for prospective contractors to bid on the project. Thank you to those who continue to fulfill the pledges they have made to Generations of Faith and this project.

CCD NEWS

The children of our Faith Formation Program have begun their outreach program for 2016-17, participating in a "Clean Water Project" for a village in Ghana. With Fr. Victor's help, we have joined with the group *International Help for Missionaries (IHM)* and, through their own personal sacrifice, the children hope to raise the several thousand dollars needed to dig a fresh water well in a small village in Ghana. This will provide relief to several thousand families, especially woman and children, who often need to spend several hours a day searching for (often dirty) water to drink.

BOOK CLUB

Start the New Year with a good book! Please join us at the next Book Club Meeting on Monday, January 9th at 7:00 PM in the Parish House. We will be discussing *A Reliable Wife* by Robert Goolrick. All are welcome!

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 |
| Brad Hatry | Matthew Ruggiero |
| Michelle Laquercia | Irene Balen |
| Dolly Vergona, | Gloria Heyer |
| Angelo Vergona | Richie Boyle |
| Maria Carmen | Morial John Nigro |
| Judith Miller | Alissa Aquino |
| Michele Morea | Palma Caminiti |
| Carol DeMairo | Anthony Gambardella |
| Denise Deacomanolis | Rachel Valenti |
| Salvatore Gianino | Judith Latalladi |
| Rosemary Love | Lisa Van |
| Eileen Giannotta | Donald Jackson |
| Dominick Aiello, Jr. | Roe Gambardella |
| Kathleen Gunderson | Paul Girard |
| Ann Curcuru | Dora Zanzonico |
| Angelina Campasano | Andrew Favorito |
| Anthony Caruvana | Orazio Arrabito |



Altar Bread & Wine for the week of December 18, 2016 has been donated

In Loving Memory of

MICHAEL IACONO

Requested by:

M/M JOSEPH ZAGAMI



The Sanctuary Lamps for the week of December 18, 2016, have been donated

In Loving Memory of:

LEE ANDREW HIRSCH

Requested by: **CINDY & PIO ESPOSITO**



ADVENT

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CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

**Our 150th Anniversary Closing Mass
Celebrated by**

**Most Rev. Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio
will be held on
Sunday,
December 18, 2016
@ 10:00 AM**

**This is the only mass scheduled on
this day. There will be a small
reception with light refreshments in
Cabrini Hall following the Mass.**

RECENT NEWS EVENTS

Recently we have seen an increase of hate crimes in our City and in our nation. I want to make this clear that we, the Catholic Church and I as your Pastor, condemn all acts of violence against Jews, Muslims, Blacks, Mexicans, immigrants, gays, trans-genders and all other human people of any other background. The Gospel calls us to recognize the God given dignity of all people regardless of race, color or creed. Disagreements with another person either religiously or politically or dislike of another is NOT a license to persecute, oppress or bully anyone. Jesus came for all.

“The Church reproves, as foreign to the mind of Christ, any discrimination against men or harassment of them because of their race, color, condition of life or religion” Nostra Aetate

From the Pastor



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Dear Parish Community:

Advent/Christmas/Lent/Easter/ Ordinary Time indeed the entire Church year celebrates, meditates, contemplates and proclaims the **GREAT MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION OF GOD AMONG US. IN JESUS, GOD TAKES ON OUR HUMANITY. IN JESUS, GOD TRULY MEETS HUMANITY AND HUMANITY MEETS GOD. IN JESUS, GOD AND HUMANITY ARE UNITED. THUS WE CAN SAY, BLESSED BE JESUS CHRIST TRUE GOD AND TRUE MAN. THIS IS A GREAT MYSTERY WHICH WORDS CANNOT TOTALLY CAPTURE NOR THEOLOGY FULLY EXPLAIN. IT IS THE REASON FOR OUR CELEBRATIONS OF CHRISTMAS. IT IS THROUGH THE PASSION, DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF THE WORD INCARNATE, WHO IS JESUS, THAT WE ARE REDEEMED. GOD HAS DONE GREAT THINGS FOR US.**

It is difficult to believe that today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The season has moved quickly. In today's readings, we meet King Ahaz who is not the most faithful of Israel's kings, yet he is given a sign from the Prophet Isaiah. The sign will be "as deep as the netherworld or as high as the sky." The sign will be "the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall name him Emmanuel." This is truly a strange sign yet, we the Church see this sign most clearly realized in Mary. This sign is also the sign that the promise made to King David in 1 Samuel, is to be filled. Let us keep in mind the incarnation of God among us in Jesus takes place in a human and historical context. The incarnation is not mystical or only spiritual, it is corporeal. The incarnation can be seen and touched and experienced in Christ Jesus who is God from God, Light from Light, who is begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father.

In the Gospel reading, we hear the wonderful account of the Annunciation of the birth of Jesus to St. Joseph. The Gospel of St. Matthew tells the story of Jesus in a marked Jewish manner. Matthew wishes to show that Jesus is clearly in the line of King David. It was from David's family that the expected messiah was to come. Therefore, Matthew shows that the parents of Jesus are descended of King David. It will be in Jesus that God will ensure the Davidic dynasty and fulfill his promise to King David. This throne will not be one of power and might, rather it will be one of faith and redemption for the world. It will be Jesus the Son of David who will be the rightful heir of King David. It will be through Jesus that the faith of Israel will be brought to perfection and endure for all time. It will be through Jesus that the faith of Israel will expand to the gentile world.

Mary, like David, Moses, and the Prophets are awed by this experience and encounter with God. Just as David and Israel who were instruments through which the grace of God worked, Mary will be the great instrument through whom the incarnation will happen. It will be through the instrument of the humanity of Jesus (the second person of the Blessed Trinity) that redemption will be accomplished. In Jesus, the faith of Israel and the teachings of the Prophets and the Law of Moses, will be brought to fulfillment and continue on for all the world.

In the second reading from Romans, St. Paul, like David and Mary are awe struck by the great things God has accomplished for us through Jesus. Therefore, Paul gives glory to God that we are called into sharing in the Life of God through Christ Jesus. Perhaps as we enter this last week of Advent, we too may focus our attention on the Great Mystery of the Incarnation of God among us. Do we really appreciate all that God has done for us in Christ Jesus? Do we ever ask ourselves: Why is it that God who is all powerful, all glorious, above all creation, all transcendent, all knowing, could deign to become limited, suffer the pains of humanity? Why does God love us? Are we entitled to such love or is this a pure unmerited gift? "What is man that you should be mindful of him.....?" Who are we that God should redeem us?

On behalf of the Parish Staff, I wish you a blessed and Merry Christmas as we celebrate **JESUS WHO IS THE CAUSE OF JOY, WHO IS GOD AMONG US, WHO IS OUR WAY, OUR TRUTH AND OUR LIFE.**

Msgr. Guy A. Massie

PRAY THE ROSARY

Most of us are aware of the Rosary. Do most of us know how to pray the Rosary? What do the Rosary prayers seek to accomplish?

The Rosary are beads that help us to **MEDITATE** on the life of Christ. The Rosary is therefore a Christological prayer. The Hail Mary which is said on each of the beads is meant to be a **MANTRA** helping us to focus on a event in the life of Christ. The Rosary is itself a school. It teaches us the important events of the life of Christ. The Rosary helps us to enter into the mystery personally. The questions we may consider while praying the Rosary are: Where do I see myself in this mystery? What can I learn from this mystery?

The Rosary is not a string of mumbled prayers. The Mysteries of the Rosary are the Joyful Mysteries, the Sorrowful Mysteries, The Glorious Mysteries and the Mysteries of Light. The Rosary is liturgically sensitive. It is prayed in rhythm with the life of the Church. The mysteries are prayed or meditated upon as follows: Sundays in Ordinary Time and Easter Time are the Glorious mysteries. During Sundays of Advent, we pray the Joyful Mysteries and Sundays in Lent we pray the Sorrowful Mysteries. On weekdays, we pray the Joyful Mysteries on Monday and Saturday, the Sorrowful Mysteries on Tuesday and Fridays and the Glorious Mysteries on Sundays. We pray the mysteries of Light on Thursdays.

What are the Mysteries of the Rosary?

The Joyful Mysteries are; Annunciation-found in Luke 1:26-38-The Visitation found in Luke 1:39-56, The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) found in Luke 2:1-20, The Presentation of the Lord-Luke 2:22-38 and The Finding of Jesus in the Temple found in Luke 2:41-52. The Sorrowful Mysteries are found in the Passion Narratives of all the Gospels: Matthew 26-28, Mark 14-16, Luke 22-23, John 18-19. The Glorious Mysteries are meditations on Easter. The Easter Gospels are found in: Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24 and John 20-21. The Mysteries of Light, which we pray on Thursdays are: The Baptism of the Lord found in Matthew 3:11-13, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22, John 29-34. The Wedding Feast of Cana, John 2:1-12, The proclaiming of the Kingdom of God-Matthew 5:1-12, Matthew 25: 31-35 and all the lessons and miracle stories we find in the Gospels. The Transfiguration found Matthew 17, Mark 9, Luke 9. The last Mystery of Light is the Institution of the Holy Eucharist found at the beginning of all the Passion Narratives and in the Bread of Life section of St. John 6 and following.

The Rosary is a great prayer. I invite you to join **PRAY THE ROSARY**. All you need to do is sign up and promise to pray the Rosary at least once a week for the Parish. You can pray more than once a week, but I ask only for once a week. You need not attend meetings. Those who do wish to make a commitment themselves to praying the Rosary for the Parish and those who can come, we will gather in the Church on the First Saturday of the Month at 4:00 PM and all pray the Rosary together before the Blessed Sacrament.

PLEASE DO BECOME A PART OF THE PRAY THE ROSARY PROGRAM

INFORMATION SHEET

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Rose Marie Foglia

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

December 18, 2016

TRANSMISSION TIME

Wednesday 1 PM

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

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