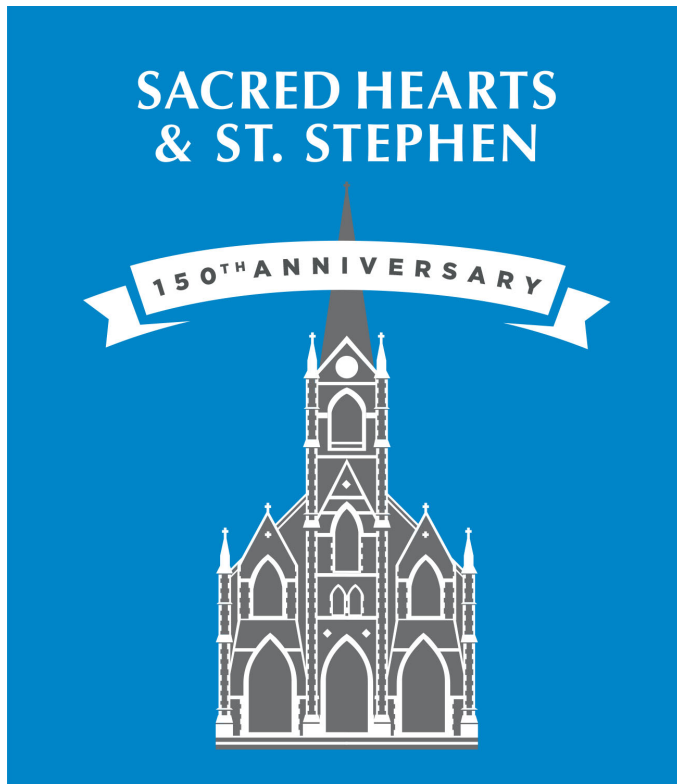

SACRED HEARTS & ST. STEPHEN R.C. CHURCH

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 26 2016**
Noon John Vincent Verderame
BY: Loving Family
- TUE. DECEMBER 27 2016**
8:30 Filomena, Pasquale & Larry Scotto
BY: Family
Noon Vincent & Sophie Pennisi
BY: Children Connie, Guy & Mary Ann
- WED DECEMBER 28 2016**
8:30 Concetta & Carmelo Napoli
BY: Louis & Angela
Noon Deceased Members of
The Piro & Senese Family
BY: The Piro Children
- THURS. DECEMBER 29 2016**
8:30 Louis Valentino, Jr.
BY: Francesca Nocco
Noon Michael Diacomanolis
- FRI. DECEMBER 30, 2016**
8:30 In Honor of The Holy Spirit
For The People of the Parish
Noon Andy, Michael & Judy Romeo
BY: John, Maria & Maria Teresa Heyer
- SAT. DECEMBER 31, 2016**
8:30 In Honor of Our Lady of
Perpetual Help
5:30 PM M/M Salvatore Pellecchia
BY: Rosie, Evelyn & Dana
- SUN JANUARY 1, 2017**
10:00 Vincent & Vincenza Pepe
BY: Son, Louis
Noon Maria Feola
BY: Loving Family

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 |
| Rachel Valenti | Anthony Caruvana |
| 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 |

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

Save the Date

On January 15, 2017, we will celebrate the Feast Day of St. Stephen at the 10:00 AM Mass. Bishop Neil Tiedemann will be the celebrant. This is an important Feast Day for our Parish and we ask everyone to join us for this service.



Altar Bread & Wine for the week of December 25, 2016 has been donated

In Loving Memory of

JOSEPH,

CONCETTA & FRANK FOGLIA

Requested by:

Rose Marie



The Sanctuary Lamps for the week of December 25, 2016, have been donated

In Loving Memory of:

NANCY ALI

Requested by: **Camille & Anthony Trani**

From the Pastor



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

“THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US”

JOHN 1:14

Dear Parish Community:

Christmas celebrates the Incarnation, that is, the taking on of flesh by the second person of the Blessed Trinity. This means, God becoming truly human in Jesus. God who is transcendent, all knowing, beyond our reach, becomes human in Jesus. The reason for the Incarnation is to return humanity back to God. The reason for us to be turned back to God is God loves us. This is known as Redemption. Christmas is more than the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. It is God becoming flesh and dwelling with us. We celebrate this great event because it is the beginning of our redemption which comes about in the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ. Therefore Easter and not Christmas is the center of the life of our faith. The reason for Christmas is Easter.

The Incarnation of God among us in Jesus is all about relationships.

Christmas is about relationships. God has been in relationship with humanity since creation of humanity on the face of the earth. We see this growing relationship in the stories of Adam and Eve, Abraham and Isaac and Sarah, Moses at Mt. Sinai, King David and his psalms, the message of the prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, in John the Baptist and Mary and Joseph. We see this continued relationship between God and humanity in the Body of Christ known as the Church.

Relationships are not always easy. Some relationships are messy. If we read Matthew 1:1-17, the Genealogy of Jesus, we will discover that the extended family of Jesus has both great and not so great people. It has holy people and not so holy people. The extended family of Mary and Joseph had both saints and sinners. In fact, once we learn the stories associated with each of the names listed in this genealogy, we will discover how dysfunctional this extended family of Jesus may have been. Thus, the Incarnation of God among us happens not in a perfect setting but in messy settings among saints and sinners

The Manger, the Barn, The Circumstances, The Surprise

God comes to humanity not in a royal palace which is where one would expect God to come, but in a barn. Barns can be smelly, not too clean and filled with the sounds of animals. The many different worlds in which we may dwell can smell of selfishness, hatred and apathy. The worlds in which we inhabit can be filled with the voices of fear, cries of pain as well as sounds of joy. In the Christmas Gospel, the Incarnation is manifested among rough people, uneducated shepherds and the socially unacceptable. God becomes human so that all humanity could share in his divinity. The Incarnation of the PERFECT one happens in the midst of imperfection. So, wherever you are, whoever you are, whatever condition your life may be in, no matter how faithful or unfaithful you may have been, no matter how perfect or imperfect you think you are, no matter how long it has been since you have prayed or been in church or how badly you believe you may have sinned, the Incarnation of God among us is for you and all of us. All you need to do is to desire to come home, to be reconciled and to receive the Mercy of the Incarnate One, Jesus in the Sacraments of Penance and above all to receive Christ in The Eucharist. God becomes human so we can share in God's Life and live forever. Celebrate Jesus, Celebrate the Eucharist, Celebrate Christmas.

Blessed Christmas

Msgr. Guy A Massie and the Pastoral Staff

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

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

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT

Cover + 4 text pages + this page = 6

SUNDAY DATE OF PUBLICATION

December 25, 2016

TRANSMISSION TIME

Wednesday 1 PM

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

!