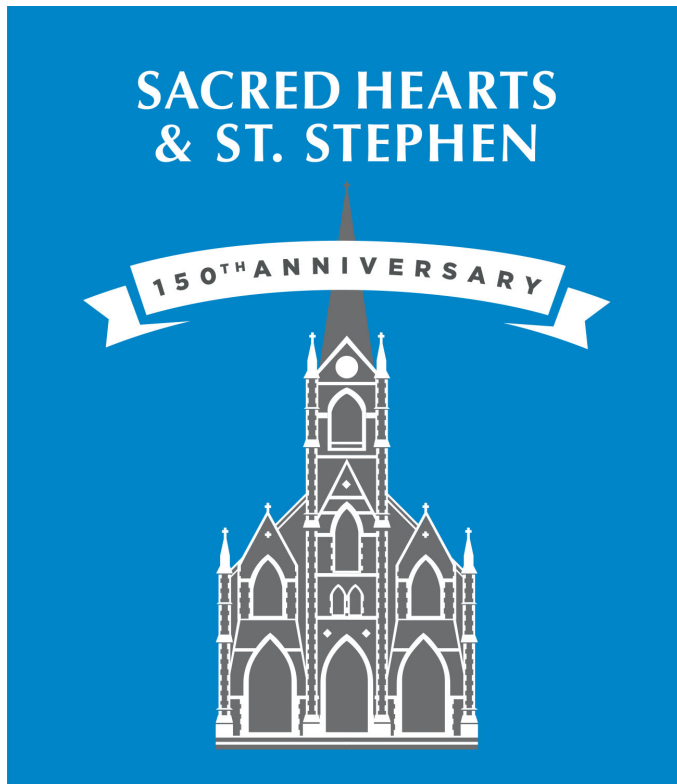

SACRED HEARTS & ST. STEPHEN R.C. CHURCH

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.**

MASSes for the WEEK



MON. DECEMBER 5, 2016

Noon In Honor of the Holy Spirit
for The People of the Parish

TUE. DECEMBER 6, 2016

8:30 Giovanna Martino
BY: Andy Di Manso
Noon Deceased Members of
The Colella Family
BY: Loving Family

WED DECEMBER 7, 2016

8:30 Deceased of Valentino, Masi
and Orsino Family
BY: Loving Family
Noon Leonard Bik
BY: Sal

THURS. DECEMBER 8, 2016

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 Immaculate Conception of the BVM
For The People of the Parish
Noon Antoinette & Ralph DiBuglione
BY: Daughter Carolyn
7:00 PM In Thanksgiving to
The Blessed Mother
BY: John, Maria & Maria Teresa

FRI. DECEMBER 9, 2016

8:30 Larry Scotto
BY: Family
Noon Jean Sammartano
BY: Mary & Dom Pipitone

SAT. DECEMBER 10, 2016

8:30 Giovanna Martino
BY: Carolyn Zodda
5:30 Alfred Pipitone
BY: Mom & Dad

SUN DECEMBER 11, 2016

8:00 Ursula & Frank Scotto
BY: Loving Family
10:00 Antonio & Gabriela Piro & Deceased
Members of Piro & Senese Family
BY: The Piro Children
Noon Angie Amato
BY: Husband Sal & Family

UPS AND DOWNS ELEVATOR NEWS

As we prepare our church for the great celebration of Christmas and the closing Mass of our 150th Anniversary, you will notice a few improvements in our church. The first thing you will notice is the recent refinishing of the floors which have been stripped and waxed or lightly sanded and polyurethane where appropriate. This is an annual maintenance requirement in order to prevent damage to the marble and wood beneath our feet. You may also notice two other great additions to our church which have been donated to us through the generosity of friends of the parish. First is the painting of the St. Rocco Altar which has been done by Giancarlo Scala of the Pozzallo Society. Second is the replacement and addition of inner front doors at the front entrance of the church. These have been donated by Louis Sergi of Sergi Images. If it were not for these generous individuals, this work would not be possible. We thank them for responding to the fact that I am the Church, You are the Church, We are the Church, together!

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.

YOU CAN HELP!

Our 6th and 7th graders are preparing packets of "Snowman Soup" which they will sell at the doors of the Church on Sunday, December 11th. In keeping the theme of "bringing drink to the thirsty", Snowman Soup is a packet of hot chocolate and trimmings that can be distributed to a needy person who might find him or herself on the street this cold winter. You can purchase one to carry with you for when you encounter someone in need. Then your contribution will give drink to the thirsty both at home and in Ghana. Packets will cost \$1.00 but any donation will be gratefully accepted!

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 | |



Altar Bread & Wine for the week of December 4, 2016 has been donated

In Loving Memory of
GRANDMOTHER, SANTA FOTI

Requested by:
Valerie



The Sanctuary Lamps for the week of December 4, 2016, 2016 have been donated

IN HONOR OF THE BLESSED MOTHER

Requested by: **Anna Scotto**



ADVENT

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CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

**DONT FORGET
ABOUT THE FOLLOWING
EVENT:**

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

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

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

NOON MASS

Kindly note that beginning on November 15th, we will have two Masses per day—Tuesday through Friday. One at 8:30 AM and the other at Noon. This will continue through the 12th of April when the schedule will revert back to one mass at 8:30 as usual. Noon Masses will continue on Monday throughout the year.

From the Pastor

Dear Parish Community:



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Today, the Second Sunday in Advent, presents us with Isaiah the Prophet, John the Baptist, two important prophets and Paul. Isaiah is from the Hebrew texts and John from the New Testament. All three men bring us a great message of hope and unity.

Hope finds its basis in faith in God's Divine Providence. In the first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, we are given the wonderful picture of peace and unity. The reading tells us that the Spirit of God will grant gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel and strength. The reading points to a time when natural enemies will actually be friends. The reading expresses the desire of the Prophet for this day of peace and unity. He believes that this peace and unity is possible even if it sounds far fetched. The reason for his hope is his faith that God will bring about this Kingdom of Peace.

In the second reading, St. Paul reminds us that the Hebrew Scriptures which were written long before the dawning of Christianity, were meant to give hope. Paul encourages the Romans to endurance in harmony or in unity with each other. He later mentions the welcome of the gentiles into the community, thus affecting a greater unity among the Romans. Therefore, if we look at the first reading in light of Romans 15:4-9, we can see this great message of hope and unity. In the Gospel, John the Baptist calls us to repentance because the Kingdom of God is at hand. This is a message of hope. The arrival of the Kingdom of God is a fulfillment of hope. The fact that John is calling us to change means we still have time to make things right. This too is a message of Hope. Reconciliation between God and humanity and between each of us is a great sign of hope and unity.

Hope is an essential for life in the Spirit of God. Hope is born of faith in the Divine Providence of God. The object of one's hope is not seen. However, we believe that the object of hope will happen. In the first reading from Isaiah, the real situation was dire. This passage was probably written between 735BCE and 715BCE. The Israelites were experiencing internal division. The Southern Kingdom had separated from the Northern Kingdom. Isaiah had begged King Ahaz not to make an alliance with the King of Assyria, however, Ahaz feared an invasion from other forces outside of Israel. Against the advice and pleading of Isaiah, Ahaz aligned himself with Assyria. This resulted in the loss of all the Northern Kingdom to the Assyrian Empire 721BCE.

Isaiah was marginalized and ignored by the King. The situation in his land seemed without hope. Yet, Isaiah proclaims a message of great hope in this passage. He sees the prospect of peace and harmony as a promise from God. Many of us can take a great lesson from these readings. Many are facing sickness, medical tests which sometimes come back to us with less than hope-filled news. Many are without work. Many cannot pay essential bills. Some of us are facing sudden changes in our respective lives which are creating a whole set of personal problems. Many are stressed out. Some of us are sad. Some of us are struggling with depression. Look at these readings. Can we have hope that God is present?

In our day, we are witnessing many divisions in society. Some places there is a divide between people because of race, color, economic background, religion, orientation. We are even separated from our inner selves. Is this right? God comes to gather into his kingdom, not to scatter. In fact, the word devil means one who divides. Unity brings hope, recognition for human dignity and human worth. Unity helps us all to sing God's praises together in different ways with different words, but united. We are even separated from our inner selves at times. Sometimes we are inwardly divided between what we must do and what we do not want to do. Sometimes we are divided between our minds and our hearts. Can we have Hope in God's Divine Providence working through us? Can we incarnate the words of Christ and work towards a greater unity of our family, work place and neighborhood?

Even if you do not see the sun, it does not mean the sun is not shining. If God seems absent, this does not mean he is not present. Let us be still and know that God is. This may bring us hope and peace. Let's choose to be hope-filled rather than angry, negative or resentful. Hope will bring us to a place of peace.

Msgr. Guy A. Massie

THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

This week, Thursday, we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary.

Masses for the Feast are: Thursday @ 8:30 AM, Noon and 7:00 PM. To celebrate this feast, we ask all people to bring a flower which you will bring up in the offertory procession and deposit in vases which will be placed in front of the statue of Mary on the left side of the Church.

What does this Feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrate? What does it mean? Why is it celebrated in Advent? The feast celebrates Mary's conception in the womb of St. Anne. The feast is concerned with the preparation of Mary for singular vocation, that of being the woman who would give flesh to the invisible God in the great mystery of the Incarnation. The feast is celebrated in Advent because Advent is a time of preparation or the celebration of the mystery of the Incarnation. We are all planning the way of the Lord. We are all asked to make room for God in our lives. So too, Mary is a sign of the great preparation. The Feast has nothing to do with the conception of Jesus as many Catholics mistakenly believe. Join us in honoring Mary this week and bring a flower.

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

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

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