
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

Administration

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



REPENTANCE, RECONCILIATION RECOLLECTION, REFLECTION, RENEWAL, RESURRECTION

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1ST, BEGINS THE GREAT AND HOLY SEASON OF LENT. This is a season which invites us to self examination before the Lord. Lent is both a journey to a deeper personal conversion to the Lord as well as a call to us as the community of the Church towards a deeper conversion to the Gospel of Christ. As a community, the Church universal reminds us that fasting, Almsgiving (charity) and Prayer are three columns of this season of grace. As a Catholic Community united throughout the world, we will abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. As a Catholic community united with the Church throughout the world, we will fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by eating only one main meal. These regulations are applied to all ages 14 to 59. These regulations are minimal. We encourage all to fast and practice self denial at this time so as to meditate on the great things God has done for us through the Life, Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. (Some may be unable to fast for health reasons. We encourage those who cannot fast to practice another act of self denial as would be in keeping with their situation.)

DO NOT TRIVIALIZE THIS SEASON, RATHER MAKE A TIME OF TRUE INTROSPECTION. Lent is a time for REPENTANCE, RECONCILIATION, RECOLLECTION, REFLECTION, RENEWAL, RESURRECTION. What in your life do you need to change? What bad habits do you need to address? What behaviors in your life enhance your relationships with the Lord and others and what behaviors hinder those relationships. Who do you need to forgive? From whom do you need to ask forgiveness? To whom have you been unjust? Do you love the Lord Jesus enough to ask for the grace to truly change?

Fasting helps us to remember this is a Holy Season. Fasting helps us to self deny in a culture which needs instant gratification. Fasting and using the money saved from buying favorite foods which we have given up can be used to donate to a charity.

Prayer-places us always in God's presence. Prayer unites us with the Lord. Prayer need not have words. It can be a silence in the Divine Presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Prayer can be a reflection on the Scripture reading. Prayer can just be a call for mercy. Too many words in prayer can be distracting. **LENT IS A GREAT SEASON FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND MATURITY. MAY IT BE THAT FOR ALL OF US. PLEASE CONSULT THE BULLETIN FOR PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES HERE AT SHSS.** (Readings, Stations of the Cross, Adoration, Reconciliation times.)

- MON. MARCH 13, 2017**
Noon Deceased Members of
The Pellicano Family
BY: Rita
- TUE. MARCH 14, 2017**
8:30 Ralph Colantonio
BY: Loving Family
Noon Sr. Barbara Leonardo
Anniversary Blessings (Deceased)
BY: Lou Pepe & Joe Cerato
- WED March 15, 2017**
8:30 Anna & Frank Santisi
BY: Loving Daughters
Noon For the Intentions of
Genevieve & Joseph Locasio
BY: Dorothy Pacella
- THURS. March 16, 2017**
8:30 Prayers Intentions of
The People of The Parish
Noon Lorianne Sgro Zodda
BY: Her Parents, Carolyn & John
- FRI. MARCH 17, 2017**
8:30 Toni Vallo
BY: Anna La Porta
Noon George & Rita Heyer
BY: Loving Family
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross
- SAT. MARCH 18, 2017**
8:30 Gladys Zodda
BY: Diane Vergona
5:30 PM Lucia Borrometi
BY: The Conti Family
- SUN MARCH 19, 2017**
8:00 AM For the People of the Parish
10:00 AM For the Intentions of
Ann & Phil Donohue & Family
BY: Dorothy Pacella
Noon Pietro Reca
BY: Loving Family

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 Laqueria	Irene Balen
Dolly Vergona,	Gloria Heyer
Angelo Vergona	Richie Boyle-Moriale
Judith Miller	Alicia Aquino
Michele Morea	Palma Caminiti
Carol DeMairo	Anthony Gambardella
Rachel Valenti	Anthony Caruvana
Salvatore Gianino	Judith Latalladi
Rosemary Love	Lisa Van
Eileen Giannotta	Phil Cerato
Dominick Aiello, Jr.	Roe Gambardella
Kathleen Gunderson	Paul Girard
Ann Curcuru	Dora Zanzonico
Angelina Campasano	Andrew Favorito
Lamar McNabb	Anna Maria Marino
Manrique Galeas	Carol Montelbano



Altar Bread & Wine for the week of March 12th has been donated

In Loving Memory of
JAMES GAMBARDELLA

Requested by:
Leona & Joseph Zagami

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR TAXES

Tax statements for contributions made to Sacred Hearts & St. Stephen Church are now available. These statements are not universally mailed to all parishioners. Should you require a statement, kindly call the Rectory and speak directly with Rose Marie Foglia, Monday through Thursday, from 9-5. Please have your envelope number available when making the request. We take this opportunity to thank everyone for their constant financial support of our great parish.



The Sanctuary Lamps for the week of March 12th have been donated

In Loving Memory of
ANNA PULEO

By: **Madeline Salvaggio & Family**

LENTEN DAY OF PRAYER

The National Italian Apostolate will have a day of prayer on Saturday, March 18th presented by Father Giacomo Sgroi of the Diocese of Monreale in Sicily. The day will consist of spiritual conferences, Mass and Lenten Devotions beginning at 10:00 AM with arrival and registration at 9:30 AM. The cost of the day is \$20.00 and includes a hot lunch. This will take place at the Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston. If you are interested, kindly inform Msgr. Massie either in person or by calling 718 596-7750 as soon as possible.

ADORATION AND SILENCE IN CHRIST'S PRESENCE

CHRISTO THERAPY

What is adoration? Why adore the Blessed Sacrament? We, 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 Jesus 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 the 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 evening from 4:00 PM-5:15PM and First Fridays of the month from 7:15 AM to 8:30 AM and from 11:00 AM to noontime. 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.

During Lent join us for Adoration every Friday Evening of Lent followed by The Stations of the Cross. 5:45-6:45 PM Adoration. 7-8PM Stations of the Cross.

From the Pastor

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“ Let us lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely and let us run with perseverance the race that is set forth before us. Looking to JESUS the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the Cross despising the shame and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God” Heb 12:2

Dear Parish Community:

Today, the Second Sunday of Lent, the gospel tells us about the Transfiguration of the Lord. This important event is the summation of our Easter Faith. The Transfiguration proclaims that Jesus is the fulfillment of the hopes and expectations of the Hebrew prophets, represented by the figure of Elijah, as well as the fulfillment of the Torah represented by the figure of Moses. In this event, the disciples get a glimpse of the presence of the Divine nature of Jesus shining through the humanity of Jesus. Notice that the appearance of Jesus is changed and Peter, James and John are overwhelmed by the event. On Good Friday, Jesus' appearance will change and the disciples will again be overwhelmed. In the sufferings and death of Jesus, the divinity of Jesus seems to be eclipsed. Yet, the divinity and humanity of Jesus remain forever united even when it is difficult to see. The Cross is the disfiguration of Christ. The Cross speaks to us about the disfiguration of our humanity caused by sin. The Transfiguration speaks to us about humanity, calls us to be the divine image in the world. The call is to transcend our sinfulness each day and in being transformed into the glory of God.

The Transfiguration and Us

While the Transfiguration is a Christ event, it is also an event which involves the whole body of Christ. We the church, are the body of Christ. We as individuals are the Body of Christ. Baptism immerses us into Christ. Through the Eucharist we more perfectly become the Body of Christ. We, as disciples, are both human and spirit. While we are redeemed through Christ, we are in a constant process of conversion. At times, we suffer physically and spiritually because of our human fragility. Sometimes it is even difficult to see our deeply spiritual side. The Church is both human and divine. At times it is faithful and at times, due to human fragility, it is sinful and weak. At times the divine life, the Church, is obscured from view. There are events in our past history and in our present moments of the church which illustrate the sinfulness of the church. The fact that Christianity is divided, is a sign of the sinfulness of the Church. Scandals, corruption, the unfaithfulness of some of the clergy, religious and laity are signs of our collective sinfulness of the church of Christ. At other times, the clergy, people and bishops have been outstandingly faithful, some even dying for the faith. There are times when the Church universally has been a strong witness to the Gospel, to preservation of life and a staunch defender of the dignity of all people. The Transfiguration tells us that Christ will shine forth from us and in the church, if not completely now, then in the future. The Transfiguration is our ideal and goal. Through our cooperation with the Holy Spirit, we who struggle with our sinfulness, our bad habits, and our faults will one day triumph. Christ will raise in us and in the body of the Church. The road to Transfiguration is continuous conversation with Christ, giving up all that works against Christ, taking up the cross to change and lifting all up to the mercy of God.

You are My Beloved

In the Gospel the Voice from Heaven says of Jesus; “You are my Beloved....” This is meant for Jesus for all who are baptized into Jesus. It is meant for all the Church and us as individuals. You are a beloved daughter or son of God because you share in and participate in the redemption accomplished by Christ.

Knowing that God has a relationship with us is hope filled. No matter how human, no matter how broken, how many mistakes made, how strong, how successful, how holy, or how unholy, you who are baptized, share in the life of God. Knowing he invites us to grow all the more close to the Lord or to come home to our true identity: As a child of God. So, in this Lenten Season resolve to recognize the Image of Christ deep within you. Try to be that image for others.

Msgr. Guy A. Massie

UPS AND DOWNS

While we await the return of the proposals from those construction companies interested in working on our elevator project, we would like to update you on the restoration of our church bell system. All four bells in our Church Tower are ringing after more than 20 years. Parishioners may now enjoy hearing the main bell on the hour and half hour. Additionally, the Angelus now rings at 8:30 AM, 12 Noon and 6:00 PM. We will continue to use the toll for funerals and look forward to ringing all four bells in a “peal” on festive occasions. You can learn more about our new system and see photos of it on-line at pardonmeforasking.blogspot.com/ under the March 6th post.

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 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 spend 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 of 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 and should be done, I also urge you to do positive acts for Lent. This is a season which invites us 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. For a meditation, think of acceptance of things and situations which we cannot change. How difficult acceptance of loss or change can be. Another meditation, 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.

INFORMATION SHEET

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Adobe Acrobat 8.0®

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS