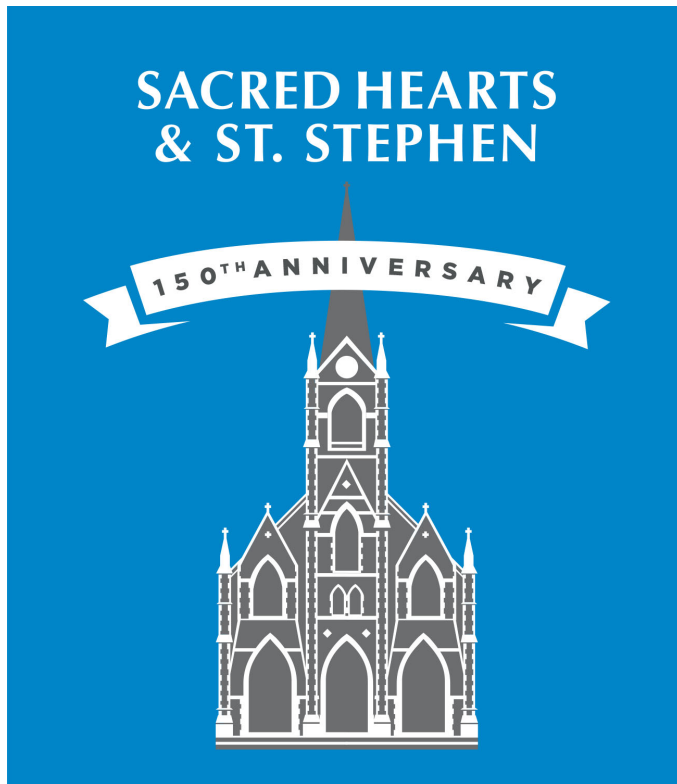


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# **SACRED HEARTS & ST. STEPHEN R.C. CHURCH**

**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

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**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.**

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# 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 6, 2017**  
Noon In Honor of the Holy Spirit  
For The People of The Parish

**TUE. MARCH 7, 2017**  
8:30 Louisa Dellaporte &  
All Deceased Members of  
The Dellaporte Family  
BY: Catherine  
Noon Joseph Pellechia  
Birthday Blessings (Deceased)  
BY: Loving Nieces

**WED March 8, 2017**  
8:30 Anna Massie  
Noon Laura Saporito  
BY: RoseMary Polito & Family

**THURS. March 9, 2017**  
8:30 Larry Scotto  
BY: Family  
Noon For the Intentions of  
JoAnne & Marty Feeney  
BY: Dorothy Pacella

**FRI. MARCH 10, 2017**  
8:30 Carmine Graziani  
Noon For Prayer Intentions of  
The People of the Parish  
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

**SAT. MARCH 11, 2017**  
8:30 Carmella Pipitone  
5:30 PM Alfonse & Jean Cipaldo  
BY: Daughters Angela & Debra

**SUN MARCH 12, 2017**  
8:00 AM A Personal Intention  
10:00 AM Alfred Pipitone  
BY: Mom & Dad  
Noon Rose Romeo  
BY: Maria & John Heyer

# 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        | Alissa 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      |                      |



Altar Bread & Wine for the week of  
March 5th has been donated

In Loving Memory of

**JOSEPH CARDILLO**

Requested by:

**Tommy, Valerie & Joseph**

## 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.

### 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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Dear Parish Community:

## **REMEMBER, REFLECT, RECONCILE, RENEW, RESURRECTION**

Today is the first Sunday of Lent. Lent is a six week period of preparation for the great feast of Easter. The focus of Lent is our conversion of heart to the Lord. This life long process is highlighted at this season as a preparation for the celebration of the Death and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Since it is through the Death and Resurrection of the Lord that Jesus accomplished our redemption, EASTER is the foundation of our faith.

Lent is also the last six weeks of preparation of catechumens that is, those preparing for the reception of the sacraments are to focus more clearly on their spiritual readiness, we who are already baptized are invited to focus on our baptismal promises. While the newly baptized will take their promises for the first time, we are asked to renew our promises and commitment to the Lord at the celebration of Easter. To help us focus on our commitment to the Lord Jesus, we are asked to pray, to give to charity and to fast. The focal point of these activities is Christ. These activities are aimed at centering us in the Lord Jesus.

## **WHERE ARE YOU? ASKED GOD TO ADAM**

This question is essential to consider in this Lenten Season. Where are you in relationship to God? Where are you in relationship to others? Where are you in relationship to yourself? God is forever searching for us. The Lord is seeking us out to share himself, his mercy and his love with us. Where are we?

To assist all of us in answering these challenging questions on this our Lenten Journey, the following is a copy of our Promises made at Baptism. Do you reject sin, so as to live in the freedom of God's children? Do you reject the glamour of evil and refuse to be mastered by sin? Do you reject Satan, the father of sin and the prince of darkness? In short do you reject everything which is against the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ? Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died and was buried, rose from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of the Father? Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting? As we consider these questions, we might want to ask ourselves do I have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus in the context of the sacraments, the Holy Scriptures, the Church? Is my religious practice just cultural, traditional? Do I want my religious practice to grow into a deep relationship with the Lord Jesus? Can I confess in my heart and innermost being that Jesus is Lord? Do I really reject evil? Do I really accept the Gospel? Do I really want to let go of hurts, anger and grudges? Where do I need to grow? We are all in this struggle together. Everyone reading this message is in the struggle to grow more deeply in the faith by keeping our eyes focused on Christ.

In today's Gospel we are presented with the temptations of Christ. In this text, we also learn the anatomy of temptation. The tempter always presents us with half truths. Temptations are always presented as delightful and attractive. Sin is always ugly after the fact, not during. In today's Gospel, we see the temptation of instant gratification, the temptation to circumvent the proper order and the temptation to be God. All sin is an act of setting up even for a moment a code of behavior which contravenes the Law of God. We become, even in our minds, the self Law giver.

The Season of Lent is one of Hope. The call to return to the Gospel and to the practice of the faith, the call for self correction with the help of the Grace of God means there is hope for us to build and to grow in our relationship to the Lord.

Lent is for everyone. No one is free of sin. No one is so perfect as to except oneself from this season. The Pope, not the Bishops, not the Pastors, nor the priests, nor the sisters nor the deacons nor the lay ministers are so holy as to be perfect. All have issues and challenges in their personal relationship to the Lord, to others and even to themselves. We give thanks to God for this great season of Lent.

Msgr. Guy A. Massie

## UPS AND DOWNS

Gamil Engineering is finalizing the NYC Department of Buildings documents to obtain a building permit for the parish Generations of Faith elevator project. The architects have also created a bid set including: the drawing set, construction schedule and scope of work, which was sent to all interested contractors on Friday, February 17th. The parish Finance Council was given time to review the scope of work document prior to it being made public. On February 22nd and 23rd, each interested contractor was walked through the project by the architects and a member of the parish staff in order to take notes and answer any questions each contractor had. The contractors interested in making a bid to do the work were asked to submit bids in one week, allowing an additional week for us to ask them questions. The NYC Department of Buildings process should be wrapped up by then but certainly by the time we have our bids in. We will be able to start work once we select the contractor.

## 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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Sacred Hearts & St. Stephen #875400

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718-596-7750

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Rose Marie Foglia

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**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**