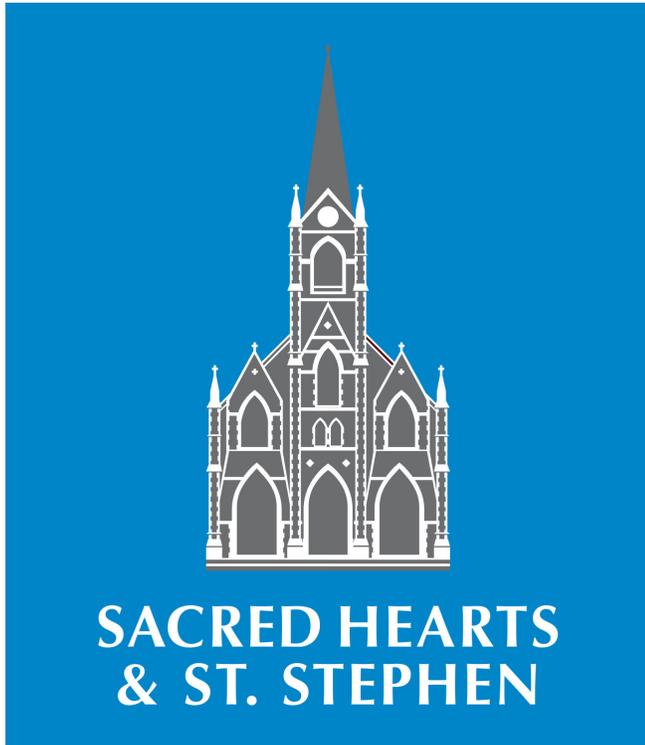


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# **SACRED HEARTS & ST. STEPHEN R.C. CHURCH**

**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



- MON. APRIL 17, 2017**  
Noon Vincent Gallo  
BY: Anna Hamilton
- TUE. APRIL 18, 2017**  
8:30 Filomena, Pasquale & Larry Scotto  
BY: Family
- WED APRIL 19, 2017**  
8:30 Agatina, Concetto & Rosetta Conti  
BY: The Conti Family
- THURS. APRIL 20, 2017**  
8:30 Anna & Frank Santisi  
BY: Loving Daughter
- FRI. APRIL 21, 2017**  
8:30 For the Health of Virginia Marchesano  
BY: Louis & Angie
- SAT. APRIL 22, 2017**  
8:30 Angelo Tammaro  
BY: Dominick & Lillian Intartaglia  
5:30 PM Giovannina Martino  
BY: Scotto Family
- SUN APRIL 23, 2017**  
8:00 AM Stephen Vergona & Frank Foglia  
BY: Diane Vergona  
10:00 AM Dominick Balzano,  
Carmela & Domenic Costanzo,  
Christina & Nicola Marchese &  
Frances & Antonio Caminiti  
BY: Fran Balzano & Children  
12:00 Noon Giuseppina & Fortunato Cangemi  
BY: Antoinette Musarella

## TO ALL

The Jewish People and the Passion narratives present us with a need for a pastoral note: The Passion Narratives in no way justifies anti-Semitism nor any persecution of the Jews of our day or any other day. Keeping with the Teachings of the Catholic Church as explained at Vatican II in the document *Nostra Aetate* (In Our Time), I remind you that writing of the Passion is not story of trial as we would know it. The Passion is a theological and Catechatical document. These events were written after the Passion and reflect a time period which was not contemporary with the Passion but with later history when the Jewish Community of Jerusalem was dividing between those who accepted Jesus and those who did not. This divide caused families and friendships to split apart. I ask you to be mindful of the quote below from Vatican II. As we hear and meditate on the Passion/Death and Resurrection of Christ during the next few weeks, I ask all to keep in mind that these events are the founding events of our faith. Please remember the following: “Even though the Jewish authorities and those who followed their lead pressed for the death of Christ, neither all Jews indiscriminate at that time, nor Jews today can be charged with the crimes committed during his passion. It is true that the Church is the new people of God, yet the Jews should not be spoken of as rejected or accused as if this followed from the Holy Scriptures. Consequently, all must take care, lest in catechizing or preaching the Word of God, they teach anything which is not in accord with the truth of the Gospel message of the spirit of Christ. Indeed the Church proves every form of persecution against whomsoever it may be directed. Remembering then her common heritage with the Jews and moved not by any political consideration, but solely by religious motivation of Christian charity, she (the Church) deplores all hatreds, persecutions, displays of anti-Semitism leveled at anytime or from any source against the Jews. The Church always held and continues to hold that Christ out of love freely underwent suffering and death because of the sins of all men, so that all might attain salvation. It is the duty of the Church, therefore, in her preaching to proclaim the cross of Christ as a sign of God’s universal love and source of all grace. (*Nostra Aetate* 28 October 1965 Vatican II Document)

# 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-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      | Carol Montelbano     |

Rev. Michael A. Carrano

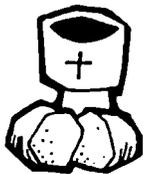
## Book Club

Please join our next meeting on May 8th at 7:00 PM in the Parish House where we will be discussing The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver. All are welcome!



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The Sanctuary Lamps for the week of April 16th have been donated In Loving Memory of **CATHERINE AGOSTA** By: Phyllis & John



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Altar Bread & Wine for the week of April 16th has been donated In Memory of **GUISEPPINA BORROMETI** BY: The Conti Family

## AN EASTER PRAYER

How wonderful, how marvelous is Your love Jesus! To think that you were willing to go through that for me!

What a day of rejoicing that must have been when you rose and realized it was all over— You had won the victory! You had accomplished your mission. You had made the way for the world to be saved. You had gone through the horrors of death for us and it was over.

You arose in victory, joy, liberation and freedom from the hands of evil men, never to have to go through it again-and you did it all to spare us the same. Now we can say with the apostle Paul “O death, where is your sting? O grave where is your victory?” (1 Corinthians 15:55-57).

Thinking of the seemingly terrible defeat that you suffered and how it resulted in such a tremendous victory, it fills me with wonder and gives me such hope and peace. Surely you and your love will see me through whatever troubles may come my way from now until eternity! Amen.

Of all of God’s gifts  
Easter shows us our fate  
Forgiven we will rise  
And pass through Heaven’s gate  
This Easter remember  
The sacrifice of a Son  
And through His resurrection  
Eternal life we have won  
This Easter I pray  
That the love of God  
Is resurrected  
Reborn, renewed  
Inside your heart  
God Bless You!

# From the Pastor

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Dear Parish Family:

Today the Gospel and the Liturgy announce the Resurrection of Christ. In music, hymns, with the fragrance of flowers and incense with words and actions, we strive to express the Good News which defies words; **CHRIST IS RISEN!** The Paschal Mystery which means; the suffering, death and Resurrection of Christ stands at the center of our faith. It is the very foundation of all we are, all we preach and all for which we hope. It is because of Easter Sunday that every Sunday is seen as the Lord's Day. It is because of this Sunday that Catholics are obliged to participate at the Sunday Eucharist. Today is seen as the first of all Sundays, the first day of the week, the first day of a new order of creation and a new relationship with God. This day, Easter and every Sunday is a day of hope, joy and celebration.

What does this day mean to us? What do we mean when we say: Christ is Risen? First and foremost, Easter states that death and sin in all of these forms are conquered. Sin is everything that stands against Christ and makes us less human, less the image of God in the world. Christ is the strength of all who struggle against their own sins and the sins of the world. Death, the enemy of humanity, does not have the last word. Death manifested in physical death, spiritual death or forces which seek to undo all acts of life, is defeated. Death and loss which seem eternal, because of Easter, is limited. Our loved ones are not lost to nothingness but live differently in the presence of God. Suffering and especially innocent suffering which causes us to ask many questions and even at times to doubt God's Providence, finds meaning and hope when seen in light of the sufferings of Christ.

Easter and the Easter Season gives us hope that God will triumph over sin despite persecution, suffering and even death. Easter means that love does win out, that peace triumphs over war and turmoil, that mercy, compassion, faithfulness, hope and joy will continue to be victorious over vengeance, hatred, apathy, betrayal and despair. Easter makes good the promises of the Beatitudes. The celebration of Easter tells us that those who suffer or struggle to be peacemakers will see their goal realized. Easter tells us that those who are persecuted because they seek righteousness or justice will see their efforts rewarded. Easter tells us that who show mercy will not be thought of as fools but will receive mercy. Easter is the consolation of all who mourn whether for loved ones or over the darkness of the world. Easter tells all who long for God and for all who have dedicated their lives to God that they will see the Face of God. The Resurrection of Christ is the reason and the energy of Christian life.

What does Resurrection mean? When we say that Jesus is Risen, we mean that Jesus has entered into a new existence. Jesus is Risen physically, not just spiritually. In the Resurrection, all of creation is redeemed and uplifted and all of creation can be used to point us to the invisible reality of God. Every Sunday, we profess our belief in the resurrection of the body and life of the world to come. This means that all of us will raise again. We are not just spirits or souls, we are soul and body. Those who disregard the body as not important, are gravely mistaken. At the general resurrection, all of creation will enter into the Victory of Christ and we will raise completely, soul and body. Death is not an ending, it is a change.

The general message of Easter is that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Through all of the history of salvation from Genesis to Revelations, God seeks us out. God calls out to us: "Adam where are you?" Adam represents all of us. Humanity runs from God. While we exile God from ourselves, many seek to follow their own ways rather than God's. We call this condition, sin. Sin makes us less human, hurts us and offends the love of God. God calls us back. God never gives up because **GOD IS LOVE**. Love wills the good for the other even at the cost of self sacrifice. God's Word is accepted by many but is also rejected by many. The prophets were rejected in their day, the many saints were rejected in their day. Ultimately, the Death of Christ was supreme rejection of God by humanity. Yet, in the faithfulness of Jesus to his Father, Jesus redeems us and we are bound even more closely to God in a bond that cannot be broken. So, no sin is so dark that the light of Christ cannot heal it, no tomb is so filled with death that the life of Christ cannot raise up new life. Wherever you are in your life in the Spirit, Christ is close at hand.

**ALLELUIA+CHRIST IS RISEN+INDEED CHRIST IS RISEN+  
BLESSED PASCHAL SEASON TO ALL**

**MSGR. GUY A. MASSIE AND STAFF**

### UPS AND DOWNS

Thank you to all who responded in generosity to the “Easter Gift” appeal which supports the extra-ordinary expenses the parish faces during Holy Week. Your participation in this and other appeals such as Generations of Faith, which will make it possible for us to install an elevator in our church, the Annual Catholic Appeal that supports vocations, immigrant services and catholic charities to name a few and the Sunday Collection which keeps the lights on and the church open, are the clearest and simplest ways for each of us to be good stewards of our parish. Stewardship is the job of supervising or taking care of something such as an organization or property. As members of the Sacred Hearts-St. Stephen parish family, we are each called in our own way to respond in thanksgiving to God by sharing in the stewardship of the Church which Jesus left for us. This Easter, may the hope of the resurrected Christ grow in you a renewed mission of stewardship allowing Sacred Hearts-St. Stephen to always be a sustainable and welcoming place where the Gospel is shared and Community is built.

### WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES EASTER MAKE?

So what if the Easter bunny wins the hearts of children everywhere? So why not strike “Easter vacation” from the vocabulary of our schools and substitute “Spring break?” What difference does Easter make anyway?

It make a lot of difference to those who are in touch enough with reality to take life and death seriously. It made a lot of difference to a very real woman named Mary. Here is her story:

Mary had the heart wrenching honor of washing the dried blood from Jesus’ lifeless body as two other followers prepared the tomb cut into Jerusalem’s cold limestone. Mary wept as she washed—wept and remembered.

She had been born to luxury, heiress to a textile fortune, a native of Magdala, a town along the coast of Galilee. “Little good it did me,” she mused. Money had brought the opposite of happiness. She looked back at her teen years as a blur of painful, compulsive acting out. Her parents had thrown up their hands in despair, she recalled. She recollected the gnawing fear, the self-loathing that ate at her very core. And she could remember the caring boldness in Jesus’ penetrating eyes as he had confronted the demons that tormented her and commanded them to be gone forever. That had been the last of the frantic, distraught Mary. A gentle, peace-filled Mary had taken her place. Until today.

Today she had seen her Lord die an excruciating death, his body weight hanging limp from the nails driven through his hands and feet, suspended from a cross like a common criminal.

Her heart caught in her throat as she remembered and wept and washed away the caked blood with her tears. She wept, too, as she watched the men lift Jesus’ corpse onto the tomb’s carved ledge, and roll a massive stone across the doorway.

Was all her hope for nothing? What of all the thousands of diseased bodies he healed? The broken lives he had restored? The promises of the Kingdom of God?

But early Sunday morning she was back at the tomb to finish anointing his body. When she arrived, the tomb stood open, stone pushed to the side, ashes of the Roman guards’ watch fire still smoldering. “How can they be so cruel?” she cried as she ran to tell the apostles. So cruel.

But it wasn’t cruelty that rolled away the stone that Easter morning. It was the powerful hand of God as Jesus Christ stepped forth brimming with life.

Mary saw him, mistaking him for the gardener. But there was no mistaking his familiar voice—“Mary,” She fell at his feet, tears of grief melting into tears of joy. “Rabboni,” she said as she looked into his face. “Teacher.”

Yes, Easter bunnies still capture the hearts of children and schools talk about Spring break, but you and I know what really happened on Easter.

In an instant, history changed forever, because where once the human mortality rate had held steady at 100%, not it skipped a beat as Jesus, savior of all mankind, stepped out of dead statistics into life. Death is the last word no longer for Jesus’ followers, life is.

For while religious leaders have come and gone, the fact remains: only One stepped forth from the tomb.. Only One has risen from the dead. Only one has conquered death. Only One offers the promise of eternal life to those who follow him.

I am the Resurrection and the life” Jesus said. “He who believe in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die”.

**INFORMATION SHEET**

**CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS**

Sacred Hearts & St. Stephen #875400

**PHONE**

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**CONTACT PERSON**

Rose Marie Foglia

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