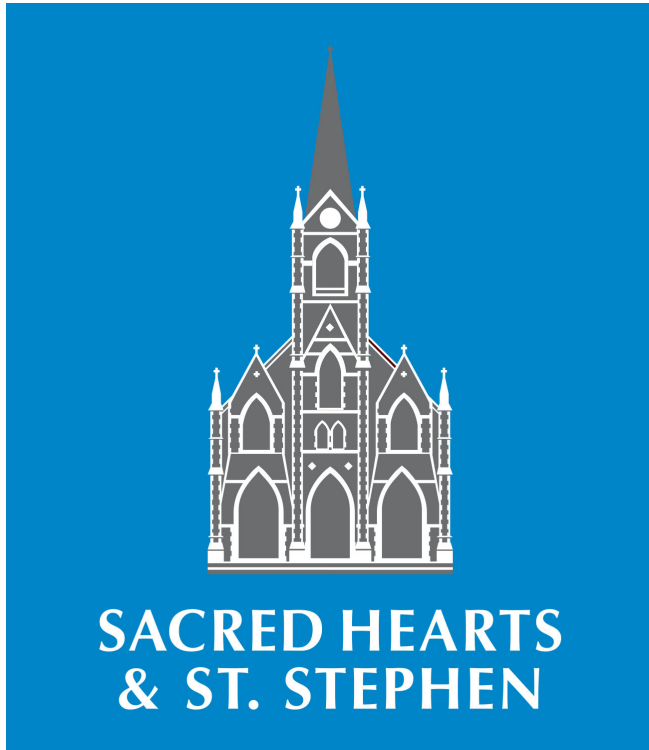

SACRED HEARTS & ST. STEPHEN R.C. CHURCH

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

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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**

- MON. APRIL 3, 2017**
Noon In Honor of the Holy Spirit
 For The People of the Parish
- TUE. APRIL 4, 2017**
8:30 Lorianne Sgro Zodda
BY: Her Parents, Carolyn & John
Noon For the Prayer Intentions of
 The People of the Parish
- WED APRIL 5, 2017**
8:30 Carmine Graziani
Noon Lorianne Sgro Zodda
BY: RoseMary Polito & Family
- THURS. APRIL 6, 2017**
8:30 Anna, Antonio & Ralph Colantonio
BY: Loving Family
Noon Domenico & Amalia Mignano
- FRI. APRIL 7, 2017**
8:30 In Honor of The Holy Cross
Noon Theresa Bruno
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross
- SAT. APRIL 8, 2017**
8:30 Joseph Pipitone
BY: Donny & Mary
5:30 PM Maria Zonfrillo
BY: Carol & Vinny Richards
- SUN APRIL 9, 2017 PALM SUNDAY**
8:00 AM Anna Ruggiero
BY: Loving Family
10:00 AM Sr. Anna Desiderio
BY: A Friend
Noon Anthony Polito
BY: Loving Wife, Children &
Grand Children

The Lenten Season 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.)

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	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!

EASTER GIFT & FLOWER SPONSOR LEVELS

Bamboo Sponsor \$200.00 and over
(equivalent to three bunches of wild Bamboo behind the Altar)

Cherry Blossom Sponsor \$100.00 and over
(equivalent to 2 bunches of fresh flower branches or six Hydrangeas)

Easter Lily Sponsor \$50.00 and over
(equivalent to two 10" lily plants)

Tulip Sponsor \$25.00 and over
(equivalent to three 6" tulip plants)

Please submit your donations in a "Flower" envelope by **April 10th** to be printed in the Annual Easter Memorial Booklet.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY (PASSION SUNDAY)

5:30 PM Saturday Evening

Sunday:

8:00 AM

9:45 AM Solemn Blessing of the Palm and Procession from Court Street and 1st Place to the Church.

10:00 AM Mass

12:00 Noon Mass

MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK

Reconciliation (Confession) from 3:00 PM-5:30 PM and 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

HOLY THURSDAY

Morning Prayer @ 8:30 AM

Mass of the Lord's Supper @ 7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

Morning Prayer @ 8:30 AM

Liturgy of The Passion of The Lord @ 3:00 PM

Devotional Procession @ 7:00 PM

HOLY SATURDAY

Morning Prayer @ 8:30 AM

Great Easter Vigil @ 8:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY

Mass at 10:00 AM

Mass at 12:00 Noon

Please join us for all or as many of these occasions during Holy Week as possible. All are welcome!

From the Pastor

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Dear Parish Community:

There is an Easter Hymn titled: “Roll Away the Stone and See the Glory of God.” In order to see the great works of God, we must remove all obstacles to our spiritual sight. Faith gives us light as we saw last week in the story of the Man Born Blind. Faith frees us. Lazarus had to be unbound. Similar to the Gospels about the Women at the Well and to the Man Born Blind, there are many levels to the Gospel about the Rising of Lazarus.

In today’s Gospel reading, we meet Jesus, Lazarus and his sisters, Martha and Mary and the crowd. As the passage opens, Jesus has been told that Lazarus is gravely ill and near death. Ultimately, Lazarus dies and then Jesus goes to the family. We are told that Jesus and Lazarus were friends. Jesus is also known to Martha and Mary. We are also told Jesus was moved to the depths of his being as he approached the tomb of Lazarus. In the story, Jesus faces his own impending death as he encounters the death of his friend. Ultimately, Jesus calls Lazarus out of the tomb, Lazarus is restored to life. Lazarus does not experience the resurrection. By Resurrection, we mean a glorification. Resurrection means never having to face death again. Lazarus will die again. Jesus is risen and is glorified. Lazarus comes out of the tomb after the stone is removed and he has to be unbound. Lazarus is thus given a new lease on life.

WHAT HOLDS US BOUND?

What keeps us bound to negativity? Is it possible to be physically alive and spiritually and emotionally dead? There are many ways for us to be dead. There are many ways for us to be held bound as not to move or grow. In the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel, Chapter 37, we read of the vision of the dry bones. The parable is addressing the spiritual death of the people. It is not until Ezekiel speaks the Word of God over the bones that they come to life. In many ways our spiritual life can be dead. Prayer may have become routine. We may not be able to relate to the Liturgy. We may have lost the feeling that God even cares for us. In some cases, we may have lost our faith for a period of time. At other times, coming to Mass becomes an effort because we cannot take the music, the homily, the people, we just cannot.

What may cause us to go through such a tough time spiritually? There are many reasons. Among them is the need for our Life in the Spirit to grow. Our spiritual life should grow with the events in our lives. St. Theresa of the Child Jesus wrote: “all things are a grace...disappointments, loss, humiliations...all is ordered for our salvation. So much depends on our eye of faith as we go through these trying times. Changing the way we pray can enliven our spiritual life. Reading the sacred texts and asking: “where am I in this story” can be an enlivening spiritual experience. Does our prayer life help us to experience Jesus? Do we spend time in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament?

Emotional and spiritual death happens when we no longer hope. When we have been hurt to the point of becoming jaded, we lose the will to grow or even to improve our own outlook. At this point, we are faced either with staying with our negativity or seeking a change of attitude. What stones do we need to remove from our hearts before we can see the Glory of God? What stones do we need to roll back to see that life is good? By what are we held captive? Is the stone that blocks our full participation in the life of Christ doubt, fear of being misled, fear of being too hopeful? Are we held bound by habits over which we have little or no control? Are we captivated by power, lust, anger, revenge, vindictiveness or hatred? Faith and hope are a chosen way of life. The people in the story trusted Jesus because they knew him. They moved the stone because they had faith in Christ. Can we trust Christ enough to remove the stones from our heart and allow the Lord into the innermost parts of our being?

Msgr. Guy A. Massie

UPS AND DOWNS

As you know, in 2016 our parish did not conduct the Annual Catholic Appeal while participating in the Diocesan capital Generations of Faith. However, this does not mean that the programs run by the Diocese were not in need of our support in 2016 or that the parish did not fulfill its obligation to run these programs. Instead, every parish in the Diocese deducted their parish obligation to the Annual Catholic Appeal from the money they received through Generations of Faith only for the one year that the parish was actively asking for pledges to Generations of Faith. While some in our parish are continuing to make payments on their pledges to Generations of Faith Pledge, the parish must once again fully participate in the Annual Catholic Appeal providing support for things such as our Seminarians, Catholic Charities and Catholic Migration Office to name just a few. The Goal for our parish for 2017 is \$28, 221. Understanding that some are fulfilling their pledges to Generations of Faith and cannot commit in the same way as they usually do, we ask everyone, especially those who did not participate in Generations of Faith, to consider a gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Those who are without shelter, malnourished, men discerning the priesthood and those who are ill, and dying—all depend upon our generosity. Without the funding provided by the 2017 Annual Catholic Appeal, the ministries of our Diocese not supported by Generations of Faith would not be possible.

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)

INFORMATION SHEET

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Rose Marie Foglia

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS