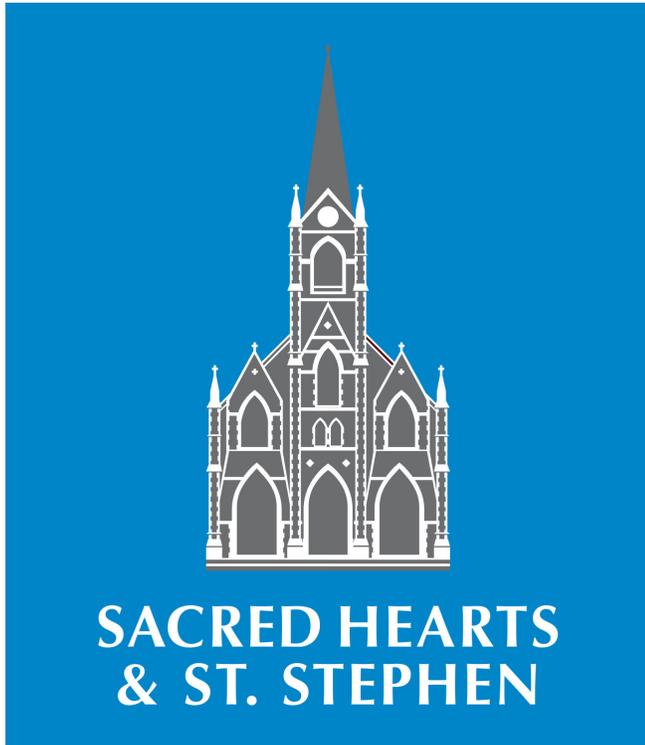

SACRED HEARTS & ST. STEPHEN R.C. CHURCH

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 NOON
5:30 PM on Saturday

MASSES ON WEEKDAYS:

Monday 12:00 Noon
Tues. through Sat. 8:30 AM

CONFESSIONS:

Saturdays 4:45 P.M. as well as By Appointment.

For Holiday and Special Mass Schedules, please call the Rectory and press extension number 4 for specific details.

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 Catholic Faith please call the rectory. Adults who have not completed the sacraments of initiation (Eucharist and/or Confirmation) please call the rectory.

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**

MON. AUGUST 14, 2017
Noon Vincent Porcelli
BY: Mom, Guido & Rose Ann

TUE. AUGUST 15, 2017
8:30 In Honor of the Blessed Mother
Noon In Honor of the Blessed Mother
BY: Figlia di Monte di Procidia
7:00 PM In Thanksgiving to
The Blessed Mother-Outdoors

WED AUGUST 16, 2017
8:30 Giorgio Buono

THURS. AUGUST 17, 2017
8:30 Anna Liguori (Deceased)
Birthday Remembrance
BY: Beloved Son John &
The Liguori Family

FRI. AUGUST 18, 2017
8:30 Personal Prayer Intentions
For The People of The Parish

SAT. AUGUST 19, 2017
8:30 Birthday Intentions
of Lorraine &
Lawrence Zanzonico (Living)
BY: Dora Zanzonico
5:30 PM Josephine Patti
BY: Loving Family

SUN AUGUST 20, 2017
8:00 In Thanksgiving for
Blessings Received Through The
Intercession of O.L. of Mt. Carmel
BY: Angie
10:00 For The People of the Parish
12:00 In Thanksgiving for
Blessings Received
BY: John, Maria, Maria Teresa &
Catherine Rita Heyer

UPS AND DOWNS

Construction on the Church elevator began on Monday. The first steps of the construction have included relocating everything that was in the areas of construction, erecting temporary walls to limit dust, the implementation of safety protocols and demolition of the effected areas. A dumpster was also placed on Hicks Street to facilitate in the removal of demolition debris. While many factors can change the completion date of the project, the estimated time it will take to complete the job will be approximately six months. We thank those who have been fulfilling their pledges and ask that you continue to do so. Without your donations, this project would not be possible.

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

As followers of Jesus, one of our primary tasks is to share the Good News with others. This is especially important for those of us who are parents, called at our child's baptism to share the light of faith with them to help them to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Faith Formation Program here at SHSS is privileged to be part of this spiritual formation. Now is the time to provide for your child's religious formation this fall.

- For those already enrolled in the program, re-registration forms were mailed in June. In order to allow us to order materials and organize classes effectively, we ask that you update all necessary information and return the form as soon as possible. If you haven't received a form, please call Nancy Arkin in the Parish Office or email narkin1960@gmail.com.
- If you prefer to re-register in person, if you have a child who will be attending for the first time, or have any questions or concerns, please call 718 596-7750 for assistance or to make an appointment.

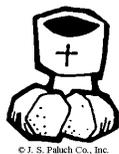
Sick Relatives & Friends

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	Janet Illiano
Dominick Aiello, Jr.	Roe Gambardella
Kathleen Gunderson	Paul Girard
Ann Curcuru	Dora Zanzonico
Angelina Campasano	Andrew Favorito
Lamar McNabb	Anna Maria Marino
Elizabeth Lo Porto	Carol Montelbano
Rev. Michael A. Carrano	Elizabeth Foley



The Sanctuary Lamps for the week of August 13th have been donated In Memory of **JOSEPHINE PATTI** BY: Loving Family



Altar Bread & Wine for the week of August 13th has been donated in memory of **GUY DI MANSO** BY: Phyllis & Linda

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Sunday Collection for 8/6/17	\$4,310.00
Annual Weekly Expenses**	\$ 14,325.00
Difference:	\$-10,015.00

** Total annual expenses divided by 52 weeks

SAVE THE DATE!

On Sunday, September 17th, SHSS will hold a Parish Picnic beginning at 1:00 PM in the Church Yard. Come join the fun!

A POEM OF BELIEF BY A JEWISH PRISONER IN A NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMP

I thought I'd share this poem that I found on the internet. It was written during WW2 on the wall of a cellar, by a Jew in the Cologne concentration camp.

" I believe in the sun
 even when it is not shining
 And I believe in love,
 even when there's no one there.
 And I believe in God,
 Even when he is silent.
 I believe through any trial,
 There is always a way
 But sometimes in this suffering
 And hopeless despair
 My heart cries for shelter,
 To know someone's there
 But a voice rises within me, saying hold on
 My child, I'll give you strength,
 I'll give you hope. Just stay a little while.
 I believe in the sun
 Even when it is not shining
 And I believe in love
 Even when there's no one there
 But I believe in God
 Even when he is silent
 I believe through any trail
 There is always a way.
 May there someday be sunshine
 May there someday be happiness
 May there someday be love
 May there someday be peace...."

Unknown

From the Pastor

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Is our Faith greater than our fears?

Dear Parish Family,

In the Gospel today, Jesus calms a storm in the sea. In doing so, he calms the fears of the apostles who are in the wind tossed boat. The appearance of Jesus walking in the storm is strange for the apostles. They mistakenly think they are seeing a ghost.

Jesus reassures them that it is he. They should not be afraid. In the first reading from 1Kings, Elijah meets God in the small whisper. Elijah is facing an internal storm in his heart. He is upset, frightened and he is fleeing. It is in the midst of storms and in small unassuming ways that we are presented with the opportunity to meet God.

Is our Faith greater than our fears?

The faith of which I speak is more than doctrine faith. The faith we profess on Sunday when we profess the Creed is doctrinal faith. The faith of which I am addressing is a personal faith. This personal faith is a deep relationship with the Lord which dwells in the depths of our hearts. This faith is nourished by receiving the Eucharist, by praying the scriptures in the context of community of the church. This personal faith is sustained and shared in the community of the church. This faith is so much part of us that we cannot really separate ourselves from it. It is this deep faith that sustains us through the storms.

Storms are part of our lives; we have faced natural storms such as hurricane Sandy for which many are still recovering. Many of us have emotional storms such as the breaking up of a marriage, the loss of a relationship, the death of loved ones, the loss of a home, the loss of a job. Many go through bouts with depression and anxiety. Stress at work, worry about home and financial concerns can have us in major internal turmoil.

When storms of any kind happen, some people feel left alone. They think God has left them. Thus thinking that only when the sun is shining and the birds are singing that God is present. According to our sacred text, this thinking is not correct. Notice that Peter comes walking toward Jesus in the storm. Elijah meets the Lord during his internal struggle. Jesus is not abandoned in the Garden or on Good Friday. Peter's error was taking his focus away from Jesus and placing his focus on the storm. The storm made him fearful. Focus on Jesus gave him strength and hope. Let's place our focus on Jesus as we face difficulties. Is our faith in him greater than our fear? The emotional feeling of God's closeness or God's absence cannot be trusted. Faith is more than a feeling. Faith is a conviction that God is present.

So, where are you in this story? Are you one of the apostles in the boat? Is your life being tossed here and there and you feel left alone? Are you Peter who cannot focus on Christ but who is too distracted by the storm? There is a feeling in many to run away when they are in the middle of a storm. They avoid the Eucharist or praying because they feel that God is angry or will punish them. Let us move beyond our own narrow understanding and embrace the sacred text. Jesus is present. Jesus is not always present in the way we would like. Jesus is present in the way we may need his presence. Suffering comes, change happens, injustices are common. Sometimes we are protected from these sufferings and sometimes we are in the midst of the pain. While Jesus tells us that we will suffer in the world, Jesus does promise us his presence. Where you ask is his presence in times of suffering? First you will find the Lord in the Eucharist. I cannot repeat this enough. Jesus is found in the Eucharist. Attendance at Mass is essential for all who love the Lord. Jesus is to be found in the sacred text, the gospel and in our prayers and reflections on these readings. Jesus is found in the body of the assembly that is in us. When we experience kindness, understanding, direction, mercy, a person who cries with us and is compassionate, we are encountering the Lord in that person. There are people who God sends among us.

So, where are you? If you're thinking of God as one that is on a cloud up in heaven, I ask you to rethink this image. Jesus is more a verb rather than a noun, God is dynamic. God is found among those who love and is merciful regardless of whom they may be. So, in our storms we are not alone. Storms invite us to trust, to have faith and to find our spiritual life growth.

Msgr. Guy A. Massie

ASSUMPTION

This coming Tuesday, August 15th we celebrate the Great Feast of the Assumption of Mary. We celebrate the memory of Mary because of her singular vocation of giving flesh to the Word of God in the Mystery of the Incarnation of God among us who is Christ Jesus. Today the Church celebrates the great feast of the Assumption of Mary. This is an ancient celebration found in many Christian communities. The Greek, Antiochian and many other Orthodox Churches, celebrate the Sleep of Mary. The Lutheran and Episcopal Communities celebrate the memory of Mary, therefore this is a good day to celebrate Mary ecumenically. The reason for our veneration and love for Mary is Jesus.

The Feast of the Assumption, while celebrating the taking of Mary to heaven, we also celebrate Christ. By recalling the Resurrection of Christ and the Assumption of Mary, we too are calling to mind the great promise of our own resurrection from the dead and life of the world to come. The second reading from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians speaks of our promised resurrection. If Christ is risen from the dead so we will rise from the dead. Mary is seen as the first disciple of Christ. She, as disciple and first member of the Church, is raised from the dead because of her faithfulness to the Gospel. Just as Mary has been raised, we also will be raised from the dead. We profess the belief in our resurrection every time we profess the Creed when we say " We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come."

While the Assumption of Mary is a great event, scripture and tradition tell us of the assumption of Elijah found in 2Kings 2:11-12. The gift of assumption into heaven was reserved for exceptionally holy people. Mary's vocation is singular. She is the woman who gave humanity to the Word of God. We know the Word of God is Jesus. Thus, because of her vocation as the Mother of God, she is also recognized as the Mother of the Church and Mother to all the disciples of Christ. Her vocation in accomplishing the Incarnation is remembered everyday when we pray the Angelus. As a reminder of the Incarnation, Churches rang bells in the morning, noontime and in the evening.

The Gospel gives us the great Marian Canticle: The Magnificat. In this prayer, Mary praises God for the gift of Mercy shown to God's people throughout the ages. This prayer expresses Mary's gratitude to God for her singular vocation which is her role among us. This prayer is said everyday by all who pray the Divine Office, ordained, religious and lay. Read this canticle, memorize it and make it part of your heart. Use it to praise and thank God for all you have received. Do you believe in your own resurrection from the dead?

The celebration of the Assumption invites us to reflect on the great mystery of the Resurrection of Christ, our own future resurrection and the vocation of every disciple to give flesh to the Word of God by living in thought, word and deed, the faith we profess. Perhaps we can remember that every act of mercy, every kindness, every word of truth we utter, every act of service we render is a way of giving flesh to the Word of God. Pray the rosary, it will help you reflect on the great mysteries of our redemption in Christ Jesus.

Msgr. Guy A. Massie

INFORMATION SHEET

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

Sacred Hearts & St. Stephen #875400

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718-596-7750

CONTACT PERSON

Rose Marie Foglia

SOFTWARE

Microsoft Publisher® 2002

Adobe Acrobat 8.0®

Windows XP Home® SP3

PRINTER

HP® Laserjet 1320

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT

Cover + 4 text pages + this page = 6

SUNDAY DATE OF PUBLICATION

August 13, 2017

TRANSMISSION TIME

Wednesday 1 PM

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS