
SACRED HEARTS & ST. STEPHEN R.C. CHURCH

WWW.SacredHearts-StStephen.com



SACRED HEARTS & ST. STEPHEN

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

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



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Sunday Collection for 12/10	\$ 4,768.00
Annual Weekly Expenses **	\$ 14,325.00
Difference:	-\$9,557.00

**Total annual expenses divided by 52 weeks

PERSONAL PRAYER

INTENTION MASS

The next Personal Prayer Intention Mass will be held on Thursday, December 28th @ 8:30 AM. Please fill out a mass intention card located in the back of our church.

WANTED

Part-time Maintenance worker/Sacristan at a local church. Hours: Monday-Thursday from 8:45 AM to 12:45 PM. Maintaining Church & property, light snow removal with a snow blower. Please call 718 625-2270 for an interview.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

PLEASE READ

Sunday, December 24th is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. It is not Christmas Eve until the evening of December 24th. This being the case, all must participate at mass on Sunday, December 24th. The masses for Sunday, December 24th are: Saturday evening at 5:30 PM, Sunday at 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and Noon. Christmas Eve begins at 4:30 PM. Eve means dusk or when the day is ending. Eve is not the morning nor in the early afternoon. Eve is about 4:30 PM. Doing last day Christmas shopping, cleaning the fish, making the sauce, cooking the bacala is not an excuse for missing mass on Sunday December 24th. The Christmas Masses are: Christmas Eve at 4:30 PM, Midnight and on Christmas Day at 11:00 AM. I look forward to seeing all of you for the two days. Sunday December 24th, the Fourth Sunday of Advent and on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

- MON. DECEMBER 18, 2017**
Noon Carmella & Santo Savoca
BY: The Troiano Family
- TUE. DECEMBER 19, 2017**
8:30 Anthony Polito
BY: Carolyn & John
- WED DECEMBER 20, 2017**
8:30 Angela & Antonio Caria
BY: Daughter Marie
- THURS. DECEMBER 21, 2017**
8:30 Nancy & Anthony Mennella
BY: Grandchildren
- FRI. DECEMBER 22, 2017**
8:30 Salvatore Arezzo
BY: The Reca Family
- SAT. DECEMBER 23, 2017**
8:30 A Special Intention for
The Trepedino Family
5:30 PM Andrew DiCostanzo
- SUN DECEMBER 24, 2017**
8:00 Gertrude Zagarella
Birthday Remembrance (Deceased)
BY: Daughter Gertrude
10:00 Anthony Troiano, Sr.
BY: The Troiano Family
12:00 Lee Andrew Hirsch
BY: Mom
CHRISTMAS EVE-12/24/17
4:30 Family Mass
Midnight Christmas Eve Mass
CHRISTMAS DAY-12/25/17
11:00 AM Christmas Mass

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

The Sanctuary Lamps for the week of



December 17th have been donated

In Loving Memory of
MY PARENTS,

SAL & EVELYN PELLELCCHIA, &

M/M JOSEPH PELLELCCHIA,

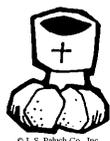
MY BROTHER

JERRY PELLECCCHIA &

MY HUSBAND

ROBERT PALMIERI

By: Rose Palmieri & Daughters



Altar Bread & Wine for the week of
December 17th has been donated

In Loving Memory of

JOE CERATO

BY: Anna & Carmine Balsano

ADVENT 2017

Advent 2017 began on December 3rd. The word advent means to come. Thus the Liturgical season of Advent invites us to focus our attention on the two comings of Christ. From now until December 17th, the sacred text of the season focus on the coming of Christ at the end of time. The first two weeks have as their goal the focus on the Kingdom of God. This time period accents the line from the Creed which says "we believe in the resurrection of the dead and life of the world to come." The readings refer to this second coming as a time of judgment and the final victory of good over evil. The language of Advent is filled with words such as: longing, waiting, expecting, looking forward to, making up a dreaming and looking for the Kingdom of God. Liturgical Prayer during Advent expresses the longing for the completion of the coming of the Kingdom of God among us. Although Jesus has redeemed us and initiated God's Reign, we are still waiting to experience the fullness of the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom for which we long is to be marked by peace, reconciliation, healing, the end of war and the beginning of goodness for all. As evidenced by the crime rate, the continued war in the Middle East, the persecution of people of goodwill, the raise in racism, polarization of people, the rise in hatred, the Kingdom, while in the hearts of many, has not yet fully arrived. Advent prays for the fulfillment of God's Kingdom, longs for the kingdom and encourages all people to live and work towards the kingdom of God by living lives of love, justice, mercy and peace. It is for this we pray in the Our Father, "Your Kingdom come."

Advent is a call to prepare the way of the Lord. Reconciliation and penance is the perfect way to prepare for the Coming of the Lord although Advent is not a penitential season. Advent is a season of hope. For what are you hoping? Knowing our hopes helps us to realize what is not actualized in our lives. What is your wish at this time? Some wish that their problems will cease. Some are longing just to be. Some wish they knew what direction their lives should take. Some are longing for healing of their health issues. Some are longing for reconciliation with a loved one. Some are trying to manage anger issues. Some are longing for fulfillment. Some are longing to know that their lives matter. Whatever the hope is, whatever the longing is, it speaks to us of an unfulfilled longing. Do not dull these feelings. Do not run and turn on Christmas music to feel better. Rather, let your heart seek for what it truly wants. Our hearts are longing for communion with the Lord. Face yourself and face God in this season of Hope. We are reminded that each of our desires is another way of longing for Jesus in our lives. Only God can satisfy us. Only God can give our lives meaning. Only the Lord is our peace. Only in Christ do we have the Kingdom of God. In the end, we all long for God, who can fulfill all our hopes.

Blessed Advent.

Come to Know the Lord again for the first time.

From the Pastor

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Dear Parish Community,

Today is the Third Sunday in Advent. Traditionally this Sunday has been called Joyful Sunday. We light the pink candle today. Liturgically, pink is a symbol of joy. In Latin this day was called Gaudate Sunday or joyful Sunday.

The reading speaks to us about joy. In the first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, we read: "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor....I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in God is the joy of my soul..." While joy is proclaimed by the prophet, the real situation for the people was anything but joy. The exiles returned to find the community living in poverty and injustice. The Gospel reading comes to us from Mark. In this passage, John the Baptist is questioned by the religious leaders. It is not a happy moment for him. John, even when opposed that he has been sent to testify to the light. For John, the darkness that seemed to veil all humanity was lifting and those who wanted that light are called to repentance. The responsorial psalm comes from Luke 1:46 and following. This is commonly known as Mary's Magnificat. In this great canticle, Mary is filled with joy as she says; "My soul rejoices in my God." Mary's situation could not have been worse. She is with child and not yet married, living in ancient Israel. Her life is quite upset. Yet, she rejoices. In the second reading from Paul's first Letter to the Thessalonians, Paul says; "Rejoice always." The situation faced by the Thessalonians is not an easy one. The community is divided and is in need of direction, yet Paul tells them to rejoice. How does one hear these readings?

What is the difference between joy and happiness? Is there a difference? At this time of the year, there are many people who are not happy. Some feel guilty because they are not happy. Some feel they cannot sing Christmas Carols or attend parties because they are not in a happy mood. Others are going through the motions of being happy because their hearts are far from happiness. This year in particular presents a difficulty for many people. Grief, loss, fear, anger, emptiness and spiritual dryness are being experienced by many. Some have lost loved ones. Economically some have lost their employment. Nationally we seem to be a divided nation. Internationally there is the constant threat of war and unrest. In our city, there is the daily fear of violence. In light of these grave realities, how do we hear the message of joy?

Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. (cf Galatians 5:22f). The Joy of Christmas is found in Jesus. Jesus is the cause of our Joy. He is the cause of our Joy because he is God dwelling among us. In Jesus we see God revealed as one with us. (Emmanuel) In Jesus, we see God as one who embraces the human experience with its joys, sufferings, unanswered questions and its struggles. We see in Jesus the God who conquers death in all of its forms. Joy is internal. It is not contingent on our surrounding. Joy has nothing to do with "everything being fine." One can be filled with joy yet be very sad. Joy that comes from the Lord is not like the happiness of the world.

Happiness is often dependent on the surroundings. We may be happy if we are healthy. We may be happy if all that we planned comes to pass. Happiness may come when things go the way we want. One can be happy and not be joy filled. Happiness can be ruined if one detail is not executed perfectly or correctly. Joy remains deep in our inner most being. Joy can be internal, silent and hope giving. Happiness can be external. I would think there was little happiness for Mary and Joseph on that first Christmas. Being in a stable, having a child born in a stable surrounded by animals and strange people was not a happy situation. Yet, there was Joy. Christ comes not when things are perfect but when he is needed.

Christmas Joy is based on our faith, not on a hallmark greeting card. Is Jesus the one who is to come into the world? If our answer is yes, then we have cause for joy even if we are weeping. If we are growing in the Spirit and see our lives as ordered to salvation, then the coming of Christ is a cause of our joy. We need not decorate. We need not put up the lights. We need not go to the parties. We need not put up a Christmas tree. However, we do need to celebrate our joy in the Christmas Mass. We do need to participate at the Eucharist. In the Eucharist resides the one who is the cause of our joy. Emmanuel, who is God with us, is the cause of our Joy and the reason for our hope. So, no matter how you feel, how sad you may be, come to Eucharist, surround yourself with people, hear the singing of the carols of faith and find consolation, hope and yes, even Joy in Christ.

Let us pray:

Father send us your gift of the Holy Spirit that we may rejoice in Jesus; God with us, even in suffering and disappointment and set back.

Blessings for Advent.

Msgr. Guy A. Massie

CONCERT AT LINCOLN CENTER

The Spirit of Christmas Concert at Lincoln Center will take place on Monday, 12/18/17. Dinner at 5:00 PM at Marco Polo Restaurant. Concert 8:00 PM, includes roundtrip bus.

This year's concert will feature Alfio, Charlie Romo, Danny Rodriguez, Broadway Stars from Wicked and the SHSS Children's Choir. Cost is \$125.00 Per Person. Reservations may be made at the Rectory or by filling out a form which can be found at the entrance of the Church. Actual tickets will be given to you as you board the bus the evening of the concert.

HEARTSHARE

Our Annual Heartshare Christmas Giving Tree is located in the back of our church. Please take an ornament for a gift. Kindly note all items (new and unwrapped) must be returned the weekend of December 16th and 17th. Please comply with this date as it is difficult for Heartshare to make a second visit at this busy time. God Bless all of you and your families in this Blessed Season.

DECORATIONS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Please submit your donation by 12/18 to be printed in the Annual Christmas Memorial Booklet

\$25.00 Christmas Tree Light Sponsor (equivalent to one 75' garland of two boxes of tree lights)

\$50.00 Poinsettia Sponsor (equivalent to two 10" poinsettia plants)

\$100.00 Christmas Wreath Sponsor (equivalent to two Wreaths or one 40" wreath hung on the church columns)

\$150.00 Christmas Tree Sponsor (equivalent to three fresh evergreen trees or half of the purchase of an artificial tree)

If you receive monthly envelopes, an envelope for this donation is contained therein. All others, envelopes and forms for memorials may be found in the back of the church.

CHRISTMAS WREATH, POINSETTIA PLANTS AND ORNAMENT SALE

The members of The Sacred Hearts & St. Stephen Men's Fellowship will be selling Christmas Wreaths, Poinsettia Plants and Ornaments the weekend of December 16th and 17th. This was a very successful program last year and we look forward to it being successful again this year.

BOOK CLUB NEWS

Start the year off with a good read and lively conversation! Please join our next meeting on Monday January 8th at 7:00 PM in the Parish House where we will be discussing Year of Wonder by Geraldine Brooks. New members are welcome!

MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE, CHRISTMAS DAY,
NEW YEAR'S EVE AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

Christmas Eve Family Mass at 4:30 PM

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at 12:00 AM

Christmas Day Mass at 11:00 AM

New Year's Eve 7:00 PM Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary

New Year's Day Noon The Solemnity of Mary

INFORMATION SHEET

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

Sacred Hearts & St. Stephen #875400

PHONE

718-596-7750

CONTACT PERSON

Rose Marie Foglia

SOFTWARE

Microsoft Publisher® 2002

Adobe Acrobat 8.0®

Windows XP Home® SP3

PRINTER

HP® Laserjet 1320

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Cover + 4 text pages + this page = 6

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS