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# **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.

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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. DECEMBER 10, 2018**  
 Noon Santo & Carmella Savoca  
 BY: The Troiano Family
- TUE. DECEMBER 11, 2018**  
 8:30 Ralph Colantonio  
 BY: Loving Family
- WED. DECEMBER 12, 2018**  
 8:30 Biaggio & Roseanna Colandrea  
 BY Melania Lubrano
- THURS. DECEMBER 13, 2018**  
 8:30 Deceased Members of  
 The Pepe & Giuca Families  
 BY: Louis Pepe
- FRI. DECEMBER 14, 2018**  
 8:30 In Thanksgiving for  
 The Intercession of St. Lucy  
 BY: The Scotto Family
- SAT. DECEMBER 15, 2018**  
 8:30 Denise Deacomanolas  
 5:30 Louis Trani  
 BY: Loving Wife & Family
- SUN. DECEMBER 9, 2018**  
 8:00 AM For The People of the Parish  
 10:00 Anthony Polito & All Deceased of  
 The DeLosa & Polito Family  
 BY: RoseMary & Family  
 Noon Felice & Anna Tesoriero & Family  
 BY: Grandchildren

## BOOK CLUB

Mark your calendars! Join us on Monday, January 7th @ 7:00 PM in the Parish House for the first book club meeting of 2019. We will be discussing **SMALL GREAT THINGS** by Jodi Picoult. All are welcome. We hope to see you there!

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Sunday Collection 12/2	\$ 3,228.00
Annual Weekly Expenses **	\$14,325.00
Difference:	\$11,097.00

\*\*Total annual expenses divided by 52 weeks

On Line Giving for the  
 Month of October totaled \$2,474.79



Bread & Wine for the  
 week of 12/9/18  
 has been donated  
 In Loving Memory of  
**JOSEPH & JOHN CLOONAN**  
 BY: Alisa Cataldo



Sanctuary Lamps for the week of  
 12/9/18 have been donated  
 In Loving Memory of  
**JOSEPH & JOHN CLOONAN**  
 By: Joseph & Marie Giglio

## MORNING PRAYER

**JOIN US FOR MORNING PRAYER EVERY  
 MORNING AT 8:00 AM-MONDAY TO  
 SATURDAY AND 7:30 AM ON SUNDAY.**

Morning prayer is prayed in Transfiguration Chapel every day. Please do join us. Morning prayer consists of praying two Psalms, two canticles, a short reading and intercessions. The Morning prayer and the Liturgy of the Eucharist are part of the official prayer of the whole Church. The Morning prayer is different from day to day. We have books which we will guide you in using.

**ADORATION OF THE LORD AND THE  
 EUCHARIST IS AN EXCELLENT WAY TO GET  
 SOME PEACE IN YOUR DAY. JOIN US FOR  
 ADORATION EVERY MONDAY FROM 11-12 IN  
 THE TRANSFIGURATION CHAPEL SPEND  
 QUIET TIME WITH THE LORD. IT CAN DE-  
 STRESS YOUR DAY.**

## CHRISTMAS FLOWER AND WREATH SALE



St. Stephen's Men's Fellowship will once again have their annual Christmas Poinsettia, Wreath, centerpiece, greens and

ornaments sale to begin on Saturday December 1st. These pieces are beautifully decorated and prices are great. We invite you to check them out!

# 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        |
| Judith DeArmen          | John Nigro          |
| Judith Miller           | Alissa Aquino       |
| Diane Barchuk           | Addy Wardrope       |
| Carol DeMairo           | Anthony Gambardella |
| Dominick Aiello, Jr.    | Anthony Turco       |
| Roe Gambardella         | Elizabeth Foley     |
| Ann Curcuru             | Dora Zanzonico      |
| Lamar McNabb            | Anna Maria Marino   |
| Carol Montelbano        |                     |
| Rev. Michael A. Carrano |                     |
| Anthony Manfre          | Theresa Colantonio  |
| Emma Huckerby           | Louis Janicke       |
| Louann Gambardella      | Robert Janicke      |
| Celeste Internicola     | Gina Salta          |

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH CORNER

### **PENTECOSTAL FOOD PANTRY ON SUMMIT STREET**

Do you know any families in need of food relief this holiday season? They can register at the Pentecostal Church on Summit Street, corner of Columbia Street to receive food through the church's weekly food pantry. Registration is on Sunday at noon. Food giveaways for registrants is on Sundays starting at noon. Food giveaways include cold and canned food, not hot meals. Please tell your friends and neighbors and share with those in need.

Looking for a way to volunteer in your community this season? Help the Pentecostal Church with their food pantry effort. Information about volunteer opportunities will be available soon—and YOU can make a difference!

### **YOUTH MASS**

You are invited to join us for our Youth Mass on Saturday, December 15, 2018 @ 5:30 PM at Sacred Hearts & St. Stephen's Church. For more information, call 718 596-7750 and ask for Laura.

## UPS AND DOWNS

We invite you to take a look at the recently installed elevator doors in the vestibule of the church. Doors are also now being installed at the Hicks Street entrance and in Cabrini Hall. The installation of the elevator is 90% complete and we are awaiting a replacement part to finish installation and request inspection from the NYC Department of Buildings. While the installation is completed, the contractor is placing finishing touches on the walls around each set of elevator doors in addition to many other finishes required by the Building Department. One such requirement was the installation of an elevator shaft vent which has been installed conspicuously on the outside façade of the church facing Hicks Street. Other improvements which will complete the project will include the installation of automated door openers on the exterior Hicks Street doors and the doors leading into the church at the elevator and proper signage letting people know where the elevator is. Remember that it is your support of the Generations of Faith Campaign which has allowed this work to be done. We have currently received \$495,794 of the \$783,765 pledged to the campaign. While it is true that we have received over 60% of the pledged amount, due to the money that was first allocated to the Diocese, we have only received 48% of the money needed to complete our elevator project. If you have made a pledge to Generations of Faith, please continue to make your payments allowing us to fully fund our parish elevator. For those who may have made a pledge but are behind in your payments and unable to fulfill your pledge, please consider calling the Catholic Foundation for Brooklyn and Queens and lowering your pledge to something that works with your budget. We look forward to setting a date to bless the completed elevator once all aspects of the project are finalized.



Tickets for New Year's Eve 2019 are now available for our Cabrini Hall Celebration. \$80. for Adults, \$35 for children ages 6-15.

Please e-mail Valerie Westhoff at [vwesthoff@aol.com](mailto:vwesthoff@aol.com) if you are interested.

## From the Pastor

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Dear Parish Community,

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent. The readings present us with a message of hope. Hope is a gift from God. Given the situation in which we live, hope is necessary for daily living. World News reports about international situations can lead us to despair of ever having peace. Fearful health reports of neighbors and relatives seem to be filled with hopelessness. Some families are facing difficult decisions which leave them lacking in hope.

Advent is a season of hope. Hope is founded upon faith in God and the conviction that God does love us. In the first reading from the Book of the Prophet Baruch we are presented with a hope filled message. This reading takes on greater strength and significance when we remember the time setting of when this prophet lived. This hope filled message is being proclaimed by Baruch to a people who are faced with two catastrophes. First the people were led into exile from their native land of Israel to a strange land of Babylon. The Babylonian Captivity or the exile began about 605 BC. It lasted about 70 years until 586 BC or to the building of the second Temple in 516 BC. The Jewish People have lost everything. They were at the mercy of those who are holding them hostage. Secondly, these exiles received news that their homeland is completely destroyed. The city of Jerusalem is leveled and the temple burned. It seemed to these people that God had abandoned them. The world as they knew had come to an end. In the midst of these national and personal tragedies, Baruch announces a message of Hope.

In the Gospel from St. Luke, the name of Jesus is absent. Luke is telling us the historical setting of the time when the Word of God was made Flesh. This Word is Jesus. Notice there are two groups of people in the Gospel. The first group is made up of those the world considers important. They are Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate, Herod, Philip, Annas and Caiaphas. These make up the Jerusalem social and power structure of the time. Contrast them with the elderly temple priest who resides in a small town En Krim named Zechariah who is the father of John the Baptist. It is to Zechariah that the Word comes announcing the birth of a son who would be a prophet and who would prepare the world for the Messiah. Notice also that John is a desert dweller. He is strange. He is cast in the garb of Elijah the Prophet. John lives in solitude. It is in the desert that the word of God is spoken and heard. It is neither in the religious capital, nor in the noise of Jerusalem that the Word is heard but in the quiet and the loneliness of the desert. Why?

If God speaks in the loneliness of the desert, where does he speak with us? Where is the desert in Brooklyn? The desert is our own hearts. It is the place where we feel the dryness of our spirit. It is the place where we face our fears for the present and the future and even the past. It is here that we face the difficulties in our prayer life or our moral life. It is here that we make the decision to quit or carry on in hope. Many of us are facing difficult times. Some are unemployed, some are suffering the loss of loved ones, some are facing the changes in their health, some have been forced to move or relocate, some feel out of the loop of life and many of us are facing changes in our lives which we never imagined. For many, the world as we knew it has ended. It is so easy to be depressed, to give up, to stop praying, to feel the absence of God. It is at this time of our life experience that the message of Hope is coming to us. In this time of the year when we have sometimes manufactured our own stress or depression that we need to pull back and face ourselves. It is in this time of the year when many of us are caught up in the "make believe I am happy mode," that we need to enter our personal desert, face ourselves in the presence of God and make some hard decisions. Can we hear the word of Hope who is Christ?

May the Lord grant us the grace to be open to this great message of Hope. May our hearts recognize the presence of the Lord in many people who come to us as heralds of hope. Hold on, the Lord will come. The Lord is present and you are not alone. God hears you and knows you. This hope is based on the faith and the conviction that God does love us.

Msgr. Guy A. Massie

## **RECONCILIATION MONDAY**

Confessions will be heard on Monday, December 17th in our Church from 3:00-5:30 PM and from 6:30-9:00 PM. The best way to prepare for Christmas is to be reconciled to God, to others and to yourself.

### **GOSPEL EXPLANATION**

A new Liturgical year 2019 begins today. This New Year gives us all an opportunity to start anew, to grow more deeply in the faith, and to build a closer relationship with the Lord in new ways.

#### **THE GOSPEL OF SAINT LUKE**

This New Liturgical Year is the year of St. Luke. This means that most of the Sunday Gospels will come from St. Luke's Gospel. We have a three year cycle of scripture. The cycles are A Year during which time we read the Gospel of St. Matthew, B Year during which time we read the Gospel of Mark and C year during which time we read the Gospel of St. Luke. The Gospel of St. John is read every year. It is dispersed throughout the Liturgical year. It is mostly read during Lent and Easter Seasons. During the coming year, most of the Sunday Gospels will come from the Gospel of St. Luke.

#### **Points of Interest in the Gospel of St. Luke**

The Gospel of St. Luke is sacred text that underscores the work of the Holy Spirit in the ministry of Jesus. Since the Gospel also emphasizes prayer, we will hear more about the prayer life of Jesus and his disciples. It is from this Gospel that we learn the Canticle of Zachariah prayed at Morning Prayer, the Canticle of Mary prayed at Evening Prayer and the Canticle of Simon prayed at Night Prayer. Women are more frequently mentioned in the Gospel of St. Luke. It is not surprising that the familiar stories of the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Presentation, the visit of the women to the tomb and many other portions which highlight the presence of women in the life of Jesus come from St. Luke. It is only from Luke that we learn that women assisted Jesus and his disciples financially.

The Gospel of St. Luke is the only text in the Bible written by a Gentile. It is possible that Luke was a convert brought into the Christian Community by St. Paul. If the Gospel writer is the same Luke to whom Paul refers to in his letters, then we know that Luke was a doctor. His Gospel writing shows the mercy of Jesus. Jesus is often shown healing the sick and forgiving sinners. It is from this Gospel we learn the story of the Prodigal Son, the good thief and many others.

The Gospel of St. Luke has a universal appeal. The genealogy of Jesus is traced to Adam, the first human being. In Matthew, who was concerned with establishing the Jewish background of Jesus, starts his genealogy of Jesus with Abraham. In the Gospel of Luke, the gentiles are often highlighted for their faith. It is the centurion who proclaims Jesus as the Son of God on Calvary, it is the Roman centurion who places faith in the word of Jesus and experiences the healing of his servant. The parables found in Luke underscore the theme that those who one expected to be of faith in the message of Jesus do not and those least likely to accept Christ come to faith.

The Gospel has a justice agenda as well as an evangelical theme. While the Romans accepted Judaism as a religion in the empire and allowed it to be practiced, Luke wanted the same recognition for Christianity. Luke, therefore, presents Christianity as a continuation of Judaism. Thus, the Temple of Jerusalem and the City of Jerusalem figure into the Divine plan. For Luke, the message of Christ will come from Jerusalem and go to the whole world.

Read the Gospel with the Church this year. Pray the Gospel and try to recognize these areas of the Gospel I have tried to highlight for you.

“Were not our hearts on fire as he explained the scriptures to us?”

**INFORMATION SHEET**

**CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS**

Sacred Hearts & St. Stephen #875400

**PHONE**

718-596-7750

**CONTACT PERSON**

Rose Marie Foglia

**SOFTWARE**

Microsoft Publisher® 2002

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Windows XP Home® SP3

**PRINTER**

HP® Laserjet 1320

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