
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/Business Manager

JAMES LAKE

Parish Organist

EVELYN TROESTER DEGRAF

Choir Director

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.GIVECENTRAL.ORG/SHSS

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday 9:00 to 5:00 (Closed for Lunch from 1-2) Friday 9:00 to 3:00 Saturday 9:00 to 1:00
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.

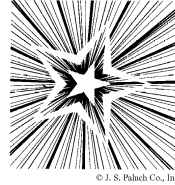
MASSSES for the WEEK

- MON. DECEMBER 16, 2019**
 Noon Rosemarie & Frank Dellaporte
- TUE. DECEMBER 17, 2019**
 8:30 Anthony Polito
 BY: Carolyn & John Zodda
- WED. DECEMBER 18, 2019**
 8:30 Antonio & Angela Caria
 BY: Daughter Marie
- THURS. DECEMBER 19, 2019**
 8:30 Carmine Graziani
 BY: Daughter Theresa
- FRI. DECEMBER 20, 2019**
 8:30 Nancy & Anthony Mennella
 BY Grandchildren
- SAT. DECEMBER 21, 2019**
 8:30 Domenico Dellaporte
 BY: Catherine
 5:30 PM Anthony Mazze
 BY Wife Paula, Children & Grandchildren
- SUN. DECEMBER 22, 2019**
 8:00 Deceased of Vergona & Polizzi Families
 BY: Loving Family
 10:00 Andrew DiCosenzo
 Noon Richard O'Leary
 BY: Angie & Louis Napoli

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Sunday Collection 11/17	\$ 3,206.00*
*Envelopes & cash	
On Line Donations	\$ 795.00
Total Sunday 11/17	\$ 4,001.00
Annual Weekly Expenses **	\$14,325.00
Difference:	\$10,324.00

***Total annual expenses divided by 52 weeks



OUR SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

FAMILY MASS 4:30 PM

MIDNIGHT MASS MIDNIGHT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS 11:00 AM

PLEASE TAKE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE ONLY ONE MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO TELL YOUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS ABOUT OUR CELEBRATIONS AND INVITE THEM TO JOIN US AT THESE MOST WONDERFUL CELEBRATIONS.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT SACRED HEARTS & ST. STEPHEN.

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 | Louis Pepe |
| Michelle Laquercia | Irene Balen |
| Dolly Vergona, | Gloria Heyer |
| Judith DeArmen | John Nigro |
| Judith Miller | Alissa Aquino |
| Diane Barchuk | Addy Wardrope |
| Carol DeMairo | Anthony Gambardella |
| Anthony Tilocca | Anthony Turco |
| Roe Gambardella | Elizabeth Foley |
| Ann Curcuru | Dora Zanzonico |
| Lamar McNabb | Anna Maria Marino |
| Carol Montelbano | Gina Salta |
| Anthony Manfre | Celeste Internicola |
| Emma Huckerby | Louis Janicke |
| Louann Gambardella | Robert Janicke |
| Dominick Aiello, Jr. | Mark Carles |
| Erica Concino | Bernadette Janicke |
| Mary Therese Pugliese | Lucille Gaudino |
| Evan Pontz | |



CHRISTMAS WREATHS AND FLOWERS

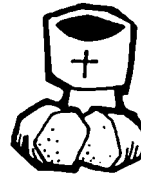
Our Men's Fellowship Society will be selling Christmas Wreaths and Flowers in the Church Lobby for the Holiday Season. Please support them in this effort as they have been doing this successfully for the past number of years. As always, we thank you for your support and generosity to this great Parish.

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WANTED!

St. Mary Star of the Sea is in need of a Part Time Cleaner. They are located at 467 Court Street, Brooklyn, NY

11231. The need is for two days a week for three hours a day. Days are flexible-Monday-Thursday only. Pick your days. It involves dusting, vacuuming, mopping, cleaning 1/2 bathroom. Reference needed. Please call 718 625-2270 to set up an interview.



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Bread & Wine for the week of December 15th has been donated
In Memory of
GIUSEPPINA DI NIERI
By: Terry Scotto Spinelli

ENJOY ADVENT!

Only a Saint could maintain the patience needed to confront Christmas shopping, Christmas stress and Christmas credit card bills. That's too bad because something else gets overlooked in the rush, and that's Advent. So here are a few brief ways to enjoy yourself over the next few weeks. First of all, get to know Advent. This liturgical season is a time of waiting, something that we all do: we're waiting for some good news, for a better job, or for our lives to improve. Advent is a time when we think about waiting for God, so it fits in perfectly with our natural human longings. "Come thou long expected Jesus" as the hymn goes. Advent is also the time of beautiful Scripture readings, like those found from the Book of Isaiah. "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom." These are readings to give all of us hope! Advent is the season for beloved church traditions the Advent Wreath, which can easily be translated into home rituals.

Second, cut back on the craziness of Christmas preparations. Here are just a few suggestions; send cards only to close friends and family, drop one present per person from your list and go only to the most essential holiday gatherings. Does that sound selfish? It's just the opposite! It will give you time to spend with those you really love and more time to spend in prayer. Maybe Advent is when you can really settle into your spiritual life by finding joy in the season and less stress in Christmas. In short, Advent may be the time that you've been waiting for.

From the Pastor

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Dear Parish Family,

Today, the Third Sunday in Advent, we are called to be joy-filled. We light the pink candle on our Advent Wreath. What is the difference between happiness and joy? Is there a difference? What if you are not happy, can you have joy? These are questions which come to mind when celebrating this season and this Sunday.

Joy is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Joy has nothing to do with all things going well. Joy has nothing to do with everything being the way we like it. Joy is in the person who sees with the eyes of faith even if those eyes are filled with tears. Joy is an internal disposition. Happiness is momentary. Happiness has to do with things being to our liking. We are happy when things go the way we have planned. Joy-filled is that in the midst of the things that have been planned and gone wrong, we see hope in the unexpected situation. If you are mourning the loss of someone, you are not happy. You can be joy-filled in that your loved one may now be seeing the face of God. Joy is more a choice rather than a feeling. It is a choice made possible through the eyes of faith.

The readings invite us to be joy-filled. They did not invite us to be happy. In the first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, we read about the parched desert coming to bloom with flowers. Those who are weak will be made strong. Those who are fearful will be given security, those who are blind will see. Notice that the promises of joy the reading is making take root in the midst of their suffering. We might say that the root of resurrection is found in our crosses. The promise that God will deliver us is our joy.

The second reading from the Letter of James, urges us to have patience. It is possible that the people to whom James is writing may be experiencing some suffering, if not persecution for their faith. James urges them to remain faithful. God will not abandon them. Joy comes from hope.

In the Gospel, we meet John the Baptist in prison. Notice it is John who hears the news of all that Jesus is doing. John actually did not know what to expect from Jesus. John may have thought that the messiah would come as a judge. There existed many views of what the mission of the messiah was to accomplish. Would the messiah free the Israelites from the oppression of the Romans? Would the messiah be priestly and spiritual? Would the messiah be a great teacher? John had to go through a spiritual conversion. While he was in prison, John had to re-evaluate his ideas and his ministry. While he heard that Jesus caused the deaf to hear, the blind to see, the lepers to be cleansed and the dead to be raised, these actions were all messianic signs taken from Isaiah. John sends a question to Jesus from his prison cell. John asks Jesus if he is the one who was to come or should he look for another? John is not sure. Jesus does not answer John's question. Jesus points to his works and allows John to make his decision. Is Jesus the messiah or not?

Where does this leave us? The world is not in good shape, our country and city are in a mess. Crime against innocent people seems to be up. Many are seriously ill, family problems for many are overbearing. Many marriages are in crisis. Priestly and religious vocations are also in crisis. The Catholic Church is in the midst of scandals. How can we not help but say with John to Jesus—are you the one?

Perhaps Jesus would answer by saying look at all the good things around you. Look at those who are striving to follow the Gospel. Look and see the great generosity people have. Look at the good young people who give of themselves as servers in a soup kitchen. Look at the many loving marriages which exist, look at the sincere and convicted priests and religious serving people in the most dire of circumstances, look at the many individuals who give of themselves for others. Yes, there are selfish people, yes there are hypocritical people, yes there are people who have made bad decisions which have had a negative effect on us, however, we can choose to be hope-filled and even joy-filled that so many do try to follow the Gospel even if they do not know they are following the Gospel. We all have free will. When we use our free will to do good things, life is good for many. If we use our free will to be negative, aggressive and disregard others, we all suffer. So I choose to hope, I choose joy and I choose to stand with many who follow the Gospel even if we get pushed back, because in the end, God wins and good triumphs.

Be Joy-filled. God is near.

Msgr. Guy A. Massie

**SACRED HEARTS AND ST. STEPHEN
CHURCH CHRISTMAS**

DECORATING PARTY

**SPONSORED BY
THE ALTAR SERVERS**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND
FROM 1:00 PM 5:30 PM**

**Parishioners of all ages are invited to come and
help decorate our Church for the
Celebration of Christmas**

**Please RSVP to John or Maria Heyer at 917 402
9093 or**

Email Family@ Sacred Hearts-StStephen.com

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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