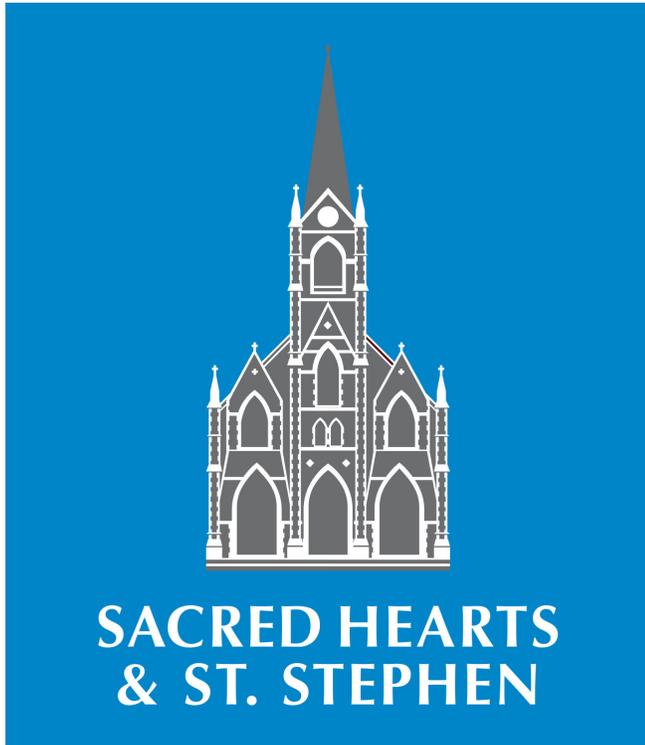

SACRED HEARTS & ST. STEPHEN R.C. CHURCH

WWW.SacredHearts-StStephen.com



St. Stephen's – Founded 1866
Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary
Founded 1882

MASSES ON SUNDAYS:

8:30 AM 10:00 AM & 12 NOON
5:00 PM on Saturday

MASSES ON WEEKDAYS:

Monday 8:30 AM
Tues. through Sat. 8:30 AM

Adoration: First Friday each month @ 7:15 AM

CONFESSIONS:

Saturdays 3:45– 4:30 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. CLETUS FORSON

Parochial Vicar

MRS. NANCY ARKIN

Director of Faith Formation

Religious Education

JOHN HEYER, II

Pastoral Associate

ROSE MARIE FOGLIA

Administrator/Business Manager

JAMES LAKE

Parish Organist

JENNIFER WU

Choir Director

EVELYN TROESTER DEGRAF

Choir Director Emerita

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 21, 2020**
 8:30 Carmella & Santo Savoca
 BY: The Troiano Family
- TUE. DECEMBER 22, 2020**
 8:30 Rosemarie & Frank Dellaporte &
 Ciro & Jennie Oliviero
- WED DECEMBER 23, 2020**
 8:30 Vergona & Polizzi Family
 BY: Loving Family
- THURS. DECEMBER 24, 2020**
 8:30 Gertrude Zagarella
 BY: Daughter Gertrude Zagarella
 4:30 Christmas Family Mass
 Midnight Christmas Eve Mass
- FRI. DECEMBER 25, 2020**
 9:30 Christmas Day Mass
 11:00 Christmas Day Mass
- SAT. DECEMBER 26, 2020**
 8:30 John Vincent Vederame
 BY: Mom & Dad
 5:00 PM Lorianne Sgro Zodda
 BY: Her Parents, Carolyn & John
- SUN DECEMBER 27, 2020**
 8:30 Gary Cushing
 10:00 Fortunata (Fuggy) Messina
 BY: Michael & Lou Anne Manus
 Noon Joseph, Concetta & Frank Foglia
 BY: Rose Marie Foglia
 AND
 DonnaMarie Sirico
 BY: Her Sister Christine Sirico

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Sunday Collection 12/06 | \$ 1,694.00* |
| *Envelopes & cash | |
| On Line Donations | \$ 2,358.00 |
| Total Sunday 12/06 | \$ 4,052.00 |
| Annual Weekly Expenses** | \$14,325.00 |
| Difference: | \$ 10,273.00 |

**Total annual expenses divided by 52 weeks

Financial Stewardship

For those who are financially able to continue to support the parish during this time, we encourage you to sign up for e-giving so that we may be able to continue the ministry of the church during this critical time.

Parish Religious Education & Catholic Schools

Regular parish CCD classes held on Sundays and Wednesdays are postponed for the time being. Likewise, all activities related to our children's faith-formation program such as the Sunday 7th grade seminar, Stations of the Cross practices, Confirmation mentoring sessions, and Child Lures training are also postponed for the time being.

The health of all the faithful of the parish is of utmost concern, so let us continue to pray to the Lord who is a healer to protect us and bring about quickly an end to this present crisis through the intercession of His Mother Mary under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

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, | Helena Rolla |
| 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 | Louis D'Angelo |
| Carol Montelbano | Gina Salta |
| Anthony Manfre | Celeste Internicola |
| Emma Huckerby | Kristin Quail |
| Louann Gambardella | Robert Janicke |
| Dominick Aiello, Jr. | Mark Carles |
| Erica Concino | Bernadette Janicke |
| Mary Therese Pugliese | Evan Marra |
| Hector Jimenez | Darren Munio |

REACH OUT

During this difficult time, please take a moment to check on your neighbor, the elderly and the shut in to see how they are doing. Perhaps they may need an item from the grocery store, or someone to pick up their prescriptions, anything we are able to do for them would be appreciated. Sometimes all they need is conversation and that simply requires a phone call. These are unprecedented times and we are all in this together. Take some of the free time you may have to sit in prayer for all the world.



Bread and Wine for the week of December 20th has been donated

In Loving Memory of
**JOSEPH, CONCETTA &
FRANK FOGLIA**

Requested by
Rose Marie Foglia



The Sanctuary Lamps for the week of December 20th have been donated

In Memory of
VINCENT MAGGIO

Requested by
Carolyn & John Zodda



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From the Pastor

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CHRISTMAS

Dear Parish Family, Visitors and all People of Good Will,

I wish you the Joy and Peace of this Christmas Season.

We are living in challenging times. The Covid Pandemic has monopolized every aspect of our lives. Our nation is disunited. Our church struggles with scandal and the world seems paralyzed with this pandemic. There is civil unrest. There is an increase of violence. Our children are learning how to learn in a whole new way. We are all zoomed out with on-line meetings, classes and even social calls. There are many who are seriously ill. Most, if not every family seems to be facing a serious issue. Christians in certain parts of the world are being persecuted, if not killed. There is a rise in racism, anti-Semitism and even a call for white supremacy. What is happening? It is not a good time for many. It is not a merry time for many.

So, where are we with this Christmas Celebration? It seems that we have many options when answering this question. Let us remember the feast has nothing to do with the way you or I feel at this present moment. It has everything to do with Jesus. Christ is the only one who can save us from all the negativity we are now facing. So we remember Christ came to save us from sin, death and even from ourselves. It is all about Christ. We are celebrating Christ. Therefore, everything you plan to do should come from this conviction. The decorating of the church or your home is done because of Christ. The meal you are planning is the social extension of the Eucharist we celebrate for Christmas. The gifts we exchange are symbols of the gift that Christ is to all of us. What is necessary for a great celebration of Christmas? The proper disposition of the heart is necessary. Even if the externals are not exactly perfect, and even if we will gather in small groups this Christmas, a loving heart is always the correct disposition. So, lower your stress levels.

Look at the Christmas Story. God enters creation and everything is turned upside down. Mary's life is changed for all eternity. Her surprise vocation to be the Mother of God, to give humanity to the Divine caused Joseph stress, not to mention what it did to their respective families. If that is not enough, life becomes complicated by a census. The census makes it necessary to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Things go from bad to worse. Mary and Joseph discover there is no room for them and the child is born in a dark cave where animals were kept. Light comes at the darkest moments. God happens when God wills, even when all is in disarray. The Light penetrated the darkness. The darkness will not overcome this light who is Christ. The shepherds followed the light, those seeking wisdom followed the light, those who were of good will followed the light, those who wanted a world ruled by God followed the light.

Christ enters into our lives when we may be least prepared. Christ breaks into our darkness when he wills. God's time table is different from our time table. So in the midst of surprises, setbacks, disappointments, good news and bad news and general anxieties of life, God enters. The Lord knocks on the door of our hearts and asks for acceptance into our busy lives. Sometimes Jesus knocks on our door in times of good news, sometimes in times of hurt and disappointment, sometimes with an invitation to change and accept situations we find difficult. Jesus, known as Emmanuel, that is God with us, is present to us. This presence does not always take away suffering or the difficulties, the divine presence accompanies us and guides us to change what we can and accept what we cannot change. Emmanuel (God with us), the Incarnate Word of God invites us to incarnate in our actions and Christ's attitudes: mercy, love, peace, joy, self-giving, self-sacrifice, service, healing, forgiveness. In this we begin to shine the eternal light on those around us.

We find this light in the Eucharist. In the reception of Holy Communion we encounter the Lord. Eucharist is the most greatest sacrament and the most important place to find the presence of Emmanuel. We find Jesus in our sacred stories known as the scriptures. What is the story saying to you? Where do you find yourself in the Gospel message? God, Emmanuel God with us is found in ourselves and in other people. We see this God present with us when we see true compassion, hear a cry for justice for the oppressed. We discover this light when mercy is given, forgiveness is extended and genuine self-giving love is shared. Christ is present with us in ways we cannot imagine or even request.

The mystery of God becoming Flesh is overwhelming. It is a great gift because God has come to share our lives. When we sincerely share our lives with others, when we serve each other out of love and not obligation, God is present. So, choose to celebrate the presence of God with us by simply being with others.

Blessed Christmas to all

Msgr. Guy A. Massie

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE
FROM ALL THE SHSS TEAM AND STAFF!**



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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

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HP® Laserjet 1320

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STAY SAFE!**