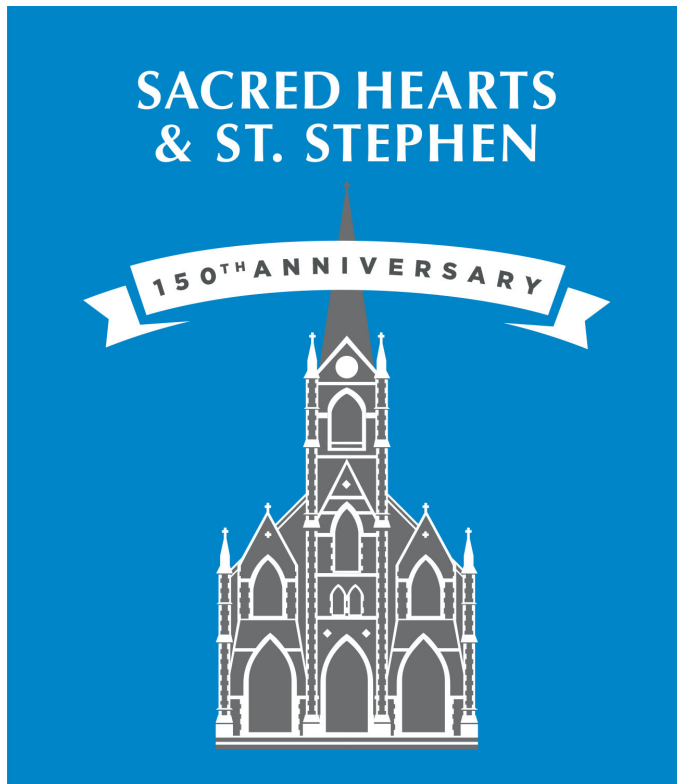

SACRED HEARTS & ST. STEPHEN R.C. CHURCH

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 & 11:45 AM
5:30 PM on Saturday

MASSES ON WEEKDAYS:

Monday 12:00 Noon
Tuesday thru Friday 8:30 AM 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**

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

JAMES LAKE

Parish Organist

EVELYN TROESTER DEGRAF

Choir Director

ROSE MARIE FOGLIA

Administrator

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.

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.

MASSES for the WEEK



DATES TO REMEMBER THIS WEEK

MON. MARCH 7, 2016
Noon For the People of the Parish

TUE. MARCH 8, 2016
8:30 Anna Massie
Noon Fred Dimesa & Daniel & Salvatore Caria
BY: Marie Caria

WED. MARCH 9, 2016
8:30 Joseph Castagliola
BY: Carolyn & John Zodda
Noon Philomena & Michael Polito
BY: Rosemary Polito & Family

THURS. MARCH 10, 2016
8:30 Ralph Colantonio
BY: Loving Family
Angie, Theresa & Anthony
Noon Josephine Patti
BY: Rosemary Polito & Family

FRI. MARCH 11, 2016
8:30 Sacred Heart for the People of the Parish
Noon Lena & Raymond Conte
BY: Mrs. Dora Zanzonico & Family
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

SAT. MARCH 12, 2016
8:30 Alfred Pipitone
BY: Mom & Dad
5:30 PM Alfonse & Jean Cipaldo
BY: Children, Angela, Debra, Alfonse & Andre

SUN MARCH 13, 2016
8:00 Holy Spirit for the Parish
10:00 Living & Deceased Members of The Rosarians, Columbiettes & Knights of Columbus
BY: Members of the Societies
11:45 Catherine Deserio
BY: Her Sister Anna

Monday
 March 7th Mass at Noon

Tuesday
 March 8th Mass at 8:30 AM
 March 8th Noon Mass
 March 8th Adult Faith Formation Meeting @ 7:00 PM Parish House
 March 8th Columbiette Meeting @ 7:45 PM Rectory Hall

Wednesday
 March 9th Mass at 8:30 AM
 March 9th Noon Mass
 March 9th Religious Ed @ 3:45 PM Cabrini Hall
 March 9th Children's Choir Practice @ 5:45 PM Church
 March 9th Adult Choir Practice @ 6:45 PM Church
 March 9th AA Meeting @ 7:00 PM Rectory Hall

Thursday
 March 10th Mass at 8:30 AM
 March 10th Mass at Noon
 March 10th Staff Meeting @ 4:00 PM Parish House
 March 10th 150th Gala Dinner Committee Mtg. @ 7:00 PM Parish House

Friday
 March 11th Mass at 8:30 AM
 March 11th Mass Noon
 March 11th Boy Scouts Mtg. @ 6:30 PM Cabrini Hall
 March 11th Stations of the Cross @ 7:00 PM Church

Saturday
COMMITMENT DRIVE- GENERATIONS OF FAITH—ALL MASSES
 March 12th Mass at 8:30
 March 12th Day of Reflection Discipleship and the Scandal of the Cross @ 2:00 PM Church
 March 12th Confessions 4:45 PM
 March 12th AA Meeting @ 6:00 PM Rectory Hall
 March 12th Mass at 5:30 PM

Sunday
COMMITMENT DRIVE GENERATIONS OF FAITH-ALL MASSES
 March 13th Mass at 8:00 AM
 March 13th Mass at 10:00 AM
 March 13th Communion Breakfast Rosarians, Columbiettes & K of C after 10:00 AM Mass- Rectory Hall
 March 13th Baptism Prep Class @ 11:00 AM Parish House
 March 13th Religious Ed 11:10 AM
 March 13th Mass at 11:45 AM
 March 13th Vespers @ St. Paul's Episcopal @ 4:00 PM

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
Raj Sandu,	Matthew Ruggiero
Michelle Laqueria	Irene Balen
Dolly Vergona,	Gladys Zodda
Angelo Vergona	Valerie Pace
Maria Carmen Morial	John Nigro
Judith Miller	Alissa Aquino
Michele Morea	Mary Tarsio
Carol DeMairo	Anthony Gambardella
Denise Deacomanolis	Rachel Valenti
Salvatore Gianino	Judith Latalladi
	Rosemary Love



Altar Bread & Wine for the week of March 6, 2016 has been donated
In Loving Memory of
JOE & TERRY CARDILLO
Requested by: Tommy, Val & Joseph

SAVE THE DATES

- Stations of the Cross, Friday, March 11th @ 7:00 PM
- Day of Recollection: Discipleship &
- The Scandal of the Cross, Sat. March 12th (details to follow)
- Common Call to Discipleship: Vespers at
 - St. Paul's Episcopal Church,
 - Sun. March 13th
 - @ 4:00 PM
- Stations of the Cross, Friday, March 18th
 - @ 7:00 PM

HOLY ROSARY SOCIETY, O.L OF LORETTO KNIGHTS & COLUMBIETTES

ANNUAL COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Our Annual Communion Breakfast will be held on Sunday, March 13, 2016 in the Rectory Hall following the 10:00 AM Mass. All are welcome. Please call Michele Ruggiero-Sheehan 718 852-0613 or Veronica Lubrano 718 852-8826 for reservations. The cost is \$20.00. Hope to see you there!.

ADORATION AND SILENCE IN CHRIST'S PRESENCE CHRISTO THERAPY

What is adoration? Why adore the Blessed Sacrament?
What does it mean to Adore the Blessed Sacrament?

We as Catholics believe that Christ Jesus is really and truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. We believe that at the consecration at Mass, the bread and wine is changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus. This means that the Jesus who was born in Bethlehem, lived in Nazareth, preached in the land of Israel, the Jesus who was crucified on Calvary in Jerusalem and rose from the dead out of the tomb, is truly really present here in the Eucharist. We believe that the bread and the wine presented at the preparation of the gifts at Mass, through the working of the Holy Spirit present in the congregation and in the priest because of his ordination through the Eucharistic prayer, is changed into the Body and Blood of the Risen Christ. This is a great mystery. Yet if we believe that Jesus is present at Mass and that we encounter Jesus in this sacrament in a unique and wonderful way, I would never absent myself from Mass without a good reason. In the tabernacle in Church or in the Chapel, we reserve or keep the consecrated hosts which were not received during Mass. While reserved for the sick and dying, so the sacrament can be brought to them, the presence of these consecrated hosts give a place for deeper prayer and reflection on this great mystery of the Eucharist.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, which is the real presence of Christ among us, gives us the place and the time to be in silence before the Lord Jesus. It is a place to come for peace of mind. It is the place to de-stress from our overly busy lives. It is the place to come and sit before the Lord to pour our hearts to him not unlike so many who sought him out in his own day as we read in the gospel. It is the place to simply give thanks, to enjoy the presence of the Lord. It is the place to allow God to look at us, to contemplate us, to enjoy the Divine Presence. Please join us for Adoration.

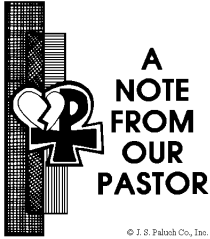
Adoration is every Saturday from 4 PM to 5:15 PM and First Fridays of the month from 7:15 AM to 8:30 AM and from 11:00 AM to noon time. Those who may not be able to attend Mass due to work obligations can at least pray for a time before the Lord. Come, be healed, experience peace and be refreshed.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND ADORATION

Please join us as we pray the Stations of the Cross on Friday Evenings of Lent @ 7:00 PM. Please join us for Adoration of the Lord present in the Blessed Sacrament every Saturday from 4-5:15 PM This devotion is for all people.

RECITATION OF THE ROSARY

The Rosary will be prayed in our Chapel every Sunday during Lent after the 10:00 AM Mass. All are welcome, please join us.



Dear Parish Community:

The readings for the Fourth Sunday of Lent continue the Lenten theme of reconciliation. The Gospel reading presents us with a well known parable named The Prodigal Son. In the second reading from 1Corinthians, Paul reminds us that: “Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away...” In the first reading from the Book of Joshua, God tells the Israelites that the reproach of Egypt is removed from them. The Israelites have arrived in the Promised Land. The Israelites in the Promised Land gather to remember the Passover and they now can eat the produce of their won land and the manna from heaven is now ended. They are a new people created anew in the image of God.

Reconciliation, whether it be with God, others or even with ourselves makes us new people. This newness depends on our acceptance of the forgiveness received in the act of reconciliation. Look at today’s Gospel. Known as the story of the Prodigal Son, it can be named the story of the Prodigal Father. The word: “prodigal” means lavish, extravagant. While the son was over indulgent in his destructive lifestyle, the father is lavish and extravagant in his mercy and forgiveness.

Parables are meant to be discussed since there are many ways to understand their meaning. To help us to enter into the story, perhaps we can read the parable while keeping in mind some questions. When you hear this parable what is your general feeling? Which of the two sons has a heartfelt relationship with the father? How do you feel about the older son? What might the father have felt when the young son left? How is it that the father notices the young son coming home, while the son is still a long way off? What is his feeling about the father? Is the father too lenient with his younger son? What do you think about the father interceding with the older son on the younger son’s behalf? Does the older son love his father? Will the older son ever go to the party? Will the older son ever accept the younger brother? Will the older son ever allow the younger son to forget his transgressions? Where do you see yourself in the story? How we answer these questions will tell us about our own spiritual journey with forgiveness.

Forgiveness of others is an important element in freeing us. Forgiveness comes about through grace, that is God’s life in us. There are some offenses which are very difficult to forgive. There are some wrongs against us that take a long time to forgive. While the parable speaks about the father forgiving the son; what about children in need of forgiving their parents? How does an adult child forgive a parent who was not a good parent? How does a child forgive an absentee father, an alcoholic parent, a parent addicted to drugs? How does a child forgive parents who were given to violence in the home? How does a child get on with his/her life no longer blaming the parents for one’s shortcomings? How does one forgive the hurts leading to a divorce? Yet to hold on to these hurts, keeps one bound. Forgiveness frees us.

Perhaps a meditation on the Cross may help. Jesus suffers unjustly. He is abandoned by his disciples with whom he had a close relationship. Jesus is rejected by some of the religious leadership of his time. Jesus dies at the hands of the cruel Romans in a most painful death. Yet, in the end, Jesus forgives them and commends himself and his death to the Father. Have any of us experienced such rejection, hatred and pain as Christ did?

God loves us and God rejoices in our return to him. While many may not have grave moral issues as did the younger son, parts of our lives do get away from us at times. Anger, spitefulness, resentments, an inability to accept faults and weaknesses in ourselves can keep us from growing in the Spirit. Remember, there is no sin so grave that the light of the Resurrection of Christ cannot heal. Once forgiven by God, than forgive others who have wronged you and be free.

Msgr. Guy A. Massie

VEILING THE STATUES FOR THE LAST TWO WEEKS IN LENT

This year, we will cover all images in church with a violet cloth. Many of us of a certain age are familiar with this practice. We will be returning to this practice not for nostalgic reasons, but rather to help us center our thoughts on the redemption won for us by Christ in His Passion, Death and Resurrection. The images not veiling are The Stations of the Cross, thus the center of our prayer life for this period of time will be The Passion and Death and Resurrection of Jesus. The statues will all be uncovered during the Gloria at the Easter Vigil.

2015 TAX STATEMENTS

Tax statements reflecting your contributions to our parish for the 2015 Fiscal Year are now available. **These statements are not automatically sent to all parishioners.** Should you wish to receive a statement, kindly call the Rectory Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and speak to Rose Marie Foglia. Kindly have your envelope number available when making this request as well as verification of your current mailing address. Thank you!

WHERE ARE YOU? ASKED GOD TO ADAM.

This question is essential to consider in this Lenten Season. Where are you in relationship to God? Where are you in relationship to others? Where are you in relationship to yourself? God is forever searching for us. The Lord is seeking us out to share himself, his mercy and his love with us. Where are we?

To assist all of us in answering these challenging questions on this, our Lenten Journey, the following is a copy of our promises made at Baptism. Do you reject sin, so as to live in the freedom of God's children? Do you reject the glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin? Do you reject Satan, the father of sin and the prince of darkness? In short, do you reject everything which is against the Gospel of the Lord Jesus? Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, Our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died and was buried, rose from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of the Father? Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting? As we consider these questions, we might want to ask ourselves do I have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus in the context of the Sacraments, the Holy Scripture, the Church? Is my religious practice just cultural, traditional? Do I want my religious practice to grow into a deep relationship with the Lord Jesus? Can I confess my heart and innermost being that Jesus is Lord? Do I really reject evil? Do I really accept the Gospel? Do I really want to let go of hurts, anger and grudges? Where do I need to grow? We are all in this struggle together. Everyone reading this message is in the struggle to grow more deeply in the faith by keeping our eyes focused on Christ.

REFLECTION ON THE RECEPTION OF COMMUNION UNDER BOTH SPECIES, PART 5

“Full Participation”

From the earliest days of the Church until the late 11th century, the normative practice for Eucharistic Communion was the reception of both host and cup for all the faithful. After that, and for a variety of reasons, the cup was eventually reserved for clergy only in the Western Church. There was a period when the lay faithful hesitated to receive communion at all, and moved from the reception of the Sacrament to adoration. As one author put it, “The Eucharistic imagination shifted exclusively to the monstrance and away from the chalice.” Although the sign and significance of the Blood of Christ, “take and drink” was never meant to indicate a distinction between cleric and lay, this is in practice what happened, and remained so all the way up until 1965.

The Fathers of the 2nd Vatican Council affirmed the teaching that in reception of either host or cup one receives the “whole Christ,” but recognized that reception under both species is a more complete and fuller sign; to receive both host and cup is an opportunity to experience more deeply the divine reality as Christ originally communicated it. To encourage “full, conscious, and perfect form of participation in the Mass by all present, the Council strongly recommended, the more perfect form of participation”...because...”the sacramental sign is richer and more complete when the congregation receives the host and from the chalice. In that form, the Mass has more the appearance of a meal, a banquet”-especially that sacred meal when Jesus said, “take...eat” and “take....drink.” Each week, at our Eucharistic banquet, we are beckoned to say yes-Amen-to each of these compelling invitations, offered to us by Christ himself.

INFORMATION SHEET

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Sacred Hearts & St. Stephen #875400

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Rose Marie Foglia

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

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