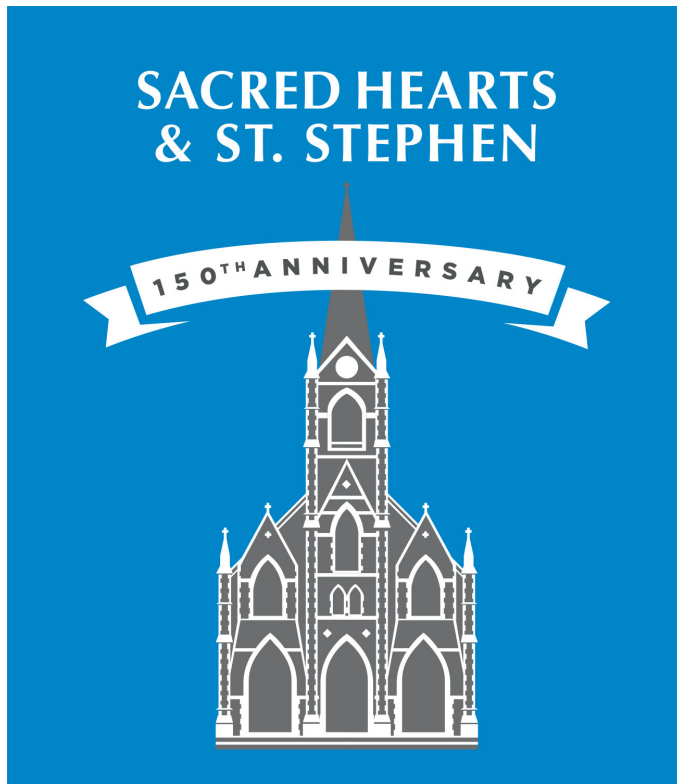

SACRED HEARTS & ST. STEPHEN R.C. CHURCH

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 & 12:00 NOON
5:30 PM on Saturday

MASSES ON WEEKDAYS:

Monday 12:00 Noon
Beginning 11/15/16 thru 4/12/17-Tuesday thru Friday
8:30 AM and Noon
Sat. 8:30 AM

CONFESSIONS:

Saturdays 4:45 P.M. as well as By Appointment.

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

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

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



REPENTANCE, RECONCILIATION
RECOLLECTION, REFLECTION, RENEWAL,
RESURRECTION

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1ST, BEGINS THE GREAT AND HOLY SEASON OF LENT. This is a season which invites us to self examination before the Lord. Lent is both a journey to a deeper personal conversion to the Lord as well as a call to us as the community of the Church towards a deeper conversion to the Gospel of Christ. As a community, the Church universal reminds us that fasting, Almsgiving (charity) and Prayer are three columns of this season of grace. As a Catholic Community united throughout the world, we will abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. As a Catholic community united with the Church throughout the world, we will fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by eating only one main meal. These regulations are applied to all ages 14 to 59. These regulations are minimal. We encourage all to fast and practice self denial at this time so as to meditate on the great things God has done for us through the Life, Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. (Some may be unable to fast for health reasons. We encourage those who cannot fast to practice another act of self denial as would be in keeping with their situation.)

DO NOT TRIVIALIZE THIS SEASON, RATHER MAKE A TIME OF TRUE INTROSPECTION. Lent is a time for REPENTANCE, RECONCILIATION, RECOLLECTION, REFLECTION, RENEWAL, RESURRECTION. What in your life do you need to change? What bad habits do you need to address? What behaviors in your life enhance your relationships with the Lord and others and what behaviors hinder those relationships. Who do you need to forgive? From whom do you need to ask forgiveness? To whom have you been unjust? Do you love the Lord Jesus enough to ask for the grace to truly change?

Fasting helps us to remember this is a Holy Season. Fasting helps us to self deny in a culture which needs instant gratification. Fasting and using the money saved from buying favorite foods which we have given up can be used to donate to a charity.

Prayer-places us always in God's presence. Prayer unites us with the Lord. Prayer need not have words. It can be a silence in the Divine Presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Prayer can be a reflection on the Scripture reading. Prayer can just be a call for mercy. Too many words in prayer can be distracting. **LENT IS A GREAT SEASON FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND MATURITY. MAY IT BE THAT FOR ALL OF US. PLEASE CONSULT THE BULLETIN FOR PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES HERE AT SHSS.** (Readings, Stations of the Cross, Adoration, Reconciliation times.)

- MON. FEBRUARY 20 2017**
 Noon Jane Elizabeth Donohue
 BY: Ann & Phil Donohue

- TUE. FEBRUARY 21, 2017**
 8:30 Giuseppina Borrometi
 BY: Francesca Recca
 Noon For The Intentions of
 Jack & Jean Falcone
 BY: Dorothy Pacella

- WED FEBRUARY 22, 2017**
 8:30 Francesca Forte
 Noon Angelo Vergona
 BY: Loving Family

- THURS. FEBRUARY 23, 2017**
 8:30 For A Personal Intention
 Noon Vincent J. Favorito
 BY: Loving Family

- FRI. FEBRUARY 24, 2017**
 8:30 For The People of The Parish
 Noon Julia Hurley

- SAT. FEBRUARY 25, 2017**
 8:30 Rita Columbo
 BY: Louis Pepe & Joseph Cerato
 5:30 PM For The Intentions of
 The Diacomanolis Family
 BY: Dorothy Pacella

- SUN FEBRUARY 26, 2017**
 8:00 AM Julia Cuvan
 BY: Daughter
 10:00 AM Rev. Msgr. George M. Schuster
 BY: A Friend
 Noon For The Intentions of
 Gina & Steven Eriquez & Family
 BY: Dorothy Pacella

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 Laqueria | 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 | Donald Jackson |
| Dominick Aiello, Jr. | Roe Gambardella |
| Kathleen Gunderson | Paul Girard |
| Ann Curcuru | Dora Zanzonico |
| Angelina Campasano | Andrew Favorito |
| Lamar McNabb | Anna Maria Marino |
| Phil Cerato | |



Altar Bread & Wine for the week of February 19th has been donated

In Loving Memory of

MICHAEL IACONO

Requested by:

Phyllis & Linda

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR TAXES

Tax statements for contributions made to Sacred Hearts & St. Stephen Church are now available. These statements are not universally mailed to all parishioners. Should you require a statement, kindly call the Rectory and speak directly with Rose Marie Foglia, Monday through Thursday, from 9-5. Please have your envelope number available when making the request. We take this opportunity to thank everyone for their constant financial support of our great parish.

BOOK CLUB NEWS

Please join our next meeting on March 6th at 4:00 PM in the Parish House where we will be discussing *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd. All are welcome!

LENTEN DAY OF PRAYER

The National Italian Apostolate will have a day of prayer on Saturday, March 18th presented by Father Giacomo Sgroi of the Diocese of Monreale in Sicily. The day will consist of spiritual conferences, Mass and Lenten Devotions beginning at 10:00 AM with arrival and registration at 9:30 AM. The cost of the day is \$20.00 and includes a hot lunch. This will take place at the Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston. If you are interested, kindly inform Msgr. Massie either in person or by calling 718 596-7750 as soon as possible.

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

MARCH 1, 2017

MASSES: 7:00 AM, 8:30 AM, 12 NOON

PRAYER SERVICE 3:45 PM

MASS 7:00 PM

The Symbol of Ashes

We use ashes as a sign of repentance. Marking ourselves with ashes is not a sign of pride. They are not a sign that you are Catholic. They are a sign of our mortality and our sinfulness. Ashes may be traced on your forehead or sprinkled in your hair. Ashes on our forehead are seen by all. Ashes sprinkled in your hair means that only God sees what is in our heart. If you wish ashes to be placed in your hair rather than your forehead, tell the minister giving you the ashes. Ashes are made from the burning of last years palm branches. We carried those palms proclaiming Christ as our King. Burning the palm branches reminds us of how often we lived our life forgetting that Christ is our King.

St. Stephen's High School Class of 1967

The St. Stephen High School Class of 1967 is holding a 50th reunion on Sunday, April 23rd from Noon to 4:00 PM at Marco Polo Restaurant. The Cost is \$60.00 per person and payment is required by March 1st. Many classmates will be attending the 10:00 AM Mass at Sacred Hearts on this day. To sign up to attend or for any questions, please contact Mary Calabro at marycalabro@gmail.com or Joe Ferraro at jcferraro53@yahoo.com. Home Phone for Mary Calabro is 973 895-3451 for Joe Ferraro 908-399-4580.

From the Pastor



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Dear Parish Community:
Be Holy, Be God's presence among us. Pray for your enemies

The Gospel for today, the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time is most challenging. It is the continuation of the Sermon on the Mount. The first reading tells us that the aim of living a faithful life is holiness. The second reading from 1Corinthians, tells us that we are the Temple of God, we are God's dwelling place. The Gospel tells us to pray for our enemies...a great challenge.

We are the Temple of God. God dwells among us through us. Thus the Church as Community is God's dwelling place. Long before the establishment of the Church by Jesus, there was the community of the apostles gathered with Jesus. Long before Jesus, there was the community of Israel as God's dwelling place. Today, we the community of baptized who are nourished with the Eucharist and confirmed in the Holy Spirit are the Body of Christ and God's dwelling place. It was the community of faith which composed the sacred text. The sacred text did not bring the community into existence. It is in the community that the Eucharist is celebrated. The Temple of God is not a building, it is the people who gather in the building.

Being the Temple and God's dwelling place carries with it a number of expectations. The Temple is a holy place, therefore the lives of those who make up the Temple must strive to reflect the Will of God and be like God. We must be holy. In the Gospel we are told live according to the Spirit of God's law. The Law gives us the minimum of God's intention. The Spirit of the Law goes beyond the written word. Probably the most revolutionary statement of Jesus is that we should pray for those who are our enemies. The enemies of the contemporaries of Jesus were the Romans. Is Jesus asking his disciples to pray for the Romans who with particular cruelty persecuted the Jewish people? Is Jesus asking that we pray for those who we may not like? The answer is Yes. This act of praying even for our enemy marks us as a disciple of Christ. Praying for those who persecute us, helps us to let go of the hurt. The Gospel speaks about holding anger against another. Many of us hold things against each other. I was offended when so and so did this or that. I no longer speak to this or that person. I avoid this or that person. Well, here is a quote which comes from the late author Malachy Martin. "Resentment is like drinking poison and waiting for the person to die." Think about this quote. When we let go of past hurts, we are freed from anger and resentment. It allows us not to be the victim. The Gospel directive that we even forgive those who wronged us is both spiritually and psychologically healthy. We need not be the victim of another's anger or our own resentments.

Time, prayer, reflection, contemplation, silence and discussion are tools to hearing the Word of God in the depths of our inner most being. The power of Grace in our spirits can allow us to pray for those who have wronged us, give us new freedom and help us to be the Temple of God revealing God's presence among us.

Msgr. Guy A. Massie

A THANK YOU NOTE

Dear Msgr. Massie and Beloved Parishioners of SHSS:

Grace and Peace of our Lord Jesus be yours now and always.

I am pleased to inform you about my safe return to Ghana. Receive my sincerest appreciation and gratitude for your hospitality and support.

As I thank you, I also wish to express my prayerful gratitude to you, Msgr. Massie and the entire Community of Sacred Hearts & St. Stephen's Church for the generous offering toward the drilling and mechanization of a borehole for the rectory and community of the church of Our Lady Seat of Wisdom, Oyarifa-Accra. What makes the gesture special is the spontaneity and affection with which you responded to my appeal without prior notice. May God, the Alpha and Omega of our faith bless and reward you all. And may He give success to the works of your hands.. Constructional works on the said project will begin soon. I will keep you posted about its progress with live pictures and videos to the extent our unusual internet service would facilitate the process. Till we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hands.

With esteem and appreciation and assurances of my prayers. Cletus

LENTEN FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

Fasting and abstaining from food is an ancient Lenten practice. Fasting is found in many Christian and non-Christian communities for both spiritual growth and social justice awareness. Fasting means not eating. This can be done in many ways. One may fast from eating in between meals. One may fast from eating a particular food for a period of time. For example, one may fast on bread or sweets etc. The fasting need not be a painful experience. The purpose of self denial is to remind you that Christ gave up his life willing for you. This fasting you are doing is to gently remind you of this article of our faith. Secondly, fasting can help the poor. The money saved from fasting which you otherwise might spend can be given to the poor or given to help someone else. To help you with the Fasting and Abstinence, the Catholic Church requires all age 14 and over not to eat meat on all the Fridays of Lent. This is to remind us of the death of Christ on a Friday. Those ages of 14-59 are asked to fast on Good Friday and Ash Wednesday. This means that one may only eat one main meal. Good Friday is a day of Fasting and Abstinence. While fasting is commendable and should be done, I also urge you to do positive acts for Lent. This is a season which invites us to make room for God in our busy lives. It is time to pray in new ways. I may suggest that you pray the Stations of the Cross perhaps two stations a week until Easter. While focusing on the sufferings of Christ, ask yourself where you may be in this particular station. For example, the first station Jesus is condemned to death. For a meditation, think of acceptance of things and situations which we cannot change. How difficult acceptance of loss or change can be. Another meditation, have you or someone you know suffered an injustice? Has someone you know been condemned to death due to a cancer or a terrible sickness which is unfair? If so, then you have found your prayer for this first station of the Cross. I suggest reading Sacred Text. Perhaps read the Lenten Gospels proclaimed each day at mass during Lent. This will keep you in line with the praying Church. As you read, ask yourself, Where am I in this gospel? What stands out in this gospel for me? Sit with the Gospel for ten minutes a day. It will be a great experience.

I wish you a fruitful Lenten Season.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT EVENING AT OUR LADY OF LEBANON CATHEDRAL IN BROOKLYN

On Saturday, February 25th Our Lady of Lebanon is hosting a evening for all couples (married, engaged, dating, even single people). The event will begin at 6:00PM with Divine Liturgy, then dinner followed by a guest speaker (Fr. Donald O'Keefe) private time to reflect on the talk with a questionnaire, renewal of married vows and celebration with music.

All are Welcome

INFORMATION SHEET

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

Sacred Hearts & St. Stephen #875400

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718-596-7750

CONTACT PERSON

Rose Marie Foglia

SOFTWARE

Microsoft Publisher® 2002

Adobe Acrobat 8.0®

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS