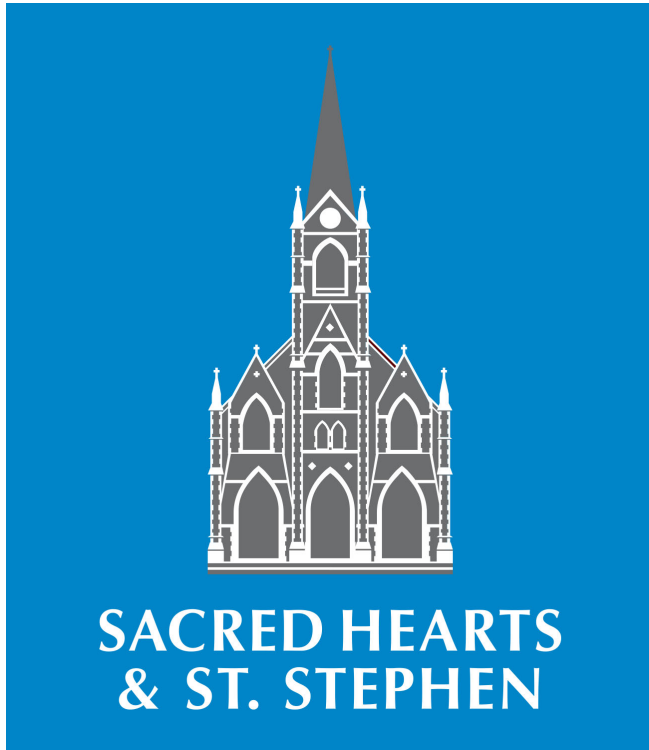

SACRED HEARTS & ST. STEPHEN R.C. CHURCH

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

- MON. MARCH 20, 2017**
 Noon Andrea DiCostanzo
 BY: Family
 6:00 PM Feast of St. Joseph
- TUE. MARCH 21, 2017**
 8:30 Lillie, Dominick & Augustine DiCosa
 BY: Susie & Richie
 Noon For the Intentions of
 Nichole & Danny Pacella & Family
 BY: Dorothy Pacella
- WED March 22, 2017**
 8:30 Emilee Yonadi
 BY: Loving Friends
 Noon Louis Trani
 BY: Loving Wife, Children &
 Grandchildren
- THURS. March 23, 2017**
 8:30 Gino Masi
 Noon Josephine Patti
 BY: Loving Family
- FRI. MARCH 24, 2017**
 8:30 Caterina Deserio
 BY: Her Brother Anthony DeLiso
 Noon For The Prayer Intentions of
 The People of the Parish
 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross
- SAT. MARCH 25, 2017**
 8:30 Dolores DiVisconti
 BY: The Pipitone Family
 5:30 PM Vito Colella
 BY: Loving Family
- SUN MARCH 26 2017**
 8:00 AM For the People of the Parish
 10:00 AM Dominick Scotto
 BY: Vinny, Anna & Grandchildren
 Noon Rita & Gregory Pontone & Family
 BY: Dorothy Pacella

The Lenten Season 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.)

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 |
| 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 | Phil Cerato |
| Dominick Aiello, Jr. | Roe Gambardella |
| Kathleen Gunderson | Paul Girard |
| Ann Curcuru | Dora Zanzonico |
| Angelina Campasano | Andrew Favorito |
| Lamar McNabb | Anna Maria Marino |
| Manrique Galeas | Carol Montelbano |



Altar Bread & Wine for the week of March 19th has been donated
In Loving Memory of
ANDREA DICOSTANZO
Requested by:
The Delgado Family

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.

ADORATION AND SILENCE IN CHRIST'S PRESENCE CHRISTO THERAPY

What is adoration? Why adore the Blessed Sacrament?

We, 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 Jesus 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 the 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 evening from 4:00 PM-5:15PM and First Fridays of the month from 7:15 AM to 8:30 AM and from 11:00 AM to noontime. 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.

From the Pastor

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Dear Parish Community,

Today is the Third Sunday in Lent. The Gospel for the next three Sundays introduces us to the Woman at the Well, The Man Born Blind and Lazarus. These three Gospels make up ancient baptismal catechism. Each Gospel for the next three weeks presents us with a short story about a person who has come to faith in Jesus. Each story invites us to answer the question posed by Jesus to his followers: “Who do you say I am?” Each of us must answer this personal question for ourselves.

In today’s Gospel, we meet the Woman at the Well. I invite you to notice two points in the story: first the progression of growth in faith and secondly the sharing of proclamation of the faith. As we begin the story, Jesus meets this unnamed woman. She seems aloof and when Jesus seeks to engage her in conversation, she seems distant, defensive and even rude. Notice that the conversation has two levels. She is speaking about the water in the well. Jesus is speaking about water which is a symbol for God. The woman is speaking about physical thirst. Jesus is speaking about the souls thirst for God. The souls thirsts for things which only God can satisfy. Notice also the symbol of thirst. Thirst refers to the Israelites’ thirst in the desert. Notice also that Jesus thirsted on the cross. Thirst is a major symbol in this story. As Jesus continues to press the conversation, the Woman comes to recognize Jesus as a Jewish man. When Jesus reveals knowledge he has about her, she softens her approach and she calls him a holy man or a prophet. Finally at the end of the story, the Woman recognizes Jesus as the Messiah. Her faith grew through her personal encounter with Jesus. Realizing who Jesus is, she is filled with joy and proclaims Jesus to her neighbors. Do we realize for what and for whom we thirst? Do we realize who Jesus is? If so, what difference does it make in our everyday lives?

The Woman at the Well teaches us a great deal. She comes seeking water. Water in an arid climate is a lifeline. There are two levels of the conversation. While women collected water at the beginning of the day prior to the heat, this woman comes at midday. Midday is the hottest time of the day. Since the Well was a social gathering place for the town, could this woman have been avoiding running into the neighbors? Why did this woman have five husbands? Was her life always seeking love in the wrong places? What was her life like? Was she mistreated? Was she a former slave? Was her life dry? Was she at a turning point in her life? Was it the middle of the day of her life as her meeting with Jesus? While the woman realized that Jews and Samaritans were separated by many social issues and religious differences, we learned from Jesus that a time was coming when true worshippers would worship in spirit and truth. While Samaritans believed that the holy place for worship was Mt. Gerezin and Jews held that the Holy Place was the temple in Jerusalem, we learn that the true temple is Jesus. It is in Jesus that we encounter God. It is through Jesus that we are changed. Ultimately, Jesus changes her life. She then tells her neighbors all that Jesus had done for her.

The Woman at the Well is a symbol for who are searching for change, who long for something greater, or who are on the verge of despair. When was the last time you spoke to someone about Jesus and your faith in him? We are invited to convert from non reflective religious behaviors to a living celebration of our faith in Christ Jesus.

Msgr. Guy A. Massie

UPS AND DOWNS

Those who use Hicks Street or the BQE Walk bridge may have noticed that the protective glass on the second church window from the church on Hicks Street has begun to slide down in the frame. This movement of glass is caused by the constant vibration of the church due to its proximity to the Brooklyn Queens Expressway. Like the windows on the parking lot side of the church, this protective glass must be replaced in order to ensure that the rain and wind does not damage the delicate stain glass it is meant to protect. We have once again engaged Associated Crafts, who have already fixed four of the parking lot side windows, to repair this compromised window. We will not, however, be installing the same protective window system on the Hicks Street façade of the church as has been installed in the parking lot in order to maintain the architectural beauty of the façade and the architectural lighting which highlights it at night.

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.

INFORMATION SHEET

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Rose Marie Foglia

SOFTWARE

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Adobe Acrobat 8.0®

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS