
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 NOON
5:30 PM on Saturday

MASSES ON WEEKDAYS:

Monday 12:00 Noon
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

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



MON. APRIL 24, 2017

Noon In Thanksgiving

TUE. APRIL 25, 2017

8:30 Robert Albers
BY: Dear Friends

WED APRIL 26, 2017

8:30 Jimmy & Anna Valentino

THURS. APRIL 27, 2017

8:30 Caterina Deserio
BY: Vito Anthony DeLisio

FRI. APRIL 28, 2017

8:30 For Peace In the Family

SAT. APRIL 29, 2017

8:30 Rose Meglio
BY: Ladie's Auxliary #5195
VFW Post Red Hook

5:30 PM Louis Trani

BY: Loving Wife, Children &
Grandchildlren

SUN APRIL 30, 2017

8:00 AM For The Prayer Intentions
of The People of The Parish

10:00 AM St. Michael Society

BY: Devotees

12:00 Noon Madonna dei Miracoli

BY: Devotees

MOTHER'S DAY BABY SHOWER

We are accepting Baby Shower gift donations to be distributed by the Sisters of Life to mothers who bravely chose life under difficult circumstances. Suggested items are: Diapers, wipes, blankets, outfits, onesies, sleepers, hats, socks, booties and bottles. This is not an all inclusive list. Your ideas are welcome. All baby items **MUST BE NEW!** You may also donate maternity clothes and gift cards. Please donate gifts unwrapped in bags or gift bags and leave them at the Shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary to the left of the Altar. Please donate by Mother's Day, May 14th. We thank you in advance for your generosity and support of this event!

THANK YOU TO ALL

The celebrations of Holy Week from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday were uplifting, spiritually refreshing and spiritually renewing. Liturgy is important. Liturgy means the work of the people. Liturgy is work. It involves participation by all. Long past are the days of coming to Church and watching the priest at the altar. We are called to active participation. Our participation is enhanced by many factors. Liturgical Music, the décor of the Church, the ability to hear and understand the reading of sacred texts, the feeling of welcome, the participation of the people who surround us. Having said this, I thank all who helped make Holy Week seem as a parish retreat.

I thank all our parishioners who attended and participated in our weekly Stations of the Cross. I thank all who participated and prepared our procession on Palm Sunday Liturgies and in our procession with Palms.

I thank all who participated and prepared for the Liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. I thank the Music Ministry, James Lake, Evelyn Troester DeGraff, the musicians and the Choirs. I thank our Lectors, Ministers of Holy Communion, our Sacristans, Andrew DiManso and Teresa Delgado, our altar servers, both children and adult. Thank you to our Ministers of Hospitality and Greeters, Anthony Troiano, Gertrude Zagarella, John Jorgensen and all who so generously assist us at Mass by taking up the collections.

I thank the People of Mola di Bari who organized the Good Friday procession and the many who participated in the procession on Good Friday night. I thank Mr. John Heyer and the parishioners who so generously gave their time and energy to decorating our parish so beautifully for Easter. I thank you for the generosity of your financial support for the flowers and other expenses of this season. We are the most beautiful Church in Brooklyn and we are the most beautiful parish in Brooklyn because of you!

Msgr. Guy A. Massie

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 |

Rev. Michael A. Carrano

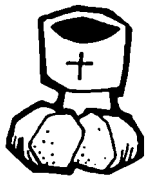
Book Club

Please join our next meeting on May 8th at 7:00 PM in the Parish House where we will be discussing The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver. All are welcome!



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The Sanctuary Lamps for the week of April 23rd have been donated In Thanksgiving for Blessings Received



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Altar Bread & Wine for the week of April 23rd has been donated In Thanksgiving for Blessings Received

AN EASTER PRAYER

How wonderful, how marvelous is Your love Jesus! To think that you were willing to go through that for me!

What a day of rejoicing that must have been when you rose and realized it was all over— You had won the victory! You had accomplished your mission. You had made the way for the world to be saved. You had gone through the horrors of death for us and it was over.

You arose in victory, joy, liberation and freedom from the hands of evil men, never to have to go through it again-and you did it all to spare us the same. Now we can say with the apostle Paul “O death, where is your sting? O grave where is your victory?” (1 Corinthians 15:55-57).

Thinking of the seemingly terrible defeat that you suffered and how it resulted in such a tremendous victory, it fills me with wonder and gives me such hope and peace. Surely you and your love will see me through whatever troubles may come my way from now until eternity! Amen.

Of all of God’s gifts
Easter shows us our fate
Forgiven we will rise
And pass through Heaven’s gate
This Easter remember
The sacrifice of a Son
And through His resurrection
Eternal life we have won
This Easter I pray
That the love of God
Is resurrected
Reborn, renewed
Inside your heart
God Bless You!

From the Pastor

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Dear Parish Community:

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

Today is the Second Sunday of Easter. Today is also called Divine Mercy Sunday. Today we conclude the octave of the eight days of Easter and we begin the Easter Season. Easter is too big to contain to a day, a week or even a Season. It is the foundation of faith. Therefore, every Sunday throughout the year is an Easter celebration. We gather for Mass on Sunday because of Easter. Divine Mercy Sunday reminds us that forgiveness is possible in the community (Church) because of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ.

St. Thomas the Apostle is an important person in today's Gospel. While the Gospel mentions the wounds of Christ, it is really Thomas who is wounded. Needless to say the message of the resurrection is difficult for many to accept. Thomas gives voice to many who doubted this great event of our salvation. His encounter with the Risen Lord changes him not unlike St. Paul whose encounter with the Risen Lord changed him. The twelve, upon encountering Christ, are changed. The people who doubted believe, those who persecuted the Christians begin to proclaim the Gospel, and simple fishermen evangelize the world. They all boldly announce the Resurrection to a world that at first thought these disciples had gone mad. The early community of Christians read about in Acts of the Apostles lived in harmony. Their very lives announce the Good News of the Resurrection.

For Thomas, the wounds of Christ are very important. Even in his Risen Body or his Risen State, the wounds remain. These wounds on the body of Christ are reminders to us of his love for us. Where there is true love, there is often pain and wounds. Think of the love of a parent. How often are parents hurt by their children. Think of a married couple, how often do they wound each other through lack of communication, misunderstanding or even the feeling of being taken for granted.

The wounds of the Risen Lord are our hope of forgiveness. If Thomas is wounded in this gospel, so too are we wounded. All of us have some form of wound which needs healing. In today's gospel, Jesus gives the apostles the power to forgive sins. This forgiveness is available to us not because we have won the right to forgiveness, but rather because Christ has obtained that forgiveness for us through his redemptive death. Forgiveness comes to us through the merits of Christ, not our merits.

In the Gospel, we find the community of Apostles rejoicing except for one member, Thomas separated himself from the community at a time when he was most hurt, most vulnerable and most angry. While Thomas claims that he wishes to see the wounds of Christ as a condition for him to believe, the reality is that it is Thomas who is wounded and it is Christ who touches his wounds and heals him. Thomas is a good example for many of us. He is also a good example of wounds found even in our community. Many of us, like Thomas are hurt by someone in the community. Some may feel put off by the priest or the sister or the clergy. Some may feel alienated from the Church at large or from the Parish. When this happens, some stay away from Mass. In the long run, they are separating themselves from the people who in themselves can be uplifting. Thus, their conditions, at least emotionally or psychologically, become worse. It is the presence of Christ in the Eucharist, the Scriptures and in the people, which can lead, give us the strength to face the issues at hand and help us to move on.

If you or someone you know is keeping him or herself from coming to Mass due to hurt, a poor experience with a priest or religious or on issues facing the Church at large, encourage them to seek first the Lord in the sacrament of reconciliation and Eucharist and then they will find him in Community. Once found in the community, we can begin the conversation. To experience the Risen Savior in our lives, we need to be open to the possibility of change for the better. Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

Msgr. Guy A. Massie

UPS AND DOWNS

Thank you to all who responded in generosity to the “Easter Gift” appeal which supports the extra-ordinary expenses the parish faces during Holy Week. Your participation in this and other appeals such as Generations of Faith, which will make it possible for us to install an elevator in our church, the Annual Catholic Appeal that supports vocations, immigrant services and catholic charities to name a few and the Sunday Collection which keeps the lights on and the church open, are the clearest and simplest ways for each of us to be good stewards of our parish. Stewardship is the job of supervising or taking care of something such as an organization or property. As members of the Sacred Hearts-St. Stephen parish family, we are each called in our own way to respond in thanksgiving to God by sharing in the stewardship of the Church which Jesus left for us. This Easter, may the hope of the resurrected Christ grow in you a renewed mission of stewardship allowing Sacred Hearts-St. Stephen to always be a sustainable and welcoming place where the Gospel is shared and Community is built.

WHAT IS DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY?

When and why did the Church begin celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday?

The world was in the midst of the Great Depression in 1931 and the memories of World War I were still very much alive in the minds of Europeans and in Poland a sister of the Congregation of Sister of Our Lady of Mercy, Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938), is said to have been personally visited by Jesus.

According to her diary, which was listed on the Index of Forbidden Books for more than 20 years, an image was revealed to her of the risen Lord, from whose heart shone two rays, one red (representing blood) and the other “pale” (symbolizing water), with the words :”Jesus, I trust in you” at the bottom. Faustina wrote in her diary that Jesus told her, “I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish”

When she was canonized in 2000 under the direction of fellow countryman Pope John Paul II, he proclaimed that the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be known as Divine Mercy Sunday, thereby widely promoting the devotional practices associated with Faustina’s vision, already popular in many communities.

St. Faustina, a poorly educated daughter of a humble Polish family, kept a 600 page diary of the apparitions she claimed continued for years. Her entries focus on God’s mercy, the call to accept God’s mercy and to be merciful, the need for conversion, and the call to trust in Jesus. It had been Jesus’ own wish, she wrote, to establish a feast day: “I [Jesus] desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls....I am giving them the last hope of salvation; that is, the Feast of My Mercy.

Among the practices associated with the devotion are its novena, the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy (a series of prayers organized similarly to a rosary), the Hour of Great Mercy (a time of prayer traditionally celebrated at 3:PM and the plenary indulgence granted to those who receive the Eucharist and celebrate reconciliation on Divine Mercy Sunday.

But the road to the universal recognition and institutionalization of the devotion was anything but smooth. Since Sister Faustina’s diary, which she claimed Jesus himself asked her to keep, had been previously listed on the Index of Forbidden Books, it curtailed the exercise of the devotional practices. Detractors claimed that her writing contained theological errors, while her defenders attribute mistakes to a faulty translation from Polish to Italian. While the diary is no longer on the Index of Forbidden Books and her canonization has officially put away concerns regarding the orthodoxy of her writings, critics remain.

The celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday is an opportunity to reflect on the theme of how God’s mercy can overcome sin and, as the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments states, “a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind will experience in the years to come.”

This year the Feast is celebrated on April 23rd,

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INFORMATION SHEET

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