
SACRED HEARTS & ST. STEPHEN R.C. CHURCH

WWW.SacredHearts-StStephen.com



SACRED HEARTS & ST. STEPHEN

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
Tues. through 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 details.

Rectory: 108 Carroll Street

Brooklyn, N.Y 11231

718-596-7750 tel

718-260-9233 fax

REV. MSGR. GUY A. MASSIE

Pastor

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 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.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.**



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Sunday Collection for 12/17	\$ 3,146.00
Annual Weekly Expenses **	\$ 14,325.00
Difference:	-\$11,179.00

**Total annual expenses divided by 52 weeks

UPS AND DOWNS

We are grateful to our General Contractor Matthew who has completed 95% of the construction of our elevator project. The Choir loft portion has been completed for some weeks now and all of the plastic protection has been removed. The last element at this level to be installed is the new glass wall which opens to the atrium above the main church entrance. At the church main entrance, new terrazzo has been poured and polished, the walls have been plastered and are being painted. We have also installed a sink and counter for our Sunday coffee station in the newly opened space. New outside doors are being installed at the Hicks Street entrance and the new terrazzo floor here is being polished. Thanks to Lou Sergi, we have a new security glass wall separating Cabrini Hall from the entrance space of the Lower Church. We now also have a new ADA compliant restroom in Cabrini Hall and storage closets for all of our event supplies, a closet for Religious Education and the Knights of Columbus. Additionally, a sink was installed in the original concession stand with the hope that one day we will have enough money to install a functioning kitchen. Over the next few weeks, the electricians will be installing the reclaimed light fixtures from St. Edward's Church throughout the entry spaces. While our construction has made great progress, our elevator mechanics have not. We are still waiting on additional NYC Buildings Department certifications so that the elevator company can begin installing the elevator inside the new elevator shaft which has been constructed. During these last days of the year, please consider making an extra payment to your Generations of Faith pledge which will give you the largest charitable giving tax deduction possible for 2017 and also help us pay the expense of the project to date. We sincerely thank all who are keeping their pledges current, however, if you are behind in your payments, we ask you to consider catching up with your pledge so that we can complete the project for our parish as had been planned with your pledge in mind.

- MON. DECEMBER 25, 2017**
 11:00 AM Christmas Day Mass
- TUE. DECEMBER 26, 2017**
 8:30 John V. Verderame
 BY: Mom & Dad
- WED DECEMBER 27, 2017**
 8:30 Spiro Galiatsatos
- THURS. DECEMBER 28, 2017**
 8:30 Personal Prayer Intention for
 The People of the Parish
- FRI. DECEMBER 29, 2017**
 8:30 Michael Diacomanolis
- SAT. DECEMBER 30, 2017**
 8:30 Anthony Coppola
 BY: Mom & Dad
 5:30 PM Evelyn Pellecchia
 BY: Grand Daughters
 Rose, Evelyn & Dana
- SUN DECEMBER 31, 2017**
 8:00 In Honor of the Holy Spirit
 For the People of the Parish
 10:00 Angie Amato
 BY: Husband Sal & Family
 12:00 Anna Passione
 BY: Loving Mom
 7:00 PM Vigil of The Solemnity of Mary

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 | Alicia Aquino |
| Michele Morea | Palma Caminiti |
| Carol DeMairo | Anthony Gambardella |
| Rachel Valenti | Anthony Caruvana |
| Salvatore Gianino | Judith Latalladi |
| Rosemary Love | Lisa Van |
| Eileen Giannotta | Dominick Aiello, Jr. |
| Roe Gambardella | Elizabeth Foley |
| Kathleen Gunderson | Paul Girard |
| Ann Curcuru | Dora Zanzonico |
| Angelina Campasano | Andrew Favorito |
| Lamar McNabb | Anna Maria Marino |
| Carol Montelbano | Rev. Michael A. Carrano |
| John Scotto | Addy Wardrope |

BOOK CLUB NEWS

Start the year off with a good read and lively conversation! Please join our next meeting on Monday January 8th at 7:00 PM in the Parish House where we will be discussing Year of Wonder by Geraldine Brooks. New members are welcome!

MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE, CHRISTMAS DAY, NEW YEAR'S EVE AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

Christmas Eve Family Mass at 4:30 PM
Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at 12:00 AM
Christmas Day Mass at 11:00 AM
New Year's Eve 7:00 PM Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary
New Year's Day Noon The Solemnity of Mary

The Sanctuary Lamps for the week of

December 24th have been donated

In Loving Memory of **LEONA ZAGAMI**

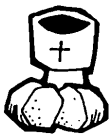
By: Catherine



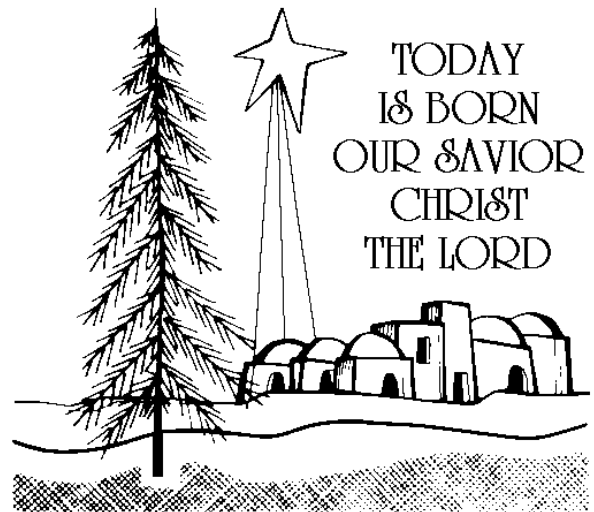
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Altar Bread & Wine for the week of December 24th has been donated

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



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TODAY
IS BORN
OUR SAVIOR
CHRIST
THE LORD

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From the Pastor

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Dear Parish Family:

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The readings from today's Liturgy of the Word say that God is acting in a concrete way and shows us that what God does refers directly to our existence on earth in specific conditions, at a specific time. It is worthy to consider the Word of God through the prism of that key. God never acts chaotically. Divine Revelation shows that everyone has his/her place in it.

King David, of whom we heard in the first reading, at the end of his life realizes that he and his people have their own houses, palaces, while the Ark of the Covenant is still kept in a tent. He therefore decides to begin preparations for the construction of the temple, but God has other plans. He announces that he will build a house for David. The Lord's promise concerns the offspring of David. In God's plan, the Messiah will be born from this offspring. God here shows that he is the Lord of history.

The Gospel is telling us about the Annunciation. Mary also found a place in God's plans. In order for God's plans to be fulfilled, God needs Mary's "yes". The dialogue with the angel contains a number of expressions that were difficult for Mary to understand. Therefore, she is confused, she wonders how God's plans were to be fulfilled.

The Angel does not give clear answers. From Gabriel's words, however, Mary understands that God has thought of everything. *The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.* There is no need to think about "what and how". God will take care of everything. You just have to say "yes" to him.

There is nothing impossible for God. Just as he led humankind through the ages, he gradually revealed himself, until he revealed himself most fully in his Son, Jesus Christ. God enters into the personal history of every human being and wants to surround every person with his power and grace. In order for God to do so, follow Mary's example, trust in Him and say your personal "yes" to God.

So, as Christmas Season begins perhaps we may consider the times in our lives when we were called upon to a task we knew not how to handle or we were offered a surprise opportunity and we realized the fears were undone by the great result. So, by our trust in the Lord, we can do many things as did Mary and Joseph.

Let us pray that we are able to say our "yes" to God even if it will change our own plans. May Blessed Virgin Mary be an example to follow with trust and obedience.

Deacon Przemek

Dear Friends,

I wish you Christmas Blessings of Joy, Peace and Love.

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Christians of many denominations will gather together in churches, chapels and homes all over the world to hear again for the first time, the story of Christmas. The great story of the Incarnation of God among us (Emmanuel) who we experience in Christ Jesus is never ending and it is always new. The story is familiar to us, yet we enjoy hearing it every year. Perhaps each year another aspect of the story speaks to us. Perhaps we are hearing the story again for the first time because our lives have changed from year to year. We all hear the same Gospel story, yet children hear one story, we hear another depending on our life experiences.

MAKING ROOM

This year I am hearing the story of Christ from the perspective of the inn keepers. In the story we learn that Joseph searches for a room and each of the innkeepers refuse him lodging because there is not any room in their respective establishments. Making room requires changing one's comfortable routine to accommodate another. Making room for another invites us to leave our own comfort zone to give another comfort or welcome. Sometimes making room is a physical reality. We may move the furniture to make the dining table larger to accommodate more people. Sometimes we may have to give up our own room to welcome visitors for the evening. Sometimes we may have to care for an elderly parent in our homes necessitating major changes in the routine of the house. Sometimes we must make room for special requests. We may have to give someone a ride to the doctor or to school. Sometimes making room means being open to new ideas and questions voiced by others. Whatever the reason may be for making room, it always involves a change in our lives. Change can be difficult, scary and upsetting, especially in the beginning.

MAKING ROOM FOR JESUS

Making room for Jesus in our lives can be a most rewarding challenge. Christmas celebrates the Incarnation of God among us. This means that God in Jesus takes humanity in every way except sin. It is we who share in the humanity created for Jesus. If we read the Letter to the Colossians, we read; "He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him (Jesus) all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible....all things have been created through him and for him." Colossians 1:15-17. Therefore, humanity itself was created for Jesus. In the Incarnation, Jesus is God made visible and as well as the icon of humanity. We are called to imitate the humanity of Jesus. In the humanity of Jesus we see: truth, love, compassion, mercy, forgiveness, justice, peace, joy, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, chastity, patience, generosity, gentleness and self-control made visible. The more we cooperate with these "Fruits of the Holy Spirit", the more human we become. Thus sin is not human but inhuman because to be truly human is to be open to Jesus.

WILL THERE EVER BE ROOM FOR JESUS?

In our self centered culture, will Jesus ever find room? In our stressed out life, will peace and real joy ever have a home? In our overly sensual society, will chastity ever be at home? In our society where success is measured by money, position and acquisition, can we make room for the words of Jesus who says; "Blessed are the poor." Really? In a world and society which seems to define its own truth dependent on one's own preferences, can we give room to one who says he is the Truth about: life, creation, redemption and eternity? Many of us have been taught to seek comfort. Can we really make room for one who tells us that it is in losing our lives for his sake that we find our lives? The model of humanity which Jesus offers is challenging. Jesus was born outside the city. He lived his life outside the mainstream of the society of his time. He was not acknowledged by the religious leaders of his day. Ultimately, Jesus is killed outside the city. So, can we make room for Jesus? Can we make room for Jesus in the poor, those we do not like, in those for whom we are asked to accommodate, in those who are different, in those who are on the edge of our society? Will Jesus ever be given room?

The room for Jesus is only in the hearts of those who accept him completely with love and joy.

A Blessed Christmas to you!

Msgr. Guy A. Massie

INFORMATION SHEET

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

Sacred Hearts & St. Stephen #875400

PHONE

718-596-7750

CONTACT PERSON

Rose Marie Foglia

SOFTWARE

Microsoft Publisher® 2002

Adobe Acrobat 8.0®

Windows XP Home® SP3

PRINTER

HP® Laserjet 1320

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS