

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:

8:30 AM 10:00 AM & 12 NOON

5:00 PM on Saturday

MASSES ON WEEKDAYS:

Monday 8:30 AM

Tues. through Sat. 8:30 AM

Adoration: First Friday each month @ 7:15 AM

CONFESSIONS:

Saturdays 3:45– 4:30 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

REV. CLETUS FORSON

Parochial Vicar

REV. NGOZI

Prison Chaplain (In Residence)

MR. EDWIN RIVERA

Deacon

MRS. MICHELE D. TWOMEY

Director of Faith Formation

JOHN HEYER, II

Pastoral Associate

ROSE MARIE FOGLIA

Business Manager

JAMES LAKE

Parish Organist

JENNIFER WU

Choir Director

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.GIVECENTRAL.ORG/SHSS

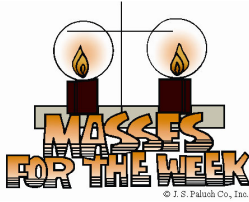
RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday 9:00 to 5:00 (Closed for Lunch from 1-2) Friday 9:00 to 2:00 Saturday 9:00 to 1:00

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.**



- MON. DECEMBER 12, 2022
8:30 In Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- TUE. DECEMBER 13, 2022
8:30 Anthony Polito
BY: Carolyn & John Zodda
- WED. DECEMBER 14, 2022
8:30 DeLosa & Polito Family
BY: Rosemary & Family
- THURS. DECEMBER 15, 2022
8:30 Denise Deacamanolos
- FRI. DECEMBER 16, 2022
8:30 Connie, Ernie & Joey Missoni
BY: Loving Family
- SAT. DECEMBER 17, 2022
8:30 Concetta Battista Scotto
BY Nieces & Nephews
5:00 Anthony Mazze
BY: Paula, Children & Grandchildren
- SUN DECEMBER 18, 2022
8:30 Kathleen Moran
BY: Rose Marie Foglia
10:00 Anthony Polito
BY: Wife, Children & Grandchildren
Noon Andrew DiCostanzo
BY: Daughter Anna



Sanctuary Lamps for the week of December 11th have been donated

For Blessings for the Marriage of
BIANCO RUSSO & SAL CICCONE
BY: Grandma El

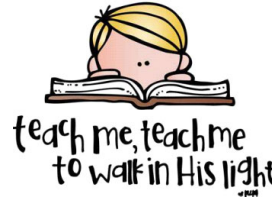
FINANCIAL INFORMATION



Sunday Collection 12/4	\$1,710.00
*Envelopes & cash	
On Line Donations	\$ 2,508.50
Total Sunday 12/4	\$ 4,218.50
Annual Weekly Exp-enses*	\$14,325.00
Difference:	\$10,106..50

**Total annual expenses divided by 52 weeks

Volunteers Needed. Will you join us?



Here at SHSS, we are blessed to share the privilege of sharing our rich Catholic faith and traditions with the youth of the parish. We need more laborers in the vineyard to help teach, assist, prepare crafts, be monitors during class, assist at Grade Masses, and prepare refreshments, and we need prayer warriors. If you can help in some way or give one Sunday a month, we welcome your assistance. Contact Michele Twomey at 718-596-7750 or email mtwomey.shss@gmail.com to help.



Bread & Wine for the week of December 11th has been donated
In Loving Memory of
MARTINA IGNERI
BY: Anna & Carmine Balsamo

Please note that there will be no Book Club meeting in December. We will resume meeting in the New Year. Please join us on Monday, Jan. 2nd @7 PM in the Parish House for an informal discussion about *The Phonebook at the Edge of the World* by Laura Messina. For those of you who plan ahead, our next meeting will be Feb. 6th. We will be discussing *The Family Upstairs* by Lisa Jewell. All are welcome.



Hope to see you there.



Pray For

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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, | Helena Rolla |
| Brad Hatry | Gertrude Zagarella |
| Michelle Laquercia | Irene Balen |
| Santina Garbellotto | John Nigro |
| Lois Tilocca | Salvatore Salerno |
| Diane Barchuk | Addy Wardrope |
| Carol DeMairo | Anthony Gambardella |
| Anthony Tilocca | Anthony Turco |
| Elizabeth Foley | Cathy De Marino |
| Ann Curcuru | Dora Zanzonico |
| Lamar McNabb | Louis D'Angelo |
| Carol Montelbano | Julia Magno |
| Anthony Manfre | Celeste Internicola |
| Emma Huckerby | Kristin Quail |
| Joan Di Tucci | Sarina Mukhi |
| Dominick Aiello, Jr. | Mark Carles |
| Erica Concino | MaryAnn Kinczel |
| Susan Hannan | Evan Marra |
| Hector Jimenez | Darren Munio |
| Abigail Memmesheimer | Sophia Rotunno |
| Philip Saraceno | Salvatore Aleo |
| Maria Anjelica Patino Laquercia | |
| Paul & Leona Pensabene | Frances Marra |
| Michael Ostrowski | Regina Ventura Giulietti |
| | John Primavera |

MASS SCHEDULE FOR ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays @ 9:30 AM
Saturday Evenings @ 4:00 PM
Sundays @ 10:00 AM

Please continue to keep Fr. Cashman in your prayers as he is still recovering. Msgr. Massie and Fr. Cletus are covering for him during this process.



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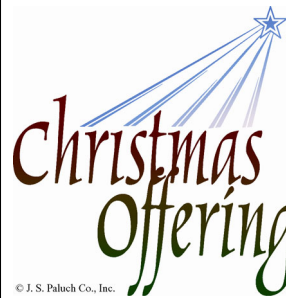
Our Church is open each Wednesday from noon until 2:00 PM for private prayer. You are encouraged to stop by for

this quiet time with the Lord.

We hope to see you there!



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We need your help to enhance our Christmas Liturgies with decorations, music and streaming. Please consider making a contribution to support this in one of the

following ways. If you receive monthly envelopes, there is one for extra-ordinary Christmas expenses, you may contribute on line at Give Central or you may fill out a blank form located in the back of our church. We appreciate your support and generosity over the years. All contributions should be received by December 19th in order to be printed on our poster board.

From the Pastor

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Dear Parish Family,

Today, the Third Sunday in Advent, we are called to be filled with joy. We light the pink candle on our Advent Wreath. What is the difference between happiness and joy? Is there a difference? What if you are not happy, can you have joy? These are questions which come to mind when celebrating this season and this Sunday.

Joy is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Joy has nothing to do with all things going well. Joy has nothing to do with everything being the way we like it. Joy is in the person who sees with the eyes of faith even if those eyes are filled with tears. Joy is an internal disposition. Happiness is momentary. Happiness has to do with things being to our liking. We are happy when things go the way we have planned. Joy filled is that in the midst of the things that have been planned and gone wrong, we see hope in the unexpected situation. If you are mourning the loss of someone you are not happy. You can be joy filled in that your loved one may now be seeing the face of God. Joy is more a choice rather than a feeling. It is a choice made possible through the eyes of faith.

The readings invite us to be joy filled. They did not invite us to be happy. In the first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, we read about the parched desert coming to bloom with flowers. Those who are weak will be made strong. Notice that the promises of joy the reading is making take root in the midst of their suffering. We might say that the root of resurrection is found in our crosses. The promise that God will deliver us in our joy.

The second reading from the Letter of James urges us to have patience. It is possible that the people to whom James is writing may be experiencing some suffering if not persecution for their faith. James urges them to remain faithful. God will not abandon them. Joy comes from hope.

In the Gospel we meet John the Baptist in prison. Notice it is John who hears the news of all that Jesus is doing. John actually did not know exactly what to expect from Jesus. John may have thought that the Messiah would come to judge. There existed many views of what the mission of the messiah was to accomplish. Would the Messiah free the Israelites from the oppression of the Romans? Would the Messiah be priestly and spiritual? Would the Messiah be a great teacher? John had to do a spiritual conversion. While he was in prison, John had to re-evaluate his ideas and his ministry. While he heard that Jesus caused the deaf to hear, the blind to see, the lepers to be cleansed and the dead to be raised, these actions were all messianic signs taken from Isaiah. John sends a question to Jesus from his prison cell. John asks Jesus is he is the one who was to come or should he look for another? John is not sure. Jesus does not answer John's question. Jesus points to his works and allows John to make his decision. Is Jesus the Messiah or not?

Where does this leave us? The world is not in good shape, our country and city are in a mess. Crime against innocent people seems to be up. Many are seriously ill, family problems for many are overbearing. Many marriages are in crisis. Priestly and religious vocations are also in crisis. The Catholic Church is in the midst of scandals. How can we not help but say with John to Jesus, are you the one?

Perhaps Jesus would answer by saying look at all the good things going on around you. Look at those who are striving to follow the gospel. Look and see the great generosity people have. Look at the many loving marriages which exist, look how sincere and convicted priests and religious serve people in the most dire of circumstances, look at the many individuals who give themselves for others. Yes, there are selfish people, yes there are hypocritical people, yes there are people who have made bad decisions which have had a negative effect on us, however, we can choose to be hope filled and even joy filled that so many do try to follow the gospel even if they do not know they are following the gospel. We all have free will. When we use our free will to do good things, life is good for many. If we use our free will to be negative, aggressive and disregard others, we all suffer. So, I choose to hope, I choose joy and I choose to stand with many who follow the gospel even if we get push back, because in the end, God wins and good triumphs.

Be Joy filled. God is near!

Msgr. Guy A. Massie



LITURGICAL NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS

Perhaps we can view the Liturgical Seasons as spiral rather than a circle. In this way, we may more readily hear the same readings for the first time again. Advent, as does Lent invites us to hear the readings again for the first time. The readings and the season may be familiar to you, however, you and I have changed. As a result, we hear the readings differently from the last time we heard these texts.

We begin the Gospel of Saint Matthew today. The first way to be prepared to meet the Lord whenever he arrives either at the end of time or in our personal meeting with the Lord in death is to seek to meet the Lord in the Eucharist, in the sacred text and in each other. An important way to meet the Lord is in service and acts of mercy to those in need. Those in need are considered the poor. Poverty does not always refer to our financial status. Recognizing the Lord in the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the prisoners, the sick, the innocent child, the unborn, the dying, the battered, the victim of persecution, the victim of torture, the down and out, the immigrant, the lonely and in ourselves is a good preparation to welcoming the Lord. Advent is a time of preparation. If we want to be prepared to meet the Lord in heaven or at the second coming, than we need to recognize Christ here and now in our city, parish, family, workplace and wherever we gather.

Blessed Liturgical Year 2023