

**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**

**ROSEMARY POLITO**

*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.

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**ON LINE & CREDIT CARD GIVING: [WWW.GIVECENTRAL.ORG/SHSS](http://WWW.GIVECENTRAL.ORG/SHSS)**

**RECTORY OFFICE HOURS**

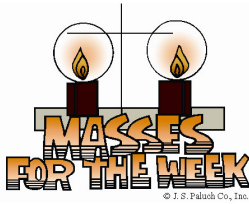
Monday thru Thursday 9:00 to 5:00 (Closed for Lunch from 1-2) Friday 9:00 to 2:00 Saturday 9:00 to 1:00

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.**

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- MON. MARCH 20, 2023**  
 8:30 Joseph F. Sgro  
 BY: Children, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren  
 Noon In Honor of St. Joseph (Bread Distribution)
- TUE. MARCH 21, 2023**  
 8:30 Josephine & Chris Rallis  
 BY: Jo's Brother Sal  
 7:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration & Prayer
- WED. MARCH 22, 2023**  
 8:30 Angel Julbe, Jr.  
 BY: Gloria Cannizzo & Family
- THURS. MARCH 23, 2023**  
 8:30 Josephine & Joseph Patti  
 BY: Family
- FRI. MARCH 24, 2023**  
 8:30 Peter Cataudella  
 BY: Santo & Josephine Gentile  
 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross
- SAT. MARCH 25 2023**  
 8:30 Phyllis Scotto  
 BY: Liz & Family  
 5:00 PM Emily Fasano  
 BY: Daughter Marie
- SUN. MARCH 26, 2023**  
 8:30 Recovery of Lisa Patti  
 10:00 Joseph, Concetta & Frank Foglia  
 Noon Isabella Tribrizio  
 BY: Bellantuono Family

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**



Sunday Collection 3/12	\$2,316.00
*Envelopes & cash	
On Line Donations	\$ 2,523.50
Total Sunday 3/12	\$ 4,839.50
Annual Weekly Expenses*	\$14,325.00
Difference:	\$ 9,485.50

\*\*Total annual expenses divided by 52 weeks



**CATECHISTS NEEDED**  
*Are you available to give some of your time to the planting and growing of our wonderful Catholic faith in the hearts and minds of the young people in our parish?*

*We are blessed with a growing enrollment!  
 We need Catechists for this year and planning for next year to meet the growing need.*

*Thank you, God!*

*Training is provided, and scheduling is flexible.  
 We are also in need of Special Education Teachers who would be willing to share their talents for small groups or one-to-one catechetical instruction. Spread the word and ask a friend.*

*Please call the rectory if interested at  
 718-596-7750 or email Michele at*

[mtwomey.shss@gmail.com](mailto:mtwomey.shss@gmail.com).



Please join us on Tuesday, April 11th @ 7 PM in the Parish House. We will be discussing *All About Me* by Mel Brooks. For those of you who plan ahead, our next meeting will be May 2nd. We will be discussing *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot.

Please note our meeting day has changed to the first Tuesday of each month.

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,               | Sarina Mukhi        |
| Brad Hatry                      | Gertrude Zagarella  |
| Michelle Laquercia              | Irene Balen         |
| Santina Garbellotto             | John Nigro          |
| Salvatore Salerno               | John Primavera      |
| 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       |
| Dominick Aiello, Jr.            | Mark Carles         |
| Erica Concino                   | MaryAnn Kinczel     |
| Susan Hannan                    | Evan Marra          |
| Hector Jimenez                  | Darren Munio        |
| Sophia Rotunno                  | Frances Marra       |
| Philip Saraceno                 | Salvatore Aleo      |
| Maria Anjelica Patino Laquercia |                     |
| Michael Ostrowski               | Kathy Parasimo      |
| Butch Montevecchi               |                     |

**YOUR CHOIR NEEDS YOU!**



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All adults are invited to join our Parish Choir for the spring season. The adults' choir began on March 1st. The Sacred Heart Children's Choir is already in progress and still accepting new members. Choirs meet in the church on Wednesdays:

Children at 5:45 and Adults (starting on March 1st) at 7:00 PM.

Now is the perfect time to join the Choirs. Visit the organ loft to speak with Jim or Jen or sign up by email to SHSSmusic@gmail.com. Singing together builds friendships, faith, confidence, poise, a love of music and so many good things.

Come sing with us!

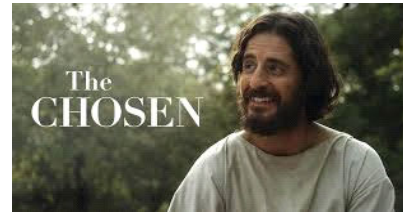


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**Our Church is open each Wednesday from noon until 2:00 PM for private prayer. You are encouraged to stop by for**

**this quiet time with the Lord.**

**We hope to see you there!**



*Join us for Soup, A Movie & Discussion  
Monday Evenings During Lent  
3/20, 3/27 & 4/2*

6:30 PM Holy Family Center

Movie *CHOSEN, Season One*

This Lent we are invited to turn our hearts back to Jesus. Why not come together with fellow parishioners to share an evening to break bread, watch a movie and participate in shared discussion about each episode's theme and lesson.

The movie THE CHOSEN follows Jesus as he calls his disciples, shares with the needy, heals the sick and offers the greatest sacrifice of all time, Himself for our salvation.

# From the Pastor

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Dear Parish Family,

Today is the Fourth Sunday in Lent. In the Gospel we meet the Man Born Blind. In this text a man blind from birth comes to see Jesus as the Messiah. The Gospel story tells us about his faith journey. When the Man Born Blind is first asked who healed him, he says the man named Jesus healed him. The second time he is asked about Jesus, the Man Born Blind says that Jesus is a prophet. Finally, the Man Born Blind comes to believe that Jesus is the Son of Man. Thus, faith and insight into the identity of Jesus came gradually. The faith grew in him through his thinking and reflecting. The questions posed to him and the answers he offered illustrate the development of the faith in the blind man's heart. Notice the development of this passage. The questioning of the Man Born Blind seems to resemble the questions put to Jesus during his passion. The presentation seems also similar to the questioning of Christians who are persecuted for their faith. Beware of the contrast between the leaders of the people and the Man Born Blind. With each question the blind man comes to a deeper insight into the identity of Jesus. While the leaders seem to be blinded to the identity of Jesus due to their hardness of heart, the blind man comes to the faith.

Baptism has been called in the ancient church, Illumination because faith gave us light to see beyond the literal or physical world. Faith enlightened the person. In the Letter to the Hebrews, we are told that faith is the conviction of things unseen. As we journey on to Easter and the renewal of our baptismal promises, what questions about the faith do you have? Do you struggle with some of the aspects of the faith? Has your faith grown over the years? May there be some blind spots in your thinking and perceptions of Jesus? Are there perception problems we may be having in seeing the truth about ourselves or someone we love? What actually blinded the leaders? Were they really blind? Were they fearful of Jesus? Did they think they would lose their privileged position? Were they afraid of change? The life of the Man Born Blind changes after he was given sight. He could no longer beg, he could no longer claim to be ignorant. He had to take on responsibility for his own life.

We are responsible for what we know. To know and understand is another way of being in the light. Ignorance is another way of being in the dark. Seeing can be a dangerous thing. If we confess Jesus, how does our life change? What attitudes in us need to change? What behaviors need to change in us if we profess our faith in the Lordship of Christ Jesus? What behaviors are not compatible with faith in the Lord? Lent calls us to deeper inner conversion to the mind and heart of Christ Jesus. Professing to believe in Christ carries a great responsibility. What prevents us from seeing? How do we see? Do we see what actually is or do we see what our minds wish us to see? God is light. In the Prologue of the Gospel of St. John, we read that Jesus is the light that the darkness cannot overcome. Do we really want to see?

Msgr. Guy A. Massie



## LENTEN FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

Lent is a great season of hope. It is the time of the year that the earth itself is preparing for new life. Lent is a call to renewal, renewal of our spirits, our lives and our very being.

The practices of Lent are motivated by renewal and hope. Fasting and abstinence 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, or 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 the 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 of spent can be given to the poor or given to help someone else.

To help you with Fasting and Abstinence, the Catholic Church requires all aged 14 and over not to eat meat on all the Fridays of Lent. This is to remind us of the death of Jesus on a Friday. Those aged 14 to 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 also 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 highly recommend that you join the parish on the days we have ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. The Blessed Sacrament is the real presence of Christ with us. I ask you to take this time to sit in the presence of the Lord. Allow this mysterious and wonderful sacrament to contemplate and you contemplate the Lord. Allow this to be a time of Growth for your Spirit.

I wish you a fruitful Lenten Season.

Msgr. Guy A. Massie