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# **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.

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**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.**

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# MASSSES for the WEEK

- MON. DECEMBER 17, 2018**  
 Noon Salvatore & Theresa Tilocca  
 BY: The Troiano Family
- TUE. DECEMBER 18, 2018**  
 8:30 Anthony Polito  
 BY: Carolyn & John
- WED. DECEMBER 19, 2018**  
 8:30 Angela & Antonio Caria  
 BY Marie Caria
- THURS. DECEMBER 20, 2018**  
 8:30 Domenico Dellaporte  
 BY: Catherine
- FRI. DECEMBER 21, 2018**  
 8:30 Nancy & Anthony Mennella  
 BY: Grandchildren
- SAT. DECEMBER 22, 2018**  
 8:30 Antonio Calamaro  
 BY: The Reca Family  
 5:30 Lucia Piro  
 BY: Her Grandchildren
- SUN. DECEMBER 23, 2018**  
 8:00 AM Richard O'Leary  
 BY: Louis & Angela Napoli  
 10:00 Deceased Members of  
 The Colella & Patti Family  
 BY: Loving Family  
 Noon Gertrude Zagarella  
 Birthday Remembrance (Deceased)  
 BY: Daughter Gertrude

## BOOK CLUB

Mark your calendars! Join us on Monday, January 7th @ 7:00 PM in the Parish House for the first book club meeting of 2019. We will be discussing **SMALL GREAT THINGS** by Jodi Picoult. All are welcome. We hope to see you there!

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Sunday Collection 12/9	\$ 3,560.00
Annual Weekly Expenses **	\$14,325.00
Difference:	\$10,765.00
** Total annual expenses divided by 52 weeks	
On Line Giving for the Month of November totaled \$2,851.55	



Bread & Wine for the week of 12/16/18 has been donated  
 In Loving Memory of  
**HELEN BOGUSZOWSKI**  
 BY: Madeline



Sanctuary Lamps for the week of 12/16/18 have been donated  
 In Loving Memory of  
**THERESA COSENZA**  
 By: M/M Andrew S. Moriello

## MORNING PRAYER

**JOIN US FOR MORNING PRAYER EVERY MORNING AT 8:00 AM-MONDAY TO SATURDAY AND 7:30 AM ON SUNDAY.**

Morning prayer is prayed in Transfiguration Chapel every day. Please do join us. Morning prayer consists of praying two Psalms, two canticles, a short reading and intercessions. The Morning prayer and the Liturgy of the Eucharist are part of the official prayer of the whole Church. The Morning prayer is different from day to day. We have books which we will guide you in using.

**ADORATION OF THE LORD AND THE EUCHARIST IS AN EXCELLENT WAY TO GET SOME PEACE IN YOUR DAY. JOIN US FOR ADORATION EVERY MONDAY FROM 11-12 IN THE TRANSFIGURATION CHAPEL SPEND QUIET TIME WITH THE LORD. IT CAN DE-STRESS YOUR DAY.**

## CHRISTMAS FLOWER AND WREATH SALE



St. Stephen's Men's Fellowship will once again have their annual Christmas Poinsettia, Wreath, centerpiece, greens and ornaments sale to begin on Saturday December 1st. These pieces are beautifully decorated and prices are great. We invite you to check them out!

# 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        |
| Judith DeArmen          | John Nigro          |
| Judith Miller           | Alissa Aquino       |
| Diane Barchuk           | Addy Wardrope       |
| Carol DeMairo           | Anthony Gambardella |
| Dominick Aiello, Jr.    | Anthony Turco       |
| Roe Gambardella         | Elizabeth Foley     |
| Ann Curcuru             | Dora Zanzonico      |
| Lamar McNabb            | Anna Maria Marino   |
| Carol Montelbano        |                     |
| Rev. Michael A. Carrano |                     |
| Anthony Manfre          | Theresa Colantonio  |
| Emma Huckerby           | Louis Janicke       |
| Louann Gambardella      | Robert Janicke      |
| Celeste Internicola     | Gina Salta          |

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH CORNER

### **PENTECOSTAL FOOD PANTRY ON SUMMIT STREET**

Do you know any families in need of food relief this holiday season? They can register at the Pentecostal Church on Summit Street, corner of Columbia Street to receive food through the church's weekly food pantry. Registration is on Sunday at noon. Food giveaways for registrants is on Sundays starting at noon. Food giveaways include cold and canned food, not hot meals. Please tell your friends and neighbors and share with those in need.

Looking for a way to volunteer in your community this season? Help the Pentecostal Church with their food pantry effort. Information about volunteer opportunities will be available soon—and YOU can make a difference!

## UPS AND DOWNS

We invite you to take a look at the recently installed elevator doors in the vestibule of the church. Doors are also now being installed at the Hicks Street entrance and in Cabrini Hall. The installation of the elevator is 90% complete and we are awaiting a replacement part to finish installation and request inspection from the NYC Department of Buildings. While the installation is completed, the contractor is placing finishing touches on the walls around each set of elevator doors in addition to many other finishes required by the Building Department. One such requirement was the installation of an elevator shaft vent which has been installed conspicuously on the outside façade of the church facing Hicks Street. Other improvements which will complete the project will include the installation of automated door openers on the exterior Hicks Street doors and the doors leading into the church at the elevator and proper signage letting people know where the elevator is. Remember that it is your support of the Generations of Faith Campaign which has allowed this work to be done. We have currently received \$495,794 of the \$783,765 pledged to the campaign. While it is true that we have received over 60% of the pledged amount, due to the money that was first allocated to the Diocese, we have only received 48% of the money needed to complete our elevator project. If you have made a pledge to Generations of Faith, please continue to make your payments allowing us to fully fund our parish elevator. For those who may have made a pledge but are behind in your payments and unable to fulfill your pledge, please consider calling the Catholic Foundation for Brooklyn and Queens and lowering your pledge to something that works with your budget. We look forward to setting a date to bless the completed elevator once all aspects of the project are finalized.



Tickets for New Year's Eve 2019 are now available for our Cabrini Hall Celebration. \$80. for Adults, \$35 for children ages 6-15.

Please e-mail Valerie Westhoff at [vwesthoff@aol.com](mailto:vwesthoff@aol.com) if you are interested.

# From the Pastor

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Dear Parish Family,

‘Rejoice in the Lord always,  
I shall say it again, rejoice’ (Philippians 4:4)

“Joyful, rejoicing, no thanks said the woman to the parish priest after Sunday Mass on the Third Sunday of Advent. “Father, my mother died this year, do you understand what loss is? My life will never be the same, I cannot even think of Christmas.” “Joyful, happy, wanting to celebrate a holiday, no me, I lost my job. I am in a terrible situation. I am only putting up a tree for our kids. I cannot be joy filled said the father of two children. It is into situations like these that we need to focus. The Good News of Christ breaks into the nights of our lives. God arrives in the mess of human experience. Do we have a cause for joy even in our darkest nights? The answer is yes. Yes because our God knows and experienced human frailty, rejection, poverty, rejection, marginalization, exile, pain, anguish, tension and even hatred. The cause of Joy is Jesus. You need not have to celebrate with a tree, great feasting or presents. You need not have to be told by the commercial world how to celebrate Christmas. You do need to have Christ in your heart. You do need to have Eucharist. You do need to know Christ to be filled with Joy even if you are weeping.

Today, the Third Sunday in Advent has traditionally been named Gaudete Sunday or Joyful Sunday. We light the pink candle on the Advent Wreath as a sign of the Joy brought by the coming of God among us. The cause of the Joy is the Lord. On December 17th, the Advent readings change direction and point us in the Great Mystery of the Incarnation. It is the Incarnation of God that is the cause of our joy, hope, faith and love.

Today all the readings present us with a message of hope, joy and expectation. We meet the Prophet Zephaniah during the reign of King Josiah from 640-609 BCE. He preached against the resurgence of idolatry which violated Israel’s covenant with God as well as Israel’s monotheistic faith. Zephaniah spoke about The Day of The Lord as being one of judgment and doom. Yet, in this portion of his writing, the prophet presents a message of great joy and mercy for all the faithful. In the second reading from Philippians, Paul urges the Philippians to be joyful and rejoice. Yet, Paul himself is in jail. It is not a good time for him. What allowed Paul to be so joyful? In the Gospel the people are filled with expectation. They thought that John the Baptist might be the Messiah. John must have been an attractive personality. He probably was a challenging and controversial speaker. He did have a great popular following. He was also ascetic. He possessed all the hallmarks of a holy man of the scriptures. It was reasonable for the people to think he might be the Messiah. Why this joy in the midst of Roman oppression and Temple controversy?

Joy describes this season. The reason for the Joy of Christmas is Jesus who is the Word of God made flesh. The Incarnation meaning that God the almighty, invisible, all powerful one, through whom and for whom all exists, reveals himself in our humanity to humanity. This is a mystery which refuses to be contained by any explanation. It is the reason for Christmas poetry, music and for the adaptation of pagan decoration for Christian usage. Jesus is the cause of our Joy. In the midst of suffering, Paul is joy filled because Jesus is near. Mary and Joseph are not happy in their circumstances, yet they are joy filled. Many of us have had and are still having difficult times. Money may be tight. Some of us are without work. Illness surrounds us. Military actions continue throughout the world. Fear of terrorism surrounds us. Violence seems to be on the increase. Hate speech is almost accepted. The leadership of the Catholic Church is in crisis. We are living in difficult times. Few things seem to be as we would prefer them to be. Even family members can be difficult and cause us not to be happy. Many find the pain of loss to be more acute at this time of the year.

Joy proceeds from our hearts outward. Nothing outside of us will bring us Joy. Happiness is here for a moment and disappears. Happiness is based on things outside of us going well. We are happy when all we plan comes to pass. We are happy we accomplished a task. Joy on the other hand is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22). Joy is rooted in our spiritual life. This life is based on a personal relationship to Jesus in the Eucharist, the Gospel and the Community. It is in our relationship with Christ that we can choose to let go of a hurt, forgive an offense and see something positive in another. It is in Christ that we can recognize hope in a difficult situation and even accept the mystery of unexplained hardship. Joy need not be an emotion. It is a choice. Can we choose to be joy filled and hope filled even when life’s situations are less than perfect?

Jesus the cause of our Joy be with us!

Msgr. Guy A. Massie

### GOSPEL EXPLANATION

A new Liturgical year 2019 begins today. This New Year gives us all an opportunity to start anew, to grow more deeply in the faith, and to build a closer relationship with the Lord in new ways.

#### THE GOSPEL OF SAINT LUKE

This New Liturgical Year is the year of St. Luke. This means that most of the Sunday Gospels will come from St. Luke's Gospel. We have a three year cycle of scripture. The cycles are A Year during which time we read the Gospel of St. Matthew, B Year during which time we read the Gospel of Mark and C year during which time we read the Gospel of St. Luke. The Gospel of St. John is read every year. It is dispersed throughout the Liturgical year. It is mostly read during Lent and Easter Seasons. During the coming year, most of the Sunday Gospels will come from the Gospel of St. Luke.

#### Points of Interest in the Gospel of St.Luke

The Gospel of St. Luke is sacred text that underscores the work of the Holy Spirit in the ministry of Jesus. Since the Gospel also emphasizes prayer, we will hear more about the prayer life of Jesus and his disciples. It is from this Gospel that we learn the Canticle of Zachariah prayed at Morning Prayer, the Canticle of Mary prayed at Evening Prayer and the Canticle of Simon prayed at Night Prayer. Women are more frequently mentioned in the Gospel of St. Luke. It is not surprising that the familiar stories of the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Presentation, the visit of the women to the tomb and many other portions which highlight the presence of women in the life of Jesus come from St. Luke. It is only from Luke that we learn that women assisted Jesus and his disciples financially.

The Gospel of St. Luke is the only text in the Bible written by a Gentile. It is possible that Luke was a convert brought into the Christian Community by St. Paul. If the Gospel writer is the same Luke to whom Paul refers to in his letters, then we know that Luke was a doctor. His Gospel writing shows the mercy of Jesus. Jesus is often shown healing the sick and forgiving sinners. It is from this Gospel we learn the story of the Prodigal Son, the good thief and many others.

The Gospel of St. Luke has a universal appeal. The genealogy of Jesus is traced to Adam, the first human being. In Matthew, who was concerned with establishing the Jewish background of Jesus, starts his genealogy of Jesus with Abraham. In the Gospel of Luke, the gentiles are often highlighted for their faith. It is the centurion who proclaims Jesus as the Son of God on Calvary, it is the Roman centurion who places faith in the word of Jesus and experiences the healing of his servant. The parables found in Luke underscore the theme that those who one expected to be of faith in the message of Jesus do not and those least likely to accept Christ come to faith.

The Gospel has a justice agenda as well as an evangelical theme. While the Romans accepted Judaism as a religion in the empire and allowed it to be practiced, Luke wanted the same recognition for Christianity. Luke, therefore, presents Christianity as a continuation of Judaism. Thus, the Temple of Jerusalem and the City of Jerusalem figure into the Divine plan. For Luke, the message of Christ will come from Jerusalem and go to the whole world.

Read the Gospel with the Church this year. Pray the Gospel and try to recognize these areas of the Gospel I have tried to highlight for you.

“Were not our hearts on fire as he explained the scriptures to us?”

**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

**NUMBER OF PAGES SENT**

Cover + 4 text pages + this page = 6

**SUNDAY DATE OF PUBLICATION**

December 16, 2018

**TRANSMISSION TIME**

Wednesday 1 PM