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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/Business Manager**

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. FEBRUARY 18, 2019**  
 Noon Joyce Sisto
- TUE. FEBRUARY 19, 2019**  
 8:30 In Honor of The Holy Spirit
- WED FEBRUARY 20, 2019**  
 8:30 For The Intentions of  
 All My Friends  
 BY Diane Vergona
- THURS. FEBRUARY 21, 2019**  
 8:30 Francesca Forte  
 BY: Her Parish Family
- FRI. FEBRUARY 22, 2019**  
 8:30 Angelo Vergona  
 BY: Loving Family
- SAT. FEBRUARY 23, 2019**  
 8:30 For The People of The Parish  
 5:30 Vincenza La Bella  
 BY: Husband Richard
- SUN FEBRUARY 24, 2019**  
 8:00 AM Jenny Russo  
 BY: Anthony & Camille  
 10:00 Theresa & Loretto Schiano  
 BY: Daughter Giustina Schiano  
 Noon Connie, Ernie & Joey Missoni  
 BY Loving Family

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Sunday Collection 2/10	\$ 3,475.00
Annual Weekly Expenses **	\$14,325.00
Difference:	\$10,850.00

\*\*Total annual expenses divided by 52 weeks  
 On Line Giving for the  
 Month of January totaled \$ 2,211.94



We have placed a Suggestion Box in the back of the church. We welcome your suggestions. Kindly place them in the box and be sure to include your name and contact information so we may discuss them with you. Your contact information may be in the form of your phone number or e-mail address.

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## TAX LETTERS

Tax Letters containing contributions given to Sacred Hearts and St. Stephen's Church for the 2018 Year are in the process of being mailed out. These statements are being sent to all registered parishioners using weekly envelopes. You do not have to call the Rectory to request a statement. In addition to the contribution information, you will find a tri-fold brochure containing information regarding the Parish's financial status for our fiscal year September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018. As always, we thank you for your support of our Parish!

## 40 DAYS OF CANS FOR 40 DAYS OF LENT

The Bishop Thomas V. Daily Council #17000 Knights of Columbus is coordinating a food drive for Lent—"40 Days of Cans for 40 Days of Lent." The canned food that will be collected will be donated to the food pantry at the Movement Pentecostal Christian Church on Summit Street. Donations of canned food will be collected beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing through every weekend during Lent. Donations boxes will be placed in the rear of the church.

Vivat Jesus!

Louis Pepe, Grand Knight  
 Knights of Columbus #17000



A big thank you to the members of the Sacred Hearts & St. Stephen Youth Choir for singing so beautifully at last Sunday's 10:00 AM Mass. Next Sunday, February 24th, the parish Adult Choir will lead the music at the 10:00 AM Mass. Would you like to sing in one of choirs? We are welcoming new singers of all ages! Please visit the choir loft after Mass today to talk with the organist.

# 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 |
| Rev. Michael Carrano | Anthony Turco       |
| Roe Gambardella      | Elizabeth Foley     |
| Ann Curcuru          | Dora Zanzonico      |
| Lamar McNabb         | Anna Maria Marino   |
| Carol Montelbano     | Gina Salta          |
| Anthony Manfre       | Celeste Internicola |
| Emma Huckerby        | Louis Janicke       |
| Louann Gambardella   | Robert Janicke      |
| Dominick Piro        | Dominick Aiello     |
| Erica Concino        | Bernadette Janicke  |
- Mary Therese Pugliese

## BOOK CLUB

Please join us on Monday, March 4th @ 7:00 in the Parish House. We will be discussing **A SPARK OF LIGHT** by Jodi Piccoult. We hope to see you there. For those of you who plan ahead, our next meeting will be on 4/1/19. We will be discussing **DAVID & GOLIATH** by Malcolm Gladwell  
All are welcome



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The Sanctuary Lamps for the week of February 17th have been donated

In Loving Memory of **FRANCES AZZARELLO**

At the request of  
Zarrello & Sferrazza Families



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Bread & Wine for the week of February 17th has been donated

In Loving Memory of **FRANCES AZZARELLO**  
By: Valerie, Tommy & Joseph

## UPS AND DOWNS

After correcting the minor issues which prevented the elevator project from passing the NYC Inspection on December 24th, the elevator company has called for a re-inspection of the elevator last week. This re-scheduling was delayed while the parish negotiated with the elevator company, Mobility, Inc. over a terrazzo step they damaged leading into Cabrini Hall during delivery of the elevator parts. Mobility, Inc. has accepted responsibility for the damage and has deducted the amount of replacing the step from our elevator costs. We have now paid Mobility, Inc. in full per our contract with them. Mobility believes once the NYC Department of buildings returns for the follow up inspection, we will be given permission to use the elevator. We have also ordered appropriate signage for the interior and exterior of the building indicating the levels and where the elevator is from Paul Signs. Remember that it is your support of the Generations of Faith Capital Campaign which has allowed this work to be done. We still need your financial support in order to continue all aspects of this project. There is still \$300,000 which was pledged by our parishioners but has not yet been paid. If you have made a pledge to Generations of Faith, please continue to make your payments allowing us to fully fund our parish elevator. We look forward to updating you further in the days ahead.

St. Joseph



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Sacred Hearts-St. Stephen Heritage Committee invites you to celebrate The Feast of St. Joseph with the traditional Tavolata di San Giuseppe on Tuesday March 10, 2019. Mass @6:00 PM followed by Tavolata in Cabrini Hall.

According to the legend, there was a famine in Sicily many centuries ago. The villagers prayed to St. Joseph, foster father of the Infant Savior, and asked his intercession before the throne of God. Their prayers were answered with the ending of the dreadful famine. A special feast of thanksgiving was held in commemoration of the Saint. Wealthy families prepared huge buffets, they then invited the less fortunate people of the village, especially the homeless and the sick to partake in the meal. This celebration became the tradition now known as Joseph's Table or La Tavolata di San Giuseppe. We invite everyone to participate in the SHSS Tavolata by bringing a specialty dish of your own on 3/19. Contact Concetta Lo Presti-Mazzella with any questions or if you would like to help. 917 364-7421

# From the Pastor

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Dear Parish Family,

The Liturgy of the Word this Sunday is most challenging. Two weeks ago I said in my homily that Christ may see things differently from the way we perceive the same realities. I also said that most of us create an image or mind set about Jesus which makes up happy. We may subscribe to God our own feelings and thoughts. At that time, I challenged this line of thinking. Today's readings seem to confirm that challenge.

In the Gospel reading from St. Luke, we are presented with the blessings and the woes of life. Notice how differently Jesus sees blessings and woes. In the reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, we are told that those who are blessed trust in the Lord. The responsorial psalm reinforces this theme by telling us that those who hope in the Lord are blessed. In the second reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, we hear the first written reference to the Resurrection of Christ which is the foundation and basis for the faith. What affect do these readings have on us?

All of us face difficult situations. Many struggle with health issues, job related pressures, medical issues, some face marital issues, social issues, mental and psychological issues. How do we hear Isaiah when he says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in human beings whose heart is turned away from the Lord...blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord." Does this mean we should simply pray our problems away? Should we not trust our doctors, or our advisors, or our medications, or those from whom we seek help? The answer I would give is that we may trust our doctors and medications and those who help us, however, we must remember that doctors and counselors and medications treat us, only God heals us. The believer must have God in the picture. It was God who created minds that have developed ways to help us. God works through humanity whether that is the doctor or the counselor. It is in God we trust when healing seemingly eludes us.

The issues of faith and the Gospel are very acute. In the Gospel Jesus addresses the woes and the blessings and they are reversed from what many of us would see as woes and blessings. Jesus sees things differently. For Jesus, those who are blessed are those who are poor, hungry, weeping and those hated for their faith in him. The woes are reserved for those who are rich, those who are filled, and those who are laughing now. Wow, is that not a reversal from the ways we were taught to think!

In the eyes of many, those who are wealthy are blessed. Wealth need not be economic. One may be rich in education and be self satisfied. One may be powerful in influence and position. One may be filled with self importance. Jesus is not impressed by these types. In the time of Jesus, it was believed that those who are wealthy in any way showed that God loved them. The approach of Jesus corrects this thinking.

Who is not poor in some way? Who is not hungry in some way? Who is not weeping in some way? Who is not in some way persecuted? The gospel invites us to get in touch with these sentiments in ourselves and allow ourselves to be people of mutual compassion. I can have money, influence, popularity and importance yet suffer from health issues, internally weeping over family riffs and longing to be free to discuss these personal issues with someone who can be trusted. Such a person has the opportunity to sympathize with others who experience the same difficulties. For this to happen, one must be in touch with one's poverty. One must be free to share one's poverty to be blessed.

The problem comes when those who feel privileged cannot see their own poverty. One may be blessed and rich in knowledge, well educated and accomplished and very proud of one's accomplishments and fail to see that one's knowledge and intellect is a gift, not a right. Such an attitude prohibits that person from sympathizing with the student who struggles to learn and the person who does not know. Such a superior attitude makes sharing one's knowledge very difficult. This is the attitude that Jesus sees as a woe. This person lacks compassion. One may be wealthy and be economically comfortable and not be moved by the plight of those who cannot afford medication or the necessities of life. Such a person may see himself as entitled rather than gifted. It is this attitude that the woes of Jesus are directed. Such a person lacks a heart. One may be spiritually blessed and have a fervent prayer life. One may be the super Catholic. Yet this same person is unable to see or understand the not so religious life of others. This one lacks compassion of the person who makes a mistake. Such a one is righteous in one's own sight but not in God's sight. In the eyes of God, we are all redeemed sinners.

In the mystery of the Incarnation, God descends to us and shares in our humanity. The more human we become, meaning the more compassionate, understanding, merciful, forgiving and zealous for justice we are, the closer to God we come. The way to do this is to admit our own dependence of God's grace.

Where are you most poor? Where in your life are you most regretful? Where in your life do you feel furthest from God? Who in your life was a person close to God and why?

Msgr. Guy A. Massie

**IMPORTANT**

**Please write to Governor Cuomo regarding the present abortion law. While you may not wish to give your name and address, now is the time to take a stand. Please write a letter, sign the letter and mail it to the Governor. Please also write to Joann Simon and state your view on this law. Not to resist this terrible law is to agree with it.**

**Governor Andrew Cuomo  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224**

**Phone 518– 474-8390**

**Assemblywoman Joann Simon  
341 Smith Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11231**

**Phone 718 246– 4889**

**CCD NEWS**

**OUTREACH TO GHANA: WINTER/SPRING 2019 ACTIVITIES**

During the month of February, the children in our CCD program will be crafting paper doll “saint” chains to send to our pen pals in Ghana. The chains will depict each student as well as the different patrons of our parish: St. Stephen, Mother Cabrini, etc. We’ll also be sending blank chains so that the children of St. Therese in Abor can make their own and send some back to us. Together we’ll create a visual picture of living as the Family of God, as part of the Communion of Saints.

As saints “in training,” the children will practice the discipline of Almsgiving during the season of Lent by participating in the Clean Water Project again this year. Their commitment will be to avoid specialty drinks and contribute the money saved toward a well drilling or other water collection project for Abor. If you would like to contribute/participate, you can stop in at any CCD session during Lent to get more information. Some of the older students/confirmation candidates will also be at the doors of the Church one or two weekends during Lent to sell WWJD (What Would Jesus Do? ) bracelets to raise money as well

**LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN**

As most of you know, each week at the 10:00 AM Mass there is a dismissal for children ages 4-8 for Children’s Liturgy of the Word. All parish children in pre-k through first grade, as well as children who have not yet received First Holy Communion are welcome to participate, whether or not they attend the CCD program. Guests and visitors are welcome as well. We also encourage some older children to visit occasionally to help out with the little ones.

Our weekly sessions have been very fruitful this year and we’d like to share some of the experiences with the families who participate. If your child participates in Children’s Liturgy, I invite you to share your contact information so we can keep you up to date with what’s happening each Sunday, as well as share suggestions of how you can “bring the message home.” Just come into the chapel during a session and fill out the sign up sheet, or send an email to [narkin1960@gmail.com](mailto:narkin1960@gmail.com). Thanks!

Nancy Arkin

**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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Cover + 4 text pages + this page = 6

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