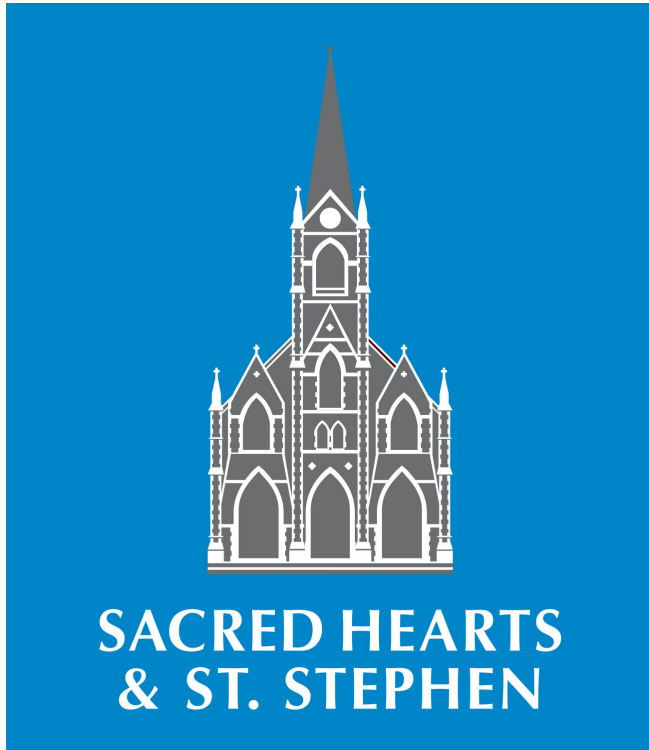

SACRED HEARTS & ST. STEPHEN R.C. CHURCH

WWW.SacredHearts-StStephen.com



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.

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.

MASSSES for the WEEK

- MON. APRIL 1, 2019**
 Noon Anna Massie
- TUE. APRIL 2, 2019**
 8:30 Carmine Graziani
 BY: Daughter Theresa
- WED APRIL 3, 2019**
 8:30 Ignazio DiNieri
 BY: The Reca Family
- THURS. APRIL 4, 2019**
 8:30 Lorianne Sgro Zodda
 BY: Her Parents Carolyn & John
- FRI. APRIL 5, 2019**
 8:30 Anna, Antonio, Ralph & Theresa Colantonio
 BY: Loving Family
 7:00 Stations of the Cross
- SAT. APRIL 6, 2019**
 8:30 Ruby Gaudino
 BY: Friends from Chic Elegance
 5:30 Deceased Members of The Del Re Family
 BY: The Colella Family
- SUN APRIL 7, 2019**
 8:00 AM Anna Ruggiero
 BY: Family
 10:00 Deceased of The Vergona & Polizzi Family
 BY: Loving Family
 Noon Raquel Casona
 BY: Judy & Jim De Arman

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Sunday Collection 3/24	\$ 2,999.00
Annual Weekly Expenses **	\$14,325.00
Difference:	\$11,1326.00

**Total annual expenses divided by 52 weeks
 On Line Giving for the
 Month of February totaled \$ 2,766.35

**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



Bread & Wine for the week of
 March 31 2019 has been donated
 In Loving Memory of
REV. PATRICK BURNS
 BY: The Dust Angels

**ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL
 2019**

PARISH GOAL: \$32,306.00
RAISED: \$ 6,030.00

The 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal supports the daily work of our Church throughout Brooklyn and Queens in ways no one parish can accomplish alone by supporting the following ministries:

- Catholic Charities; Hospital, College and Prison Chaplains; Diocesan Vocations Office, Catholic Migration Services, Parish Assistance Program, Office of Faith Formation;*
- Bishop Mugavero Residence for infirmed clergy, Futures in Education Scholarship Foundation.*

Please remain assured that your gift to the *Annual Catholic Appeal cannot be used in the settlement of abuse claims or for anything other than their above listed intended purpose.*

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	Mark Carles
	Louis Pepe

SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Thurs.	4/18 8:30 AM
	Morning Prayer
Friday	4/19 8:30 AM
	Morning Prayer
Friday	4/19 3:00 PM
	Passion of the Lord
Friday	4/19 7:00 PM
	Procession
Saturday	4/20 8:30 AM
	Morning Prayer
Saturday	4/20 8:00 PM Easter Vigil
Sunday	4/21 10:00AM Easter Mass
Sunday	4/21 12:00 PM Easter Mass

UPS AND DOWNS

After 2 1/2 years since beginning our church elevator project, on Friday, February 22nd, the NYC Buildings Department certified our church elevator for regular use. This is a great moment in the history of our parish as we make our worship and community space accessible to all who wish to worship regardless of their physical abilities. However, we have not yet completed our project. The installation of the automated door openers at the Hicks Street side and in the church have been ordered and are scheduled to be installed in the next 3 weeks. New signs for each floor and the outside of the building have been ordered and will be installed soon. Lastly, the marble wall covering in the lobby of the church and finishing paint around each of the landings must also be finished. At this time, it is once again appropriate to thank in a special way our architects Baxt Ingui Architects, P.C. who have donated of their services to this project including their project management staff. Remember that it is our 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 complete all aspects of this project. Parish donors have already paid \$581,665 of the \$783,765 pledged to the campaign. 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.

BOOK CLUB

Please join us on Monday, April 1st at 7:00 PM in the Parish House for an informal discussion about DAVID AND GOLIATH by Malcolm Gladwell. For those of you who plan ahead, our next meeting will be on Monday, May 6th. We will be discussing THE JAPANESE LOVER by Isabelle Allende. All are welcome! We hope to see you there!

From the Pastor

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Dear Parish Family,

The readings for the Fourth Sunday of Lent continue the Lenten theme of reconciliation. The Gospel reading presents us with a well known parable named: The Prodigal Son. In the second reading from 1Corinthians, Paul reminds us that: “Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away...” In the first reading from the Book of Joshua, God tells the Israelites that the reproach of Egypt is removed from them. The Israelites have arrived in the Promised Land. The Israelites in the Promised Land gather to remember the Passover and they now can eat the produce of their won land and the manna from heaven is now ended. They are a new people created anew in the image of God.

Reconciliation, whether it be with God, others or even with ourselves, makes us new people. This newness depends on our acceptance of the forgiveness received in the act of reconciliation. Look at today’s Gospel. Known as the story of the Prodigal Son, it can be named the story of the Prodigal Father. The word “prodigal” means lavish, extravagant. While the son was over-indulgent in his destructive lifestyle, the father is lavish and extravagant in his mercy and forgiveness. What does this story say about the heart of the father? How many parents have had their hearts broken by their children? What does the father really want? He wants his son back no matter what the son has done or did not do. What might this say about the heart of God our Father?

Parables are meant to be discussed since there are many ways to understand their meaning. To help us enter into the story, perhaps we can read the parable while keeping in mind some questions. When you hear this parable, what is your general feeling? Which of the two sons has a heartfelt relationship with the father? How do you feel about the older son? What might the father have felt when the younger son left? How is it that the father notices the young son coming while the son is still a long way off? What is the feeling about the father? Is the father too lenient with his younger son? What do you think about the father interceding with the older son on the younger son’s behalf? Does the older son love the father? Will the older son ever go to the party? Will the older ever accept the younger brother? Will the older son ever allow the younger son to forget his transgressions? Where do you see yourself in the story? The answers we give to these questions will tell us about our own spiritual journey with forgiveness.

Forgiveness of others is an important element in freeing us. Forgiveness comes about through grace, that is God’s life in us. There are some offenses which are very difficult to forgive. There are some wrongs against us that take a long time to forgive. While the parable speaks about the father forgiving the son: what about children in need of a parent? How does an adult child forgive a parent who was not a good parent? How does a child forgive an absentee father, an alcoholic parent, a parent addicted to drugs? How does a child forgive parents who were given to violence in the home? How does a child get on with his/her life no longer blaming the parents for one’s shortcomings? How does one forgive the hurts leading to a divorce? Yet to hold on to these hurts keeps one bound. Forgiveness frees us.

Perhaps a meditation on the Cross may help. Jesus suffers unjustly. He is abandoned by his disciples with whom he had a close relationship. Jesus is rejected by some of the religious leadership of his time. Jesus dies at the hands of the cruel Romans in a most painful death. Yet, in the end, Jesus forgives them and commends himself and his death to the Father. Have any of us experienced such rejection, hatred and pain as Christ did?

God loves us and God rejoices in our return to him. While many may not have grave moral issues as did the younger son, parts of our lives do get away from us at times. Anger, spitefulness, resentments, an inability to accept faults or weaknesses in ourselves, can keep us from growing in the Spirit. Remember there is no sin so grave that the light of the Resurrection of Christ cannot heal. Once forgiven by God, than forgive others who have wronged you and be free.

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 from food is an ancient Lenten practice. Fasting is 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. One 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 the Fasting and Abstinence, the Catholic Church requires all from the age of 14 and over not to eat meat on all the Fridays of Lent. This is to remind us of the death of Christ on a Friday. Those ages from 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 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 that you take time to sit in silence in the presence of the Lord. Allow this mysterious and wonderful sacrament to contemplate you and you to contemplate the Lord. Allow this to be a time of growth for your spirit.

Engaging the Mind during Lent

Let us Pray in the words Jesus gave us;

(30 minute discussions at 11:15 AM over three Sundays in the Chapel)

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

March 31st

LENTEN VESPERS 4:00 PM IN THE MAIN CHURCH

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

April 7th

Engaging the Soul During Lent

Stations of the Cross

April 5th Stations re-enacted by the **Children** of the Parish

April 12th Stations in the Ignatian spirituality

Eucharistic Adoration

April 1st For the Intentions of

.....The Pope

.....All orders and degrees of the faithful

April 9th For the intentions of those in tribulation

April 15th for the intentions of

.....those in public office

.....the Church

INFORMATION SHEET

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

Sacred Hearts & St. Stephen #875400

PHONE

718-596-7750

CONTACT PERSON

Rose Marie Foglia

SOFTWARE

Microsoft Publisher® 2002

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