
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:

8:30 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

MRS. NANCY ARKIN

Director of Faith Formation

Religious Education

JOHN HEYER, II

Pastoral Associate

ROSE MARIE FOGLIA

Administrator/Business Manager

JAMES LAKE

Parish Organist

JENNIFER WU

Choir Director

EVELYN TROESTER DEGRAF

Choir Director Emerita

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 3:00 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.**

MASSSES for the WEEK

- MON. DECEMBER 14, 2020**
 8:30 Connie, Ernie & Joey Missoni
 BY: Loving Family
- TUE. DECEMBER 15, 2020**
 8:30 Denise Diacomanolas
- WED. DECEMBER 16, 2020**
 8:30 Anthony Polito
 BY: Carolyn & John Zodda
- THURS. DECEMBER 17, 2020**
 8:30 Joseph & Elizabeth Trovato
 BY: Lenny & Jo-Ann Trovato
- FRI. DECEMBER 18, 2020**
 8:30 Angela & Antonio Caria
 BY: Daughter Marie
- SAT. DECEMBER 19, 2020**
 8:30 Carmine Graziani
 BY: Daughter Teresa
 5:00 PM Joseph Barbuto, Sr.
 BY: Mary Barbuto & Children
- SUN. DECEMBER 20, 2020**
 8:30 Giovanna Barerra
 BY: Loving Family
 10:00 Anthony Mazze
 BY: Wife, Children & Grandchildren
 Noon Deceased Members of
 The Piro Family
 BY: Lucia & Brigida Piro

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Sunday Collection 12/06	\$ 1,694.00*
*Envelopes & cash	
On Line Donations	\$ 2,358.00
Total Sunday 12/06	\$ 4,052.00
Annual Weekly Expenses**	\$14,325.00
Difference:	\$ 10,273.00

**Total annual expenses divided by 52 weeks

Financial Stewardship

For those who are financially able to continue to support the parish during this time, we encourage you to sign up for e-giving so that we may be able to continue the ministry of the church during this critical time.

Parish Religious Education & Catholic Schools

Regular parish CCD classes held on Sundays and Wednesdays are postponed for the time being. Likewise, all activities related to our children's faith-formation program such as the Sunday 7th grade seminar, Stations of the Cross practices, Confirmation mentoring sessions, and Child Lures training are also postponed for the time being.

The health of all the faithful of the parish is of utmost concern, so let us continue to pray to the Lord who is a healer to protect us and bring about quickly an end to this present crisis through the intercession of His Mother Mary under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

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, | Helena Rolla |
| Brad Hatry | Louis Pepe |
| Michelle Laquercia | Irene Balen |
| Dolly Vergona, | Gloria Heyer |
| Judith DeArmen | John Nigro |
| Judith Miller | Alissa Aquino |
| Diane Barchuk | Addy Wardrope |
| Carol DeMairo | Anthony Gambardella |
| Anthony Tilocca | Anthony Turco |
| Roe Gambardella | Elizabeth Foley |
| Ann Curcuru | Dora Zanzonico |
| Lamar McNabb | Louis D'Angelo |
| Carol Montelbano | Gina Salta |
| Anthony Manfre | Celeste Internicola |
| Emma Huckerby | Kristin Quail |
| Louann Gambardella | Robert Janicke |
| Dominick Aiello, Jr. | Mark Carles |
| Erica Concino | Bernadette Janicke |
| Mary Therese Pugliese | Evan Marra |
| Hector Jimenez | Darren Munio |

REACH OUT

During this difficult time, please take a moment to check on your neighbor, the elderly and the shut in to see how they are doing. Perhaps they may need an item from the grocery store, or someone to pick up their prescriptions, anything we are able to do for them would be appreciated. Sometimes all they need is conversation and that simply requires a phone call. These are unprecedented times and we are all in this together. Take some of the free time you may have to sit in prayer for all the world.



Bread and Wine for the week of December 13th has been donated

In Memory of
VINCENT MAGGIO
Requested by
Carolyn & John Zodda

HEARTSHARE TOY DRIVE

Due to Covid 19, HeartShare has announced they will be doing the collection of items differently this year. If you wish to write a check and mail it in, please do so by writing a check out to HeartShare Human Services and send it to HeartShare Human Services of New York, Attention Mario Principato, 12 Metrotech Center, 29th Floor, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201 or go to the www.heartshare.org/ and in the upper right corner, you will find a donate button. Once on the donate page, choose the tab indicating Donation Destination where there will be an option for Holiday 2020. Should you have any questions regarding this process, kindly direct them to Mario Principato at 718 422-3213. Thank you for your kindness and generosity to those in need, especially this year. God Bless You!!

From the Pastor

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Dear Parish Community,

Today is the Third Sunday in Advent. Traditionally this Sunday has been called Joyful Sunday. We light the pink candle today. Liturgically pink is a symbol of joy. In Latin this day was called Gaudate Sunday or joyful Sunday.

The readings speak to us about joy. In the first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, we read: "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me, he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor. I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in God is the joy of my soul..." While joy is proclaimed by the prophet, the real situation for the people was anything but joy. The exiles returned to find the community living in poverty and injustice. The Gospel reading comes to us from Mark. In this passage, John the Baptist is questioned by the religious leaders. It is not a happy moment for him. John, even when opposed, said that he has been sent to testify to the light. For John, darkness that seemed to veil all humanity was lifting and those who wanted that light are called to repentance. The responsorial psalm comes from Luke 1:46 and following. This is commonly known as Mary's Magnificat. In this great canticle, Mary is filled with joy as she says: "My soul rejoices in my God." Mary's situation could not have been worse. She is with child and not yet married living in ancient Israel. Her life is quite upset. Yet, she rejoices. In the second reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, Paul says: "Rejoice always." The situation faced by the Thessalonians is not an easy one. The community is divided and is in need of direction, yet Paul tells them to rejoice. How does one hear these readings?

What is the difference between Joy and happiness? Is there a difference? At this time of the year there are many people who are not happy. Some feel guilty because they are not happy. Some feel they cannot sing Christmas carols or attend parties because they are not in a happy mood. Others are going through the motions of being happy because their hearts are far from happiness. This year in particular presents a difficulty for many people. Grief, loss, fear, anger, emptiness, spiritual dryness are being experienced by many. Some have lost loved ones. Economically some have lost their employment. Nationally we seem to be a divided nation. Internationally there is constant threat of war and unrest. In our city there is the daily fear of violence. In light of these grave realities, how do we hear the message of joy?

Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (cf Galatians 5:22f). What is joy? Joy for our purpose may be defined as an abiding and pervasive sense of well-being. This is based on the faith that God is one, God is good and God knows me. The Joy of Christmas is found in Jesus. Jesus is the cause of our Joy. He is the cause of our Joy because he is God dwelling among us. In Jesus we see God revealed as one with us. (Emmanuel) In Jesus we see God as one who embraces the human experience with its joys, sufferings, unanswered questions and its struggles. We see in Jesus the God who conquers death in all of its forms. Joy is internal. It is not contingent on our surroundings. Joy has nothing to do with "everything being fine." One can be filled with joy yet be very sad. Joy that comes from the Lord is not like the happiness of the world.

Happiness is often dependent on the surroundings. We may be happy if we are healthy. We may be happy if all that we planned comes to pass. Happiness may come when things go the way we want. One can be happy and not be joy-filled. Happiness can be ruined if one detail is not executed perfectly correctly. Joy remains deep in our innermost being. Joy can be internal, silent and hope giving. Happiness can be external. I would think there was little happiness for Mary and Joseph on that first Christmas. Being in a stable, having a child born in a stable, surrounded by animals and strange people was not a happy situation. Yet, there was Joy. Christ comes not when things are perfect but when he is needed.

Christmas Joy is based on our faith not on a hallmark greeting card. Is Jesus the one who is to come into the world? If our answer is yes, then we have cause for joy even if we are weeping. If we are growing in the Spirit and see our lives as ordered to salvation, then the coming of Christ is a cause of our joy. We need not decorate. We need not put up the lights. We need not go to the parties. We need not put up a Christmas tree. However, we do need to celebrate our joy in the Christmas Mass. We do need to participate at the Eucharist. In the Eucharist resides the one who is the cause of our joy. Emmanuel, who is God with us, is the cause of our Joy and the reason for our hope. So no matter how you feel, how sad you may be, come to Eucharist, surround yourself with people, hear the singing of the carols of faith and find consolation, hope and yes, even joy in Christ.

Let us pray:

Father send us your gift of the Holy Spirit that we may rejoice in Jesus; God with us, even in suffering, disappointment and set back.

Blessings for Advent

THE SCRIPTURES OF ADVENT

We believe that Jesus the Christ has come. We believe that Jesus is God's Word made flesh and we believe that Jesus is the image of the invisible God. We believe that Jesus has not only begun the Kingdom of God on earth, but that Jesus is the Kingdom of God. While we believe this we also continue to pray for the Kingdom of God to come every time we pray the Lord's Prayer. Thus, while the Kingdom is here, it is not complete. We want Jesus to come again and bring the Kingdom to fulfillment. What do we mean by the Kingdom of God? We mean when God may rule the earth. We mean when all hatred stops, when there is harmony among humanity, the cosmos and total reconciliation with God for all people of good will. We wait even to this day for this Kingdom to come.

HOW TO HEAR THE ADVENT READINGS

Listen to the readings again for the first time. Listen to the readings in our time. Listen to the readings with our recent experience of the Covid and with our longing to have this virus gone. Listen to the readings in light of the many financial problems faced by many. Hear these readings in light of our hopes for health and well being. Listen to them in light of the social discontent in our city. Listen to the readings in light of your own yearnings for better times to come.

The readings reflect this waiting. In the first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah we can almost hear and feel the frustration, longing and even anger of the writer as he pours out his heart. Longing, waiting, expecting, looking forward to, making up a dream sheet can be ways to understand the meaning of Advent. Many of us experience a need for fulfillment. Many have a need for inner peace and contentment. Many of us want our problems to cease. Some long just to be. Many are longing for an end to ambiguity in their lives. Health issues, job issues and sudden changes seem to highlight many of human dreams and needs at this time. Some of us are just unhappy longing for a life that used to be when we were in a different place. Instead of masking all these issues in the jingle bells and parties and pretending happiness, why not take these feelings to prayer in this Advent Season. Why not make your discontent and longing prayer.

THE PEOPLE OF ADVENT

The people we will meet in the Advent texts are well known to us. We will meet Isaiah who is the major prophet of the season, although not the only prophet. Isaiah will speak to us about our longings and our absence of fulfillment but also about hope. St. Paul will speak to us of the last things and point us to the coming of Jesus again at the end of time. John the Baptist will articulate our need for salvation from sin and from ourselves, our narcissism and point out Jesus who is the answer to life's questions and struggles. Mary is the major person whose life is turned upside down and waits for God again in her life. Not only does this great mother wait for the birth of Jesus, she waits also to understand God's great plan of salvation. This is the Mother who is our Advent companion. She will point us to Christ. She will pray for us and we will go to Jesus through her.

I wish you a great Advent Season and Blessed New Liturgical Year 2021.

Msgr. Guy A. Massie

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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**KINDLY SEND ONLY 100 ‘
BULLETINS. THANK YOU!
STAY SAFE!**