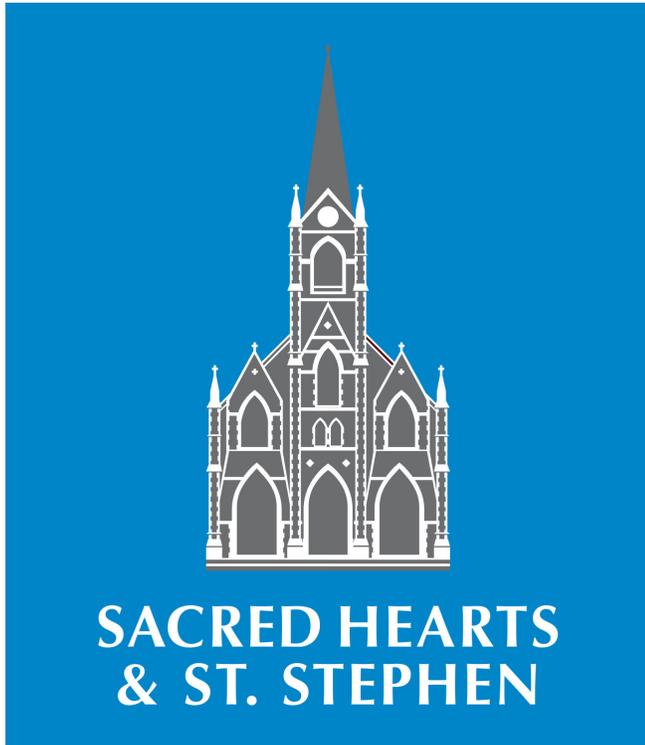

SACRED HEARTS & ST. STEPHEN R.C. CHURCH

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.**



MON. FEBRUARY 15, 2021
 8:30 Janine Fuentes Martinez
 BY: The Russo Family

TUE. FEBRUARY 16, 2021
 8:30 Felice & Anna Tesoriero &
 Their Family
 BY: Grandchildren

WED FEBRUARY 17, 2021
ASH WEDNESDAY
 7:30 AM Prayer Service
 8:00 AM Prayer Service
 8:30 Janet Illiano Ciaccoppoli
 BY: Michael & Evan
 Noon Kevin Sheehan
 BY: Wife & Son
 3:45PM Prayer Service
 6:00 PM Prayer Service

THURS. FEBRUARY 18, 2021
 8:30 Joyce Sisto

FRI. FEBRUARY 19, 2021
 8:30 Holy Spirit
 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

SAT. FEBRUARY 20, 2021
 8:30 Sylvia & Mary Anne Caria
 BY: Marie Caria
 5:00 PM In Thanksgiving for our
 45th Wedding Anniversary
 BY: LouAnne & Michael Manus

SUN FEBRUARY 21, 2021
 8:30 Russel Meckaluk
 BY: Dittus Family
 10:00 Concetta Di Mauro
 BY: Joseph Di Mauro
 Noon Mary Susino
 BY: Tina & Nick Cinalli

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Sunday Collection 2/07	\$ 2,133.00*
*Envelopes & cash	
On Line Donations	\$ 1,098.00
Total Sunday 2/07	\$ 3,231.00
Annual Weekly Expenses **	\$14,325.00
Difference:	\$ 11,094.00
**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.

CRIME PREVENTION FOR SENIORS

Basic Safety Tips

- ◇ While walking, try to do so in groups and in well lit areas. Try to stay on main streets with other pedestrians around you.
- ◇ When walking, if someone attempts to snatch your pocketbook, let go of it. It can be replaced.
- ◇ When you are driven home, ask the driver to wait until you are safely inside your residence.
- ◇ If someone bumps into you while shopping or walking in a crowd, be aware that this action might be related to a pickpocket.
- ◇ Have your keys in hand as you approach your home. This will allow you to unlock the door without delay.
- ◇ Always carry identification and have a list of your medication with doctor's contact information with you at all times. Also carry a list of medications and food that you are allergic to.

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 |



Bread & Wine for the week of February 14th has been donated

In Loving Memory of

ANNE "BABE" IACONO

BY: Carolyn & John Zodda



The Sanctuary Lamps for the week of February 14th have been donated

In Loving Memory of

ANNE "BABE" IACONO"

BY: Carolyn & Andrew Schiano-Moriello

FEBRUARY IS AMERICAN HEART MONTH

Traditionally the month of February focuses on prevention and treatment of heart disease and related heart conditions. This February we are going to focus on "the **mind-heart-body connection**" with easy daily practices to open our minds to our heart, and our heart to our mind.

The mind heart-body connection influences how we react to everyday emotions. Our thoughts and actions impact how we feel and how our heart and body respond. Emotional thoughts of happiness or sadness, being content or stressed, relaxed or scared, causes our heart to beat too fast or too slow, and our body to react by our muscles getting tense or we fight or run. High blood pressure, elevated heart rates, high/low sugar levels lead to illness and disease. Positive thoughts and emotions have happy health benefits by reducing stress, anxiety and lowering blood pressure and sugar levels.

Remember, the mind controls the body, and the body reacts to the mind, so let us.....

"BE MINDFUL" to keep your heart healthy with harmony and peace.

- Pray, think ask, pray again. Speak how you feel and give it up to God.
- Before responding...stop, drop your shoulders and breathe slowly and deeply.
- Before reacting...be still, breathe, focus, think safety and positivity.
- Be aware of negative thoughts...replace it with a prayer, a song and positivity.
- Feel like crying..go ahead and have a good cry!
- Set an intention and goal of positive thoughts and actions.
- Feeling down, volunteer, write a letter, keep a journal, help a friend or a stranger!
- Check your blood pressure.
- Check your heart rate.
- Laugh, Dance and get moving!

Planning a food menu? Food shopping? Dining out? Look for the familiar American Heart Association symbol on packing or menu.

Do you know your risk for heart disease/ Visit www.heart.org to evaluate your risk and always consult your health care provider!

Be Well, Stay Safe, Spread Kindness & God Bless us everyone! Peace, Sondra, RN

From the Pastor

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Dear Parish Community:

Today, the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, we are again given an epiphany. Jesus heals a man with leprosy. While this is a short story, it is filled with inspiration. Leprosy was and is a terrible disease. It is a disfiguring illness. In the time of Jesus, those suffering with this affliction were rendered outcast. The leper could not come into the village, enter the marketplace or even gather with the people for worship. The leper was isolated. The leper lived either alone or with other lepers. The reason for this was fear. The society of the time believed that the leper could infect the healthy. Touching a leper was forbidden by the Law of Moses. Those who touched the leper were also suspect of being carriers of the illness. While this sounds harsh, these regulations were for the good and protection of the society of the time. Today we may reference the way the medical profession is treating Ebola. Such infections are not totally understood and precaution is necessary.

In the gospel, the leper falls at the feet of Jesus and says “ if you wish you can make me clean.” The leper wants his life to change. He is open to healing and the change. The leper has touched the heart of Jesus. Jesus is moved by compassion and touches the leper and heals him. This is a dramatic event. The leper is faith filled. He believes in the power of Jesus to heal. The leper is courageous. He goes directly to Jesus and trusts that Jesus will not run from him. Jesus also shows great courage in touching the leper. In touching the leper, Jesus heals him, returns the leper to society and ironically now, Jesus the healer is recognized as unclean by the society of his time. In short, Jesus has traded places with the leper. (Jesus will trade places with all of humanity on Calvary when he becomes sin for us to save us.)

This event tells me that Jesus is moved by his heart than the protocol of his time. It tells me that Jesus is willing to touch humanity in areas in which we need healing. This Gospel is a good introduction to the season of Lent. Sin disfigures us. We are created for God. Sin takes away the beauty of a soul and a spirit. The Sacrament of Reconciliation allows us to be refigured. Lent is the time to hear the call to come home to this sacrament. Many may be embarrassed to admit their sins. Many may feel afraid of approaching this sacrament of mercy. Look at this Gospel reading. No sin is so ugly, no sin is so dark and no sin is so horrendous that it cannot be healed through the mercy of God. Everyone, again, everyone, laity and priests are called to this Sacrament of Mercy. The priest is not perfect, he also knows his weaknesses and how dependent he is on the mercy of God. This allows him to hear confessions with mildness and kindness.

The healing of the leper tells me that the Mystery of the Incarnation of God among us experienced in Jesus is willing to touch us in the places in our lives we see ourselves as most ugly and most unholy. Jesus will go to places deep within us that no one else will go. Jesus is the light who came into the world and the darkness will not overcome this light.

Nothing is far from the mercy that comes to us in Jesus. Nothing is hidden from the eyes of God’s mercy. For all those who feel that God will not look at them, for those who live with shame, disgrace and regret, hear, read and memorize this Gospel. The leper wanted a change in his life. He was open to the mercy of Jesus. Can we do the same?

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 abstaining 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 that 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 spend can be given to the poor or given to help someone else.

To help you with Fasting and Abstinence, the Catholic Church requires all age 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 a 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 suffering 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 take time to sit in silence in the presence of the Lord. Allow this mysterious and wonderful sacrament to contemplate you and you contemplate the Lord. Allowing this Adoration of the Sacrament will make celebration of the Eucharist more meaningful. Allow this time to be a time of growth for your Spirit.

I wish you a fruitful Lenten Season.

Msgr. Guy A. Massie