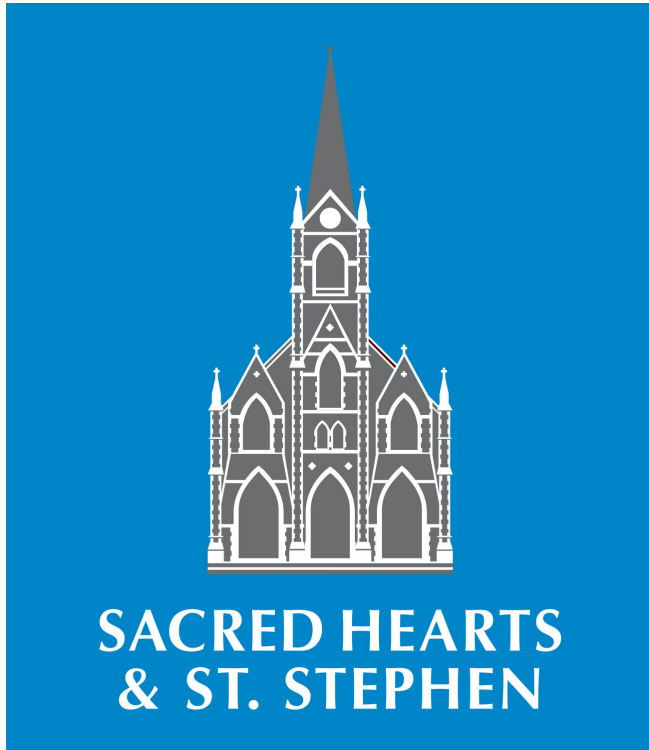


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# **SACRED HEARTS & ST. STEPHEN R.C. CHURCH**

**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.

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**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.**

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- MON. MARCH 1, 2021**  
 8:30 Margaret A. Barbati  
 BY: The Gessler Family
- TUE. MARCH 2, 2021**  
 8:30 Rose Marie & Frank Dellaporte  
 & Ciro & Jenny Oliviero
- WED MARCH 3, 2021**  
 8:30 AM Sebastian DiMauro  
 BY: Lucy DiMauro
- THURS. MARCH 4, 2021**  
 8:30 Rev. Vincent Termine
- FRI. MARCH 5, 2021**  
 8:30 Lia & Joseph Cerato  
 BY: Cerato & Andruzzi Families  
 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross
- SAT. MARCH 6, 2021**  
 8:30 Joseph Trovato  
 BY: Lenny & JoAnn Trovato  
 5:00 PM Russel Mechaluk  
 BY: The Delgado Family
- SUN MARCH 7, 2021**  
 8:30 Raymond Beshara  
 BY: Nancy & Ernest Mingione  
 10:00 Connie, Ernie & Joey Missoni  
 BY: Loving Family  
 Noon Marie Hertsel  
 BY: Daughter & Family

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Sunday Collection 2/21	\$ 2,299.00*
*Envelopes & cash	
On Line Donations	\$ 3,238.00
Total Sunday 2/21	\$ 5,537.00
Annual Weekly Expenses**	\$14,325.00
Difference:	\$ 8,788.00
***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**

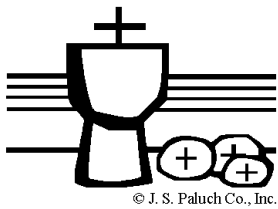
**Basic Safety Tips**

- ◇ 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        |
- John Esposito



Bread & Wine for the week of February 21st has been donated In Loving Memory of **LUCY PIRO** BY: Michael & LouAnne Manus

## 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](http://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

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Dear Parish Family:

## From Transfiguration to Disfiguration to Glorification

Today, the Second Sunday in Lent, the readings invite us to consider the topics of trust and faith. Do we trust in the glory that is now hidden from our eyes? Can we trust God? Is it reasonable to believe? In the first reading from the Book of Genesis, we meet Abraham. Abraham as you remember is called our father in faith because God revealed himself to him and he believed. In the Book of Genesis we learn that God promised to make Abraham a great nation. When God called Abraham, Abraham was already old. God promised that even in his old age, he would have a son. Abraham believed God. The promise of a son takes a long while to fulfill but it does happen. God made good on his promise. Isaac is born even though Abraham's wife Sarah was elderly. Isaac understandably is Abraham's pride and joy. Isaac was the sign that Abraham had a future. He has a son who would be his heir.

In today's reading, the unthinkable happens. God puts Abraham to a test. God requests that Abraham sacrifice his only son. Imagine, just imagine the reaction of Abraham. How can this be? God promised that I would have a son. God promised that my descendants would be a great nation. How can God allow this to happen? Was there something greater at stake here which Abraham did not yet see?

In the Gospel we read about the Transfiguration. This is a mysterious revelation. Peter, James and John witness an event in the life of Jesus in which the curtain between our world and the divine seems to open for a brief moment. The disciples see the glory of Christ. The event has Paschal overtones. They realize that Jesus is the one to whom the law, represented by Moses and the prophets and Elijah are awaiting. These are the very same apostles who will see the disfiguration of Jesus in his Passion and Death. Imagine their confusion, their questions and their disillusionment. How can the glory of the Transfiguration become the horror of the disfigured on the cross? How can this happen? Why did this happen? Why would God allow such a thing to happen? This Jesus is the one who they believed, who they loved, who made promises of everlasting life to them. What happened? Was there something that the apostles were missing?

How often have you heard the story? How often have you experienced a moment when all seems lost? How often may you have felt disappointed by God? Do these questions sound familiar? This man was so good to everyone and yet he comes down with a cancer. My son was so young and he dies, why? Why not me, not him? We did everything right, we followed the rules, we were honest, we attended Mass, said our prayers, we prayed for protection and what happened? We feel that God is not on our side. Have we missed something?

Abraham, the apostles and we also miss something. We miss the hidden glory. Abraham was put to the test. God knew Abraham's faith, but did Abraham know his faith? Could he trust? The apostles on the Friday Jesus died had their faith tested. They could not see beyond the cross to the redemption the cross accomplished. We too when faced with setback, disappointment, innocent suffering, need to keep in mind that somehow God is accomplishing our redemption. We need to remind ourselves and each other that for every cross there is a resurrection. We come to mass to celebrate the Eucharist, to be reminded that its only through the cross that we come to Resurrection and Glorification of God. The life of Christ is a map for our own lives. As he did, so will we. For every cross there is a Resurrection. Do we believe this simple truth?

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