

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:

8:30 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

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

REV. NGOZI
Prison Chaplain (In Residence)

MRS. NANCY ARKIN
Director of Faith Formation

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.**

Mass Intentions For The Week

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MON. MARCH 29, 2021
8:30 In Thanksgiving for the Intercession of
Blessed Fr. Michael J. McGivney
BY: Louis Pepe

TUE. MARCH 30, 2021
8:30 Felice Coria
BY: The Reca & Heyer Family

WED MARCH 31, 2021
8:30 AM Elizabeth Trovato
BY: Lenny & Jo Ann Trovato

THURS. APRIL 1, 2021 Holy Thursday
8:30 Morning Prayer
7:00 PM Solemn Celebration of
The Lord's Last Supper

FRI. APRIL 2, 2021-Good Friday
8:30 Morning Prayer
3:00 PM Liturgy of The Death of Christ
7:00 PM Procession Inside the Church

SAT. APRIL 3, 2021 -Easter Saturday Vigil
8:30 Morning Prayer
8:00 PM Easter Vigil

SUN APRIL 4, 2021
10:00 Easter Sunday Mass
Noon Easter Sunday Mass

FINANCIAL INFORMATION



Sunday Collection 3/14	\$ 2,276.00*
*Envelopes & cash	
On Line Donations	\$ 2,538.00
Total Sunday 3/14	\$ 4,814.00
Annual Weekly Expenses**	\$14,325.00
Difference:	\$9,511.00

**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.



of **Annual Catholic
Appeal 2021**
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

The 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal supports the mission our parish and the daily work of the

Church in Brooklyn and Queens in ways no one parish can accomplish alone by supporting the following ministries:

- Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative
- Catholic Charities
- Hospital, College & Prison Chaplains
- Diocesan Vocations Office
- Catholic Migration Services
- Office of Faith Formation
- Bishop Mugavero Residence for infirmed clergy
- Futures in Education Scholarship Foundation

All donations made to the ACA above our Parish Goal are returned directly back to our parish for operations and improvements.





Pray For

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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 | Alicia 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



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Bread & Wine for the week of March 28th has been donated

In Loving Memory of

LUCY PIRO

BY: Carolyn & John Zodda



You're Invited

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Please join us on Monday, 4/12 @7:00PM in the Parish House for an informal discussion about THE MERCIES by Kiran

Millwood Hargrave. For those of you who plan ahead, our next meeting will be on May 3rd. We will be discussing MERCY HOUSE by Alena Dillon. All are welcome.

**MARCH..IN LIKEA LION
OUT LIKE A LAMB?**

In the United States March brings awareness of a few health battles that we must battle like "lions" with the proper awareness, diagnosis and treatment, for our health to be gentle as a "lamb." This March let us focus on the safety and bring awareness to :

- **Brain injury**
- ◇Adults and children should be properly fitted for helmets.
- ◇Buckle up for safety in all moving vehicles.
- **Poison Awareness**
- ◇Check for expiration dates on all medication and foods.
- ◇Lock cabinets and doors where you store poisonous cleaners and bio-hazardous material.
- ◇Locate and post the poison control numbers on your fridge and in your phones for humans and animals.
- **National Sleep Awareness**
- ◇Take a nap!
- ◇Go to bed at the same time each night and wake up the same time each day.
- ◇Rest in between
- ◇Set the temperature to be cool in the bedroom (promotes sleep)
- ◇Shut the TV, turn on calm music
- ◇Leave your cell phone in another room

Specific Days of Awareness

- Kick Butt Day on Friday March 19th
- ◇Great day to stop smoking! Ask a friend or family member to join in support!
- ◇Do not be shy, prayer helps!
- ◇Reach out for support!
- <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/smoking-nyc-qa.page>
- Call 866-NY-QUITS (866-697-8487)
- American Diabetes Alert Day March 23rd
- ◇Know your A1C and fasting glucose levels
- ◇Exchange white for brown in bread, flour, pasta
- <https://www.diabetesfoodhub.org/articles/budget-friendly-meal-plan-and-tips.html>
- <https://www.diabetes.org/>
- <https://diabetes.org/newsroom/press-release/COVID-19-brings-crisis-of-access-for-millions-living-with-diabetes>

In closing, let us remember March 1 marks one year since the first US diagnosis of COVID-19.

This March came upon us...wet, windy and weeping and my prayer is for March to go out as Sunny Spring!

Sondra Rivera, RN

From the Pastor

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Dear Parish Community:

Why is this week called HOLY WEEK?

Holy Week is the week proceeding Easter. It is the week which celebrates the recreation of the world. Just as the first week of creation recalled in Genesis brought the universe into existence, Holy Week remembers the recreation of a new world redeemed by Christ. The Passion of the Lord most clearly shows us that God

moved by love has poured himself out on our behalf. This is called Kenosis or the emptying of God out of love for us. This outpouring of God is seen throughout salvation history. In the story of creation God breathes on the waters, thus pouring out his Spirit of life in the world. This outpouring of God is most perfectly seen in the Incarnation of God among us through Christ Jesus. The life of Jesus is one of self-giving and outpouring. Jesus is faithful to his ministry and to his divine identity. Where Adam and Eve, who in the Book of Genesis, are not faithful to God. Jesus is faithful and thus redeems their unfaithfulness. Adam represents every man and Eve represents every woman. Together they represent all humanity. Jesus by his faithfulness even in the light of suffering and death undoes or redeems humanity. Thus, Holy Week is time to meditate and realize how God has loved us. Why would God sacrifice himself for us?

The week begins with Passion (Palm) Sunday. Passion Sunday begins with the blessing of the Palms. The Procession of the Palms around the Church recalls the entrance of Jesus into the City of Jerusalem. The Palm branch signifies victory. It is the ancient equivalent of a “ticker-tape” parade. The carrying of the Palm following the Cross is a promise to follow Christ faithfully. Iconography, martyrs are often shown holding a Palm branch as a sign of their victory over suffering and death for Christ. Look at the statue of St. Stephen and St. Lucy in church. They both hold palm branches. Palms are often brought to the graves of those we love. The palm in the cemetery is a sign of one who believes in the Resurrection of Christ and of Christ’s victory over death. It is the hope of all Christians that we too will enter into Christ’s victory over death. Palm in some cultures are also a sign of peace and reconciliation. If one has had a falling out with someone, the offering of Palm was a sign of reconciliation prior to Easter.

The Liturgy of Holy Thursday is in the evening. While every celebration of the Eucharist celebrates the supper of the Lord, Mass on Holy Thursday recalls the events of the night before Jesus died in a special way. The Institution of the Holy Eucharist, the Institution of the Priesthood, the Washing of the feet and the Procession with the Eucharist is Christ poured out for us. Notice the self-giving of Christ and pouring out of the Blood of Christ at communion time. The washing of the feet is pouring out in service to others. The command to “Do this in memory of me” commands the Apostles to celebrate the Eucharist and to serve as Christ served as a self pouring out. What is the response to the gift of God’s self to us? We should be awe struck. Silence, adoration, thankfulness leads us to adoration of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

The Liturgy of Good Friday is solemn. If Holy Thursday points to the sacramental outpouring of the Lord, then Good Friday points to the graphic emptying of Christ. Christ gives us his life, body and spirit. He faces the cruelty of death, betrayal, pain, abandonment and humiliation. The Passion Narrative tells it all. It illustrates the words of the prologue of the Gospel of John: “The Word was made flesh” and the great Kenosis hymn found in Philippians 2 “Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather he emptied himself.” The Good Friday Liturgy shows that Christ the innocent has taken on the sins of the world and redeemed us. Christ in the words of St. Paul became sin for us to redeem us. In light of the Death of Christ, we stand in awe and profound silence. For God in Christ loved us while we were sinners and died for us. What more can be said in the light of the Crucified Lord?

Christ redeems us through his humanity which remains faithful to God. Throughout salvation history, humanity has not been faithful to God. Beginning in the Garden of Eden, the story of Adam who represents all men and Eve who represents all woman together they make all humanity has not been faithful to God. The prophets who were sent by God were rejected by the leadership of the people. Unfaithfulness is sin. Jesus in his humanity remains faithful to the point of death even death on the cross. Jesus’ faithfulness undoes or redeems our unfaithfulness. Therefore, we can say that our sins are forgiven not by our efforts or merits, but rather through the merits of Christ’s faithfulness.

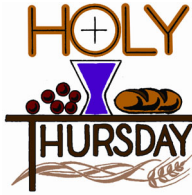
The cross is made when a vertical and horizontal meet. Sometimes we become too accustomed to seeing a crucifix that we fail to see the suffering it represents. It was a death reserved for the worst criminals. According to a medical reading of the death of Christ, not one part of the body of Christ was left without a wound. The scourging that preceded the crucifixion was designed to flay the skin of his back. The Romans were very harsh people with no compassion. The very act of crucifixion was savage. In the face of the suffering and mental anguish which Jesus endured, how can anyone who believes in Christ continue to sin? See your sufferings as a small share in the sufferings of Christ. See the sufferings of Christ in the suffering of the innocents. Find the sufferings of Christ in the Christians and others who are persecuted for no reason except for who they are. Find the cross in the suffering of the elderly and the vulnerable. The Stations of the Cross are real and alive in the lives of many of us.

Holy Saturday is a day of great silence in the Church. Mass is not celebrated. Sacraments are not celebrated. The Blessed Sacrament is not reserved in Church. We are called to face the meaning of the death of Christ in our lives. In the face of such love, how can anyone remain unmoved? The Liturgy of Easter Vigil begins at night with the kindling of the New Fire and the Easter Proclamation: “Rejoice heavenly powers....” The Easter Liturgy and the Easter Season announces the Resurrection of Christ. Our world is redeemed in the shedding of the Blood of Christ. For those who believe in Christ, good always triumphs, truth always wins the day, life is victorious over death. The celebration of the Eucharist which has not been celebrated since Thursday night, the replacing of the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle, the Easter Gospel announcing the Resurrection of Christ, the renewal of our baptismal promises are some of the points of the Liturgy of Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday.

Easter Sunday is the reason why we go to mass every Sunday. It is the reason of our hope. Easter is the founding event of the Christian People of every denomination. It is this great Paschal Mystery which gives meaning to our lives.

Join in the celebration of Christ our Hope.

Msgr. Guy A. Massie



TO ALL

The Jewish People and the Passion narratives present us with a need for a pastoral note. The Passion Narratives in no way justifies anti-Semitism nor any persecution of the Jews of our day or any other day. Keeping with the Teachings of the Catholic Church as explained at Vatican II in the document *Nostra Aetate* (In Our Time), I remind you that writing of the Passion is not story of trial as we would know it. The Passion is a theological and Catecaital document. These events were written after the Passion and reflect a time period which was not contemporary with the Passion but with later history when The Jewish Community of Jerusalem was dividing between those who accepted Jesus and those who did not. This divide caused families and friendships to split apart. I ask you to be mindful of the quote below from Vatican II. As we hear and meditate on the Passion/Death and Resurrection of Christ during the next few weeks, I ask all to keep in mind that these events are the founding events of our faith. Please remember the following:

Even though the Jewish authorities and those who followed their lead pressed for the death of Christ, neither all Jews indiscriminate at that time, nor Jews today can be charged with the crimes committed during his passion. It is true that the Church is the new people of God, yet the Jews should not be spoken of as rejected or accused as if this followed from the Holy Scriptures. Consequently, all must take care lest in catechizing or preaching the Word of God, they teach anything which is not in accord with the truth of the Gospel message or the spirit of Christ. Indeed the Church proves every form of persecution against whomever it may be directed. Remembering then her common heritage with the Jews and moved not by any political consideration, but solely by religious motivation of Christian clarity, she (the Church) deplores all hatreds, persecutions, displays of anti-Semitism leveled at anytime or from any source against the Jews. The Church always held and continues to hold that Christ out of love freely underwent suffering and death because of the sins of all men, so that all might attain salvation. It is the duty of the Church, therefore, in her preaching to proclaim the cross of Christ as a sign of God's universal love and source of all grace. (*Nostra Aetate* 28 October 1965 Vatican II Document)