

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

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. MARCH 8, 2021
 8:30 Anna Massie

TUE. MARCH 9, 2021
 8:30 Giujeppe & Giuseppina Borrometti
 BY: Carmela Di Rosa

WED MARCH 10, 2021
 8:30 AM Louisa Dellaporta & Family
 BY: Catherine & Family

THURS. MARCH 11, 2021
 8:30 Carmella Pipitone

FRI. MARCH 12, 2021
 8:30 Chiara & Angelo Bonvino
 BY: Joseph & Maria Bonvino
 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

SAT. MARCH 13, 2021
 8:30 Fortunata Messina
 BY: Lucia & Brigida Piro
 5:00 PM Alfonse & Jean Cipaldo
 BY: Debra, Andre, Angela & Alfonse

SUN MARCH 14, 2021
 8:30 Joseph McAlteer
 10:00 Sr. Barbara Leonardo &
 Rev. Msgr. Anthony S. Danna
 BY: Louis Pepe
 Noon Nancy Aquilino
 BY: Joseph & Marie DeMauro

<u>FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u>	
Sunday Collection 2/28	\$ 1,270.00*
*Envelopes & cash	
On Line Donations	\$ 2,473.00
Total Sunday 2/28	\$ 3,743.00
Annual Weekly Expenses**	\$14,325.00
Difference:	\$ 10,582.00
**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.



Annual Catholic Appeal 2021 The 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal supports the mission of 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:

of 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.



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 Laqueria | 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 March 7th has been donated

**In Loving Memory of ANNE (BABE) IACONO
BY: Ann Mortillaro**



Remember to set your clocks ahead on March 14th for Daylight Savings Time!

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-quotes.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 Family:

**“We adore you Christ and we bless you because by your
Holy Cross you have redeemed the world”**

The readings today continue to address our covenant relation with the Lord. In the First reading from the Book of Exodus we are presented with the Sinai Covenant. After their redemption from slavery in Egypt, the Israelites come to Sinai. This is the place where God had first appeared to Moses. It is here that God gave Moses the Commandments. The Commandments were to be the foundation of Israel’s relationship to God. The Israelites were freed from physical slavery, the Commandments would keep them free both morally and socially. With the giving of the Commandments, Israel became a nation. As a nation they will await the fulfillment of the promise: a land of their own. The land would be the concrete sign of God’s promise.

The Commandments give freedom to the people. In the Book of Psalms we often read of the blessedness of those who follow the Law of the Lord. See psalm 1, 119. Those who walk in the way of the Lord are free. The covenant relationship with the Lord gives humanity dignity, freedom and direction. If we look carefully at the commandments, the first three commandments speak of a relationship with God. The remainder of the laws guide us in our relationship with others. You shall not steal, kill, covet or commit adultery. These laws allowed all to live in peace within the community. The Commandments showed the people the way to walk with God and others. Notice that one’s relationship with God was lived out within the community. Notice that one’s behavior in the community reflected one’s relationship with God.

In the Gospel passage for today, Jesus cleanses the Temple. The Feast of Passover underscores the covenant relationship between God and Israel. There are many reasons offered for the actions of Jesus in the cleansing of the Temple. It is possible that Jesus found the Temple worship more perfunctory than worship from the heart. For Jesus, faithfulness to the covenant meant one’s whole person (heart) is directed to God and others. The outward cleansing of the Temple also meant an inward cleansing of the heart of the community and the individual. It was not enough just to perform religious acts without faith and love for God. “Create in us a clean heart, renew in us a steadfast spirit.” (psalm 51) Jesus is rather strong and direct in this passage. He acts in a prophetic role. He, as Jeremiah before him, challenges the leadership of the Temple. The price Jesus will pay for his radical faithfulness to God is the Cross.

St. Paul in the Second Reading from 1Corinthians proclaims Christ Crucified as the greatest sign of God’s loving covenant with us. Amazingly, Paul does not mention Christ’s teachings or miracles, but the Cross. In the weeks that follow, it will become clear that the greatest sign of God’s faithfulness and love for us is the Cross. The truth of the Cross blinds us, confounds all human reason while being the Victory of God. The Cross is the New Covenant in Christ.

Lent is a time to clean up. It is time to remove clutter from our lives. It is time to simplify our prayer life and intensify our prayer life. It is a time to tighten up our spiritual lives by living out our prayer in the way we treat others. Cleaning up our lives means reconciling our differences even if we do not agree with the person with whom we are reconciling. Cleaning up the spirit means removing bitterness, deep seated anger and letting go of disappointments working towards improving relationships. We do this clean up by following the Commandments, re-reading the Beatitudes, reviewing the Works of Mercy and taking stock of where your spirit is.

Clean up, Easter is near!

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