

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 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

REV. NGOZI

Prison Chaplain (In Residence)

MR. EDWIN RIVERA

Deacon

MRS. NANCY ARKIN

Director of Faith Formation

JOHN HEYER, II

Pastoral Associate

ROSE MARIE FOGLIA

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 2:00 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. **DECEMBER 13, 2021**
8:30 **Mary Lazzati**
 BY: Paula & Lou Vidal

TUE. **DECEMBER 14, 2021**
8:30 **Anthony Polito**
 BY: Carolyn & John Zodda

WED **DECEMBER 15, 2021**
8:30 **Louis Tabeck**
 BY: Gertrude Zagarella

THURS. **DECEMBER 16, 2021**
8:30 **Felice & Ann Tesoriero**
 BY: Loving Grandchildren

FRI. **DECEMBER 17, 2021**
8:30 **Denise Diacomanolus**

SAT. **DECEMBER 18, 2021**
8:30 **Anthony Russo (Living)**
 BY The Russo Family
5:00 PM **Anthony Mazze**
 BY: Paula & Family

SUN **DECEMBER 19, 2021**
8:30 **Richard O'Leary**
 Anniversary Remembrance
 BY: Louis & Angela Napoli
10:00 **Joseph, Concetta & Frank Foglia**
 BY: Rose Marie Foglia
Noon **Anthony Polito**
 BY: Rosemary, Children &
 Grandchildren

BOOK CLUB

Start 2022 with a good book! Please join us on Monday, January 3rd @ 7:00 PM in the Parish House for an informal discussion about PACHINKO by Min Jin Lee. For those of you who plan ahead, our next meeting will be on February 7th. We will be discussing FRESH WATER FOR FLOWERS by Valerie Perrin.

All are Welcome!

FINANCIAL INFORMATION



Sunday Collection 12/05 \$ 2,175.00
*Envelopes & cash
On Line Donations \$ 2,880.50
Total Sunday 12/05 \$ 5,055.50
Annual Weekly Expenses**\$14,325.00
Difference: \$ 9,269.50

**Total annual expenses divided by 52 weeks



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:

- 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.



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Bread & Wine for the week of

**December 12th
has been donated
In Memory of
LISA GIARDINA
BY: Carmela Agosta**



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 | Gertrude Zagarella |
| Michelle Laquercia | Irene Balen |
| Judith DeArmen | John Nigro |
| Judith Miller | Agnes Scolaro |
| 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 |
| Susan Hannan | Evan Marra |
| Hector Jimenez | Darren Munio |
| Abigail Memmesheimer | Sophia Rotunno |
| Philip Saraceno | Vittorio Di Turi |
| Maria Anjelica Patino Laquercia | Nina Carulli |



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Our Church is open each Wednesday from noon until 2:00 PM for private prayer. You are encouraged to stop by for this quiet time with the Lord.

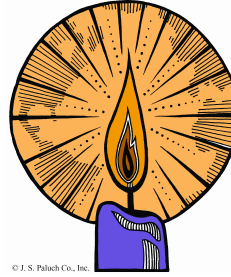
We hope to see you there!



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2021
ADVENT FOOD DRIVE
SUN, 11/28-SUN. 12/19
The Bishop Thomas V. Daily Council #17000
Knights of Columbus is

coordinating a food drive for Advent. The canned food that will be collected will be donated to the food pantry at St. John's Bread & Life. Donations of canned food will be collected at Sacred Hearts & St. Stephen Church during weekends in Advent. Donation boxes will be placed in the rear of the church.



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If you wish to remember a loved one or have a devotion to a particular saint, annual memorial candles are available at the Rectory. These candles remain lit

for one year at a cost of \$100.00 per year (first time cost is \$110.00 to cover the expense of the plaque) They can be placed by any Saint in our Church and a personalized plaque with the inscription of your choice may be affixed to the candle. If you are interested or have any questions regarding these candles, please call the Rectory and speak to Rose Marie Foglia, Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. We will be happy to help you.

COME HOME FOR ADVENT

HOLY HOUR-EVENING PRAYER

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TUESDAYS @ 7:00 PM

12/14, 12/21

HOPE, LOVE, JOY, PEACE

Let us Deck the Halls of Our Hearts in Preparation of the Birth of Christ and His Expectant Return

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. What is joy? What is the cause of Joy?

The readings speak to us about joy. In the first reading from the Book of the Prophet Zephaniah, we read “Shout for joy O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully O Israel..the Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty savior he will rejoice over you with gladness.” The Gospel reading comes to us from Luke. In this passage we meet John the Baptist. John is telling people how they should live to prepare for the coming of the one who will be greater than he is. John points the people to an internal conversion and to the living of the dictates of the Torah. John’s message is: do charity and act justly. John is speaking to three groups of people, the crowd in general, the tax collectors and the soldiers. The official religious people did not listen to John. The more religious considered the crowd as uneducated and the tax collectors and soldiers to be sinners and certainly on the outside of the religious observant group. Notice it was those considered sinners who are moved to listen to John not to those proud of the religious practices. This message of hope brings joy to those on the periphery of religious society.

In our second reading from Philippians, Paul tells us “Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again, rejoice.” Once we realize that Paul is writing from prison not knowing if he is going to be killed or released, then the message of joy takes on a great strength. How can Paul rejoice in his situation?

What is joy? Is Joy and Happiness the same? What is this message of Joy? 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 employment. Nationally we seem to be a divided nation. Internationally there is the constant threat of war and unrest. In our city there is the daily fear of violence. Some of us are just not in the mood for all this cultural Christmas stuff. In light of these grave realities, how do we hear the message of Joy?

The Joy of which we speak is different from happiness. Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. (cf Galatians 5:22) This 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 its forms. Joy is internal. It is not contingent on 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.

Christmas Joy is based on our faith. Joy, like hope comes from the conviction that God will be faithful to us now and in the future and always. In the Gospel of Matthew which we did not read today, John the Baptist sends a question to Jesus asking: Are you the one or should we look for another? Jesus answers by telling John all that he has accomplished and Jesus leaves the answer to the question up to John.

If our answer is yes, Jesus is the one from God then we have cause for joy even if we are weeping. It is because of Jesus that we can say our loved ones who have died still live. It is because of Jesus that we have hope beyond life as we know it. So, 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 our Emmanuel.

Msgr. Guy A. Massie



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