

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 6, 2021**
8:30 Carmine Graziani
BY: Daughter Teresa

TUE. **DECEMBER 7, 2021**
8:30 Michael Bombolino
BY: Mom & Dad

WED **DECEMBER 8, 2021**
8:30 Family & Friends
BY: Elaine & Ken Longtemps
Noon In Honor of The Blessed
Virgin Mary for the Parish

THURS. **DECEMBER 9, 2021**
8:30 Veronica Lubrano
BY: Marie Caria

FRI. **DECEMBER 10, 2021**
8:30 Ralph & Theresa Colantonio
BY: Sister Angie

SAT. **DECEMBER 11, 2021**
8:30 Jennie Maresca
BY Ralph & Linda Venezia
5:00 PM Paul Santoro
BY: His Loving Family

SUN **DECEMBER 12, 2021**
8:30 Dolores Pacifico
BY: Blaise & Jena Latriano
10:00 In Honor of Our Lady of Gaudalupe
Noon Natalina Scala
BY: Roberto & Angela Villanella

FINANCIAL INFORMATION



Sunday Collection 11/28 \$ 1,883.00
*Envelopes & cash
On Line Donations \$ 2,750.750
Total Sunday 11/28 \$ 4,640.50
Annual Weekly Expenses** \$14,325.00
Difference: \$ 9,684.50

**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 5th
has been donated

In Memory of
DOLLY VERGONA

BY: Marie Liberani & Grace Paladino



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.

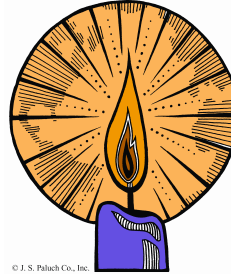
We hope to see you there!



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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

12/7, 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

Dear Parish Family,

“The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy.” Ps 126

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Today the Second Sunday of Advent the readings challenge us to have hope and look beyond our present troubles and sorrows to a time when God will deliver us from our hardship. In short, we are invited to focus on hope. In the first reading from the Book of the Prophet Baruch, the City of Jerusalem is told to remove her mourning garments and cloth herself in splendor and glory. She will be wrapped in a cloak of justice from God. To appreciate what Baruch is saying to the City of Jerusalem we must understand some of the history and background of this text.

This text from Baruch goes back to the sixth century before Christ. The City was devastated by Babylonian Exile which came about gradually and reaches Jerusalem around 586 BC and will last for 70 years until about 518 BC. The exile was so devastating that the sacred text of the Hebrew Bible is divided into two parts before the exile and after the return from the exile. The Prophet Jerimiah witnessed along with Baruch the destruction of the first temple and the collapse of Jerusalem. If the destruction of the city was not enough, the deportation of the inhabitants of Jerusalem must have been terrible. Imagine being in such a position. Those able-bodied people were deported to Babylon. (present day Iran) The people lost everything, including their freedom. Both Jerimiah and Baruch saw the loss of life, the hope for a future and loss of their homeland. (read Jerimiah 31). All seems lost, yet what does Baruch say to the City, do not mourn anymore. Stop sitting shiva. Jerusalem in the midst of her loss is told that her children taken from her will return. God will bring them home to her. Prophets see things with the eyes of faith and the reality of God. They see the presence of God in even the worst of circumstances. One needs the gift of faith to see beyond one's suffering and disappointment. Yet this message of hope Jerusalem needed. It is also the message we need to hear.

In the reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians, we are told that Paul is praying with joy for his beloved Philippians. Paul, however, is in a sorry state. He is in prison. He is in exile from all those he loves. He is in a similar situation as is the City of Jerusalem from the first reading. Yet, what does he say: He says “I am confident that the one who bears a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.” Wow! Can the suffering in me be God working to bring me to a deeper reality of my spiritual life?

In the Gospel from St. Luke, we meet John the Baptist. We learn that John was somewhat of a traveling preacher. His message was one of repentance, it is not baptism we receive. We are baptized into the body of Christ and in the Holy Spirit. John's baptism is one based on the Mikvah bath which Jews would take in preparation for a major holiday or for repentance of sin. For John, the way to prepare for the coming of the Messiah was to repent from sin, live according to the dictates of the Torah and be prepared for God's anointed one. We also learn that this event took place at a certain time and certain place. The events of John the Baptist and of Jesus are real. This is the reason for mentioning the name of Cesare the high priest and giving us the geography of where it all took place. Thus, according to our Gospel writer, God is here. God is present in our time and place now. We meet God in our personal spiritual history.

At the beginning of this letter, I quoted today's responsorial psalm. “The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy.” So, I ask you, what great things has God done for us or for you?

Today we are still trying to come out of the Covid situation. Today we are reading stories of street violence in our own cities and we are also reading about international violence. Today we are hearing this Advent reading in a Church which is divided on many issues, in a nation which is divided on many issues at a time when international dialogue about ideas seems to cause anger and even violence. We are living with the belief that Truth itself is relative to each person rather than eternal and outside of ourselves. We are living at a time when history is all but forgotten by many. Today we are hearing of more and more people suffering from various illnesses. Today fear seems to reign the day and hope is regulated to wishful thinking. Over and against all this, the Word of God is being proclaimed and spoken to us. How do we hear these texts and how do we hear the word Hope and see beyond our present situation to new hope? So, what great things has the Lord done for us? Today, now, here, God is speaking. Will we hear God's voice?

Msgr. Guy A. Massie

**THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
DECEMBER 8, 2021**

This week, on Wednesday, we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Masses and Morning Prayer at 8:00 AM and 8:30 AM and Mass at Noon. To honor Mary on this day, we ask all people to bring a flower which you will bring up in the offertory procession and deposit in vases which will be placed in front of the statue of Mary on the left side of the church.

What does this Feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrate? What does it mean? Why is it celebrated in Advent? The feast celebrates Mary's conception in the womb of St. Anne. The feast is concerned with the preparation for the celebration of the mystery of the Incarnation. We are all preparing the way of the Lord. We are asked to make room for God in our lives. So too, Mary is a sign of great preparation. The feast has nothing to do with the conception of Jesus as many Catholics mistakenly believe. Join us in honoring Mary this week and bring a flower.

PRAY THE ROSARY

Most of us are aware of the Rosary. Do most of us know how to pray the Rosary? Do we know what the Rosary prayer seeks to accomplish? The Rosary beads help us to MEDITATE on the life of Christ. The Rosary is therefore a Christological prayer. The Hail Mary which is said on each of the beads is meant to be a MANTRA helping us to focus on an event in the life of Christ. The Rosary is itself a school. It teaches us the important events of the life of Christ. The Rosary helps us to enter into the mystery personally. The questions we may consider while praying the Rosary are: Where do I see myself in this mystery? What can I learn from this mystery? You might try to envision the mysteries in your mind. The Rosary is not a string of mumbled prayers. The Mysteries of the Rosary are the Joyful Mysteries, the Sorrowful Mysteries, the Glorious Mysteries and the Mysteries of Light. The Rosary is liturgically sensitive. It is prayed in rhythm with the life of the Church. The mysteries are prayed or meditated upon as follows: Sundays in Ordinary Time and Easter Time are the Glorious Mysteries. During Sundays of Advent, we pray the Joyful Mysteries and Sundays in Lent, we pray the Sorrowful Mysteries. On week days we pray the Joyful Mysteries on Mondays and Saturdays, the Sorrowful Mysteries on Tuesdays and Fridays and the Glorious Mysteries on Sundays. We pray the mysteries of Light on Thursdays.

WHAT ARE THE MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY?

The Joyful Mysteries are: Annunciation found in Luke 1:26:38, The Visitation found in Luke 1:39:56, The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) found in Luke 2 1:20, the Presentation of The Lord Luke 2:22-38 and The Finding of Jesus in the Temple, Luke 2:41-52. The Sorrowful Mysteries are found in the Passion Narratives of all the Gospels; Matthew 26-28, Mark 14-16, Luke 22-23 and John 18-19.

The Glorious Mysteries are meditations on Easter. The Easter Gospels are found in Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24 and John 20-21. The Glorious Mysteries are: The Resurrection, The Ascension, The Descent of the Holy Spirit, the Assumption of Mary and the Crowning of Mary.

The Mysteries of Light which we pray on Thursdays are: The Baptism of the Lord found in Matthew, 28, Mark 16, Luke 3:21-22, John 29-34. The Wedding Feast at Cana, John 2 1-12. The proclaiming of the Kingdom of God, Matthew 5:1-12, Matthew 25:31-25, and all the lessons and miracle stories we find in the Gospels. The Transfiguration found in Matthew 17, Mark 9, Luke 9. The last mystery of Light is the Institution of the Holy Eucharist found at the beginning of all the Passion Narratives and in the Bread of Life section of St. John 6 and following.

Mary always brings us to Christ, therefore, the Rosary is a great meditation on the Word of God.

Pray the Rosary every day. You will come to know the Lord in the depths of your heart.