

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. MARCH 28, 2022**
8:30 Saverio De Felice
- TUE. MARCH 29, 2022**
8:30 Tony & Lucy Trani & Theresa Rendeiro
- WED MARCH 30, 2022**
8:30 John Caportorto
BY: The Passantino Family
- THURS. MARCH 31, 2022**
8:30 Avelino Outes & Camilo Blanes
BY: Jackie
- FRI. APRIL 1, 2022**
8:30 Anna Massie
7:00 PM Stations of The Cross
- SAT. APRIL 2, 2022**
8:30 Johnny & Joe Cloonan
BY: Amy, Joe & MaryAnn
5:00 Joseph & Lia Cerato
BY: Rose Marie Foglia
- SUN APRIL 3, 2022**
8:30 For The People of the Parish
10:00 John Edwards
BY: Family
Noon Vito & Carmelina Di Turi
BY: Marie & Frank Gaudio



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Bread & Wine for the week of
March 27th has been donated
In Memory of
ANTHONY BASCIANO
BY: Lucille Gaudino

FINANCIAL INFORMATION



Sunday Collection 3/20 \$ 1,683.00
*Envelopes & cash
On Line Donations \$ 2,495.50
Total Sunday 3/20 \$ 4,178.50
Annual Weekly Expenses** \$14,325.00
Difference: \$ 10,146.50

**Total annual expenses divided by 52 weeks



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Please join us on Monday, April
4th in the Parish House.
We will be discussing
Brazil-Marú
By Karen Yamashita All are
welcome.

We hope to see you there.



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LENT 2022
40 ITEMS FOR
40 DAYS

During Lent, this church is collecting toiletry supplies to create disaster relief kits for locations in need.

Donations requested:

- Soap
- Toothbrushes
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste
- Face cloths
- Combs
- Brushes
- Toilet Paper

Donations will be collected during weekends in Lent from Wednesday, March 2nd to Thursday April 14th. Donation boxes will be placed in the rear of the church.

Please help Faith by works. Show that you care.
Thank you!



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 | Salvatore Salerno |
| 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 | |
| Joan Di Tucci | Terry Daniti |



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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!

Attention



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Tax letters have been mailed to all parishioners. Any parishioner who donated to our parish in the year 2021 whether on line, in person or

by mail, will receive this letter. Please give the letter a chance to reach you as you know the mail delivery in our area leaves much to be desired.

Thank you for your kindness, generosity and support of this great parish. We are grateful for all you do to help sustain us.



Annual Catholic Appeal 2022
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

The 2022 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 and 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.



Annual Catholic Appeal 2022
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN



PARISH GOAL: \$36,274.00
PAID SO FAR: \$ 6,150.34
PLEGGED SO FAR: \$13,400.00



Annual Catholic Appeal 2022
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

From the Pastor

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Dear Parish Family,

“Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold new things have come.” 2Corinthians 5-17

Today is the Fourth Sunday in Lent. The scripture texts for today speak to us about reconciliation, renewal and transitioning to a new way of life. The above quote from 2Corinthians is a good summary of today’s Liturgy of the Word. The first reading from the Book of Joshua tells us about the arrival of the Israelites in the Promised Land. Their journey of forty years in the desert has ended. They are a new people. The generation that actually left Egypt is all but gone. Those arriving in the Land of Promise are the grandchildren of those who left Egypt. They are new people. They enter into the Covenant; they celebrate the Passover for the first time in their own land. The manna which sustained them on their journey is no longer provided. They are where they should be.

In the second reading from 2Corinthians, we are told “Whoever is in Christ is a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold new things have come.” This reading is speaking to us about the sacrament of Baptism and Reconciliation. In baptism we are a new creation, in reconciliation we are made new again. Focus on Baptism Promises. In these promises we were made part of the New Covenant established in the Blood of Christ. We promised to be faithful to Christ. If we are truthful, we must say we were not always faithful. We need a renewal of soul and spirit. Through the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Renewal of our Baptismal Promises at Easter, we too can be renewed in our faithfulness to Christ and be renewed in a closer relationship to the Lord in the Eucharist and in our behavior in imitation of Christ.

The Gospel is familiar to us. It is Luke 15:1-3-11-32, the Parable of the Prodigal Son. This is a great and timeless parable. Every time I read it, I see something else in the story. Every time I hear it, I hear it differently. Sometimes I identify with the younger son, sometimes with the older son. Sometimes with the father. I sometimes have more questions than I previously had when reading this text. The story always leaves me with a lesson. So, with whom do you identify in the story and why? What questions do you have about the text?

This time my interest rests with the father. How did he feel when his younger son asked for his inheritance? Was he puzzled? Was he curious as to why he wanted his inheritance? Did the father feel that he may have offended the son? Was the father angry? Was he hurt? Knowing his younger son, was he surprised? Did he expect his son to do something like this? Did he understand that his son needed to make his own way in the world? When the son left, how did the father feel? Did he watch him go down the road until he could no longer see him? Did the pain in his heart cause him to weep? Looking at the text, the father missed him and watched for his return.

What about the older son? How did he feel now that the younger brother was gone? Was he hurt? Was he glad? Did he miss him? Did he think that if the father died he would get everything and this made him secure? Was he jealous of the younger brother because the younger brother had the nerve to do what he himself wanted to do? Did the older brother resent being left home with the old man? Did the older brother love the father? Was he the dutiful son who did everything right but with no love attached to his actions? Was he dutiful so he could get his inheritance? Did he do all the right things with the expectation of getting something for it? When I consider both of these two, I wondered which of the sons actually trusted the love of the father. Which one knew the father’s heart and mind?

The story begins to turn around when the young son realizes his dire situation and his need for mercy and forgiveness and his inability to earn his forgiveness or win mercy. The young son is without anything to offer his father but his sorrow. He comes with no excuse, no explanation. He comes seeking mercy from the one he can trust, his father. Did the older son understand and appreciate the father’s pain and worry for his younger son? I think not.

In the end who are these characters in the story? What did Jesus teach us with this story? The story is seen on several levels. The father is God. The older son the Pharisees and the younger son the gentiles or those considered sinners or the not so religiously observant. The Pharisees were the older son and the more observant and probably more faithful to God, however many Pharisees felt that God owed them for their faithfulness. In short, one cannot place God in one’s debt. All we do, any good we are inspiring to achieve, is due to God’s grace in us. The older son seemed not to have the trusting relationship with the father that the renegade younger son had. We are called to have a loving relationship with God. We are called to have faith which is rooted in our hearts. Yes, there are the rules of religion, but the rules of religion are similar to the rules that form the expectation of any relationship. If I love Christ, than I would desire to receive and celebrate the Eucharist. If I truly believed I loved Christ, my relationship with him would govern all other relationships. Just like one being in love, you could not conceive of life or even a day without your beloved, so too with Christ. He who loves Christ could never conceive of life or even a day without prayer or Eucharist. When the heart is converted to the Lord, religious expectations come naturally and easily. It would seem that after the long separation of the young son, this love that he remembered from his father was remembered, embraced and renewed. This is what Lent can do for us. It can help us find the parts of our lives which wandered off and now want to come home. The younger son trusted the Father’s love for him and came home with a repentant heart. We can do the same. Trust the Mercy of God.

Msgr. Guy A. Massie

LENTEN FASTING & 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. Lent is a time to grow in our personal relationship with Christ through scripture readings and reverent reception of the Eucharist. It is time to know the Lord in a deeper and more meaningful way. So let us try to move from cultural Catholicism to convicted Catholicism.

The practices of Lent are motivated by renewal and hope. Fasting and abstinence 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 you are doing is to gently remind you of this article of our faith. Secondly, this fasting can help the poor. The money saved from fasting which you otherwise might of spent can be given to the poor or given to help someone else. Above all, your Lenten practices should move your prayer life to be more Christ centered and more merciful to others. If this is not happening, change your prayer routine.

To help you with the Fasting and Abstinence, the Catholic Church requires all aged 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 14 to 59 are asked to fast on Good Friday and Ash Wednesday. This means 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 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 sufferings 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 to take time to sit in silence in the presence of the Lord. Allow this mysterious and wonderful sacrament to contemplate you and you to contemplate the Lord. Adoration of the Sacrament will make celebration of the Eucharist more meaningful. Allow this to be a time of growth for your Spirit.

I wish you a fruitful Lenten Season.

Msgr. Guy A. Massie