

**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. MICHELE D. TWOMEY**

*Director of Faith Formation*

**JOHN HEYER, II**

*Pastoral Associate*

**ROSE MARIE FOGLIA**

*Business Manager*

**JAMES LAKE**

*Parish Organist*

**JENNIFER WU**

*Choir Director*

**ANDREW DI MANSO**

*Sacristan*

**MICHAEL J. ENG**

**ROSEMARY POLITO**

*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.

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**ON LINE & CREDIT CARD GIVING: WWW.GIVECENTRAL.ORG/SHSS**

**RECTORY OFFICE HOURS**

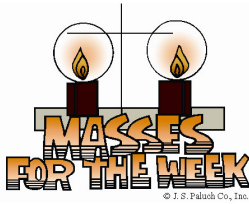
Monday thru Thursday 9:00 to 5:00 (Closed for Lunch from 1-2) Friday 9:00 to 2:00 Saturday 9:00 to 1:00

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.**

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- MON. FEBRUARY 20, 2023**  
8:30 Rosetta Pugliese  
BY: Sylvia Scotto Di Clemente
- TUE. FEBRUARY 21, 2023**  
8:30 Rose & Pasquale Masotto  
BY: Son Sal
- WED FEBRUARY 22, 2023-ASH WED.**  
7:30 Prayer Service with Ashes  
8:00 Prayer Service with Ashes  
8:30 Angelo Vergona- MASS WITH ASHES  
BY: Loving Family  
Noon Joey Bracco-MASS WITH ASHES  
BY: Camille & Anthony Trani  
3:45 Prayer Service with Ashes  
6:00 Prayer Service with Ashes
- THURS. FEBRUARY 23, 2023**  
8:30 Giulia Rotondi-Nuzzi  
BY: Tamika Rodriguez & Family
- FRI. FEBRUARY 24, 2023**  
8:30 Antonino & Giuseppina Di Nieri  
BY: The Reca Family  
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross
- SAT. FEBRUARY 25, 2023**  
8:30 Rina Colombo  
BY: Cerato & Andruzzi Families  
5:00 PM Michael Fenn
- SUN FEBRUARY 26, 2023**  
8:30 Antonio & Filomena Massa  
BY: Loving Family  
10:00 Louis Valentino, Jr.  
Noon Deceased Members of the Hoban Family  
BY: Bernadette Hoban



Sanctuary Lamps for the week of 2/18/23 have been donated  
In Loving Memory of  
**FRANK & ELIZABETH LOPORTO**  
BY: Loving Family

FINANCIAL INFORMATION



Sunday Collection 2/12	\$1,909.00
*Envelopes & cash	
On Line Donations	\$ 2,732.50
Total Sunday 1/29	\$ 4,641.50
Annual Weekly Expenses*	\$14,325.00
Difference:	\$ 9,683.50

\*\*Total annual expenses divided by 52 weeks



**CATECHISTS NEEDED**  
*Are you available to give some of your time to the planting and growing of our wonderful Catholic faith in the hearts and minds of the young people in our parish?*

*We are blessed with a growing enrollment!  
We need Catechists for this year and planning for next year to meet the growing need.*

*Thank you, God!*

*Training is provided, and scheduling is flexible.  
We are also in need of Special Education Teachers who would be willing to share their talents for small groups or one-to-one catechetical instruction. Spread the word and ask a friend.*

*Please call the rectory if interested at  
718-596-7750 or email Michele at*

[mtwomey.shss@gmail.com](mailto:mtwomey.shss@gmail.com).

Please join us on Tuesday, March. 7th  
@7 PM in the Parish House. We will be discussing



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**You're Invited**  
*Walking with Ghosts* by Gabriel Byrne.  
For those of you who plan ahead, our next meeting will be April 4th. We will be discussing *All About Me* by Mel Brooks. Please note our meeting day has changed to the first Tuesday of each month.

All are welcome.

Hope to see you there.



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         |
| Santina Garbellotto             | John Nigro          |
| Lois Tilocca                    | Salvatore Salerno   |
| Diane Barchuk                   | Addy Wardrope       |
| Carol DeMairo                   | Anthony Gambardella |
| Anthony Tilocca                 | Anthony Turco       |
| Elizabeth Foley                 | Cathy De Marino     |
| Ann Curcuru                     | Dora Zanzonico      |
| Lamar McNabb                    | Louis D'Angelo      |
| Carol Montelbano                | Julia Magno         |
| Anthony Manfre                  | Celeste Internicola |
| Emma Huckerby                   | Kristin Quail       |
| Joan Di Tucci                   | Sarina Mukhi        |
| Dominick Aiello, Jr.            | Mark Carles         |
| Erica Concino                   | MaryAnn Kinczel     |
| Susan Hannan                    | Evan Marra          |
| Hector Jimenez                  | Darren Munio        |
| Abigail Memmesheimer            | Sophia Rotunno      |
| Philip Saraceno                 | Salvatore Aleo      |
| Maria Anjelica Patino Laquercia |                     |
| Paul & Leona Pensabene          | Frances Marra       |
| Michael Ostrowski               | John Primavera      |
| Kathy Parasimo                  | Butch Montevvecchi  |



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**YOUR CHOIR NEEDS YOU!**

All adults are invited to join our Parish Choir for the spring season. The adults' choir begins on March 1st. The Sacred Heart Children's

Choir is already in progress and still accepting new members. Choirs meet in the church on Wednesdays: Children at 5:45 and Adults (starting on March 1st) at 7:00 PM.

Now is the perfect time to join the Choirs. Visit the organ loft to speak with Jim or Jen or sign up by email to SHSSmusic@gmail.com. Singing together builds friendships, faith, confidence, poise, a love of music and so many good things.

Come sing with us!



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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!**



*Join us as we Binge Jesus!*

**Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**

**NO MOVIE ON FEBRUARY 20TH (HOLIDAY)**

Holy Family Center

Movie *CHOSEN*, Season One

On Monday evenings thru Lent, we will gather for *Soup and a Movie* in the Holy Family Center.

Following the movie, we will have some time for discussion and fellowship. We welcome our Confirmation Candidates, High School Students, parents, and adult parishioners to join us.

We will begin with Season One of the movie *CHOSEN*. This movie is about the biblical events that surround Jesus' public ministry.

RSVP to [mtwomey.shss@gmail.com](mailto:mtwomey.shss@gmail.com) or call 718-596-7750 by the previous Sunday, so we can plan accordingly.

## From the Pastor

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Dear Parish Family,

Today is the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time and the Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday. The readings today prepare us for the coming season of Lent. In the first reading from the Book of Leviticus, the Israelites are told to be holy as God is holy. In the second reading from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, we are told that God dwells in us. We are also told that the wisdom of God differs from the wisdom of the world. In the Gospel Jesus continues the great Sermon on the Mount. In this address Jesus is giving his interpretation of the Law of Moses. There were many ways to view the Law of Moses. Rabbinical thinking of the time held many readings of the Law. Today, Jesus the Rabbi gives us his take on the Law.

I take my theme today from the opening lines of the first reading: "Be holy, for I the Lord your God is holy." As we come to Lent let us look at this quote. How does one become holy? What does holy mean? Can I become like God? What does holiness require? Do we know who is holy? Is holiness something that only God is able to see? So many saints were controversial such as St. Joan of Arc, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Albert of Great, yet they were holy people who lived Christ-like lives. Do those who are holy know they are holy? The three readings will direct us in the way of holiness.

From the Leviticus reading we see that holiness is bound up with relationship to God and with others. God is holy. Holiness means being totally other. God is not us and we are not God. Holiness of God makes God separate from us. Yet, this holy God has a relationship with us. The Book of Leviticus tells the Israelites how to live in holiness. They were to worship God and follow the commandments and they were to care for each other. They were to avoid hatred, taking vengeance and bearing a grudge. They were to take responsibility for the well being of their neighbor who also belongs to God. So from this reading if you want to be God like, worship God, care for others and bear no hatred.

In the Gospel reading, which is a great commentary on the first reading, we have Jesus giving a deeper and more internalization of the way to be holy. Jesus states the law and then gives his interpretation of the law. Notice that Jesus is interested in an interpretation of the law. He looks to the conversion of one's heart and he expands the directive of Leviticus to include others outside the Jewish community. Jesus quotes the law: "An eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth." While this law sounds barbaric, it is actually an improvement over the former law which sought a sevenfold vengeance. Jesus ignores this law and goes beyond getting even and says there should be no retaliation, rather we are told to respond to insults without violence. This is good advice. Can we talk out our differences without losing our heads? Jesus goes on to say that while Leviticus tells the Israelites to love his fellow Israelite, Jesus says to pray for your enemies. God cares for all even those who do not obey him, thus the holy person is to be universal in his/her attitude to the other. So, do we pray for those we do not like or find obnoxious, or annoying or rude? Sometimes we need to be patient with each other as people may be patient with us.

In the second reading from 1Corinthians, we are told that the wisdom of God is different from the thinking of the world. I think the Gospel clearly illustrates this point. In a world where justice is seen as getting even rather than restoring the right relationships or where disagreements escalate into personal vendettas, or where getting even is the goal rather than understanding and reconciliation, today's gospel is clearly other worldly. However, this gospel and these readings show us the way to holiness. So, being holy means being God-like. Those who are holy do not know they are. Only God, who sees what no one can see, knows who is holy. The way to be holy is to be most human for the glory of God. Imitate God's attitude towards people. Allow God's attitude to work through you for others. Therefore, be a person of compassion, a person of prayer, a person of attentiveness to the Divine Word, a person of forgiveness, a person of mercy. Above all, be a person of self forgetfulness. Never look back at the good God accomplished through you. Remember it is God working through you who can accomplish great things. We come to Lent for the first time again.

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 abstinence 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, or 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, 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.

To help you with 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 Jesus on a Friday. Those aged 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 also 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 this time to sit in the presence of the Lord. Allow this mysterious and wonderful sacrament to contemplate and you contemplate the Lord. Allow this to be a time of Growth for your Spirit.

I wish you a fruitful Lenten Season.

Msgr. Guy A. Massie

**INFORMATION SHEET**

**CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS**

Sacred Hearts & St. Stephen #875400

**PHONE**

718-596-7750

**CONTACT PERSON**

Rose Marie Foglia

**SOFTWARE**

Microsoft Publisher® 2002

Adobe Acrobat 8.0®

Windows XP Home® SP3

**PRINTER**

HP® Laserjet 1320

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Cover + 4 text pages + this page = 6

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**TRANSMISSION TIME**

Wednesday 1 PM

**KINDLY SEND ONLY 175 ‘  
BULLETINS. THANK YOU!  
STAY SAFE!**