

**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](http://WWW.GIVECENTRAL.ORG/SHSS)**

**RECTORY OFFICE HOURS**

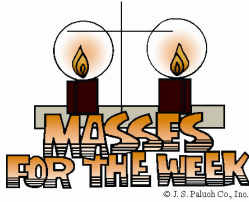
Monday thru Thursday 9:00 to 5:00 (Closed for Lunch from 1-2) Friday 9:00 to 2:00 Saturday 9:00 to 1:00

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. APRIL 3, 2023**  
 8:30 Louis Tabeek  
 BY: Sister-in-law Gertrude
- TUE. APRIL 4, 2023**  
 8:30 Lorianne Sgro Zodda  
 BY: Her Parents, Carolyn & John  
 7:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration & Prayer
- WED APRIL 5, 2023**  
 8:30 Carmine & Raffella Graziani  
 BY: Daughter Teresa
- THURS. APRIL 6, 2023 Holy Thursday**  
 8:30 Morning Prayer  
 7:00 PM Solemn Celebration of  
 The Lord's Last Supper
- FRI. APRIL 7, 2023-Good Friday**  
 8:30 Morning Prayer  
 3:00 PM Liturgy of the Death of Christ  
 7:00 PM Procession from the Church Steps  
 throughout the neighborhood
- SAT. APRIL 8, 2023**  
 8:30 Morning Prayer  
 8:00 PM Easter Vigil
- SUN APRIL 9, 2023**  
 10:00 Easter Novena Mass  
 Noon Easter Novena Mass



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**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**



Sunday Collection 3/26	\$2,639.00
*Envelopes & cash	
On Line Donations	\$ 2,832.50
Total Sunday 3/26	\$ 5,471.50
Annual Weekly Expenses*	\$14,325.00
Difference:	\$ 8,853.50

\*\*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, April 11th @ 7 PM in the Parish House. We will be discussing *All About Me* by Mel Brooks. For those of you who plan ahead, our next meeting will be May 2nd. We will be



**You're Invited**

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discussing *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot.

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,               | Sarina Mukhi        |
| Brad Hatry                      | Gertrude Zagarella  |
| Michelle Laquercia              | Irene Balen         |
| Santina Garbellotto             | John Nigro          |
| Salvatore Salerno               | John Primavera      |
| 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       |
| Dominick Aiello, Jr.            | Mark Carles         |
| Erica Concino                   | MaryAnn Kinczel     |
| Susan Hannan                    | Evan Marra          |
| Hector Jimenez                  | Darren Munio        |
| Sophia Rotunno                  | Frances Marra       |
| Philip Saraceno                 | Salvatore Aleo      |
| Maria Anjelica Patino Laquercia |                     |
| Michael Ostrowski               | Kathy Parasimo      |
| Butch Montevocchi               |                     |

**PALM SUNDAY ALSO KNOWN AS  
PASSION SUNDAY**

**Why do we have Palm on Palm Sunday?**

**We have Palm on Palm Sunday because the beginning of the Liturgy remembers the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Palm is a sign of victory. Those who carry the Palm are waving Christ onto the victory of the Messiah.**

**Why do we bring Palm to the cemetery? We bring Palm to the cemetery because Palm is a sign of victory over death. Jesus wins the victory in his resurrection. Notice the statue of St. Stephen, St. Lucy in our church. Notice they are holding Palm. They were martyrs. Their deaths are seen as a victory for the faith.**

**Why do we keep Palm in our homes? We keep Palm in our homes to remind us always of the victory of Christ over death and sin.**

**Why is this week Holy Week? This week is called Holy Week because we will celebrate in word, sacrament, the recreation of a world redeemed in the passion, death and resurrection of Christ.**

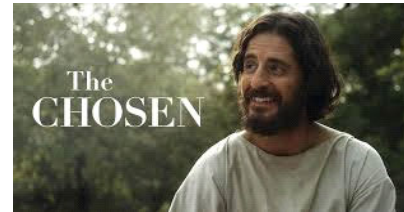


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**Our Church is open each Wednesday from noon until 2:00 PM for private prayer. You are encouraged to stop by for**

**this quiet time with the Lord.**

**We hope to see you there!**



*Join us for Soup, A Movie & Discussion  
Monday Evenings During Lent  
4/2*

6:30 PM Holy Family Center

Movie *CHOSEN, Season One*

This Lent we are invited to turn our hearts back to Jesus. Why not come together with fellow parishioners to share an evening to break bread, watch a movie and participate in shared discussion about each episode's theme and lesson.

The movie THE CHOSEN follows Jesus as he calls his disciples, shares with the needy, heals the sick and offers the greatest sacrifice of all time, Himself for our salvation.

Dear Parish Community,

Today we begin Holy Week. We call this week “Holy” because we celebrate the events which redeemed the world. This redemption creates humanity anew in Christ. The liturgies this week while deeply theological and doctrinal, are filled with awe, emotions, sorrow and joy. It is the week to celebrate our faith in Christ. It is the week to be renewed, uplifted and healed.

Today we proclaim Christ your king with shouts of Hosanna. Palm branches are a sign of victory. Notice that images and icons of martyrs show the particular martyr holding a palm branch. We bring palm to the graves of those we love because Palm is the sign of Christ’s victory over death. Holy Thursday we contemplate the great love Christ has for us shown in humble service as we hear the gospel of the washing of the feet. Participate in the Liturgy of Holy Thursday as we remember in a profound way the institution of the Holy Eucharist. With great love Christ gives himself to us and for us. May we do the same for each other. Good Friday, follow the way of the Cross and listen with an open heart to the Passion of Christ according to St. John. See in this solemn, sorrowful and yet victorious passion, the triumph of Christ’s redemptive work. In the simple words uttered by Jesus from the cross, “It is finished”, Jesus completes his mission. We who are baptized enter into this great victory. On Holy Saturday evening, join us at the Easter Vigil. Reflect on the History of Salvation the Victory of Christ over death.

The physical, emotional and spiritual sufferings of Christ seem to defy words. How could such inhumanity be committed against a good person? The question can be applied to the sufferings we see going on in the Middle East, in parts of Africa and the Far East. In the Eastern Catholic magazine Sophia, I read an article on the Passion of Christ. I was moved by his description of the sufferings of Christ. He spoke of the savage scourging of Christ which flayed his flesh with hooks that removed pieces of flesh, the dislocation of the right arm of Christ and nailing of his hands to the Cross. This was an inhuman and cruel execution meant to cause untold suffering and humiliation to the victim. The Romans were a very cruel and unfeeling people. Many of us look at the Cross and never really see. We need to think of this suffering, we need to see the faithfulness of Christ and realize that our salvation came at a high cost. Jesus remains faithful to his mission to proclaim the Kingdom of God. Jesus spoke of forgiveness and mercy and practiced the message he preached. According to a Hasidic tale, God is exiled from our world. Most of us want a God or a Jesus we like. We want God to act as we would. So, when God appears in our human flesh and presents us with the truth about God which can challenge our preconceived notions of God, we reject it and exile God. All those who speak out in favor of the exiled God will suffer as God suffers. Jesus is rejected. Those who preach him, who urge us to forgive, urge us to expand our horizons, face the same fate as Jesus. Jesus is faithful to his message, to himself and to us. He is even faithful to those who reject him. Yet there are many, even Catholics, who will pass this Good Friday as another shopping day or as a day to get a jump start on the weekend. We must hold the death of Christ deep in our hearts. I feel that in our modern high-tech world, fewer and fewer people are taking these days as days set aside to assist at the Liturgy, days to reflect and days to pray. I hope I am wrong in my estimation. Those who use these for prayer and reflection will find their souls and spirits renewed.

As I personally reflect on the scriptures for Lent and Holy Week, I am drawn to the great mystery of the Incarnation that is: God becoming human in Christ Jesus. That the Word of God became flesh and taught us how to live, how to be merciful and how to forgive is for us a gift. That the Word of God became flesh, suffered and died taking on our infirmities and sins, this goes beyond words. What a mystery is God? What love must God have for us? What does one say or do in the presence of such a mystery? How does one respond to such love? How does one live one’s life when one is constantly becoming more aware of the great love of God? Perhaps one lives one’s life in adoration and thanksgiving by striving to follow and imitate Christ Jesus in acts of mercy and love.

**WE ADORE YOU OH CHRIST AND WE BLESS YOU BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS  
YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.**



## 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