

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.

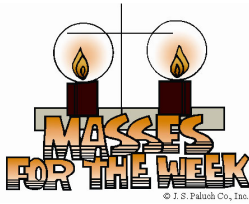
ON LINE & CREDIT CARD GIVING: WWW.GIVECENTRAL.ORG/SHSS

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

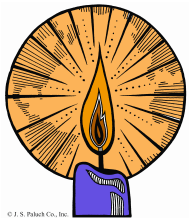
Monday thru Thursday 9:00 to 5:00 (Closed for Lunch from 1-2) Friday 9:00 to 2:00 Saturday 9:00 to 1:00
Office closed Sunday

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.**



- MON. MARCH 27, 2023**
 8:30 Michael Massa
 BY: Andy Di Manso
- TUE. MARCH 28, 2023**
 8:30 Michael Pacchia
 BY: Charles & RoseAnn Russomanno
 7:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration & Prayer
- WED MARCH 29, 2023**
 8:30 Tony & Lucy Trani &
 Theresa Renderio
- THURS. MARCH 30, 2023**
 8:30 Lucia & Angelo Borrometi
 BY: Carmela DiRosa
- FRI. MARCH 31, 2023**
 8:30 Holy Cross
 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross
- SAT. APRIL 1, 2023**
 8:30 Anna Massie
 5:00 PM Elizabeth Trovato
 BY: Lenny & Jo Ann
- SUN APRIL 2, 2023**
 8:30 Sammy Uribe Dominguez
 BY: The Ingui Family
 10:00 Natalie Albano
 BY: Her Aunt Carmela
 Noon Deceased Members of
 The Kristoff Family
 BY: Mary Ann Kristof



The Sanctuary Lamps for the week of March 25th have been donated
 In Memory of
VINCENT CAMASTRO
 By: The Reca & Heyer Family

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Sunday Collection 3/19	\$5,120.00 **
** Includes a single donation of \$3,500.00	
*Envelopes & cash	
On Line Donations	\$ 3,759.50
Total Sunday 3/19	\$ 8,879.50
Annual Weekly Expenses*	\$14,325.00
Difference:	\$ 5,445.50
**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.

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



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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,
 Brad Hatry
 Michelle Laquercia
 Santina Garbellotto
 Salvatore Salerno
 Diane Barchuk
 Carol DeMairo
 Anthony Tilocca
 Elizabeth Foley
 Ann Curcuru
 Lamar McNabb
 Carol Montelbano
 Anthony Manfre
 Emma Huckerby
 Dominick Aiello, Jr.
 Erica Concino
 Susan Hannan
 Hector Jimenez
 Sophia Rotunno
 Philip Saraceno
 Maria Anjelica Patino Laquercia
 Michael Ostrowski
 Butch Montevecchi

Sarina Mukhi
 Gertrude Zagarella
 Irene Balen
 John Nigro
 John Primavera
 Addy Wardrope
 Anthony Gambardella
 Anthony Turco
 Cathy De Marino
 Dora Zanzonico
 Louis D'Angelo
 Julia Magno
 Celeste Internicola
 Kristin Quail
 Mark Carles
 MaryAnn Kinczel
 Evan Marra
 Darren Munio
 Frances Marra
 Salvatore Aleo
 Kathy Parasimo

YOUR CHOIR NEEDS YOU!



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All adults are invited to join our Parish Choir for the spring season. The adults' choir began 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!

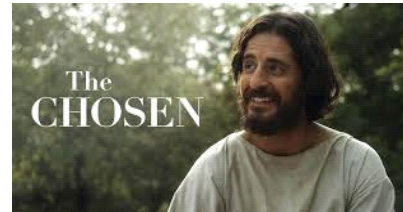


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Our Church is open each Wednesday from noon until 2:00 PM for private prayer. You are encouraged to stop by for

this quiet time with the Lord.

We hope to see you there!



*Join us for Soup, A Movie & Discussion
 Monday Evenings During Lent
 3/27 & 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.

From the Pastor

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Dear Parish Community,

There is an Easter Hymn titled “Roll Away the Stone and See the Glory of God.” In order to see the great works of God we must remove all obstacles to our spiritual sight. Faith gives us light as we saw last week in the story of the Man Born Blind. Faith frees us. Lazarus had to be unbound. Similar to the Gospels about the Women at the Well and to the Man Born Blind, there are many levels to the Gospel about the Rising of Lazarus.

In today’s Gospel reading we meet Jesus, Lazarus, his sisters, Martha and Mary and the crowd. As the passage opens, Jesus has been told that Lazarus is gravely ill and near death. Ultimately, Lazarus dies and then Jesus goes to the family. We are told that Jesus and Lazarus were friends. Jesus is also known to Mary and Martha. We are also told that Jesus is moved to the depths of his being as he approached the tomb of Lazarus. In the story Jesus faces his own impending death as he encounters the death of his friend. Ultimately, Jesus calls Lazarus out of the tomb, Lazarus is restored to life. Lazarus does not experience the resurrection. By Resurrection we mean a glorification. Jesus is risen and is glorified. Lazarus comes out of the tomb after the stone is removed and he has to be unbound. Lazarus is thus given a new lease on life.

WHAT HOLDS US BOUND

What keeps us bound to negativity? Is it possible to be physically alive and spiritually and emotionally dead? There are many ways for us to be dead. There are many ways for us to be held bound as not to move or grow. In the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel Chapter 37, we read the version of the dry bones. The parable is addressing the spiritual death of the people. It is not until Ezekiel speaks the word of God over the bones that they come to life. In many ways our spiritual life can be dead. Prayer may have become routine. We may not be able to relate to the liturgy. We may have lost the feeling that God even cares for us. In some cases we may have lost our faith for a period of time. At other times, coming to Mass becomes an effort because we cannot take the music, the homily, the people, we just can not.

What may cause us to go through such a tough time spiritually? There are many reasons. Among them is the need for our Life in the Spirit to grow. Our spiritual life should grow with the events in our lives. St. Theresa of the Child Jesus wrote “all things are a grace...disappointments, loss, humiliations...all is ordered for our salvation. So much depends on our eye of faith as we go through these trying times. Changing the way we pray can enliven our spiritual lives. Reading the sacred texts and asking “where am I in this story can be an enlivening spiritual experience. Does our prayer life help us to experience Jesus? Do we spend time in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament?

Emotional and spiritual death happens when we no longer hope. When we have been hurt to the point of becoming jaded, we lose the will to grow or even to improve our own outlook. At this point we are faced either with staying with our negativity or seeking a change of attitude. What stones do we need to remove from our hearts before we can see the Glory of God? What stones do we need to roll back to see that life is good? By what are we held captive? Is the stone that blocks our full participation in the life of Christ doubt, fear of being misled, fear of being too hopeful? Are we held bound by habits over which we have little or no control? Are we captivated by power, lust, anger, revenge, vindictiveness or hatred? Faith and hope are chosen ways of life. The people in the story trusted Jesus because they knew him. They moved the stone because they had faith in Christ. Can we trust Christ enough to remove the stones of our heart and allow the Lord into the innermost parts of our being?

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