

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 10:15 AM & 12 NOON

5:00 PM on Saturday

MASSES ON WEEKDAYS:

Mon 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. ANTHONY ONWUGBENU

Parochial Vicar

REV. NGOZI

Prison Chaplain (In Residence)

JOHN L. HEYER, II

Deacon & Pastoral Associate

MR. EDWIN RIVERA

Deacon

MRS. MICHELE TWOMEY

Director of Faith Formation

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.

Baptisms are held the 3rd Sunday of the month

@1:30 PM . Please call the Rectory for arrangements.

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 18, 2023**
8:30 Domenica & Louise Dellaporte
BY: Catherine
- TUE. DECEMBER 19, 2023**
8:30 Deceased Members of
The Giamboi Family
BY: M/M Annmarie & William Illiano
- WED. DECEMBER 20, 2023**
8:30 Salvatore Arezzo & Michele Reca
BY: Loving Family
- THURS. DECEMBER 21, 2023**
8:30 James & Gertrude Zagarella
Anniversary Remembrance
BY: Daughter Gertrude
- FRI. DECEMBER 23, 2023**
8:30 Charles & Mary Stuto
BY: Dr. & Mrs. Victor J. Masi
& Family
- SAT. DECEMBER 23, 2023**
8:30 Erminia Infantino & John Alcaras
BY: Tina & Nick Cinalli
5:00 PM Anthony Mazze
BY: Wife Paula, Children & Grandchildren
- SUN. DECEMBER 24, 2023**
8:30 Gertrude Zagarella, Birthday Remembrance
BY: Daughter Gertrude
10:15 Santa & Phil Castro & Lucille Abramo
BY: Angela Castro
4:30 Christmas Family Mass
12:00 AM Christmas Midnight Mass



Please note that Sunday 12/24 is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and is separate and apart from Christmas Eve Mass. Attendance at the celebration of the liturgy for the Fourth Sunday in Advent is a regular Sunday obligation.

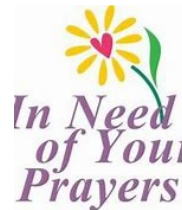
FINANCIAL INFORMATION



Sunday Collection 12/11 \$3,203.00
*Envelopes & cash
On Line Donatio \$3080.00
Total Sunday 12/11 \$6,283.00
Annual Weekly Expenses **\$14,325.00
Difference: \$ 8,042.00

**Total annual expenses divided by 52 weeks

Please remember in your prayers the members of our Parish who are 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 DeMarino, Ann Curcuru, Lemar McNabb, Carol Montelbano, Julia Magno, Anthony Manfre, Celeste Internicola, Emma Hukerby, 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 Montevecchi, Louann Gambardella, Jack DiCostanzo

MASS COUNT WEEKEND OF DEC. 11th

5:00 PM 76
8:30 AM 41
10:15 AM 121
NOON 20
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 258

JOURNEY WITH MARY THIS ADVENT

Join us on Thursday afternoons during Advent as we come together to pray and reflect on the key mysteries of Mary's life as presented by Caryll Houselander in her classic book The Reed of God. We will be listening to follow up meditations presented by Abiding Together Podcast on these themes. We will be gathering in the Holy Family Center at 12:30 PM on 12/23, and 1/4. Email Michele @ mtwomey.SHSS@gmail.com for information.

From the Pastor

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Dear Parish Community,

Today is the Third Sunday in Advent. Traditionally this Sunday has been called Joyful Sunday. We light the pink candle today. Liturgically pink is a symbol of joy. In Latin this day was called Gaudate Sunday or joyful Sunday.

The reading speaks to us about joy. In the first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, we read “The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor.....I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in God is the joy of my soul.....” while joy is proclaimed by the prophet, the real situation for the people was anything but joy. The exiles returned to find the community living in poverty and injustice. The Gospel reading comes to us from Mark. In this passage John the Baptist is questioned by the religious leaders. It is not a happy moment for him. John, even when opposed that he has been sent to testify to the light. For John the darkness that seemed to veil all humanity was lifting and those who wanted that light are called to repentance. The responsorial psalm comes from Luke 1:46 and following. This is commonly known as Mary’s Magnificat. In this great canticle, Mary is filled with joy as she says: “ My soul rejoices in my God.” Mary’s situation could not have been worse. She is with child and not yet married living in ancient Israel. Her life is quite upset. Yet, she rejoices. In the second reading from Paul’s first letter to the Thessalonians, Paul says: “Rejoice always.” The situation faced by the Thessalonians is not an easy one. The community is divided and is in need of direction, yet Paul tells them to rejoice. How does one hear these readings?

What is the difference between joy and happiness? Is there a difference? At this time of the year there are many people who are not happy. Some feel guilty because they are not happy. Some feel they cannot sing Christmas carols or attend parties because they are not in a happy mood. Others are going through the motions of being happy because their hearts are far from happiness. This year in particular presents a difficulty for many people. Grief, loss, fear, anger, emptiness, spiritual dryness are being experienced by many. Some have lost loved ones. Economically, some have lost their employment. Nationally we seem to be a divided nation. Internationally there is the constant threat of war and unrest. In our city there is the daily fear of violence. In light of these grave realities, how do we hear the message of Joy?

Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. (cf Galatians 5:22f) The Joy of Christmas is found in Jesus. Jesus is the cause of our Joy. He is the cause of our Joy because he is God dwelling among us. In Jesus we see God revealed as one with us. (Emmanuel) In Jesus we see God as one who embraces the human experience with its joys, sufferings, unanswered questions and its struggles. We see in Jesus the God who conquers death in all of its forms. Joy is internal. It is not contingent on our surroundings. Joy has nothing to do with “everything being fine.” One can be filled with joy yet be very sad. Joy that comes from the Lord is not like the happiness of the world.

Happiness is often dependent on the surroundings. We may be happy if we are healthy. We may be happy if all that we planned comes to pass. Happiness may come when things go the way we want. One can be happy and not be joy-filled. Happiness can be ruined if one detail is not executed perfectly correctly. Joy remains deep in our innermost being. Joy can be internal, silent and hope-giving. Happiness can be external. I would think there was little happiness for Mary and Joseph on that first Christmas. Being in a stable, having a child born in a stable, surrounded by animals and strange people was not a happy situation. Yet, there was Joy. Christ comes not when things are perfect, but when he is needed.

Christmas Joy is based on our faith not on a hallmark greeting card. Is Jesus the one who is to come into the world? If our answer is yes, then we have cause for joy even if we are weeping. If we are growing in the Spirit and see our lives as ordered to salvation, then the coming of Christ is a cause of our joy. We need not decorate. We need not put up the lights. We need not go to the parties. We need not put up a Christmas tree. However, we do need to celebrate our joy at Christmas Mass. We do need to participate at the Eucharist. In the Eucharist resides the one who is the cause of our joy. Emmanuel, who is God with us is the cause of our Joy and the reason for our hope. So, no matter how you feel, how sad you may be, come to Eucharist, surround yourself with people, hear the singing of the carols of faith and find consolation, hope and yes, even Joy in Christ.

Let us pray: Father send us your gift of the Holy Spirit that we may rejoice in Jesus: God with us, even in suffering and disappointment and setback. Blessings for Advent. Msg. Guy A. Massie