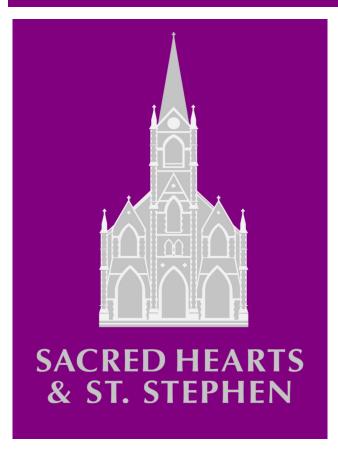
SACRED HEARTS & ST. STEPHEN R.C.CHURCH WWW.SacredHearts-StStephen.com



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.



MON. MARCH 4, 2024 8:30 Lia & Joseph Cerato

BY: Cerato & Andruzzi Families

TUE. MARCH 5, 2024 8:30 Concetta Battista

BY: Nieces & Nephews

WED MARCH 6, 2024 8:30 Rev. Vincent Termine

THURS. MARCH 7,2024

8:30 Louisa Dellaporta & Joseph Marchetti

BY: Catherine & Grandchildren

FRI. MARCH 8, 2024 8:30 Anna Massie

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

SAT. MARCH 9, 2024 8:30 Maria VanHoy

BY: The Conti Family

5:00 Marie Hertsel

BY: Daughter Marlene Olivieri &

Family

SUN. MARCH 10, 2024 8:30 Ann Troiano BY: Diane Vergona

10:15 Connie, Ernie & Joey Missioni

BY: Their Family

Noon In Thanksgiving for the Intercession of

St. Anthony & St. Joseph BY Lorraine Zanzonico



Altar Bread & Wine for the week of March 2nd has been donated In Memory of MARIE PIRO BY: The Trani Family

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Sunday Collection 2/25 \$4,436.00

*Envelopes & cash

On Line Donatio \$2,435.00
Total Sunday 2/25 \$6,871.00
Annual Weekly Expenses**\$14,325.00
Difference: \$7,454.00

**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

In Need of Your Prayers

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, Edna Lamboy

Madeline Selvaggio-Poldrugovaz

MASS COUNT WEEKEND OF FEB. 25TH

5:00 PM 45 8:30 AM 50 10:15 AM 158 NOON 33

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 286

LENTEN ACTIVITY:40 ITEMS FOR 40 DAYS

This Lent we are called to increase our efforts to pray ,fast and give to others. We have been invited to participate with Catholic Charities in the above mentioned Lenten activity. Please consider donating an item or two from the list and place in the marked receptacle at the rear of the church by 3/17.

Toiletries (New) Food

Toothbrush Peanut Butter(smsll)
Toothpaste Spread packets (Jelly)

Soap Crackers

Deodorant (men & women) Granola/Oatmeal bars Comb and hairbrush Personal snacks, (Chips,

Travel size shampoo & lotion nuts, trail mix)

Individual Water bottles

or juice boxes.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.



"We adore you Christ and we bless you because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world"

Dear Parish Family,

The readings today continue to address our covenant relation with the Lord. In the first reading from the Book of Exodus we are presented with the Sinai Covenant. After their redemption from slavery in Egypt, the Israelites come to Sinai. This is the place where God had first appeared to Moses. It is here that God gave Moses the Commandments. The Commandments were to be the foundation of Israel's relationship to God. The Israelites were freed from physical slavery. The Commandments would keep them free both morally and socially. With the giving of the Commandments, Israel becomes a nation. As a nation they will await the fulfillment of the promise; a land of their own. The land would be the concrete signs of God's promise.

The Commandments give freedom to the people. In the Book of Psalms, we often read of the blessedness of those who follow the Law of the Lord (See psalm 1, 119) Those who walk in the way of the Lord are free. The covenant relationship with the Lord gives humanity dignity, freedom and direction. If we look carefully at the Commandments, the first three Commandments speak of a relationship with God. The remainder of the laws guide us in our relationship with others. One shall not: steal, kill, covet or commit adultery. These laws allowed all to live in peace within the community. The Commandments showed the people the way to walk with God and others. Notice that one's relationship with God was lived out within the community. Notice that one's behavior in the community reflected one's relationship with God.

In the Gospel passage for today Jesus cleanses the Temple. The Feast of Passover underscores the covenant relationship between God and Israel. There are many reasons offered for the actions of Jesus in the cleansing of the temple. It is possible that Jesus found that Temple worship was more perfunctory than worship from the heart. For Jesus faithfulness to the covenant meant one's whole person (heart) is directed to God and others. Th outward cleansing of the temple also meant an inward cleaning of the heart of the community and the individual. It was not enough just to perform religious acts without faith and love for God. "Create in us a clean heart, renew in us a steadfast spirit." (psalm 51) Jesus is rather strong and direct in this passage. He acts in prophetic role. He as Jeremiah before him challenges the leadership of the Temple. The price Jesus will pay for his radical faithfulness to God is the Cross.

St. Paul in the second reading from 1 Corinthians proclaims Christ Crucified as the greatest sign of God's loving covenant with us. Amazing, Paul does not mention Christ's teachings or miracles but the Cross. In the weeks that follow it will become clear that the greatest sign of God's faithfulness and love for us is the Cross. The truth of the Cross blinds us, confounds all human reason while being the Victory of God. The Cross is the New Covenant in Christ.

Lent is a time to clean up. It is time to remove clutter from our lives. It is time to simplify our prayer life and to intensify our prayer life. It is a time to tighten up our spiritual lives by living out our prayer in the way we treat others. Cleaning up our lives means reconciling our differences even if we do not agree with the person with whom we are reconciling. Cleaning up the spirit means removing bitterness, deep seated anger and letting go of disappointment working towards improving relationships. We do this clean up following the commandments, re-reading the Beatitudes, reviewing th works of Mercy and taking stock of where your spirit is. Clean up. Easter is near.

Msgr. Guy A. Massie