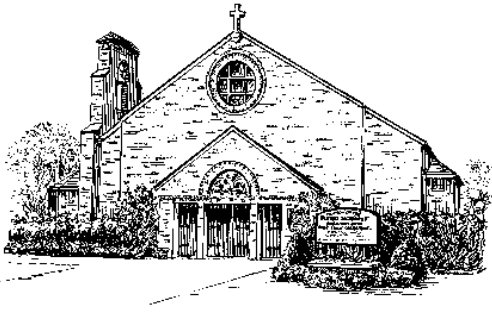


# BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

Staten Island, New York



**Reverend Monsignor Peter G. Finn, Pastor**  
**Reverend Francisco Lanzaderas**  
**Reverend Albin Roby**  
**Reverend Monsignor Francis V. Boyle, Pastor Emeritus**

## **MASSES:**

Saturday in the Church: 5:00 PM (Vigil), Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM.  
Weekdays in the Church: 7:00 AM and 9:00 AM. Saturday in the Church: 9:00 AM.  
Holy Days in the Church: 7:00 PM (Vigil), 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

## **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Saturday: 12:00 to 1:00 PM; 4:15 to 5:00 PM.  
Anytime upon reasonable request.

## **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Sunday at 2:00 PM. (Except during July & August, then only on the First and Third Sunday and other specified days)  
Arrangements should be made at least one month in advance with the priest of the Parish. Parents of a first child and parents who are new to Blessed Sacrament must attend a Baptism Instruction Class which is held the second Wednesday evening of every month (except July and August) at 7:30 P.M. in the Parish House Meeting Room. Godparents should be Practicing Catholics, and must obtain a Sponsor Certificate from their Parish.

## **SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY**

Arrangements should be made about six months in advance, with a priest of the Parish. Couples must attend Pre-Cana Conferences.

**SICK CALLS** - At any time.

**MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA** - Every Monday after the 9:00 AM Mass.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** - First Friday from 12:00 Noon to 2:00 P.M.

**NEW PARISHIONERS** - Welcome to our Parish.

We invite all parishioners to participate fully in our spiritual and social life. If you are new in the parish, please introduce yourself after Mass and register at the Parish House Office weekdays 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Kindly notify us if you change your address.

### **PARISH HOUSE**

30 Manor Road  
442-1581

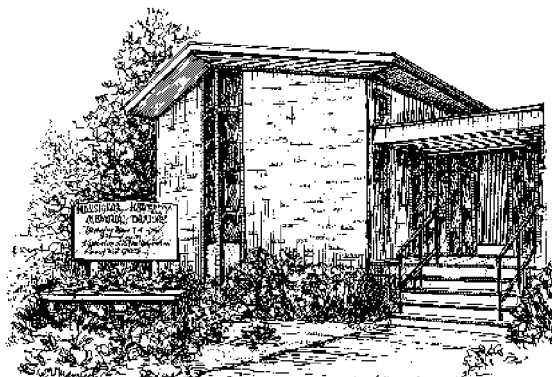
<http://www.blessedsacramentchurchsi.org>

### **SCHOOL**

Mr. Joseph Cocozello  
Principal  
830 Delafield Avenue  
442-3090

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Sister Anne Dolores Van Wagenen, C.S.J.B. - D.R.E.  
830 Delafield Avenue  
448-0378



**ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE/MARCH FOR LIFE**

We are gearing up for the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pilgrimage/March for Life in Washington, DC <http://marchforlife.org>. As you know, this year the March for Life takes place on Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. This year, at the request of Cardinal Dolan, we are hosting a separate event for New York Pilgrims and are very excited that Cardinal Dolan will celebrate Mass for the NY youth and pilgrims on Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30am. The Mass will be at Little Flower Parish in Bethesda, MD <http://www.lfparish.org/about-lfp/index.aspx> and we already have almost 1,000 people signed up to attend. To register and get details see: [www.eventbrite.com/e/march-for-life-holy-sacrifice-of-the-mass-with-cardinaldolan-tickets-18639241473](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/march-for-life-holy-sacrifice-of-the-mass-with-cardinaldolan-tickets-18639241473). The Church is quite large and has ample parking. And yes, the famous green scarves are available once again for a mere \$2.50 per scarf – they are a big hit and help in keeping your group together and identify you with other New Yorkers who will be there. Place your order for those today.

**TOURING TUESDAY DATES**

The 2016 Staten Island Catholic Elementary School Open Houses are: Jan. 12, Feb. 2, Feb. 23, March 8, and April 12 from 9-11am. This Christmas, give the gift of a Catholic education. Staten Island Catholic Schools are Christ-centered, academically excellent and welcoming communities that teach students to be life-long learners and leaders energized by fidelity to Christ, the Church, and one another. To locate a faith-based Pre-K, Kindergarten or elementary school program near you, visit [www.buildboldfutures.org](http://www.buildboldfutures.org) or call 646-794-2885. Additional Open Houses and private tours are available.

<b><u>SUNDAY COLLECTION</u></b>	
<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>
<b>\$5,560 (Weekly)</b>	<b>\$6,224 (Weekly)</b>
<b>\$2,999 (Monthly)</b>	<b>\$2,654</b>
<b><u>ATTENDANCE</u></b>	
<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>
<b>790 (Adults)</b>	<b>737 (Adults)</b>
<b>183 (Children)</b>	<b>154 (Children)</b>
<b>970</b>	<b>891</b>

**THE SANCTUARY LAMP  
KEEPS ITS SILENT VIGIL  
BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
EMILY MARIE MC QUADE**

***PRAY FOR THE SICK***

The sick are comforted just knowing that you pray for them. In your charity please remember: Margaret Pittman-Boyle, Douglas Pflieger, Jr., Phyllis Ribaud, Ann Socci, James Burghardt, Concetta Chicolo, Kelly Ward, Amelia DiMauro, Mary Kenny, Kathryn Haring, Jean Carter, Jane Redmond, Carolyn DeStefano, Robert Tursi, Deirdre Westergren, Nicholas Toto, Marykate Rose, Peggy Travers, Mary Anne Blaine, Jean Cunningham, Jean Elmadary, Alan March, Sebastian Lattuga, Grayce Novaro, Angela Siuzdak, Helen Ramsey, Katherine Barbera, Phyllis Scharfenberg, Margaret Romani, Br. William Herbst, Barbara Brown, Michael Caruso, Patricia Connelly, Hugh Kiernan, Mary Belli, Mark Volpe, Elaine Lydersen, Linda Hansen, Dean Robert Ziegler, Danielle Ziegler, Susannah Yates, Marco Antonio Gonzalez, Grace Leddy, Margaret King, Joseph D'Amico, Larry Taylor, Jr., Kathy Quinlan, Felicidad Tobias, Jose Ruiz, Casta Miskowitz, Rosemary Callahan, Elizabeth Coyne, Lucy D'Angelo, Robert Hammerton, Catherine Vitale, Capala Lusi, Jack McGarry, Robert McQuade, Amy Mezzacappa, Mary Ruggiero and Amparo Isaza

***SYMPATHY***

Remember the soul of Margaret Lynch and the souls for whom Mass will be offered during the week, especially:

**MONDAY**

7:00 Mancuso Family  
9:00 Deceased Members of the O'Mahony Family

**TUESDAY**

7:00 Mary McAloon Kenny (21<sup>st</sup> Anniv.)  
9:00 Louis J. Caccese (6<sup>th</sup> Anniv.) &  
Michael L. Caccese (60<sup>th</sup> Birthday)

**WEDNESDAY**

7:00 Beverly Casucci  
9:00 Maurice LaCasse

**THURSDAY**

7:00 Lt. Raymond Flynn  
9:00 Maria Lilla Stanzione

**FRIDAY**

7:00 Kristine Durr (Living)  
9:00 James Hession

**SATURDAY**

9:00 Peter C. Strom (Living)  
5:00 Cornelius Sullivan

**SUNDAY**

8:00 Emily Marie McQuade  
9:30 Donald Pace (20<sup>th</sup> Anniv.)  
12:30 Lt. Joseph Gullickson, FDNY & Mary Reilly

**SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 20, 2015****ALTAR SERVERS**

5:00 PM Vigil	Team	10
8:00 AM	Team	6
9:30 AM	Team	7
11:00 AM	Team	8
12:30 PM	Team	9

**LECTORS**

R. SEMON
F. MOLANPHY
K. HANLEY
J. PACE
L. PILLARELLA

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

V. DONNELLY & K. BYRNE
E. HODGENS & S. COSCIA
P. THOMANN & R. GALLOP
M. MCKEEVER & E. LAUB
E. CHECKETT & G. CHECKETT

**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

This week, our celebration of Advent makes a transition in ritual and texts. Beginning December 18, the countdown of nine days (a novena) to Christmas sees a heightened sense of expectation, and also a turning from the call of the Baptist in the wilderness to the events leading up to Jesus' birth. In ancient Spain, December 18 was once celebrated as the "Feast of the Expectancy," and customs grew up to heighten readiness in the homes.

Some customs arise from monastic life and practice and spill over into our parish life. Beginning tonight, those who pray Vespers will sing in the opening phrase a beautiful title of Christ. These titles belong to a collection of opening phrases called the "O Antiphons" after the awe-inspired "O" sung on the first note. There's a playful code in the titles: O Wisdom, O Lord, O Flower of Jesse, O Key of David, O Dawn, O Ruler, O Emmanuel. When you take their Latin names—*Sapientia, Adonai, Radix*, and so on—the titles form an acrostic when you read them backwards: "ERO CRAS." In Latin, that is translated as "I will be there tomorrow!" It's as if Christ were answering the prayers of the waiting people in the words of the prayers themselves.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



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**Monday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> is Advent Reconciliation Monday.** Confessions will be heard from 4 to 8pm. Advent Penance Service will begin at 7pm.

**PARISH NURSE PROGRAM**

The Parish Nurse's office hours are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am to 4:30am. If you wish to make an appointment with the Parish Nurse, Peggy Smith, please call her at 718-447-9657.

**BLESSED SACRAMENT CHOIR**

The Choir is hosting Lessons & Carols, an Advent Prayer Service on Thursday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. And a Christmas Concert on Sunday, Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4pm

**THE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION** – The Christmas Collection at Blessed Sacrament helps us to meet many of our Parish expenses during the winter months. Your continued generosity is very much appreciated and needed. Our parish is blessed because of you, our parishioners. Thank you!



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We're looking for a few good men. Actually any man between the age of 16 and 106. If you're interested in becoming an Usher, please call Mike DeRosa at 718-442-7313 for more information.

**FROM THE PASTOR**

The last chapter of Year 2015 unfolds with the month of December. Excitement fills the heart, mind and soul of young and old alike. Christmas is coming!

At the very beginning of our anticipation, we note the celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 8<sup>th</sup> and an Advent Day of Reconciliation on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. In the middle of hustle and bustle of preparation and anticipation we have a wonderful opportunity to reflect, renew and refresh our spiritual lives and relationship with Jesus Our Savior.

Pope Francis, a Holy Father of Hope, Joy, a smile and love offers us the opportunity to gift our family, ourselves and all we meet with mercy, friendship and love. Here is what he offers:

**The Year of Mercy and the Holy Doors**

*In his papal bull announcing the forthcoming year of Mercy (Misericordiae Vultus [MV]), Pope Francis made special mention of the opening of the Holy Door at Saint Peter's Basilica. This Door opened on December 8, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and will remain open throughout the Year of Mercy. In the same announcement, Pope Francis indicated that other holy doors would be opened throughout Rome at the other papal basilicas, as well as in cathedral churches and other designated shrines throughout the world.*

## PAGE FOUR

### FROM THE PASTOR

*The concept of the Holy door is rich in its theological meaning and historical significance. The first Holy door was designated by Pope Martin V, in 1423, at the Basilica of Saint John Lateran. A second Holy Door was opened at Saint Peter's Basilica on Christmas in the jubilee year of 1499. Since this time, Holy Doors have become a staple feature of jubilee year celebrations.*

*The original liturgy for the opening of the Holy door at Saint Peter's included several unique ritual elements. The rite began with the creation of an opening in one of the walls of Saint Peter's Basilica. The Holy Father himself initiated this action by striking the stones of the wall with a ceremonial hammer. As masons continued the work of deconstructing the wall in preparation for the mounting of the Holy door, the faithful would rush to gather the fragments of the bricks and cement, treating them as relics. At the conclusion of a jubilee year, the Pope would begin the process of resealing the wall by laying down several bricks and placing coins that commemorated the year into the cement.*

*In recent years, several changes have been made to these rites. The Holy Father no longer participates in the opening and closing of the wall, but rather, the Holy Door itself. The liturgical texts present the Door as a symbol of Christ, who described Himself as the "door for the sheep" (Jn 10:7). In his announcement of the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis added an additional dimension to this theology, referring to the Holy Door as a "Door of Mercy, through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instills hope" (MV,3). The Holy Father explained that, "by crossing the threshold..., we will find the strength to embrace God's mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us" (MC, 14). In this way, the Holy Father intends the Holy Door to be a symbol of encounter with Christ, who is "the face of the Father's mercy" (MV, 1).*

*In the Archdiocese of New York, Cardinal Dolan has designated five Doors of Mercy where pilgrims have the opportunity to encounter this profound symbol of Christ's desire to welcome all into the Kingdom of God. These Doors may be visited at:*

*Saint Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan*

*The Basilica of Saint Patrick's Old Cathedral in Manhattan*

*The Shrine Church of Saint Francis Cabrini in Manhattan*

*The National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Middletown; and*

*The Salesian National Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians in Stony Point.*

#### **Pope Francis's Prayer for the Jubilee of Mercy**

Lord Jesus Christ,

you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,  
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.

Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money;  
the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in  
created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal,  
and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that  
you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father,  
of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy:  
let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.  
You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness  
in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error:  
let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing,  
so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord,  
and your church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor,  
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy,  
you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen

GOD BLESS YOU,  
MSGR. FINN