

COVER SHEET

CHURCH NAME: BLESSED SACRAMENT

BULLETIN NUMBER: 511349

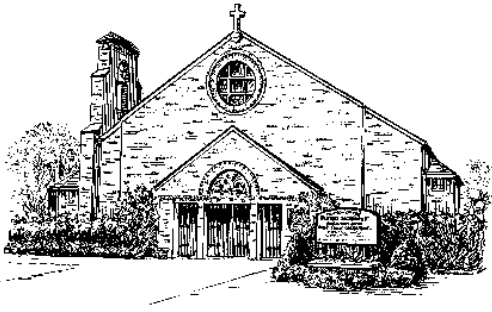
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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: PLEASE CALL MARGARET 718-442-1581

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

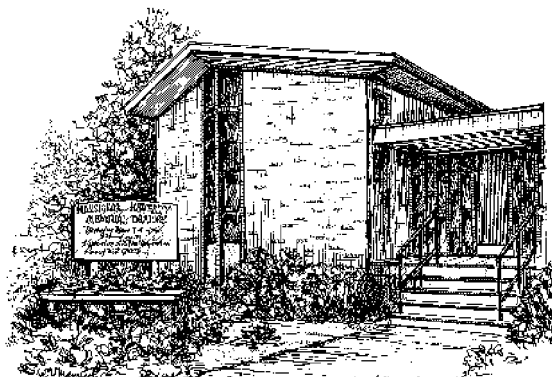
<http://www.blessedsacramentchurchsi.org>

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





*May Our Lord Jesus Christ bring
Peace and Happiness into your hearts and home
during this Holy Christmas Season!*

*Rev. Msgr. Peter G. Finn
Fev. Frank Lanzaderas
Rev. Albin Roby*

Please Note: Blessed Sacrament Parish House will close at 1:00pm on Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24th and will be closed on Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25th.

NATIVITY SCENE AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

It is with great joy that the Archdiocese of New York welcomes Maestro Francesco Artese and his Nativity Scene installation to St. Patrick's Cathedral. Inspired by the city of Matera, in southern Italy, this artwork showcases the beautiful detail of this UNESCO World Heritage site through the story of Jesus' birth. The Nativity Scene will remain in the Cathedral throughout the Christmas season.

| <u>SUNDAY COLLECTION</u> | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2015 | 2014 |
| \$ 8,216(Weekly) | \$8,535(Weekly) |
| \$ 2,758(Ret. Religious) | \$3,070 |
| <u>ATTENDANCE</u> | |
| 2015 | 2014 |
| 795 (Adults) | 782 (Adults) |
| 158 (Children) | 153 (Children) |
| 953 | 935 |

**THE SANCTUARY LAMP
KEEPS ITS SILENT VIGIL
BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
DAVID CALLAGHAN**

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 souls of Frank Fontaino, Kathleen Ward and the souls for whom Mass will be offered during the week, especially:

MONDAY

7:00 Josephine Agnello
9:00 Deceased members of the Dicks & Magnuski Families

TUESDAY

7:00 Vincenza & Antonio Milazzo
9:00 JoAnn Young (10TH Anniv.)

WEDNESDAY

7:00 Marie Novaro
9:00 Sophie Savron (28th Anniv.)

THURSDAY – CHRISTMAS EVE

7:00 Virginia & Frank Bonventre
9:00 Robert Valentine
4:00 Children's Liturgy
6:30 Vigil Mass
12:00 Concelebrated Midnight Mass

FRIDAY – CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00 Christmas Novena Intentions
9:30 Christmas Novena Intentions
12:30 Christmas Novena Intentions

SATURDAY

9:00 Grace & Angelo Novaro
5:00 Mimi Guerriero

SUNDAY

8:00 Richard Sigman
9:30 Anthony Mazza
12:30 James Deignan

SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 27, 2015

| | <u>ALTAR SERVERS</u> | <u>LECTORS</u> | <u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u> |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 5:00 PM Vigil | Team 9 | R. Helbock | V. Donnelly & C. Rooney |
| 8:00 AM | Team 10 | R. Griswold | D. Vigliotti & S. Coscia |
| 9:30 AM | Team 6 | E. Trentalange | A. Morrell & W. Boyd |
| 11:00 AM | Team 7 | D. Leddy | M. Peralta & M. McKeever |
| 12:30 PM | Team 8 | C. Tobias | M. Morgan & E. Laub |

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Many of our most treasured traditions link the liturgy of the church with the hearth of the home. The food on the table at certain feasts and fasts helps to extend the mystery into everyday life. Tonight, for example, many families of Italian heritage, especially those with links to the south of Italy, will settle down to the "Feast of the Seven Fishes," or *La Vigilia*. It is a command performance for the whole family, as the saying goes: *Natale con I tuui, Pasqua conchi vuoi*, or "Christmas with your family, Easter with whomever you wish." Seven different fish, some say one for each day of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, others say one for each sacrament, or one for each day of creation, are served. Eel and shrimp, lobster and crab, calamari, pasta with clam sauce, flounder and hake all abound, but most especially baccala, dried salted cod. Why? Many say that it is a way to pay homage to the beasts of the stable who witnessed the holy birth and relinquished their manger to make way for God. Tonight, if someone asks you to "pass the shrimp," you'll be able to shed a little light on a menu that is a delicious treasure in our tradition!

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

BLESSED SACRAMENT SENIORS

Please note: the December meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 19th at 1:15pm in the PCMR.

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.

ABORTION PILL REVERSAL PROGRAM

If you know someone who has taken RU-486, please let them know that there is now a successful method of reversing the pill's effect – within 72 hours of taking this abortion pill – with no harm to the mother or the baby who has been conceived. For immediate help (time is of the essence) please call (347) 495-3789 for assistance.

*Welcome New Parishioners**Mr. & Mrs. Howard Fugate**Mr. Walter Kissel**Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Balaj**Ms. Karolina D'Amico**Ms. Diane Lippsett**Mr. & Mrs. John Mineo**Ms. Melanie Powery**Mr. & Mrs. Michael Szczecinski*

OUR VISITORS: We thank you for celebrating the Holy Eucharist with us this weekend. If you are visiting, we pray that you had a wonderful visit. If you are new to the area and are considering Blessed Sacrament as your Parish Family, please stop by the Parish Office to register. Or, go to our website, click on the Parish Registration Form link, print out a Registration Form and return your completed form to us in any Sunday Offertory Basket.

MOVING/CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please help us keep our records up-to-date. Be sure to notify the Parish Office if you are moving or have a new phone number. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**Thursday, December 24th****Christmas Eve**

4:00pm Children's Liturgy

6:30pm Vigil Mass

12:00 Midnight Concelebrated Mass

Friday, December 25th**Christmas Day**

8:00, 9:30, 11:00am & 12:30pm

Thursday, December 31st**New Year's Eve**

5:00pm Vigil Mass

Friday, January 1st**The Blessed Virgin Mary, The Mother of God****New Year's Day**

8:00, 9:30, 11:00am & 12:30pm

ALL MASSES WILL BE IN THE CHURCH

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FROM THE PASTOR

One of the first television shows was entitled: "I Remember Mama" every Friday night on Channel 5, black & white television, 10 inch screen where families gathered to view the story of a Norwegian immigrant family in San Francisco, struggling and working hard to validate their American citizenship. Many of us, sons, daughters, grandchildren of other immigrant groups understood, sympathized and cheered them on.

Today, I Remember West Brighton, 65 years ago when rain turned to snow on the eve of an Advent Sunday when spirits rose and children smiled with glee. It was the first snowfall of the season and the season was Christmas.

"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear that Glorious Song of Old"

Families busied themselves searching for the perfect Christmas tree. Better put up the lights; decorate the hearth for the celebration of Jesus' birth is but a few weeks away. The hustle and bustle of preparation resounds all over the Parish and yes all over Staten Island.

Long ago and not so far away, when Forest Avenue was not festooned with beautiful lights and the Staaten so tastefully decorated did not even exist; the anticipation and preparation for Christmas was less expensive, more creative and no less tiring. But, oh it was such a wonderful time. And yes temperatures dipped and snow fell and wondrous beauty ensued. And the warmth and glow of families lit up Forest Avenue perhaps even more than the beautiful lights of today. The thrill of the coming of Santa Claus excited the sparkling eyes of children trying to be on their best behavior as parents smiled and tried to hold them to nice not naughty.

Moms and Dads checked the Christmas club, counted their money carefully as they worked with Santa to assure a Christmas morning of happiness not extravagance-just genuine joy. And, it did not take a lot of anything material, just a whole lot of hugs and love to make it happen.

Central of course to the Catholic and Christian celebration of Christmas was Christ's Mass on December 24th-25th. After all the celebration was about the birth of Baby Jesus and He came first.

Too often lost to our pseudo-sophisticated 21st Century selves is the reason for the season. It really is the Incarnation-Nativity-Birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is not XMAS, it is Christmas and may we never forget it or if we have forgotten may we quickly recover it.

Long ago, as today Advent was the Season of Hope and Preparation. It was a time then and now to look into the mirror of our souls and take stock. It was the opportunity to go to God in confession and be reconciled to a Father who knows all and loves us to death. And all we have to do is say I am sorry and I'll try to do better. It was a time to look about us at those less fortunate and lend a helping hand however much or little we could do. It might be the kindness of our presence or the silence of our generosity – or both. Then and now all it took was for us to step off the treadmill and do it.

And when Gaudete Rose, Joyful Sunday arrived, we were halfway home to the Feast Day. Looking ahead we excitedly anticipated the celebration.

And then it was Christmas Eve! Almost everything in place, as young parents nestled their children snug in their beds. For other families Christmas Eve meant Midnight Mass and the Glorious Liturgy of Christmas Day. *It came upon a midnight clear that glorious song of old. From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold. "Peace on earth, good will to men from heav'ns Gracious King" The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.* The words of the carol reverberated across the globe as millions of families trod the roads and pathways to their Parish Church to pray, to thank, to request, to praise the Infant Baby Jesus.

Sadly, in too many instances Midnight Mass for legitimate and too often silly reasons has disappeared in too many parishes and it is sad. Here at Blessed Sacrament, we continue the beautiful practice of celebrating Christ's Birthday at the stroke of Midnight and throughout Christmas morning.

I hope and pray that many of our parishioners, families and young people will plan their schedules to experience the beauty of Midnight Mass 2015. And for those who are unable to be at Midnight Mass I pray you will not miss Mass on Christmas Day. It just would not be Christmas without you or for that matter for you. Jesus is waiting.

Yes, I Remember Mama and all of us should remember our ancestors who struggled to have the American Dream and to celebrate their own neighborhood Christmas.

GOD BLESS THEM AND
GOD BLESS YOU,
MSGR. FINN