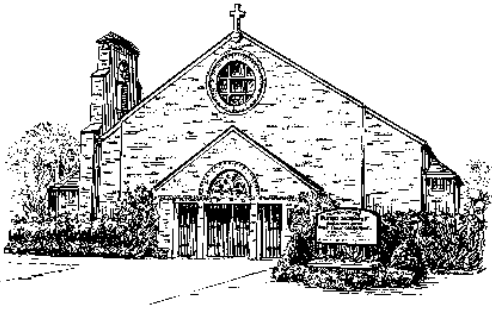


BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

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.

EUCHARISTIC 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

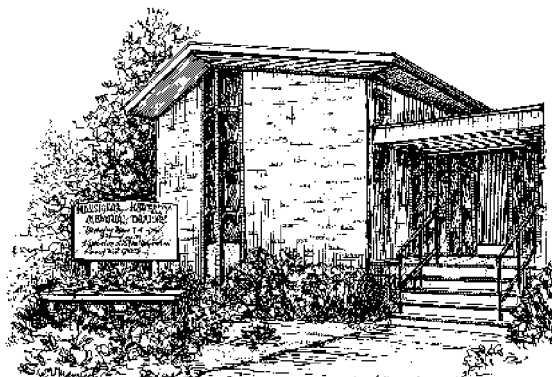
<http://www.blessedsacramentchurchsi.com>

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



THANK YOU

On behalf of Fr. Frank, Fr. Roby and myself, we wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Parishioners, Staff, Parish Societies and Organizations for their time and effort in helping to make Christmas 2014 and New Year 2015 a spiritual, joyful and family celebration of the Birthday of Christ. We sincerely appreciate your thoughts and gifts. You are all very special and have a remembrance in our Masses and Prayers.

God Bless You,
 Msgr. Finn

CONGRATULATIONS to the winners of the 50/50 Raffle for December 2014 Mr. & Mrs. Kevin O'Brien who won \$940.00.

PARISH NURSE PROGRAM

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

<u>CHRISTMAS COLLECTION</u>	
<u>2014</u> \$31,431.00	<u>2013</u> (Christmas) \$33,581.00
<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	
<u>2014</u> 1200 (Adults) (Christmas)	<u>2013</u> 1048
<u>250</u> (Children) (Christmas)	<u>223</u>
1450	1271

<u>SUNDAY COLLECTION</u>	
<u>2015</u> \$14,813.00 (Weekly, 1/1/15, Initial)	<u>2014</u> \$10,880.00
\$ 1,243.00 <Catholic Commun.>	\$ 956.00
<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	
<u>2015</u> 822 (Adults)	<u>2014</u> 810 (Adults)
<u>153</u> (Children)	<u>135</u> (Children)
1012	945

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 Ribaldo, Ann Socci, James Burghardt, Concetta Chicolo, Kelly Ward, Amelia DiMauro, Lisa Barlow, Mary Kenny, Kathryn Haring, Jean Carter, Stephanie Barry, Jane Redmond, Carolyn DeStefano, Robert Tursi, Deirdre Westergren, Nicholas Toto, Marykate Rose, Carlo Fumando, Peggy Travers, Mary Anne Blaine, Jean Cunningham, Jean Elmadary, Jameson Riley David, Alan March, Sebastian Lattuga, Grayce Novaro, Angela Siuzdak, Helen Ramsey, Katherine Barbera, Phyllis Scharfenberg, Phyllis Giambruno, Margaret Romani, Br. William Herbst, Barbara Brown, Michael Caruso, Patricia Connelly, Eugene Esposito, Hugh Kiernan, Mary Belli, Mark Volpe, Elaine Lydersen, Linda Hansen, Dean Robert Ziegler, Susannah Yates, Carol Stoltzfus, Harvey Minars, , Marco Antonio Gonzalez, Grace Leddy, Margaret King, Joseph D'Amico, Infant Twins, Allison & Adrianna, Larry Taylor, Jr., Kathy Quinlan, Felicidad Tobias and Gary Smith

SYMPATHY

Remember the soul of James V. McKendry and the souls for whom Mass will be offered during the week, especially:

MONDAY

7:00 Tino Buscema
 9:00 Bernardine Cabotaje

TUESDAY

7:00 Christopher Dorman
 9:00 Special Intention for the Pierre Toussaint Guild

WEDNESDAY

7:00 Deceased Members of the Finn Family
 9:00 Patricia Callahan Hemsworth

THURSDAY

7:00 Christopher Dorman
 9:00 Victoria Magliocca

FRIDAY

7:00 Raymond Flynn
 9:00 Timothy Hurley

SATURDAY

9:00 Thomas Jacobsen (15th Anniv)
 5:00 John Ciano

SUNDAY

8:00 Doris O'Toole
 9:30 Frederick & John Buzzard
 12:30 Kathleen Coyne

SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 18, 2015

	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>
5:00 PM Vigil	Team 9	P. Thomann	K. Byrne & J. Wright
8:00 AM	Team 10	M. Peries	A. & S. Coscia
9:30 AM	Team 6	M. Semon	P. Thomann & W. Boyd
11:00 AM	Team 7	E. Trentalange	N. Mata & Y. Mata
12:30 PM	Team 8	K. Kelley	M. Conigatti & A. Talaid

SENIOR NEWS

The Blessed Sacrament Senior Group is sponsoring a Day of Recollection at San Alfonso Retreat House in Long Branch, New Jersey on Tuesday, March 24, 2015. The bus will leave Blessed Sacrament at 8:15 A.M. Donation-\$60/person. For reservations and information, please call Betty Hartmann at 718-727-2669.

SWIM TEAM TRYOUTS

Swim Team Tryouts will be held on Saturday, January 24th at the JCC Manor Road from 6:40 to 7:40 P.M. Tryouts will be open to children in Grades 1 through 8, with emphasis to fill first and second grade. To tryout, either email at blaze617@verizon.net or text at 646-773-6101 the child's name and grade so that we can anticipate how many pool lanes and assistants will be needed. Thank you Deirdre and Thomas Tirotta

Families that contribute through our Online Giving option can print Tax Statements at their convenience. Please be aware, however, that should you also contribute to our parish for any special collections you should request a Tax Statement from the Parish House which would include all of your contributions for the 2014 Tax Year.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A STATEMENT OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2014, PLEASE RETURN THE BELOW FORM TO THE PARISH HOUSE OFFICE. STATEMENTS WILL ONLY BE ISSUED UPON REQUEST AND WITH PRIOR NOTICE. THE STATEMENTS WILL BE MAILED AT THE END OF JANUARY. THANK YOU.

Please mail my Statement of Contributions made to Blessed Sacrament Parish for the Year 2014.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP CODE _____

ENVELOPE NUMBER _____

FROM THE PASTOR

Today, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, signifies the inauguration of the salvation mission of reaching, teaching, healing, suffering with the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Messiah and Savior. It also marks the end of our celebration of Christ's Nativity and the wonderful celebration of Christmas 2014 and Epiphany 2015.

The wonderful array of poinsettias and pine surrounding our Creche and Altar pointedly pays honor, respect, and love for the mysteries we celebrate and the joy and happiness it brings to the hearts, minds and souls of young and old alike.

It is no secret that your pastor regards the beauty of flowers as an expression of the wonder of God's creation in nature. As such, we seek to celebrate the sacredness of His presence in our temple with the beauty of flowers saluting the wonder of our Creator and Savior.

In the December issue of America Magazine (Dec. 22-29) in an article, Faith In Focus, B.G. Kelley writes of "Faith and Flowers" finding grace and growth at Christmas.

FAITH AMID FLOWERS

Finding grace and new growth at Christmas

I am the son of a florist, so I was reared to accept that there are no tin flowers. And even the least of them are like rainbows or sunsets: worthwhile natural deities. I worked side-by-side with my dad for 25 of the 50 years he spent in his tiny flower shop in a tiny Philadelphia neighborhood called Paradise. When my pop was in his shop taking care of his customers, he was truly in paradise. He taught me that flowers speak to the verities of the heart and soul: honor, truth, love, prayer. For my entire life I have embraced the power of flowers, and they have helped guide me through both good and challenging times.

One Christmastide I was delivering poinsettias in my pop's Ford panel truck when I noticed this girl waiting at a bus stop on Roosevelt Boulevard in the Northeast neighborhood of Philadelphia

We had met as students on the campus of Temple University, had even gone out several times. She was a rare beauty, statuesque with long dark hair falling over her shoulders, and deep, dark brown eyes that lit up like polished pinewood.

But we were polar opposites. She spent most of her time in the library studying French literature; I spent most of my time in the gym playing basketball. I was the starting point guard for Temple. We were as different as the Louvre and Madison Square Garden. I moved on.

I stopped the Ford panel, rolled down the passenger-side window and shouted, "Need a lift?"

After recognizing me, she said, "Sure," and hopped in.

"Are you still playing basketball?" she asked, before noticing the cache of poinsettias in the back of the truck. "I love poinsettias," she said. "Do you have any extras? I'll buy one."

"Yes, I'm still playing basketball," I replied. "And no there aren't any extra poinsettias."

After dropping her off at her house, I returned to my pop's shop, picked out a rich, rose-pink poinsettia and hung a "sold" sign on it. On the card I wrote a poem. The next day when I was again delivering poinsettias in the Northeast area, I stopped at her house. I knocked on the door, and she opened it. Awkwardly, I said, "These are for you. Maybe we can get together."

"Maybe we can," she said. "Call me."

I did, and several days after Christmas we got together. She suggested we go for a walk. We stopped at a playground near her house. "Let's shoot some hoops," she said. (The way to my heart wasn't through food but basketball) And so we played a one-on-one game of basketball.

I won. I married her.

And for the 43 years we have been married, I have given her a poinsettia and a poem every Christmas.

SPIRITUALITY IN FLOWERS

In difficult times, when I need a source of strength to fill whatever holes within me need filling, I can call on those attributes of flowers: renewal, inspiration, peace—and spirituality. "Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink." It is the same with flowers for me.

Four days before Christmas, in 1984, my pop the florist summoned me to the hospital where he was a patient. Looking me square in the eyes from his hospital bed, with that distinctly Irish Kennedyesque mug, a shell of a man from the once strapping football player he had been—muscular and sinewy, fast as a cheetah—he said, "Billy, make sure there are a lot of flowers at the viewing." He died the next day.

Why wouldn't he want plenty of flowers present at his passing? He was certain that flowers played a spiritual role in death, bringing a symbolic presence and meaning. Flowers bloom beyond tears, fears and not next years, symbolizing that death is not separation but transformation. My pop forever preached that flowers help us to view death with the promise that life does not flicker out for good.

That is because he saw so often the comfort that his flowers brought to families and friends of loved ones who had died. Even science has now begun to take notice of the effects of flowers. A recent Rutgers University study revealed that in anxious, uncertain times, like death, flowers are a blissful and spiritual necessity. But then again, my pop didn't need some scientific study to tell him that. He experienced it for 50 years in that tiny flower shop in Paradise.

So many times I heard people say to him, "Thank you, the flowers meant so much to us. They were a source of strength, peace and most of all, faith."

My father was buried on Christmas Eve. On the day of his viewing I made sure that the request he asked of me that night in the hospital was honored. There was a bounty of flowers circling his casket like a necklace. I arranged them. I am blessed with a usable past.

A huge spray of bulbous, white chrysanthemums spread the length of the casket; baskets of white gladioli, shooting out like spires, stood at the head and foot of the casket; a rosary made of red roses lay clutched in his hands, and 25 to 30 other baskets and sprays, one after another, framed the funeral parlor.

After everyone had gone, alone in the silence of the funeral parlor, I looked at my pop and all the flowers encircling him. They reminded me of that triumphant connection: Flowers were the other side of the silence, drawing life out of death.

The sentiments expressed by Mr. Kelley really reflect my own. And so, I express sincere gratitude for your generous support of our attempt at dignity, beauty and reverence at Christmas and Easter for our Sanctuary.

May we all "find grace and new growth" at Christmas, Easter and every Sunday with Faith, Hope and Love among the flowers in the presence of Jesus Christ in our Tabernacle.

GOD BLESS YOU,
MSGR. FINN