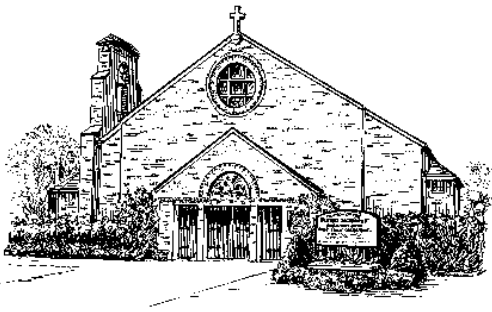


# BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

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

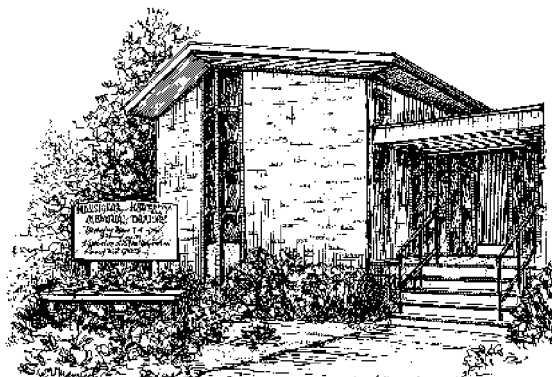
<http://www.blessedsacramentchurchsi.org>

### **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



**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.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our 50/50 Raffle winners for JANUARY 2015 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Aponte who won \$775.00.

**Did you know...**that the Education Investment Tax Credit bill is an opportunity for individual taxpayers or businesses to receive a tax credit for donations to nonprofit organizations that provide scholarships for Catholic/private schools? This initiative would generate greater funding for scholarships to families to help pay private school tuition. Increased donations to The Children Scholarship Fund, for example, allow more children to receive scholarships. For more information, visit [www.investined.org](http://www.investined.org).

The next session of **"Ignatian Spirituality"** will be held on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at Holy Family Church (Watchogue Road). The meeting will begin following the 8:30 A.M. Mass in the Church basement meeting room.

<b><u>SUNDAY COLLECTION</u></b>	
<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>
\$6629.00 (Weekly)	\$7556.00 (Weekly)
\$2307.00	<Monthly > \$3155.00
<b><u>ATTENDANCE</u></b>	
<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>
779 (Adults)	854 (Adults)
194 (Children)	198 (Children)
973	10521

**THE SANCTUARY LAMP  
KEEPS ITS SILENT VIGIL  
BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
SANTO MARONCELLI**

***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, Lucy Ferlazzo and Brett Greeley.

***SYMPATHY***

Remember the souls of Nicholas Fevelo, Obdulia Renkowski, Mary Golden, Frederick Ahr, Mary Zanca and the souls for whom Mass will be offered during the week, especially:

**MONDAY**

7:00 Jay O'Donovan  
9:00 John Ciano

**TUESDAY**

7:00 Nicole Zobkiw  
9:00 Betty Commiskey

**WEDNESDAY**

7:00 Nicole Zobkiw  
9:00 Luz Passignajen

**THURSDAY**

7:00 Anna LoCasto  
9:00 Richard Cirbus

**FRIDAY**

7:00 Fay DeAngelis  
9:00 Anthony Nicita

**SATURDAY**

9:00 Dave Callaghan  
5:00 Barbara Gulbin

**SUNDAY**

8:00 Robert Valentine  
9:30 Kathleen Spillane  
12:30 Alfred Brown

**SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 15, 2015**

	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>
5:00 PM Vigil	Team 7	J. Hansen	A. Aponte & C. Rooney
8:00 AM	Team 8	C.A. McNab	S. Coscia & E. Hodgens
9:30 AM	Team 9	M. Boyd	K. Byrne & A. Morrell
11:00 AM	Team 10	K. Hanley	N. Mata & Y. Mata
12:30 PM	Team 6	T. Sanders	J. & M. Spach

**FROM THE PASTOR**

During this Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time we Celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Pope Saint John Paul II initiated this day as an Annual Day of the Sick in 1992. He did so to declare "a special time of prayer and sharing, of offering ones suffering for the good of the Church and of reminding us to see in our sick brothers and sisters the face of Christ, who, by suffering, dying, and rising achieved the salvation of the human race. The Pope himself had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1991, and his own illness was an impetus for his designation of the day. As a result the day coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes, a name given to the Virgin Mary in honor of the apparitions that were seen in Lourdes, France by St. Bernadette Soubirius.

Pope St. John Paul II was a burning light of witness in a society promoting the Culture of Death affirming by his end of life challenge of the needed appreciation for and witness of a Culture of Life.

How sad are the too frequent accounts of suicide, euthanasia, war, abortion, et.al. that capture media headlines and cry out to all of us to pray for the victims; love and support for their loved ones bereft with sadness. Charles DeCelles in the January issue of Priest Magazine writes of "Appreciating Life-Making the best of life in the Culture of Death!"

*We live in a culture of death. Active euthanasia exists in the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. In the Netherlands, parents can euthanize babies with disabilities. Young adults can kill themselves because they are going blind or because they are anorexic.*

*In the United States, physician-assisted suicide is permitted in Washington, Oregon and Vermont. It is permitted by court ruling in Montana. A person has to be at least 18 to request assistance and supposedly be within 6 months of dying.*

*Doctor-assisted suicide has little to do with alleviating pain, since that can be accomplished using non-lethal drugs. Psychological distress is probably the main reason sick people seek medical assistance to commit suicide. Distress could take the form of depression, loss of dignity or fear of losing autonomy or self-control. Pain and physical discomfort are clearly secondary reasons.*

*Patients who utilize physician-assisted suicide are often those who value being in control and tend to magnify the negative dimensions of dying. They are individuals who estimate that the loss of self-possession and quality of life are intolerable. They are often people concerned not to burden others yet wish to die at home.*

*It is when they are depressed and frightened that patients look to their physicians for poison pills. It is when they are in greatest need of mental health counseling. Unfortunately, that badly needed counseling is not always forthcoming. In tune with the implementation of Oregon's suicide statutes, a physician can assist in the performance of a suicide without first exploring in depth the concerns of his patient that led him or her to request suicide assistance.*

*The simple act of investigating the patient's problems can prove beneficial. Frequently it results in a discussion that brings relief, often eliminating the desire for suicide. Although the law in Oregon does require that a patient whose judgment might be impaired as the result of depression undergo counseling, the law appears not to be carefully followed. Not even one patient killed by suicide in 2007 or 209 was referred for a psychological evaluation (Gene Tarne, "Oregon Docs Not Evaluating for Depression Before Assisted Suicide" Lifeweek.com, 5/22/2012). Exactly one was referred in 2010 and one in 2011. From 1998 through 2011, 596 assisted suicides were reported in Oregon.*

*In a state authorizing assisted suicide and recognizing a patient's "right" to die, if no physician were willing to prescribe lethal drugs or otherwise assist in suicide, the patients "right" would be theoretical and not real. Therefore, according to bioethicist Jacob Appel, a state could reasonably require physicians to assist patients in suicide as a condition of being issued a medical license. That is a very scary thought if one focuses on the notion of religious freedom, or just personal freedom. Either be willing to violate the Hippocratic oath and the commandments or forget about being a doctor.*

*In those states where physician assisted suicide is permitted, the patient has to be judged to be within 6 months of death before any assistance can be rendered. Would a person needing to be attached to a ventilator full time for the rest of his or her life be judged as falling into that category? As I can ascertain, the legislation is silent on that issue. It is probable that such people would fall into the category of the dying and could be assisted to terminate their lives. Not being able to breathe is a strong indicator of forthcoming death.*

*Strictly speaking such people would likely not need assistance to bring their lives to a quick end. It is probable that if a person could not survive without being permanently attached to a respirator or ventilator, he or she would not have to live in a state where assisted suicide is legal. They would simply indicate in a living will that they wanted no mechanical assistance to breathe or simply give an order not to be attached to a breathing apparatus.*

*Of course in today's Culture of Death numerous people who choose life may be given a push by their caregivers in the opposite direction. Euthanasia is not foreign to our country even though it is illegal-usually. Euthanasia was legal in the case of Terry Schiavo.*

*In sharp contrast to all this is a person who has chosen to enjoy and appreciate life even though attached permanently to a respirator. He is a man from Brazil. His caregivers respect his ongoing choice for life (Lauren Enriquez, "Man Forced to Live in a Hospital for 45 Years Absolutely Loves His Life." Lifeweek.com 8/14/2013).*

*Paulo Henrique Machado of Brazil lost his mother at 2 days old. He contracted polio afterward. He grew up in a hospital, where he has been attached to an artificial respirator since infancy. A man of 45, he finds his life fulfilling. He is cheerful and happy.*

*A major reason for his joy is Eliana, another polio victim that he grew up with in the hospital. Several other victims have died but Paulo and Eliana are still alive. Paulo considers Eliana his sister. They support each other.*

*Although spend their lives attached to respirators and have limited mobility each is an accomplished person. Using her mouth to hold her paintbrush, Eliana is an artist. She is also a published author. Paulo is a computer animator who has animated one of Eliana's books. The title "The Adventures of Leca and her Friends is an animated movie about growing up in a hospital ward with other polio victims who have died but Paulo and Eliana a movie fanatic, raised \$65,000 online to be able to produce his movie.*

*The story of Paulo and Eliana constitutes a powerful prolife testimony in a world that has so little regard for the dignity of the human persona and the sacredness of human life.*

*Closer to home is the witness of a friend Rosemary whom I met at Fordham University in 1968; a truly remarkable woman who loves life despite her debilitated condition and lived it to the full.*

*Born normal in 1939 in Queens New York, Rosemary grew up in an Italian Catholic family. An intelligent, physically attractive outgoing child she was educated in Catholic Schools.*

*After graduation she got a job at the New York Daily News as a secretary. She then applied to nursing school, attending Holy Name Nursing School in Teaneck, New Jersey.*

*While there she met Bob, a Seton Hall University pre-med student and began to date him. By the time Rosemary was a Senior Bob proposed. She found herself riding on a cloud, engaged to a future physician, graduating from nursing school and sporting a new car.*

*In the spring of 1961 she experienced fatigue which became exhaustion and weakness. She tried to hide her symptoms but got weaker and weaker. She finally visited a doctor and underwent neurological tests that concluded she had polymyositis curable through steroid therapy. She was placed on prednisone and improved dramatically, graduating from nursing school. But 6 months later the disease returned with a vengeance.*

*Living back home, she became totally dependent upon her parents and became very angry and bitter. She prayed to get better but her health did not improve. She began to question how God could let this happen to her. She felt that God did not hear her or love her.*

*When the opportunity arose for her to make a pilgrimage to Lourdes she became enthusiastic about the prospect and went with her mother and friend.*

*While at the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, she experienced peace and felt a closeness to God and trust and confidence in Him. God loved her and would take care of her. God had not abandoned her. He would be there with her. Her outlook was transformed – she felt joy even if she had to spend the rest of her life as a disabled person. Through her experience at Lourdes, God had enlightened her mind and changed her heart. She realized that her negative attitude was preventing her from enjoying life – not her disability. She could now appreciate the life she had.*

*Rosemary went to Lourdes as a quadriplegic in a wheelchair and returned the same way. There was not physical healing. Yet she had changed spiritually and psychologically. Trusting in God's goodness she was confident that everything would be all right. She rejoiced in life.*

*After Lourdes she elected to visit friends and relatives, go for strolls and attend Mass. She chose to go to the park, the beach and the movies. Life was viewed as a challenge. Having given herself to God, she found meaning in each new day.*

*She soon needed a ventilator. She retained her ability to speak, her sight, her hearing, especially the sharpness of her mind. While she lost some use of her arms, she retained use of her hands. She could write, use the computer and feed herself. She retained the elements of a personal, cerebral life. She was free of distracting pain.*

*With the help of friends she was able to return to school. She earned 2 degrees from Fordham University and for three and a half years worked for the City of New York as an advocate for disabled workers. She also worked as a peer counselor for the Queens Independent Living Center and later developed a social work practice in her home.*

*In the 1970s she met and married a disabled man with considerable academic ability. They are still happily married nearly four decades later. Today at age 74, Rosemary lives a rich, full personal life. She has many friends and enjoys a close relationship with Our Blessed Mother and her beloved Son, Jesus. She lives in abandonment to God's will as did the Virgin Mary. Her prayer is that God will provide her with the ability to accomplish what she needs to do.*

*Like Paulo Henrique and Eliana, Rosemary is a model of life affirmation. In the middle of a culture of death, she is a powerful witness to the fact that human life is sacred, that it is a gift of God to be cherished and not wasted.*

*In a world where human life is very cheap, readily eliminated by suicide, abortion, euthanasia, senseless wars and violence, Rosemary's life speaks volumes for the worth and dignity of the human person. It teaches us to make the best of the life and talents that God has given us with gratitude toward Him and willingness in our hearts to serve others.*

As we ponder and reflect on this Annual Day of the Sick, February 11, 2015; the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and the miraculous events at her shrine; at the prayerful plea of Charles De Celles and our own mind-set may we be inspired to pray, work and serve the cause of all human life in the face of the many challenges of our global society.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES, PRAY FOR US

GOD BLESS YOU,  
MSGR. FINN