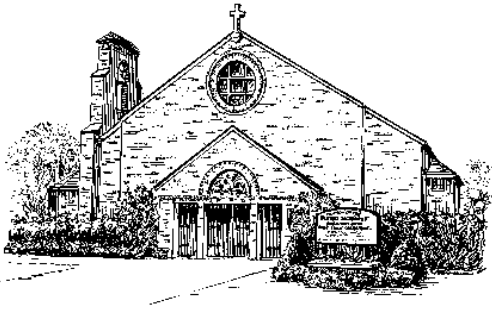


# BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

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

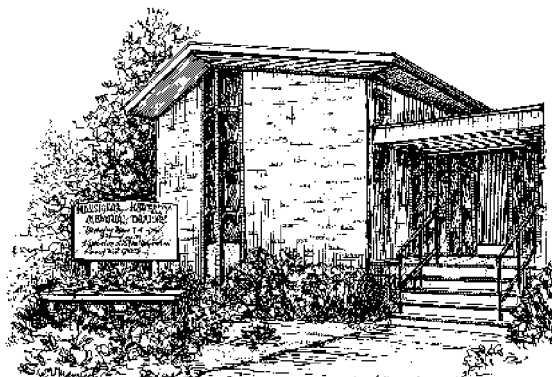
<http://www.blessedsacramentchurchsi.org>

### **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



**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

By now, trees are beginning to appear in living rooms throughout the parish. To a complete outsider to our culture, it must seem an odd thing indeed. The “roots” of this custom are in liturgical drama: religious plays performed in the churches and town squares of medieval Europe. The favorite theme for this time of year was the “Paradise Play,” a dramatic history of the human race from the Garden of Eden to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. The language and music varied from place to place, but one feature was always in place: a great tree decorated with apples. As a prop, it provided lots of material for the actors: the temptation, shelter for the manger, and a reminder of the wood of the cross. Soon people began to bring “paradise trees” into their homes, decorating them with gifts and lighted candles.

Many Germans give credit to Martin Luther for transforming the “Paradise Tree” into the evergreen Christmas tree. Walking home on a starry Advent night, he was so awed by the beauty of the night that he hauled a pine tree inside and decorated it with lighted candles. Americans were holdouts. It took until 1856 for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to decriminalize Christmas decorations, the old Puritan dislikes falling before the waves of Irish and German immigrants with traditions firmly in hand!

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

**HOLY NAME SOCIETY**

Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am Mass and meeting to follow in the Parish Center Meeting Room.

**PRAYER SHAWL GROUP**

Will meet in Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am in the Nurse’s Office.

**PRAYER GROUP**

Christmas Party is Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> from 5pm – 10pm in the Parish Center Meeting Room.

<b><u>SUNDAY COLLECTION</u></b>	
<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>
<b>\$6,834 (Weekly)</b>	<b>\$7,335 (Weekly)</b>
<b><u>ATTENDANCE</u></b>	
<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>
<b>805 (Adults)</b>	<b>839(Adults)</b>
<b><u>190 (Children)</u></b>	<b><u>180 (Children)</u></b>
<b>995</b>	<b>1,019</b>

**THE SANCTUARY LAMP  
KEEPS ITS SILENT VIGIL  
BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Louis J. and Michael L. Caccese**

***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 Barbara Creighton and the souls for whom Mass will be offered during the week, especially:

**MONDAY**

7:00 Nestor Madrano  
9:00 Annunziato Carino  
7:00 Mildred & William O’Shea

**TUESDAY**

7:00 R. T. Crowe, Sr.  
9:00 Mary Teresa Finn  
11:00 Garry Smith  
7:00 John & Rose Dogolin

**WEDNESDAY**

7:00 Riley O’ Rourke (Living)  
9:00 Joseph Fortunato

**THURSDAY**

7:00 Michael McCarthy  
9:00 Mary Deignan

**FRIDAY**

7:00 Anthony Konczynski, Sr. (45<sup>th</sup> Anniv.)  
9:00 Carmine & Nancy Alfano

**SATURDAY**

9:00 Felicidad Tobias (Living)  
5:00 Erin O’Connor

**SUNDAY**

8:00 Vito & Catherine Lucatorto & Lucy & William Pollard  
9:30 John Hartmann (10<sup>th</sup> Anniv.)  
12:30 Mary & Ansel Martin

**SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 13, 2015****ALTAR SERVERS**

5:00 PM Vigil	Team	5
8:00 AM	Team	1
9:30 AM	Team	2
11:00 AM	Team	3
12:30 PM	Team	4

**LECTORS**

J. Hansen  
R. Griswold  
M. Boyd  
D. Leddy  
T. Sanders

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

T. Sanders & M. Peralta  
S. Coscia & E. Hodgens  
B. Collorec & M. McKeever  
M. Morgan & K. Byrne  
J. & M. Spach

**CARDINAL DOLAN YOUNG ADULT MASS**

You are invited to join the Office of Young Adult Outreach for a Young Adult Mass presided by Cardinal Dolan on Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Confessions and Adoration with music by Matt Maher and Audrey Assad will be held from 6:30-7:30pm. Please arrive early. There will be a post-Mass social at a location TBA. Learn more at [www.CatholicNYC.com](http://www.CatholicNYC.com)

**ADVENT EVENING OF PRAYER**

Staten Island Catechetical Office invites you to an Advent Evening of Prayer, Thursday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at Our Lady of Pity Church, 1616 Richmond Ave., from 7 to 9pm. Special Guest Speaker: Fr. Brian McWeeney, Theme – Year of Mercy.

**SAINT FRANCIS CATHOLIC SINGLES**

St. Francis Catholic Singles for those in their 30s, 40s and 50s, will have their 15<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Party on Friday, Dec. 11, 7:30-11:00pm at Crown Palace, 201 New Dorp Lane. Price is \$35pp if received by Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>; \$45 afterwards, includes 3 course meal, dessert and drinks. Payments must be received by Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. Mail checks payable to CASH (with SFCS Christmas Party in memo box) with your name, number and email to: Holy Family Parish, Attn. Singles Christmas Party, 366 Watchogue Road, 10314. More info email: [sfcssi@gmail.com](mailto:sfcssi@gmail.com)

**TITAN LEAGUE OLDTIMERS**

Christmas Lunch, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm, O'Neill's, 1614 Forest Ave. For more info call Harry Bavaro at 718-442-7317 or Charlie McKeever at 718-448-8423. Cost: \$25.00

**IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY PRAYER GROUP**

Meeting will begin after the 8:30am Mass, at 9:30am in the basement of the church on Saturday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> at Holy Family Church, 366 Watchogue Road.

**ST. JOHN VILLA**

Christmas Concert "That's Christmas to Me" will take place on Monday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> @7pm and Tuesday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> @7pm in the Gym, 25 Landis Ave. Tickets: \$10. For info call Irma Cruz at 718-442-6240 Ext. 170

**FROM THE PASTOR**

From Crisis to Kairos (Part 2)

On this Second Sunday of Advent we continue our reflection on the role of our Holy Father elected in a time of crisis, a time for change and the reality of the challenges facing the Catholic Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Pope Francis proposes a missionary charter. Now is the time to act. The course is a path of mercy with leadership that needs followers. And so it truly is time to act.

*Pope Francis warns of the danger of becoming so caught up in words and ideas that we ignore the intractable realities around us that don't measure up to our ideals. We can't just mask reality with "angelic forms of purity...empty rhetoric, objectives more ideal than real, brands of historical fundamentalism, ethical systems bereft of kindness, and intellectual discourse bereft of wisdom" (JG#231). While bishops, pastors and theologians can classify and define criteria for a perfect moral life in intricate detail, too often people do not understand them "because they are stuck in the realm of pure ideas and end up reducing...faith to rhetoric" (JG#232). What we need first are actions (orthopraxis) that can show the reason for dogmas (orthodoxy).*

*By describing the church as a "field hospital" for those wounded and in need of care, Francis shows that recruiting new parishioners is not foremost in his mind. The wounded people he is thinking about are those who have never experienced the church as a source of mercy. Many youth and young adults, apart from a minority raised in traditional Christian families, have been persuaded by a cynical media culture that the church is a hoax. Many others have been put off by bad experiences with priests or with parish communities and have sworn off churchgoing.*

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*Nonetheless Pope Francis, following the example of Jesus in the Gospels, urges us to see alienated, poor, disenchanting and marginalized people as privileged clients of the church's ministry.*

*He reaches out repeatedly to people who see themselves as beyond help. With a gentle smile and loving embrace, and with words of welcome and comfort, he acts out his role as a brother to the poor, the imprisoned, the displaced and the socially unconventional. He says as much in his writings: "Jesus' whole life, his way of dealing with the poor, his actions, his integrity, his simple acts of generosity, and finally his complete self-giving, is precious and reveals the mystery of his divine life" (JG#265). He goes on to frame a key principle: "Our infinite sadness can only be cured by an infinite love." Jesus Christ has to count on us to embody that infinite love in his name.*

*Those outside the church are not going to be attracted by complicated doctrines and moral explanations. What will draw them in is mercy. Mercy means being met with respect, finding their pain and their questions acknowledged as real, being invited into a circle of hope and joy as partners in the church's journey toward a better life. In a society that trains people to live fantasy lives in virtual reality, people still hunger to be real and to be loved. The media culture proposes endless caricatures of human purpose by inviting lonely and drifting viewers to imagine themselves as sexy and powerful players in the game of life. How can the church meet such people with a convincing witness to the joy and meaning that come from living in the body of Christ?*

*In the coming months, responses to Pope Francis' new encyclical on the environment and to the initiatives that will emerge from this October's Synod on the Family will shape the contours of our new moment of kairos. Clearly the institutional model of church still attracts many bishops as well as many of the faithful. Will their resistance nullify Francis' initiatives? The choice of the model of church will have far-reaching implications. Opting for the church as a "perfect society" stresses order, continuity and authority. That model resists change and is hostile to dialogue. A well known cardinal whose signature outfit is a cappa magna has warned the world that Pope Francis' papacy is like a whip without a rudder; from him and from others like him we will be hearing loud and lofty warnings not to abandon the past.*

*By contrast, the model of the church as a people of God on pilgrimage stresses solidarity, creativity, and mercy. For the sake of embracing the uninitiated, the poor and the skeptical, this model dares to put Gospel images ahead of canons and customs. Pope Francis is articulating the consequences of Vatican II's option to enter fully into dialogue with the world around us. The council enunciated the mutual enrichment provided by the church's relation to the world. The Gospel of Mercy is not a project for some alternative universe. It is for here and now, especially for our world that is in crisis.*

*Pope Francis raised eyebrows when in response to a journalist's question, "Who are you?" he replied, "I am first of all a sinner." His explanation for that response was equally memorable: A sinner loved and forgiven is someone who can never forget the Lord who saved him. "Before all else, the gospel invites us to respond to the God of love who saves us, to see God in others and to go forth from ourselves to seek the good of others....If this invitation does not radiate forcefully and attractively, the edifice of the church's moral teaching risks becoming a house of cards, and this is our greatest risk" (JG#39).*

*We think we know how to make converts, and we obviously know how to teach them all the rules. But we don't seem to know how to form disciples or show them how friendship with Jesus leads to meaning, freedom and joy. To learn that, we will have to keep our eyes on Pope Francis and follow his lead. He offers us a way to face the crisis of the world and the kairos it has opened up for us: "More than by fear of going astray, my hope is that we will be moved by the fear of remaining shut up within structures which give us a false sense of security, within rules which make us harsh judges, within habits which make us feel safe, while at our door people are starving and Jesus does not tire of saying to us: 'Give them something to eat' (Mark 6:37)" (JG#49).*

*Brothers and Sisters we have much to pray for and about.*

GOD BLESS YOU,  
MSGR. FINN