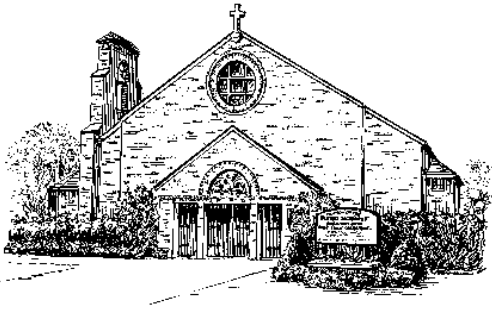


BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

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 Tuesday 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

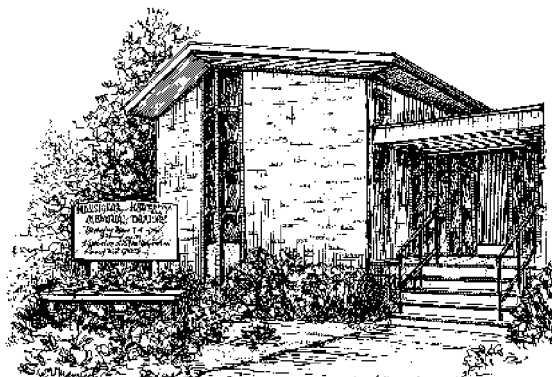
<http://www.blessedsacramentchurchsi.org>

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





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 or call 646-794-2885. Additional Open Houses and private tours are available.



2016

On behalf of Fr. Frank, Fr. Roby, Mr. Cocozello, Principal, Sister Anne Dolores, Director of Religious Education and our Parish and School Staffs, I would like to wish our Parish Family the blessings of a Holy, Happy and Healthy New Year!

Msgr. Finn

PLEASE NOTE: The Parish House Office will close at 1:00pm on December 31st and will be closed on January 1st in observance of the New Year Holiday.

**THE SANCTUARY LAMP
KEEPS ITS SILENT VIGIL
BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
DONALD PACE**

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, 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 for whom Mass will be offered during the week, especially:

MONDAY

7:00 William V. Cortese

9:00 Mary Rooney

TUESDAY

7:00 Nora Bullen

9:00 Grace Zaets

WEDNESDAY

7:00 Helen A. Majeski

9:00 Burton Cohen

THURSDAY

7:00 Matthew J. Reinhardt

9:00 Alfred Comeforo

5:00 Vigil – Rev. Victor Buebendorf

FRIDAY

8:00 Bruno E. Rigotti

9:30 Anna Giorgio

12:30 John Schwartz

SATURDAY

9:00 Members of Konczynski, Doran & Tuff Families
(Living & Deceased)

5:00 Joselito & Marietta Yybanes

SUNDAY

8:00 Emily Marie Mc Quade

9:30 Stephen Dolan

12:30 John Schwarz

SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 3, 2015

<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>		
5:00 PM Vigil	Team	8
8:00 AM	Team	9
9:30 AM	Team	10
11:00 AM	Team	6
12:30 PM	Team	7

<u>LECTORS</u>
Sr. Anne Dolores
P. Thomann
M. Perles
M. Conigatti
T. Sanders

<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>
V. Donnelly & C. Rooney
E. Hodgens & S. Coscia
R. Gallop & K. Falcone
E. Checkett & G. Checkett
C. Wodzinski & H. Wodzinski

FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS

An Archdiocesan-Wide Drive to Replenish Dwindling Food Pantries

January 24th – January 31st, 2016

Nearly 325,000 children have difficulty affording food, that's 22% of children in the 10 counties of the Archdiocese. Do your part to make sure no hungry neighbor is turned away from Sunday, Jan. 24th through Sunday, Jan. 31, 2016 for the Feeding Our Neighbors Campaign.

Three simple ways to participate and contribute to the Campaign are:

- **Donate money to support emergency food programs in the Archdiocese**
- **Collect food for our parish food drive**
- **Volunteer your time at a local food pantry**

PARISH NURSE PROGRAM

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

COLLECTION FOR THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN AND CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

will take place on **January 3rd**. This combined Diocesan Collection helps to share faith through social media, television and print media. It also provides scholarship aid to thousands of student to attend the national university of the Catholic Church in Washington DC.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

This New Year's Eve, at the turning of the year, you may catch a glimpse of the old year, a cartoon figure of a hunched old man with a sickle, Father Time. Where else but in this column could you learn that this is in fact a pope? December 31 was in the old calendar the feast of St. Sylvester. Legend says that Sylvester healed the Emperor Constantine of leprosy, and presided at the liturgy of baptism for the grateful emperor. In 314, he was chosen pope, and it fell to him to organize the peacetime church, free at last from persecution. He founded the Lateran Basilica, the cathedral of the Diocese of Rome.

In northern Europe "Sylvester Night" is a time of great parties with eating, dancing, and singing—recalling perhaps the joy of the church in the fresh air of Sylvester's papacy. In Poland, there was great fear as the year 1000 approached that an immense dragon would devour the earth and set fire to the heavens. The people prayed earnestly to St. Sylvester, trusting that the saint would not permit such suffering on his feast day. They've been celebrating ever since!

Many New Year's customs have pagan roots, like the British "First Footer" tradition. The idea is that the first person setting foot into your house in the new year determines the luck for the year ahead. The ideal first footer was not a bit like old Pope Sylvester, but rather a tall, dark-haired man carrying the right gift. A handsome first footer meant the year ahead would be pleasant, and if he carried bread or a shovel of coal there would be food and warmth in the future. Who will be your household's first footer?

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

DAYS OF PRAYER AND HEALING

Do you know someone who is carrying the grief of a past abortion? There is help and hope available and the pain and sorrow of abortion need not endure for a lifetime. "Days of Prayer and Healing" offer the opportunity to experience the love and mercy of God and to heal the wound of abortion. The next "**Day of Prayer and Healing**" is **Saturday, Jan. 16th**. For location and confidential registration call the Sisters of Life at (866) 575-0075 or email: hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org.

PAGE FOUR

FROM THE PASTOR

Memory is a wonderful gift. Imagination is an added blessing. So, can I fail to remember, cherish and regard as very, very special:

A West Brighton Christmas

My thoughts turn back to a Christmas over 60 years ago.

The air was crisp with light falling snow and the evening dark in December as we three trudged up Davis Avenue and down Forest Avenue past Gregorio's festive decorations, the 666 Club, Lou Marli's Drug Store, O. O. Odegard Real Estate, south of North Burgher Avenue to an open field now the site of Dunkin' Donuts and SI Savings Bank.

We were filled with excitement my brother and I, as we walked with our Dad to buy the Christmas tree. It had to be large and special, the last choice we could make and it had to be very reasonable. As we three carried this special tree back to our home on DeKay Street we were especially excited and somehow I knew then it was an evening I would always remember.

Mother smiled, cajoled us at the size of the tree, which, of course, had to be cut to size and we laughed and worked together to decorate it with lights and ornaments and tinsel, one strand at a time. We would sit back then with hot chocolate and cookies quite satisfied with this wondrous symbol of light, love and joy.

The weekend would continue with Christmas cards and meticulous gift wrapping by my father, overseen by my mother, as John and I pitched in with all the decorating chores.

Monday, after all, was Christmas Eve and everything had to be ready for the greatest celebration of the year. We were and are, immediate and extended, a Christmas family. Last minute baking, housecleaning, a few more trips to the A&P and Paul's butcher on Castleton Avenue, secret gift buying at Muriel Neve's Quaker Gift Shop – always a special gift for mom and a few things at Pappy's Paper Store at Davis and Castleton and back to DeKay.

Evening shadows come quickly in December so supper, polishing shoes, bath and early to bed were quickly accomplished so that we would be ready to rise at 10:30pm and dress quickly for the most important event of all.

West Brighton was special then and now. In the cold, clear, moonlit night John and I, still quite young, bounded down the front stairs and walked and ran to be at the most special of all places on Christmas Eve – Sacred Heart Church to serve Midnight Mass.

As now, so then, the Church was abuzz with activity. The choir beautifully engaged in a pre-Mass concert; priests, altar servers, sacristan busy about preparing altar candles and sacred vessels. After all we are celebrating the most important and real reason for Christmas – the birth of Baby Jesus, prince, Messiah, Brother and Son of God, who came to save us all.

The clock strikes midnight, the bells are rung, the procession begins and the beautiful strains of "Come, All Ye Faithful" fills the sacred space and ears of all gathered for Jesus in Sacred Heart Church. It is a breathtaking and wonderful moment for two young kids from DeKay Street.

Christmas had arrived and as we departed Mass early Christmas morning our family knew that we carried the Christ child in our heart and soul soon to join the rest of our family on Christmas Day to share with them our mutual love, joy and happiness.

But that is the rest of the story and to be told at another time.

God Bless You All! May your Christmas be grounded in Jesus on His Birthday and may your family gather together with Him in your love for each other Christmas Day and always.

Merry Christmas!
MSGR. FINN