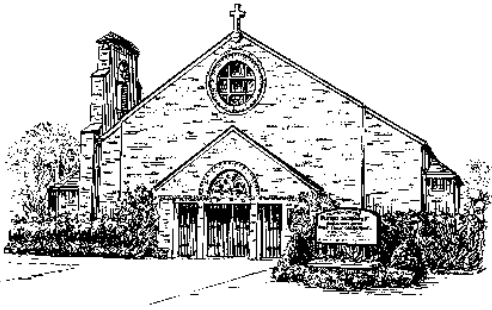


BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

Staten Island, New York 10310

February 7, 2016



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

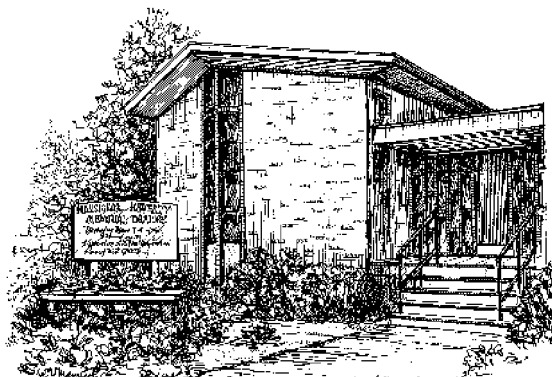
<http://www.blessedsacramentchurchsi.org>

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



ENCYCLICAL ON THE ENVIRONMENT

In his June, 2015, encyclical on creation care, Laudato Si, Pope Francis proclaims that the poor are those most harmed by environmental destruction and climate change, and that developed countries like ours owe the poor an “environmental debt”. With Pope Francis we pray, “O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,...that we may protect the world and not prey on it.” In the encyclical, we are urged to do what we can to support global agreements on sustainable development, on protecting ecosystems globally, and on limiting greenhouse gases to a greater extent in developed countries than in poor countries. We are encouraged to reduce our consumption and reduce our carbon footprint.

LENTEN REGULATIONS 2016

Ash Wednesday & Good Friday are days of Fast and Abstinence from meat. Fasting requires that only one full meal be taken on these days for everyone between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive.

Days of Abstinence – (All Fridays in Lent)
Everyone who has reached the age of 14 is obligated to abstain from meat on these days.

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday – Feb. 10th
Mass will be offered in the Church at 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00am and 7:00pm. Ashes will be distributed at each Mass.

Evening Mass – Beginning Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10th there will be a 7pm Mass Monday thru Friday.

Stations of the Cross – Each Friday of Lent at 7:30pm in the Church.

Lenten Reconciliation Monday – Monday, March 21st. Confession will be heard from 3:00pm to 9:00pm

Chrism Mass will be held on Tuesday, March 22 at 4:00pm at St. Patrick’s Cathedral

<u>SUNDAY COLLECTION</u>	
<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
\$8,614 (Weekly)	\$6,629 (Weekly)
\$2,651 (Debt Reduction)	\$2,307
<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	
<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
917 (Adults)	779 (Adults)
258 (Children)	194 (Children)
1,175	973

**THE SANCTUARY LAMP
KEEPS ITS SILENT VIGIL
BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
EMILY MARIE MCQUADE**

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, Amparo Isaza, Brian Nelson and James McKendry

SYMPATHY

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

MONDAY

7:00 Powers Family (Living & Deceased)
9:00 Angela & Robert Lauren

TUESDAY

7:00 Dickman Family (Living & Deceased)
9:00 Beverly Casucci

WEDNESDAY

7:00 Intention to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
9:00 Jeremiah Bullen
11:00 Mary & Ansel Martin
7:00 Michael Manley

THURSDAY

7:00 Froehlich Family (Living & Deceased)
9:00 John R. Elliott

FRIDAY

7:00 Anthony & Victoria Magliocca
9:00 Barbara Gulbin
7:00 Anna LoCasto

SATURDAY

9:00 George O’Connell
5:00 Calogero Nuara

SUNDAY

8:00 David Callaghan (10th Anniv.)
9:30 Patrick Smith
12:30 Alfred E. Brown

SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 14, 2016

	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>		<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>
5:00 PM Vigil	Team	10	J. Hansen	J. Wright & R. Gallop
8:00 AM	Team	6	R. Griswold	E. Hodgens & W. Boyd
9:30 AM	Team	7	M. Peries	P. Thomann & A. Castronovo
11:00 AM	Team	8	L. Lagmay	M. Morgan & M. McKeever
12:30 PM	Team	9	K. Kelly	E. Checkett & G. Checkett

HOLY NAME SOCIETY – Mass next Sunday, Feb. 14th 8am, meeting to follow in Parish Center Meeting Room.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY RICHMOND DIVISION

Day of Reflection will be held on March 5th at Our Lady Star of the Sea, 5371 Amboy Road. Spiritual Leader: Pastor Thomas Devery. Begins at 9am with a Healing Mass, 10:15am Continental Breakfast, 11:00am Spiritual Discussion, 12:30pm Lunch, 1:30pm Spiritual Discussion, ending with confessions at 2:00pm. The total cost is \$25pp and the whole family is welcomed to participate. Any questions or to reserve your seat call: Steve Bilardi (347)861-0316 by Feb. 26th. Seats are limited.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING CLASS

The Holy Name Society is hosting a Discount Defensive Driving Class on Sat., March 5th from 9am-3:30pm at Holy Family Church 366 Watchogue Road. This DMV approved course entitles NY drivers to a 10% auto insurance discount for 3 years, and as much as 4 violation points reduced from your driving record. The cost is only \$39 for those who register by March 3rd. \$44 after March 3rd. Seats are limited. Catered lunch, refreshments included. To register send your name, phone number, and payment to: Defensive Driving, 174 Wooley Ave., 10314. Make checks payable to Holy Name Society. Questions? Call (718)637-3934

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.

ST. JOHN VILLA BINGO FUNDRAISER

St. John villa Academy Elementary School Bingo Fundraiser Friday, Feb. 19th in the High School cafeteria located at 25 Landis Ave. Doors open at 7pm. Total cost is \$20 (\$10 admission fee and \$10 gift certificate in a gift bag) which includes bingo boards, coffee and cake. Raffles, lucky bingo balls and 50/50 will also be sold. Reservations are strongly advised. For more info, please contact Carolyn Canino at fireant rn@yahoo.com

CATHOLIC COUPLE CHECKUP GIVEAWAY

The Archdiocese of New York's Family Life + Respect Life Office is excited to announce that as part of World Marriage Week, we are offering 100 free codes for Catholic Couple Checkup! An online tool designed to identify the unique relationship strengths and growth areas of dating, engaged, or married couples. It's an enjoyable, easy, private way to take the temperature of your relationship and start some meaningful conversations. Visit nyfamilylife.org during the month of Feb. to get your free code.

FROM THE PASTOR

It certainly seems like we have just dismantled the Christmas tree, carefully packed away the crib and ornaments, taken a deep breath and awoken to find this coming Tuesday –Shove Tuesday and the next day Ash Wednesday. Our lives as Catholic Christians are enriched and yes, challenged to walk the walk with Jesus for 40 days and Holy Week to Calvary and Easter Sunday.

The ritual of ashes on Wednesday is so much more than what we automatically have to do as Catholics. The symbol requires us to take up the cross of prayer, fasting and almsgiving seriously and devoutly each according to his or her ability in genuine heartfelt effort to strengthen our baptismal, confirmation resolve to be apostles and disciples of our Savior Jesus Christ. So, be of stout heart, firm resolve, follow through and willing to not give up but when we falter "pick ourselves up, dust our selves off and start all over again" just like Jesus who fell 3 times on the way to crucifixion.

I invite you now to join Erin Ryan, associate editor of [Celebration](#) and her cousin reflecting on their visit last winter to New York City.

Enter the Desert of Lent

My cousin and I visited The Cloisters museum last winter during our trip to New York City. The museum on the northern tipoff Manhattan Island, contains over 2,000 pieces of medieval European art and architecture and is a branch of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

We got off the subway and then wound up the icy hillside in the fog, under dripping trees, toward the building, which itself is assembled from elements that date from

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FROM THE PASTOR

the 12th to the 15th centuries – a stone abbey perched on the edge of a bluff overlooking the Hudson River,

When we got inside, my cousin and I split up and wandered through the museum at our own pace. We met each other back in the gift shop when we were done. We'd each had time to browse the shop independently before we bumped into each other there, and when we compared what we were planning to buy, it turned out that we both, separately, had picked up the same postcard – a simple, stylized, and rather charming wall painting of a camel from the 12th century.

The image of the camel, a fresco transferred to canvas, came from the hermitage of San Baudelio de Berlanga, Spain, and was part of a cycle of wall paintings in the hermitage that “include boldly painted hunt scenes and images of animals” modeled on earlier Islamic art of the region. “The camel was associated with the lands of the Bible, but also with power, luxury, and the exotic” (www.metmuseum.org/collection).

(Speaking of exotic, the 12th century chronicler William of Malmesbury tells us that King Henry I of England, who ruled from 1100-1135, “was extremely fond of the wonders of distant countries, begging with great delight ...from foreign kings, lions, leopards, lynxes, or camels – animals which England does not produce. He had a park called Woodstock, in which he used to foster his favourites of this kind.” I can't imagine those poor creatures lasted long.)

As they went about their days, most ordinary Christians of medieval Europe would never encounter a camel, except in the images of scripture – as when Isaiah proclaims that “caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah” (Isa 60:6 which we heard on Epiphany): or Jesus says, “it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God” (Matt 19:23). And most of them would probably not ever visit a camel's natural habitat, the desert, though pretty much the entire Bible takes place against the backdrop of a desert country.

It's certainly the backdrop to our scriptures during Lent.

On Feb. 14, we open the first Sunday of Lent with the line: “Filled with the Holy spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil” (Luke 4:1). The third Sunday of Lent, Feb. 28, has Moses “tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. Leading the flock across the desert, he came to Horeb, the mountain of God,” thus setting the scene for his prophetic call and the story of the Israelites' journey to the Promised Land.

At the end of his 40 days of solitude, Jesus encountered the devil and had the clarity, the self-knowledge, to refute the devil's statements. The Israelites escaped from slavery and then wandered in the desert in order to figure out who they were as a people.

I'm not sure why my cousin and I, back at the Cloisters, had both been drawn to the painting of the camel. But I think part of it was because it looked so different from the other items in the museum, so spontaneous and natural among a wash of altarpieces and grey stone columns and capitals. I think we were also intrigued with the idea of medieval Europeans trying to imagine a desert animal they rarely, if ever, saw.

This February, we, too, ponder the images and stories of scripture from the other side of a gulf of years. We Christians are asked each Lent to “retreat into the desert” in our own way, to face our temptations and to listen to the voice of god telling us who we are. Over and over in our lives we will need to do it again, to go back and wander and clarify our identities again, before we find the land of milk and honey.

It's not easy to imagine the desert if you haven't been to one. Even if you have, it's hard to sustain the idea of “desert” if you're living in the middle of a city or in the wooded, hilly type of country I inhabit. To me, deserts just seem pretty lifeless.

But the desert does, in fact have life. Camels, plants, rodents, insects, birds... That's what we have to find in our virtual desert, too: life, new life that is sometimes on the surface nearly impossible to see.

God bless and hang in there.
MSGR. FINN