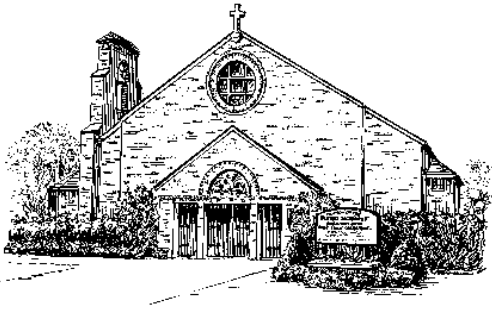


BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

December 24, 2017

Staten Island, New York 10310



Reverend Monsignor Peter G. Finn, Pastor
Reverend Francisco Lanzaderas
Reverend Roland Antony Raj, MMI
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

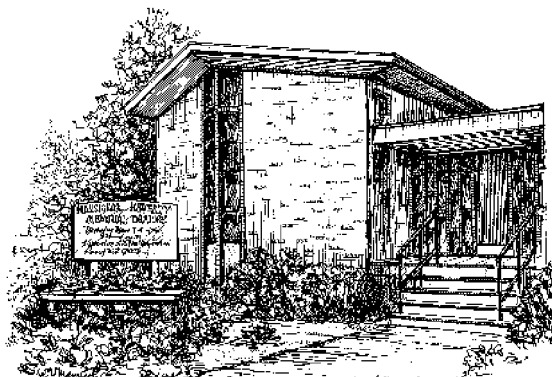
<http://www.blessedsacramentchurchsi.org>

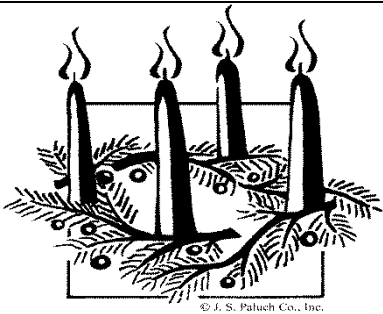
SCHOOL

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





Merry Christmas

May Our Lord Jesus Christ bring Peace and Happiness into your hearts and homes during this Holy Christmas Season!

**Msgr. Peter G. Finn
Fr. Frank Lanzaderas
Fr. Roland Raj, MMI**

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th
4:00pm - Children's Liturgy
6:30pm - Vigil Mass
12 midnight - Concelebrated Mass

Christmas Day, Dec. 25th
8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am & 12:30pm

Sunday, Dec. 31st
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
8, 9:30 & 11am and 12:30pm
5pm Vigil Mass

New Year's Day, Jan. 1st
The Blessed Virgin Mary, The Holy Mother of God
9 & 11am and 12:30pm

PARISH HOUSE OFFICE will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 25th and 26th.

<u>SUNDAY COLLECTION</u>	
<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
\$7,226 (Weekly)	\$6,283 (Weekly)
\$2083 <Debt Reduction >	\$1,980
<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	
<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
765 (Adults)	721(Adults)
<u>211</u> (Children)	<u>168</u> (Children)
976	889

**THE SANCTUARY LAMP
KEEPS ITS SILENT VIGIL
BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
DAVID CALLAGHAN**

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, Mary Kenny, 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, Mary Belli, Mark Volpe, Linda Hansen, Dean Robert Ziegler, Danielle Ziegler, Marco Antonio Gonzalez, Larry Taylor, Jr., Kathy Quinlan, Katie Hanley, Jose Ruiz, Rosemary Callahan, Elizabeth Coyne, Lucy D'Angelo, Robert Hammerton, Catherine Vitale, Capala Lusi, Jack McGarry, Robert McQuade, Brian Nelson, Joan Callahan, Julia Micol, Molly Cafaro, Bob Miuccio, Maryann & Danny Brown, James McGarrigle, James Finnigan, Robert Blake, Lelia Moran, Gail Kees, Troy Crispino, Michelina Farley, Cara Healy, Eileen Doran, Phyllis Morrell, Marion Coolen, Michael Roskowsinski, Barbara Braisted, Jeff Orr, Debbie Caporale, Renee McRoberts, Ana Ely Diaz and Ruth Orr.

SYMPATHY

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

MONDAY

7:00 Christmas Novena
9:00 Intentions

TUESDAY

7:00 Ame V. Gallis (52nd Anniv.)
9:00 Anthony & Victoria Magliocca

WEDNESDAY

7:00 Kathy Ford (Living)
9:00 Michael McCarthy

THURSDAY

7:00 Melville O'Connor
9:00 Michael Hayes

FRIDAY

7:00 Frances Policar
9:00 James Deignan

SATURDAY

9:00 Burton Cohen
5:00 Helen A. Majeski

SUNDAY

9:30 Christmas Novena
11:00 Intentions

SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 31, 2017

	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>
5:00 PM Vigil	Team 2	K. Hanely	V. Donnelly & D. Vigliotti
8:00AM	Team 3	C. Burns	A. Morrell & w. Boyd
9:30 AM	Team 4	L. Pillarella	J. Ryan & K. Ryan
11:00 AM	Team 5	D. Maj	J. Boyle & K. Boyle
12:30PM	Team 1	M. Conigatti	M. Hudson & M. Hudson

CHOIR'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT**Saturday, Dec. 30th at 6:30pm**

Join us in our celebration of the conclusion of the Christmas Season with a wonderful program of joyous music. Our concert will feature a variety of classic religious pieces as well as beautiful non-traditional songs and a special appearance by the Children's Choir. Light refreshments will follow in the Parish Center Meeting Room.

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.

INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

SAVE THE DATE: THURSDAY, JAN. 18, 2018

The Staten Island Council of Churches 20th Annual Service of Worship marking the International Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Zion Lutheran Church, 505 Watchogue Road. Praise Songs: 7:00pm; Worship Service: 7:30p.m.; Preacher: Rev. Msgr. Richard Guastella, The Church of St. Clare.

MINTY AWARDS DINNER GALA

"The Minty Organization for the Performing Arts will be hosting its annual Minty Awards Dinner Gala on **Jan. 11th at 7pm** at Nicotra's Ballroom at the Hilton Garden Inn. It promises to be a night of dining, dancing, entertainment and fantastic raffles. Tickets are \$85 (\$65 for those under 21) and can be purchased by calling (347) 688-9527 or visiting www.mintys.org. RSVP by Jan. 8th.

Over the past 7 years, The Minty Awards has honored and showcased the best of Staten Island's Catholic High Sch00ls theatre departments and its students, donating over \$60,000 back to these programs.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Children of the parish are somewhat focused on Santa Claus these days, who is keeping an eye on who's naughty and who's nice. Santa Claus, with his heavenly patron Saint Nicholas, has been more or less in charge of gift-giving to American children for a hundred years or so. In other places, perhaps more attentive to our Christian tradition, there are different gift-bearers. In Greece, Saint Basil delivers the presents on his feast day, December 31, and makes sure everyone is sprinkled with holy water. The Baby Jesus is in charge elsewhere, called the *Christkind* in Austria and Belgium, *El Niño Jesús* in Columbia, and *Le Petit Jesus* in France, where he shares his duties with *Père Noël*. In the Czech Republic almost everyone is atheist, but *Ježíšek*, the infant Jesus, brings gifts to one and all. In Poland the "Star Man" is said to bring the gifts, although often he turns out to be the village priest in disguise. Saint Nicholas, not his Americanized cousin, is the giver in Holland, where he wears a bishop's miter, and in Russia, where he wears a bishop's crown. Soviet Russia tried to dethrone Saint Nicholas and promote Grandfather Frost, but no one was much fooled by this attempt to squeeze religion out of Christ's birth. One country has a saintly woman in charge of the gifts, Saint Lucy, honored in Sweden on December 13, when children serve their parents breakfast in bed, and others awake to news that they have been nominated for a Nobel Prize. Some children have a second round of gifts on Epiphany, when the magi assume the gift-giving duties. In general, the gifts of Christmas are simple pleasures, not great heaps of treasures. Once upon a time, a new pair of socks or an orange was enough for us. No matter what gifts we receive, all of them are to point us to the true gift, and the true giver.

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

FROM THE PASTOR

Tonight we celebrate the most beautiful act of creation - the Birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Noel! Holy Christmas! Praise Jesus!

Eric Metaxas author of "If You Can Keep It: The Forgotten Promise of American Liberty (Viking

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Press) published the following in the Wall Street Journal last year.

Christmas Eve in Space and Communion on the Moon

It happened on Christmas Eve, 48 years ago. Three men took turns reading from the first 10 verses of the Book of Genesis. They were nearly 250,000 miles away from Bethlehem, but since it was the night before Christmas, and there was no chimney from which to hang their stockings, the three astronauts inside the Apollo 8 capsule orbiting the moon thought it would be appropriate. So as Jim Lovell, Frank Borman and Bill Anders looked at the far away Earth through the small window of the spacecraft, they read the verses "In the beginning, God made the heavens and the Earth."

Their distant-sounding voices from far beyond our atmosphere were broadcast live to the whole planet that night over radio and television. It was one of those moments that brought the world together, that helped us to see our common humanity as children of God whom he loves equally, and whom he placed on the beautiful planet that he made

Seven months after this extraordinary event, in July 1969, another NASA spacecraft, Apollo 11, carried two astronauts to the surface of the moon itself. One of them, Commander Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, thought he might do something similar to mark what was certainly an epochal moment in the history of our race. But what could one do to mark the first time human beings landed on another heavenly body? He asked Dean Woodruff, the pastor of his church in Webster, Texas, who had an idea.

What if he were to take communion? What is more basic to humanity than bread and wine? He could do it as his own way of thanking God - for the Earth and for everyone on it, and for our amazing ability to do things like build spacecraft that could fly to the moon. So the pastor gave him a small amount of consecrated bread and wine and a tiny chalice, and Mr. Aldrin took them with him to the moon. After the Eagle had landed and he and Neil Armstrong sat in the Lunar Module, Mr. Aldrin said this over the radio: "This is the LM pilot. I'd like to take this opportunity to ask every person listening in, wherever and wherever they may be, to pause for a moment and contemplate the events of the past few hours and to give thanks in his or her own way."

He then ended radio communication and there, on the silent surface of the moon, read a Bible verse, and took communion. For reasons he explains in his own account, none of this was made public until Mr. Aldrin wrote about it in Guideposts magazine the following year: "In the radio blackout, I opened the little plastic packages which contained the bread and the wine, I poured the wine into the chalice our church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon the wine curled slowly and gracefully up the side of the cup."

Then Mr. Aldrin read Jesus' words from the Gospel of John: "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whosoever abides in me will bring forth much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing." He explained that he had wanted to read this over the radio back to Earth, but at the last minute NASA asked him not to because the agency was in a legal battle with the outspoken atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair. As it happened, she was suing over the Apollo 8 crew reading from Genesis on Christmas Eve. And that of course is why so few people have heard of this amazing story.

I sometimes wonder what's more amazing, this story - or the fact that so few people know about it. When I first heard it I almost couldn't believe it was true, but about 10 years ago I had the honor and privilege of meeting Buzz Aldrin in person and asking him about it.

Mr. Aldrin said that he agreed not to read the words over the radio, but only "reluctantly." I find his own words of the event very moving: "I ate the tiny Host and swallowed the wine. I gave thanks for the intelligence and spirit that had brought two young pilots to the Sea of Tranquility. It was interesting for me to think: the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the very first food eaten there, were the communion elements."

And of course right now, as Christians around the world are celebrating the birth of Jesus, it's fascinating to think that some of the first words spoken on the moon were his words, the powerless newborn in the dirty manger who came to Earth from heaven, and who made the Earth and the moon and all of us, in His own image. And who, in the immortal words of Dante, is himself the "Love that moves the Sun and other stars."

Merry Christmas and
a Holy One indeed!
God bless you
MSGR. FINN