

BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

January 14, 2018

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





TAX STATEMENT DETAILS. IF YOU REQUESTED A STATEMENT FOR YOUR 2016 OFFERINGS PLEASE KNOW THAT ONE WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE MAILED TO YOU ONCE ALL OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2017 HAVE BEEN ENTERED INTO THE PARISH DATA BASE. IF YOU DID NOT REQUEST A STATEMENT LAST YEAR AND WISH TO OBTAIN A STATEMENT OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2017, PLEASE RETURN THE FORM BELOW TO THE PARISH HOUSE OFFICE. ALL STATEMENTS WILL BE MAILED AT THE END OF JANUARY.

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YOUR NAME _____

ENV NUMBER _____

PLEASE MAIL MY STATEMENT TO MY/OUR HOME ADDRESS _____

ZIP CODE _____

PARISH HOUSE OFFICE - will be closed on Monday, January 15th for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

SENIORS

Will meet on **Tuesday, Jan. 16th** at 1:15pm in the Parish Center Meeting Room.

<u>SUNDAY COLLECTION</u>	
<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
\$5,801 (Weekly)	\$4,594 (Weekly)
\$1,000 <Catholic Communications>	\$1,000
<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	
<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
654 (Adults)	555 (Adults)
175 (Children)	149 (Children)
829	704

**THE SANCTUARY LAMP
KEEPS ITS SILENT VIGIL
BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
MELVILLE O'CONNOR**

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, Michelina Farley, Cara Healy, Eileen Doran, Phyllis Morrell, Marion Coolen, Michael Roskowinski, Barbara Braisted, Jeff Orr, Debbie Caporale, Renee McRoberts, Ana Ely Diaz, Ruth Orr and John G. Ferriera.

SYMPATHY

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

MONDAY

7:00 Christopher A. Pearson
9:00 John Schlessor

TUESDAY

7:00 Carl Conrad Nichols, Jr.
9:00 Clare Smolka

WEDNESDAY

7:00 Msgr. John G. Woolsey
9:00 Dominic Sodano

THURSDAY

7:00 Rocco N. Lobreglio
9:00 Doris O'Toole

FRIDAY

7:00 Sean O'Rourke (Living)
9:00 Vincent & Pat Andreano

SATURDAY

9:00 Thomas Jacobsen (18th Anniv.)
5:00 Joseph Rogers

SUNDAY

8:00 Rosemarie Iacampo
9:30 A. Grace Leddy
12:30 Melville O'Connor

SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 21, 2018**ALTAR SERVERS**

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

LECTORS

K. Hanley
R. Griswold
M. Peries & D. Maj
T. Sanders
R. Semon

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

V. Donnelly & N. Mata
A. Morrell & B. Collorec
M. Thomann & K. Falcone
M. Hudson & M. Hudson
E. Checkett & G. Checkett

MARCH FOR LIFE

The Staten Island Right to Life Committee is proud to sponsor the annual trip to Washington D. C. to stand up for life! **Friday, January 19th** we will depart from Sacred Heart Church, 981 Castleton Ave., Mass at 6:30am, load on to bus after. Cost of the bus, round trip: \$30.00. Donations will be used to defray the cost of the trip, secure buses, pay for parking, etc. Please join us for this wonderful, peaceful, prayerful, pilgrimage! For information and reservations, call Elisa at 347-874-3346 or 718-815-4267 or email: BRUCEBIGGINS@HOTMAIL.COM.

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

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.

PRAYER VIGIL FOR LIFE

The Archdiocese of New York is hosting a prayer vigil for all parishes of the archdiocese to come together to commemorate the 45th Anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. The prayer vigil will be at **St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday, January 21st**, beginning with Holy Mass at 5:30pm, followed by Adoration with music by the Sisters of Life. This event offers a local pilgrimage for the building up of the culture of life in our nation. The event is open to all parishioners, families, parish groups, the young and the young at heart.

THE LAMB OF GOD

"Behold the Lamb of God!" We hear this phrase every Sunday at Mass, but there's a good chance that many Roman Catholics do not know who in the Bible originally spoke it. The phrase appears only in the Gospel of John, on the lips of John the Baptist, who utters it twice. In today's Gospel reading, John proclaims Jesus as the Lamb of God, and two of John's own disciples then follow Christ. A little bit later Andrew, who heard John and then followed Jesus, brings his brother Simon to be re-named Cephas, or Peter. A careful look at these Bible verses shows us the mission of everyone baptized into the Body of Christ: we must always proclaim our faith in Christ, so that others will follow him. We may not know how the will of God might work through those we bring to Christ; that is not the point. The point is that our ongoing mission as a church is to bring others to Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

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FROM THE PASTOR

As I write this bulletin article, it is the Feast of the Holy Family the day after the Epiphany this Christmas Season and really the Grand Finale to a wonderful national celebration in the U. S. A.

Permit me one last reflection on the significance and importance globally but especially here in our own nation.

In a recent article in the NY Daily News by Ron White is important information you may have missed. I believe it is worthwhile filing in our memory. It is entitled:

The President who cheered Christmas
We take Christmas as a public holiday for granted, even in our increasingly multi-religious world. In a year of degraded public discourse, the story behind its legal place in our calendar can shine a light on an American leader who offered as his presidential campaign slogan: "Let us have peace." President Ulysses S. Grant signed a proclamation making Christmas a national holiday on June 24, 1870.

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The story behind his signing is filled with paradox.

The Pilgrims who first came to a new England did not celebrate Christmas. Their memories of Christmas in the old England they left behind were of a season of decadence and debauchery. Nearly two centuries later, in the first year of the new United States, Congress met in session on December 25, 1789 - certainly not a holiday.

In the early decades of the 19th century Americans began to re-imagine Christmas, turning it into church and family centered celebrations. Charles Dickens published "A Christmas Carol" in 1843. Carol singing, tree decorations and gift giving became regular parts of Christmas. Political cartoonist Thomas Nast, a German immigrant, popularized a jolly Santa Claus in his drawings.

During the Civil War, Christmas meant a day of rest as well as memories of festivities back home. Robert Gould Shaw, who would receive fame as commander of the 54th Massachusetts, the first African-American regiment organized in the North, wrote, "It is Christmas morning and I hope for a happy and merry one for you all."

Grant, victorious Union Civil War general, emerged from the war with a passion to reunite the nation. If he had become a practitioner of a "hard war" during the four-year-long conflict, as the war reached its climax he grew into an advocate of a "soft peace." He demonstrated his belief at the Confederate surrender at Appomattox when he offered Robert E. Lee a magnanimous peace.

Grant's decision to declare Christmas a legal public holiday reveals two sides of this self-effacing American leader. First, although he is not portrayed as a religious person in biographies, a closer look will reveal a quiet man who did not wear his faith on his sleeve, but displayed his Methodist commitment to social justice. Raised in Ohio in a devout Methodist family, he married Julia Dent, whose grandfather was a Methodist minister.

His private faith became more public in his presidency. The Washington National Cathedral, whose construction began in 1907, is often thought to be the first national church in the nation's capital, but Grant played a decisive role in the dedication of the actual first national church in Washington four decades earlier.

By the Civil War, Methodism had become the nation's largest protestant denomination. In the early 1850s, Methodists made plans to build the first national church in Washington. When it became clear that Grant would be elected President in 1868, Methodist accelerated plans to complete their national church.

On Feb. 28, four days before Grant's inauguration as President, he sat in the front pew as the Metropolitan Methodist Church was dedicated. Grant would serve as a trustee, while Julia chaired the national committee to retire the debt of the church.

Second, Grant's commitment to making Christmas a legal holiday needs to be understood as part of his drive to unite the North and the South after the war. Grant began his presidency in 1869 as what was called Reconstruction was unraveling.

The 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution were enacted to guarantee the civil and political rights of newly emancipated African-Americans. But ex-Confederate generals and Southern newspaper editors, aided by the terrorism of the Ku Klux Klan, determined to quickly replace slavery with what would become Jim Crow segregation. In Grant's finest moment as President, he would take on the Klan with the power of the federal government, even as his own Republican party retreated from its Reconstruction commitments.

In this tumultuous year, where bitterness and acrimony seem more regnant than peace and joy, we may well ask: Does Christmas as a public holiday unite or divide? We live in a religious culture quite different than Grant's world. Yet his public passion to unite North and South in making Christmas a national holiday can inform and inspire attempts to hold up light amid darkness at the end of 2017.

And now on to 2018.

God bless you
MSGR. FINN