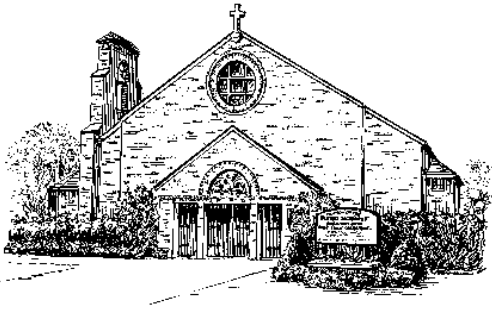


BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

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

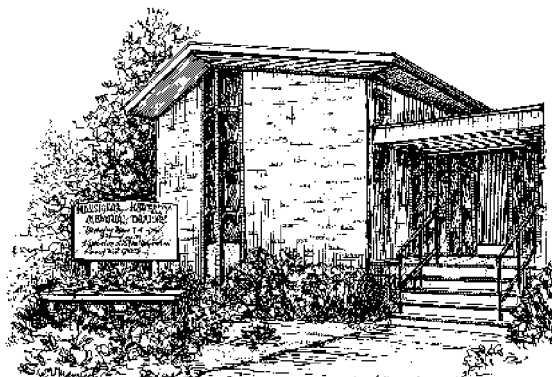
<http://www.blessedsacramentchurchsi.org>

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



The Catholic School Region of Staten Island Inaugural Gala honoring His Eminence Timothy M. Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York will be held on Thursday, April 16, 2015 at Nicotra's Ballroom, Hilton Garden Inn. For further information and reservations please visit catholicschoolsgala.eventbrite.com or contact Diana Gatto at Diana.Gatto@archny.org

FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

Registration for the 2015-2016 Faith Formation Program for all **NEW** children will take place on **Sunday, March 22, 2015 from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.** in the Parish Center Meeting Room. A copy of the child's Baptismal Certificate is required for all grades and for Grades 2 through 7 also required is proof of Penance and Reconciliation. Registration Fee: \$25.

GOLDEN WEDDING MASS CELEBRATION will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2015 and Sunday, June 21, 2015 at 2:00 P.M. at St. Patrick's Cathedral for couples celebrating 50 years of marriage during 2015. His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan will be the principal celebrant. Pre-registration is required. Please contact the Parish House Office at 718-442-1581 by Monday, May 18, 2015.

Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal – To date our parish has received 138 gifts toward the 2015 Cardinal's Appeal. For this Appeal to be truly successful, we must have support from all of our families. The Appeal is a vital source of funding for the programs and ministries that sustain the parishes across our archdiocese. It is not too late to make your gift. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

<u>SUNDAY COLLECTION</u>	
<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
\$7079.00 (Weekly)	\$7860.00 (Weekly)
\$1815.00 <Religious Education>	\$1325.00
<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	
<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
836 (Adults)	831 (Adults)
187 (Children)	260 (Children)
1023	1091

**THE SANCTUARY LAMP
KEEPS ITS SILENT VIGIL
BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
ANTHONY MAZZA**

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, Lisa Barlow, Mary Kenny, Kathryn Haring, Jean Carter, Stephanie Barry, Jane Redmond, Carolyn DeStefano, Robert Tursi, Deirdre Westergren, Nicholas Toto, Marykate Rose, Carlo Fumando, Peggy Travers, Mary Anne Blaine, Jean Cunningham, Jean Elmadary, Jameson Riley David, Alan March, Sebastian Lattuga, Grayce Novaro, Angela Siuzdak, Helen Ramsey, Katherine Barbera, Phyllis Scharfenberg, Phyllis Giambruno, Margaret Romani, Br. William Herbst, Barbara Brown, Michael Caruso, Patricia Connelly, Eugene Esposito, Hugh Kiernan, Mary Belli, Mark Volpe, Elaine Lydersen, Linda Hansen, Dean Robert Ziegler, Susannah Yates, Carol Stoltzfus, Harvey Minars, , Marco Antonio Gonzalez, Grace Leddy, Margaret King, Joseph D'Amico, Infant Twins, Allison & Adrianna, Larry Taylor, Jr., Kathy Quinlan, Felicidad Tobias, Jose Ruiz and Robert Hammerton.

SYMPATHY

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

MONDAY

7:00 John & Catherine Gormley
9:00 Jozefa Kedra
7:00 Pasquelina Tirro

TUESDAY

7:00 Ron Purpora (Living Intention)
9:00 Deceased Members of Spillane Family
7:00 Florentino Saluta

WEDNESDAY

7:00 Jack O'Rourke (Living Intention)
9:00 Alex Roskowinsk
7:00 Betty Motola

THURSDAY

7:00 Thomas O'Rourke (Living Intention)
9:00 Lt. Joseph Gullickson, FDNY
7:00 Cardinal Edward Egan

FRIDAY

7:00 Stephen McDonald (Living Intention)
9:00 Nicholas Fevelo
7:00 Fr. William Kelly, S.J.

SATURDAY

9:00 Arthur Fama (Living Intention)
5:00 Sabina Hickey (Living Intention)

SUNDAY

8:00 Robert McQuade, Sr.
9:30 John Ciano
12:30 Emilia Zarrella

SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 22, 2015

<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>		
5:00 PM Vigil	Team	4
8:00 AM	Team	5
9:30 AM	Team	1
11:00 AM	Team	2
12:30 PM	Team	3

<u>LECTORS</u>
Sr. Anne Dolores
R. Griswold
M. Semon
L. Pillarella
T. Sanders

<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>
K. Byrne & J. Wright
J. Hansen & M. McKeever
P. Thomann & W. Boyd
N. Mata & Y. Mata
M. Conigatti & A. Talaid

Eucharistic Ministers – If you are interested in volunteering to become a Eucharistic Minister at Blessed Sacrament Church please call Fr. Frank at 718-442-1581.

Blessed Sacrament Holy Name Society is hosting a **Discount Defensive Driving Class** on Saturday, March 28, 2015 from 9:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. in the Parish Center Meeting Room. Cost is \$39 if registered by March 26th and \$44 after that date. Seats are limited, lunch and refreshments included. To register send your name, phone number and payment to Greg DeForest, 115 College Avenue, SI, NY 10314. For further information please call 718-442-7361.

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. Mary's Choir – Lenten Concert

The Choir of St. Mary's Church (1101 bay Street) will present their Lenten Concert, "**God So Loved the World**", a musical journey through the **Passion and Death of Jesus Christ**, on Tuesday, March 24th at 7:30 P.M. Everyone is invited to attend.

Keys to Celebrate Life – A Concert of Classics

by Pianist, Fr. Denis G. Wilde, OSA on Thursday, March 19th at 7:30 P.M. at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church (10 Austin Place). Free Will offering requested – part of proceeds will be donated to Good Counsel Homes.

CONGRATULATIONS to our 50/50 Raffle winner for FEBRUARY 2015 - Joann Russo who won \$712.550.

FROM THE PASTOR**LENT From Darkness to Light
Part Two**

"In the Aramaic he learned at his mother's knee, Jesus cries one last time to "Eloi" for deliverance. Again, silence. The only words come from the centurion who utters the first recognizable Christian creed, "Truly, this man was the Son of God," echoing the Father's own witness at Baptism (1:11) And Transfiguration (9:7) Like John, Mark sees in the crucified Jesus the full revelation of God. And.....

So it is fitting, on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, that the appearance of some Greeks who come for the Passover "to see Jesus" finally trips the alarm. "The hour has come!" Jesus proclaims, prompting this pointed parable: "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit" (John 12:24). Brief as it is, so is Jesus' Gethsemane in John: "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour?'" (12:27).

Maybe by this time in Lent, we feel some of Jesus' urgency, and some softening of our own heart, as the prophecy of Jeremiah promises (21:31-34). It is ready to be written on by the finger of God. The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us of Jesus' own Lent, when "he learned obedience from what he suffered" (5:7-9). As dark as things may get, the lifting, the rising is near at hand when "the ruler of this world will be driven out" (John 12:31). Can we believe just a little longer? It will get darker still, but we will be drawn up and up.

"The light is with you for a little longer; walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overcome you" (12:35).

CREATION UPTURNED

The month of March this year concludes with Palm Sunday, the feast that turns on a dime from “Hosanna!” to “Crucify Him!” Isaiah saw it coming centuries before: “I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting” (50:4-7). Psalm 22 anticipates Jesus’ cry of abandonment a thousand years beforehand. The hymn in Philippians completes the picture of Jesus’ cycle from all to nothing—from “form” of God to “form” of slave—and only then his Lordship (2:6-11).

Mark’s account of the Passion (Chs. 14-15) is restrained, almost matter-of-fact, which makes it even more unnerving. Everything is upside. It begins with, by Jesus’ own description, the “anointing” of my body for burial.” The mystery of the loaves reaches its climax in the Eucharist, when Creation itself is turned on its head as simple bread and wine bear a divine presence. Jesus still longs for his apostles’ love, but they are literally useless servants unmindful of their Master’s agony. Jesus grasps for his “Abba,” only to find a silence that calls him to see in the dark. A kiss from Judas, always identified as an intimate companion, “one of the Twelve,” reverses the affection that Jesus expressed for the rich young man (Mark 10:21). Jesus is the perfect witness in his trials, saying just enough to guarantee his death sentence. The Man of the Shroud (which will have its longest display in centuries next April in Turin) is profiled before our eyes with the spitting, the beating, the crowning of thorns, the scourging, the scraping. A total stranger from Cyrene bequeaths a lasting legacy to Mark’s community, who still remembers him as “the father of Alexander and Rufus.” A parade of fools tells Jesus to make a miracle and they will believe: “Come down from the cross.”

In the Aramaic he learned at his mother’s knee, Jesus cries one last time to “Eloi” for deliverance. Again, silence. The only words come from the centurion, who utters the first recognizable Christian creed, “Truly this man was the Son of God,” echoing the Father’s own witness at the Baptism (1:11) and Transfiguration (9:7). Like John, Mark sees in the crucified Jesus the full revelation of God. The Lamb of God, “slain since the foundation of the world,” mounts his throne (Rev 13:8). Thus, Mark continues to personalize even the corpse of Jesus: As one Joseph wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes, another Joseph “took him down, wrapped him in the linen cloth, and laid him in a tomb.” This anticipates the stunning words of St. Gregory Nazianzen: “The body of Christ is also divine because of its unique union with God” (Office of Readings, Baptism of the Lord). Pope John Paul II further sharpened the point: “Jesus’ body even after death is indissolubly united to the mystery of his Person” (Ecclesia de Eucharistia #47). Even Jesus’ dead body is divine! Hold your breath—the world is about to turn.

LENT BRINGS US HOME

So maybe we are not lost, after all. Our journey through this “foreign land” of Lent has brought us home to the love of God, who was there all along. The sacrifice of Isaac, the faith of Abraham, can teach us that the way of Lent is God’s initiative. The call is to respond to an infinite love that makes even the relinquishment of all we hold most dear an affirmation of God’s goodness.

Pope Francis invented a word for this initiative in *Evangelii Gaudium*: *primerear* (27). The English translation, “to take the first step,” is OK, but let me paraphrase: “Taking the initiative with the church, the Lord shows us how to ‘first’ with love; so let us go far and wide to ‘first’ mercy and joy for all the poor and forgotten. Let us dare to ‘first’ a little more each!” (See 1 John 4:19: “We love, because God first loved us.”)

My dear Jesuit friend, Fr. John Kavanaugh, whose book *Who Count as Persons? Concludes with the challenge “if you love the poor, go and make your life with them,” inspired my “mission” in Honduras, imperfect as it is. The late Fr. Kavanaugh summarized God’s Lenten initiative this way: “The great truth is, God thirsts for us, even in our sin. It is God’s eternal thirst for us, for our faith, our trust, our love, that is the central mystery of being” (Daybreaks: daily Reflections for Lent and Easter Week, Ligouri, 2006).*

“Lent” comes from an old version of “lengthen,” the short days of winter stretching out to the sunny days of spring, the darkness of death blooming into life. For the love of God!

INDEED FOR THE LOVE OF GOD!

God Bless You,
Msgr. Finn