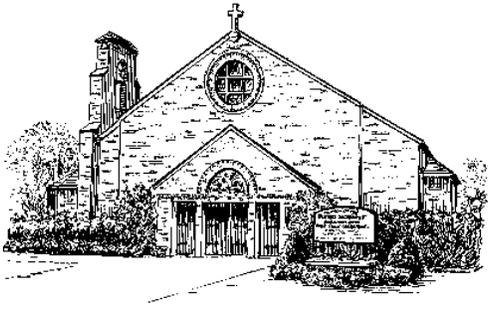


BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

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.

EUCHARISTIC 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

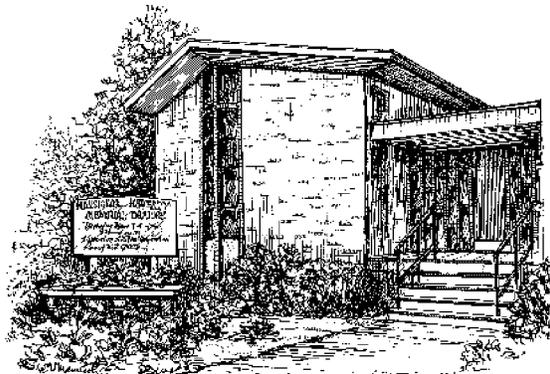
<http://www.blessedsacramentchurchsi.org>

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 RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Know a friend or loved one who might be interested in becoming a member of the Roman Catholic Church. Were you baptized Catholic, but didn't complete your Sacraments. Baptized into another faith, but want to learn the process to become a Catholic. The R.C.I.A. Program is one of inquiry, evangelization, prayer, study and conversion leading to one's possible entrance into the Church through Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. Please call Fr. Frank Lanzaderas at 718-442-1581 for further information.

SUNDAY COLLECTION

2015	2014
\$6844.00 (Weekly)	\$5163.00 (Weekly)
\$2217.00 <(Debt Reduction) >	\$1419.00 (Second)

ATTENDANCE

2015	2014
710 (Adults)	740 (Adults)
118 (Children)	113 (Children)
828	853

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.

The Titan League Breakfast Club will meet on Thursday, August 27th at 10:00 A.M. at the Dakota Diner (Richmond & Forest Avenues.)

TITAN LEAGUE

Basketball registration is now open for grades Pre-K – 8. Please register at bss.sportssignup.com. In person registration will be held at Blessed Sacrament GYM on September 2nd from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. You must be registered to participate in tryouts. Any questions, please contact Amy Rikic at bsstitanbasketball@gmail.com

2015 National 54 Day Rosary Novena

"For Family and Marriage" Join hundreds of thousands of people of all ages in prayer across America. Starts August 15th and ends October 7, 2015.

Pray the rosary for 54 straight days, 27 days in petition from August 15 through September 10, 2015 and 27 days in thanksgiving from September 11 through October 7, 2015.

For more information go to: info@rosaryea.org

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, 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, 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, Larry Taylor, Jr., Kathy Quinlan, Felicidad Tobias, Jose Ruiz, Casta Miskowitz, Rosemary Callahan, Elizabeth Coyne, Lucy D'Angelo and Robert Hammerton

SYMPATHY

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

MONDAY

7:00 Brian Hudec

9:00 Edward Klingele

TUESDAY

7:00 Fr. Fintan Hanley

9:00 Gus Lindig

WEDNESDAY

7:00 Louise McGowan

9:00 Victoria Magliocca

THURSDAY

7:00 Javier Langle (Living)

9:00 Mary, Tom & Martin O'Keeffe

FRIDAY

7:00 Fr. William Kelly

9:00 DeStefano Family

SATURDAY

9:00 James D. Finn

5:00 Micky Tosic & Ilija & Manda Durat

SUNDAY

8:00 Burton Cohen

9:30 Michael J. Salaycik

12:30 Genevieve Thompson

SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST 30, 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>
J.Hansen
P. Thomann
M. Boyd
L. Pillarella
E. Trentalange

<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>
V. Donnelly & C. Rooney
K. Byrne & P. Manley
A. Morrell & B. Collorece
R. Gallop & M. McKeever
M. Morgan & E. Laub

FROM THE PASTOR

"One Nation Under God"

With the commemoration of the 140th Anniversary of the end of the Civil War this past Spring, the Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven, Connecticut opened an exhibit titled **"Answering the Call: Service and Charity in the Civil War"**. The exhibit centers on wartime struggles and hardships as well as acts of bravery and compassion.

With subsequent events that we have witnessed in the slaughter of the innocents 150 years later these past several months we do well to reflect on the example of the "Chaplains of the North and South" and "Angels of Mercy". John Burger, a news editor for Aleteia.org relates this remarkable historical insight.

Few men who served in the Civil War had experiences quite like those of Father Peter Whelan.

Born in Ireland, Whelan came to America and studied for the priesthood in Charleston, SC. Ordained in 1830, he ministered throughout the South, eventually settling in Savannah, GA.

At the outbreak of the "War Between the States" in 1861, Father Whelan volunteered to become chaplain for an Irish-American unit at Fort Pulaski, which guarded the port of Savannah. And at the end of the war four years later, he was able to claim the unique status of having ministered to prisoners from both the Union and Confederate armies.

The exhibit, which runs through Sept. 20, centers on wartime struggles and hardships, as well as acts of bravery and compassion.

On both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line, priests, commissioned as chaplains, offered Mass in the field, heard confessions of men about to do battle, and administered last rites to the fallen, even under fire. Meanwhile, hundreds of religious sisters used their training as nurses to ease the pain and suffering of the wounded in battlefield hospitals and prisons, while sharing in the adversities of those in uniform.

CHAPLAINS OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH

More than 70 Catholic priests officially served as chaplains for the North and South during the war, while some others served unofficially as part-time chaplains. Still, Catholic chaplains were spread thin compared to their Protestant counterparts, and some Catholic regiments were without the ministry of a priest.

One notable exception was the 88th New York Infantry, a regiment within the Irish Brigade that fought in the Battle of Gettysburg. On the morning of July 2, 1863, their chaplain, Father William E. Corby, Climbed onto a rock to give general absolution to the men kneeling before him. They then marched into the infamous Wheatfield, where 202 Union soldiers died.

After the war, Father Corby, a member of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, wrote about his experiences on the battlefield and later served as the third president of the University of Notre Dame.

Not all chaplains served on the Union side, of course. According to Benedictine Father Peter J. Meaney, writing in the Georgia Historical Quarterly in 1987, people of all faiths in the South were secessionists, and this it was not unusual to find Catholics sympathetic to the Confederate cause. But the mission of bringing souls to Christ impelled priests like Father Whelan beyond any political motivation.

For Father Whelan, it was natural to sign up for chaplain duty, even if it meant marching off to war at 60 years of age. Soon after he took up his post in Savannah, Union troops began attacking Fort Pulaski. Enduring 30 hours of heavy bombardment, the confederate troops finally were taken captive and transported north to a prison on Governor's Island in New York Harbor.

Father Whelan accompanied his men and served them amid miserable conditions. The prison lacked latrines, adequate ventilation and sufficient heating and many men suffered from pneumonia, typhoid and measles. In addition to ministering to the prisoners' spiritual needs, Father Whelan set about obtaining food and clothing for them. When local New York priests caught wind of his heroic efforts, they successfully petitioned for Father Whelan's parole.

But the Irish priest from the South chose to stay with his men. He applied for the post of chaplain and offered Mass on Governor's Island twice a week.

Noticing that his clothes had suffered severe wear, Confederate officers bought him a new suit, but Father Whelan noticed a newly arrived prisoner who needed clothing even more than he did. When an officer asked why he hadn't given the prisoner his old clothes, Father Whelan simply said, "When I give for Christ's sake, I give the best."

After his service on Governor's Island, Father Whelan returned to his priestly duties in Savannah. However, his service to soldiers was not yet over. When a priest reported that there was a significant number of Catholics held in the Confederate prison at Andersonville, GA, the bishop sent Father Whelan to minister to Union prisoners of war.

"Father Whelan was the longest-serving chaplain there – he stayed four months," said Bethany Sheffer, curator of the Knights of Columbus Museum. "Ultimately he got sick there, and it shortened his life."

Sheffer recounted another story about Father Whelan's generosity. When malnourished prisoners were being transferred out of Andersonville, the priest managed to obtain a loan of about \$16,000 in Confederate money to buy 10,000 pounds of flour.

"It was then given to the prisoners, and they called it 'Whelan's Bread,'" said Sheffer. "Later, he reached out to the federal government to get reimbursed, but was refused. He paid the loan off with money people had given him to take care of himself."

'ANGELS OF MERCY'

The man who turned down Father Whelan's request, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, may not have supported a heroic chaplain, but he did support the work of Catholic religious sisters who served during the war.

"The sisters were esteemed as nurses, so they were highly sought after," Sheffer said, noting that Stanton asked them to administer hospitals in Washington, DC "They worked in Stanton Hospital, which is named after him, as well as Douglas Hospital. The sisters didn't take any pay – they did what was needed out of charity, to assist both sides."

After a visit to Stanton Hospital, run by the Sisters of Mercy from Pittsburgh, President Abraham Lincoln observed, "Of all the forms of charity and benevolence seen in the crowded wards of the hospitals, those of some Catholic sisters were among the most efficient....As they went from cot to cot, distributing the medicines prescribed---they were veritable angels of mercy."

Many of the more than 600 sisters who offered aid to wounded soldiers came from religious orders that had founded hospitals. Thus, many already had extensive training as nurses. Several had also served during the Crimean War (1853-1856) and shared their knowledge with fellow sisters to develop well-organized nursing wards. Through their example, war hospitals became more efficient, and future standards for the treatment of the wounded in battlefields were established.

These sisters did far more than bandage wounds and assist surgeons in operating rooms. They washed and mended soiled clothing, bandages and linens, ensured as sanitary an environment in the wards as possible, and made sure that those under their charge were fed, often going without food themselves. In addition, they provided moral support, wrote letters home dictated by soldiers, and in some cases entertained the wounded with musical recitals.

Though the women religious did not serve in the line of fire, like the chaplains who frequently ministered on or near battlefields, their lives were still at risk.

"When diseases such as smallpox broke out, even doctors refused to help patients," wrote journalist Renee Standera in a 2013 article about Civil War nurses. "Some sisters sacrificed their lives to nurse soldiers suffering from contagious diseases. Others died from exhaustion."

After the Battle of Shiloh, TN, where some 25,000 men fell in battle, Sister Anthony O'Connell, a Cincinnati-based Sister of Charity, recalled trials the sisters experienced attending the wounded.

"What we endured on the field of battle while gathering up the wounded is beyond description," Sister O'Connell wrote. "Day would often dawn on us only to renew the work of the preceding day without a moment's rest."

One soldier later immortalized Sister O'Connell with these words: 'Amid the sea of blood, she performed the most revolting duties for those poor soldiers. She seemed like a ministering angel and many a young soldier owes his life to her care and charity. Happy was the soldier who, wounded and bleeding, had her near to whisper words of consolation...she was revered by Blue and Gray, Protestant and Catholic, and we conferred upon her the title of Florence Nightingale of America.

BINDING THE WOUNDS OF A NATION

While the many battle fields of America's bloodiest conflict are frequently visited by re-enactors and history buffs, other places related to the conflict have become like pilgrimage destinations. The Knight of Columbus Museum exhibit contains an artifact from one such location: an ornate 19th century wooden missal stand, carved from a pew in St. Francis Xavier Church in Gettysburg, PA. It tells a chilling story.

During the Battle of Gettysburg and for several weeks thereafter, St. Francis Xavier Church was used as a field hospital. The vestibule served as an operating room, with the outside doors opened to provide ventilation and light. More than 200 injured men were brought to the church and laid on the pews and upon the floor, where some died from their wounds. The inscription of a relief work at the church today honors the Sisters of Charity from nearby Emmitsburg, MD who tended the Union and Confederate soldiers with equal care.

One of the sisters serving the wounded later wrote about the first soldier who entered the sanctuary. Upon seeing the Stations of the Cross and a large painting of St. Francis Xavier holding a crucifix, he was converted and received baptism. "His pain was excruciating," she wrote, "and when sympathy was offered to him he said, 'Oh! What are these pains I suffer in comparison with those my Redeemer suffered for me.'" In these sentiments he died."

After that horrific month, the church had to be re-consecrated because so many soldiers had died there, and the bloodstained pews could not be used again.

In 1925, together with a new memorial façade for St. Francis Xavier Church, the Pennsylvania State Council of the Knights of Columbus funded the creation of two bronze reliefs to honor the Catholic men and women who served in the war. The first represents Father Corby's general absolution, while the second depicts the nursing service provided by the Sisters of Charity.

While sisters bound up physical wounds and priests sought to heal spiritual ones, Catholics as a whole contributed to the wider effort of healing a nation split apart.

The conflict between the Union and the Confederacy was not the only cause of social unrest at the time. Many Catholics, especially recent immigrants, struggled to gain acceptance in the New World. As the men who gathered around Father Michael J. McGivney to form the Knights of Columbus just a few decades later understood so well, nativists of various stripes were none too eager to accept these new Americans.

While sharing in these difficulties, the dedicated Catholics who served during the war, including priests and sisters, often challenged negative stereotypes. Like Father Whelan, Father Corby and Sister O'Connell, they offered their best for the sake of Christ and their countrymen.

War, Never Again!

Pope Paul VI at the United Nations, 1965

GOD BLESS YOU,
MSGR. FINN