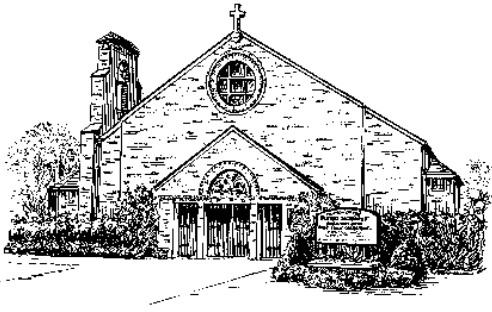


# BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

JANUARY 17, 2016

Staten Island, New York 10310



**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

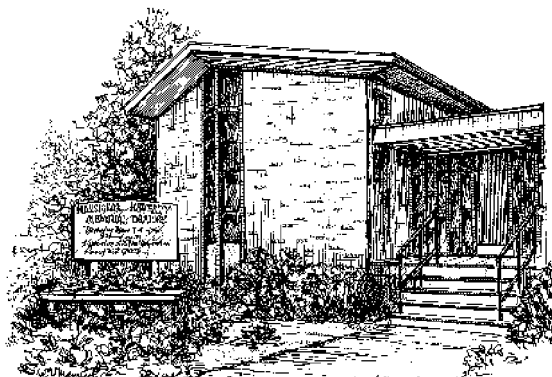
<http://www.blessedsacramentchurchsi.org>

### **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**

On June 18, 2015, the Vatican issued Laudato Si', Praise Be to You, Pope Francis's encyclical on caring for creation. The phrase "praised be" is taken from a famous creation canticle by St. Francis of Assisi as he thanked God for the beauty of creation. At the core of Pope Francis's message is the idea of "integral ecology," – that how we relate to one another, especially the poor, and how we relate to the environment are intimately connected. For more on the encyclical, go to the U.S. bishops' website: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-actions/human-life-and-dignity/environment/index.cfm> or google "US Catholic Conference of Bishops" – and click on the encyclical and then "Resources on Environmental Stewardship".

**THANK YOU FROM ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION**

Dear Msgr. Finn

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude to your community of faith for their very generous contributions of Christmas gifts for the families of St. Mary of the Assumption+Mount Carmel.

It is a great blessing for our families that parishes such as yours are so eager to offer help during the Christmas season. The gifts that your parishioners provided have brought great joy to the families that we serve. I know that I speak for all of them when I express my immense gratitude for the kindness of your parishioners.

Blessings to all of you in this New Year!

Rev. Mark Hamilton, S.J.

Pastor

**SUNDAY COLLECTION**

<u>2016</u>		<u>2015</u>
\$5,163		\$6,776
\$2,831 (Monthly)		\$2,837
<b>ATTENDANCE</b>		
<u>2016</u>		<u>2015</u>
694 (Adults)		872 (Adults)
196 (Children)		170 (Children)
890		1,042

**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 Ribaldo, 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 and Brian Nelson

**SYMPATHY**

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

**MONDAY**

7:00 Rosemarie Iacampo

9:00 Doris O'Toole

**TUESDAY**

7:00 Joselito Ybanez

9:00 Vincent & Pat Andreano

**WEDNESDAY**

7:00 Lt. Col. John R. Miles

9:00 Michael Luzzo

**THURSDAY**

7:00 James T. Smith (Living)

9:00 Raymond Patrick and Garrett Smith

**FRIDAY**

7:00 Lillian O'Leary (Living)

9:00 Marie Hartman

**SATURDAY**

9:00 Thomas Jacobsen (16<sup>th</sup> Anniv.)

5:00 Mary Deignan

**SUNDAY**

8:00 Thomas McCarthy

9:30 Dominic & Angelina Librizzi

12:30 Mary Deignan

**SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 24, 2016**

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

<u>LECTORS</u>
P. Thomann
F. Molanphy
M. Boyd
R. Helbock
K. Hanley

<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>
A. Aponte & J. Wright
D. Vigliotti & J. Hansen
A. Morrell & K. Falcone
A. Castronovo & P. Thomann

**Online Giving Update**

Thank you to the 190 families who have generously contributed to our parish through online giving with ParishPay in 2015. Your gifts and your participation are a blessing to us. This convenient giving option is available from our church website, just click the Online Giving link and follow the easy steps. The set up of your account takes just a few moments of your time. When you participate, you can view your giving history at any time just by logging in to your secure account.

Families that contribute through our Online Giving option can print **Tax Statements** at their convenience. Please be aware, however, that should you also contribute to our parish for any special collections aside from ParishPay you should request Tax Statement from the Parish House which would include all of your contributions for the 2015 Tax Year.



**PARISHPAY** As a reminder to those families that have been using our Online Giving option for 2015, *please take a moment to review your giving options.* Specials, Diocesan and Holy Day Collections have changed for 2016. Be certain you're contributing to our parish the way you want to for the year ahead.

TO OBTAIN A STATEMENT OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2015, PLEASE RETURN THE FORM BELOW TO THE PARISH HOUSE OFFICE. STATEMENTS WILL ONLY BE ISSUED UPON REQUEST AND WITH PRIOR NOTICE. THE STATEMENTS WILL BE MAILED AT THE END OF JANUARY. THANK YOU.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

ENVELOPE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**ECUMENICAL WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

Staten Island Prayer Service, Thursday, **Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>** at 7pm Hymn Sing, 7:30pm Worship Service at Zion Lutheran Church, 505 Watchogue Road, Preaching: Bishop John O'Hara, Episcopal Vicar of Staten Island

**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.

**FROM THE PASTOR**

This week we celebrate the life and witness of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the struggle for equal rights for all Americans, a battle that continues with progress and in the words of Robert Frost "many miles to go..."

Our week also importantly directs our attention to the beginning of the Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on January 18<sup>th</sup> and an important Staten Island Ecumenical Unity Prayer Service on Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at Zion Lutheran Church on 505 Watchogue Road beckoning all of us to participate.

Finally, and importantly, "A Day of Prayer for the Legal protection of Unborn Children on Friday, January 22, 2016.

All of the aforementioned events are directly concerned with Human Life. The following article in the Tablet by Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, PhD director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia touching on all of the above is Food for Thought.

***Human Life Must Be Held to a Higher Standard***

*Sometimes people will point out: "We euthanize our pets when they suffer, and they are clearly creatures of God, so why can't we euthanize a sick and suffering person who wants it? It seems like we treat our dogs and cats better than we treat our suffering family members."*

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The way we treat animals, however, should not be the measure of how we treat fellow human beings. We keep animals as pets, but we don't do the same with humans. We use animals to make clothing and food, but we don't do the same with humans. For all our similarities to the rest of the animal kingdom, we are aware of a fundamental difference in kind between ourselves and our furry and feathered friends.

We are not meant to die just as animals do, or be euthanized as they are. The death of a human is a more complex event that has other important realities associated with it.

In euthanizing a cat or dog, an assessment about the nature of the creature is rolled up into our decision to proceed. Our pets seem to process the world around them mostly in terms of either pleasure and pain, oscillating between these two poles as they instinctively gravitate toward pleasurable experiences, and engage in "mechanisms of avoidance" when they come up against pain or discomfort.

Animals lack that uniquely human power to reason about, resign themselves to and allow good to be drawn out of pain. Animals can't do much else in the face of their suffering apart from trying to skirt around it, escape the situation or passively endure it. Because of our strong sense of empathy, humans find it more emotionally acceptable to "put the animal to sleep," rather than watch it suffer a long and agonizing death.

But it would be false empathy – and a false compassion – to promote the killing or suicide of suffering family members. As human beings, we have real moral duties and better options in the face of our own pain and tribulations. On an instinctual level, we tend to recoil and do our best to avoid suffering, just like animals. But we are able to respond in a way that animals can't and even willingly accept our suffering, which is unavoidably part of the fabric of human existence.

None of us lives out our life without encountering some suffering, even if it may be purely internal, like the agony that comes from loneliness, isolation, depression or rejection. Every person must, in one way or another, confront suffering along the trajectory of life, and human maturity is partially measured by how we deal with suffering.

Those who live with serious disabilities, through their determined and beauty-filled lives and example, remind us every day of the good that can be drawn from suffering. The way they deal with their struggles manifests the depths of what it is to be authentically human. It is precisely disability – with its disfigurement, impairment, vulnerability and dependence – that challenges us to grasp the outlines of our human journey in a less superficial way, and to value human life and protect human dignity in sickness as well as in health.

Victoria Kennedy spoke to this same point when describing her husband, Senator Ted Kennedy's final months: "When my husband was first diagnosed with cancer, he was told that he had only two to four months to live...But that prognosis was wrong. Teddy lived 15 more productive months...Because that first dire prediction of life expectancy was wrong; I have 15 months of cherished memories..When the end finally did come – natural death with dignity – my husband was home, attended by his doctor, surrounded by family and our priest."

As human beings, we reach beyond the limits that suffering imposes by a conscious decision to accept and grow through it, like the athlete or the Navy SEAL who pushes through the limits of his exhaustion during training. We enter into an awareness of something greater behind the veil of our suffering when we come to accept it as an integral component of our human condition.

We also give positive example, strength and encouragement to the younger generation as they witness our response to, and acceptance of, our own suffering. Our trials and tribulations also teach us about our reliance on God and the illusions of self-reliance.

On the other hand, if our fear of suffering drives us to constant circumlocution and relentless avoidance, even to the point of short-circuiting life itself through euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide, we can miss those mysterious, but privileged moments that invite us to become more resplendently human, with all the messiness, awkwardness and agonies that are invariably part of that process.

God help us and bless us all.  
MSGR. FINN