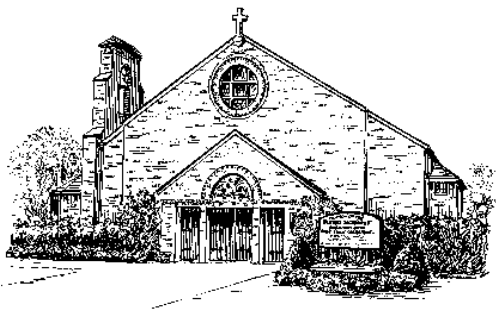


BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

Staten Island, New York 10310

January 31, 2016



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

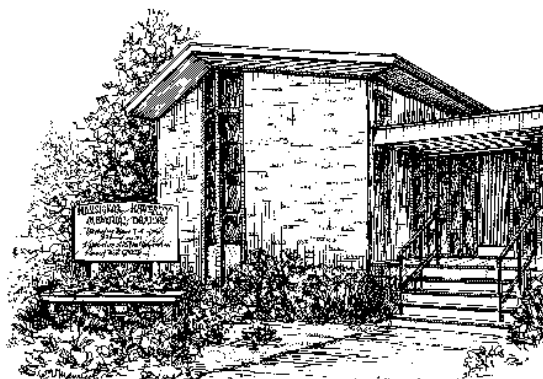
<http://www.blessedsacramentchurchsi.org>

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



PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

Next week, our archdiocese will take up the Peter's Pence Collection, which provides Pope Francis with the funds he needs to carry out his charitable works around the world. The proceeds benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Join our Holy Father as a witness of charity to those who are suffering.

ENCYCLICAL ON ENVIRONMENT

In his recent encyclical on the care of our common home, Pope Francis preaches "the Gospel of Creation," drawing on the words of the Hebrew prophets, saints like Francis of Assisi and Therese of Lisieux, the popes who preceded him, and of Jesus himself. Let us pray this Gospel of Creation in Francis's own words: "Son of God, Jesus...You are alive in every creature in your risen glory. Praise be to you!" And prayerfully consider signing the "St. Francis Pledge" of the Catholic Climate Covenant to act together with other Catholics in honor of St. Francis. Google: "Catholic Climate Covenant".

CROSS ROAD FOUNDATION THANK YOU

Dear Msgr. Finn,

Please extend our thanks to the Giving Tree Committee and to our parishioners for remembering our families at Christmas time. These gifts were distributed at our Christmas Party on December 19th. This year we had 56 families, including 120 children attending.

We are grateful to you for helping us again make this a season of joy for our families.

Sincerely,
Bill Harder

Executive Director

<u>SUNDAY COLLECTION</u>	
<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
\$863 (Weekly)	\$7,404 (Weekly)
<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	
<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
138 (Adults)	785 (Adults)
15(Children)	152(Children)
153 (Blizzard)	937

**THE SANCTUARY LAMP
KEEPS ITS SILENT VIGIL
BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
JOHN NAPPI**

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 of Israel Figueroa, Lydia Medina and the souls for whom Mass will be offered during the week, especially:

MONDAY

7:00 Maria & Salvatore Proaccini

9:00 Charlotte Kulovany

TUESDAY

7:00 Michael Manley

9:00 Mary Teresa Finn

WEDNESDAY

7:00 Frank Bronzo

9:00 Edward Jorgensen (20th Anniv.)

THURSDAY

7:00 John & Peggy Ciano

9:00 Jacqueline Joly

FRIDAY

7:00 Sr. Marilyn Fenton

9:00 Brett Greeley (1st Anniv.)

SATURDAY

9:00 Tito Calamba

5:00 Gerard P. Yates

SUNDAY

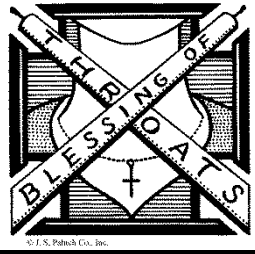
8:00 Emily Marie McQuade

9:30 Michael McCarthy

12:30 Larry Puca

SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 7, 2016

	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>
5:00 PM Vigil	Team 5	R. Semon	V. Donnelly & J. Wright
8:00 AM	Team 1	L. Lagmay	E. Hodgens & S. Coscia
9:30 AM	Team 2	C. Wodzinski	P. Thomann & R. Gallop
11:00 AM	Team 3	J. Pace	M. McKeever & E. Laub
12:30 PM	Team 4	L. Pillarella	E. Checkett & G. Checkett

**FEAST OF ST. BLAISE**

Wednesday, **Feb. 3rd** Blessing of Throats will take place following the 7a.m. and 9a.m. Masses.

ST. RITA'S LENT SERIES

St. Rita's Church, 281 Bradley Ave., will host its 8th Annual Lent Series beginning Feb. 11th at 7:30pm with a Celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. To include Eucharistic Exposition, Praying the Rosary, Celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, Benediction, Veneration of a relic of St. Bernadette and Candlelight Procession (weather permitting) to a grotto on Westwood Ave.

ST. JOSEPH RETREAT CENTER

The Retreat Center located at 850 Hylan Blvd. offers **Winter Stillness** - Begins Friday, **Feb. 19th** at 4:30pm, ends Sunday, **Feb. 21st** at 3:00pm. Winter Stillness gently invites us to begin our Lenten Journey. Put aside time this weekend to meet the Lord during a silent, directed retreat. Fee: \$250. You must RSVP at least 4 days in advance. For more info call: Ronnie Keane at 718-720-1097

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.

SETON FOUNDATION FOR LEARNING

Thank you from the Board of Directors, the Parent Guild and most especially the children of the Seton Foundation. This year's Christmas raffle raised approximately \$96,000, of which Blessed Sacrament parishioners contributed \$3,943.00. Thank you for your continued support of our programs for God's special children.

MARIAN SHRINE

The Marian Shrine, 174 Filors Lane, Stony Point, NY has been designated as a site of a Holy Door in the Archdiocese of New York. Our Mary Help of Christians Chapel has blessed and set up its Holy Door for the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The Shrine is open from 9am to 3:30pm each day. Confessions are heard from 11am to Noon, Mass is at Noon followed by rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

2016 CARDINAL'S APPEAL

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, we are called to help one another and be merciful, as Jesus is for all of us. It is only with your help that the Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal continues to be a beacon of hope for our brothers and sisters through our ministries and charities. To make an online gift, visit www.cardinalsappeal.org

FROM THE PASTOR

As we turn the page of our calendar on this last day of January, we inaugurate the celebration of Catholic Schools Week. For that reason we must continue to pray and work for the sacredness of human life post the Pro-life march, January 22, 2016 until our nation is restored to love, honor, respect and protection of all human life.

The Field Hospital is Open, by Vicki Thorn in the current issue of Columbia Magazine reflects the prayers of Pope Francis to accomplish that goal.

The Field Hospital is Open***The Holy year of Mercy shines a spotlight on Project Rachel's ministry of hope and healing***

Every year, 40 to 50 million abortions are performed worldwide. Though the number of women who have experienced the tragedy of abortion is unknown, theirs is a pervasive wound begging for God's mercy. The Church seeks to provide this mercy through reconciliation and post-abortion ministries such as Project Rachel.

PAGE FOUR

Early in his pontificate, Pope Francis said, "I see clearly that the thing the Church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds...I see the Church as a field hospital after battle."

In his September 2015 letter in anticipation of the Year of Mercy, which began Dec. 8, 2015, the pope spoke in particular about women who have had abortions. "I have met so many women who bear in their hearts the scar of this agonizing and painful decision," he wrote. "What has happened is profoundly unjust; yet only understanding the truth of it can enable one not to lose hope."

Pope Francis emphasized that the forgiveness of God cannot be denied to one who has repented, especially when that person approaches the sacrament of confession with a sincere heart. As a special favor for the Year of Mercy, he extended to all priests "the discretion to absolve of the sin of abortion those who have procured it and who, with contrite heart, seek forgiveness for it."

Some found the pope's directive puzzling. After all, can't priests already forgive this sin?

Because of its gravity, abortion is considered by canon law to be not only a sin but also a crime, which can bring with it sanctions that must be addressed by the local bishop. But for decades, bishops in the U.S. have granted priests the faculty to remove canonical penalties that may be incurred.

In 1975, U.S. bishops addressed the need for healing in response to legalized abortion. That year, the bishops' first Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities stated, "Granting that the grave sin of abortion is symptomatic of many human problems, which often remain unsolved for the individual woman, it is important that we realize that God's mercy is always available and without limit, (and) that the Christian life can be restored and renewed through the sacraments."

In this light, the sacrament of reconciliation lies at the heart of the mission of Project Rachel, the post-abortion healing ministry of the Catholic Church in the United States. Project Rachel began in 1984 in response to the call for mercy from U.S. bishops, who, as confessors, had heard the pain of a mother's heart. This confidential ministry, which is present in the majority of U.S. dioceses, is a network of healing composed of specially trained confessors, mental health workers, spiritual directors, medical professionals and others who work together to accompany and care for women, as well as men, who have been touched by an abortion loss.

Over the years, the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council, together with members at the state and local levels, have worked diligently to support this ministry. For example, the Knights have sponsored conferences on post-abortion healing and have arranged specific mourning sites – "Memorials to Unborn children" – in Catholic cemeteries and elsewhere to remember the unborn.

Throughout the years, the work of Project Rachel has helped multitudes of women throughout the country encounter God's tender mercy and forgiveness in confession. Women will sometimes approach me with tears of gratitude in their eyes and whisper in my ear, "Thank you." They tell me about how they found the way back to their faith and explain the deep appreciation they have for the priests who truly reflected the face of Jesus to them.

Priests who have ministered to the women involved in Project Rachel have themselves told me that our work has been a gift to their priesthood. Whenever they show God's mercy to those who do not think they can experience forgiveness, they personally encounter the Lord in a new way.

*St. John Paul II addressed post-abortive women directly about the transformative power of confession in his 1995 encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (The Gospel of Life). "The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the sacrament of reconciliation," he wrote. "You will come to understand that nothing is definitively lost and you will also be able to ask forgiveness from your child, who is now living in the Lord. With the friendly and expert help and advice of other people, and as a result of your own painful experience, you can be among the most eloquent defenders of everyone's right to life" (99).*

*Pope Benedict XVI cited his predecessor's words in 2008 during an address to a K of C sponsored international congress at the Vatican titled "Oil on the Wounds," which examined the effects of divorce and abortion. Addressing congress participants, Pope Benedict also repeated a theme from his first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, stating that, like the Good Samaritan, a Christian is called to have a "heart that sees"...where love is needed and acts accordingly (31).*

This model of the Good Samaritan, together with that of the field hospital envisioned by Pope Francis, inspires the work of Project Rachel as we minister to those whose lives have been shattered by abortion. Our mission is about meeting those who dwell in darkness and pain where they are and without condemnation. It is about accompanying them in their suffering and acknowledging that only God's mercy can heal their wounds. And these healed women and men become the cornerstones of the culture of life.

GOD BLESS YOU
MSGR. FINN