

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Saturday, August 12:

5:00 Joseph, Josephine & Maryann DeMeo

Sunday, August 13:

7:00 Deceased Members of the Quinn & McCauley Families & Souls in Purgatory  
9:00 Sue Amore  
11:00 People of the Parish  
1:00 Matthew & Kathleen Dowd  
5:00 Helen Buckley

Monday, August 14:

9:00 Fr. Robert Navins  
7:00 Rudolph Martino

Tuesday, August 15:

7:00 Joan M. Prenty  
9:00 William & Rita Wilson  
7:00 Lois Westfall

Wednesday, August 16:

9:00 Chamara "Shawn" Gunawardena

Thursday, August 17:

9:00 Alice Perry 22nd Anniversary

Friday, August 18:

9:00 Xeu Qian Zheng

Saturday, August 19:

9:00 James J. McVey  
5:00 Deceased Members of the Carey & Driscoll Families

Sunday, August 20:

7:00 Nancy McVey  
9:00 Therese O'Shea  
11:00 Fressola & Mazzitelli Families  
1:00 Elizabeth Sullivan  
5:00 People of the Parish

Saturday, August 19:

5:00 Frank Pontiero

Anne Siemer

Sunday, August 20:

7:00 Theresa Zulch  
9:00 Kennedy Apoe Elizabeth D'Antuonno  
11:00 Ken Wisniewski Dorothy Tarafa  
1:00 Charles Sullivan John Mooney Sr.  
5:00 Bob Mazzuco Efrain Ortiz



Susan Pellecchia, Lois Mazzitelli, Rosanne Mezzacappa, Christopher Luciano, Patricia Repoli, Tim Campagna, Meghan Clark, Alberto Meranda, Jerry Russo, Anna Parente, James Parente, Ruth Manieri, Mary Kenny, John C. Marino, Michael Rucci, Cpl Justin Campbell, Barbara Brennan, Sam Pezzano, Sheila Jones, Edward B. Hanson, Robert Gaylord, Emily Baron, Frank Silvestri, Carol Van Manen, Frank Juliano, Richard Nagrowski, Theresa Mirante, Barbara Walsh, Christian Pepo, Terrence Gibbons, Jean Forte, Baby Michael John DiCostanzo, JoAnn DiPietro, Robert Williams, Sebastian Lattuga, Linda Browne, Frances Nodar, Tina Russo, Nathaniel Sasha, Kathryn Capofari, Crystal Helewa, Rosemary Regan, Anthony Umana, Barbara Rotondo, Carmela D'Angelo, Mark Herman, Arthur Schmitt Sr., Richard Christie, Anthony Columbo, Frances Bocignone, Roseanne Viano, Mary Budnick, Barbara Longo

Collections:

August 6th .....\$7,373.00

**Wedding Banns**

II Timothy Robert Mugavero & Lisa Sucato  
I Matthew Sabella & Nicki Wolfersberger

**Feast of the Assumption:** Tuesday, August 15th, is the Feast of the Assumption and a Holy Day of Obligation. Sacred Heart Mass times are as follows: Monday, August 14th at 7 P.M. and Tuesday, August 15th at 7 & 9 A.M. and 7 P.M.

## NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:

Dear Parishioners:

As Christians, we are very concerned about the well being of transgender persons. According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention 41% of transgender persons try to kill themselves at some point in their lives, compared with 4.6% of the general public. Some claim that the higher suicide rate is a result of mental illness. They argue that the fact that a person believes he or she is the opposite sex, when that person obviously is not, that, in itself, is proof positive that he or she is psychologically sick, just as if someone believed he or she was Napoleon or Mother Teresa.

Others argue that transgender persons have such a high suicide rate because of negative discrimination. Without doubt, transgender persons experience a lack of sympathy and compassion from a certain number in our society. On the other hand, some question this claim since other minority groups who suffer real and perceived amounts of bigotry do not have higher suicide rates. For instance, the Centers for Disease Control indicate that white people have the highest rates of suicide over the past 15 years. In that time, black people on average had the lowest suicide rate among all ethnic groups, while white suicide actually rose in the period.

Another side of the issue regards children. Dr. Michelle Cretella spoke of this topic in an article entitled, "I'm a Pediatrician. How Transgender Ideology Has Infiltrated My Field and Produced Large-Scale Child Abuse." [*dailysignal.com*, July 03, 2017]. Cretella points to the fact that last summer the federal government stated that it would not require Medicare and Medicaid to cover sex-change operations (gender transition-affirming procedures) for children or adults because medical experts at the Department of Health and Human Services found that the risks were often too high, and the benefits too unclear. Undeterred by these findings, says Cretella, many cling to the notion that children who consistently and persistently insist that they are not the gender associated with their biological sex are innately transgender. "The fact that in normal life and in psychiatry, anyone who consistently and persistently insists on anything else contrary to physical reality is considered either confused or delusional is conveniently ignored," states Cretella.

Transition-affirming protocol, to which Dr. Cretella objects, tells parents to treat their children as the gender they desire, and to place them on puberty blockers around age 11 or 12 if they are not happy with their gender, that is, if they are gender dysphoric. If by age 16, the children still insist that they are trapped in the wrong body, they are placed on cross-sex hormones. Biological girls may then obtain a double mastectomy. So-called "bottom surgeries," or genital reassignment surgeries, are not recommended before age 18, although some surgeons have recently argued against this restriction.

Cretella claims that the transgender movement is based upon a deeply flawed narrative. The scientific research tells a different story.

First, the research on twin studies prove no one is born "trapped in the body of the wrong sex." Identical twins contain 100 percent of the same DNA from conception and are exposed to the same prenatal hormones. Thus, she argues, if genes and/or prenatal hormones contributed significantly to transgenderism, we should expect both twins to identify as transgender close to 100 percent of the time. But in the largest study of twin transgender adults, published by Dr. Milton Diamond in 2013, only 28 percent of the identical twins both identified as transgender. The fact that the identical twins differed 72 percent of the time means that the vast majority of what contributes to transgenderism in one twin consists of non-shared experiences after birth—in other words, factors not rooted in biology. Studies like this one, argues Cretella, prove that the belief in "innate gender identity"—the idea that "feminized" or "masculinized" brains can be trapped in the wrong body from before birth—is a myth that has no basis in science.

Second, the research shows that gender identity is malleable, especially in young children. The American Psychological Association's Handbook of Sexuality and Psychology admits that prior to the recent widespread promotion of sex change, 75 to 95 percent of pre-pubertal children who were distressed by their biological sex eventually outgrew that distress. The vast majority came to accept their biological sex by late adolescence after passing naturally through puberty. But with gender transition affirmation now increasing in Western society, the number of children claiming distress over their gender—and their persistence over time—has dramatically increased. For example, the Gender Identity Development Service in the United Kingdom alone has seen a 2,000 percent increase in referrals since 2009.

Moreover, the research demonstrates that cross-sex hormones are associated with dangerous health risks such as cardiac disease, high blood pressure, blood clots, strokes, diabetes, and cancers. Furthermore, neuroscience shows that people under the age of 21 have less capacity to assess risks. Therefore, says Cretella, there is a serious ethical problem in allowing irreversible, life-changing procedures to be performed on minors who are too young themselves to give valid consent.

Dr. Cretella concludes by saying that while the transition-affirming movement claims to help children, it is inflicting a grave injustice on them. These professionals are using the myth that people are born transgender to justify engaging in uncontrolled experimentation on children who have a psychological condition that would otherwise resolve after puberty in the vast majority of cases. Cretella notes that today's institutions that promote transition affirmation are pushing children to impersonate the opposite sex, sending many of them down the path of sterilization and mutilation, and untold psychological damage. This, she claims, is child abuse, plain and simple.

God Bless You!

Father Eric

**Sacred Heart 2017-2018:** Sacred Heart is now accepting applications for the 2017-2018 school year. Sacred Heart School is a West Brighton fixture with a rich history of academic and athletic success. At Sacred Heart children are inspired and educated in the image of God. One hundred percent of our 8th grade graduates are accepted into their high school of choice. Many of our students are awarded high school scholarships, are accepted into advanced/specialized programs and our school has among the highest ELA and Math scores on Staten Island. We place emphasis on technology in the classrooms as our kindergarten—eight grade students have Chrome Books in the classroom. Homework assignments, upcoming events and school news are posted on our school website. Also our basketball, soccer, swimming and golf teams are not only competitive, they win! Sacred Heart also has a Junior National Honor Society as well as drama, art, chess clubs and a Boy Scout Troop. In addition we offer a free Pre-K and financial assistance is available to students from K-8th grade. If you are interested please contact the school at (718) 442-0347, private tours are available.

### **Sacred Heart Soccer Registration:**

Registration is now open for the 2017-2018 Sacred Heart Soccer Team. Both boys and girls ages 4 (birth year 2013) thru 14 are welcome to join. Please visit [www.sacredheartsoccerclub.siplay.com](http://www.sacredheartsoccerclub.siplay.com) to register and for further information.

### **ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE**

Saturday August 19, 2017:

5:00 : J. Mullen, J. Lotito, H. Xuereb

Sunday August 20, 2017:

7:00 K. Postler, M. Postler, B. Daniels

9:00 N. Ehresman, J. Oliveras, A. Buscemi

11:00 V. Kaleta, A. Cruz, J. Orellana

1:00 H. Bond, J. Esco, S. Baniswal

5:00 T. Smith, R. Delamasa, N. Ramdass

**Catholic Schools Clam Bake:** On Wednesday August 30th The Catholic School Region invites you to join them at the inaugural “Clam Bake for Catholic Schools.” The event takes place from 6-10 PM at The Vanderbilt at South Beach, 300 Father Capodanno Blvd. There will be raffles, food, fireworks and music. To purchase tickets please visit [www.ClamBakeSI.org](http://www.ClamBakeSI.org). There are also flyers located in the Vestibule with more information including ticket prices.

**St. Vincent De Paul:** Once again your St. Vincent De Paul Society is in urgent need of non-perishable food for the pantry. Would you please donate or bring to the vestibule of the Church one or more of the following foods; canned vegetables, canned soups, peanut butter & jelly, canned tuna fish, cereal, apple juice, tomato sauce & pasta, canned or jarred fruits. Thank you and God bless you!!

### **Society for the Propagation of the Faith**

**Mission Appeal:** This weekend August 12th & 13th, Father Corrado Masini (Italy) will be speaking here to the parishioners of Sacred Heart on behalf of the Propagation of the Faith. He will focus on the many challenges that missionaries face and the second collection that weekend will be for the needs of mission Dioceses and Religious Communities. We ask that you be as generous as your means will allow as Evangelization is at the heart of the Church’s Mission.

**Our Lady of Pity Church:** The 16th annual “Eve of Solemn Remembrance” will take place at Our Lady of Pity Church on Wednesday, September 16, 2017. A music overture will start at 7 PM followed by Mass at 7:30 PM. with Msgr. Edmund Whalen as the main celebrant.

**Online Giving:** Do you know that Sacred Heart now offers online giving which makes donating quick and easy. This is perfect for our parishioners who take frequent vacations, have a busy weekend schedule or have moved but wish to continue their support of our parish. Just go to the Sacred Heart website, [www.sacredheartsi.org](http://www.sacredheartsi.org).