

Feast of The Transfiguration of The Lord



Saturday, August 5:  
5:00 Patricia Silvestri

Sunday, August 6:  
7:00 Benjamin Zarrelli  
9:00 Alice Perry  
11:00 People of the Parish  
1:00 Anthony Flagiello  
5:00 Angelina Zelaya

Monday, August 7:  
9:00 The Barrett Family

Tuesday, August 8:  
9:00 Matthew & Maureen Gordon

Wednesday, August 9:  
9:00 John A Kubasek & Frank Sova

Thursday, August 10:  
9:00 Charles M., Mary & Charles Donohue

Friday, August 11:  
9:00 Anne Winters

Saturday, August 12:  
9:00 Souls in Purgatory  
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

Saturday, August 12:  
5:00 Mary Rosso  
Barbara Kelly

Sunday, August 13:  
7:00 Vincent O'Grady  
9:00 Don O'Shea Evelyn Bilottp  
11:00 Maria Montouri Regina Torello  
1:00 Pat Jezycki Rosetta Messina  
5:00 Jack Gordon 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

**Collections:**  
July 30th.....\$6,531.00  
Congratulations to Mr. Henry Murphy on winning the July 50/50.

**Wedding Banns**

I Timothy Robert Mugavero & Lisa Sucato

**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:

A good woman that I know from another parish recently left the Catholic Church because of the Church's teaching on homosexuality. Her relative has this condition and she felt that the Church is condemning someone that she loves very much. She is mistaken. The Church condemns sin not the sinner. We hate sin because we love sinners. Let us briefly consider this very culturally relevant issue.

Carrie Gress writes, "There is an ongoing discussion about how to best help those with same-sex attraction (SSA). The popular consensus—even among many in the Church today—seems to be that the best thing to do is to accept them, let them live out their passions, and celebrate their diversity. Their lives are just like those of heterosexuals, or so the argument goes." However, she points out, this position overlooks the tragic reality of the gay lifestyle. ["Symptoms, Causes and Loving Those with Same-Sex Attraction." *National Catholic Register* (July 7, 2017).]. Michael Hobbes, who participates in the gay lifestyle, indicates that gay people are much more likely to commit suicide than heterosexuals. The figure is as much as ten times higher in certain studies. He argues, "We're twice as likely to have a major depressive episode. Gay men everywhere, at every age, have higher rates of cardiovascular disease, cancer, incontinence, erectile dysfunction, allergies and asthma—you name it, we got it." ["Together Alone: The Epidemic of Gay Loneliness." *Huffington Post* (March 2, 2017).].

Hobbes rejects what he calls "minority stress" as the root cause of gay men's distress. The heart of the issue, he claims, is a deep loneliness that cannot be mollified through homosexuality. Even as the gay community celebrates their recent social victories, Hobbes states, "the [high] rates of depression, loneliness and substance abuse in the gay community remain stuck in the same place they've been for decades." Christopher Stults, who studies the differences between gay and straight men at New York University, is quoted by Hobbes as saying: "We want to have man after man, more muscles, more status, whatever brings us fleeting validation. Then we wake up at 40, exhausted, and we wonder: Is that all there is? And then the depression comes."

Daniel Mattson is recovering from his addiction to homosexuality. He speaks of his journey in his new book *Why I Don't Call Myself Gay: How I Reclaimed My Sexual Reality and Found Peace*. He looked for happiness in the gay lifestyle but found disillusionment

and emptiness. "We don't really understand what will make us happy," Mattson writes. "Being loved by God and being able to love Him in return is where true joy resides." He continues, "All of the sex, all of the porn, all of my hopes and dreams of love and earthly happiness, were a two-dimensional caricature of happiness. Happiness comes when we finally know who we are, why we're here, and where we are headed. I finally know that to have sex with a man really leads me away from true happiness." Mattson concludes, "Thanks be to God, I know that now. That was a hard lesson to learn, but I'm glad I learned it."

How then, can we best help these men (and women, too, although their issues are somewhat different) struggling with SSA? What is the prescription that will bring them true healing?

The prescription is Jesus Christ, blessed be His Name. In His great love for us, Jesus gives us [if we accept it] God's grace and the gift of chastity. What exactly is chastity? Chastity is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. It is a call by God to each of us to imitate the purity of Jesus Christ and to use the gift of our sexuality as God would have us use it. Chaste sexual behavior always has two components: first, the act should be between a validly married couple—a man and woman. Secondly, the act should be open to life. Therefore, artificial contraception is immoral because it prevents new life. This is the constant teaching of Jesus Christ. It should never be considered to be mere religious discipline like the ritual washings of the Pharisees. It is divine law. It is not subject to change. It is not determined by the latest Gallup Poll.

Chastity is an important component of purity. Purity is ultimately not about what is forbidden. As Archbishop Charles Chaput states, "Given the hypersexualized nature of today's culture, when we think of purity, we usually think of sexual purity. And thinking of sexual purity, we typically focus on abstinence. So purity somehow transforms into not experiencing a thing we want to experience. This is a distortion. Purity is about wholeness or integrity. It means that the body, mind, heart, and soul are rightly ordered toward God. Every element of who we are is doing its part to bring us to union with God, which is our ultimate happiness." [*Strangers in a Strange Land* (2017).] Chastity is ultimately about what gives life and joy to the human heart now, and also forms part of our response to the love of Jesus that leads us to eternal life. Recovering homosexuals would agree.

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 and chess clubs. 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 12, 2017:**

5:00 : G. Garcia, M. Donovan, N. Ehresman

**Sunday August 13, 2017:**

7:00 Matthew, Julia & Sean Ahern

9:00 A. Basile, C. Basile, A. Schmitt

11:00 W. Hollnsteiner, M. Artuz, J. Torres

1:00 L. O'Neal, J. Orellana, E. Eadicicco

5:00 Kathleen, Mary & Siobhan McCafferty

### **St. Joseph's Retreat Center**

(St. Joseph Hill Academy)

**Sunday-Friday, August 13-18th:** Friendship with God: A Spirituality for Living Now. Facilitated by Father Paul Fagan, rooms are available for \$450 for a single and \$400 for a double with a non-refundable deposit of \$50 due by August 7th. This retreat will explore the tradition of friendship with God along with the marks of friendship such as benevolence and mutuality. Each day will include daily Mass with a homily, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and confessions.

The retreat center is located on the grounds of St. Joseph Hill Academy at 850 Hylan Blvd. To reserve a seat simply call Ronnie Keane at (718) 720-1097 or visit [SJRetreatCenter.org](http://SJRetreatCenter.org)

**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:** On the weekend of 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).