

Second Sunday in Advent



Saturday, December 9:

5:00 Bud Rosso

Sunday, December 10:

7:00 Fr. Paul Gyamfi
9:00 Al & Sue Amore
11:00 People of the Parish
1:00 Charles M, Mary & Charles Donohue
5:00 James McVey

Monday, December 11:

7:00 John & Dorothy Perrone
9:00 Jane Parisio

Tuesday, December 12:

7:00 Joseph Bruno
9:00 John R. Kubasek

Wednesday, December 13:

7:00 John Clark
9:00 Kenneth Thatcher

Thursday, December 14:

7:00 Thomas Healy
9:00 James Grace

Friday, December 15:

7:00 Lucille L. Benvenuto
9:00 Joseph Kempf

Saturday, December 16:

9:00 Corinne & Dick Kennedy
5:00 Arthur Currada

Sunday, December 17:

7:00 John Maloney
9:00 Helen Buckley
11:00 People of the Parish
1:00 Joseph Lazicki
5:00 Rita & Raymond Sykes

Saturday, December 16:

5:00 Frank Ponterio

Anne Siemer

Sunday, December 17:

7:00 Teresa Zulch
9:00 Kennedy Apoe Elizabeth D'Antuono
11:00 Ken Wisniewski Dorothy Tarafa
1:00 Charles Sullivan John Mooney
5:00 Robert Mazzucco 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, 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, JoAnn DiPietro, Robert Williams, Sebastian Lattuga, Linda Browne, Frances Nodar, Tina Russo, Nathaniel Sasha, Kathryn Capofari, Rosemary Regan, Anthony Umana, Barbara Rotondo, Carmela D'Angelo, Mark Herman, Richard Christie, Anthony Columbo, Frances Bocignone, Roseanne Viano, Barbara Longo, Linda Powers, Crystal Helewa, Eleanor Cooper, Daniel Juliano, Lizabeth Walsh, Joseph DeMeo, Moira Mackey, Michael DiCostanzo

Collections:

December 3rd.....\$7,542.00
December 2017 Monthly.....\$3,082.00

Newly Baptized

Marcello Anthony Farinacci, Vivian Willow Leykam, Claire Susanne Corona, John Thomas Primiano, Isabella Grace Corchado, Emilia Riccardi, Maeve Costello Walsh, Enya Melodyanna Scattaglia, Valentina Hope Wilson, Uchechi Isabella Okoye, Lucas Bruce Zdunek

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:

Dear Parishioners:

There once was a man who owned a small farm. He was not a rich man but he did own a prize thoroughbred horse. It was the most valuable material thing he had. One day the horse ran away. His neighbors came to console him. “We’re so sorry to hear of your bad news.” The man replied, “Good news, bad news. Who knows?” A week later the thoroughbred returned with 10 stallions. They were magnificent beasts that added greatly to his wealth. When his wife found out about it she rushed over to him excitedly and asked, “Isn’t this wonderful?” “Good news, bad news. Who knows?” he said. Then one day his son was riding one of the stallions in an attempt to train it. He was thrown and broke his leg. When the mailman heard about it he stopped over during his route and said that he was sorry to learn of the news. “Good news, bad news. Who knows?” Later on war broke out in the country and there was a draft. The farmer’s son was exempt.

Good news, bad news. There was good news recently for pro-life people like ourselves. Christians are, by the very nature of being Christian, pro-life. After all, how can a Christian be pro-abortion, pro-choice, pro-reproductive rights—however we call it? In other words, how can one be a lover of the God of life and love on the one hand, and support the ultimate act of hatred—the murder of the innocent—on the other hand? It’s a gross contradiction. Some would say, “I am personally opposed to abortion but I believe it should be a woman’s choice.” That is illogical. Why are you “personally opposed”? Because you know it is heinous and wrong. Can you say I am “personally opposed” to armed robbery—I would never do it—but I believe in the free choice of the bandit to do it?” Other Christians may say, “But abortion is not my problem. I have my own. I am too busy.” Edmund Burke answers, “All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.”

But I digress. There was good pro-life news recently. The Guttmacher Institute is a pro-abortion research group. It is considered to have the most comprehensive abortion numbers for the U.S. It recently reported that there were 926,200 abortions in 2014 and 958,700 in 2013. Those numbers are the lowest since 1975, two years after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion on demand through all nine months of pregnancy. Fewer abortions! That’s good news! Praise the Lord!

The bad news is that abortion is still legal, and legal *for any reason whatsoever*, in this great nation of ours. I read an article about an abortion nurse who had an encounter with a well-to-do couple at the abortion clinic where she was working. They were a handsome, well-educated young married couple. The wife was into her second trimester, which meant that she was clearly pot-bellied. They explained that the pregnancy was actually a wanted pregnancy. They were initially very happy to learn that she was expecting. The nurse wrote, “Up until this point, most of the cases I had been privy to were our typical six- or seven-week-type situations such as ‘Whoops? I am pregnant and can’t possibly support a baby!’ or ‘I am only fourteen and my parents don’t know I am pregnant!’ ‘She’s just a child herself,’ we would say.”

However this situation was totally different. This pregnancy was planned. Then the wife discovered that she was pregnant with twins. What would normally be cause for great celebration—a two for one wanted pregnancy—turned out to be the source of disappointment. After the results of the pregnancy test, the couple did intense research. They embarked upon a very pragmatic course to investigate the impact on their lives of raising twins. They read various studies that pointed to a lowering of standards of living and other supposed socio-economic restrictions that come with multiple parenting. Therefore, in cold, calculated fashion, they decided upon the taking of the lives of their sixteen-week-old twins. The nurse was disgusted. She said, “At what point would someone in the industry stand up and say, ‘No! That isn’t a good enough reason to abort your baby.’” Her disgust, along with an eventual religious encounter with Jesus Christ, led her away from her job in an abortion clinic in favor of a job at the NICU of the local hospital. What a reversal!

Good news, bad news. I have given you both in this article. I will leave you with a reminder of the ultimate good news: Jesus Christ is King. He ruled from the wood of the crib. He ruled from the tree of the Cross. He rules today—everywhere. He will rule forever. When the time is right, when His plan is ripe, He will put an end to the death of the innocents who live in the womb. Praise the Lord!

God Bless You!

Father Eric

Sacred Heart 2017-2018: If you and your spouse are considering a Private/Catholic school for your children, Sacred Heart is the perfect choice. Sacred Heart School is a West Brighton fixture with a rich history of academic and athletic success. The school currently has an enrollment of 278 students all of who 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 Chromebooks 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 Rectory Office Hours: Please make a note that the Rectory now has new office hours. The Office will now be open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 AM-9PM and on Saturday and Sunday from 10 AM-6 PM. Tuesday and Thursday the office will be open only from 9 AM– 5 PM.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 16, 2017:

5:00 : A. Basile, T. Koleci, A. Maida

Sunday, December 17, 2017:

7:00 N. Ehresman, R. Delamasa, A. Buscemi

9:00 A. Schmitt, J. Mullen, M. Perkert

11:00 W. Wenzel, B. Freund, T. Smith

1:00 V. Kaleta, K. McCafferty, K. McCafferty

5:00 K. Postler, M. Postler, M. Donovan

Beware the Red Kettle: Catholics don't give to the Salvation Army.

As we enter stores to do our Christmas shopping occasionally we see a person ringing a bell and we see people dropping money into the red kettles of the Salvation Army. May Catholics not be among the givers! Catholics may think it is a worthy charity. It is not. The Salvation Army is a Protestant sect that opposes the Catholic Church. Why would we want to give our hard-earned money to our opponents, to those who compete with the true religion, to those who teach a distorted Gospel, quite different than the one we have been teaching for 2000 years, sowing error, confusion and division? St. Paul the Apostle warns us: *But even if we or an angel from Heaven should preach [to you] a Gospel other than the one that we preached to you, let that one be accursed! (Galatians 1:8).* Moreover, the Salvation Army favors abortion in many cases and also the evils of artificial contraception. Catholics need to be very cautious about which “charities” to give to, whether on-line, at the cash register, or at the ring-a-ling-a-ling of the red kettle. Generosity is a good thing, under the right circumstances, but the Apostle reminds us that we should be especially solicitous about being charitable to our own Catholic Church. He says that certainly we are to do good, but *especially to those who belong to the family of faith.* (Galatians 6:10).

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 and click on the link at the top of the page. Also kindly remember Sacred Heart Church in all your estate and will planning.

We would like to thank Rosemarie Bake Shoppe for once again supplying the rolls that were blessed and distributed to our parishioners at our Thanksgiving Mass on November 21st. Rosemarie's is located at 155 Port Richmond Avenue right here on Staten Island.

SACRED HEART PARISH GROUPS

Bible Study: Our Pastor, Fr. Eric has a weekly bible study group which meets on Saturdays from 1-2 PM in the school's small cafeteria. During the hour The Rosary is recited, Father gives a short bible lecture and there is a brief group discussion. All parishioners are encouraged and welcome to attend.

Altar Servers: We are always looking for new boys and girls to become altar servers. If you are in the fifth grade or older, are a practicing Catholic and have received your first Holy Communion you can join. If anyone is interested please contact the Rectory at (718) 442-0058 or simply ask Fr. Eric after Mass. Being a server not only increases one's spiritual experience at Mass but also is a great way to get involved in the parish.

Sacred Heart Youth Group: Sacred Heart currently has a Youth Group for children in grades 6-12. If your child is interested in joining or if you have any questions contact Maria Montouri at (347) 247-2930. The group meets every first and third Monday of the month in the school cafeteria at 7 PM. There is free pizza, drinks and snacks for all who attend the meetings. The group does service projects like clothing and coat drives, eyeglass drives and bake sales as well as fun social activities like movie nights, bowling and laser tag! Also, any student who is currently in need of community service hours can join for an easy way get hours and have some fun at the same time.

Legion of Mary: The Sacred Heart chapter of the Legion of Mary meets weekly (if possible) on Wednesday's at 6:30 PM in the rectory. The meeting lasts roughly one hour and the members pray The Rosary and offer assistance to the Pastor. If you are interested please call Patti Foley at (718) 983-5416. All are welcome

and thanks to all who support The Legion of Mary.

Sacred Heart Choir: The Adult Choir sings on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, rehearsals take place at 10:15 AM the Sunday you are scheduled to sing. If any new members who can carry a tune wish to join they do so by simply showing up. Being a member of the choir is a great way to enhance your spiritual experience at Mass. Remember he who sings prays twice!

Youth Activities Council: The Sacred Heart Youth Activities Council is a parish men's club that meets (schedule permitting) on the first Friday evening of the month. Coaches of the various sports teams attend and give an update on recent and upcoming events. Various fundraisers that not only benefit the teams but also the school are planned and discussed. Even if your child has already graduated from the school, you are still encouraged to attend and enjoy the camaraderie. The meeting lasts usually for an hour and afterwards refreshments are served.

Holy Name: The Holy Name Society is one of the oldest and most traditional groups and we are excited to be bringing it back to Sacred Heart. All men of the parish ages 18 and older can join and meetings are held on the first Sunday of the month at 6:30 PM in the school auditorium. . Light refreshments are served.

Christmas Pageant: As is traditional, the 5 PM Mass on Christmas Eve, Sunday December 24th will have a pageantry theme. If anyone in grades 2-12 wishes to participate in the pageant please contact Tina Althoff at (718) 702-7207.

Sacred Heart Giving Tree: As is our tradition, the Sacred Heart Giving Tree is up and we encourage our parishioners in this season of giving to help a needy family. Gifts can be placed under the tree when you attend Sunday Mass or brought in person to the rectory office. Just a reminder that if you do take a gift request from the tree it must be brought back both wrapped and tagged no later than Sunday. December 17th.



Sacred Heart Church

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2017

CONFESSIONS

Monday, December 18th
4:00 - 8:00 PM

Friday, December 22nd
4:00 - 5:00 PM

Saturday, December 23rd,
11 AM - 12 Noon | 4:00 - 4:45 PM

MASSES

4th Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 24th
7, 9, 11 AM, 1 PM

Christmas Eve, December 24th
5:00PM - Family Mass
8:00PM
11:30PM - Choir Prelude (to the 12 Midnight Mass)

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, December 25th
12 Midnight Mass
7:00, 9:00, 11:00AM & 1:00 PM
NO 5:00 PM Mass

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Sunday December 31st
7, 9, 11 AM
1 & 5 PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY

(Not a Holy Day of Obligation)
Monday, January 1st
7 & 9 AM

981 Castleton Ave
Staten Island, New York 10310

