

**Saturday, December 14:**

5:00 Raymond & Rita Sykes

**Sunday, December 15:**

7:00 Arthur Plurad  
 9:00 Al & Sue Amore & Susan Pellecchia  
 11:00 Lisa Lopez  
 1:00 William Franz (10th Anniversary)

**Monday, December 16:**

9:30 Rey & Mildred Vitacco

**Tuesday, December 17:**

9:30 John Tighe

**Wednesday, December 18:**

9:30 Joseph Lazicki

**Thursday, December 19:**

9:30 Dennis Michael Peterson  
(38th Anniversary)

**Friday, December 20:**

9:30 Joan F. O'Brien

**Saturday, December 21:**

12:15 Diane Garzone  
 5:00 Philip & Marghrita Frabotta

**Sunday, December 22:**

7:00 Deceased Members of The Quinn & McCauley Families & Souls in Purgatory  
 9:00 Joseph J. Kennedy  
 11:00 Kennedy & Mabel Apoe  
(45th Wedding Anniversary)  
 1:00 Andre Roc Jeudy & Donna DeFazio

**Saturday, December 21:**

5:00 B. Jones T. Hudik

**Sunday, December 22:**

7:00 AM J. Prenty  
 9:00 AM Sr. Jessica M. Gambardella  
 11:00 AM P. Jezycki  
 1:00 PM D. Maj

**Sick Relatives & Friends**

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Meghan Clark, Alberto Meranda, Anna Parente, James Parente, Mary Kenny, John C. Marino, Cpl Justin Campbell, Sheila Jones, Frank Silvestri, Barbara Walsh, Christian Pepo, Jean Forte, Kathryn Capofari, Barbara Rontondo, Mark Herman, Frances Bocignone, Crystal Helwa, Daniel Juliano, Linda Powers, Joseph Detz Sr., James Carney, Danny Fortunato, Frank Juliano, Joseph Brancato, Carmela D'Angelo, Michael Guerin, Michael Meyer, June Laub, Frank Musuruca, Timothy Carlson, Rawle Hamilton, Richard Ross, Bette Ann Pascarella, Joanne Prato, Joseph Koslowski, Diana Umana, Isaiah Roland, Ralph Munoz Sr. & Jr. Joseph & Jaden Munoz, Brianna Scilabra, Judy Dele, Kassem Ripen, Ernestine Scott, Shakee Johnson, Vincent Riccardi, Steven Riggio, James Ross

**Collections:**

December 8th.....\$7,997.00  
 Monthly December 2019.....\$2,384.00  
 Immaculate Conception.....\$321.00  
 Congratulations to M/M Jerry Cocozello on winning the November 2019 Fifty-Fifty.

**The flowers on the altar are in loving memory of Hillary Curley donated by Theresa Cunningham and the members of The Rosary Altar Society.**

## A Note from The Pastor

### Dear Parishioners,

Forty years ago, last week, Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize for her work with the poorest of the poor. The first half of her speech was printed in last week's bulletin. The second half was the following:

"And I feel one thing I want to share with you all. The greatest destroyer of peace today is the cry of the innocent unborn child. For if a mother can murder her own child in her womb, what is left for you and for me to kill each other? Even in the Scripture it is written: *Even if a mother could forget her child – I will not forget you – I have carved you in the palm of my hand.* Even if mother could forget, but today millions of unborn children are being killed. And we say nothing.

In the newspapers you read numbers of this one and that one being killed, this being destroyed, but nobody speaks of the millions of little ones who have been conceived to the same life as you and I, to the life of God, and we say nothing. We allow it. To me the nations who have legalized abortion, they are the poorest nations. They are afraid of the little one. They are afraid of the unborn child, and the child must die because they don't want to feed one more child, to educate one more child. The child must die.

And here I ask you, in the name of these little ones, for it was that unborn child that recognized the presence of Jesus when Mary came to visit Elizabeth, her cousin. As we read in the Gospel, the moment Mary came into the house, the little one in the womb of his mother, leapt with joy, recognized the Prince of Peace. And so today, let us here make a strong resolution. We are going to save every little child, every unborn child, give them a chance to be born.

And what we are doing? We are fighting abortion by adoption, and the good God has blessed the work so beautifully that we have saved thousands of children, and thousands of children have found a home where they are loved, they are wanted, they are cared. We have brought so much joy in the homes where there was not a child, and so today, I ask His Majesties here before you all who come from different countries, let us all pray that we have the courage to stand by the unborn child, and give the child an opportunity to love and to be loved, and I think with God's grace we will be able to bring peace in the world.

We have an opportunity here in Norway. You are with God's blessing. You are well to do. But I am sure in the families and many of our homes, maybe we are not hungry for a piece of bread, but maybe there is somebody there in the family who is unwanted, unloved, uncared, forgotten, there isn't love. Love begins at home. And love to be true has to hurt.

I never forget a little child who taught me a very beautiful lesson. They heard in Calcutta, the children, that Mother Teresa had no sugar for her children, and this little one, a Hindu boy, four years old, he went home and he told his parents, 'I will not eat sugar for three days. I will give my sugar to Mother Teresa.' How much a little child can give! After three days they brought him into our house, and there was this little one who could scarcely pronounce my name. He loved with great love. He loved until it hurt. And this is what I bring before you, to love one another until it hurts. But don't forget that there are many children, many children, many men and women, who haven't got what you have. And remember to love them until it

hurts.

Sometime ago, this to you will sound very strange, but I brought a child in from the street, and I could see in the face of the child that the child was hungry. God knows how many days that she had not eaten. So I give her a piece of bread. And then the little one started eating the bread, crumb by crumb. And I said to the child, 'Eat the bread, eat the bread.' And she looked at me and said, 'I am afraid to eat the bread because I'm afraid when it is finished, I will be hungry again.' This is a reality, and yet there is a greatness of the poor.

One evening a gentleman came to our house and said, 'There is a Hindu family and the eight children have not eaten for a long time. Do something for them.' And I took rice and I went immediately, and there was this mother, those little one's faces, shining eyes from sheer hunger. She took the rice from my hand, she divided into two and she went out. When she came back, I asked her, 'Where did you go? What did you do?' And one answer she gave me: 'They are hungry also.' She knew that the next-door neighbor, a Muslim family, was hungry.

What surprised me most, not that she gave the rice, but what surprised me most, that in her suffering, in her hunger, she knew that somebody else was hungry, and she had the courage to share, share the love. And this is what I mean, I want you to love the poor, and never turn your back to the poor, for in turning your back to the poor, you are turning it to Christ. For He had made Himself the hungry One, the naked One, the homeless One, so that you and I have an opportunity to love Him, because where is God? How can we love God? It is not enough to say to my God I love you, but my God, I love you here. I can enjoy this, but I give it up. I could eat that sugar, but I give that sugar.

If I stay here the whole day and the whole night, you would be surprised of the beautiful things that people do, to share the joy of giving. And so, my prayer for you is that truth will bring prayer in our homes, and from the fruit of prayer will be that we believe that in the poor it is Christ. And when we will really believe, we will begin to love. And we will love naturally, we will try to do something. First in our own home, then next door neighbor, in the country we live, in the whole world. And let us all join in that one prayer, God give us courage to protect the unborn child, for the child is the greatest gift of God to a family, to a nation and to the whole world. God bless you!"

Father Eric

**Sacred Heart 2019-2020** 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 260 students all of whom 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—eighth 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 championships! 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 by appointment.

**Christmas Eve Children's Mass 5 PM:** The annual Sacred Heart Christmas Eve Children's Mass will take place on Tuesday, December 24th at 5 PM. As usual the Mass will feature a pageantry theme. Children ages 4-12 who wish to participate should contact Tina Althoff at (718)702-7207.

### **ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE**

#### **Saturday, December 21, 2019**

5:00 Christopher, Anthony & Matthew Basile

#### **Sunday, December 22, 2019**

7:00 T. Murphy, E. Greene

9:00 J. Torres, J. Orellana, D. Rojas

11:00 G. Seaborg, R. Delamasa, A. Laureano

1:00 I. O'Neal, Sean & Luke Ahern

**Retrouvaille Weekend:** Retrouvaille is a lifeline for couples who are experiencing stress or feeling a strain in their marital status. Do you and your spouse fight often? Do you feel hurt or frustrated with your spouse? Have you both considered and talked about a divorce or a separation? Have you stopped communicating and simply shut down? If you or someone you know is experiencing these problems in their marriage then they should consider attending a Retrouvaille weekend. The program consists of a weekend for couples (no group sessions) with six follow up sessions to help rebuild their marriage. The next Retrouvaille weekend is February 21st –23rd, 2020. If you want to register or have more questions please call Richard Colasuonno at (732) 236-0671 or Annette Colasuonno at (732) 672-0748.

**Israel Trip:** Father Eric is starting to plan a trip to Israel that will take place August 26-September 3, 2020. This is a once in a lifetime trip to see and walk the land where Jesus ministered, died and was resurrected. Please call the Rectory if you are interested in attending or email Anne Maj at [camaj815@gmail.com](mailto:camaj815@gmail.com).

**Collection for Retired Religious:** The annual collection for Retired Religious will be taken up at all the Masses this weekend. As you know many religious communities find it very difficult to provide for their aging members. Your continued support for this collection allows funding for medications, nursing care and housing. Many of these retired religious were a shining example of "Serving the Lord with gladness" during their active ministry years. They worked tirelessly to help build Catholic schools and hospitals, promote social justice, feed the neediest of us and of course offer Mass. Please remember that every gift counts.

## **SACRED HEART PARISH** **GROUPS**

**Bible Study:** Fr. Eric has a weekly Bible study group that meets on Saturdays from 1-2:30 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 are 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. Being a member of the youth group involves volunteering at bake sales, food drives and used clothing drives. The youth group also has "Movie Night", retreat weekends and plays laser tag. This is a fun way to earn community service credits for school.

**Legion of Mary:** The Sacred Heart chapter of the Legion of Mary meets weekly (if possible) on Wednesday 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 917-608-7587.

**Sacred Heart Scouts:** Pack 74 welcomes all grades kindergarten thru 8. Weekly meetings are held on Monday at 7 PM in the school cafeteria. Open registration.

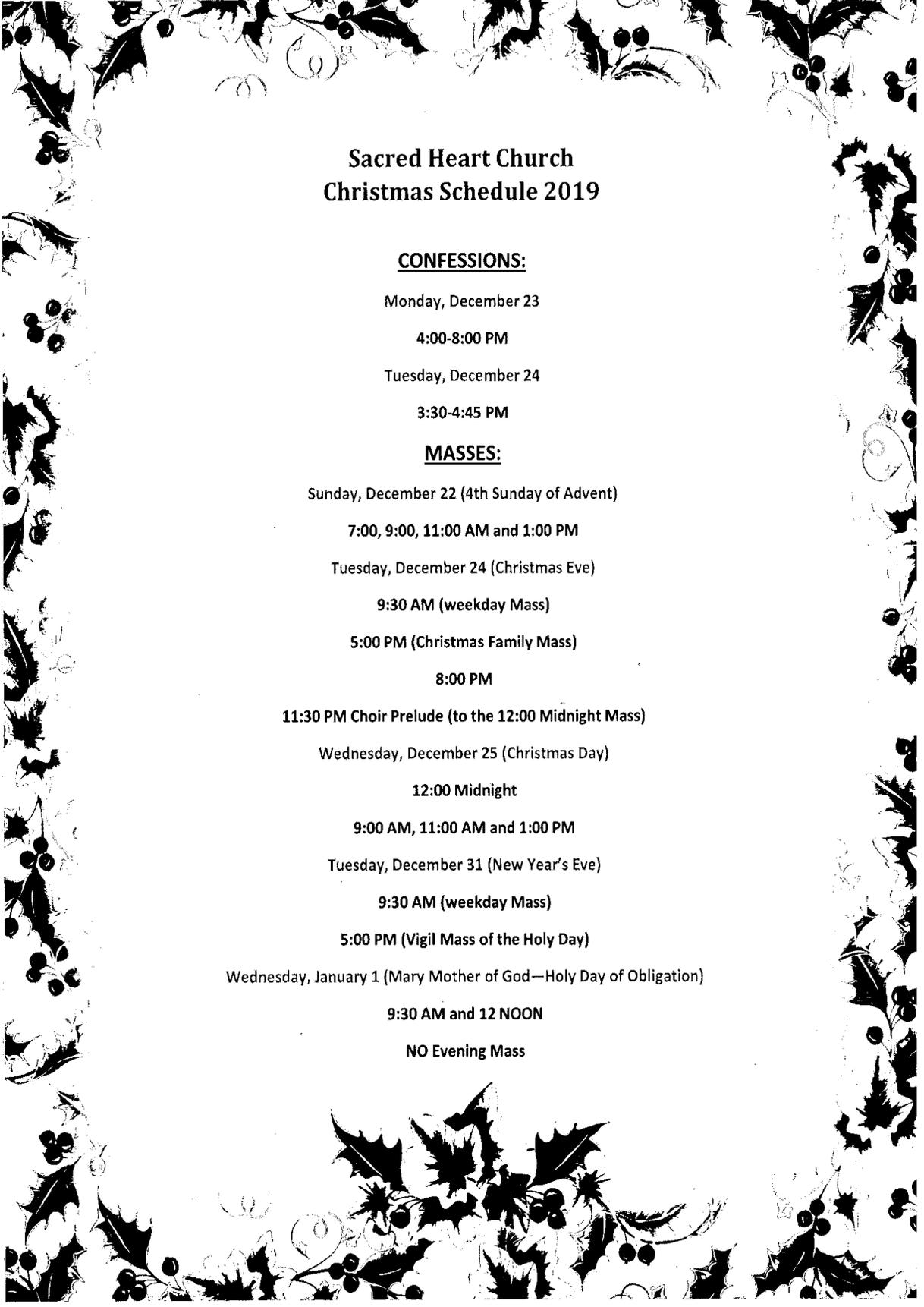
**Online Giving:** Sacred Heart Parish now offers online giving, which makes supporting your parish quick and easy. Online giving is perfect for older parishioners who find it difficult to get to Mass, especially during the harsh winter months. It is also beneficial to couples who travel often or have a second home in another state. Finally, online giving is very convenient for married couples with children whose weekends can be hectic with sporting events, dance recitals or family obligations. To find out more simply go to our parish website, [www.sacredhearts.org](http://www.sacredhearts.org), and click on the online giving icon at the right hand corner of the page.

### **Sacred Heart Saint Vincent DePaul Society:**

Once again your Saint Vincent DePaul Society is in need of food donations to feed the hungry of our parish. We are looking for jars of tomato sauce, cans of fruit, cans of vegetables, cans of soup, canned meats and fish, boxes of cereal, rice, pasta, oatmeal, instant mashed potatoes and pancake mix.

**Sacred Heart Holy Name:** The Holy Name is one of the oldest and most respected Catholic organizations. All men of the parish age 18 and over are encouraged to join. The next meeting will be on Sunday, January 5th, at The Schoenstatt House after the 9AM Mass. The House is located at 337 Cary Avenue.

**Staten Island Grandmothers Club:** All retired women are invited to join the Staten Island Grandmothers Club. The club meets the first Wednesday of every month for a luncheon at 11:45 at Li Greci's Staaten. The group helps raise money for children (primarily on Staten Island) who are suffering with cancer or other medical afflictions. If anyone is interested please contact Alana Chanod at 347-423-1190.



**Sacred Heart Church  
Christmas Schedule 2019**

**CONFESSIONS:**

Monday, December 23

4:00-8:00 PM

Tuesday, December 24

3:30-4:45 PM

**MASSES:**

Sunday, December 22 (4th Sunday of Advent)

7:00, 9:00, 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM

Tuesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

9:30 AM (weekday Mass)

5:00 PM (Christmas Family Mass)

8:00 PM

11:30 PM Choir Prelude (to the 12:00 Midnight Mass)

Wednesday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

12:00 Midnight

9:00 AM, 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM

Tuesday, December 31 (New Year's Eve)

9:30 AM (weekday Mass)

5:00 PM (Vigil Mass of the Holy Day)

Wednesday, January 1 (Mary Mother of God—Holy Day of Obligation)

9:30 AM and 12 NOON

NO Evening Mass