

The Church of the Sacred Heart

981 Castleton Avenue Staten Island, NY 10310

Established 1875

The Second Sunday of Lent– February 28, 2021

Pastor

Fr. Eric Rapaglia

Email - frrapaglia@yahoo.com

Pastoral Associates

Msgr. Nicholas Soares

Msgr. Greg Mustaciuolo

Principal

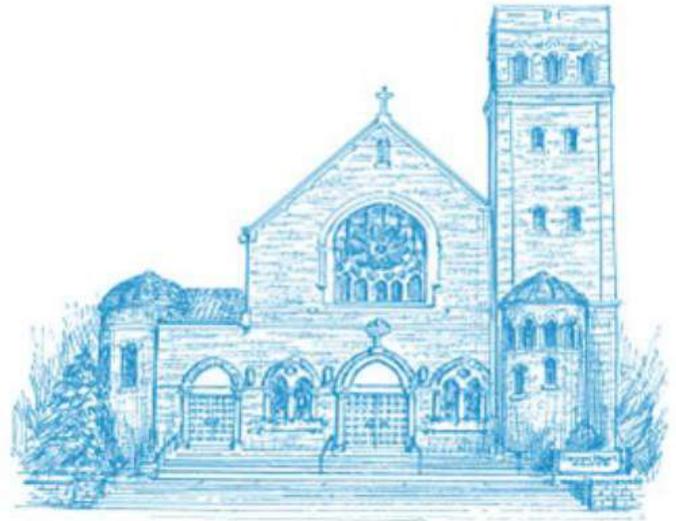
Ms. Celeste J. Catalano

Coordinator of Religious Education

Mrs. Francine Rizzuto

Director of Music

Mr. Tom Czarnecki



Masses

The Lord's Day

Saturday Evening 5:00 PM

Sundays 7:00, 9:00, 11:00AM (Choir), 1:00 PM

Daily Mass 9:30 AM Monday-Saturday

Rosary 9 AM (Monday-Saturday)

Confessions

Saturdays - 4:00 to 4:45 PM, Any time upon request

Parish Registration

Please formalize your membership in our parish community by registering at the parish office. We sincerely welcome all new parishioners!

Handicapped Accessible

Office Hours - Sunday 10 AM - 3PM

Monday-Friday 9 AM - 5 PM

Saturday 10 AM - 6 PM

Church open daily until 5 PM (Sundays until 3 PM)

Novena Devotions : Mon & Wed (after daily Mass)

Pro Life Rosary: Tuesday 9 AM

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Sick Calls

Anytime, please contact one of the priests at (718) 442-0058.

Baptism

Please contact the pastor for an appointment to arrange the Baptism.

Marriages

Couples should contact the rectory at least 6 months before the wedding to arrange the time, banns, and Pre-Cana Conference.

Sponsor Certificate

If you have been asked to be a godparent for a Baptism or Confirmation attend the 9 AM Mass on Sunday and see Sister Barbara immediately after in the church vestibule. Please see the parish website under the Worship/Sacraments link for godparent guidelines.

Websites:

Church - www.sacredheartsi.org

School - www.sacredheartschoolsi.org

Church
718-442-0058

Church Fax
718-816-8006

School
718-442-0347

School Fax
718-442-6978

C.C.D. Office
718-448-1536

FEBRUARY 28, 2021

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

THE CONFITEOR

I confess to Almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; and I ask blessed Mary, ever-Virgin, and all the Angels and Saints, and you my brothers and sisters to pray for me to the Lord Our God. Amen.

**READING 1 GN 22:1-2, 9A,
10-13, 15-18**

God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am!” he replied. Then God said: “Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you.” When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the LORD’s messenger called to him from heaven, “Abraham, Abraham!” “Here I am!” he answered. “Do not lay your hand on the boy,” said the messenger. “Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son.”

As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son. Again the LORD’s messenger called to Abraham from heaven and

said: “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing—all this because you obeyed my command.”

**Responsorial Psalm PS 116:10,
15, 16-17, 18-19.**

R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

I believed, even when I said, “I am greatly afflicted.” Precious in the eyes of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.

R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your handmaid; you have loosed my bonds. To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving, and I will call upon the name of the LORD.

R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

My vows to the LORD I will pay in the presence of all his people, In the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.



READING 2

ROM 8:31B-34

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us, who will condemn? Christ Jesus it is who died—or, rather, was raised—who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL MT 17:5

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: This is my beloved Son, listen to him.

GOSPEL

MK 9:2-10

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.



A Note from The Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

St. Peter is featured in today's Holy Gospel. He was given the great privilege of being one of the apostolic witnesses to the Transfiguration of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, blessed be His Name. In spite of this great boost to his faith that this event must surely have engineered, Peter will go on to deny our Lord on Good Friday. Hours before doing so, at the Last Supper, *Peter said to Him, "Even though I should have to die with you, I will not deny You."* (Matthew 26:35). He proudly placed his trust in his own strength and spirituality instead of trusting in the love of the Lord and leaning on God's Grace. We can all fall into this trap of self-reliance. Easily. For this reason, St. Paul the Apostle admonishes us: *Therefore, whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall.* (1 Corinthians 10:12).

Archbishop Fulton Sheen (1895-1979) calls St. Peter "The Fisherman Philosopher." Philosophers seek wisdom and ask questions. Peter asked Jesus, Divine Wisdom Himself, more questions than any other disciple. For example, "To whom shall we go?" "Where are You going?" "Why cannot I follow You?" "What shall this man do?" Sheen mentions five stages in Peter's fall. (*Characters of the Passion: Lessons in Faith and Trust*, Chapter 1, 1947).

The first stage is neglect of prayer. As Venerable Sheen points out, "No soul ever fell away from God without giving up prayer. Prayer is that which establishes contact with Divine Power and opens the invisible resources of Heaven. However dark the way, when we pray, temptation can never master us." Jesus said to His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane before His arrest: *Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.* (Matthew 26:41). When the good Lord came back the last time to consult with His Apostles, they were asleep. Finding them so, He said to Peter: *...What? Could you not watch one hour with me?* (Matthew 26:40). Sheen says simply, "Peter had given up both watching and praying."

The second stage in Peter's fall was the substitution of action for prayer. Sheen states, "Most souls still feeling the necessity of doing something for God and the Church turn to the solace of activity. Instead of going from prayer to action, they neglect the prayer and become busy about many things. It is so easy to think we are doing God's work when we are only in motion or being fussy." Peter is no exception. When our Savior was arrested, Peter acts impetuously, as is a common occurrence in the Gospel. Sheen writes, "Slashing out rather recklessly at the armed gang, what he strikes is not a soldier at all, but a slave of the High Priest. As a swordsman Peter was a good fisherman. The slave steps aside and the blow aimed at the crown of his head merely cuts off his ear. Our Blessed Lord restored the ear by a miracle ..." Then Jesus makes clear to Peter that He has no need of Peter's sword: *Do you think that I can-*

not call upon My Father and He will not provide me at this moment with more than twelve legions of Angels? (Matthew 26:53). Sheen says, "Far better it would be to take a few hours from active life and spend it in communion with God, than to be busy about many things while neglecting the one thing that is necessary for peace and happiness. No such activity is a substitute for watching and praying an hour."

The third stage of Peter's fall is lukewarmness. As Sheen points out, "Experience soon proves that religious activity without prayer soon degenerates into indifference." When Christ was brought before the wicked leaders who were to judge Him the Evangelist says: *And Peter followed Him from afar.* (Matthew 26:58). Sheen says, "He had given up prayer, then action, and now he keeps his distance." It is in such moments that the lukewarm soul says to himself, "God has forgotten me." On the other hand, says Sheen, "It is not God who leaves us, it is we who stray on behind."

The fourth stage of Peter's fall is the satisfaction of material wants, feelings and emotions. Fulton Sheen says, "Once the divine fades in life, the material begins to assert itself. The excessive dedication to luxury and refinement is always an indication of the inner poverty of the spirit. When the treasure is within, there is no need of those outer treasures that rust consumes, moths eat, and thieves break through and steal. When the inner beauty is gone, we need luxuries to clothe our nakedness." At the beginning of our Lord's capture, Peter was walking, following Christ from a distance. Then, he is found standing among the people in the outer court during the interrogation. Finally, he is seen sitting comfortably by the fire that the enemies of Christ had built. He was warming himself. (Luke 22:55). Sheen exclaims, "Never before was anyone so cold before a fire!"

The last stage of Peter's fall is human respect: "when we deny our faith or are ashamed of it under ridicule or scorn." Sheen states, "As the blaze of that fire lighted up the face of Peter, it was possible for bystanders and those who came into the court to see his face." They recognized Peter and insisted that he was guilty by association with Jesus of Nazareth. "At that very moment when Our Blessed Lord in court was taking an oath proclaiming His divinity, Peter was taking an oath, too—not to reaffirm that Christ was the Son of the Living God, but rather to deny it."

St. Peter's story has a happy ending. He will find his way back to faith. Having tasted the tonic of human weakness, he is perfectly positioned to preside, and to boost the faith of others.

God bless you!

Father Eric

**CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

FEBRUARY 28, 2021



Saturday, February 27:

5:00 Thomas H. McDonough

Sunday, February 28:

7:00 The Gordon Family

9:00 Milo Daigan

11:00 Brendan Hoey

1:00 Patrick & Bridget Jordan

Monday, March 1:

9:30 Mario N. Rapaglia Sr.

Tuesday, March 2:

9:30 Sergio Mendez

Wednesday, March 3:

9:30 People of the Parish

Thursday, March 4:

9:30 Reparation for the sins of the World &
The Conversion of Sinners

Friday, March 5:

9:30 Sr. Betty Blake

Saturday, March 6:

9:30 Eva Balintitt

5:00 John, Barbara & John Jr. Marrone

Sunday, March 7:

7:00 Dee Kennedy &
Corinne A. O'Brien

9:00 Edward Lowe Jr.

11:00 Thomas McAvoy

1:00 In Honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Saturday, March 6:

5:00 PM Jack Gordon

Sunday, March 7:

7:00 AM Efrain Ortiz

9:00 AM Roy Hansen

11:00 AM Frank DiSalvo

1:00 PM Charles Sullivan

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 6:

5:00 Jason Suazo

Sunday, March 7:

7:00 Anthony Basile

9:00 Abigail Cruz

11:00 Jack Smith

1:00 Sean Ahern

COLLECTIONS:

February 21st.....\$10,981.00

Ash Wednesday.....\$1,620.00

Budget Deficit.....\$99.00

ATTENDANCE FEBRUARY 21ST: 439

ATTENDANCE ASH WEDNESDAY: 513

CAPACITY FOR EACH MASS: 210

WEDDING BANS

**II. EMANUELE GAMBINO &
SERAFINA GAMBINO**

**I. ANTONIO FRANCESCO MONTUORI
& JESSICA LEIGH EMERY**

Year of St. Joseph Prayer

Dear Saint Joseph,

The very deep love and respect that Jesus had for you on earth continues in Heaven. Add your voice to all of our daily prayers, especially the following: (). We pray for the conversion of our parish and of our families. Help us to repent of our sins and to do penance. We ask you to bless the children of our faith family and their parents and teachers. May our young develop well and fulfill their true calling. We pray for priestly, religious and marital vocations from our parish. We ask you to intercede for all our loved ones who have died. Help us to love Christ with all our minds, our hearts and our strength and to love others as we love ourselves. We ask you for the grace of final perseverance and the blessing of a happy death for us and for our loved ones. May we pass into eternity as you did in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Amen.

Stations of the Cross: Stations of the Cross will be held on Friday evenings at 7:30 PM during the season of Lent. This is a beautiful ceremony and a wonderful Lenten sacrifice.

Sacred Heart School: Sacred Heart School is accepting admissions for the 2021-2022 school year. Please call the school at (718) 442-0347 for more information. Sacred Heart has a rich history of academic excellence and Sacred Heart graduates stand at the top of their high school classes. This year our 8th grade students received \$230,000 in scholarship funds. Also our basketball teams are perennial winners at the state levels.

40 Days for Life: 40 Days for Life is a peaceful and prayerful campaign that seeks to end abortion in our community. Sacred Heart is inviting its parishioners to silently pray one hour each week from 1-7 PM on Mondays during Lent outside of Staten Island University North Hospital. If you are interested please contact Don Maj at (646) 300-4491.

Pack 74 Pinewood Derby: Pack 74 will be having a Pinewood Derby in our school parking lot on Saturday, March 13 at 10:00 AM. Registration will be at 10:30 AM sharp and if you cannot bring a pinewood car, one can be provided for you.

SAINT CASIMIR

FEAST DAY: MARCH 4TH

**WE ASK FOR THE INTERCESSION OF
SAINT CASIMIR ON BEHALF OF OUR SICK
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