

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



Saturday, January 13:

5:00 William Kelly

Sunday, January 14:

7:00 Souls in Purgatory  
9:00 Deceased Members of The Perry Family  
11:00 People of the Parish  
1:00 Xeu Qian Zheng  
5:00 Chen Yin Lian

Monday, January 15:

7:00 Thanksgiving Int. of The Carpio Family  
9:00 John R. Kubasek

Tuesday, January 16:

7:00 Souls in Purgatory  
9:00 Diana Kisto

Wednesday, January 17:

7:00 James J. McVey  
9:00 James P. Kelly

Thursday, January 18:

7:00 Mario Rapaglia Sr.  
9:00 Nancy McVey

Friday, January 19:

7:00 John Mallen  
9:00 Beverly Tobin

Saturday, January 20:

9:00 Fred Widmayer  
5:00 Mary & Frank Santora

Sunday, January 21:

7:00 Patricia M. Silvestri  
9:00 Steven Crea Jr.  
11:00 People of the Parish  
1:00 Brendan Hoey  
5:00 James J. McVey

Saturday, January 20:

5:00 Frank Ponterio

Anne Siemer

Sunday, January 21:

7:00 Theresa Zulch  
9:00 Kennedy Apoe Elizabeth D'Antuono  
11:00 Ken Wisniewski Dorothy Tarafa  
1:00 Charlie Sullivan John Mooney Sr.  
5:00 Robert Mazzucco Efrain Ortiz



Susan Pellecchia, Lois Mazzitelli, 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, Rosemary Regan, Anthony Umana, Barbara Rotondo, Mark Herman, Frances Bocignone, Crystal Helewa, Daniel Juliano, Lizabeth Walsh, Joseph DeMeo, Moira Mackey, Michael DiCostanzo, Carol Perrone

**Collections:**

January 7th.....\$7,504.00  
Catholic Communications.....\$1,439.00  
Christmas 2017.....\$642.00  
Building Fund December 2017.....\$535.00

**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.sacredhearts.org](http://www.sacredhearts.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.

## NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Recently, at a weekday homily, Pope Francis spoke of the problems of underpopulation. The Holy Father said God's first commandment to man was to fill the earth and be fruitful! "Where there is God, there is fruitfulness," he said. "Fruitfulness is always a blessing of God." Yet, today, many couples all over the world are having fewer children. The birth rates in many countries have sunk below replacement levels, prompting worries about future economies and care of the elderly.

The Pope distinguished between those who choose not to have children for selfish reasons and those who choose to be celibate to serve others. "He who lives for himself produces selfishness, pride, vanity, greasing the soul without living for others," he said. Today, the pontiff observed, a corrosive mentality has pervaded the world: the notion that barrenness is a benefit — even virtuous. Many couples are choosing childlessness to maintain their own "economic well-being." The endpoint of this self-absorption, the Pope asserted is "countries empty of children." Having "chosen the path of sterility," they "suffer from that grave disease ... a demographic winter."

Underpopulation is not merely a concern of the Church. A 2012 United Nations study warned that the "most serious impact of aging populations would be in developing countries without safety nets or adequate legal protection in place for older people." The study advocated reforms of Social Security-type insurance and pensions for the elderly. "Informal support systems for older persons are increasingly coming under stress, as a consequence, among others, of lower fertility, out-migration of the young, and women working outside the home," the UN report stated. We might also mention legalized abortion, which takes the lives of millions of unborn babies across the world each year. In India 15.6 million babies were aborted in 2015 alone.

Pope Francis described children as a "blessing" that the Devil is trying to destroy. "The Devil wants infertility. He does not want us to give life, be it physical or spiritual, to others." Pointing to the Old Testament, Francis noted children were considered a blessing and childlessness a curse. "Infertility was a disgrace; not being able to bear

children, not being able to have descendants," he noted. The Holy Father is correct. Childlessness was a painful cross in those days. Think of Hannah, weeping because of her barrenness before Eli the priest. God, in His mercy, would remedy her infertility through her pregnancy with Samuel, who would eventually become a great prophet. Remember Rachel, wife of Jacob, also called Israel. *When Rachel saw that she had not born children to Jacob, she became envious of her sister. She said to Jacob, "Give me children or I shall die!"* (Genesis 30:1).

The Biblical witness to the absolute value of children is undeniable. In Psalm 127 the prophet says, *Certainly sons are a gift from the LORD, the fruit of the womb, a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons born in one's youth. Blessed is the man who has filled his quiver with them. He will never be shamed for he will destroy his foes at the gate.* (127:3-5). When Esau met Jacob in the wilderness after a long absence Esau saw the large family of his twin brother and asked, "Who are these with you?" Jacob answered, "They are the children with whom God has graciously favored your servant." (Genesis 33:5). Even the good Lord Himself, our blessed Savior, spoke of the great gift of childbearing when He said: *When a woman is in labor, she is in anguish because her hour has arrived; but when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the pain because of her joy that a child has been born into the world.* (John 16:21).

Children are a great gift! Perhaps the greatest gift we can gift to them is to live our lives in a holy and virtuous fashion. It gives them a good example to emulate. They see Christ at work in us and hopefully fall in love with Him. Moreover, our gentle God blesses the children for the sake of their righteous parents. The wise man speaks of this in the Book of Proverbs (20:7). He says: *The just walk in integrity; happy are their children after them!* (NAB translation). Another translation: *The righteous who walks in his integrity— blessed are his children after him!* (ESV).

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.

**March for Life:** This year's March for Life will take place on Friday, January 19th 2018. Once again a bus will depart from Sacred Heart after a special 6:30 AM Mass. Seats are available at \$30 each, anybody unable to pay will be gladly accommodated. If you wish to go on the trip please contact Jack Gordon at (718) 727-7168

### **ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, January 20, 2018:**

5:00 : Matt, Julia & Sean Ahern

**Sunday, January 21, 2018:**

7:00 E. Eadiccio, A. Cardone, N. Ehresman

9:00 M. Crowdell, A. Buscemi, M. Fernando

11:00 Kasey, Kelly & Erik Shashaty

1:00 A. Schmitt, T. Smith, B. Freund

5:00 W. Hollnsteiner, G. Garcia, M. Donovan

### **St. Joseph Retreat Center Overnight Retreats**

(St. Joseph Hill Academy)

**Lenten Silent Directed Retreat:** Friday– Sunday March 2-4th, facilitated by Nanci Bachman and Pat Stephens. As we journey through Lent, we take a pause and this week provides silent time and space to enter into the heart of Jesus. Each day there is Mass, meetings with spiritual directors and time for prayer.

**Meditation Monday:** February 12th, March 12th, April 9th and May 7th. 7:30-9 PM. \$20 per session, facilitated by Grace Daquila. Come and be renewed, refreshed and restored with an evening of faith sharing, reflection and prayer.

**Centering Prayer Group:** Wednesdays (January 24th, February 14th and 28th, March 14th and 28th). 7:30-9 PM, facilitated by Ann Louise DePalo, \$10 per session. Come and pray and rest in God's presence. Light refreshments are served so come journey with others looking for a deeper, more personal relationship with God.

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

**Sacred Heart School:** Now accepting applications for September 2018, [www.ApplyCatholicSchoolsnyc.org](http://www.ApplyCatholicSchoolsnyc.org).

- Free Universal “Pre K For All” (4 year olds born in 2014).
- Apply Online beginning February 5, 2018 at [www.schools.nyc.gov/ApplyOnline](http://www.schools.nyc.gov/ApplyOnline), Sacred Heart code is 31RABJ

### **Open House Dates:**

- Sunday, January 28, 2018 10:30 AM-12:30 PM
- Tuesday, January 30, 2018 9AM-11 AM
- Tuesday, March 13, 2018 9AM-11 AM
- Tuesday, April 24, 2018 9 AM– 11 AM

## **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. The next meeting is on Sunday, February 18th at 6:30 PM.

**Sacred Heart St. Monica's Guild Reunion:** All mothers of the parish who are/were members of The St. Monica's Guild are invited to attend a reunion at The Staaten on Friday, February 23rd from 8-11 PM. It doesn't matter whether your children graduated ten, twenty or even thirty years ago all are cordially invited to attend. The admission is \$65 and the evening includes a three hour cocktail party, full bar and a DJ. Join in the fun as the ladies reminisce about school plays, St. Patrick's Parties and many more events. Send checks, payable to The Staaten, to Sue Pellegrito at 76 Walnut Street, SI, NY 10310 by February 16th.