

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Saturday, June 24:

5:00 Laretta & Daniel Carey

Sunday, June 25:

7:00 Brendan J. Hoey
9:00 Elizabeth Christie
11:00 Joseph Lynch (5th Anniversary)
1:00 People of the Parish
5:00 Robert Roussel

Monday, June 26:

7:00 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Greene
9:00 Shannon Elizabeth Tobin (7th Anniversary)

Tuesday, June 27:

7:00 Joseph Russell
9:00 Gerard Crane (2nd Anniversary)

Wednesday, June 28:

7:00 John & Anne Edwards
9:00 Helen Caroccia

Thursday, June 29:

7:00 Frances Campbell & Irene Oppenheimer
9:00 Mario Rapaglia Sr.

Friday, June 30:

7:00 Anthony Van Workum
9:00 Coleen McGlynn Lee

Saturday, July 1:

9:00 Daniel Hollnsteiner
5:00 Laura Elizabeth O'Hanlon

Sunday, July 2:

7:00 Eleanor Torkelson
9:00 Benjamin Zarelli
11:00 People of the Parish
1:00 Kathleen Sozio
5:00 Linda Giannico

Saturday, July 1:

5:00 Frank Ponterio Pat Foley

Sunday, July 2:

7:00 Efrain Ortiz
9:00 Roy Hansen Maryanne Gambardella
11:00 Frank DiSalvo Ken Wisniewski
1:00 Charles Sullivan John Mooney Sr.
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, Fr. Raymond Dolan, Rosemary Regan, Anthony Umana, Barbara Rotondo, Carmela D'Angelo, Mark Herman, Richard Juliano, Arthur Schmitt Sr., Richard Christie, James McVey

Collections:

June 18th.....\$6,600.00
Building Fund.....\$696.00

Wedding Banns

III Alexander Baez & Jisette Leonardo

Newly Baptized

Rory Bea DeCristoforo, Justin George Watson, Christopher Daniel Valentine, Curtis Tiu, Connor Tiu, Alyssa Anne Setter, Elijah Andy Ortiz, Hunter Thomas Woodford, Valentina Orellana, David Alejandro Orellana and Qinan Chen.

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:

Dear Parishioners:

Will Storr wrote a very interesting article entitled: “It was Quasi-Religious: The Great Self Esteem Con.” [The Guardian.com, June 3, 2017.]. Storr describes the history of the society-wide emphasis, or over emphasis—as he would see it, on self-esteem. He writes, “The flawed yet infectious notion that, in order to thrive, people need to be treated with unconditional positivity first gained traction in the late 80s. Since then, the self-esteem movement has helped transform the way we raise our children – prioritizing their feelings of self-worth, telling them they are special and amazing, and cocooning them from everyday consequences.”

One of the effects of this movement may involve grades and awards in school. According to Storr, in the US, between the late 60s and 2004, the proportion of first year university students claiming an A average in high school rose from 18% to 48%, despite the fact that SAT scores had actually fallen. Keith Campbell, professor of psychology at the University of Georgia, argues that fourteenth place ribbons, like one his daughter once received, and the thinking behind it, has led to a rise in narcissism.

Where did this emphasis on self-esteem come from? It started with John “Vasco” Vasconcellos. In 1986, the Democrat California state lawmaker, Vasco, managed to persuade a deeply skeptical Republican governor to fund a three-year task force to study the value of self-esteem. The final report came out and the findings were described publicly as “very positive and compelling.” Our nation bought into the report. A movement that was first seen by many as ridiculous was now embraced. Political leaders from Arkansas to Hawaii began considering their own task forces. The entertainment industry and the university world applauded the findings.

The culture was radically transformed. Disciplining students in public school was often frowned upon as an affront to their self-love. Children were awarded sports trophies just for showing up. A Massachusetts school district ordered children in gym classes to skip without actual ropes lest they suffer the self-esteem catastrophe of tripping. Meanwhile, police in Michigan searching for a serial rapist instructed the public to look out for a thirty-something male with medium build and low self-esteem.

However, there was a problem—a big one. The professors of the University of California who analyzed the data presented a false conclusion to the public, according to Storr. When Storr tracked down one dissenting professor of the self-esteem task force, that professor claimed that one sentence from his private journal of the proceedings tells the story: “The news

most consistently reported is that the association between self-esteem and its expected [positive] consequences are mixed, insignificant or absent.” Why was the truth never presented? According to the professor, “The task force would welcome all kinds of good news and either ignore or deny bad news. I found this was a quasi-religious movement, and that’s the sort of thing that happens in those dynamics.”

Where does Catholicism stand on the issue of self-love? Jesus said: *Love your neighbor as you love yourself.* [Mt 22:39]. Therefore, loving yourself is important. Each of us is good and beautiful because we are made in God’s image. Each of us is more valuable than the entire material universe: all galaxies, the sun, stars, planets and animal life chains. The Son of God considers each of us so important that He was willing to die for everyone, and He did. That is good news, which inspires us to value ourselves.

On the other hand, the Church also reminds us that we are sinners. Therefore we need the Savior! As sinners we have pride, which St. Thomas Aquinas defines as “the inordinate affection against right reason by which someone esteems himself and desires to be esteemed above that which he really is.” [*Summa Theologica*]. As a result of our excessive self-esteem we are, at times, greedy, instead of grateful. Because of our pride we lose our temper. “How dare he/she do this to me!” we say. However, in our pride we forget what *we did* to Christ on Good Friday by means of our sins. As a result of our excessive self-esteem we can think we’re better than others and criticize others and harm their reputation, a reputation precious to all. *A good name is more desirable than great riches.* (Prov. 22:1). As a result of our pride, we sometimes forget that all of the good we have achieved must be credited to God. *Lord, it is you have accomplished all we have done.* [Isa 26:12]. Our successes, filtered through our bloated egos, can make us haughty and arrogant at times. We are sinners. This is bad news. However, Jesus takes away our sins. Once again, good news!

In sum, it is true to say that unlike the movement spearheaded by Vasco, we Catholics prefer a more balanced approach to the subject of self-esteem.

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 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 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 to register and for further information. The early discount applies through June 30, 2017.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday July 1, 2017:

5:00 : K.athleen, Mary & Ann McCafferty

Sunday July 2, 2017:

7:00 E. Eadiccio, A. Cardone, B. Daniels

9:00 A. Basile, B. Silva, A. Buscemi

11:00 Kasey, Kelly & Erik Shashaty

1:00 R. Delamasa, B. Freund, T. Smith

5:00 C. Basile, G. Garcia, A. Cruz

St. Joseph's Retreat Center

(St. Joseph Hill Academy)

Summer 2017 Program Schedule

June 28: Centering Prayer Group, 7:30-9 PM, cost \$10, facilitated by Anne Louise DePalo. This group will meet twice a month on Wednesdays so come and pray and rest in God's presence.

June 22: Praise God with Art, 6:30-8:30 PM, cost \$20, facilitated by Kyle Galante. This group will meet on Thursdays and focus on using art and imagination to praise God. We are all made in his likeness and image hence we are all artists.

Friday-Sunday, July 7-9th: Midsummer Silent Retreat facilitated by Sister Gerrie Contento. Cost of \$200 for single, \$250 for double and a nonrefundable deposit of \$50 due by June 30th. In peace and silence give yourself the gift of solitude with God. Be refreshed and renewed through silent prayer and reflection as well as celebrating the Eucharist. There are other exciting and informative retreats that will be held at the St. Joseph Retreat House throughout the summer. I will do my best to keep you posted about them here. 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

Oppose Assisted Suicide: Recently legislation has been introduced in The New York State Legislature that would allow doctors to prescribe a lethal dose of pills at the request of a terminally ill patient. This type of legislation is flawed, dangerous and unnecessary as it would endanger the elderly, disabled and mentally unstable people. Not only that it would send a message that suicide is acceptable, which is contrary to our Catholic faith, and lead to more suicides in general. This law would turn doctors and health professionals from healers into killers. Please inform yourself by visiting NewYorkersForLife.org

Choir News: Welcome to the Sacred Heart Choir News. I would like to invite you to join our choirs, The Adult and The Children's Choir. If you can carry a tune and are willing to sing, you are in! Remember the one who sings prays twice. Our Children's Choir sings the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month and the Adult Choir sings on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 11 AM Mass.