

Fourth Sunday of Lent



Saturday, March 25:

5:00 Victoria & James Crowdell

Sunday, March 26:

7:00 Martha L. Adams
9:00 Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Monaco
11:00 People of The Parish
1:00 Jack Ryan
5:00 Edward Kaht

Monday, March 27:

7:00 Mario N. Rapaglia Sr.
9:00 Ann Morrissy

Tuesday, March 28:

7:00 Briana Mari Tui
9:00 William Walsh

Wednesday, March 29:

7:00 Rita Styles
9:00 Geraldine McCormick

Thursday, March 30:

7:00 John Bencivenga
9:00 Virginia Crane (3rd Anniversary)

Friday, March 31:

7:00 Dawn Cangro
9:00 Ricardo Montierde

Saturday, April 1:

9:00 Elizabeth Christie
5:00 Romeo & Grace DeCore

Sunday, April 2:

7:00 Benjamin Zarelli
9:00 Arlene Cunningham
11:00 People of the Parish
1:00 Leonard & Loretta Gaeta
5:00 Andrew DeSantis

Saturday, April 1st :

5:00 Frank Ponterio Barbara Kelly

Sunday, April 2nd:

7:00 Efrain Ortiz
9:00 Roy Hansen Maryanne Gambardella
11:00 Frank DiSalvo Ken Wisniewski
1:00 Charles Sullivan John Mooney
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, Jennifer Santore, Fr. Raymond Dolan, Rosemary Regan

Collections:

March 19th.....\$7,638.00
March 2017 Budget Deficit.....\$562.00
2017 Fuel Offering.....\$934.00

Online Giving: Do you know that Sacred Heart now offers online giving which makes donating quick and easy. It's perfect for our parishioners who still want to support while on vacation or have a busy weekend scheduled. Just go to the Sacred Heart website, www.sacredheartsi.org, click on the online giving option at the top of the page and follow the link.

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:

Dear Parishioners:

Occasionally the subject of slavery is raised in our national consciousness. For instance, recently a cabinet official of the Trump administration made a controversial remark connecting slavery to immigration. Much commentary followed. What is the relationship between the Catholic Church and slavery? Rodney Stark did a nice job discussing the issue in his book: *Bearing False Witness: Debunking Centuries of Anti-Catholic History* (2016).

He points out that the Church eliminated slavery in Europe more than a thousand years ago. Then, at the time that European colonists began to reestablish slavery in the New World, the popes fiercely opposed it. They were following the teaching of the great theologian, St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–74), who concluded that slavery is a sin. He held that one man may not use another person as a means to an end. Slavery is in opposition to natural law, since every human is entitled to justice, and slavery is inherently unjust. Based on the immense authority vested in Aquinas by the hierarchy, it became the official view that slavery was sinful. Stark points out that it is true that certain popes in office soon after Aquinas did not observe the moral obligation to oppose slavery. “Indeed, in 1488 Pope Innocent VIII accepted the gift of a hundred Moorish slaves from King Ferdinand of Aragon, giving some of them to his favorite cardinals. Of course, Innocent violated other moral standards as well—he fathered many children, for instance.”

During the 1430s, the Spanish colonized the Canary Islands and began to enslave the native population. When this news reached Pope Eugene IV (1431–47), he issued a bull, *Sicut dudum*. In it, the pope was very

forthright in condemning slavery and those who engaged in that insidious practice. With a threat of excommunication, the pope gave everyone involved fifteen days from receipt of the bull “to restore to their earlier liberty all and each person of either sex who were once residents of said Canary Island.... These people are to be totally and perpetually free and are to be let go without the exaction or reception of any money.” Pope Pius II (1458–64) and Pope Sixtus IV (1471–84) followed with additional bulls condemning enslavement of Canary. In the next century popes repeatedly denounced New World slavery as grounds for excommunication. Pope Paul III (1534–49) issued an eloquent bull against New World slavery. But it was somehow “lost” from the historical record until very recently due to anti-Catholic bias among historians.

It is refreshing to know that our Church, the true religion, has been at the forefront in history in militating against the great sin and social injustice of slavery. The Catholic Church is currently acting in similar fashion as she speaks out against such unfortunate situations as human trafficking, corporate greed, indifference to the poor, drug dealing, and the worst social injustice of them all: abortion. The Church’s work in these areas should not surprise us since those who love, and those who love the truth will naturally hate the sins just mentioned. Scripture articulates this. The Word of God tells us that *the Church is the pillar and foundation of the truth* (1 Tim 3:25). Moreover, *Love does not rejoice in wrong doing, but rejoices with the truth* (1 Cor

God Bless You!

Fr. 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. Many of our students are awarded high school scholarships and our school has among the highest ELA and Math scores on Staten Island. Also our basketball and soccer teams are not only competitive, they win! In fact two of our girls teams just won their third and fourth consecutive State Championships. The final Open House will be on Tuesday, April 4 from 9-11 AM.

Archdiocese NY Men's Conference: The 2017 NY Archdiocese Men's Conference will be held on Saturday April 1st at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers. The featured speakers are Mr. Alfred Kelly, director the 2015 visit to NYC of Pope Francis, Father Jonathan Morris, a well known Pastor and Author and Mr. Ryan Young, director of the popular *Camp Veritas* youth ministry retreat. In addition to Mass there will also be confessions heard and anyone interested should visit www.ArchNYMensConference.eventbrite.com

Msgr. Farrell: The Holy Name Society of Monsignor Farrell will be hosting its 5th annual Fr. John Comiskey Memorial Mile on Sunday April 2, 2017. We ask that all alumni try to turn out and honor this stellar educator who taught at the school for over 40 years. Anyone interested should follow the link www.tinyurl.com/5thcomiskeymemorialmile for the registration form.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Friday March 31, 2017: Stations of The Cross
7:30: A. Buscemi, B. Silva, V. Kaleta

Saturday April 1, 2017:
5:00 : K. Shashaty, K. Shashaty, A. Basile

Sunday, April 2, 2017:
7:00 K. Postler, B. Daniels, N. Ehresman
9:00 G. Seaborg, J. Esco, S. Baniswal
11:00 S. McCafferty, K. McCafferty, H. Bond
1:00 M. Donovan, W. Hollnsteiner, M. Artuz
5:00 R. Delamasa, J. Lotito, N. Ramdass

Golden Cross for Education Awards: The Golden Cross for Education Awards Breakfast will be held on Sunday April 23rd. The morning will begin with Mass at 8:15 AM at St Charles, Oakwood, and the breakfast will follow from 9:30-12:30 PM at the Excelsior Grand. Featured honorees are Assemblyman Mike Cusick who is being honored for his sponsorship of the Education Tax Credit Bill. Also being honored is Monsignor Peter Finn who has spent many, many years serving Staten Island Catholic Education. The honoree from Sacred Heart will be Ms. Patricia McKee who taught at our school for over 40 years. Each of the other Catholic elementary schools on Staten Island will have their own honorees as well. Tickets range from \$37 for a single and \$350 for a table of ten. For more information those interested should visit www.adny-si-org or email Diana.Gatto@archny.org

Chrism Mass: The annual Chrism Mass will be held on Tuesday April 11, 2017 at St. Patrick's Cathedral at 4 P.M. There will be a bus departing from Blessed Sacrament at 1:30 P.M. and those interested should contact The Parish House at (718) 442-1581. The suggested donation is \$25 and any checks should be made payable to Blessed Sacrament Church.

Catholic Relief Services: This weekend March 25th and 26th the second collection will be for The Catholic Relief Service and by supporting this collection you will be helping people in some of the most marginalized communities in the world. This collection provides services to immigrants, humanitarian aide in the wake of natural disasters, refuge for the displaced and advocacy for peace and justice around the world. For example climate changes in Western Africa have left farmers in Niger struggling due to drought shortened rainy seasons. Recent harvests have been too short to support families and your support will help deliver drought resistant seeds to these farmers. Timothy Cardinal Dolan has asked that you prayerfully consider how you can support this collection and for more information visit www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.