

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe



Saturday, November 25:

5:00 Howard Jones

Sunday, November 26:

7:00 John Torkelson  
9:00 Marie & Frank Barnard  
11:00 People of the Parish  
1:00 Special Intention  
5:00 John Hartmann Sr.

Monday, November 27:

7:00 Ingrid Keating (Living)  
9:00 Beverly Tobin

Tuesday, November 28:

7:00 Robert A. Faller  
9:00 Ronald Bell

Wednesday, November 29:

7:00 Michael Kenneke  
9:00 Jean Osborne & Nick Ellison

Thursday, November 30:

7:00 Florence Stalmanis  
9:00 Kenneth Thatcher

Friday, December 1:

7:00 John Siciliano (Living)  
9:00 Thanksgiving Gordon Family

Saturday, December 2:

9:00 Anne Winters  
5:00 Patrick Jordan (Living, 91st Birthday)

Sunday, December 3:

7:00 Benjamin Zarrelli  
9:00 Xeu Qian Zheng  
11:00 People of the Parish  
1:00 Niall James Sullivan  
5:00 Daniel Blaine

Saturday, December 2:

5:00 Frank Ponterio

Pat Foley

Sunday, December 3:

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, JoAnn DiPietro, Robert Williams, Sebastian Lattuga, Linda Browne, Frances Nodar, Tina Russo, Nathaniel Sasha, Kathryn Capofari, Rosemary Regan, Anthony Umana, Barbara Rotondo, Carmela D'Angelo, Mark Herman, Arthur Schmitt Sr., Richard Christie, Anthony Columbo, Frances Bocignone, Roseanne Viano, Barbara Longo, Linda Powers, Crystal Helewa, Eleanor Cooper, Daniel Juliano, Lizabeth Walsh, Joseph DeMeo, Moira Mackey

Collections:

November 12th.....\$8,734.00  
November 2017 Monthly Collection.....\$2,209.00

We at Sacred Heart want to welcome all of our newly registered parishioners including: Ms. Melanie Powery, Mrs. Carol Winkler, Mr. Peter Marsh, Ms. Danielle Holst, Mrs. Bridget Forde, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Colletta, Ms. Rosa Marie Roszakis, Mrs. Mary DeCroos, Louis Garuccio and Nicole Bassi. Please pray for them and their families.

## NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:

Dear Parishioners:

David Mills reflects upon the loss of his pet in “Missing Moby: On Losing a Faithful Companion.” (Aleteia.org, 15 November 2017). He writes:

“Sunday began like any Sunday, except that I slept a little later than usual and woke to a lovely fall day. It ended with my sitting cross-legged on the floor of Exam Room # 2, holding my dog Moby’s head in my lap, with our two youngest children on either side of him, my son burying his face in the crook of his arm, as the vet put him to sleep. He had gotten sick without warning the day before and then got worse. Just a few days before he’d been happily chasing a tennis ball I threw. The vet at the only veterinarian open on Sunday ran the tests and said he was very sick but she didn’t know why. Care would cost thousands we don’t have, and might not work, and if it worked would give him only an extra year or so. I had to tell her to put him to sleep.

I’m glad he had his head in my lap when he died, that I was holding him one last time and was the one who had him when he left this world. But I’ll never forget how he turned to look at the vet as she put the needle into the catheter they already had in his leg, and then put his head back down on my lap, and how his eyes closed within a couple of seconds, and then how she took the stethoscope from around her neck and held it to his chest for four or five seconds, and I began to think, ‘Maybe it didn’t work, maybe ...,’ and she pulled it away and said, ‘He’s passed.’ I had loved that dog from the moment I walked round a corner at the Humane Society and saw him lying in his pen on his pillow looking at me. He loved me the same way.

Today, Tuesday, is no less painful. When I woke up in the middle of the night, I started to roll over and reach down to the floor to pet him, till I remembered he wasn’t there, and never would be again. I walk into the study and looked at the couch to talk to him as I’ve done several times a day for the last twelve years, and I get out three or four words before I see that it’s empty, and know it’ll always be empty. I hear dog tags jingle and a head shake and my heart leaps for half a second till I realize I’m hearing our daughter’s dog we’re watching while she’s away.

Yesterday we buried Moby. Our youngest,

Jonathan, and I had dug the grave during the day. It took a long time to dig a deep enough hole through the hard white clay. We dug it nestled against the wall a few feet from my study window, where I can see it when I’m sitting at my computer. Jonathan and I carried the paper coffin in which the veterinarian had put Moby up from the basement and around the house to the grave. It was a kind of procession, and we both walked very slowly without having intended to. [Daughters] Hope and Hannah were waiting by the grave. We lowered Moby into the grave using ropes because it seemed more dignified and fitting than wrestling with a flimsy paper coffin. We all said a few words about Moby, then said an Our Father and Hail Mary in thanksgiving for his life. I could only get out about three words of each prayer. We each threw a shovel of dirt into the grave, then the children and I finished filling it in. I put in the last shovelful that covered the coffin. Because we live next to a woods, Jonathan and I carried some big heavy flat rocks from the rock wall we’d built years ago to cover the top of the grave. Wild animals don’t respect death and loss. We turned to walk back inside, and that, finally, was that.

It’s a tiny loss, even a trifling loss, in a world filled with such pain as this one. I lost a dog. People lose husbands and wives, son and daughters, their own lives. I’ve lost my parents and only sibling. But Moby’s death is the loss and pain I feel now, and it’s bitter. I loved that dog. I pray that he will be one of things Jesus will make new. I want to see him again, resplendently transfigured, though I’d cry with joy to see him again as he was.”

In this month of November, we prayerfully recall in a special way all of our loved ones who have passed. What is to stop us from remembering our deceased pets? The Church has no official teaching that says animals do or do not inherit eternal life. I myself prefer to believe that they do—because of Jesus. His victory was and will be so complete that all of creation will share in it, except, of course, those who have refused His mercy on the way to perdition. It was Jesus who made the bold (and utterly veracious) claim: *Behold I make all things new.* (Rev 21:5). All things made new. . . resplendently transfigured . . . even our beloved pets.

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.

**Monsignor Farrell:** The annual Monsignor Farrell Christmas Fair will take place on Sunday December 3 from 10 AM-5PM. Admission is \$3 a person and \$5 per family ( maximum five people). There will be over 80 vendors with arts and crafts, jewelry, toys, clothing, ornaments, baked goods and festive foods. There will also be raffle baskets and door prizes every hour. Monsignor Farrell is located at 200 Amboy Road.

### **ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, December 2, 2017:**

5:00 : N. Ehresman, A. Cruz, M. Fernando

**Sunday, December 3, 2017:**

7:00 H. Xuereb, A. Maida, T. Koleci

9:00 Kasey, Kelly & Erik Shashaty

11:00 V. Kaleta, N. Ramdass, G. Garcia

1:00 T. Smith, B. Freund, G. Seaborg

5:00 J. Mullen, M. Perkert, A. Schmitt

**St. Vincent De Paul:** Once again your St. Vincent De Paul Society is in urgent need of non-perishable food for the pantry. Would you please donate or bring to the vestibule of the Church one or more of the following foods; canned vegetables, canned soups, peanut butter & jelly, canned tuna fish, cereal, apple juice, tomato sauce & pasta, canned or jarred fruits. Thank you and God bless you!

### **St. Joseph Retreat Center Fall Programs**

(St. Joseph Hill Academy)

**Centering Prayer Group:** Wednesday December 13th, 7 :30-9:30 PM, fee \$10 per session, facilitated by Ann Louise DePalo. All are invited to come and be still and pray in God's presence.

**Meditation Monday:** Monday, December 11th, 7 :30-9:30 PM, fee \$20 per session, facilitated by Grace Daquila. An invitation to come and be refreshed, renewed and restored with faith sharing, prayer and reflection. Journey with others and experience a deeper, exciting relationship with our Lord.

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)

**Xavier Society for the Blind:** The Xavier Society for the Blind was founded in 1900 to assist blind and visually impaired people learn about, develop and practice their Catholic faith. The society serves over 1700 hundred people and provides reading materials in both audio and Braille formats. These include monthly readings, prayers and responses for both Sunday Masses and selected feast days, faith formation textbooks for both children and adults and many popular titles in the Catholic Church. If you are someone you know could benefit from our services please call us at (212) 502-7655 or visit our website at [www.xaviersocietyfortheblind.org](http://www.xaviersocietyfortheblind.org)

**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.sacredheartsi.org](http://www.sacredheartsi.org) and click on the link at the top of the page. Also kindly remember Sacred Heart Church in all your estate and will

## **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 Sacred Heart Holy Name Society will be having its initial meeting on Sunday, December 3rd at 6:15 in the school cafeteria. The guest speaker that evening will be John Bonviaggio. All men of the parish are encouraged to attend this meeting and become a member of The Holy Name Society. 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.



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