

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



SATURDAY, APRIL 23

5:00 RICHARD P. MORRISON

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

7:00 JOHN MURRAY  
9:00 MARIE & FRANK BARNARD  
11:00 ANN SOCCI  
1:00 JANET MILLER  
5:00 ANGELA RAIOLA

MONDAY, APRIL 25

7:00 ANDREW DE SANTIS  
9:00 LUCILA BONDOC

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

7:00 DENNIS TAYLOR  
9:00 MARY & JOHN FOPEANO

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

7:00 PEOPLE OF THE PARISH  
9:00 FR. PAUL GYAMFI

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

7:00 SR. THERESE MARY O' CARM  
9:00 ROB LIANDER

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

7:00 TERENCE DOWNING  
9:00 MARGARET NEWMAN

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

9:00 DOROTHY MC NAMARA  
5:00 BRIDGET JORDAN

SUNDAY, MAY 1

7:00 PEOPLE OF THE PARISH  
9:00 L. BENJAMIN ZARRELLI  
11:00 ANNIE MONTERO  
1:00 HON. LOUIS JEROME, SR.  
5:00 NATALINA PAONE

LECTORS

EUCCHARISTIC  
MINISTERS

Saturday, April 30

5:00 Frank Ponterio Pat Foley

Sunday, May 1

7:00 Efrain Ortiz  
9:00 Roy Hansen  
11:00 Frank Di Salvo Ken Wisniewski  
1:00 Charles Sullivan  
5:00 Robert Mazzucco



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, Joe Arrigo, Thomas Coppola II, Terrence Gibbons, Sondra Cronin, Jean Forte, Baby Michael John DiCostanzo, Bill Kiesewetter, JoAnn DiPietro, Robert Williams, Sebastian Lattuga, Linda Browne, Linda Powers, Frances Nodar, Crystal Helewa

Collections:

Regular April 17 ..... \$6,950.00  
Building Fund ..... \$866.00

Wedding Banns

*II Riccardo Hernandez and Jennifer Bates*

**THE ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY** will gather for the 9 AM Mass Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> and afterward have their monthly meeting at The Arms. Please contact Theresa Cunningham at 718-981-8047 with any questions.

The **Bread and Wine** are offered for the **Special Intentions of Linda and Albert Izzo** requested by Evelyn and Michael Bilotto.

## NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:

Dear Parishioners,

I read a book recently in which the author makes a striking statement. He was addressing the claim, uttered by a Catholic, that one need not be religious in order to be a good person. The author answers, "Certainly that's true—although being religious does help." I am more inclined to believe that being faithful to our true religion is not only *helpful*, but *essential* to being a morally good person. We need Jesus to be righteous. *Apart from me you can do nothing*, He said once. (John 15:5). Faith in Jesus, then, is necessary. The Word of God points out that without faith we cannot please God (Heb. 11:6). Moreover, we're told, the righteous person *lives by faith*. (Heb. 10:38). The implications are that if you are righteous you live by faith. No faith no righteousness. Religion is the practice of one's faith.

Furthermore, Jesus spoke of the necessity of the Most Holy Eucharist in John 6: *Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood you do not have [divine] life within you.* (v. 53). The Church has always taught that going to Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation is essential. The Eucharist is the summit and source of the entire Christian life, said Vatican II. (*Lumen Gentium*, 11). To miss Mass without a very good reason, such as illness, is a mortal sin. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* #2181). Therefore, if one misses Mass through his own fault he must confess that sin to a priest before returning to Holy Communion. All of this seems to indicate that faithfulness to the Eucharist, i.e., regular attendance at Holy Mass, is central to moral life. Hence, the attitude that one can be a good moral person even if he or she is not "religious" may not be so "certainly" true as the author would have it.

What about atheists? I use the term 'atheist' to refer not to the simple native in the wilderness who lives a primitive existence apart from civilization and has never been exposed to religion, nor do I refer to the contemporary person in our society who struggles internally with occasional doubts about God's existence. The atheist I have in mind is the modern man

who has articulated to others that he does not believe in the existence of God. This person has pondered the issue and has publically committed to a non-believing, god-less way of life. Some may argue that they know of atheists that are righteous. I am not sure if there are any. Perhaps the atheist may do what seems to be a good deed or two. However, his or her whole life stands against God by virtue of their refusal to believe. God is love. His very substance is love. How can a person be a person of love—a morally good person, without God? Moreover, God is truth. The atheist denies God and hence, he denies the truth. For this reason Sacred Writ says: *The fool has said in his heart that there is no God above.* (Psalm 15).

When you think about it, atheism is really illogical. The typical atheist explanation of the origin of the world is this. There was nothing. Then an explosion happened: the Big Bang. Then evolution took over, randomly organizing all of the disparate matter into the thoroughly organized patterns of being and life that we see all around us. Does this make sense? How can something (the explosion) come from nothing, that is *no thing*? Moreover, how can evolution, undirected by divine intelligence, generate the immense order and precision that we have in the cosmos? In order to have order there must be an orderer. If you enter the rectory and pass into my office and see order within the four walls, you rightly conclude that someone must have put the office in order. It cannot organize itself randomly. God's fingerprints are all over the universe. Human reason is fully capable of seeing that there must be a Creator of this creation. It is no wonder that the Apostle said that what can be known about God is evident because *ever since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes of eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what He has made.* As a result, they have no excuse, those who deny the truth about God. (Romans 1:20).

God bless you!

Fr. Eric

## Sacred Heart School- Registration 2016-2017

Now accepting applications for September 2016.  
Free Full Day Universal Pre-K for All 4 yr olds  
Pre-K 3, Kindergarten and Grades 1-8

## CCD APRIL/MAY HAPPENINGS

No Classes April 27

Classes in Session May 4, 11, 18 & 25

## Sacred Heart School Theater Group Presents:

Annie, Jr. - April 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm  
School Auditorium - 301 N. Burgher Ave  
Tickets \$10

## Young Adult Goretta Group Event:

Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm to 9:30pm  
Holy Family Church, 366 Watchogue Rd. 10314  
Join us as we continue the Theology of the Body  
Freedom to Love video series. There will be music  
in the church at 7pm followed by Mass at 7:30.  
Video discussion begins at 8:15 in the church  
basement. After-event fellowship at local  
bar/restaurant. Contact  
gorettigroupnychapter@gmail.com

## ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE April 30 & May 1

### Saturday, April 30

5:00 Kelly O'Neil & Albert Cardone

### Sunday, May 1

7:00 Deidre & Sean McCafferty

9:00 James Esco & Samantha Baniswal

11:00 Margaret Donovan & Giovanni Ercolano

1:00 Billye Albro & Tim Donnelly

5:00 Patrick Buzzard & Daniel Ramirez

## SI Grandmother's Club:

### Basket Auction Fundraiser Luncheon

Hosted by the SI Grandmothers Club Chapter 899

Money raised goes to SI Charities that aide sick  
children. Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, Staaten, 12noon start.

Arrive 11am to view baskets. Raffle tickets are  
very affordable. Call for info and also if you are  
interested in joining the Grandmothers Club.

Over 200 baskets!! For information and  
reservations by April 10<sup>th</sup> please contact  
Alana Chanod at 347-423-1190.

## Choir News ♪

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Thanks so much for all your support and  
compliments for the Choirs Easter liturgies!!  
There still are many extraordinary Masses for you  
all to participate in, as well as enjoy listening to...

Now is a great time to join a choir at Sacred  
Heart!! There are only a few months left to the  
Parish Choir season! Traveling Choir will carry on  
throughout the summer, as will Family Choir!!  
(Kids break in May!!) Which choir will you join?  
Join a choir today!

Family Choir/Kids Praise sings May 1st, 2016!  
11am Mass. Bring the entire family! See you in  
the loft!

Parish Choir/France Voyager Choir sings, April  
24<sup>th</sup> at the 11AM Mass. Come hear their inspiring  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter liturgy - better yet...come  
help us!!

## Spring/Summer Brides/Groom!!

Time to schedule your music liturgy consultation for your  
upcoming wedding Mass/ceremony!! This must take place  
at least 6 weeks prior to your wedding day - please leave  
your email address/phone on my voicemail and I will get  
back to you. (VM 24)

Happy and most Blessed Easter!!

Pamela & the Choirs 442-0058 (VM 24)

Join a choir today! Put away a hymnbook! Purchase a CD!  
Come with us on our next choir tour!

## Annual Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass:

Couples celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding  
Anniversary anytime during 2016 are invited to  
attend the Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass  
with Cardinal Dolan at the Cathedral of St. Patrick,  
Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:30PM or Sunday, June  
26<sup>th</sup> at 2:00PM. Pre-registration is required.  
Please contact your parish for registration. The  
closing date to register for the Mass is Tuesday,  
May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016. This event is sponsored by the  
Family Life Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese  
of New York