

Fourth Sunday in Advent



Saturday, December 23:

5:00 Patricia Silvestri

Sunday, December 24:

7:00 Deceased Members of The Quinn & McCauley Families & Souls in Purgatory

9:00 Margaret Competiello

11:00 Thomas J. Crane (42nd Anniversary)

1:00 People of the Parish

5:00 Brendan Hoey

8:00 Alfonsina Tortaglione

12:00 People of the Parish

Monday, December 25:

7:00 Intentions of the Strohm & Lamberti Families

9:00 Andre Roc Jeudy

11:00 Michael Mustillo Jr.

1:00 Rachel Flagiello

Tuesday, December 26:

7:00 No Mass

9:00 George E. Brain

Wednesday, December 27:

7:00 Dorothy Boulogne

9:00 Jack Graham & Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, December 28:

7:00 Joseph Bruno

9:00 Anne Curitore (11th Anniversary)

Friday, December 29:

7:00 Fr. Ranjan D'Sa (Living)

9:00 Beverly Tobin

Saturday, December 30:

9:00 Andre Roc Jeudy

5:00 Valentine Scarpaci

Sunday, December 31:

7:00 Ada Rivera

9:00 Beverly Tobin

11:00 People of the Parish

1:00 Rachel Flagiello

5:00 James J. McVey

Saturday, December 30:

5:00 Bill Jones

Pat Foley

Sunday, December 31:

7:00 Sr, Iraida

9:00 John Mooney Jr.

Elizabeth D'Antuono

11:00 Ken Wisniewski

Pat Jezycki

1:00 Theresa Cunningham

John Mooney Sr.

5:00 Fred Maley

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, 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 Umama, Barbara Rotondo, Carmela D'Angelo, Mark Herman, Anthony Columbo, Frances Bocignone, Roseanne Viano, Barbara Longo, Linda Powers, Crystal Helewa, Eleanor Cooper, Daniel Juliano, Lizabeth Walsh, Joseph DeMeo, Moira Mackey, Michael DiCostanzo

Collections:

December 17th.....\$6,440.00
Dec. 2017 Building Fund.....\$734.00
Dec. 2017 Budget Deficit.....\$433.00

The Flowers are donated in loving memory of Anne Curitore on the 11th anniversary of her passing by her husband William Curitore and her family.

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:

Dear Parishioners:

'Twas the night before Christmas,
he lived all alone,
in a one bedroom house made of
plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney
with presents to give,
and to see just who
in this home did live.

I looked all about,
a strange sight did I see,
no tinsel, no presents,
not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle,
just boots filled with sand.
On the wall hung pictures
of far distant lands.

With medals and badges,
awards of all kinds,
a sober thought
came through my mind.

For the house was different,
it was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier,
once I could see quite clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping,
silent, alone,
curled up on the floor
in this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle,
the room in such disorder,
not how I pictured
a United States soldier.

Was this hero
of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho,
the floor for a bed?

I realized the families
that I saw this night,
owed their lives to these soldiers
who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world,
the children would play,
and grownups would celebrate
a bright Christmas Day.

They all enjoyed freedom
each month of the year,
because of the soldiers,
like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder
how many lay alone,
on a cold Christmas Eve,
in a land far from home.

The very thought
brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees
and started to cry.

The soldier awakened
and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry,
this life is my choice.

I fight for freedom,
I don't ask for more,
my life is my God,
my country, my corps."

The soldier rolled over
and drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it,
I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours,
so silent and still
and we both shivered
from the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave
on that cold, dark, night,
this guardian of honor
so willing to fight.

One look at my watch,
and I knew he was right.
"Merry Christmas my friend,
and to all a good night."

This poem was written by a Marine. On this holy eve of Christmas we recall with gratitude all of our brave soldiers and first responders and their great sacrifices on behalf of our blessed nation. First and foremost, however, we recall with gratitude the Son of God.

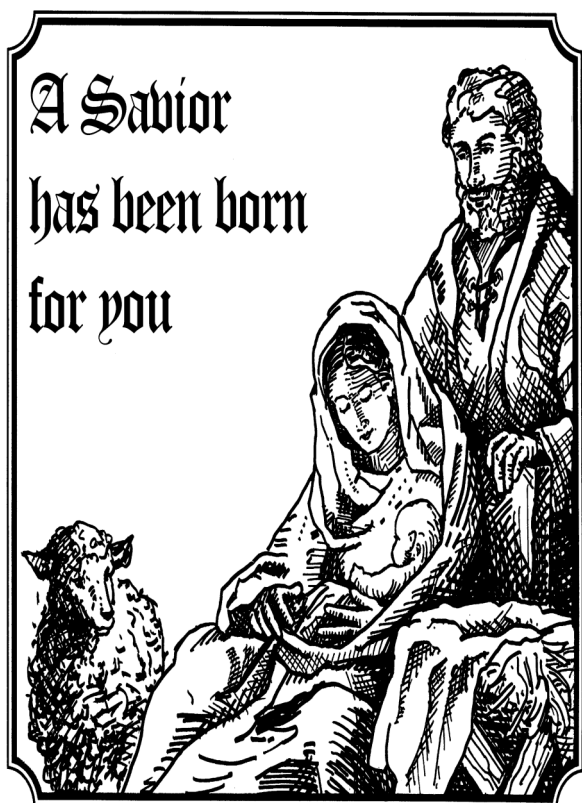
He came to this world for battle, God's son; to pick a fight with the Evil One. He too fought for freedom, to free us from sin. The Cross was His weapon. Man, did He win!

Merry Christmas!

God Bless You!

Father Eric

The Rectory office will be closed on both Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th. There will be no 7 AM Mass on Tuesday, December 26th. Both the 7 AM Mass and regular office hours will resume on Wednesday, December 27th. On behalf of Father Eric and the entire staff of Sacred Heart we would like to wish our parishioners a very sacred and blessed Christmas and a very happy, healthy and holy 2018!.



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ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 30, 2017:

5:00 : Kasey, Kelly & Erik Shashaty

Sunday, December 31, 2017:

7:00 Matthew, Julia & Sean Ahern

9:00 M. Perkert, A. Cruz, J. Torres

11:00 L. O'Neal, J. Orellana, A. Buscemi

1:00 R. Delamasa, G. Seaborg, N. Ramdass

5:00 J. Oliveras, B. Daniels, A. Cardone

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.

St. Joseph Retreat Center Overnight Retreats (St. Joseph Hill Academy)

New Beginnings with God: Friday-Sunday, January 12-14th, \$200 for single, \$400 for double, facilitated by Kathy M. Irr. The weekend will give the participants space to ponder, pray and encounter God. Reflective experiences during retreats will sustain a deeper relationship with God throughout the year.

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.

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

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.

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 and click on the link at the top of the page. Also kindly remember Sacred Heart Church in all your estate and will planning.

Sacred Heart Church

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

2017

CONFESSIONS

Monday, December 18th

4:00 - 8:00 PM

Friday, December 22nd

4:00 - 5:00 PM

Saturday, December 23rd,

11 AM - 12 Noon | 4:00 - 4:45 PM

MASSES

4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24th

7, 9, 11 AM, 1 PM

Christmas Eve, December 24th

5:00PM - Family Mass

8:00PM

11:30PM - Choir Prelude (to the 12 Midnight Mass)

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, December 25th

12 Midnight Mass

7:00, 9:00, 11:00AM & 1:00 PM

NO 5:00 PM Mass

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Sunday December 31st

7, 9, 11 AM

1 & 5 PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY

(Not a Holy Day of Obligation)

Monday, January 1st

7 & 9 AM

981 Castleton Ave

Staten Island, New York 10310

