

# The Church of the Sacred Heart

981 Castleton Avenue Staten Island, NY 10310

Established 1875

Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 22, 2022

## **Pastor**

Fr. Eric Rapaglia

Email - [frrapaglia@yahoo.com](mailto:frrapaglia@yahoo.com)

## **Pastoral Associates**

Msgr. Nicholas Soares

Msgr. Greg Mustaciulo

Fr. Soju Varghese

## **Principal**

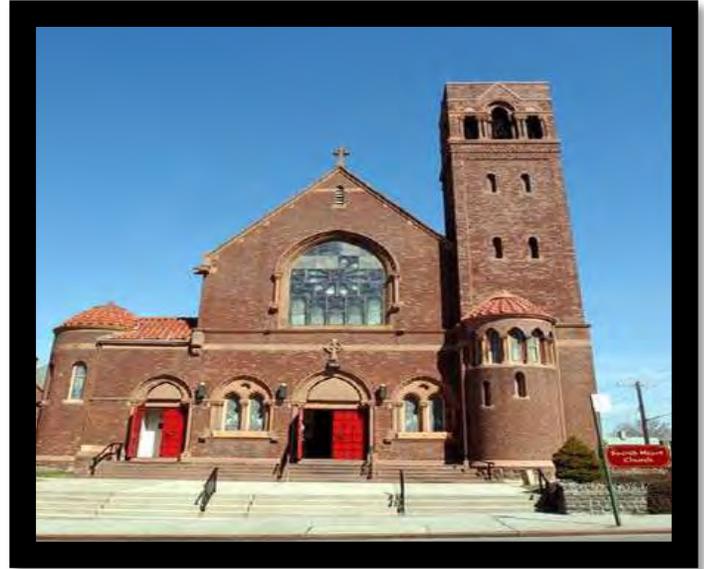
Ms. Celeste J. Catalano

## **Coordinator of Religious Education**

Mrs. Francine Rizzuto

## **Director of Music**

Mr. Tom Czarnecki



## **Masses**

### **The Lord's Day**

Saturday Evening 5:00 PM

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

Daily Mass 9:30 AM Monday-Saturday

Rosary 9 AM (Monday-Saturday)

### **Confessions**

Saturdays - 4:00 to 4:45 PM, Any time upon request

### **Parish Registration**

Please formalize your membership in our parish community by registering at the parish office. We sincerely welcome all new parishioners!

### **Handicapped Accessible**

**Office Hours** - Sunday 10 AM - 3PM

Monday-Friday 9 AM - 5 PM

Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM

**Church** open daily until 5 PM (Sundays until 3 PM)

**Novena Devotions**: Mon & Wed (after daily Mass)

**Pro Life Rosary**: Tuesday 9 AM

## **Sick Calls**

Anytime, please contact one of the priests at (718) 442-0058.

## **Baptism**

Parents & Godparents should attend a meeting at 3 PM on the second Sunday of the month in the Rectory with Fr. Eric to initiate the Sacrament. For more information please see: [www.sacredheartsi.org/worship/sacraments](http://www.sacredheartsi.org/worship/sacraments).

## **Marriages**

Couples should contact the rectory at least 6 months before the wedding to arrange the time, banns, and Pre-Cana Conference.

## **Sponsor Certificate**

If you have been asked to be a godparent for a Baptism or Confirmation attend the 9 AM Mass on Sunday and see Sister Barbara immediately after in the church vestibule. Please see the parish website under the Worship/Sacraments link for godparent guidelines.

## **Websites:**

**Church Website:** - [www.sacredheartsi.org](http://www.sacredheartsi.org)

**School Website:** - [www.sacredheartschoolsi.org](http://www.sacredheartschoolsi.org)

### **Church**

718-442-0058

### **Church Fax**

718-816-8006

### **School**

718-442-0347

### **School Fax**

718-442-6978

### **C.C.D. Office**

718-448-1536

**MAY 22, 2022**

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**OPENING HYMN: IMMACULATE MARY**

**IMMACULATE MARY, YOUR PRAISES WE SING. YOU REIGN NOW IN HEAVEN WITH JESUS OUR KING. AVE, AVE, AVE, MARIA! AVE, AVE, MARIA!**

**IN HEAVEN THE BLESSED YOUR GLORY PROCLAIM; ON EARTH WE YOUR CHILDREN INVOKE YOUR FAIR NAME. AVE, AVE, AVE, MARIA! AVE, AVE, MARIA!**

**Gloria**

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, Almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**READING 1 ACTS 15:1-2,22-29.**

Some who had come down from Judea were instructing the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the Mosaic practice, you cannot be saved." Because there arose no little dissension and debate by Paul and Barnabas with them, it was decided that Paul, Barnabas, and some of the others should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders about this question. The apostles and elders, in agreement with the whole church, decided to choose representatives and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. The ones chosen were Judas, who was called Barsabbas, and Silas, leaders among the brothers. This is the letter delivered by them: "The apostles and the elders, your brothers, to the brothers in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia of Gentile origin: greetings. Since we have heard that some of our number who went out without any mandate from us have upset you with their teachings and disturbed your peace of mind,

we have with one accord decided to choose representatives and to send them to you along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. So we are sending Judas and Silas who will also convey this same message by word of mouth: 'It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities, namely, to abstain from meat sacrificed to idols, from blood, from meats of strangled animals, and from unlawful marriage. If you keep free of these, you will be doing what is right. Farewell.'"

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM PS 67: 2-3, 5, 6,8.**



**R. O God, let all the nations praise you!**

May God have pity on us and bless us; may he let his face shine upon us. So may your way be known upon earth; among all nations, your salvation.

**R. O God, let all the nations praise you!**

May the nations be glad and exult because you rule the peoples in equity; the nations on the earth you guide.

**R. O God, let all the nations praise you!**

May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you! May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear him!

**R. O God, let all the nations praise you!**



**READING 2**  
**22-23.**

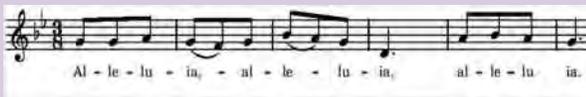
**REV 21:10-14,**

The angel took me in spirit to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. It gleamed with the splendor of God. Its radiance was like that of a precious stone, like jasper, clear as crystal. It had a massive, high wall, with twelve gates where twelve angels were stationed and on which names were inscribed, the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites. There were three gates facing east, three north, three south, and three west. The wall of the city had twelve courses of stones as its foundation, on which were inscribed the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. I saw no temple in the city for its temple is the Lord God almighty and the Lamb. The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb.

**ALLELUIA**

**JN 14:23.**

Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him and we will come to him.



**GOSPEL**

**JN 14:23-29.**

Jesus said to his disciples: "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me. "I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me tell you, 'I am going away and I will come back to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe."

**Profession of Faith**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from Heaven (BOW) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN: HAIL, HOLY QUEEN**

**HAIL, HOLY QUEEN ENTHRONED ABOVE; O MARIA! HAIL, MOTHER OF MERCY AND OF LOVE. O MARIA! TRIUMPH, ALL YE CHERUBIM; SING WITH US, YE SERAPHIM! HEAV'N AND EARTH RESOUND THE HYMN: SALVE, SALVE, SALVE, REGINA!**

**OUR LIFE, OUR SWEETNESS HERE BELOW, O MARIA! OUR HOPE IN SORROW AND IN WOE. O MARIA! TRIUMPH, ALL YOU CHERUBIM; SING WITH US YE SERAPHIM! HEAV'N AND EARTH RESOUND THE HYMN: SALVE, SALVE, SALVE, REGINA!**

## A Note from The Pastor

### Dear Parishioners,

God writes straight with crooked lines. It is an old saying with much truth. God's providence is indeed mysterious and it is fulfilled through quite peculiar circumstances. We can recall, by way of example, the bitter bondage of Joseph the Patriarch that led to the preservation of the population of the planet plus the People of God. In the New Testament, and in fact never in the whole of history, is there a greater example than the Cross of Jesus Christ (blessed be His Name), generated by the envy of the Jewish authorities, the treachery of Judas and the moral cowardice of Pilate. And yet, from the greatest injustice—the murder of the Creator—came the salvation of the world. God writes straight with crooked lines. Certainly, marriage and family life is no stranger to this dynamic of God's ineffable work in the lives of His people.

Take Liz and Mike Gary. They were married in the Catholic Church and then had a daughter, Abby-Lynn, and a son, Cameron. Right before Cameron turned two, Liz found out that she was pregnant once again. At nine weeks there was no heartbeat. When she miscarried, and she and her husband held the miniscule nine-week-old in their hands, they both wept. It was a girl.

Then a few months after the miscarriage Cameron was suffering from high mercury levels. The boy screamed incessantly, and had diarrhea for days. Then, when the doctor began treatment, there was great relief—for the child and his mother. For Liz, the relief was brilliant. Finally, she could embrace her child gladly, and without dreading his cries.

At this time, Liz's joy was mitigated by marital problems. Financial strain added heaviness to the marriage. Moreover, Liz and Mike never spent time with just each other anymore. Here and there they would tell each other, "I love you." However, it was more habitual than heart-felt. Their marriage seemed as if they were simply sharing space. They did not really enjoy each other's company. Liz wondered if leaving with the two kids would amount to the best solution. But she hadn't the courage for such a striking suggestion. Liz finally settled on the notion that she needed to accept the fact that the magic was gone and adjust to lower expectations for the relationship.

At this point in her life the mysterious pen of the Prime Mover appeared. The doctor explained to Liz, who discovered she was pregnant again, "Your baby's measurements do not seem quite right. It also appears that he might have a heart defect and possibly some fluid on the lungs. We will need to do more testing." Liz began to tremble. She knew that she could never handle what was being proposed to her understanding: a child with Down Syndrome. She sobbed as she drove home.

Of course, recourse to Mike gave no relief. She simply could not effectively communicate with her husband. He seemed so distant. His typical response was to recede from her complaints. Mike's reaction this time annoyed Liz. "We'll get through this," he had said. "Everything will be OK." Liz felt like slapping him with both sides of her hand several times and yelling, "How can you say everything will be OK? Nothing is OK! Things have not been OK for a very long time!"

In reality, Mike also was reeling from the shock, but he was putting up a front so as to be strong for Liz. Two days later, he went with his wife to the amniocentesis. It was during this procedure that Liz's world began to get better. Laying on the operating table, Liz received a clear and distinct idea to put herself in God's hands. Her paralyzing, overwhelming fear vanished, replaced by a soft, gentle serenity. For the next week others commented on how peaceful Liz seemed. Liz began to accept the absence of control in her life and started to look to God for everything. Nonetheless, both were very emotional when the news came that Down Syndrome was confirmed.

Liz prayed that God would take her baby to Heaven. She

was so certain that she could never raise a child with a disability, and certainly not with these marital troubles. At the next doctor's appointment, it appeared that her prayers were answered. With Liz laying on the table during an ultrasound, the doctor stated that the baby would not survive. He had a condition that was usually fatal—nonimmune hydrops. Liz was relieved. Mike wept. Even though they had different reactions to the grim news, both rejected the doctor's suggestion of an abortion. No. They had held in their own hands June, their nine-week-old miscarried daughter, and they believed that life is precious and abortion is evil. The doctor, on the other hand, believed that they were being irrational. At this point, Liz completely surrendered to God and said, "Thy will be done."

Soon Liz fell in love with her unborn son. She now desperately wanted him to live. She and Mike shared the same fear and starting bonding by means of it. They grew in trust for one another and for God. It was apparent that as they were both falling in love with their unborn son, Mike and Liz were falling in love with each other, for the second time in their lives. When Liz went into labor they were completely in love and they prepared themselves for the child's death. They named him Dustin. As Liz's contractions began, they held each other and wept as the pains heralded the end of their son's life. When the doctor told Liz to push, she hesitated because she knew that welcoming her baby into the light would mean his death. When he was finally born, Liz pleaded with God, "Please don't take him from me, I love him so much!"

Dustin Rafael Gary was born kicking and screaming at seven pounds and ten ounces. Liz had been put in an isolated room by order of the doctors so that when the baby passed it would have a limited effect on the others in the maternity ward. The nurses were instructed to make the child comfortable until the inevitable. Once the umbilical cord was cut both parents held their baby with great intensity. Mike baptized Dustin with tears rolling down his cheeks (anyone can baptize in a danger of death). The couple told their baby how much they loved him. They had minutes to express a lifetime of love to their little boy. Ten minutes later there was a gurgling sound and everyone thought this is it. However, Dustin never passed. Forty minutes later the doctor said with a confused look on his face, "This is not the same baby." The prayers worked and the most painful day of their life morphed into the most joyful for Liz and Mike.

The couple said later that, through Dustin, they've experienced God's love and life like never before. According to Liz, "Our marriage is more alive and the love in our family is deeper than ever before. Nothing is routine anymore. Every accomplishment Dustin makes brings new joy. Even the older kids adore their little brother. Dustin wakes up with a smile on his face every morning and spends the day spreading love and happiness."

"The little things in life don't bother us anymore," says Mike. "It all melted away after Dustin was born. We realize there is so much we can't control in life, so we accept God's will for us. I learned there is a reason for everything. There is a good reason Dustin is here. I cannot even imagine how empty our lives would be without him. He has done so many things for us."

Dustin was not just a miracle for the Gary family, but for the community at large. The gifts and cards, including one from their archbishop, kept coming long after Dustin's birth. Some people have told Liz and Mike that Dustin's miracle changed their lives. (For further reading see *Amazing Grace for Married Couples: 12 Life-Changing Stories of Renewed Love*, by Jeff Cavins, Matthew Pinto, et al., 2005).

God bless you!

Father Eric



**Lector Schedule**

**Saturday, May 28:**

5:00 PM: Bill Jones

**Sunday, May 29:**

7:00 AM : Vincent O'Grady

9:00 AM: Sr. Barbara

11:00 AM: Patricia Jezycki

1:00 PM: Don Maj

**Saturday, May 21:**

9:30 John & Maureen Driscoll

5:00 Carlos Causo

**Celebrant**

Fr. Soju

Fr. Eric

**Sunday, May 22:**

7:00 Ben Zarrelli

9:00 Mary Ellen Wright

11:00 Matthew & Maureen Gordon

1:00 Brendan Hoey

Fr. Soju

Fr. Eric

Msgr. Greg

Fr. Eric

**Monday, May 23:**

9:30 Louise Pietromonico

Fr. Eric

**Tuesday, May 24:**

9:30 William Allee

(4th Anniversary)

Fr. Eric

**Wednesday, May 25:**

9:30 James Geraghty &  
Souls in Purgatory

Fr. Eric

**Thursday, May 26:**

9:30 John Ahern

12:00 People of the Parish

7:00 Marguerite Kingston

Fr. Soju

Fr. Soju

Fr. Eric

**Friday, May 27:**

9:30 Deborah Hyland

Fr. Eric

**Saturday, May 28:**

9:30 Maria Guastella

5:00 John J. Clark

Fr. Soju

Fr. Eric

**Sunday, May 29:**

7:00 Deborah Hyland

9:00 Al Amore

11:00 Mary O'Farrell

1:00 Robert Kozlowski

Fr. Soju

Fr. Eric

Fr. Eric

Msgr. Greg

**Collections:**

**May 15:**

**\$5,987.00**

**Central & Eastern Europe:**

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**Attendance May 15th:**

**437**

**Pastosa Raffle May 15th.**

**M/M Claudio Ercolano**

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**Schoenstatt May Crowning:** The Schoenstatt Sisters will be having a “May Crowning” of The Blessed Mother on **Sunday, May 22nd at 11 AM.** The program includes an English talk at The Shrine, then lunch in the school cafeteria (bring your own lunch), a Rosary in the school auditorium and Holy Mass at 1:30 PM.

**Sacred Heart Annual Golf Outing:** The Sacred Heart annual Edger Sweeney/Thomas Rigney Jr. Memorial Golf Outing will take place on Monday, July 18th. This year the honoree will be the late Gene Spillane. Tee time is 9 AM and lunch at The Staaten will follow at 2 PM. Hole sponsorships are available for \$125, Prize sponsorships are available for \$500, the cost for golf & lunch is \$185 and just lunch is \$75. Please make a reservation for a foursome no later than June 1st and all payments (cash or check) are due by July 1st. For more information contact **Tom Corson** at (718) 909-7709, **Jeff Maida** at (917) 270-8229, **Roddy Wier** at (917) 355-1829, **Bob Althoff** at (718) 781-1344 or **Dennis Althoff** at (646) 623-3059.

**Ascension Thursday:** Please join us for the celebration of the Ascension of our Lord, body and soul, into Heaven on Thursday, May 26th. **The Masses take place at 9:30 AM, 12 Noon and 7:00 PM. It is a Holy Day of Obligation.**

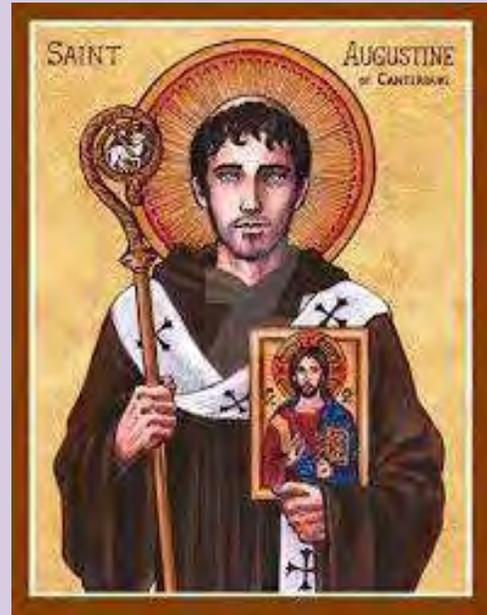
**Padre Pio Dinner:** On Thursday, June 16th The Staaten will be having a dinner from 6:30-10:30 PM in honor of the 20th anniversary of the canonization of Saint Padre Pio. The occasion also marks the 10th anniversary of the creation of The St. Pio of Pietrelcina Society. Anyone interested in attending should make a reservation by June 2nd. The cost for dinner is \$75 per person and reservations can be made by contacting Santina Consolino at (718) 442-5466, Edna Besabe at (646) 483-7583 or Josephine Moscato at (718) 273-9405. So come in honor of this modern era Saint who was the first priest to ever bear the mark of the stigmata.

**Bible Group:** We would love to have you join us for a 4- part series taking place on the 4 Saturdays of June at 1 PM in the Rectory. The title of the series is: ***The Seven Signs in Saint John's Gospel.*** The first meeting is June 4th and each meeting is roughly one hour. All are welcome.

## **ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY**

**FEAST DAY MAY 25TH**

**WE ASK FOR THE INTERCESSION OF OUR SAINT AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY ON BEHALF OF OUR SICK PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS**



## **SICK PARISHIONERS & FRIENDS**

Meghan Clark, Alberto Meranda, Anna Parente, James Parente, John C. Marino, Cpl Justin Campbell, Sheila Jones, Frank Silvestri, Christian Pepo, Jean Forte, Mark Herman, Frances Bocignone, Crystal Helewa, Daniel Juliano, Linda Powers, James Carney, Danny Fortunato, Frank Juliano, Joseph Brancato, Carmela D'Angelo, Michael Meyer, June Laub, Frank Musuruca, Joanne Prato, Joseph Koslowski, Diana Umama, Isaiah Roland, The Munoz Family, Brianna Scilabra, Judy Dele, Kassem Ripen, Ernestine Scott, Steven Riggio, James Ross, Michael Loughran, Salvatore Parisi, Cinderella Wonszewitz, Patrice Martin, Lucille Baron, Michael J. DiCostanzo, Catherine Broderick, Omari Roland, Carmine Rapisarda, Linda & Antoniette Gagliardi, Harrison Schursky, Caroline Dacunta, Irene McCarthy, Maria Rivera, Denise Biancanello, Alexa Rigney, Easton Nash Clark, Jessica Necco, Richie Ochotorena, Rosamaria Ochotorena, Don Quinn, Jennifer Pakulniewez, Frank Astorino, Aubrie Robinson, Ron Salguera, Fr. Angelo Micciulla, Rose McBrien, Saint Jermaine Endeley, Peter Marsh, John Riccobono, Joseph DiAngelo, William Walsh, Gertrude Wilson, Frank Duff, Edel Quinn, Phillip Reinhardt, Catherine Angielczyk, Louis Lepore, Dawn McFadden, John Meehan, Anthony Cosentino, Vincent Yeyines, Frank Sullivan, Bobby Shepherd, Regina Fusaro, Billy McNeely, Melissa Dudley, Athena Guerrero, Monique Russo, Ana Rios.

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