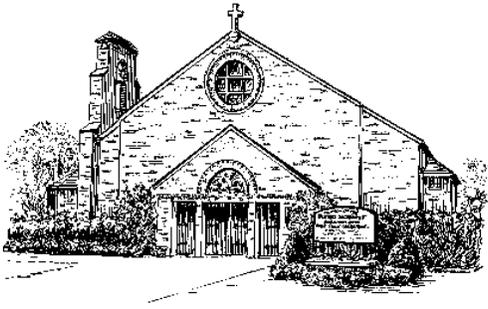


# BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

Staten Island, New York 10310

January 3, 2016



**Reverend Monsignor Peter G. Finn, Pastor**  
**Reverend Francisco Lanzaderas**  
**Reverend Albin Roby**  
**Reverend Monsignor Francis V. Boyle, Pastor Emeritus**

## **MASSES:**

Saturday in the Church: 5:00 PM (Vigil), Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM.  
Weekdays in the Church: 7:00 AM and 9:00 AM. Saturday in the Church: 9:00 AM.  
Holy Days in the Church: 7:00 PM (Vigil), 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

## **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Saturday: 12:00 to 1:00 PM; 4:15 to 5:00 PM.  
Anytime upon reasonable request.

## **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Sunday at 2:00 PM. (Except during July & August, then only on the First and Third Sunday and other specified days)  
Arrangements should be made at least one month in advance with the priest of the Parish. Parents of a first child and parents who are new to Blessed Sacrament must attend a Baptism Instruction Class which is held the second Tuesday evening of every month (except July and August) at 7:30 P.M. in the Parish House Meeting Room. Godparents should be Practicing Catholics, and must obtain a Sponsor Certificate from their Parish.

## **SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY**

Arrangements should be made about six months in advance, with a priest of the Parish. Couples must attend Pre-Cana Conferences.

**SICK CALLS** - At any time.

**MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA** - Every Monday after the 9:00 AM Mass.

**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION** - First Friday from 12:00 Noon to 2:00 P.M.

**NEW PARISHIONERS** - Welcome to our Parish.

We invite all parishioners to participate fully in our spiritual and social life. If you are new in the parish, please introduce yourself after Mass and register at the Parish House Office weekdays 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Kindly notify us if you change your address.

### **PARISH HOUSE**

30 Manor Road  
442-1581

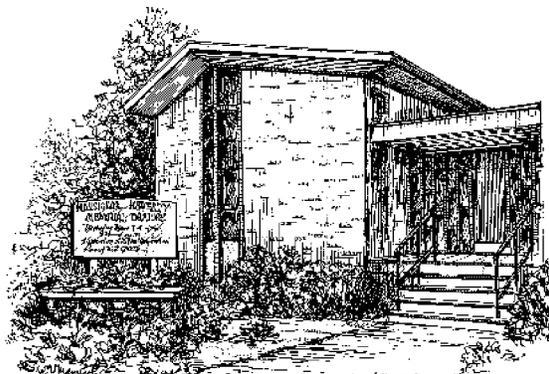
<http://www.blessedsacramentchurchsi.org>

### **SCHOOL**

Mr. Joseph Cocozello  
Principal  
830 Delafield Avenue  
442-3090

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Sister Anne Dolores Van Wagenen, C.S.J.B. - D.R.E.  
830 Delafield Avenue  
448-0378



## ECUMENICAL WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Staten Island Council of Churches will hold its annual **Staten Island Prayer Service** on Thursday, **January 21<sup>st</sup>** at Zion Lutheran Church, 505 Watchogue Road. 7pm – Hymn Sing; 7:30pm – Worship Service. Preaching: Bishop John O'Hara, Episcopal Vicar of Staten Island. For more info email: [sicoc@nyc.twcbc.com](mailto:sicoc@nyc.twcbc.com)



### **Heading to a Warmer Climate?**

If you are one of our lucky snowbirds please notify the Parish Office with your leave and return dates so we can adjust our mailings for the winter months. Two months advanced notice is needed to forward your Offertory Envelopes to a different address *or* place a temporary hold on them. Contact the Parish House at [blsdcrt@aol.com](mailto:blsdcrt@aol.com) to let us know your plans. Thank you.

**We do get charged for mail that is sent and returned to us.**

### HOLY NAME SOCIETY

8:00am Mass with meeting to follow in the Parish Center Meeting Room next Sunday, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>.

### TOURING TUESDAY DATES

The 2016 Staten Island Catholic Elementary School Open Houses are: **Jan. 12**, Feb. 2, Feb. 23, March 8, and April 12 from 9-11am.

This Christmas, give the gift of a Catholic education. Staten Island Catholic Schools are Christ-centered, academically excellent and welcoming communities that teach students to be life-long learners and leaders energized by fidelity to Christ, the Church, and one another. To locate a faith-based Pre-K, Kindergarten or elementary school program near you, visit [www.buildboldfutures.org](http://www.buildboldfutures.org) or call 646-794-2885. Additional Open Houses and private tours are available.

**THE SANCTUARY LAMP  
KEEPS ITS SILENT VIGIL  
BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
THE JOSEPH DICKS FAMILY**

## **PRAY FOR THE SICK**

The sick are comforted just knowing that you pray for them. In your charity please remember: Margaret Pittman-Boyle, Douglas Pflieger, Jr., Phyllis Ribaldo, Ann Socci, James Burghardt, Concetta Chicolo, Kelly Ward, Amelia DiMauro, Mary Kenny, Kathryn Haring, Jean Carter, Jane Redmond, Carolyn DeStefano, Robert Tursi, Deirdre Westergren, Nicholas Toto, Marykate Rose, Peggy Travers, Mary Anne Blaine, Jean Cunningham, Jean Elmadary, Alan March, Sebastian Lattuga, Grayce Novaro, Angela Siuzdak, Helen Ramsey, Katherine Barbera, Phyllis Scharfenberg, Margaret Romani, Br. William Herbst, Barbara Brown, Michael Caruso, Patricia Connelly, Hugh Kiernan, Mary Belli, Mark Volpe, Elaine Lydersen, Linda Hansen, Dean Robert Ziegler, Danielle Ziegler, Susannah Yates, Marco Antonio Gonzalez, Grace Leddy, Margaret King, Joseph D'Amico, Larry Taylor, Jr., Kathy Quinlan, Felicidad Tobias, Jose Ruiz, Casta Miskowitz, Rosemary Callahan, Elizabeth Coyne, Lucy D'Angelo, Robert Hammerton, Catherine Vitale, Capala Lusi, Jack McGarry, Robert McQuade, Amy Mezzacappa, Mary Ruggiero, Amparo Isaza and Brian Nelson

## **SYMPATHY**

Remember the soul of and the souls for whom Mass will be offered during the week, especially:

### MONDAY

7:00 Robert W. Durr (Living)

9:00 Nick DiPaolo

### TUESDAY

7:00 James Joseph Miller

9:00 Joan Gulbin

### WEDNESDAY

7:00 John LaSpisa

9:00 Peter Mancuso

### THURSDAY

7:00 Jacqueline Joly

9:00 Lisa A. Goado

### FRIDAY

7:00 Margaret Lynch

9:00 Edith Poulten-Mullen

### SATURDAY

9:00 Bridget Derry

5:00 Ann & Al Gaudet

### SUNDAY

8:00 Patrick McNamara

9:30 Anthony Magliocca

12:30 Salvatore Piazza (43<sup>rd</sup> Anniv.)

**SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 10, 2016**

	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>
5:00 PM Vigil	Team 2	L. Pillarella	V. Donnelly & N. Mata
8:00 AM	Team 3	C. Burns	D. Vigliotti & A. Aponte
9:30 AM	Team 4	C. Wodzinski	B. Collorec & A. Morrell
11:00 AM	Team 5	D. Leddy	M. Morgan & M. Conigatti
12:30 PM	Team 1	K. Kelley	C. Wodzinski & T. Sanders

**PARISH NURSE PROGRAM**

The Parish Nurse's office hours are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. If you wish to make an appointment with the Parish Nurse, Peggy Smith, please call her at 718-447-9657.

**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

Over the next few weeks, if you were to stroll around Prague or Budapest or Kraków, you might see curious graffiti scratched in chalk over some doorways: "20 + C + M + B + 16." The families dwelling behind those doors have celebrated the Epiphany door blessing. They have gathered before the feast-day meal, probably after Mass, and the head of the family has traced the sign of the cross on the piece of chalk. Standing on a ladder, the leader traces the numbers for the new year, and the letters C M B for *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, Latin for "May Christ bless this house." The letters also point to the names that tradition has assigned to the mysterious magi, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar—although scripture tells us nothing of their number, their country, or their names.

The blessing speaks of journeys ended and journeys begun at the doorway, and prays that all journeys be as satisfying as was the magi's. It prays that the house beyond the door have the quality of love and peace that the magi marveled at when they at last arrived in Bethlehem. In some countries where the Soviet Union tried to impose a harsh atheism, the vigor of this household custom survived all efforts to erase Christian customs. In the years of struggle, the chalked blessings were a pervasive sign of defiance, and now in the light of new freedoms, they are a sign of the resilience of our tradition and the fulfillment of the magi's quest for meaning and peace.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**CALLING ALL GRANDMAS**

Staten Island Grandmothers Club Chapter 899 needs you. We are a friendly and fun local not-for-profit social/fraternal organization. Our main purpose is to assist sick children and their families right here on Staten Island. Please contact Alana Chanod at 347-423-1190 for more information.

**FROM THE PASTOR**

A Holy, Happy, Healthy and Wonderful, Peace-Filled Year to each and every member of our Parish Family.

Please know that this prayer is echoed by Fr. Frank, Fr. Roby and myself in every Mass and prayer we shall offer in 2016.

As we commence this new year dedicated to a Holy Year of Mercy, we especially pray for all members of our Parish Family. In so doing we are reminded that the Church of the Blessed Sacrament is a family that encompasses even its absent members.

The late Fr. Jim Smith, who was a regular contributor to "Celebration" wrote the following on the often discussed and analyzed topic of:

**Mass Attendance**

*The notable drop in the number of people at Mass makes us wonder why. And, if they are friends or members of our families, we worry about them. Without wanting to make excuses or give ourselves reasons to quit, let's look at some possible causes.*

## PAGE FOUR

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*Fifty years ago, the average Catholic attendance at Mass was as high as 90 percent; now it is about 30 percent. That sounds awful in the short view. But in the long view of church life it is not too surprising. The early Christians didn't have large enough buildings to hold all the people. In the Middle Ages it seems that only the upper class went to Mass on a regular basis. Ordinary folks couldn't take time from work or didn't seem that interested, even as most people today do not attend civic celebrations or political rallies.*

*Most people who absent themselves from Mass don't necessarily have much problem with the faith; they just seem to have drifted away. They may lack the "Catholic imagination," a sense of sacrament, a nose for ritual. That doesn't make them deserters or bad people. They simply haven't had a strong enough experience of community to hold them together with us. As someone once expressed it, "We are bound together by cords of love." If the cords slacken, the family falls apart.*

*But just because people stop coming to Mass, that does not mean they have lost their religion. Everyone has a basic pre-religious sense of God, an unfiltered feel for mystery. This intuitive grasp of the sacred is nurtured in various faith groups and rituals. Catholics have many such symbols, rituals, sacraments and devotions, but not everyone is drawn to them. The Mass is our most sublime religious experience, yet some people never get to know it well enough to understand or appreciate it. By education, temperament and experience, they think they can get along without it. Nevertheless, the church is a family, and a family keeps embracing members even if they are absent or estranged.*

*We can consider low attendance at Mass, however lamentably, by looking at the church in a different way. Some see it as a pyramid organized with pope, bishops and clergy at the top and lay people on the bottom. But the church can also be seen as composed of concentric circles with different degrees of engagement or commitment. Imagine the first circle as made of true believers like yourselves, whose participation at Mass is a key to your identity. You reflect the loyalty of many Catholics down through history who have risked everything to attend Mass. When asked why, they told their persecutors, "Because we cannot live without the Mass."*

*A second circle might regard themselves as "spiritual but not religious." Their numbers are increasing among all religions. This is partly a result of the modern emphasis on individual freedom. More people are eating alone, bowling alone, working alone, living alone and therefore praying alone. They just don't feel a need for community participation.*

*A third circle is made up of those who seek community when they need consolation. As with the need for a hospital, they find church when they want a quiet place to be comforted. They are attracted to the silence, glowing candles, statues, of the felt presence of Jesus in the tabernacle. This gives them a consoling sense of the sacred.*

*The fourth circle provides ritual structure and ceremony to help people on their journey through life. Every religion and society has certain rites of passage to help people celebrate births, coming of age, marriages and to commemorate the dead. Showing up for these special moments meets their need to feel connected.*

*Still, even after we better understand the theology, psychology and sociology of church membership and Mass attendance, we miss our absent friends, as we wish they loved the Mass as much as we do. Until that happens, we might ponder with some surprise the words of Pope Benedict XVI, who once said, "I have nothing against...people who all year long never visit a church [going] there on special occasions, because this is another way of belonging...There have to be various forms of participation and association; the Church has to be inwardly open."*

*This is ongoing evangelization. A family keeps embracing those who don't come to family gatherings. We'll keep the light on.*

*May the light of the Feast of Epiphany next week welcome all who come home.*

GOD BLESS YOU  
MSGR. FINN