

Blessed Sacrament School Family Guild Newsletter November 2022



A Letter from Bishop Byrne:

In the church calendar, the month of November begins with solemnity because of the celebrations of All Saints Day on the First and All Souls Day on the Second. The entire month is, of course, the month of the holy souls, in which we are reminded of our duty to remember our deceased loved ones and to pray for their passage from purgatory.

The opportunity to remember and honor two beloved priests came early this year, because October 15th marked the unveiling of the street signs dedicated to Msgrs. Finn and Berardi. The Blessed Sacrament community was enveloped in sadness at the beginning of 2022, but the various tributes that were given that day helped all to recall the way that these exemplary priests touched the lives of so many. May they rest in peace.

Blessed Sacrament was graced recently with the presence of our Archbishop, Cardinal Dolan, who visited the school on October 24th in connection with Borough President Fossella's grant that will assist sports programs throughout the Catholic school community. His Eminence was positively impressed by the appearance of the school and the deportment of its students.

November includes the great feast of Thanksgiving, a beautiful American tradition that acknowledges the unique blessings that God has showered on our homeland. For Catholics, the most exalted expression of gratitude is the Holy Mass, since the word "Eucharist" means thanksgiving. Daily prayers, preferably as a family and faithful attendance at Sunday Mass are the foundations of Catholic life. May they flourish in the Blessed Sacrament community always, and in particular during the month of November when we give thanks to God and call to mind our final destination in heaven.

On Saturday October 15, 2022, the street corner of Manor Road and Forest Avenue was dedicated to our deeply beloved former Pastors Monsignor Peter Finn and Monsignor Ferdinando Berardi. Both continue to be strong influences on our parish and school through the impact they had during their time with us and the legacy they both leave behind. We are honored to have their names grade our bordering streets, serving as a constant reminder of their love and service.



A Letter from our President:

*In my car this past weekend, my family noticed the first radio commercial referencing Christmas this season. My son, Frank, immediately questioned why our society seems to jump right from Halloween to Christmas, leaving Thanksgiving by the wayside. It got me thinking just how easy it is to get wrapped up in the fast pace of the holiday season - shopping, gatherings, activities, etc. When looking ahead, one can say that there are **only** seven weeks from now until Christmas and how that time goes by so quickly. By shifting the perspective, one can **also** say that there are weeks ahead centered on holidays that are rooted in joy, togetherness and gratitude. As I mentioned previously, part of my mission here is to spread gratitude throughout this community. In these first months of the school year, I cannot stress enough just how grateful I am for all who are part of the Family Guild - the incredible group of fun, dedicated and thoughtful women working along side of me on this Board, Mr. Cocozello, Mrs. Mincher, Mrs. Hall and Ms. Woods who are always supporting our efforts and contributing any way possible, our faculty who take care of and teach our children day in and day out, those part of the Parish House who work to help coordinate our efforts, all of our outstanding volunteers who have been planning, coordinating and facilitating all of the wonderful experiences for our students and, most importantly, each and every student and family that is part of this school community.*

As we approach this celebration of gratitude and togetherness later this month, my wish for all of you is to feel the joy that can come from recognizing all we have to be grateful for - from the largest, most prominent ways down to the tiniest instances that we may miss or take for granted.

As always, I thank you all for being part of this wonderful community centered around our children. The expression "it takes a village to raise a child" is true in so many ways. We look out for one another's children. We show concern and respect for them. We set examples for them all. We influence each one through our words and actions - not just our own. I am grateful for the community my children are a part of and thank you all for being part of it. Wishing you a wonderful Thanksgiving! Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

With gratitude,
Erica Salzillo



***Our thoughts and prayers remain with
our 8th grade students who completed
their TACHS exam
on Friday, November 4.***

***We know you gave it your all and will
always continue to make us proud!***

Visit from Cardinal Timothy Dolan and Borough President Vito Fossella



On Monday October 24, Blessed Sacrament School was visited by Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Superintendent Michael Deegan and Borough President Vito Fossella to announce the allocation of funds from BP Fossella's budget for Catholic schools across Staten Island. After an introduction from Mr. Coccozello, Cardinal Dolan, BP Fossella and Superintendent Deegan all spoke about the great importance of Catholic education and the value it serves in our community. The allocation of the funds will help to facilitate the teaching of the core values of our school community both in Blessed Sacrament and alongside other Catholic schools on Staten Island.



Cardinal Dolan and BP Fossella then toured the school, guided by two of our eighth grade students, and visited several classrooms to speak directly to our students and teachers. Our younger grades sang some of their songs practiced in music class for our guests.





Trunk-or-Treat Success!

This year's Trunk or Treat was a huge success! It was so much fun and a great memory for both the kids and the parents.

Thank you to the committee, the volunteers, Chairperson Rhonda Nigido and all of the parents for their hard work and creatively decorated trunks!

Congratulations to our winners of the "Best Trunk" vote!



First Place



Second Place



Third Place

Please join us in supporting a local business as they support our school.



This month we are teaming up with
Osteria Santina
502 Jewett Avenue, 10310
on Wednesday November 16.

Be sure to tell them that you are participating with Blessed Sacrament and **10% of your bill** will be donated back to us!

Dine-in and take out!

Can't wait to see you there!



Veterans' Day Dress Down

*Get dressed in your best red, white & blue outfit for a dress down day on **Monday November 14** benefitting the Christmas Fair.*

We ask that each family contribute \$5 per child or \$10 per family.

Please send in your contribution and collection slip in an envelope marked "Attn: Family Guild Veterans' Day Dress Down". Thank you!



Thanksgiving Food Drive

Our annual food drive has begun!

Please send in any item from the following list by **November 14**. Non perishable items only and please check expiration dates. Thank you for your generosity!

Some options include stuffing, carrots, peas, instant potatoes, turkey or chicken gravy, cranberry sauce, yams, sweet potatoes, pickles, olives, Jello pudding, pie filling, ready made graham cracker pie crust, cake mix, frosting, brownie mix, corn muffin mix, and canned fruit.



Thanksgiving Bake Sale

Please help support our Thanksgiving bake sale on **Tuesday, November 22**.

All items will be \$1.00 and will be sold in the cafeteria during lunch.

If you would like to donate any store-bought or homemade treats, please contact Kim Burbano at kimburbano@blessedsacramentsi.com or (917) 282-2984.

Allergy-friendly options will be included so all can participate!

Looking to get rid of some gently used books?



Please donate them to the Christmas Fair used book table! Send them in with your child to drop in a box in the hallway by the main doors. All proceeds from the "Used Book" table at the Christmas Fair will benefit Grandma's Love, Inc. "Grandma's Love, Inc. mobilizes communities, individuals and resources to ensure children at risk of hunger are provided with enough food and books to grow into healthy, happy and active children emotionally, physically and educationally." Learn more about the efforts of Theresa Monforte-Caraballo, Grandma's Love, Inc's founder, at their website: <https://www.grandmasloveinc.org>.

Calling All Cooks!

Enter the Blessed Sacrament School Annual Chili Cook Off!

There are 3 categories to enter to win:

People's Choice

Judges' Panel

Vegan and/or Most Original



To enter, bring your delicious chili to the hot dog table on **Sunday November 20 at 9:00am.**

Please bring one half-tray of your entry **HOT** for tasting!

Please label your entry with your name and phone number.

Please let us know if you will be entering via text to Tracy Tursi at (347) 267-0294.

Good luck to all who enter!

Christmas Fair and Mother-Daughter Dance News

THANK YOU to all the families that have supported our Christmas Fair. We are off to a great start and are looking forward to having a fun filled day! If you are interested in volunteering, it is not too late to sign up! The more the merrier! Reach out to us at bsschristmasfair@gmail.com.

Looking forward to the new year, Tracy Tursi and I will be chairing the Mother-Daughter Event which will take place in February. In years past, this event was held as a breakfast at the Hilton. Both Tracy and I attended the last mother daughter breakfast in 2020 where several people expressed that the food was unsatisfactory. For us to change venues we will have to scale this event back and make it exclusively for mothers and daughters, with no additional guests. At our next Family Guild meeting on **November 28**, I will provide more information and we will take a vote to see how this event will move forward. If you are interested in having your vote count, please attend the next meeting!

Wishing all the Blessed Sacrament families a HAPPY & HEALTHY Thanksgiving!

Thank you,
Anne Marie Melgar

Coffee Shoppe!

Our Christmas Fair Coffee Shoppe needs your help! We would greatly appreciate it if you could bake or donate baked goods such as cookies, brownies, cupcakes, donuts or one of your specialties!

Kindly bring all donations on **Friday November 18 by 8:15am** or **Sunday November 20 by 8:30am**.



Please be sure to label your goods!

Peanut and gluten-free items are needed as well!

Please let us know in advance what you will be donating and for which day via text to Kristen Arpaia at 917-676-8129 or to Jill Gannon at 917-363-6037.

Thank you for your help and support!

Christmas Fair Sweeps!

The Christmas Fair is almost here!
Thank you to all that have contributed
donations to the class collections!

If you would like to donate a prize or
know someone would would, please
reach out to the Sweeps table Chairs
Allison Boylan at (917) 566-3955 or
Rebecca Picaro at (917) 716-7420.



Thank you for all of your support!

Family Guild Christmas Party

Come celebrate the holiday season with us!
After years without, we are looking forward to a wonderful celebration
of our school community for a fun evening out!

On **Thursday December 1**,
we will have our Family Guild Christmas party
at Osteria Santina from 7:00pm to 11:00pm.
(School is closed on Friday December 2!)

The cost will be \$75 per person and includes
dancing, three courses, and beer, wine and sangria.

Please send in your collection slip and
payment (CASH ONLY) by **Tuesday November 22**
in an envelope marked "Attn: Guild Christmas Party".

We look forward to seeing you there!



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Let's work together to give our school community a wonderful, unforgettable school year!

We welcome **ALL** volunteers to participate! Please let us know if you are interested!

There are many ways to be involved - not just during the school day.

- Have an idea for a new event or fundraiser?
- Want to chair an event?
- Want to volunteer for an event or committee?
- Have a suggestion?
- Know of or own a business that would be a great partner with our school?

Let us know! Tell us your ideas!

New to our school? Reach out to any of the Family Guild Board Members or your class parents to find out about all of the opportunities to get involved!

We **NEED** your feedback in order to keep growing and serving our school community!

Send us an email with any ideas for events, strategies and feedback. We know we have many talented, creative and dedicated families - let's work together to make it the best year yet!



Upcoming Events:

- Thursday - Nov 10: 11:30 Dismissal - Teachers Professional Development Session
- Friday - Nov 11: School Closed - Veterans Day
- Monday - Nov 14: Veterans Day Dress Down
- Monday - Nov 14 through Thursday - Nov 17: Christmas Fair set up
- Wednesday - Nov 16: Dine Out at Osteria Santina
- Friday & Sunday - Nov 18 & 20: Christmas Fair
- Tuesday - Nov 22: Bake Sale
- Thursday - Nov 24: School Closed - Thanksgiving
- Friday - Nov 25: School Closed
- Monday - Nov 28: Family Guild Evening Meeting- 7:30pm
- Tuesday - Nov 29: Family Guild Morning Meeting - 8:00am
- Thursday - Dec 1: Family Guild Christmas Party
- Friday - Dec 2: School Closed - Conference Day



CHAIRPEOPLE NEEDED!

Some of our events are still without a chairperson or planning committee!

Don't want to do it alone? Gather some of your closest friends and join a committee!

Rest assured that anyone with prior experience in any of these events will be glad to help.

We have some volunteers interested in being on the Basket Auction committee but are still looking for some more! Our Basket Auction will be held on Friday May 19.

Have an idea for a new event? We'd love to hear it!

Please reach out to the Family Guild Board if interested.

Some Notes from Our Treasurers:

- Please complete a collection slip with any monetary submissions for our records; flyers can be found on the Family Guild webpage and will be sent via GroupMe.

-*Can't print the flyer?* Just use one of the blank collection slips provided at the start of the year.

-*Don't have any collection slips?* Download and print from the Family Guild website, email the Board requesting some be sent home with your child via backpack or pick some up at a meeting.

-*Stuck in a pinch?* You can also simply include any piece of paper complete with all necessary information as copied from the collection slip.

-**BE SURE** to include your name, child(ren)'s name(s) and class(es) on **ALL** checks **AND/OR** collection slips submitted.

-Checks may take up to four weeks to deposit once submitted.

-Working on an event or fundraiser? All reimbursement forms are available on the Family Guild webpage as fillable PDF documents. Just type in your information, print, and submit! Please note that reimbursements may take up to six weeks to receive due to the updated Archdiocesan guidelines for submission.





The Guild's Great Gift Card Giveaway is here!

For \$10 per entry you can enter our monthly raffle for a **\$100 Amazon.com gift card**! Winners will be selected on the first Friday of each month beginning in November and announced via GroupMe - so be sure to sign up!

You can enter on a month-by-month basis as many times as you'd like! If you'd like to enter the monthly drawing for the cost of \$10 each entry for the month of December, please fill out a collection slip

and include it with payment (**cash preferred – must be exact; *checks may take up to 4 weeks to deposit**) in an envelope marked with your family name, child's class, and "ATTN: FAMILY GUILD GIVEAWAY - DECEMBER" no later than **November 23**. The December drawing will be held on Friday December 2.

Good luck to all those who enter!



Basketball kicked off this month for our Titan League, just as our fall track and soccer seasons are coming to a close. Wishing all of our Titans the best!

For information on the Titan League, you can visit their website at <http://www.titanleague.com> or email the Board, led by President Billy Althoff, at board@titanleague.com.

Go Titans!

Monthly Meeting

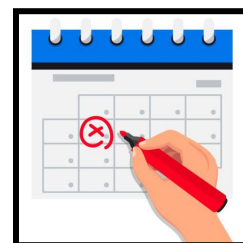
Our monthly Family Guild meeting will be held on **Monday, November 28 at 7:30PM** in the PCMR.

We will also hold a recap meeting on **Tuesday, November 29 immediately after drop-off** in the cafeteria for anyone who cannot attend the previous evening's meeting.

All dates for the remaining meetings for the year have been posted on the Family Guild page of the school website.

Please come join us to stay informed, join the conversation, ask your questions, meet new families and show your support of Blessed Sacrament lol School!

We look forward to seeing you there!



2022-2023 Monthly Family Guild Meetings

September – Tuesday 9/27; Wednesday 9/28

October – Tuesday 10/18; Wednesday 10/19

November – Monday 11/28; Tuesday 11/29

December – in lieu of a December meeting,
we will have our Family Guild Christmas Party
on Thursday 12/1 at Osteria Santina

January – Monday 1/23; Tuesday 1/24

February – Monday 2/13; Tuesday 2/14

March – Monday 3/27; Tuesday 3/28

April – Monday 4/24; Tuesday 4/25

May – Monday 5/22; Tuesday 5/23



We are going paperless!

The Family Guild will be utilizing GroupMe
for all of our future communications.

The URL to sign up for our GroupMe group is:

https://groupme.com/join_group/89135492/aHqN53kl

**Blessed Sacrament
School - Family Guild**



You can also find information on joining GroupMe on
the Family Guild page of
the Blessed Sacrament website.

Family Guild Dues:

Dues for the 2022-2023 school year are being
collected on a continuous basis.

We ask for \$25 for an individual membership and
\$35 for household membership.

We cannot host events and experiences for our
community without your support, both spiritually
and financially.

Please return your cash or check payment along with
a submission slip that includes your name,
child(ren)'s name(s) and class(es), phone number,
email address, type of membership, method of
payment and amount in an envelope marked "ATTN:
FAMILY GUILD - DUES". (*Checks may take up to 4
weeks to deposit.)

As always, THANK YOU
for your continued
SUPPORT!





THANK YOU!

The Family Guild Board would like to give a big thank you to all of our volunteers and those who stepped up to Chair and Co-Chair our upcoming events. We couldn't do this without you. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to those who donated the yummy treats for the Halloween bake sale and snack sale benefitting the Fall Ball.

Thank you to the owners of Duffy's and Sally's Southern who teamed up with Blessed Sacrament in October for our dine outs. They were a great success and we can't wait to team up with them again.

Thank you to those on the Fall Ball committee, chaperones and clean up volunteers. The kids had a wonderful time! It was great to bring back events like this!

Thank you again to Rhonda Nigido and the Trunk or Treat committee for creating such a fun event to kick off Halloween weekend!

Contact Us

Visit our Family Guild page for forms, information on our standing committees, fundraising events and future monthly newsletters online at
www.blessedsacramentsi.com
or email us at
theguild@blessedsacrament.com

President

Erica Salzillo
ericasalzillo@blessedsacramentsi.com

Vice President

Kim Burbano
kimburbano@blessedsacramentsi.com

Recording Secretary

Allison Boylan
allisonboylan@blessedsacramentsi.com

Corresponding Secretary

Rhonda Nigido
rhondanigido@blessedsacramentsi.com

Co-Treasurer

Jennifer Calvo
jennifercalvo@blessedsacramentsi.com

Co-Treasurer

Rosalinda Cinquemani
rosalindacinquemani@blessedsacramentsi.com

Feel free to contact us with any questions or suggestions regarding Guild functions. We are always open to ideas that will enhance our efforts.



Blessed Sacrament School Leadership and Staff



830 Delafield Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10310
(718) 442-3090

Principal

Mr. Joseph Cocozello
si301@adnyeducation.org

Assistant Principal/UPK Director

Mrs. Rosaria Mincher
rmincher@blessedsacramentsi.com

Administrative Assistant

Ms. Collette Woods
cwoods@blessedsacramentsi.com

UPK Administrator

Mrs. Maureen Hall
mhall@blessedsacramentsi.com

Faith Formation

Sister Anne Dolores Van Wagenen
(718) 448-0378
srannevanwagenen@gmail.com

Blessed Sacrament R.C. Church

30 Manor Road
Staten Island, NY 10310

(718) 442-1581
bldscrt@aol.com

Pastor

Bishop Peter Byrne