

Church of the Blessed Sacrament Manhattan

Rev. John P. Duffell, *Pastor*
Rev. Alfredo J. Balinong, S.J., *Associate*
Rev. Alexis Bastidas, *Associate*
Msgr. Robert B. O'Connor, *Pastor Emeritus*

Tina Silvestro,
Director Religious Education
Caroline Sliney, *School Principal*

Dr. Gregory D'Agostino,
Organist & Director of Music
Theo Corbin, *Pastoral Assistant*

CHURCH: 152 West 71st Street, New York, N.Y. 10023
SCHOOL: 147 West 70th Street, New York, N.Y. 10023

Ph: 212-877-3111
Ph: 212-724-7561

www.blessedsacramentnyc.org
www.sblsny.org

MASSES:

SUNDAY Masses: Sat. evening at 5:30 PM
Sunday: 8:30, 10:00 (Family Mass)
11:15 (Spanish), 12:30 (choir) & 5:30 PM
WEEKDAYS: 7:30 AM; 12:10 PM; 5:30 PM
SATURDAYS: 7:30 AM, 12:10 PM
HOLY DAYS & EVES. OF HOLY DAYS: As
Announced.

BAPTISM:

Third Sunday of the Month. Arrangements must be made at the Rectory at least two weeks in advance. Sponsors must be practicing Catholics. Parents, and also godparents when possible, must meet with the priest for a Conference before Baptism.

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday afternoons 4:30 to 5:15 pm, and anytime at the Rectory.

MARRIAGES:

Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance at the rectory to ensure the date and the hour desired. The Nuptial Mass is the ordinary form of celebrating Christian marriage, and should be strongly considered when making Wedding plans. Attendance at the Pre-Cana Conferences, or the equivalent, is required by the Archbishop.

PARISH BOUNDARIES:

Central Park West to the Hudson River, from the South side of 77th Street down to the North side of 65th Street.

NEW PARISHIONERS:

We welcome new parishioners, and invite them to register at the Rectory. The registration is our only means of certifying anyone as a member of our parish. If you move to another Parish, or change your address within the Parish, please notify us.

FATIMA DEVOTIONS:

The Rosary is said daily after the 12:10 pm Mass. Friday from 6-7 pm there is a holy hour.

BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

First Friday - Exposition: 12:35 pm.
Adoration: All day; Benediction: 5:15 PM.

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA:

Mondays, before the 12:10 Mass and before the 5:30 pm Mass.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS:

Classes in Religion for Catholic children/teenagers, Pre-kindergarten -High School take place on Sundays. The Family Mass begins at 10:00 a.m. in the Church followed by class instruction in the school.

Ongoing religious education is important for the religious development of your children. A child must have at least one year of religious instruction before enrolling in the First Communion or Confirmation class.

Spanish Programs Website: www.nygente.com

Sunday School Website: www.blessedsacramentsundayschool.org

Dear parishioners and friends,

What better season to immerse ourselves in the joy of meeting Jesus, our Messiah, then Advent. In this holy season, we stop and reflect upon, anticipate and prepare for the miraculous moment when God became human, entering into the history of the world in a way that brought transformation and new life. Our liturgical practices help us recognize the wonder of God coming among us as a vulnerable, cherished baby, a member, like each of us, of the human family.

John the Baptist is the embodiment of this willingness to anticipate, receive and proclaim the Messiah who comes, and it is his story that will dominate the readings of Advent.

For John, nothing is more important than the task of exporting those around him to prepare for the Lord. He speaks to us as a "voice of one crying out in the desert", reminding us that there is no task more pressing or, for that matter, more wonderful than proclaiming the coming of the one who will offer baptism in Spirit and in fire.

It would be tempting for us to relate to John and the signs and symbols of Advent as if they are locked in time, part of a long ago, historic record. But Christian time is not time tied to calendars, clocks, planners or apps.Christian time are moments in time that are ripe and opportune; moments in time in which God stands ready to do something new.

With the beginning of every liturgical year, We bring ourselves to the symbols and stories of Advent with open hearts and readiness for something new to happen, to us and for the world around us.

Many thanks to Mary Dankert who has offered the Advent Wreath in memory of her husband Wayne.

Monday of this week is the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, the first of the 12 to meet Jesus.....Thursday is the feast of St. Francis Xavier, a native Spaniard and one of the founding members of the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits...

Next Sunday at all of the Masses, Expectant Couples will be invited to come to the sanctuary for the Blessing of the Child in the Womb...

As a follow-up to last week's report from the Finance Council of the Parish, I thought I would like to share with you some words addressed by Peter Steinfelds, to his fellow parishioners at Ascension Parish....

"Every week we follow our habit of giving more or less the same amount. And whoever told us what that amount should be?

Maybe we learned from watching our parents put a dollar or

What if we paid our electric bill or our rent according to habit? What if there were no prices that changed over the years on bread or cereal or Big Macs—but we just paid whatever we were in the habit of paying?

I'm an old guy, so I would still be paying around 30 cents for my subway fare or a quart of milk or a gallon of gas, or 6 cents for a postage stamp and a nickel for my newspaper—just the way I did in 1970. I would still be tossing a couple of bucks or maybe five in the collection basket.

When it comes to our support for our parish, we cannot go by habit any longer. Father Duffell and the Finance Committee have made some suggestions. One is to increase our weekly offering by \$7. Another is to donate five percent of our family income to the parish. For a family with a total income of \$50,000, that comes to about \$50 each week.

That's not unreasonable. But what if for starters we gave just half that much—2.5 percent of our total family income? \$15 a week when the family income is \$30,000. \$25 a week when the total family income is \$50,000. \$50 a week when the total family income is \$100,000. It would put our parish on a firm financial footing.

So that's my closing plea. We have to break our old habits. We have to develop new habits, ones based on a realistic understanding of what is our responsibility for our parish.

Please pray about it, and God bless you in this Advent season."

Thank you Peter for letting use your words....Thank you to all of you, the people of Blessed Sacrament, for your understanding and your love of the parish. As the Finance Council has suggested, hopefully each of us will be able to increase our weekly offering by at least 25% and hopefully too, many more will join me in being part of parish pay.

As Advent begins, I urge you to try to drop into the church each day for prayer.....the Church is open at 7am and during Advent Dianne will provide beautiful music from the piano....and if possible stay for Mass.....As every day we pray for peaceGive peace O Lord, give peace we pray!

Father Duffell



The advent wreath has been offered in memory of *Wayne Dankert* Please remember him in your prayers throughout this Advent Season.

Queridos Feligreses y Amigos,

Que mejor forma de conocer a Jesús, nuestro Mesías que durante Adviento? Durante estos días reflexionamos, anticipamos y nos preparamos para el momento en que Dios se convirtió en ser humano y entro en la historia en una forma que trajo al mundo transformación y nueva vida. Nuestra práctica litúrgica nos ayuda a reconocer a Dios viviendo entre nosotros como un niño vulnerable, un miembro como los demás de la raza humana.

Juan Bautista es la encarnación de la disposición de anticipar, recibir, y proclamar la llegada del Mesías y es esta la historia que domina las Lecturas de Adviento.

Para Juan nada es más importante que prepararnos para el Señor. Nos habla como "una voz llorando en el desierto" recordándonos que no hay nada mas importante que proclamar la llegada de quien nos ofrecerá el Bautismo en espíritu y fuego.

Seria tentador para nosotros relacionarnos con Juan y los símbolos de Adviento como parte de un record histórico. Pero la Era Cristiana no es parte de un calendario, de un reloj, de una agenda o de apps...La Era Cristiana se compone de momentos oportunos en el tiempo; momentos en los cuales el Señor esta listo para hacer algo nuevo.

Al principio de cada año litúrgico nos acercamos a los símbolos de Adviento con el corazón abierto y listos para que suceda algo nuevo: para nosotros y para el resto del mundo.

Nuestro agradecimiento a Mary Dankert por ofrecernos la Corona de Adviento en memoria de su esposo Wayne.

Este lunes es la Fiesta del Apóstol Andrés, el primero de los 12 en conocer a Jesús...El jueves es la Fiesta de San Francis Xavier, nacido en España y uno de los fundadores de la Sociedad de Jesús, Los Jesuitas.

Durante las Misas del próximo domingo, parejas esperando nuevos vástagos serán invitados al Santuario para el "Blessing of the Child in the Womb".

En referencia al reporte financiero de nuestra Parroquia, deseo compartir con ustedes algunas palabras de Peter Steinfelds a los feligreses de la Parroquia de la Ascensión...

"Cada semana continuamos la costumbre de contribuir mas o menos la misma cantidad. Y quien nos dijo que ese era la cantidad correcta?

Quizás aprendimos de nuestros padres poner un dollar, quizás 5 o 10 en la canasta. Quizás comenzamos a contribuir cuando éramos niños o adolescentes. Quizás lo aumentamos un poco a traves del tiempo. Pero aun asi, es aun la costumbre.

Que tal si pagamos nuestro recibo de la luz o nuestra renta como de costumbre? Y si algunos precios no cambiaran para el pan o un Big Mac – pero seguiríamos pagando lo que acostumbrábamos a pagar?

Soy una persona mayor, asi que estaría aun pagando cerca de 30 centavos por ir en el subway, o por una botella de leche, un galón de gas, o 6 centavos por un sello y 5 centavos por el periódico – tal como lo hacia en 1970. Y aun continuaría poniendo un par de dólares o quizás 5 en la canasta en nuestra iglesia.

Cuando tenemos que apoyar nuestra parroquia, no podemos seguir con esta costumbre. El Padre Duffell y el Comité Financiero han sugerido lo siguiente. Aumentar por 7 dólares nuestra oferta semanal. Otra forma seria donar 5 por ciento del salario familiar a la Parroquia. Para una familia con un salario de \$50,000 anual, seria como 50 dólares por semana.

Esto es razonable. Pero por que no comenzar contribuyendo la mitad? 2.5 por ciento del total del salario anual de la familia? \$15 si el salario es \$30,000. \$25 cuando el total es \$50,000. \$50.00 si el salario es \$100,000. Nos ayudaría mucho con nuestras finanzas.

Y esto es lo que les pido. Tenemos que romper viejas costumbres Y comenzar con una costumbre más realista de lo que es **nuestra** responsabilidad para **nuestra** parroquia.

Recemos por esta posibilidad y que Dios los bendiga durante Adviento."

Gracias Peter por permitirme usar tus palabras...Gracias a ustedes los feligreses de Blessed Sacrament por su amor a nuestra parroquia. Como ha sugerido el Comité de Finanzas, esperemos que cada uno pueda aumentar su contribución por lo menos un 25% y que muchos firmaran a Parish Pay.

Durante Adviento les pido venir a la Iglesia cada día...esta abierta a las 7:00am y durante Adviento Dianne estará tocando el piano...si pueden, quédense para la Misa...cada día rezamos por la paz...Señor te pedimos darnos la Paz

“War destroys. And we must cry out for peace. Peace sometimes gives the idea of stillness, but it is never stillness. It is always an active peace. I think that everyone must be committed in the matter of peace, to do everything that they can, what I can do from here. Peace is the language we must speak.” Pope Francis





Saturday Eve	November 28th
5:30	Jinny Kim Gardino +
Sunday	November 29th
8:30	Maureen Nolan +
10:00	Fiore Arlia +
11:00	Gregorio de la Rivera
12:30	Lucy Lopez +
5:30	Intentions of Thomas Middelhoff
Monday	November 30th
7:30	Intentions of Fr. Fred Bakinong
12:10	Sally McNeil +
5:30	Irving Paster +
Tuesday	December 1st
7:30	Beatriz Pagan +
12:10	Intentions of Sr. Mary Pio Ferrario
5:30	Cesar G. Reyes
Wednesday	December 2nd
7:30	Ernesto Brusco +
12:10	Intentions of Sr. Mary Pio Ferrario
5:30	Intentions of Thomas Middelhoff
Thursday	December 3rd
7:30	Ernesto Brusco +
12:10	Dr. Jose Gregorio Hernandez +
5:30	Intentions of Thomas Middelhoff
Friday	December 4th
7:30	Nicholas Restuccia +
12:10	The Locante Family
5:30	Samuel Montalvo +
Saturday	December 5th
7:30	Intentions of Marielle and Mathew Benjamin
12:10	Juanita Coto +
5:30	Wayne Dankert +



25th Annual NEW YORK CARES COAT DRIVE!

On behalf of the needy within our local community, members of the Social Action and Young Adults Committees will be accepting used-coat donations at the entrance to the church before each of the masses on the weekend of December 12 and 13th. *Coats for adults and children should be "gently used", just cleaned and in fair condition or better.*

FIRST FRIDAY

This coming *Friday, December 4th*, is the first Friday. We have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament *after the 12:10pm mass and Benediction at 5:15p.m.* The Blessed Sacrament is exposed during the afternoon for your adoration. Please come and spend some time in prayer.



THE JOYJ INITIATIVE – JESSE TREE

JoyJ is once again sponsoring a Jesse Tree to gather NEW items for their Homeless Outreach. Please visit the tree in the Church, take an ornament or two and bring your item (unwrapped) to either the *5:30 Saturday Mass on December 19th or to any of the Sunday Masses on December 20th*, where it will be collected in the vestibule by the JoyJ Volunteers for distribution. Gifts may also be dropped off at the Rectory anytime

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

On the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month we have Bereavement Support Groups - **General Bereavement at 5:30 p.m.** and **Perinatal Loss** (for individuals and couples who have lost a baby through miscarriage, stillbirth or newborn death) **at 6:30 p.m.** Both groups will meet in the Rectory on December 5th. For more information, please call the Rectory at 212-877-3111. No registration is required. There is no fee.

COFFEE HOUR



Next weekend after the 8:30am, 10:00am, 11:15am, 12:30 and 4:00pm Masses we will have a Coffee Hour in the Rectory. Look forward to seeing you there!

Advent & St. Nicholas Celebration for Children

Please join our NYC Catholic Families Group in the undercroft of the church on Saturday, December 5th, 3:30-5:00pm. The message of waiting that Advent teaches us as Catholics is an especially important one to pass on to our sometimes impatient children. We will gather to do some Advent-related crafts and songs and to mark the Feast Day of St. Nicholas (12/6), on whom Santa Claus is based. Please join our Meetup group and RSVP at: <http://meetup.com/NYC-Catholic-Families/>.

PAX CHRISTI METRO NEW YORK—FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

As Advent begins anew we hear Jesus tell us to “be vigilant.” Yes, Advent is a season of watchfulness and preparation. But for what? Certainly Sunday’s readings are not about Jesus’ birth. Rather they suggest his second coming. And the signs of that coming sound pretty ominous. But wait! Jesus also tells us to “stand tall and raise our heads because our redemption is at hand.” So how do we get ready? St. Paul tells us to “increase and abound in love for one another and for all.” Let that be our challenge this Advent. Let that be our preparation. Let us be vigilant to expose and reject anything that is not love, be it fear, suspicion, discrimination, exclusion, injustice, or violence. Let’s make this Advent a season of love.

INVITATION

Pax Christi Metro New York invites you to a special Human Rights Day event, *Walking in the Footsteps of Palestine's Living Stones: Remembering God's Holy Innocents*, based on the Pax Christi Pathways to Peace Pilgrimage to the Holy Land last May. Join us for prayer, presentation, discussion, and light refreshments on Thursday, December 10th, 2015 from 7:00 to 9:00pm in Casserly Hall, St. Joseph's Church Greenwich Village Church, corner of Washington Place and Sixth Avenue (one block north of 4th Street). Contact info: 212-420-0250; nypaxchristi.org; www.nypaxchristi.org. Free will offering encouraged.

COLLECTION

Thank you so very much for your generous response to the needs of the parish. Our collection last Sunday was \$13,403. \$3,353 was received through ParishPay for a total of \$16,756. \$2,889 was received for **CCHD Campaign**.

THINKING AND PRAYING WITH POPE FRANCIS

Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis (Ch 3 Laudato Si
Tuesday Dec. 1st, 7-9pm—doors will open at 6:30pm offering some networking time.
Church of the Holy Name, Lower Church (96th St. bet. Broadway and Amsterdam)
Recommended reading: Chapter 3 Laudato Si.
Participation in previous workshops not necessary!

ADVENT SIMPLE SUPPERS

Please join us during the 4 Wednesdays during Advent: December 2, December 9, December 16 and December 23 for Prayer and Meditation followed by a light dinner of soup, salad, and bread. Prayers begin promptly at 7PM in the 2nd floor meeting room of the Rectory. It's a wonderful and contemplative way to prepare for Christmas. We hope to see you there. For more information please call/email Chris Williams (Tel. No. 304-337-1252; Email: jcw.arts@gmail.com) or Christina Russo (Tel.201-248-7244; Email: christinarusso3@gmail.com).

JOYJ INITIATIVE HOMELESS OUTREACH

On Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 10:00am from the Hall of the Lower Church of Blessed Sacrament. Members of the JoyJ Initiative have spoke at all of your Masses giving detailed information concerning this Outreach and how it impacts our less fortunate Brothers and Sisters who live on the streets of our City, as well as how this Outreach will fill your souls with the joy of Jesus. The comfort bags will already be prepared for you and experienced leaders will be assigned to groups going out to the various locations. We look forward to seeing you on December 12th at 10:00am for coffee and doughnuts before we head out. For more information please go to joyj.org and God Bless you.

ABC's of Catholic Relief Services... This week—CRS/Zimbabwe.

Strong working relationships with seven development arms of the Catholic Church in Zimbabwe and collaboration with the local government aid in American Catholics helping over 300,000 people in poverty stricken Zimbabwe. Orphans and vulnerable children are a focus of health and education programs. Next week: CRS/Angola. For more info visit: www.crs.org.

SAVE THE DATE—14TH Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Interfaith Peace Walk

When: Monday, January 18, 2016

Theme: Here the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor!

Time: Walk begins at 2:00pm.

Where: Gather at Holy Name of Jesus Church (West 96th Street/Amsterdam Avenue) for an introduction and short prayer; proceed to several Upper West Side faith communities for prayer and song and an invitation to a simple positive action step; end at the Church of Blessed Sacrament (West 71st St./Broadway) for prayer, refreshments and fellowship. A West Side Clergy event. More details to follow. Please spread the word to your congregations, colleagues and friends.

YOUTH CHOIR

Children (from grade 3 up) and Teenagers are invited to take part in the CHRISTMAS EVE YOUTH CHOIR which sings at the 5:30pm Christmas Eve Family Mass. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 4-5 pm beginning Dec. 2 and on Monday, Dec. 21. Please call Tina Silvestro at 212-877-3111 for a Parent Permission Form to sign up. Forms can also be found on the Sunday School website under the YOUTH CHOIR tab.

www.blessedsacramentsundayschool.org).

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS AT BLESSED SACRAMENT

You're invited! Please join us for monthly Special Needs Mass, welcoming families with loved ones on the autism spectrum and other challenging behaviors. Our next Mass will take place on **Sunday, December 6th at 4:00pm**. All families members are invited!. Please send inquiries to: jackie@snackny.com

