

# Church of the Blessed Sacrament Manhattan

**Rev. John P. Duffell, *Pastor***

**Rev. Alexis Bastidas, *Associate***

**Rev. Dennis Baker, S.J., *Sunday Associate***

**Rev. Msgr. Robert B. O'Connor, *Pastor Emeritus***

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

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

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**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](http://www.blessedsacramentnyc.org)  
[www.sblsnyc.org](http://www.sblsnyc.org)

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## **MASSES:**

SUNDAY Masses: Sat. evening at 5:30 PM  
Sunday: 8:30, 10:00 (Family Mass)  
11:15 (Spanish), 12:30 (choir) & 5:30PM  
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:**

Arrangements must be made at the Rectory. Sponsors must be practicing Catholics. Parents, and also godparents when possible, must attend the Pre-Baptismal conference which is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm in the rectory.  
*During Lent the sacrament of Baptism will be celebrated only in an emergency situation.*

## **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](http://www.nygente.com)

*Sunday School Website:* [www.blessedsacramentsundayschool.org](http://www.blessedsacramentsundayschool.org)

**PARISH NEWS**

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Fr. Alexis who has served our parish for 22 years has expressed an interest in becoming a pastor. For this to happen, he has to leave Blessed Sacrament to serve in another parish and then be ready to apply for parish openings. Our prayers are with Fr. Alexis.

Early in my administration, I asked for volunteers to serve on the parish Finance Council (which is required by Canon Law). Eleven people sent in resumes, nine people now serve on the Council and Patrick Draper accepted the position of chairperson. What a great gift, his willingness to serve - the other eight on the Council would agree wholeheartedly. He has worked long and hard - and kept me honest! Now, he has decided to step off the Council (but will be available for consultation). Patrick, I thank you and all the parish thanks you for so willingly sharing your time and talents. You've made a great difference.

I wish to publicly thank Theo Corbin for his many years of service as the Pastoral Assistant here in the parish, who is stepping back a bit, but will still be a presence here at Blessed Sacrament.

During the week, I sent out a letter to the parents of Sunday School children seeking support for the program. The Sunday School program costs the parish over \$91,000 per year. It's a great program. I am hoping that others in the parish might be willing to lend a financial hand.

March begins on Tuesday, month dedicated to St. Joseph, the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Pope John XXIII wrote this beautiful prayer to St. Joseph. I thought I would share it with you.

*O glorious Joseph! Who concealed your incomparable and regal dignity of custodian of Jesus and of the Virgin Mary under the humble appearance of a craftsman and provided for them with your work, protect with loving power your children, especially entrusted to you. You know their anxieties and sufferings, because you yourself experienced them at the side of Jesus and of His Mother. Do not allow them, oppressed by so many worries, to forget the purpose for which they were created by God. Do not allow the seeds of distrust to take hold of their immortal souls. Remind all the workers that in the fields, in factories, in mines, and in scientific laboratories, they are not working, rejoicing, or suffering alone, but at their side is Jesus, with Mary, His Mother and ours, to sustain them, to dry the sweat of their brow, giving value to their toil. Teach them to turn work into a very high instrument of sanctification as you did. Amen.*

In this Year of Mercy, pray for peace.

Fr. Duffell

**REMINDER**

This Tuesday is the first Tuesday of the month. Parents who wish to present their children for baptism, the Preparation Session takes place on March 1 at 7:30pm in the record. It doesn't matter the month of the Baptism - come to the conference.

*Our parish endowment is held in a joint Merrill Lynch/ Black Rock Account. If you'd like to review the February 2016 portfolio review, please see Matt Collins in the rectory.*



Join our parish community — and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States — in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. CRS Rice Bowl is a faith-in-action Lenten program for families, individuals and faith communities with family activities, meatless meals, prayers and reflections. Rice Bowl invites Catholics to live in solidarity with our most vulnerable brothers and sisters through the Lenten pillars of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.

**Please pick up a Rice Bowl** with a Lenten calendar and a flyer for more information at the church entrance.

**What you give up for Lent changes lives:**

“Lent is a time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty.”  
—Pope Francis

**COLLECTION**

Thank you so very much for your generous response to the needs of the parish. Our collection last Sunday was \$9,792. \$3,375 was received in ParishPay for a total of \$13,167.

**COMMITTEE FOR PASTORAL PLANNING**

**Make a difference in our future, join the Committee for Pastoral Planning**, a newly formed group that seeks to clarify our mission as a parish and then find ways to implement and fulfill it. The Pastoral Plan is a commitment made by the Pastor and parishioners to further the mission of the parish, the reason the parish exists.

We are looking for volunteers who can share their talents and skills to join sub-committees of data gathering, survey design, analytics, communications and meeting planning and facilitation.

**Please join us on March 5th from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM for our first Committee for Pastoral Planning assembly.**

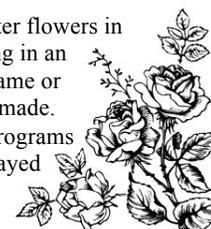
The planning process began in mid-January and should be complete by Thanksgiving. In order for our Pastoral Plan to be inclusive and collaborative, the process will require frequent communication with the various parish ministries, groups, individual parishioners, parish staff, Parish Council and the Pastor. Planning committee members will be seeking input from as many parishioners as possible. Data gathering will begin very soon and a parish Town Hall will be held. We will provide ongoing communication as the plan unfolds.

**We hope you will consider giving your time and talent to Blessed Sacrament Parish in this way. For more information, please leave your name and email address in the rectory office and a committee member will be in contact with you.**

**EASTER FLOWERS OFFERING**

Should you wish to make an offering for the Easter flowers in memory of a loved one, please place your offering in an envelope and on paper within, print clearly the name or names of those in whose memory the offering is made.

The names will be listed in all the Easter Mass Programs as well as the Church bulletin. Prayers will be prayed for them throughout the Easter Season.



**NOTICIAS PARROQUIALES**

Queridos Feligreses y Amigos;

El Padre Alexis quien ha servido a nuestra Parroquia por 22 anos ha expresado su interés en ser Pastor. Para que esto suceda tendrá que salir de Blessed Sacrament a servir en otra parroquia y estar listo para aplicar cuando haya una oportunidad disponible. Nuestras plegarias están con el.

Al principio de mi administración solicite voluntarios para el Consejo Financiero (lo cual es requerido por Ley Canónica). Recibimos 11 resumes, 9 ahora sirven en este Consejo y Patrick Draper acepto ser su Presidente. El ha trabajado muy duro y me ha mantenido honesto! Ha decidido retirarse (pero estará disponible para consultas). A Patrick nuestro agradecimiento por haber compartido con tan buena voluntad su tiempo y su talento.

Deseo públicamente agradecer a Theo Corbin su largo tiempo de servicio como Asistente Pastoral en nuestra Parroquia. Aunque ya se retira, Theo continuara presente en Blessed Sacrament.

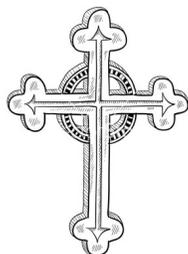
Esta semana he enviado una carta a los padres de los niños asistiendo "Sunday School" solicitándoles su apoyo para este programa. El mismo cuesta anualmente a nuestra Parroquia cerca de \$91,000.00. Es un gran programa y espero que otros feligreses se animen a contribuir.

El mes de Marzo comienza el martes. Es el mes dedicado a San Jose, el esposo de la Virgen Maria. El Papa Juan XXIII escribió una plegaria en su honor y quiero compartirla con ustedes.

*O glorioso Jose! Que escondiste tu incomparable y real dignidad de custodio de Jesus y Maria bajo la apariencia de humilde carpintero y a quienes mantuviste con tu trabajo, protege con tu poder a los hijos especialmente confiados a ti. Conoces su sufrimiento y su ansiedad, porque también Tu lo pasaste al lado de Jesus y de Su Madre. No les permitas que agobiados por preocupaciones, olviden el propósito para lo cual fueron creados por el Señor. No permitas que la semilla de la desconfianza se apodere de sus almas. Recuérdate a los trabajadores en los campos, en factorías, en minas y en laboratorios científicos que no están trabajando, regocijándose, o sufriendo solos, sino que a su lado esta Jesus con Maria, Su Madre y la nuestra, sosteniéndoles, secando el sudor de su frente, y valorando su esfuerzo. Y enséñales a convertir el trabajo, como hiciste Tu, en un instrumento de santificación. Amen.*

En este Año de la Misericordia, roguemos por la Paz.

Fr. Duffell



**MARTES DURANTE LA CUARESMA**

Cada martes durante la cuaresma a las 6:30pm tendremos misa en español. Vengan y compartan.

**TUESDAYS DURING LENT**

Each Tuesday during Lent at 6:30pm we will have Spanish mass. Come and share with us.



**WAY OF THE CROSS OVER THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE**

On Good Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Communion and Liberation will sponsor the Way of the Cross over the Brooklyn Bridge. Participants will congregate for the first station of St. James Cathedral, Brooklyn, at 10:00am. After a station on the Brooklyn Bridge, the procession will follow the cross to a third station at City Hall Park in Manhattan, and a fourth station near Ground Zero. The final station will be at St. Peter's Church, on Barclay Street, concluding at 1:30pm. At each station, there will be readings from the Passion, a meditation, a reflection and hymns. All are invited. For more information, please call Communion and liberation at (212) 337-3580 or visit its website at [www.wocbrooklynbridge.org](http://www.wocbrooklynbridge.org).

**TREAT THE PATIENT, HEAL THE PERSON:**

Embracing Spiritual and Cultural Diversity in Contemporary Health Practices.

Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 8:30am – 5:45pm  
Fordham University, E. Gerald Corrigan Conference Center,  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor Lounge  
113 West 60<sup>th</sup> Street, NYC

Join us for a daylong gathering of leading practitioners and scholars who represent diverse approaches to medicine, culture, and spirituality. We will examine cross-cultural perspectives in well-being, explore best practices, and propose innovative approaches to healthcare delivery.

**FREE ADMISSION** – RSVP: [crcprogram@fordham.edu](mailto:crcprogram@fordham.edu)

**LENTEN SIMPLE SUPPERS**

Please join us during any or all of the Wednesdays of Lent: 3/2, 3/9, and 3/16 for our Lenten Simple Suppers. Prayers and meditation begin at 7PM in the rectory, followed by a meal of soup and salad...and fellowship. The suppers are a wonderful way to not only deepen one's Lenten experience, but also to be able to reflect in a very comfortable and quiet setting with fellow parishioners. For more information, please call John Gasdaska at 646-345-7350. We look forward to seeing you then.

**SMACK**

Do you need help running errands? Is it difficult for you to grocery shop? Or travel to places in the winter-time? Do you know someone who could use just a little help or a small act of kindness (SMACK)? Contact the rectory for assistance and we'll connect you to one of our parishioner-volunteers. This program is not appropriate for people that need medical assistance or skilled nursing care. (Note: We are no longer accepting volunteers at this time, only people in need of assistance.)

**FOOD & FAITH CONNECT!**

This spring (for the first time!) parishioners can buy fresh, organic, locally grown vegetables from the Dominican Sisters' Harmony Farm in Goshen, NY. After all masses on February 27 & 28, March 5 & 6, and March 12 & 13 you can purchase a membership to the Sisters' farm and receive a box of produce each week from April through November. We'll deliver the food to Blessed Sacrament and you can pick it up on the Church steps! Also included in membership is the opportunity to go on retreat at the farm.

**YOUNG ADULT MASS WITH CARDINAL DOLAN**

You are invited to join the Office of Young Adult Outreach on Wednesday March 9th, 2016 at St. Patrick's Cathedral (5th Avenue between 50th and 51st street, New York, NY) for a Mass with his Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan. Adoration and confessions will be available from 6:30 – 7:30pm. Mass begins at 7:30pm. Music by Audrey Assad and Josh Blakesly. There will be a social after the Mass at Vermillion, 480 Lexington Ave, New York, NY. For more information and to join CatholicNYC events newsletter please visit [www.catholicnyc.com](http://www.catholicnyc.com). Once a week you will be updated with all the amazing events happening for young adults. Go to [www.catholicnyc.com](http://www.catholicnyc.com) to sign up!

**BE THE CHANGE: CLIMATE COMMITMENTS FOR LENT**

Lent is an opportune time to evaluate our lifestyles and make conscious decisions that contribute to a happy, healthy planet. Together, we can follow Pope Francis' lead to choose what is good by adapting our behavior and being better stewards of the earth and her resources. Each week through Easter, we will be providing advice and tips on how to decrease your carbon footprint this Lent. You can begin to incorporate these actions and changes in your daily life, creating a sustainable and more earth-friendly lifestyle.

**Fourth Week: February 28**

Unplug this week! When you're not using an outlet, unplug the phone charger, computer charger, or cable box to help conserve energy. Do a quick check to unplug and turn off lights before you leave your home, and help save energy while you're gone! Consider getting your electricity from renewable sources (ask your company for wind and solar) and switch all those lightbulbs to CFLs or even better to LEDs if you haven't done so already.

To be involved in the parish's Care for Creation efforts, contact Luke Mayville at 208-610-1783.



**SÉ EL CAMBIO: ACCIONES POR EL CLIMA PARA LA CUARESMA**

La Cuaresma es un momento oportuno para evaluar nuestro estilo de vida y tomar decisiones conscientes que contribuyen a un planeta feliz y saludable. Juntos, podemos seguir el ejemplo de Papa Francisco para elegir lo que es bueno, adaptando nuestro comportamiento para ser mejores administradores de la tierra y sus recursos. Cada semana hasta Pascua, vamos a ofrecer un consejo o sugerencia sobre la forma de reducir su huella de carbono durante esta Cuaresma. Esperamos que puede comenzar a incorporar estas acciones y cambios en su vida cotidiana, creando un estilo de vida mas sostenible para el bien del planeta.

**Cuarta semana: 28 Febrero**

Desenchufe esta semana! Cuando no se está usando una toma de corriente, desenchufe el cargador del teléfono, cargador de la computadora o aparato de cable para ayudar a conservar la energía. Hacer una revisión rápida para desconectar y apagar las luces antes de salir de su casa, y ayudar a ahorrar energía mientras no estás! Considerar la obtención de su electricidad de fuentes renovables (pregunte a su compañía de energía eólica y solar) y cambiar todas esas bombillas a las lámparas fluorescentes compactas o incluso mejor a los LEDs si no lo ha hecho ya.

Para participar en los esfuerzos de nuestra parroquia para el Cuidado de la Creación, contactar a Luke Mayville al 208-610-1783.



**Saturday Evening, February 27th**

5:30 Lina Yanni +

**Sunday, February 28th**

8:30 Edward Adebahr + and Todd Maloney +

10:00 Luigi Coto +

11:15 Ita McDermott +

12:30 Intentions of Thomas Middelhoff

5:30 Stephen Pak Yin Wong +

**Monday, February 29th**

7:30 Bernie Levy +

12:10 Luigi Pate +

5:30 Bob Notine +

**Tuesday, March 1st**

7:30 Joseph F. Harrison +

12:10 Lowes Paisley +

5:30 Intentions of Thomas Middelhoff

**Wednesday, March 2nd**

7:30 Roberto Montinola +

12:10 James C. Parkes +

5:30 Bolivar Garcia +

**Thursday, March 3rd**

7:30 Quirico Camus +

12:10 Reverenda Madre San Luis +

5:30 Gloria Veltri +

**Friday, March 4th**

7:30 People of the Parish

12:10 Emilio Lim +

5:30 Intentions of Thomas Middelhoff

**Saturday, March 5th**

7:30 All Souls in Purgatory

12:10 Juanita Coto +

**SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

With the growing number of students in our Sunday School program the need for volunteers is also growing. Catechists, assistants, and substitutes are needed. All volunteers who work with children will need to complete a background check form and an abuse awareness and prevention class as provided by the Archdiocese. Please call Tina Silvestro at 212-877-3111.

**LENTEN PRAYER**

O God, you call us to repentance and offer us mercy and forgiveness in Christ Jesus. May this gracious gift so fill us with joy that we bear the fruit you desire, working to share the abundance of your creation with all those in need. *Amen.*



If you have not registered in the parish and attend our mass regularly, please fill the following form out and return it to the Rectory office. *All information will be kept confidential*

**NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION FORM**

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Spouses Name** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Only if BOTH are Registering)*

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Apt. #** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Occupation** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Spouses Occupation** \_\_\_\_\_

**How should we address you? (Check One)**

**Mr. & Mrs.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mr.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mrs.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ms.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Would you like to receive weekly offering envelopes?**

**Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **No** \_\_\_\_\_

**If not, would you like us to sign you up for ParishPay?**

**Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **No** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARISH PAY**

Parish pay will collect monthly contribution from your checking, savings or credit card account and send it to the parish. There is no cost to you to participate in the program. You may log onto [www.parishpay.com](http://www.parishpay.com) or call 1866-727-4741 ext.1 to sign up.



School of the Blessed Sacrament is accepting applications for grades 1 - 8, with financial aide opportunities for qualified families! School of the Blessed Sacrament is a pre-k through eighth grade Catholic elementary school in the heart of the upper west side. Our well-rounded curriculum incorporates love of God, self, and others. We integrate technology, the arts, music, and physical education to provide a liberal arts education for the whole child. We seek to develop saints and scholars through innovative, personal learning experiences. Contact us today at 212-724-7561 or [www.sblsnyc.org](http://www.sblsnyc.org).

Looking for a great kid (and parent!) night out? School of the Blessed Sacrament hosts a Kids' Night Out from 6-9pm the first Saturday of every month. Activities include sports, arts and crafts, zumba, games, and more! Visit <http://www.kidsinthegame.com/registration> for details and pricing. Don't miss the next event - March 5, 2016!



Early bird ticket rates are now available for The School of the Blessed Sacrament's annual auction! Join us on March 12, 2016 for a fun night out supporting our school and reliving the 80's!

Visit <http://www.auctionsbs.com/purchase-tickets> for information and tickets (as well as child care discounts!). Hope to see you there!

**NYC CATHOLIC FAMILIES MEETUP GROUP**

Parents are invited to join our NYC Catholic Families Meetup Group. We are +130 families striving to raise our children in the love and knowledge of Christ. In addition to seasonal events, we host "night out" events for mothers and fathers here at the rectory.

For more info: [www.meetup.com/NYC-Catholic-Families/](http://www.meetup.com/NYC-Catholic-Families/)

**ABC'S OF CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES**

This week - CRS/Kenya: Over 1.5 million Kenyans are served by Catholic Relief Services with the help of American Catholics. Kenya is advancing economically but still more than half the population lives below the poverty line and the rural poor suffer everyday obstacles we would find incomprehensible - such as walking for two hours to fetch dirty drinking water. Last week - CRS/Jordan. Next week - CRS/Liberia. For more info visit: [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org)

**MARGARET F. GRACE LECTURE**

"Where Do I Find Hope?"

Dorothy Day and the Solution of Love:

A Conversation with Robert Ellsberg, John L. Allen Jr., and Sr. Simone Campbell

April 12, 2016

7pm – Smith Hall

College of Mount Saint Vincent

6301 Riverdale Avenue,

Riverdale, New York 10471

For more information and to register, visit:

[www.mounsaintvincent.edu/grace](http://www.mounsaintvincent.edu/grace)