



SPONSOR CERTIFICATES

Only the parish office handles sponsor certificate requests Monday to Friday, 9AM to 5PM. 718-356-0294. To be considered active members of our parish, each family and single adult must be **properly registered** and must **regularly use the weekly donation envelopes at Sunday Mass**. This is the only way the parish can issue a Godparent/Sponsor Certificate (or other letter) declaring that the person named is a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Parishioners must be registered and **must be using the envelopes for at least 6 months before a Sponsor/ Godparent Certificate can be issued**. Besides attending Mass each Sunday and Holy Day, a godparent/sponsor must also be **confirmed Catholic**, and if married, be **married in the Catholic Church**. Cohabitation disqualifies a person from serving as godparent. If your child is approaching a Sacrament for the first time, **please let godparent/sponsor candidates know of this protocol well in advance so that the candidate will have plenty of time to rectify any impediments that would prevent him/her from serving as godparents.**

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Parishioners,

Lent is about loving Jesus better (blessed be His Name). In his first Encyclical Letter, *Redemptor Hominis* (1979), Pope St. John Paul II focused the universal Church's attention on the Person of Jesus Christ the Lord. He said that we "do not forget even for a moment that Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, became our reconciliation with the Father (Romans 5:11; Colossians 1:20). It was He, and He alone, who satisfied the Father's eternal love, that fatherhood that from the beginning found expression in creating the world, giving man all the riches of creation, and making *him little less than God* (Psalm 8:6), in that he was created *in the image and after the likeness of God* (Genesis 1:26). He and He alone also satisfied that fatherhood of God and that love which man in a way rejected by breaking the first Covenant (Genesis 3:6-13) and the later covenants that God 'again and again offered to man' (Eucharistic Prayer IV)."

"The redemption of the world, this tremendous mystery of love in which creation is renewed, is, at its deepest root, the fullness of justice in a human Heart, the Heart of the First-born Son, in order that it may become justice in the hearts of many human beings, predestined from eternity in the Firstborn Son to be children of God (Romans 8:29-30; Ephesians 1:8) and called to grace, called to love. The Cross on Calvary, through which Jesus Christ, a Man, the Son of the Virgin Mary, thought to be the son of Joseph of Nazareth, 'leaves' this world, is also a fresh manifestation of the eternal fatherhood of God, who in Him draws near again to humanity, to each human being, giving him the thrice holy *Spirit of truth* (John 16:13). This revelation of the Father and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which stamp an indelible seal on the mystery of the Redemption, explain the meaning of the Cross and death of Christ."

"The God of creation is revealed as the God of redemption, as the God who is *faithful to Himself* (1 Thessalonians 5:24), and faithful to His love for man and the world, which He revealed on the day of creation. His is a love that does not draw back before anything that justice requires in Him. Therefore, *for our sake (God) made Him (the Son) to be sin who knew no sin* (2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13). If He *made to be sin* Him who was without any sin whatsoever, it was to reveal the love that is always greater than the whole of creation, the love that is He Himself, since *God is love* (1 John 4:8, 16)."

"Above all, love is greater than sin, than weakness, than the *futility of creation* (Cf. Romans 8:20). It is stronger than death. It is a love always ready to raise up and forgive, always ready to go to meet the prodigal son (Cf. Luke 15:11-32), always looking for *the revealing of the sons of God* (Romans 8:19), who are called to *the glory that is to be revealed* (Romans 8:18). This revelation of love is also described as mercy (Cf. St. Thomas, *Summa Theol.*, III, q. 46, a. 1, ad 3); and in man's history this revelation of love and mercy has taken a form and a name: that of Jesus Christ.

St. John Paul deliberately connects Christ to love because: "Man cannot live without love. He remains a being that is incomprehensible for himself—his life is senseless—if love is not revealed to him, if he does not encounter love, if he does not experience it and make it his own, if he does not participate intimately in it. This, as has already been said, is why Christ the Redeemer 'fully reveals man to himself'. If we may use the expression, this is the human dimension of the mystery of the Redemption. In this dimension man finds again the greatness, dignity and value that belong to his humanity. In the mystery of the Redemption man becomes newly 'expressed' and, in a way, is newly created. He is newly created!"

"*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus* (Galatians 3:28). The man who wishes to understand himself thoroughly, and not just in accordance with immediate, partial, often superficial, and even illusory standards and measures of his being, he must with his unrest, uncertainty and even his weakness and sinfulness, with his life and death, draw near to Christ. He must, so to speak, enter into Him with all his own self, he must "appropriate" and assimilate the whole of the reality of the Incarnation and Redemption in order to find himself. If this profound process takes place within him, he then bears fruit not only of adoration of God but also of deep wonder at himself. How precious must man be in the eyes of the Creator, if he 'gained so great a Redeemer' (*Exsultet* at the Easter Vigil), and if God *gave His only Son* in order that man *should not perish but have eternal life* (John 3:16)."

"In reality, the name for that deep amazement at man's worth and dignity is the Gospel, that is to say: the Good News. It is also called Christianity. This amazement determines the Church's mission in the world and, perhaps even more so, 'in the modern world'. This amazement, which is also a conviction and a certitude, at its deepest root it is the certainty of faith. But in a hidden and mysterious way it vivifies every aspect of authentic humanism, and is closely connected with Christ. It also fixes Christ's place, so to speak, His particular right of citizenship, in the history of man and mankind. Unceasingly contemplating the whole of Christ's mystery, the Church knows with all the certainty of faith that the Redemption that took place through the Cross has definitively restored his dignity to man and given back meaning to his life in the world, a meaning that was lost to a considerable extent because of sin. And for that reason, the Redemption was accomplished in the paschal mystery, leading through the Cross and death to Resurrection. The Church's fundamental function in every age and particularly in ours is to direct man's gaze, to point the awareness and experience of the whole of humanity towards the mystery of God, to help all men to be familiar with the profundity of the Redemption taking place in Christ Jesus."

God bless you!

Father Eric



ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH
16 POPLAR AVENUE
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10309

Saturday, March 7, 2026

5:00pm(Vigil) Pat Meehan

Sunday, March 8, 2026

8:00am Loretta & Fred Buckley

10:00am Antonio Emilio

12Noon Raymond Coyne

WEEKDAYS

Monday: 9:00am People of the Parish

Tuesday: 9:00am Deceased at St. Joseph Cemetery

Wednesday: 9:00am Joseph Oppedisano

Thursday: 9:00am Christopher Rucci & Rosalia & Anthony LaFranca

Friday: 9:00am Ernesto Gugliara

Saturday, March 14, 2026

9:00am Pasquale Berardi

5:00pm(Vigil) Nick & Frances Zagarino

Sunday, March 15, 2026

8:00am Barbara Kelly

10:00am Loreti & Ungarelli Family-Living & Deceased

12Noon Luke & Domenica Napodano



MARRIAGE BANNS

- 1st Banns** Devin Bostick & Antonique Rivela
- 1st Banns** James Potestivo & Samantha Deassis
- 2nd Banns** Vincent Frunzi & Kristina Arcaro
- 2nd Banns** Michael Reimann & Carlyann Cogliano
- 3rd Banns** Matthew Martin & Caitlin Hourican
- 3rd Banns** Joseph Bellomo & Taylor Caridad

BAPTISM SEMINAR

SATURDAY, March 28, 2026

Immediately following the 6:00pm Mass at St. Thomas Church there will be a meeting for expectant parents and parents of newborn babies. Parents are expected to be at Mass as well as the meeting. We urge parents to attend before the baby is born. We also urge Godparents to participate by attending this meeting. This is a requirement for all parents prior to the Baptism of their child.

Lent

During Lent- Mass:

Every Friday at 7:00pm at St. Thomas Church.

Stations of the Cross:

Every Friday following the 9:00am Mass at St. Joseph, and St. Thomas Church at 12noon in *Italian* and after the 7:00pm Mass in the evening.



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH
6123 AMBOY ROAD
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10309

Saturday, March 7, 2026

6:00pm(Vigil) Salvatore Tubiolo

Sunday, March 8, 2026

9:00am Catherine, Angelina, George, Demo & James Martinos

10:00am(It) Vincenzo & Bellina Demetrio

11:00am Giacinto Carbone

1:00pm Brian Rodrigo

2:30pm Special Needs—Anthony Triano

6:00pm Mario, Maddalena & Concetta Cirillo

WEEKDAYS

Monday: 7:00 am Carlos Morales Alvarado

8:00am Margot Bluett-63rd Anniversary

Tuesday: 7:00am Michael Ciotola, Jr.

8:00am Alexandria Brim-Living

Wednesday: 7:00am Michael Barry

8:00am Betty & Sal Aquino

Thursday: 7:00am Mangin Family

8:00am Rose & Mario Maresca

Friday: 7:00am Carmine & Angelina LaRocca

8:00am Bea Conti

7:00pm Helen Ciccarelli

Saturday, March 14, 2026

8:00am Emiliano & Anna Franco

6:00pm(Vigil) Nicholas Paul Conte

Sunday, March 15, 2026

9:00am Franz & Ida Sauer

10:00am(It) Sibilila, Pietro & Michael Dellegrazie

11:00am Barbara Cannizzaro

1:00pm Donald Erkman

6:00pm Jo Renee Burke



All are Invited

Feast of St. Joseph

- **Thursday, March 19th is the Feast of Saint Joseph. There will be a Solemn High Mass at 6 PM at St. Thomas Church with the distribution of blessed bread.**

We will adorn the sanctuary with lilies, the flower traditionally employed to signify the purity and holiness of Saint Joseph. *Lilies can be memorialized to honor a loved one and to ask our Patron Saint to pray for that person.* Please call the parish office for more information.

SICK & HOMEBOUND

If someone is homebound or in the hospital, please notify us. Arrangements can be easily made for the Sacrament of Anointing. Holy Communion is brought to the sick by the Priests weekly or monthly as requested. Please let us know your needs by calling the parish office.

Ethel Ducey, Joseph A. Pulizotto, Ellen Merli, Louis Amatrudo, Stacey Benvenuto, Gertrude Sokolowsky, John Michael Pasquale, Hope Vosilla, Helen Cole, Kristen Kress, Isla Albashara, Anthony Pelle, Christina Natale, Neil DeGennaro, Wesley Devita, Tina Bini, Patricia Conway, Tom Quercia, Linda DiSilvio, George Marino, Michael Archer, Michael Rokicki, Renee Bavero, Joseph Mangano, Gertrude Buonomo, Dominic Aiello.

In your sympathy, please pray for: Caterina Santangelo, Lucille DeMaio, Marie Prato, Robert Mangieri.

•ST JOSEPH ST PATRICK ANNUAL SUPPER

Our parish will host our fourth annual St. Joseph— St. Patrick Supper in Finn Hall. All are welcome, as we honor Joseph, the patron saint of the universal Church, and Patrick, the patron saint of our diocese. Irish and Italian culture will be celebrated in food and music. The supper takes place Saturday, March 14th from 7 PM to 9 PM. All are welcome. Admission is \$25 which includes beer and wine. Children under 12 are free. The proceeds will go to benefit the charitable works of our parish groups towards the needy. Reserve seats by calling the parish office.

Easter/Spring Baskets for the Home-bound

It is the Easter season and the Friends of St. Vincent, once again, are preparing spring baskets for the home-bound parishioners. Any items you can donate to help prepare these baskets would be greatly appreciated. Items can be dropped off in the back of St. Joseph or St. Thomas the weekends of March 21st and March 28th. Some of the items we are asking for are:

- *Puzzles
- *Chapstick
- *Adult Coloring Books
- *Word Search
- *Crosswords
- *Toothpaste & Toothbrush
- *Playing Cards
- *Pens & notepads
- *Nail polish
- *Small hand creams/lotions/sanitizers
- *Colored pencils/markers/crayons

Thank you so much. We appreciate all you do.

SACRED HEART

REMEMBRANCE VIGIL CANDLES

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OF

JOSEPH C. MENDOLIA

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GREAT GRANDFATHER

“FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS”

YOUR LOVING FAMILY

requested by Dolores Mendolia

OUR REMEMBRANCE VIGIL CANDLES

will burn for 1 year in St. Thomas Church for:

IN LOVING MEMORY

OF

MARCO & MARTHA SIGNORILE

“FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS”

YOUR LOVING FAMILY

requested by Theresa Geandomenico

IN LOVING MEMORY

OF

GASPER & ELAINE SIGNORINO

“ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS”

YOUR LOVING FAMILY

requested by Joanne & Peter Silecchio

IN LOVING MEMORY

OF

ANTHONY CORINO

11-16-36- - 2-11-15

CHERISHED HUSBAND, DAD & GRANDPS

“ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS”

ANN

requested by Ann Corino

IN LOVING MEMORY

OF

RYAN ANTHONY PISAPIA

“FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS”

XO XO XO XO

requested by Christine & John Pisapia

IN LOVING MEMORY

OF

PETER G. IDONE

“LOVE AND MISS YOU GRANDPA”

XO XO XO XO

requested by Christine & John Pisapia

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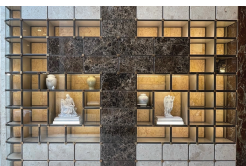
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