



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Parishioners,

As you know, from your reading of Sacred Scripture, when our blessed Savior first met St. Peter, it was at the shore of the Sea of Galilee. The Blessed Fulton Sheen writes, “He turned to Simon and told him to launch out into the deep. ‘Let down your nets for a catch’, He directed him. Simon, however, was far from convinced. He was not prepared to challenge Him, but neither would he obey wholeheartedly. Even the word he used in answering Jesus reflected the ambivalence of his attitude. ‘Master’, he said. It was the same word that Judas would use when betraying Him, a word without hint of recognition of the Divine, at most an admission of His status as a teacher, a rabbi.”

“Simon’s words reveal his thoughts. ‘What does He, coming from Nazareth, know about the way to fish at Capernaum,’ he was surely thinking. ‘At this time of day, who would dream of catching fish? The professional fisherman knows that night is the time to fish, and we have worked all night yet found nothing.’”

“Peter knew all about fishing on the lake of Gennesaret. It was accordingly as a mark of respect to the Master—as one might say, to humor Him—that he agreed to go part way: ‘but at Thy Word I will let down the *net*.’ Our Lord had asked for *nets*; Peter compromised with a *net*. Our Lord asks for complete obedience; the servant gives a begrudging response. The flesh is not spirit; reason is not faith. Peter, relying on reason let down a net. He flung into the Lord’s face the bitter cry of life’s unfruitful hours.”

“But when the net caught a quantity of fishes so great that it was near breaking, suddenly there appeared from behind the bulk of Simon the priestly form of Peter: Simon Peter fell down and caught Jesus by the knees; *Leave me to myself, Lord ... I am a sinner*. (Luke 5:8). Notice the double changes of name. Christ is no longer ‘Master’; He is ‘Lord’. Simon is no longer ‘Simon’; he is ‘Simon Peter.’ The priest’s nature asserts itself over that of the man under the impact of the miracle wrought by the High Priest for the benefit of Simon’s unworthy self. It was more than fish that Simon caught; it was the Lord.” (Fulton J. Sheen, *The Priest is Not His Own* [1963], p. 168-169).”

Today’s celebration is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, traditionally referred to in Latin as Corpus Christi. In the Eucharist we too catch the Lord and He catches us. That is why it is called Holy Communion. Jesus gives Himself totally to us and we to Him. Jesus tells us: *Remain in Me as I remain in You*. (John 15:4). Holy Communion does not merely signify that Jesus is “with” us and that we are “with” Him. Certainly, it indicates that. However, Communion is not limited to that level of union with Christ. Communion means that we live “in” Him and He “in” us. Wow! What a profound level of union!

Why does Jesus set up this Most Blessed Sacrament to generate this kind of intense, extreme union with Him? Because He loves us. Really. Truly. Unconditionally. However, in order to receive Holy Communion and this level of oneness with our Savior we must be living the Catholic moral life, following His commandments. In other words, we must be living in the state of grace, without any unrepented mortal sins on our conscience.

If we embrace Jesus in our souls by means of receiving the Eucharist then we must have the relationship that justifies such a profound, intimate embrace. We must be practicing our Catholic Faith. When that is the case, our receiving Communion, embracing Jesus in our soul, becomes an act of love. On the other hand, if we are living at enmity with Christ, in a way that He finds detestable, as indicated in the Word of God, and we receive Holy Communion anyway, that action is an act of hate. It’s offensive to Him.

Similarly speaking, if a man embraces a woman with a romantic, intimate hug he had better have the relationship to justify such an embrace. He had better be her husband or boyfriend, in good standing, for instance. If so, then the hug is an act of love that fosters the relationship. If not, then his hug is offensive, and calls for punishment, even a 911 call.

St. Paul mentions this phenomenon of unworthy communions in the first century Catholic Church at Corinth: *For he that eats and drinks [the Eucharist] unworthily, eats and drinks judgment upon himself, not discerning the Body of the Lord* (In other words, not respecting how infinitely holy the Eucharist is). *For this reason, there are many sick and weak among you, and [the reason] many have died*. (1 Corinthians 11:29-30).

The Apostle was saying that in the encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ (blessed be His Name) sacramentally, we find salvation or damnation, depending upon the way we are living. This is the reason why priests will make an announcement at Masses where there are probably a good number of people who are not practicing Catholics, at weddings and funerals, for instance. In the announcement the priest suggests to the congregation that each may receive a blessing with arms crossed, rather than the Holy Eucharist, if that person is not a practicing Catholic.

The Eucharist is a wonderful gift indeed! But it is also a very serious and solemn matter because the Eucharist is ultimately not a “what”. The Eucharist is a “He”. If all of this analysis startles us then pray, hope and don’t worry. There is always Confession!

God bless you!

Father Eric



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

Saturday, June 6, 2026

5:00pm(Vigil) Mary Anne Farrell

Sunday, June 7, 2026

8:00am Joan Martorelli
 10:00am Edwin & Carmela Honor
 12Noon Loretta Coyne

WEEKDAYS

Monday: 9:00am People of the Parish
 Tuesday: 9:00am Deceased at St. Joseph's Cemetery
 Wednesday: 9:00am Joseph DeGennaro
 Thursday: 9:00am Vincent Carreca
 Friday: 9:00am Intentions of Fr. Myles Murphy

Saturday, June 13, 2026

9:00am Margaret Ann Schillaci Colacino
 5:00pm(Vigil) John & Angela Luppachino

Sunday, June 14, 2026

8:00am The Byrne Family
 10:00am Loreti & Ungarelli Family-Living & Deceased
 12Noon James & Elizabeth O'Berg



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

Saturday, June 6, 2026

6:00pm(Vigil) Madeline, Jerry, Michael & Jamie Vitacco

Sunday, June 7, 2026

9:00am Julia & William Simmons
 10:00am Vincenzo & Bellina Demetrio
 11:00am Georgina Takoushian
 1:00pm Vincenzo, Domenico & Maria Badame
 6:00pm Gloria Scaglione-1st Anniversary

WEEKDAYS

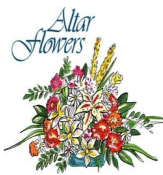
Monday: 7:00 am Carol Fiechter
 8:00am Josephine Regina
 Tuesday: 7:00am Carol Ann Fiechter
 8:00am Thomas Michael Murphy
 Wednesday: 7:00am Manuel Torrijos
 8:00am Joseph & Millie Gaizza
 Thursday: 7:00am William Felci
 8:00am Lydia Oppedisano
 Friday: 7:00am Gennaro Liguori
 8:00am Louis Tuzzino

Saturday, June 13, 2026

8:00am Rosina Orefice
 6:00pm(Vigil) Ted Loschiavo & Alfred Fiechter

Sunday, June 14, 2026

9:00am Anna Schiano
 10:00am Sibilia, Pietro & Michael Dellagrazie
 11:00am Barbara Cannizzaro
 1:00pm George Shahwan
 2:30pm **Special Needs– Diana Thompson**
 6:00pm Nicholas Paul Conte



MEMORIALS

Our **Altar Flowers** have been
 donated this week at St. Thomas Church

In Loving Memory of
Barbara Cannizzaro

requested by Mark Cannizzaro



Our Bread and Wine this week is offered :

At St. Thomas Church
In Loving Memory of
Emersita Bonilla

requested by Maria Vega & Eddie Claudio



MARRIAGE BANNS

1st Banns Pascal Padovana, Jr. & Araceli Gutierrez
2nd Banns Peter Tursi & Caterina Candela
3rd Banns John Bonomolo & Victoria Castro



BAPTISM SEMINAR

SATURDAY, June 27, 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 participate by attending this meeting. This is a requirement for all parents prior to the Baptism of their child.



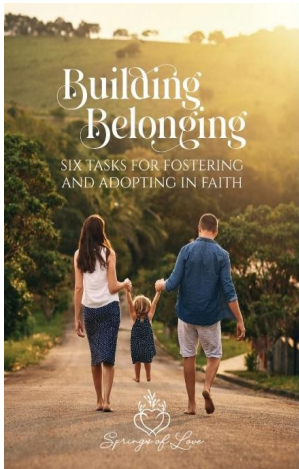
Father's Day is just around the corner. We shall remember our fathers, living and deceased, in all our Masses on **Father's Day, June 21st**, and throughout the month of June. Mass remembrance cards are available in the Church vestibule and in the Parish Office.

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.

Joseph A. Pulizotto, Ellen Merli, Louis Amatrudo, Stacey Benvenuto, Gertrude Sokolowsky, John Michael Pasquale, Hope Vosilla, Helen Cole, Kristen Kress, Anthony Pelle, Jr., Christina Natale, Neil DeGennaro, Wesley Devita, Patricia Conway, Tom Quercia, Linda DiSilvio, George Marino, Michael Archer, Michael Rokicki, Renee Bavero, Joseph Mangano, Gertrude Buonomo, Dominic Aiello, Robert Salvador, Angelo Cordella, Cathy Pisano, Frances Minieri, Kym Garrison, Angelica Munoz Teahan.

In your sympathy, please pray for: Rosella M. DiGuido, Marianna Guarnaccia, Emanuella Scopelliti, Elaine Mazzarisi, Genoveffa Dima, Rocco LaRocco.



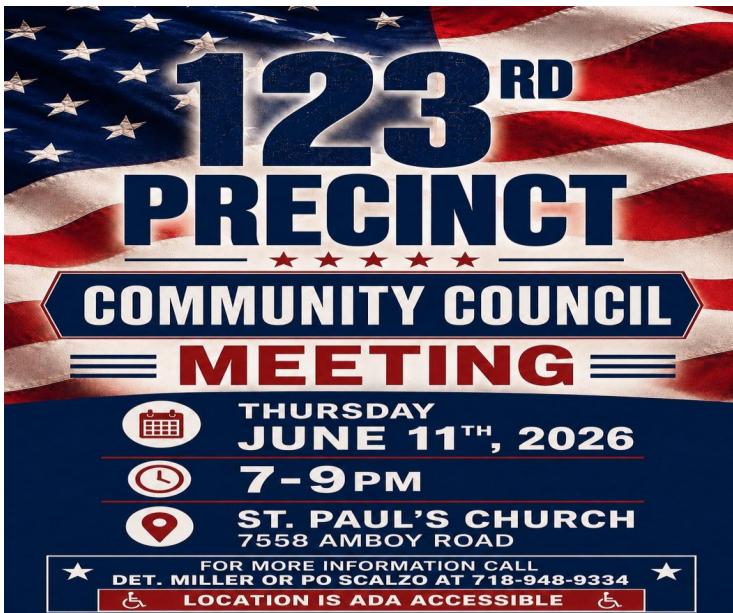
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7-9 PM

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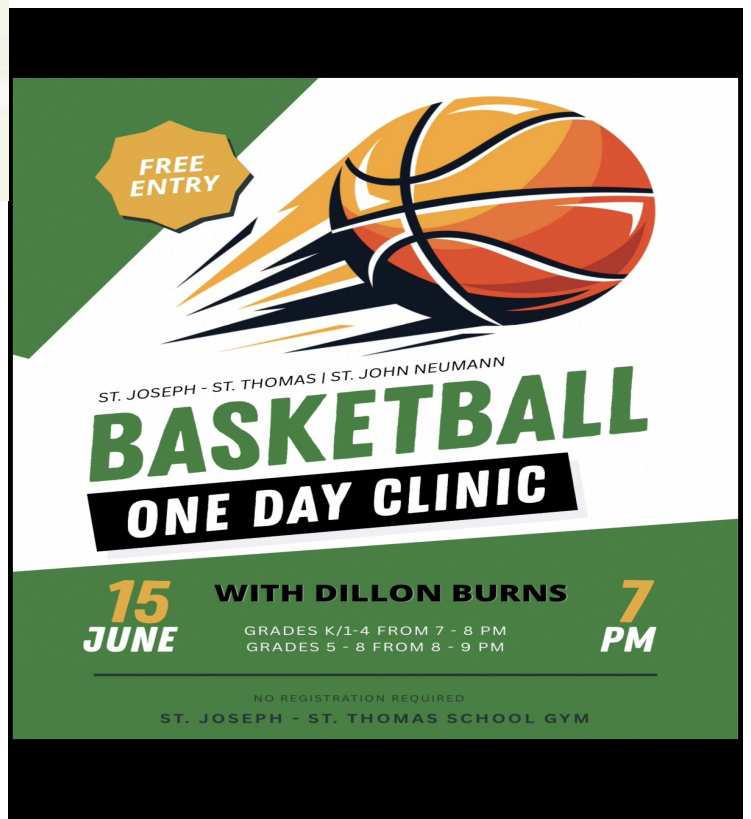
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IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
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"ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS,
WE LOVE AND MISS YOU"
YOUR LOVING WIFE, JOAN & FAMILY
requested by William M. Naeder, Jr.

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
GAETANO CACACE
BELOVED HUSBAND & FATHER
"ALWAYS AND FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS"
requested by Antonia Cacace

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
DOMINICK TEMPERINO
"ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS"
YOUR LOVING FAMILY
requested by Rita Temperino



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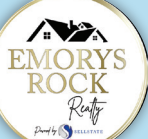
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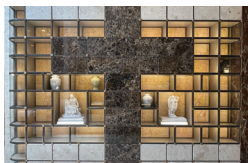
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