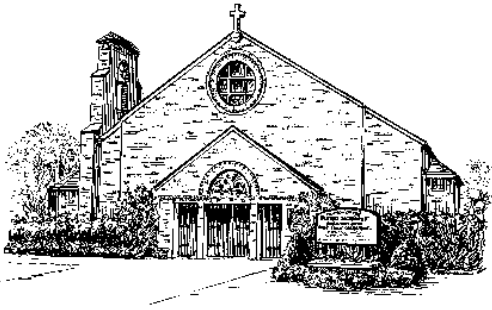


BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

December 16, 2018

Staten Island, New York 10310



Reverend Monsignor Peter G. Finn, Pastor
Reverend Francisco Lanzaderas
Reverend Roland Antony Raj, MMI
Deacon Christopher Wodzinski

MASSES:

Saturday in the Church: 5:00 PM (Vigil), Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM.
Weekdays in the Church: 7:00 AM and 9:00 AM. Saturday in the Church: 9:00 AM.
Holy Days in the Church: 7:00 PM (Vigil), 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 12:00 to 1:00 PM; 4:15 to 5:00 PM.
Anytime upon reasonable request.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Sunday at 2:00 PM. (Except during July & August, then only on the First and Third Sunday and other specified days)
Arrangements should be made at least one month in advance with the priest of the Parish. Parents of a first child and parents who are new to Blessed Sacrament must attend a Baptism Instruction Class which is held the second Tuesday evening of every month (except July and August) at 7:30 P.M. in the Parish House Meeting Room. Godparents should be Practicing Catholics, and must obtain a Sponsor Certificate from their Parish.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Arrangements should be made about six months in advance, with a priest of the Parish. Couples must attend Pre-Cana Conferences.

SICK CALLS - At any time.

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA - Every Monday after the 9:00 AM Mass.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION - First Friday from 12:00 Noon to 2:00 P.M.

NEW PARISHIONERS - Welcome to our Parish.

We invite all parishioners to participate fully in our spiritual and social life. If you are new in the parish, please introduce yourself after Mass and register at the Parish House Office weekdays 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Kindly notify us if you change your address.

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30 Manor Road
442-1581

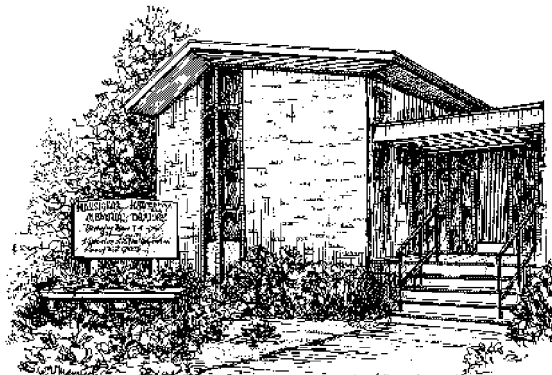
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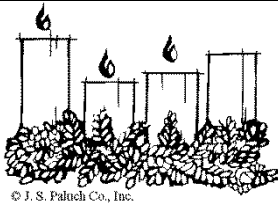
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442-3090

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Third Sunday of Advent

ADVENT RECONCILIATION MONDAY

Monday, **December 17th** is Advent Reconciliation Monday, confessions will be heard from 4pm till 8pm. An Advent Penance Service will be held at 7pm.

BLESSED SACRAMENT SENIORS

The next meeting of the Blessed Sacrament Seniors will be held on **Monday, December 17th** at 1:15pm. Please enter through the school parking lot on Greenleaf Avenue at the double doors to the school. We are looking for Senior men and women who would like to share cake & coffee, some good conversation, interesting trips and fun! All are welcome!

Christmas Eve Mass Schedule:

4:00pm - Children's Liturgy

6:30pm - Vigil Mass

12:00 Midnight - Concelebrated Mass

Christmas Day, Dec. 25th

8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am & 12:30pm

<u>SUNDAY COLLECTION</u>	
<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
\$8,154 (Weekly)	\$8,319 (Weekly)
\$2,040 Religious Retirement	\$1,200
<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	
<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
731 (Adults)	657 (Adults)
162 (Children)	135 (Children)
893	792

THE SANCTUARY LAMP KEEPS ITS SILENT VIGIL BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT IN LOVING MEMORY OF DONALD PACE



The bread and wine are offered this week in honor of the Corpus Family.



The altar flowers are in honor of Barbara Eden.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

The sick are comforted just knowing that you pray for them. In your charity please remember: Margaret Pittman-Boyle, Douglas Pfleging, Jr., Phyllis Ribaud, Ann Socci, Concetta Chicolo, Mary Kenny, Jean Carter, Jane Redmond, Carolyn DeStefano, Robert Tursi, Nicholas Toto, Marykate Rose, Peggy Travers, Mary Anne Blaine, Jean Cunningham, Jean Elmadary, Alan March, Sebastian Lattuga, Grayce Novaro, Angela Siuzdak, Helen Ramsey, Katherine Barbera, Margaret Romani, Br. William Herbst, Barbara Brown, Michael Caruso, Patricia Connelly, Mary Belli, Mark Volpe, Linda Hansen, Marco Antonio Gonzalez, Larry Taylor, Jr., Kathy Quinlan, Katie Hanley, Jose Ruiz, Rosemary Callahan, Robert Hammerton, Catherine Vitale, Capala Lusi, Jack McGarry, Robert McQuade, Brian Nelson, Molly Cafaro, Maryann & Danny Brown, James McGarrigle, James Finnigan, Lelia Moran, Gail Kees, Cara Healy, Phyllis Morrell, Marion Coolen, Michael Roskowski, Barbara Braisted, Jeff Orr, Debbie Caporale, Ana Ely Diaz, Ruth Orr, John G. Ferreira, Gina King, Anna Scampas, Kaitlyn, Elinor Walshe, Joan Callahan, Roy Yates, Joyce McDonough, Ed Checkett, Eileen Doran, Lorrayne P., Lucille D'Arpe, Joanne Karundeny, Louis Raiola, Mike Mancuso and Fanny Leonard

SYMPATHY

Remember the souls for whom Mass will be offered during the week, especially:

MONDAY

7:00 Arthur J. Dickman

9:00 Deceased members of O'Mahoney Family

TUESDAY

7:00 Kristine Durr (Living)

9:00 Mary McAloon Kenny (24th Anniv.)

WEDNESDAY

7:00 Peter Strom (Living)

9:00 Maria Lilla Stanzione (Anniv.)

THURSDAY

7:00 George Fochlich

9:00 Donald Pace

FRIDAY

7:00 Sandra Gargalomi

9:00 Michael Signorile

SATURDAY

9:00 Maria Novaro

5:00 Ansel & Mary Martin

SUNDAY

8:00 Vito & Catherine Lucatorto

9:30 JoAnn Young (13 Anniv.)

12:30 Anthony Mazza

SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 23, 2018

<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>		
5:00 PM Vigil	Team	9
8:00 AM	Team	10
9:30 AM	Team	6
11:00 AM	Team	7
12:30 PM	Team	8

<u>LECTORS</u>
K. KELLEY
F. MOLANPHY
L. PILLARELLA & K. GULLICKSON
J. PACE
D. MAJ

<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>
V. DONNELLY & C. ROONEY
J. HANSEN & M. THOMANN
J. WRIGHT & K. BYRNE
J. PACE & H. WODZINSKI
J. SPACH & M. SPACH

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Do you have unanswered questions about the Church's teachings? Well you're in luck! Come to Theology on Tap to hear more about the "Why?" behind the "What" the Church teaches. Join fellow young adults (ages 21 - 39) for Theology on Tap. Fr. Jack Soler will be this month's speaker. **December 17th**, 7 to 10pm at The Flagship Brewery, 30 Minthorne Street. The Brewery will be open just for us, so come and enjoy some awesome brews. The Archdiocese's Office of Young Adult Outreach will be providing pizza. Please RSVP at the Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2273300746287436/>

FROM THE PASTOR

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day much of the Christian World will sing of a Silent Night. Here is how it all began.

Silent Night

Even though "Silent Night" has been recorded more than any other song in history, the fact that we know it at all is a miracle. Created out of necessity and performed in a tiny village on a solitary Christmas Eve by two ordinary Austrians and a tiny choir, this incredibly beautiful and simple carol owes its debut to an organ that wouldn't play and a priest who wouldn't hold a Christmas mass without special music. Later, just weeks into the new year, the beloved carol's march to worldwide popularity was begun by the man who came to fix the faulty instrument.

In 1817, twenty-five year old Joseph Mohr was assigned to the position of assistant priest at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria. A lover of music since his boyhood in Salzburg, Mohr was placed in charge of the music used at the small church and he even wrote poems and song lyrics for special services. A seemingly tireless and giving man, he spent much of his spare time ministering to children from the area's poorest families. In his desire to serve and inspire, if ever a man fulfilled the full description of the word pastor, it was Mohr.

In 1818, during a particularly cold winter, Mohr was making last-minute preparations for a special Christmas Eve mass, a service he had been planning for months. Everything from music to message was in place. But as he cleaned and readied the sanctuary, the priest encountered an unfathomable dilemma: St. Nicholas's organ wouldn't play. A frantic Mohr struggled with the old instrument for hours, making adjustments, fiddling with keys, stops, and pedals, even crawling behind the console to see if he could find a problem. In spite of his efforts, the organ remained silent, its voice as still as a dark winter's night.

Realizing he could do nothing else, the priest paused and prayed for inspiration. He asked God to show him a way to bring music to his congregation on the year's most meaningful day of worship. Mohr would find the answer to his prayer born from events initiated almost two years before St. Nicholas's organ played out.

In 1816, while assigned to a church in Mariapfarr, Mohr had written a Christmas poem. The six unadorned stanzas were inspired on a winter's walk from his grandfather's home to the church. Though he had shared the words with a few friends, the priest never sought to have the work published nor attempted to come up with a melody to go with his words. When Mohr was transferred to the church in Oberndorf, he had brought the poem along with his few personal possessions.

Digging "Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!" from his desk, Mohr read over the words two years later. Up until that moment the verses hadn't seemed very important to the priest, but as he read them again, it was as if the Lord was tossing him a lifeline of hope. Buoyed by new and unfolding expectations, he shoved the worn paper into his coat pocket and rushed out into the night. Only hours before the Christmas Eve midnight mass, the priest fought his way through snow-covered streets.

On that same evening, thirty-one year old schoolteacher Franz Gruber was struggling to stay warm in his drafty apartment over the schoolhouse. Though he had once studied organ with noted teacher Georg Hardobler, he now played the instrument only for St. Nicholas's modest services. As he went over notes from one of his lessons, Gruber must have been surprised to hear an insistent knock at his door and find Father Mohr on the other side. By that time, the priest should have been at the church preparing for services, not making

PAGE FOUR

rounds, visiting old friends and colleagues.

After a quick “Merry Christmas,” the obvious agitated priest pulled the teacher to the apartment’s small table and signaled for Gruber to sit down beside him. In a distressed tone, Mohr explained the problem they faced. After he convinced Gruber nothing could be done to fix the organ, Mohr showed Franz his poem.

“Franz,” he begged, “can you write music to these words that can easily learned by our choir? Without the organ, I guess the song will have to be played on a guitar.” The priest glanced at the clock on the table, and added, “The time is so short!”

Studying the poem, Gruber nodded his head. The look in his eyes and the smile on the schoolteacher’s face showed that he felt up to the challenge. Confident again that God somehow had a special plan for this Christmas Eve, Mohr raced back across the snow to the church, leaving Gruber alone with his thoughts, a ticking clock, and a prayer for inspiration. A few hours later the two friends met at St. Nicholas. There, in a candlelit sanctuary, Gruber shared his new music with Mohr. The priest approved, and after learning the guitar chords, rushed it to the choir members, who were waiting for their scheduled rehearsal. What should have taken weeks was accomplished in hours. In the little time they had, Mohr and Gruber taught the choir members the four-part harmonies to the last two lines of each verse.

Just after midnight, Mohr and Gruber stood in front of the main altar and introduced their simple little song. As they sang, they couldn’t have guessed that “Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!” would be remembered not only the next Christmas in their small village, but almost two hundred years later, around the world.

A few weeks into the new year, Karl Mauracher, an organ builder and repairman from the Ziller Valley, traveled to Oberndorf to fix St. Nicholas’ organ. While Karl worked, Mohr shared the story of how he and Gruber had used a guitar and an original composition to save the Christmas Eve mass. He sang the song he considered an answered prayer. Impressed the repairman jotted down the words and learned the melody. Over the next few years, as he went about his profession, Mauracher introduced “Stille Nacht!” to many churches and towns.

During the nineteenth century, Austria and Germany had scores of traveling folk singers. In 1832, the Stasser family folk singers appeared in a small community where Mauracher had recently installed an organ. During their stay, the family of singing glove makers learned “Stille Nacht!” A few weeks later, at a concert in Leipzig, the Stassers performed the carol in front of a large crowd that had gathered for a fair. Moved by the song’s deep spiritual message, King William IV of Prussia requested his nation’s Cathedral Choir sing “Stille Nacht!” at his annual Christmas celebration. Due in part to the king’s favor, “Stille Nacht!” stormed across much of Eastern Europe and pressed west to Great Britain.

In December of 1839, another Austrian family group, the Rainers, traveled to New York. As part of one of their performances, the family sang “Stille Nacht!” in English for a huge crowd at Trinity Church. By the Civil War, “Silent Night” had become America’s most popular Christmas carol. During the battle between the Union and Confederacy, it was not unusual for hostilities to cease for four days starting on December 25, with troops from both sides laying down their arms to come together to worship, share gifts, read Scripture, and sing “Silent Night.”

By the late 1800s “Silent Night” had been translated into more than twenty languages and was a vital part of Christmas celebrations all around the world. And by the twentieth century, like the celebration of Christmas itself, “Silent Night” had moved out of the church and into the mainstream.

In 1905 the Haydn Quartet cut the first recording of “Silent Night.” By 1960, the carol was recognized as the most recorded song in music history.

Despite its popularity, “Silent Night” remains in most minds what it was written to be - a simple, direct ode of praise. Created to make a Christmas service more meaningful, the old Austrian carol is as powerful and fresh today as it was on that first Christmas Eve it was sung at St. Nicholas Church. An answer to prayer, few words have better captured the story of a Savior born in a manger than “Silent Night.”

From Stories Behind the Best Loved Songs of Christmas
By Ace Collins: Zonder Van

God bless you
Msgr. Finn

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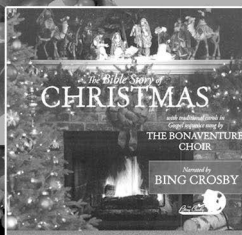
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