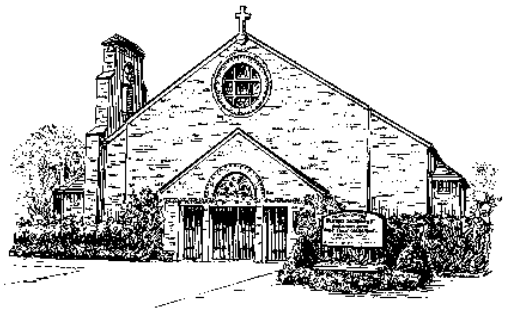
BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

February 21, 2021

Staten Island, New York 10310



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

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 at 7:30 P.M. in the Church. Call Parish Office for dates. 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.

EUCHARISTIC 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.

PARISH HOUSE
30 Manor Road
442-1581
http://www.blessedsacramentchurchsi.org

SCHOOL
Mr. Joseph Cocozello
Principal
830 Delafield Avenue
442-3090

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PARISH ORGANIZATIONS
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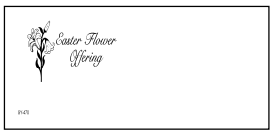
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
Holy Name Society
Lectors
Parent's Guild
Prayer Group
Saint Joseph Guild
Saint Vincent de Paul Society
Seniors
Titan League
Ushers
Interested in joining? Call the Parish House for contact information.



EASTER FLOWERS

The beautiful Easter lilies and spring flowers that adorn our altar and sanctuary are a special part of the celebration of Easter at Blessed Sacrament Church. We invite all parishioners to share in the experience through a memorial or thanksgiving gift by making an *Easter Flower Memorial Offering* by using the offertory envelopes found within your envelope packet or by way of the WeShare online offering website. Donations towards the cost of Easter flowers in our Church may be made to remember loved ones, honor friends, to offer thanksgiving to God for prayers answered and blessings received. The *suggested donation is $5 or $10 per offering***.** Please make your memorial offering on/before March 28th. Your generosity is so very much appreciated. All Easter Flower Memorials will be placed on the altar throughout the Easter Season.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12
Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

SUNDAY COLLECTION

2021	2020
$2,993 (Weekly)	**$5,718 (Weekly)**
$ 650 (Peter's Pence)	**$2,005 (Monthly)**

ATTENDANCE

2021	2020
289 (Adults)	**715 (Adults)**
53 (Children)	**129 (Children)**
342	**844**

THE SANCTUARY LAMP KEEPS ITS SILENT VIGIL BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT IN LOVING MEMORY OF DECEASED MEMBERS OF BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

PRAY FOR THE SICK

The sick are comforted just knowing that you pray for them In your charity please remember: Douglas Pfleging, Jr., Ann Socci, Concetta Chicolo, Mary Kenny, Jean Carter, Robert Tursi, Nicholas Toto, Marykate Rose, Peggy Travers, Jean Cunningham, Jean Elmadary, Alan March, Grayce Novaro, Katherine Barbera, Barbara Brown, Michael Caruso, Patricia Connelly, Mary Belli, Mark Volpe, Marco Antonio Gonzalez, Kathy Quinlan, Jose Ruiz, Catherine Vitale, Jack McGarry, Brian Nelson, James McGarrigle, James Finnigan, Lelia Moran, Gail Kees, Cara Healy, Marion Coolen, Michael Roskowinski, Jeff Orr, Debbie Caporale, Ana Ely Diaz, Ruth Orr, John G. Ferriera, Gina King, Joan Callahan, Joyce McDonough, Eileen Doran, Lucille D'Arpe, Joanne Karundeny, Louis Raiola, Mike Mancuso, Lucinda Bieber, Patrick Foley, Lorraine Esposito, Linda Gagliardi, Eileen Doran, Katharine Taylor, Frances Novaro, Vincent Gallo, Jeanne Pace, Maria & Giuseppe Esposito, Nicholas Kinahan, Baby Andrew Haggerty, Noreen Brown, Bobby DelGatto, Angelina Danton, Denise Leprine, Anthony LoCasto, Rosemary McManus, Christopher McNulty, Infant Bennett Berardi, Bill Bonner, Jane McDonnell, Lauren Sklenar Chiafullo, Jeanne Leonard, Dariusz Fleszar, Rosemary Callahan, James Carrozza, Rosemary Salaycik, Thomas Hafey, Helen Dennie, Lenora Smallman and Matthew Hokana

SYMPATHY

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

MONDAY
7:00 No Intention
9:00 No Intention

TUESDAY
7:00 No Intention
9:00 No Intention

WEDNESDAY
7:00 No Intention
9:00 Lisa Sapone

THURSDAY
7:00 No Intention
9:00 Mary Patricia Peters

FRIDAY
7:00 No Intention
9:00 Leonhard Adam

SATURDAY
9:00 Nancy Nicholson
5:00 Peter Saldi

SUNDAY
8:00 William Mannino
9:30 Arthur Brestlin
12:30 John O'Connell

SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 28, 2021

	ALTAR SERVERS	LECTORS
5:00 PM Vigil	Christian Hanley	K. Kelley
8:00 AM	Matthew Meagher	C. Burns
9:30 AM	Logan Keilty	D. Maj
11:00 AM	Michael Harrington	J. Hansen
12:30 PM	Claire Keag	R. Semon

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The New York Catholic Bible School Program offers the Scriptural foundations of our faith and provides ongoing formation for interested adults in the Archdiocese of New York. The Bible School helps us to deepen our knowledge of and appreciation for Sacred Scripture, enabling us to share the Word of God with those we serve. Registration for upcoming Spring courses is now open. To register or to obtain more information go to: adultfaithformation@archny.org.

ST. CLARE'S EMPLOYMENT GROUP

The St. Clare's Employment Group is open to all jobseekers and their families. All meetings begin at 7:30pm. Please contact the St. Claire Rectory at 718-984-7873 and provide your name, telephone number, and your email address so a link to the Zoom Meetings can be sent. The next meeting is **March 18th: "Dynamics of the Interviewing Process"** - Holly Block, Assistant Director, College of Staten Island Office of Recruitment and Admissions.

REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL

Lent is the time of year we devote to scrutinizing our lives in the light of our baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus. Today's readings are a nice shorthand catechism of what our baptized lives mean. As Noah passed through the waters of the flood to a covenant with God, so did we enter into a covenant, a promised relationship with God through our baptism.

Peter's letter gives an explicit explanation of what our baptism means: it is an appeal we make to God for a clear conscience. How do we obtain this clear conscience? The words proclaimed by Jesus immediately following his temptation show us the way: "Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). It might be a good spiritual exercise to keep these readings before us throughout the entire season of Lent, a means to help us return to a life lived by our baptismal promises.

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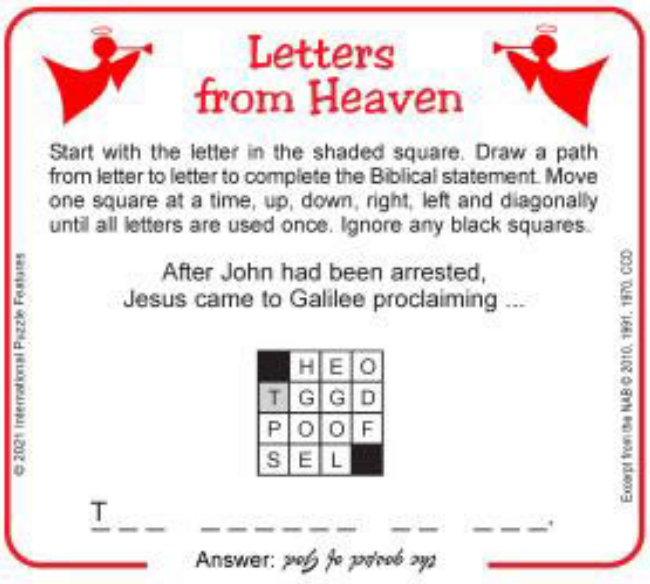

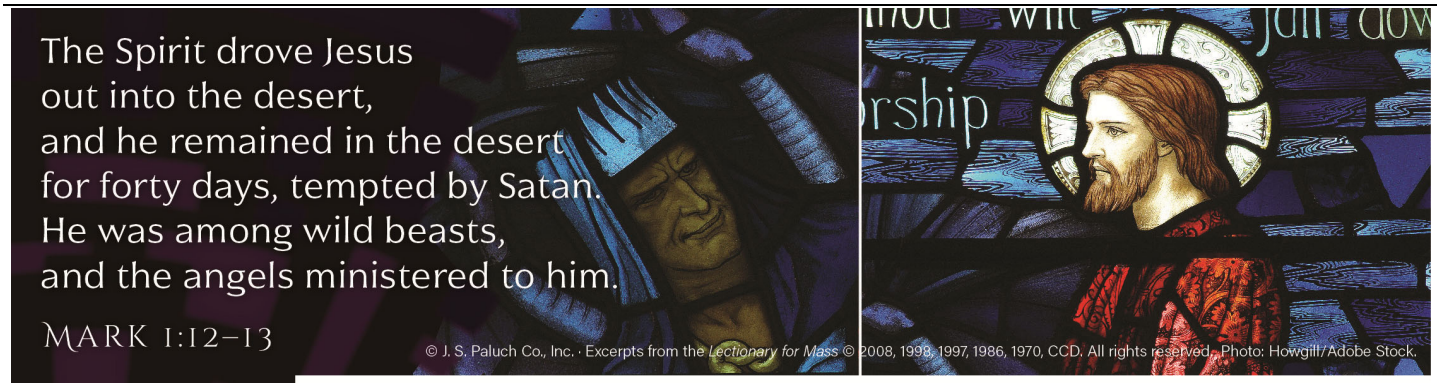

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FIRST LENT

SUNDAY OF

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

BAPTISM

Today's readings suggest two different meanings and experiences of baptism. The second reading (from 1 Peter) makes an analogy between Noah's ark and Christian baptism: just as Noah and his family were saved from death by going through the waters of the flood in the ark, Christians are saved from sin and death by going through the waters of baptism. The first reading, from Genesis, portrays the world after the flood: washed clean of its prior wickedness, embraced by God's promises that the world will never again be destroyed by water. The psalmist expresses a desire to follow the ways of God, as if re-establishing the harmony between God and humanity destroyed by sin. This peaceful scene is very different from the drama and urgency in Mark's description of Jesus after his baptism. Jesus battles demons, receives sustenance from angels, and begins preaching: "Repent. The kingdom of God is at hand."

GOOD MORNING! WELCOME TO LENT!

You probably did not get that greeting from your priest today, and you probably did not expect it. Isn't Lent a time of reflection and repentance? Somber purple, no "Alleluias"? Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; attending to one's relationship with God?

True enough; however, there are Lenten practices that have a festive air woven into these penitential elements. One example is in the Church's retrieval of ancient Lenten practices that made up the final preparation of persons elected to receive the Easter sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and eucharist. Jesus' urgent preaching in today's passage from Mark comes soon after his own baptism and reminds us that these sacraments still signal a dramatic change in a person's life: they have responded to Jesus' preaching of the kingdom and are now publicly professing themselves to be disciples of the Lord and fully initiated members of his visible church. The prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent were part of that preparation. Repentance was then, and remains today, important also for those already fully initiated; the work of repentance, of prayerfully examining our lives and making changes in anticipation of God's reign, is an ongoing aspect of our life in Christ.

A SECOND CHANCE TO MAKE A FIRST IMPRESSION

Other changes with baptism are more subtle and personal. When Noah and his family emerged from the ark, they saw that the floodwaters had receded after cleansing the world of human sinfulness. Everything was clean and fresh—a new creation, with a rainbow to guarantee God's promise to never again destroy the world with water. So, too, will the newly baptized emerge from the font and be anointed with chrism. Like the earth after the great flood, they are a new creation. Washed clean of sin and anointed with chrism, they are renewed in the embrace of the God of covenant love.

This is why Lent is always a festive anticipation of Easter and always about baptism, just as it is always about the repentance that draws us more deeply into God's kingdom.

TODAY'S READINGS

Genesis 9:8–15
Psalm 25:4–5, 6–7, 8–9
1 Peter 3:18–22
Mark 1:12–15

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