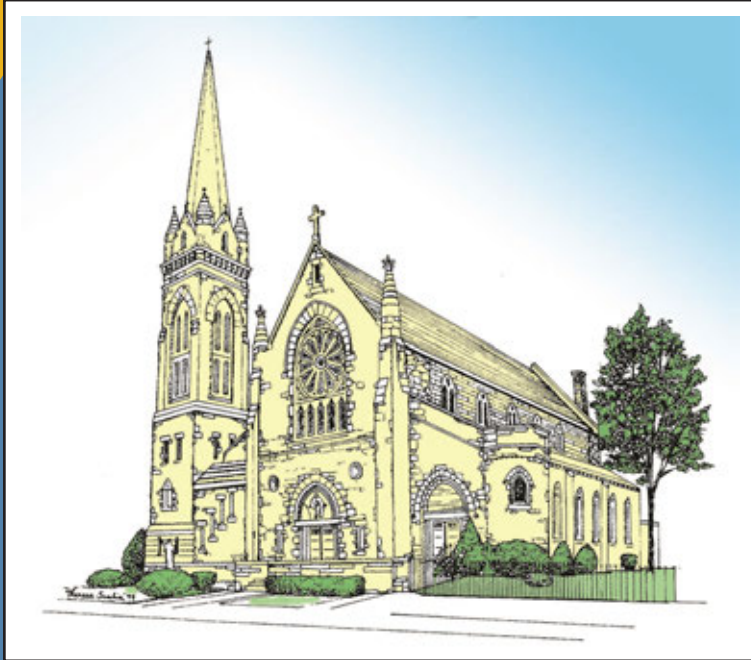


Blessed Sacrament Church



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www.blessedsacramentnr.com

Email: 15shea@optonline.net

Pastor: Rev. William Luciano

Rev. Biju Peter, C.M.I., Parochial Vicar

Rev. George Obeng-Yeboah-Asuamah, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Rudy Babor

Organist & Music Director:

Mr. Jonathan Mercado

music.blessedsacramentnr@gmail.com

The Sacrament of Baptism: Call the rectory to make an appointment with a priest.

No date will be given until the necessary paperwork is received and verified.

The Sacrament of Marriage:

Arrangements should be made at least (6) six months to a year in advance. Call the Rectory to make an appointment with the Pastor. No dates are given over the phone.

Parish Registration: All Catholics living in the Parish should be registered. Parents with children in our school religion program must be registered and using envelopes. Kindly inform us if you are moving.

Religious Education Program:

Thomas Aquinas Center

24 Shea Place • 914-235-7311

Mrs. Gina Gardon, Coordinator

Ms. Gladis Kann, Secretary

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

Cemetery located at 95 Kings Highway

Cemetery Office at 15 Shea Place • 914-636-6343

Devotions:

Miraculous Medal Novena:

Monday, after 12:10pm Mass

First Friday of the Month: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 12:10pm Mass till 3:00pm with Prayers to the Divine Mercy to follow.

Sunday Mass: Sat. 5:00pm in English, 7:00pm in Spanish, Sun. 7:30, 9:00, 10:30am & 12:10pm

All Masses on Sunday in English • 1st Sunday of the Month at 1:30pm Mass in French

Weekday Mass: Monday to Friday: 7:00am, 12:10pm • Saturday: 8:00am, 12:10pm

Holy Day Mass: Vigil 5:00pm • Feast itself: 7:00am & 12:10pm & 7:00pm (Unless noted in the Bulletin)

Sacrament of Confession: Mon. to Fri. 6:45 to 6:55am and 11:30am to 12 noon

Sat. 11:30am to 12:00 noon; 4:00pm to 4:55pm; and in Spanish at 6:30pm to 6:50pm

From the Pastor's Desk

Last week we began an article, written by Msgr. Charles Pope. He seeks to put into chronological order the appearances (twelve in total) of Jesus from the day of the Resurrection to the day of the Ascension. Last week we recorded the first six appearances (all which happened on the day of the Resurrection). We now continue with Msgr. Pope's article:

Three: Interlude

- A. There is no biblical account of Jesus appearing to anyone during the week that followed. The next account of the resurrection says, "Eight days later," namely the following Sunday.
- B. We do know that the apostles exclaimed to Thomas that they had seen the Lord, but that he refused to believe it (John 20:24)
- C. Were the apostles nervous that Jesus had not appeared again each day? We do not know; there are no accounts of what happened during this interlude.

Four: One week later, Sunday two

- A. Jesus appears once again (**APPEARANCE 7**) to the gathered Apostles. This time Thomas is with them. He calls Thomas to faith, and Thomas now confesses Jesus to be Lord and God (John 20:24-29).

Five: Interlude two

- A. The apostles had received instructions to return to Galilee (Matthew 28:10; Mark 16:7) where they would see Jesus. Thus they spent some of this interlude journeying 60 miles to the north, a trip that would have taken a considerable amount of time. We can imagine them making the trek north during the intervening days.

Six: Sometime later

- A. The time frame of the next appearance is somewhat vague. John merely says "after this." It is likely a matter of days or a week at best. The scene is at the Sea of Galilee; not all of the Twelve are present. They had gone fishing and Jesus summons them from the lakeside. They come to shore and see Him (**APPEARANCE 8**). Peter has a poignant discussion with Jesus and is commissioned to tend the flock of Christ (John 21).
- B. The Appearance to the 500 - Of all the appearances, you might think that this one would have been recorded in some detail since it was the most widely experienced. It would seem that many accounts would have existed and that at least one would have made its way into the Scriptures. Yet there is no account of it other than the fact that it did happen.

(continued in next column)

- B Continued.: Paul records the fact of this appearance in 1 Corinthians 15:6: The He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep (**APPEARANCE 9**). Where did this take place? What was it like? What was the reaction? We simply do not know. Proof once again that the Bible is not a history book in the conventional sense. Rather, it is a highly selective telling of what took place, not a complete account. The Bible makes no claim to be something it is not. It is quite clear that it is a selective book (John 20:30).
- C. The Appearance to James. Here again we do not have a description of this appearance, only a remark by Paul that it did in fact happen 1 Corinthians 15:7: The He appeared to James (**APPEARANCE 10**). The time frame of this appearance is not clear, only that it happened and before the final appearance to the apostles.

Seven: The rest of the forty days

- A. Jesus certainly had other appearance to/with the disciples. Luke attests to this in Acts when he writes: To them He presented himself alive after His passion by many proofs appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the Kingdom of God (Acts 1:3)
- B. During this time there is perhaps the one appearance we can attribute specifically to this time period as recorded by both Matthew (Matthew 28:16ff) and Mark (Mark 16:14ff). It takes place on "a mountaintop in Galilee." Mark adds that they were reclining at table. I refer to this appearance (time frame uncertain) as **APPEARANCE 11**. It is here that Jesus gives the great commission. Although Mark's text may seem to imply that Jesus was taken up from this mountain, such a conclusion is rash since Mark only indicates that Jesus ascended only "after He had spoken to them" (Mark 16:19).
- C. Evidently Jesus had also summoned them back to Jerusalem at least toward the end of the period of the forty days. There they would be present for the feast of Pentecost. We can imagine frequent appearances with ongoing instruction, for Luke records that Jesus "stayed with them." Most of these appearances and discourses are not recorded. Luke writes in Acts: "And while staying with them He charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father," which He said, "you heard from Me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit: (Acts 1:4).

(to be concluded next week)

Music Notes for this Weekend

By Mr. Jonathan Mercado, Organist and Music Director

"I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me."

This weekend we celebrate what is commonly known as Good Shepherd Sunday. As we reflect on the readings for this weekend, also take a moment to think about how many times Jesus is referred to as the Good Shepherd in our sung prayer. Our musical texts are filled with these references to the Good Shepherd, and we will explore some of those texts this weekend. In a special way today offers us the opportunity to pray for all of those who lead us in Ordained Ministry.

-In this time of crisis in the Church, our bishops, deacons, and priests need our support as they continue to embrace their vocation to do as Saint Peter did—to point others to the Lord. Since all vocations are rooted in the sacrament of baptism, it is good for us to remember that it was at the moment of our baptism that we became Christ for others. Each of us is called to become more and more like the Good Shepherd as we learn to live out our baptismal call. As we make our way along the Christian journey, we need nourishment and guidance from those appointed to be our shepherds. We need to pray that God will strengthen those who have become weary. On this Good Shepherd Sunday, let us pray especially for the ordained and all those called to point us to the Lord. -Gregorian Institute of America

Liturgical Publications Inc offers us the following reflection on Good Shepherd Sunday.

"Today's Gospel occurs in the middle of Jesus' ministry. At first, Jesus' words seem to be about the value of self-sacrifice in a leader. "I am the Good Shepherd ? I will lay down my life for the sheep." The Apostles likely would have accepted these words easily enough. But then comes something more strange. "I lay down my life in order to take it up again ? I have power to lay it down and power to take it up again." Only later, when Jesus opened the Scriptures to them after his resurrection, would the Apostles understand his words. Only then would they understand why such an act was necessary for the salvation of the world. Even now, we may struggle with the necessity of Holy Week. How often do we hear complaints against the silence of God, as if He is the "hired man" who "runs away" from suffering? Jesus' life, death, and resurrection is our redemption in fact. God himself bears the full weight of sin's consequences. The Paschal Mystery is also a sign that happens in full view of the human experience. We have seen Jesus lay down his life. We have seen him accompany others. "I know mine and mine know me." We have seen him reach those outside the traditional flock, "sheep not of this fold." Jesus is the Good Shepherd, not only in Scripture but in our daily lives. While we can't experience physically walking alongside him like the Apostles did, the grace of our redemption continues through the Church. We are shepherded by the sacraments, by faith formation, by good mentors. At the same time, we are not only the sheep. In imitating Jesus, we, too, are invited to lay down our lives for others. We can be the hands, feet, and shepherd's crook of Christ."

Easter Flower Donations

Thank you to all who gave donations to help make the Church so beautiful this past Easter. Some individuals gave the donation in memory of a loved one. We are sorry for any spelling mistakes, some of the envelopes were extremely hard to decipher. The following are the continuation of the list that was printed in last weeks bulletin. These loved ones are:

Almas Pugatorio
Jose Calero
Durinda Demelo
Mary DeStefano
Angelo and Francesca DiMattia
Max and Rose Estilo and family members
Family and friends who have passed on
Margarita Flores
Flynn, Friend, Maguire, Quigley Families
Mary and Angelo Infante
Julie and Jenny
Vincent Kiernan
Frank and Julia Maguire
Mandarano and Murphy Families
Maria, Filippo and Giovanni
Marino Family
Mirra, Iovino and D'Angelo Families
Elizabeth Paris-Pryor
Jeanne Maria Perry
Basil Roberto
Petra Rodriguez and Geruasio Rodriguez
Mr. and Mrs. John Rostand
Darie Tremayne
Pat and James Ubaldi
Giuseppe Valente

First Saturday - May 1st

On **Saturday, May 1st**, the first Saturday of the month, we will, immediately at the conclusion of the 12:10pm Mass, pray "Prayers in Honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary".

Mother's Day Mass Novena

Mother's Day Mass Novena envelopes are available at the entrances of the Church. For those who are receiving their offertory envelopes, through the mail, the Mother's Day intention envelope is in your packet, if you choose to use it. Your completed envelope must be received by Mother's Day to be placed on the altar for the Novena. Masses will be celebrated at 12:10pm on May 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 17th, 18th and 19th. The intention can be for the living or the deceased.

Prayer for Vocations

O loving and gracious God, Father of all, you bless your people in every time and season and provide for their needs through your providential care. Your Church is continually in need of priests, deacons, sisters and brothers to offer themselves in the service of the gospel by lives of dedicated love. Open the hearts of your sons and daughters to listen to your call in their lives. Give them the gift of understanding to discern your invitation to serve you and your Church. Give them the gift of courage to follow your call. May they have the spirit of young Samuel who found fulfillment in his life when he said to you, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

The Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal

Cardinal Dolan writes:

"As our world continues to navigate an ever-changing landscape, we as Catholics ground our hope in the all-powerful God who loves and sustains us through life's most difficult trails. Many of us here in New York are still deeply affected by the loss of life and the devastating financial consequences of COVID-19. We move forward, however, just as we started this journey—as a family.

Guided by the wisdom of Matthew 25:40, *"Whatever you did for the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did for me,"* our pastors, teachers, lay staff, case workers, ministry leaders, health chaplains, and volunteers will continue the crisis work they started in March of 2020. We are building on the work that the Church has always done, serving the most vulnerable among us wherever there is need."

On our website: blessedsacramentnr.com, there is a video of how the Cardinal's Appeal, with your generous support, helps those in need.

Make an immediate impact. Donate online today by going to: cardinalsappeal.org/donate. When you get to that website you will select your gift or write it in, and then choose your number of payments. You must choose Blessed Sacrament from the online drop-down menu so they will know you belong to Blessed Sacrament Parish. Once you have done that you will enter your billing and credit card information, then click "Process". Once your gift is processed, you will receive an email notification acknowledging your contribution.

Your gift to the Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal is essential in promoting the growth and vitality of the Church in New York.

Welcome into the Catholic Church

We welcome into the Roman Catholic Church, those infants and young children, who have been baptized here recently at Blessed Sacrament. May God's many blessings and graces be with them as they grow in wisdom and strength.

Do you know the Church where you were baptized? It is amazing how many phone calls we receive of people who think they were baptized here but were actually baptized somewhere else.

Congratulations

We congratulate those couples, who received the Sacrament of Marriage, here at Blessed Sacrament recently. Our best wishes goes with them as they have now entered the married life and may God bless them each and every day.

Also, we pray for those couples who are celebrating wedding anniversaries this month. May God continue to strengthen your marriage vows and enlighten you with His grace.

In Memoriam

Our hearts go out to those who have lost loved ones. May God strengthen their families, friends, neighbors and co-workers, in their time of trial.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Let us keep in our prayers all those who are buried in our three Parish cemeteries, Holy Sepulchre, Saint Joseph's & Saint Matthew's

We Pray

We pray for those who are: ill, awaiting (or recovering from) surgery, homeless, unemployed or underemployed, struggling with finances, struggling with addictions or enduring family problems. May God give them strength, comfort and healing.

The Anima Christi Prayer: Soul of Christ, sanctify me; Body of Christ, save me; Blood of Christ, inebriate me; Water from the side of Christ, wash me; Passion of Christ, strengthen me; O good Jesus, hear me; within Thy wounds hide me; let me never be separated from Thee; from the evil one deliver me; at the hour of my death, call me and bid me come to Thee, that with Thy saints, I may praise Thee forever and ever. Amen.

Mass Intentions for the Week

The Fourth Week of Easter

Monday, April 26th

Our Lady of Good Counsel

7:00am – **Msgr. John A. Ruvo †**
12:10pm – **Thuravungal Varghese †**

Tuesday, April 27th

Saint Zita of Lucca

7:00am – **John and Willy Zukowski †**
12:10pm – **Elisa DeRose †**

Wednesday, April 28th

Saint Louis Grignion de Montfort

7:00am – **Jo-Anne Pignataro †**
12:10pm – **Sesinando Magalhaes †**

Thursday, April 29th

Saint Catherine of Siena

7:00am – **Onofrio Vaccaro †**
12:10pm – **Philomena and William Godfrey †**

Friday, April 30th

Saint Pius V

7:00am – **Maria Torres & Marcelino Lopez †**
12:10pm – **Domenic and Jackie Procopio †**

Saturday, May 1st

Saint Joseph the Worker

8:00am – **Ana E. Tellez †**
12:10pm – **Living/deceased: Wodraska Fam.**

Memorials for the Week

The Bread and Wine, used at all the Masses this week, are donated in memory of **Thuravungal Varghese**. The Sanctuary Lamp, burns this week beside the Tabernacle, in memory of **Theresa and Onofrio Vaccaro**.

Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass

Couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary, any time during the 2021 calendar year, are invited to attend the Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass celebrated by Cardinal Dolan at Saint Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday, June 6th at 2:30pm. Pre-registration is required. Seating in the Cathedral is limited due to the pandemic. As of right now couples may bring two additional guests. If this changes we will let you know. Please contact the Blessed Sacrament Rectory Office to register at 632-3700. **You must be a registered parishioner of Blessed Sacrament Parish to pre-register through us.** We will need both your names, address and phone number. Also, we will need your date of marriage and the name of the Church (and place) where the wedding took place. The final date to register for the Golden Jubilee Mass is Tuesday, April 27th.

Collections

Last Sunday Collection

\$5,175.00

Your Giving Matters

During the COVID-19 pandemic, your safety is our first concern so we offer several ways to continue your stewardship: **Give Online Through "WeShare"**.

While we have resumed public Masses, we urge all who can to please consider joining the convenient online **WeShare** automated giving program. Visit blessedsacramentnr.com to set up automatic giving to keep our Parish ready and solvent to reopen with strength and speed when we can. Visit the site and follow the directions.

Offertory Collections; Mail-In or Drop-Off

- Drop your envelopes and contributions in the offertory basket during Mass. Or,
- You can mail or drop them off at the Rectory during our current office hours: Weekdays, 9:00am to 4:00pm. The address is on the cover of the bulletin.
- Lastly, you can mail your stewardship offerings directly to the Parish: Blessed Sacrament Church, 15 Shea Place, New Rochelle, New York 10801.

Readings for the Week of April 25, 2021

Monday: Acts of the Apostles 11:1-18
Psalm 42:2-3; 43:3, 4
Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday: Acts of the Apostles 11:19-26
Psalm 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7
John 10:22-30

Wednesday: Acts of the Apostles 12:24 — 13:5a
Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
John 12:44-50

Thursday: Acts of the Apostles 13:13-25
Psalm 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27
John 13:16-20

Friday: Acts of the Apostles 13:26-33
Psalm 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab
John 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts of the Apostles 13:44-52
Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3bc-4
John 14:7-14

Sunday: Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31
Psalm 22:26-27, 28, 30-31, 32
1 John 3:18-24
John 15:1-8

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#WHATSMYNAME

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