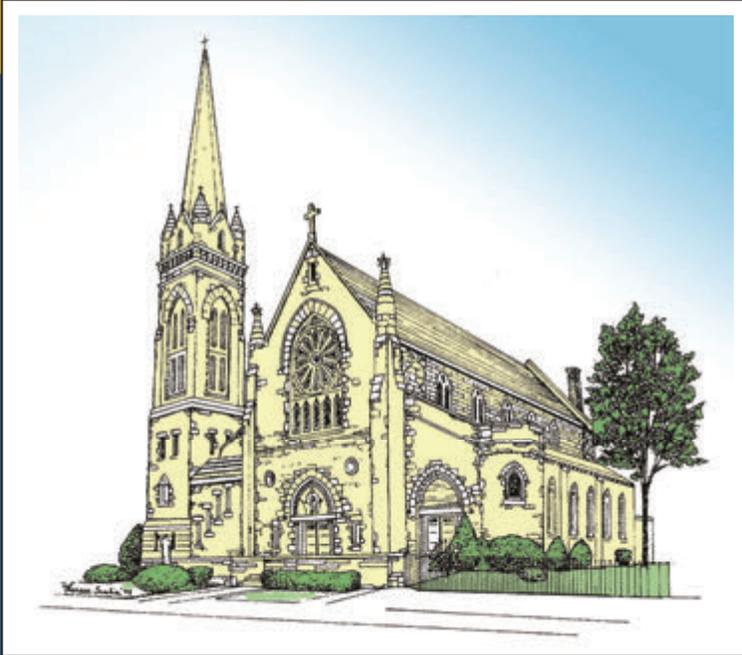


# Blessed Sacrament Church



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Email: [15shea@optonline.net](mailto:15shea@optonline.net)

**Pastor:** Rev. William Luciano

**Parochial Vicars**

Rev. Biju Peter, C.M.I.

Rev. George Obeng-Yeboah-Asuamah

**Deacons**

Deacon Francis B. Orlando

Deacon Angel Camacho

**Organist & Music Director:** Mr. Jonathan Mercado  
[blessedsacramentnr.com](http://blessedsacramentnr.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

Deacon Francis B. Orlando, Director

Ms. Gladis Kann, Secretary

**Holy Sepulchre Cemetery**

Cemetery located at 95 Kings Highway

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

Office Manager: Mrs. Noreen Orlando

**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**

What does it mean to be a faithful Roman Catholic? I have been toying with this question for a long time. It is ever mindful, especially recently, when we have politicians who claim to be Roman Catholic but then do and say things that are so against whom they claim to be. In the same way, for a pastor or any priest, when a person comes forward asking for a "sponsor certificate" and they want the priest to attest to their fulfilling the minimal requirements (as set by the Roman Catholic Church) and they don't even meet the minimal requirements. They want the priest to give the sponsor certificate to them anyway, which means the priest has to lie on their behalf.

I saw this article recently, written by Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia. It goes to the heart of the question.

"Happily married for 40 years, a friend of mine from New York says that one of the (several) reasons his marriage has survived when so many others have crashed is a single, simple act of self-discipline. Every payday for more than three decades, he's brought home six roses for his wife: sometimes three red, sometimes three pink, but always three white. Sometimes he forgets. A few times he's fallen out of the habit for months or even a year; but sooner or later he always remembers and forces himself back into the habit. I once told him that using words like "self-discipline" and "forcing" himself back into a habit can sound a lot less than romantic to outsiders. Some might even see the gift of flowers as old-fashioned and sentimental. But he just laughed. In the long run, he said – if you want a long run – it's the little things that count in a marriage; the things that dot the vast sea of ordinary life with moments of meaning and beauty. Passion comes and goes, recedes and returns; love needs to be cultivated like a garden, carefully and constantly. Flowers aren't magic, he said. They can't mask insincerity, and they won't get you off the hook if you've done something really stupid or bad. But it's the habit, the simple discipline, of saying "I think of you; I remember you; I love you" without words, and more powerfully than words, again and again over time, that proves the feeling and cements one human

heart to another. So what's the point of my story?

As with the persons we love, so with God. We can teach about God with eloquence and grace; we can pour all our strength into helping the poor; we can sing his praises with golden tongues – but unless we give our hearts to him in the habit of silent prayer, listening for his voice and placing ourselves in his presence again and again, whether we feel like it at the moment or not, then our faith is just an empty shell.

The one priceless, irreplaceable thing each of us possesses is time; once spent, we never get it back. When we offer our time and ourselves to God in the habit of prayer – what my friend would call a simple discipline – we show our love, and we also grow in love. And God will not be "out-loved;" the return on our investment will be a life of hope and meaning, grounded in the presence of God and the knowledge that he loves us and has the world in his hands, even when evil seems to abound.

These weeks between the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Lent are part of what the Church in her liturgical year calls "ordinary time." Life's ordinary pressures and duties can sometimes seem more like a desert than a sea – dry, gray, and empty of any higher satisfactions. Thus we're faced with a choice. We can grow each day more fatigued and bear the routine challenges of these "ordinary" weeks as a burden, or we can mark them with beauty by willfully, every day, turning our hearts to God in silent prayer.

Which brings me, in a roundabout way, to the postscript of this column. I said a few moments ago that my New York friend has spent 40 years bringing six roses to his wife nearly every payday – sometimes three red, sometimes three pink, but always three white. The secret is that his wife isn't especially fond of white roses. But she's very fond of getting them, because – even after 40 years of married life with all of its joys and pains; or rather, because of them — she's very fond of him.

As with the persons we love, so with God. God doesn't need our gifts, or our prayers, or anything at all from us. But like any other good Father – and he truly is our Father — he's very fond of the children who choose to spend their time with him.

Just a thought for the coming weeks."

## 2018 Contribution Statement

If you would like your Church 2018 Contribution Statement, please call the Rectory Office. We will need your: 1) envelope number, 2) name that is written on the offertory envelope, 3) your exact address, including apartment number, and 4) a phone number where you can be reached if we have difficulty with your record. Once we receive your request, we will do our best to send it to you in a timely manner. There are unfortunately delays that do sometimes happen.

## Receiving Church Offertory Envelopes

Every month, we receive calls or notes from parishioners, who have not received their monthly Church Offering Envelopes in the mail. In some cases it is because there is no apartment number listed with the address. In other cases we do not know why this happens? The envelopes are mailed from a company on Long Island. If someone moves, the company receives the information and notifies us. If you do not receive your Church Envelopes two weeks before the set you have runs out, please let us know and we can send you a temporary set. Unless we hear from you, we do not know. Also, if you would like to receive a set of Offertory envelopes, please call or email us and we will be happy to send you a set.

## The Proper way to Receive Holy Communion

I know that it seems impossible, but sometimes it happens, that we forget the proper way to receive Holy Communion. When the priest says: "The Body of Christ", we immediately respond: "Amen" and then, if receiving in the hand, we place Our Lord immediately into our mouth. We do not turn and walk away, we do not step to the side, we do not bless yourself with the Blessed Sacrament and we do not raise it into the air. Rather, you immediately place the Blessed Sacrament into your mouth.

## Music Notes for this Weekend

By Mr. Jonathan Mercado, Organist and Music Director

**Opening Chant:** number 535

O God Beyond All Praising

**Gloria:** Antiphonal Gloria from the

"Congregational Mass" by John Lee

**Presentation of Gifts:** number 629

Blest Are They

**Communion Hymn:** number 326

I Received the Living God

**Sending Forth:** number 532

Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens

## LAST CALL FOR ALTAR SERVER FORMATION

Next weekend, February 24th is the final day we will accept forms for all interested in becoming Altar Servers for spring training and implementation. All those who go through the training process this spring will be placed on the schedule towards the end of the Lenten season, and receive a schedule for a further 8 weeks. Future formation and training will take place in June for those interested but not able to commit at this time.

## STAY TUNED - FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRY

A week or so ago, I sat in preparation for Lenten music planning. Because the Season of Lent is accompanied by some of the finest choral and organ literature for liturgical use, this was no easy task. Playing in the background was a piece by Herbert Howells that I remember myself and a colleague teaching to our respective choirs, and combining the choirs for two of the Saturday evening Masses at our parishes. That same colleague and his lovely wife (some of the greatest friends I have to this day), also held my hand and collaborated with me on a Fish-Fry-Friday that I wanted to hold at my parish as a fundraiser for the music program. (There's always music to buy, resources to purchase for study, and a vast number of expenses to continue and grow any music program.) With the help and experience of these two great friends, the event was a complete success. It provided an opportunity to gather outside of Sunday Mass. Parishioners and their families were able to put a name to a face seen in Church. Members of the parish volunteered to drive parishioners to and from the dinner who normally would not have been able to attend. So many wonderful memories happened that evening, and the fondness I have for this event has remained with me these years later. Simply put, the gathering brought me great joy, and did allow the music program at that parish to continue and grow. This Lent, we will do the same and hold 2 Friday evening fish fry dinners. Details will be in next weekend's bulletin. As always, events do not happen without volunteers. If you know right off the bat that you'd like to help out, please email me. (If you know that you are a Confirmandi [Confirmation candidate] who needs service hours for Confirmation, you should probably email me too.) [music.blessedsacramentnr@gmail.com](mailto:music.blessedsacramentnr@gmail.com)

## Pray for Vocations

This prayer can be said by a single person or with several people.

**Leader:** Let us ask God to give worthy Priests, Brothers and Sisters, to His Holy Church.

**Others:** O God, we earnestly beseech Thee to bless this archdiocese with many priests, brothers and sisters, who will love Thee with their whole strength and gladly spend their entire lives to serve Thy Church and to make Thee known and loved.

**Leader:** Bless our families, bless our children.

**Others:** Choose from our homes those who are needed for Thy work.

**Leader:** Mary, Queen of the clergy!

**Others:** Pray for us. Pray for our priests and religious. Obtain for us many more.

## Prayer Found in a Church Pew

A priest friend sent this "prayer" that someone had given to him. It makes a lot of sense:

My Church is composed of people like me:

I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

It will be holy, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will be prayerful, if I pray.

It will make generous gifts to many causes,  
if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship and  
fellowship, if I invite and bring them.

It will be a Church of loyalty and love, of  
fearlessness and faith, of compassion, charity and  
mercy,

if I, who make it what it is, am filled with  
these same things.

Therefore, with the help of God, I now dedicate  
myself to the task of being all things that I want  
my Church to be. Amen.

## 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. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And may perpetual light shine upon them. The following are those, who were recently buried, from Blessed Sacrament Church. May God strength their families in this time of trial.

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.

**Mass Intentions for the Week**  
**The Sixth Week in Ordinary Time**

**Monday, February 18th**

Saint Jean-Francois-Regis Clet

**7:00am – Liam and Doris Logan †**  
**12:10pm – Eugenia Lipski-Mationg †**

**Tuesday, February 19th**

Blessed John Sullivan

**7:00am – William and Ethnea Auslen †**  
**12:10pm – Dominick and Joseph Colucci †**

**Wednesday, February 20th**

Saint Jacinta Marto

**7:00am – Deacon Charles Rizzo †**  
**12:10pm – Eleuteria Altarejos †**

**Thursday, February 21st**

Saints Peter Damian

**7:00am – The Rossini Family †**  
**12:10pm – Deborah Orlando †**

**Friday, February 22nd**

The Chair of Saint Peter

**7:00am – Maria Mahon †**  
**12:10pm – Jorge R. Altarejos †**

**Saturday, February 23rd**

Saint Polycarp

**8:00am – Carmen Garcia †**  
**12:10pm – Florencio Ramos †**

**Memorials for the Week**

The Bread and Wine, used at all the Masses this week, are donated in memory of **Basil Roberto**.

The Sanctuary Lamp, burns this week, in memory of **Jorge and Eleuteria Altrejos**.

**If You See Something Strange**

If you see something strange in the Church, please let us know. Sometimes, strange people come into the Church and cause a disturbance. Don't approach them. Call the police and then let us know. We appreciate your help.

**Collections**

Collection last week	\$7,435.00
Same Sunday Last Year	\$5,050.00
Peter's Pence Collection	\$1,553.00

Thank you for your continued financial support of our Parish and its many needs. Your financial generosity for the upkeep of our Parish buildings and programs is essential and greatly appreciated.

**Readings for the Week of**  
**February 17, 2019**

**Monday:** Sirach 1:1-10; Psalm 93; Mark 9:14-29

**Tuesday:** Sirach 2:1-11; Psalm 37; Mark 9:30-37

**Wednesday:** Sirach 4:11-19; Psalm 119;  
 Mark 9:38-40

**Thursday:** Sirach 5:1-8; Psalm 1; Mark 9:41-50

**Friday:** Sirach 6:5-17; Psalm 119; Mark 10:1-12

**Saturday:** Sirach 17:1-15; Psalm 103;  
 Mark 10:13-16

**Sunday:** Sirach 27:4-7; Psalm 92;  
 1 Corinthians 15:54-58; Luke 6:39-45

**Something to Think About**

Saint Peter Damian, said:

"Do not be depressed. Do not let your weakness make you impatient. Instead, let the serenity of your spirit shine through your face. Let the joy of your mind burst forth."

"Nobody can fight properly and boldly for the faith if he clings to a fear of being stripped of earthly possessions."

"We hold our tongues in check because if they are undisciplined they empty the soul of the strength of heavenly grace, and weakens its healthful vigor."

"He pours light into our minds, arouses our desire and gives us strength...As the soul is the life of the body, so the Holy Spirit is the life of our souls."

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