

Church of the Blessed Sacrament Manhattan

Rev. John P. Duffell, *Pastor*
Rev. Alexis Bastidas, *Associate*

Tina Silvestro,
Director Religious Education
Caroline Sloney, *School Principal*

Dr. Gregory D'Agostino,
Organist & Director of Music
Theo Corbin, *Pastoral Assistant*

CHURCH: 152 West 71st Street, New York, N.Y. 10023
SCHOOL: 147 West 70th Street, New York, N.Y. 10023

Ph: 212-877-3111 www.blessedsacramentnyc.org
Ph: 212-724-7561 www.sblsnyc.org

MASSES:

SUNDAY Masses: Sat. evening at 5:30 PM
Sunday: 8:30, 10:00 (Family Mass)
11:15 (Spanish), 12:30 (choir) & 5:30 PM
WEEKDAYS: 7:30 AM; 12:10 PM; 5:30 PM
SATURDAYS: 7:30 AM, 12:10 PM
HOLY DAYS & EVES. OF HOLY DAYS: As
Announced.

BAPTISM:

Third Sunday of the Month. Arrangements must be made at the Rectory at least two weeks in advance. Sponsors must be practicing Catholics. Parents, and also godparents when possible, must meet with the priest for a Conference before Baptism.

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday afternoons 4:30 to 5:15 pm, and anytime at the Rectory.

MARRIAGES:

Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance at the rectory to ensure the date and the hour desired. The Nuptial Mass is the ordinary form of celebrating Christian marriage, and should be strongly considered when making Wedding plans. Attendance at the Pre-Cana Conferences, or the equivalent, is required by the Archbishop.

PARISH BOUNDARIES:

Central Park West to the Hudson River, from the South side of 77th Street down to the North side of 65th Street.

NEW PARISHIONERS:

We welcome new parishioners, and invite them to register at the Rectory. The registration is our only means of certifying anyone as a member of our parish. If you move to another Parish, or change your address within the Parish, please notify us.

FATIMA DEVOTIONS:

The Rosary is said daily after the 12:10 pm Mass. Friday from 6-7 pm there is a holy hour.

BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

First Friday - Exposition: 12:35 pm.
Adoration: All day; Benediction: 5:15 PM.

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA:

Mondays, before the 12:10 Mass and before the 5:30 pm Mass.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS:

Classes in Religion for Catholic children/teenagers, Pre-kindergarten -High School take place on Sundays. The Family Mass begins at 10:00 a.m. in the Church followed by class instruction in the school.

Ongoing religious education is important for the religious development of your children. A child must have at least one year of religious instruction before enrolling in the First Communion or Confirmation class.

Spanish Programs Website: www.nygente.com
Sunday School Website: www.blessedsacramentsundayschool.org

PARISH NEWS

Dear Parishioners and Friends;

The recent presence of anti-Muslim rhetoric in political speeches and in the mainstream media is, I believe unconscionable. This appears to be a very dangerous moment in the history of our great nation. I pray that this isn't the turn towards fascism it appears to be. Reports of hate cries against Muslims and those who "appear" Muslim are all on the rise. We are morally and religiously appalled by this turn of events, I am disturbed not only by the language of political candidates, but by the hatred their words seems to inspire in increasingly large audiences. As your pastor, I hope you will join me in condemning any action, statement, sentiment, or policy that denigrates the full dignity and humanity of our Muslim brothers and sisters. As believers in Jesus, we must work together to transform divisions rooted in bigotry, hatred and fear.

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, also called Gaudete ("Rejoice") Sunday. The spirit of the Liturgy all through Advent is one of expectation and preparation for the feast of Christmas as well as for the second coming of Christ, and the penitential exercises suitable to that spirit are this on Gaudete Sunday suspended in order to symbolize joy and gladness in the promised Redemption.

Monday, too, December 14th is the Advent Day Reconciliation...in preparation for Christmas, we are urged to celebrate the sacrament of penance...in all the churches of the Archdiocese, priests will be available in the confessional from 4pm until 8pm, to celebrate the sacrament here at Blessed Sacrament.

4pm until 5:15pm
5:15pm until 6:30pm
6:30pm until 8:00pm

Father Duffell
Father Alexis
Father Paul

Monday of this week, we celebrate St. John of the Cross (1542-1591). He was a Carmelite priest and doctor of the Church and one of the greatest mystical theologians in Church history. Along with his spiritual friend, St. Teresa de Avila, he set out to refer the Carmelite order to its original spirit - a life of simplicity centered on interior prayer. He composed a beautiful poem, *The Dark Night*, which expressed his intense desire for God.

Matching Grant. We have a unique opportunity to get our fundraising off to a great start in 2016 with a challenge grant of \$50,000. For all donations of \$5,000 and higher they will be matched up to \$50,000. We have up until January 31 to do so. This gives us a great shot at getting \$100,000 early in the year and create the forward momentum we need to begin to raise the money needed for the restoration of Blessed Sacrament.

Christmas Flowers. Would you like to memorialize a loved one this Christmas? You can do so by printing the names of your loved ones on an envelope and handing it in at the rectory front desk. You may make a donation toward the Christmas flowers, if you wish. Your loved ones will be memorialized in the parish bulletin.

Finances. I met with the Finance Council this week and an agreement was made to effect real cuts in our parish expenses. Pray with me please as we attempt to balance a long unbalanced situation. Perhaps you will consider joining me on ParishPay. More will come in the weeks ahead.

Pray for peace.
Fr. Duffell.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve - December 24th

4:00pm
5:30 pm - Youth Choir
7:15 pm - Noche Buena - Mass in Spanish
11:00 pm - Choral Mass - People of the Parish
Carols begin at 10:30pm

Christmas Day - December 25th

8:30 and 11:00am (both in English)



The advent wreath has been offered in memory of *Wayne Dankert*. Please remember him in your prayers throughout this Advent Season.

NOTICIAS PARROQUIALES

Queridos Feligreses y Amigos;

La continua presencia de retorica negativa contra los Musulmanes en discursos politicos y en los medios de comunicaci3n me parece moralmente desmesurado. Esto es un momento muy peligroso en la historia de nuestra Naci3n. Rezo por que esto no sea el regreso al fascismo. Reportes de crimes odiosos contra los Musulmanes y aquellos que "parecen ser" Musulmanes crecen d3a a d3a. Estamos moral y religiosamente sorprendidos por los recientes eventos. Me preocupa no solo el lenguaje de nuestros candidatos sino tambi3n lo que sus palabras inspiran a audiencias cada vez mas numerosas. Como su Pastor les pido unirse a mi condenando cualquier acto, declaracion, sentimiento o olitica que denigre la dignidad y humanidad de nuestros hermanos y hermanas Musulmanes. Creyentes en Jesus Cristo debemos trabajar juntos para transformar la division con ra3ces en el miedo, el odio y la intolerancia

Hoy celebramos el Primer Domingo de Adviento, llamado tambi3n "Domingo de Alegria." El esp3ritu de la Liturgia durante el periodo de Adviento es de esperanza y preparaci3n para la Fiesta de Navidad as3 como para la segunda llegada de Cristo y los ejercicios de penitencia asociados con ese esp3ritu son suspendidos este domingo simbolizando la alegr3a de nuestra salvacion.

Este lunes celebramos a San Juan de la Cruz (1542-1591). Fue un sacerdote Carmelita y uno de los grandes teologos misticos en la historia de la Iglesia. Junto con su

gran amiga Santa Teresa de Avila, reformaron la orden Carmelita a su esp3ritu original - una vida de sencillez centrada en la plegaria interior. Ha escrito un gran poema, *La Noche Oscura* ("The Dark Night") en el cual expreso su intenso deseo de servir a Dios.

Tambien el lunes 14 de diciembre es el d3a de reconciliaci3n durante el periodo de Adviento...en preparaci3n para la Navidad pedimos celebrar el Sacramento de la Penitencia...en todas las iglesias de la Arquidiocesis. Sacerdotes estar3n disponibles aqu3 en Blessed Sacrament para escuchar su confesi3n:

4:00pm hasta las 5:15pm

Father Duffell

5:15pm hasta las 6:30pm

Father Alexis

6:30pm hasta las 8:00pm

Father Paul

Ayuda Financiera. Tenemos una oportunidad 3nica de comenzar bien la recaudaci3n de fondos en el 2016 con una subvenci3n de \$50,000. Cada donaci3n de \$5,000 y mas sera igualada hasta un total de \$50,000 y tenemos hasta el 31 de enero para conseguir este objetivo. Esta seria una gran oportunidad para conseguir \$100,000 a

principios del 2016 y conseguir as3 el interes de todos para recaudar los fondos necesarios para la restauraci3n de Blessed Sacrament Church.

Flores para la Navidad. Quisieran honrar alg3n ser querido esta Navidad? Pueden hacerlo escribiendo sus nombres en un sobre y entregarlos en la rector3a. Si as3 lo desean, pueden hacer una donaci3n para las flores de la Navidad. Sus seres queridos ser3n mencionados en el bolet3n de nuestra parroquia.

Finanzas. Esta semana me he reunido con el Consejo de Finanzas y hemos acordado hacer varios cortes en los gastos de nuestra parroquia. Estamos tratando de corregir nuestra situaci3n. Les mantendr3 informado.

Rezemos por la paz.

Padre Duffell.

COLLECTION

Thank you so very much for your generous response to the needs of the parish. our collection last Sunday was \$12,651. \$3,353 was received in ParishPay for a total of \$16,004. Also, thank you for your donation of 2,024 for our Soup Kitchen.

YOUTH CHOIR

Children (from grade 3 up) and Teenagers are invited to take part in the CHRISTMAS YOUTH CHOIR which sings at the 5:30PM Christmas Eve Mass. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 4-5PM beginning December 2 and on Monday Dec. 21st.

Please call Tina Silvestro at 212-877-3111 for a Parent permission Form to sign up. Forms can also be found on the Sunday School website under the Youth Choir tab.

ADVENT SIMPLE SUPPERS

Please join us on the Wednesday evenings during Advent, December 16th and December 23rd for Prayer and Meditation followed by a light dinner of soup, salad, and bread. Prayers begin promptly at 7PM in the 2nd floor meeting room of the Rectory. It's a wonderful an contemplative way to prepare for Christmas. We hope to see you there. For more information please call/email Chris Williams (Tel. 304-337-1252; email: jaw.arts@gmail.com) or Christina Russo (Tel. 201-248-7244; email: christinarusso3@gmail.com).

BOOK CLUB

Our next Book Club will be held on Wednesday, December 16, 6:30-8:30PM. We'll continue reading from Chapter 6 to the end of the book "The Great Reformer", a biography of Pope Francis.



Saturday Evening, December 12th

5:30 William Kegan +

Sunday, December 13th

8:30 St. Lusi and Ida Giovanni Bruno +

10:00 Robert Lagville +

11:00 St. Lusi

12:30 Veronica McNeil +

5:30 Intentions of Thomas Middelhoff

Monday, December 14th

7:30 Bernadette McGuire +

12:10 Intentions of Juan and Clara Brin

5:30 Richard Dowling +

Tuesday, December 15th

7:30 Kirill Demin +

12:10 Joseph Murphy

5:30 Intentions of Thomas Middelhoff

Wednesday, December 16th

7:30 People of the Parish

12:10 Johannes Pennings +

5:30 Teresa Valentin +

Thursday, December 17th

7:30 Kirill Demin +

12:10 Ernesto Brusco +

5:30 Betty O'Shea +

Friday, December 18th

7:30 Kirill Demin +

12:10 Stephen MacNeil +

5:30 Intentions of Thomas Middelhoff

Saturday, December 19th

7:30 Kirill Demin +

12:10 Sidney Morrison and Roberto Hidalgo +

5:30 Giovanni Ianni

**NATIVITY IN THE CITY - A CHRISTMAS TALE
IN NEW YORK - Blessed Sacrament Theater**

December 18 and 19 at 7:00PM

152 West 71st Street, New York, N.Y. 10023

Tickets: \$20.00 - Students \$10:00.

THE JOYJ INITIATIVE - JESSE TREE

JoyJ is once again sponsoring a Jesse Tree to gather NEW items for their Homeless Outreach. Please visit the tree in the Church, take an ornament or two and bring your item (unwrapped) to either the *5:30 Saturday Mass on December 19th* or to any of the *Sunday Masses on December 20th*, where it will be collected in the vestibule by the JoyJ Volunteers for distribution. Gifts may also be dropped off at the Rectory anytime.

CATHOLIC FAMILIES GROUP

Please join our Blessed Sacrament Catholic Families Group! We are +130 families striving to raise our children in the love and knowledge of Christ. In addition to seasonal events, we host monthly discussion groups for mothers and fathers. Join our Meetup for more info:

www.meetup.com/NYC-Catholic-Families/

POPE FRANCIS CHRISTMAS BOOK SALE

Discounted copies of "Laudato Si - On Care For Our Common Home" will be on sale this weekend in the Church vestibule. Pope Francis addressed his urgent message in this beautiful Environmental Encyclical to all people. Therefore, unlike past academic encyclicals its concepts on care for creation are beautifully written in common language. Please consider purchasing several copies as Christmas gifts (or stocking stuffers) for your families and friends.

TAIZE Advent Service

December 15, 2015

7:00PM-9:00PM

Holy Name of Jesus

St. Mary of the Angels Chapel

207 West 96th Street, New York, N.Y.

Sponsored by the Secular Franciscans of Holy Name Parish.

25th ANNUAL NEW YORK CARES COAT DRIVE

On behalf of the needy within our local community, members of the Social Action and Youth Adults Committees will be accepting used-coat donations at the entrance to the church before each of the masses this weekend. *Coats for adults and children should be "gently used", just cleaned and in fair condition or better.*

COLLECTION FOR RETIRED RELIGIOUS

This weekend the annual collection for the retirement needs of the Religious of the Archdiocese will be taken up in all the parishes. Many of the nuns and brothers who taught in our schools and worked in our parishes are now retired. What we paid them in those days was very little which made Catholic education very inexpensive. Now they need our help. Please be generous.

ABC's of Catholic Relief Service...This week - RS/Bosnia

Bosnia is a transit point for Middle Eastern refugees attempting to reach mainly Germany and Sweden. American Catholics via CRS provide essential health care and shelter for refugees. Translation services are in dire need. Your agency translates to help families understand the legal aspects and ramifications of their journey. For more info visit: www.crs.org.

FOOD FOR FAMILIES COLLECTION

JUST A REMINDER: NEXT WEEKEND is our non-perishable grocery collection for FOOD FOR FAMILIES. Shopping lists can be found on the table behind the last pew in the Church.

(In order to provide the highest quality service to those who seek our help, we may only accept freshly bought, unopened non-perishable items. If this is no convenient, we also accept monetary donations.)

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

Blessed Sacrament Church is organizing a new program and we're recruiting volunteers. The program is called SMALL ACTS OF KINDNESS (SMACK). A few times a week the Rectory gets calls from elderly/sick/disabled people asking for assistance with some small task (escorting them to a doctor's appointment, picking up a prescription, delivering food from our food pantry, etc.) We're seeking volunteers who would be willing to pitch in and help with such requested tasks. Most would be a one-time event, requiring only a small amount of time and commitment. People with flexible schedules would be very welcome, though those who have busier schedules (jobs, for example) could be very helpful as well. The coordinator would make calls to volunteers to see who might be available for any given task, giving time commitment and details. Karen Gargamelli has offered to serve as coordinator. If you might be interested in participating in this very worthy program, or needing more information, please contact her at Karen@benincasanyc.com.

Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee

*Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.
Show us your face and we will be saved.
Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money;
the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things;
made Peter weep after his betrayal,
and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.
Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman:
"If you knew the gift of God!"*

LECTORS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Saturday, December 12th

5:30

1st Carolyn McZinc
2nd Anita Pearl
POF Carolyn McZinc
EMs Steve Whelan, Ginetta LaBianca, Carolyn McZinc, Diana Brush.

Sunday, December 13th

8:30

1st Thomas Caffrey
2nd Thomas Caffrey
POF Mary Steffany
EM's James Palazza, JoDell Shields, Louella White, Thomas Caffrey, Mary Steffany.

10:00

1st Jillian MacDonald
2nd Charles Weeks
POF Belinda De La Cruz
EM's Mike Kerrigan, Judy Braun, Belinda De La Cruz, Nancy Kearney, Anna-Sophia Leone, Andrew Jenkins, Eddie Litton

12:30

1st Loretta Edmonds
2nd Loretta Edmonds
POF Jack Going
EM's Thomas Alexander, Theo Corbin, Ingrid Leacock, Raul Garcia-Moncada, Lidia Stempien.

5:30

1st Kathleen LaMagna
2nd Mark Murphy
POF Maria LaMagna
EM's Joe McKenna, Tiffany Riady, Rob Porell, Elisa Dragu, Allison Oliver Miller, John Miller.

(Cont.)

*You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy:
let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.
You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness
in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error:
let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.*

*Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with His anointing,
so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord,
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.*

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.