

# Church of the Blessed Sacrament Manhattan

**Rev. John P. Duffell, *Pastor***

**Rev. Alexis Bastidas, *Associate***

**Rev. Dennis Baker, S.J., *Sunday Associate***

**Rev. Msgr. Robert B. O'Connor, *Pastor Emeritus***

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

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

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

**SCHOOL:** 147 West 70th Street, New York, N.Y. 10023

Ph: 212-877-3111

Ph: 212-724-7561

[www.blessedsacramentnyc.org](http://www.blessedsacramentnyc.org)

[www.sblsnyc.org](http://www.sblsnyc.org)

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## **MASSES:**

SUNDAY Masses: Sat. evening at 5:30 PM

Sunday: 8:30, 10:00 (Family Mass)

11:15 (Spanish), 12:30 (choir) & 5:30PM

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:**

Arrangements must be made at the Rectory. Sponsors must be practicing Catholics. Parents, and also godparents when possible, must attend the Pre-Baptismal conference which is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm in the rectory.

*During Lent the sacrament of Baptism will be celebrated only in an emergency situation.*

## **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](http://www.nygente.com)

*Sunday School Website:* [www.blessedsacramentsundayschool.org](http://www.blessedsacramentsundayschool.org)

**PARISH NEWS**

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Christmas is drawing near and I hope for each of you that it will be a time of happiness and cheer. Christmas time is no time to be dour - Pope Francis reminds us that as people who know Jesus, being with Jesus produces an immense amount of joy. And mercy is often the doorway to this encounter with the heart of Jesus. Let's make ourselves instruments of his peace.

Pope Francis, in his inimitable way, said something very lovely the other day. I'd thought I'd share it with you, during this year of mercy: "Babies cry, make noise, go here and there. But it annoys me when a baby cries in church and there are those who say he needs to go out. The cry of a baby is God's voice: never drive them away from the church!"

I would be remiss if I didn't ask that you prayerfully consider your Christmas gift to the parish. The Christmas collection is a major way in which we are able to realize our parish budget. If at all possible, I hope that you will join me in offering \$500 to the parish in the Christmas collection. If you could do more, and hopefully some can, it would be a great help. If not that much, whatever offering you make will be greatly appreciated.

Have you noticed our beautiful parish Christmas tree in front of the church? It was donated by the Christmas tree seller at 70<sup>th</sup> and West End Avenue. I'm asking all members of the parish and our friends to help decorate the tree. Bring an ornament, best if home-made, hang it on the tree.

The Christmas schedule of Masses is printed elsewhere in the bulletin. I hope you'll join us for one of the Masses. If you'll be out of town, our prayers will be less without you, but know that you'll be especially prayed for by all of us gathered in prayer.

Thank you for your generous response to the Finance Council's call for increased collections. Last weekend we saw a significant increase. Thank you so much.

Pray for Christmas peace.

Fr. Duffell

**Christmas Flowers.** If you wish to donate the Christmas flowers and greens in memory of a loved one, stop in the office today and place your offering in one of the envelopes. On the front of the envelope print clearly the name/ names of all those in whose memory the offering is made. Those names will be included in all the Christmas mass programs and they will be prayed for at all the Christmas masses.

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**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)**

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

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The Masses for the Celebration of the New Year  
(*A Holy Day of Obligation*)

New Year's Eve – 5:30pm

New Year's Day – 8:30am & 11:00am

## **NOTICIAS PARROQUIALES**

Queridos Feligreses y Amigos;

La Navidad ya se acerca y espero que para cada uno de ustedes sea un tiempo de felicidad y alegría. La Navidad no es tiempo de sentirse triste - el Papa Francisco nos recuerda que al conocer a Jesús y estando con él, nos llena de felicidad. Y la misericordia es la puerta para este encuentro con el Corazón de Jesús. Seamos instrumento de su Paz.

El Papa Francisco dijo algo muy simpático recientemente y quiero compartirlo con ustedes durante este año de la misericordia. “Los críos lloran, hacen ruido, van aquí y allí. Pero me molesta cuando un crío llora en la iglesia y hay algunos que piensan que deberían sacarlo. El llanto de un crío es la voz de Dios; nunca los alejemos de la iglesia.”

Sería descuidado de mi parte si no les pidiera considerar su regalo de Navidad a la parroquia. Esta colecta nos permite alcanzar nuestro presupuesto. De ser posible, quisiera que pudieran contribuir \$500.00 a esta colecta. Si pueden dar más, nos ayudaría muchísimo. Y de no ser posible, lo que puedan contribuir será muy apreciado.

Han notado el Árbol de Navidad en frente de la iglesia? Fue donado por el vendedor de árboles de Navidad en la calle 70 y West End. Les pido a los miembros de esta parroquia y a nuestros amigos que nos ayuden a decorar el árbol. Traigan un ornamento, mejor si es hecho en casa y ponganlo en el árbol.

Encontrarán en este boletín el programa de las Misas de Navidad. Espero puedan venir a una de las Misas. A lo que estén fuera de la ciudad los recordaremos en nuestras plegarias. Y a ellos/as, les deseamos un buen viaje.

Nuestro agradecimiento por su generosa respuesta a la llamada del Consejo Financiero a incrementar sus donaciones. En el último fin de semana notamos un aumento significativo. Gracias a todos.

Roguemos por la Paz esta Navidad.

Padre Duffell

**Flores para la Navidad.** Quisieran honrar algún ser querido esta Navidad? Pueden hacerlo escribiendo sus nombres en un sobre y entregarlos en la rectoría. Si así lo desean, pueden hacer una donación para las flores de la Navidad. Sus seres queridos serán mencionados en las misas durante la Navidad.

### **COLLECTION**

Thank you so very much for your generous response to the needs of the parish. Our collection last Sunday was \$17,356. \$3,353 was received in ParishPay for a total of \$20,709. Also, thank you for your donation of \$2,393 for Retired Religious.

### **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. Rehearsal is this Monday, Dec, 21st from 4-5PM.

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 Wednesday evening, 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 and 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](mailto:jaw.arts@gmail.com)) or Christina Russo (Tel. 201-248-7244; email: [christinarusso3@gmail.com](mailto:christinarusso3@gmail.com)).

### **SPECIAL NEEDS MASS**

You're invited! Please join us today at 4:00pm for a Special Needs Mass welcoming families with loved ones on the autism spectrum and other challenging behaviors. All Families are invited!

**25th ANNUAL NEW YORK CARES COAT DRIVE**

Members of the Social Action and Youth Adults Committee wish to thank you for your generous donations to the coat drive.

**THE JOYJ INITIATIVE - JESSE TREE**

During this special season, we want to say THANK YOU to the volunteers, the donors, and the local groups and businesses that have worked very hard during the year. We are very fortunate to be part of such a great parish and neighborhood.

This weekend JOY J Volunteers will be collecting items in the vestibule of the Church after all masses. THANK YOU for your generous donations and for making the winter more bearable for our less fortunate brothers and sisters who live on the street.

**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/](http://www.meetup.com/NYC-Catholic-Families/)

**ABC's of Catholic Relief Service...This week - CRS/Central African Republic:**

The recent courageous visit by Pope Francis highlighted the conflict in this poverty stricken nation. American Catholics play a role in reconciliation. CRS brings together Christian and Muslim leaders to promote peace building. And, you help care for thousands of displaced people.

Last week - CRS/Bosnia. Next week - CRS/Democratic Republic of the Congo. For more info visit: [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org)

**FOOD FOR FAMILIES COLLECTION**

This weekend (and the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of every month) 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. Please put your donations on the boxes in front of the side altars. Many thanks from our parish community!

*(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.)*

**Saturday Evening, December 19th**

5:30 Giovanni Ianni +

**Sunday, December 20th**

8:30 Intentions of Fr. Robert O'Connor

10:00 Daniel Figueroa +

11:15 Ilia & Lola Vargas +

12:30 Robert J. Ross +

4:00 Intentions of Judy D'Agostino

5:30 Daniel Edward Seso +

**Monday, December 21st**

7:30 People of the Parish

12:10 Blanche Burian +

5:30 Intentions of Thomas Middelhoff

**Tuesday, December 22nd**

7:30 Fernando Pando +

12:10 Anna & Al Fanning +

5:30 Mathew Siemion +

**Wednesday, December 23rd**

7:30 Lola Paco & Ilia Vargas +, Esperidion Mejia +

12:10 Sister Marie Pierre Tirrell +

5:30 Intentions of Vivian & Elmer Villaluz

**Thursday, December 24th**

7:30 Intentions of Shawee Yohannes

12:10 Robert Lagville +

4:00

5:30 Intentions of Thomas Middelhoff

7:15

11:00 The People of the Parish

**Friday, December 25th**

8:30

11:00 Peggy Sentner +

**Saturday, December 26th**

7:30 Intentions of Rita McCarthy

12:10 Samuel & Ilia Montalvo +

5:30 George Kaufmann +



If you have not registered in the parish and attend our mass regularly, please fill the bottom form out and return it in the Rectory office. *All information will be kept confidential*

<b><u>NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION FORM</u></b>			
<b>Date</b> _____			
<b>Your Name</b> _____			
<b>Your Spouses Name</b> _____			
<i>(Only if BOTH are Registering)</i>			
<b>Address</b> _____			
<b>Apt. #</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	
<b>Zip</b>	<b>Telephone</b>		
<b>Your Occupation</b> _____			
<b>Your Spouses Occupation</b> _____			
<b>How should we address you? (Check One)</b>			
<b>Mr. &amp; Mrs.</b>	<b>Mr.</b>	<b>Mrs.</b>	<b>Ms.</b>
<b>Would you like to receive weekly offering envelopes?</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>		

#### ***You Did It For Me***

*On his visit to the U.S. Pope Francis said, "Climate change is a problem which can no longer be left to a future generation. When it comes to the care of our 'common home', we are living at a critical moment of history." Stand united with Pope Francis by urging our nation to care for our common home and preserve it for future generations.*

#### ***Tu lo hiciste para mi***

*En su visita a los Estados Unidos el Papa Francisco dijo, "El cambio climático en un problema que no se puede dejar a la próxima generación. Con respecto al cuidado de nuestra "casa común", estamos viviendo un momento crítico de la historia." Permanecer unidos con el Papa Francisco instando a nuestra nación a cuidar de nuestro hogar común y preservarlo para las generaciones futuras.*

#### **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](mailto:Karen@benincasanyc.com).

#### **POPE FRANCIS CHRISTMAS BOOK SALE**

Last minute Christmas shopping. The Social Action Committee is still offering copies of "Laudato Si - On Care For Our Common Home" for only \$8.00. A challenging document which I urge you to read. Discounted copies will be on sale this weekend in the Church vestibule.

#### **PAX CHRIST METRO NEW YORK**

Sunday's readings relate the story of the Visitation. Mary, a very young, mysteriously pregnant, vulnerable teenager hastily travels to her older thought-to-be sterile cousin who is now happily pregnant. We don't really know how Mary got there in a time and culture that would not have condoned such travel, nor do we know why. Did she go out of excitement for Elizabeth's pregnancy? Did she go for refuge since her own pregnancy was socially suspicious? Why? Whatever the reason, the Gospel tells us the infant in Elizabeth's womb leaped for joy upon Mary's arrival, but nothing is said about how Mary felt. Do we approach Jesus's coming with a similar mix of feelings, joy and uncertainty? There is definitely a sense of the specialness of Jesus, a belief that he is born of Mary's deep faith. As Christmas draws near, are we ready to celebrate this amazing child with a faith that surpasses understanding? Let's give it a try.