

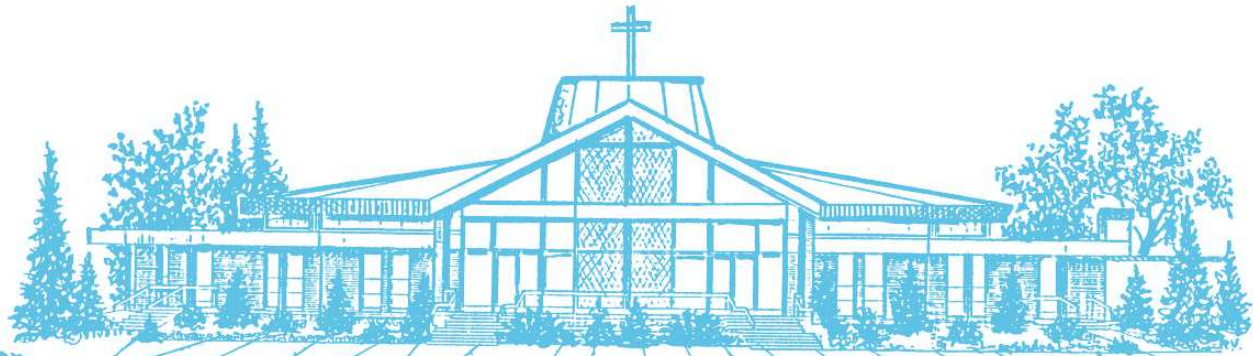
HOLY CHILD CHURCH

4747 Amboy Road, Staten Island, N.Y. 10312

www.holy-child.org

December 18, 2011

718-356-5890



<u>Weekend Masses</u>		<u>Weekday Masses</u>		<u>Holy Day Masses</u>
<u>Saturday PM</u>	5:00 -- 7:00	<u>Monday -- Friday</u>	6:30 AM	7:00 PM <u>Vigil</u> (the evening prior the day)
<u>Sunday AM</u>	6:30 -- 8:00	<u>Daily and Saturday</u>	9:00 AM	6:30 AM -- 9:00 AM -- 12:10 PM -- 7:00PM
	9:30 - 11:00			(plus 3:45 PM -- school days only)
<u>Sunday PM</u>	12:30 - 5:30			

Pastor Travers

Parochial Vicars

Rev. Edwin H. Cipot
Rev. Wilfred Y. Dodo

In Residence

Rev. Percy Joseph

Anne Lukasiewicz, Director of Music Ministry
Sandra Pace, Organist/Bell Choir Conductor
718-608-1423

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Marie Ferro, Director of Religious Education
718-356-5277

Office Hours: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Lorraine St. John, Parish Manager
718-356-5890

Parish Office Hours: 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
1:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Arnie Bilotto, Maintenance Supervisor
718-356-5890

Catherine McQuillen, Sports Council
718-356-5890

Scott Skonieczny, Soccer
732-822-7388

JoAnn C. Gaal, Director of Pre-School
718-356-5159
Classes Mon.-Thurs. AM or PM Sessions
One, Two, Three or Four Days
Office Hours: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

<u>Sacraments</u>	<u>Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration</u>	<u>Devotions</u>
<u>Baptisms</u> 2:00 PM on Sundays Arrangements to be made at the Rectorry. Pre-Baptism classes held Saturday evenings in the Church at 8:00 PM <u>Godparents must have Received Confirmation.</u>	<u>Miraculous Medal Novena</u> Church Mon. after 9:00 AM Mass and at 7:00 PM <u>Sons and Daughters of Mary</u> Divine Mercy Chapel Tues 8:00 PM	<u>Fatima Children's Prayer Group</u> Divine Mercy Chapel Wed. 4:00-5:00 PM <u>Charismatic Prayer Group</u> Rectorry Conference Room Wed. 7:45 PM
<u>Marriages</u> Please contact priests of the parish at least 6 months prior to the wedding date. <u>Book the church before the hall.</u>		
<u>Reconciliation</u> Saturday 3:30—4:30 PM		

Annette O'Reilly
Lea Laccadito
Bob Mistretta
Esther Pla
Linda Malone
Rita Martin
Mike Dontis
Roseann Benjamin
James & Nancy Rizzi

Adoration
Bereavement Ministry
Beyond Renew Faith Sharing
Charismatic Prayer Group
Cheerleading
Cub Scouts
Boy Scouts
Girl Scouts
Marriage Enrichment

Angela Leibold
James Amberger
Peggy Corney
Kathryn Wroblewski
Gerry Harrington
Eddie O'Connor
Joe Buro
Anthony Frizalone
Kelly Carbonaro / Cathie Nicosia

Respect Life
St. Vincent de Paul
St. Vincent de Paul
Senior Citizens
'Son' Shine Ministry
Sons & Daughters of Mary
Usher Ministry
Singles on the Go Social Club
Youth Group

"God will give holy priests to His Church and will increase in the faithful the desire to sustain and help them in their ministry." - Pope Benedict XVI

HOLY CHILD CHURCH



Christmas Eve 24 December
4 PM (preceded by Carols at 3:30 PM)
Midnight (preceded by Carols at 11:15 PM)

Christmas Day 25 December
8:00 -- 9:30 -- 11 -- 12:30

N.B.

-There is no 6:30 am or 5:30 pm on Christmas Day.



CHRISTMAS EVE ADVISORY

You may reserve one seat for the 4 pm Mass in the Forum or Church until 3:45 p.m. If by then your party has not arrived, it must be given up to someone needing a seat. The ushers are authorized to seat people accordingly.

Bereavement Ministry

Mrs. Laccadito ministers to your bereavement needs. Call upon her to make an appointment at your convenience - 718-227-0449.



Peggy Fiorentino
Marilyn Ferriera
Julia Ladner



A NATION AT WAR
Killed in Action

USA - 35, 21, 21, 28, 24, 30 years of age

USMC- 21 years of age

May these men have the honor of our prayers.

Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY VIGIL, DECEMBER 17, 2011

5:00 PM Loftus, Carey & Fitzgerald Families
7:00 PM Michelle Henrique

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2011

6:30 AM People of Holy Child
8:00 AM John Amirante
9:30 AM Martin Cavanagh
11:00 AM Frank Ameruso
12:30 PM Mary Compagnone & Angelina Broccoli
5:30 PM Camille Tortorella

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2011

6:30 AM Angelo & Antoinette Tegano
9:00 AM Melencia Isla

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2011

6:30 AM Crumlish & O'Flaherty Families
9:00 AM Joseph Otero

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2011

6:30 AM JoAnn Bruno
9:00 AM William C. Leverock

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2011

6:30 AM Salvatore Di Re & Antonio Berlingieri
9:00 AM Lucy LiPari & Mary Compagnone

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2011

6:30 AM Joseph Raiola
9:00 AM Priore & Raspente Families

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2011, CHRISTMAS EVE

9:00 AM Elaine Passante & James Ursillo, Sr. & Jr.

Children's Carols 3:30 p.m. leading into
Children's Mass 4:00 p. m. in the Forum

Christmas Vigil Mass 4:00 p.m. in the Church
Carols 11:15 p.m. leading into Midnight Mass

Next Sunday Readings 25th December 2011
Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Advent Confessions
Priests available upon request
Monday 19 December 3 - 8 p.m.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THIS WEEK'S DONATIONS:



Bread & Wine

In Memory of William C. Leverock
Offered by Mom, Dad & Family



Sanctuary Lamp

In Memory of James Molinelli
Offered by Sercia & Frangikis Families



Adoration Chapel Candles

In Memory of Competiello & Todaro Families
Offered by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Celenza



Flowers at the Altar

No flowers during Advent

ARRANGEMENTS FOR BAPTISM

To preserve a more devout and reverent celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism, only six families will be accommodated each week. Please make arrangements with the Church at least a month beforehand.



Get Well Soon!

George Andrews	Emma Cate DiMola	Denise Prager
Joanmarie Andrews	Patrick Fitzgerald	Walter Rogers
Geraldine Armstrong	Eugene Fortunato	Sandy Russo
Geri Brady	Walter Geary	John Savino
Danielle Bulgar	Rose-Marie Graziano	Billy Sherwood, Jr.
Matei Bulgar	Rosaria Incantalupo	Sr. Alexius, IHM
Michael Capolongo	James Ledger	Vincent Tesoriero
Linda Cardinale	Marie Lepere	Elizabeth Timmons
Bridget Cassidy	Cindy Levy	John Thompson
George Cesarano	Ray Mandel	Alyssa Trivalone
Rose Conry	Melissa Marino	Lauren Verdi
Phyllis Cosenza	Ryan Moore	Helen Vigilante
Carol Cropper	James Naimoli	Ann Marie Whitty
Eileen Cuocco	Kathleen Napolitano	Daryl Wilder
Jason D'Angelo	Lucille Padula	Warren Wood
Garvey Deahl	Loretta Pompa	Mary Lou Yacovacci
Nico Di Bono	Theresa Pont	

Day of Prayer & Healing for Women & Men

December 31, 2011

For more information or to register:
Sisters of Life at 866-575-0075 (toll free)
hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org
or Theresa Bonopartis 877-586-4621

To register for men please call 877-586-4621
(toll free)
Lumina@postabortionhelp.org

**"Each one must do as she has made up her mind ...
...for God loves a cheerful giver."** -2 COR 9:7

A small parishioner, six years of age, greeted me after mass last weekend with a yellow bucket in hand which she handed over to me saying, "This is for the poor children." Seeing bills and coins within, I assured her that I would be sure children in need would be the beneficiaries.

She has been collecting from family members, guests and friends for quite a while with the stated intention of giving the final total, which reached fifty dollars, as a gift to poor children. What a wonderful manifestation of the Christmas Spirit!

BE CONFIRMED!

During this past Fall I have been meeting with eight adults. Our meetings have been aimed at preparing them to receive Confirmation when the Bishop comes in the Spring. They have committed themselves to the ten sessions provided.

During the upcoming winter, I expect to be meeting with a new group of adults in need of and desirous of receiving Confirmation. The meetings will run the course of ten Tuesdays and will end before Easter. The first of these Tuesdays will be January 10, 2012.

This is an attempt to help adults fill in that gap which disqualifies one from being a Baptismal Godparent or a Confirmation Sponsor. For according to Canon Law, to serve in one of those capacities, one must have received Baptism, Communion, Confirmation and be a practicing Catholic.

If any adult parishioner wishes to avail themselves of this opportunity to complete their Christian Initiation with Confirmation, please contact me via the rectory.

Father Travers

USHERS



There will be an Ushers' meeting this Monday, December 19th at 7 p.m. in the rectory for all ushers to discuss Christmas preparations. Sign-up sheets are available in the Ushers' Room.

Ushers are needed to assist at the 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Masses on Sunday. If interested, please leave your name and telephone number at the rectory 718-356-5890.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR YOUTH GROUP

The CYO Teenage Federation presented our youth group with the Apostolic Youth Service Award for outstanding community service in 2011.

Our young people were the driving force behind our coat drive and the eyeglasses drive (of which 1,000 were collected). They also made a visit with their musical band to the Seaview Home where they delighted the residents.

We should be proud of their accomplishments under the supervision of Mrs. Kelly Carbonaro & Mrs. Cathie Nicosia.

The Plaque reads as follows:



Youth for Radical Faith
Free Trip to WYD Brazil 2013

The Franciscan Handmaids of Mary are sponsoring Catholic Youth and Young Adults to Brazil for World Youth Day (WYD) Pilgrimage.

All young Catholics 18 years old and above interested in this Spiritual Experience are encouraged to apply. Scholarships are available.

Registration open till December 31, 2011.
Call now: 718-227-5575 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Or

Send e-mail to: pfsocialjustice@yahoo.com

Include:

(name, phone #, parish, home address and email)

St. Vincent de Paul Society

There will be no meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Society this month. The next meeting will be on Sunday, January 22, 2012, in the rectory, after the 9:30 a.m. mass.



Christmas Classics & Pops
at Holy Child
This Sunday 18 December - 3 p.m.

Maestro Alan Aurelio
Conducts
Richmond County Orchestra
+
Riverside Opera Company Singers

Program Highlights:
Tchaikovsky, Puccini, Adam, Anderson, Blair
Christmas Singalong

Featuring:
Michael Castaldo - tenor
singing from his new CD - Extravergine

Prizes/Raffles
Tickets \$15 at the door
Children = free admission

LECTORS
&
COMMUNION MINISTERS
May sign up for New Year service
in the Sacristy.

USHERS
May sign up
in the Ushers' Room.

SAVE THE DATE!

December 22!

Dr. Robert Giugliano, Spiritual Director at Mount Manresa Retreat House will help us make our final prayerful Advent preparations. Dr. Giugliano will be assisted in this effort by Mr. Rich Di Versa.

The presentation is "Meeting Christ in Your Daily Life". What better way for "every heart (to) prepare Him room"?!

The Christmas Gift

Stephanie was a true believer. Perhaps that is why she was so upset that her Aunt Laura did not decorate or celebrate a single Christmas since her mother had passed away on Christmas eve in 1959. Stephanie just couldn't understand it. She thought it was wrong. To her Christmas was for the living. It was about birth and joy and happiness, a celebration of love and family and giving, a time for peace on earth and good will to men, to her these were not just empty words they meant something. And I guess I couldn't understand either - until Stephanie died...only weeks before Christmas on November 30th, 2004.

As the week before Christmas approached, we knew what we had to do and surely Stephanie had left no doubt what she would want us to do. And that is why we have had to decorate and try our best to celebrate Christmas that year and every year since. So that is why we took out the tree and decorations and tearfully went about the task of decorating, a job which Stephanie usually helped to do, a fact that only made it that much more difficult. A job which was never really a job until that year.

My wife had purchased a Christmas decoration for each of our children every year since they were born. Her intention was that when they grew up and moved out that they would take the decorations with them for themselves and their future families--decorations which we had joyfully placed on the tree year after year. This year, however, was different. Stephanie was gone ... but the decorations remained. We painfully unwrapped each ornament and then with a tear in our eye and a lump in our throat reminisced about Stephanie and the 19 joyous Christmases that we had shared. It was a very difficult task.

Christmas Eve came and we prepared the fish and poured the wine and the eggnog and went thru the motions. The family gathered as it had on the prior 19 years and even before...We reminisced and cried and then sat down to a table with 1 empty chair and place setting which had been mistakenly set by my loving wife. Later when we exchanged presents, among them there was a small pile of boxes neatly wrapped on which were written our names....All of our names....and they were all from Stephanie: Gifts which she had bought while being pushed thru the mall by my wife in a wheelchair during the final few weeks of her life, gifts from a loving daughter who was forced to face cancer and the reality of her own mortality at the age of 20, gifts which she had selflessly spent her last few dollars, thoughtful Gifts of Love... Precious gifts which we will always treasure. For me...a little cup ornament which said "I love my Dad", a coffee mug which said "To Dad my first Santa" and a plaque which is written about some guy who was really a great father who I don't think I really know; although it makes me cry every time I read it.

But her greatest gift was not under the tree. The greatest gift was her love... and her insistence that we continue with our Christmas traditions just as we had when she was alive --- to inspire us to find joy even in a world filled with such loss---to find the true meaning of Christmas as she believed it to be. In a world in which there will always be an empty chair at the table which will be followed by another in due time.

Since that Christmas, 5 years have passed and Stephanie would be proud of how we have followed her wishes. The empty chair is now filled by my Granddaughter and I am sure that Stephanie would have loved that. And at Christmas we laugh and we smile and hide our tears as best we can and tell our Granddaughter about her Aunt Stephanie and we will tell her about the true meaning of Christmas as Stephanie would have done --- Because I know that that is the way that Stephanie would want it to be.

And I will try to concentrate on the chairs that are full and to give all my love to those who fill them and I vow that I will keep this tradition as long as I live. Until then I will carry her empty chair and place setting in my heart every day and try to face the world with a smile until the empty chair at the Christmas table is mine....

© 2010 Raymond M. Hare

Editor's note: The angel in the Baptistery is in memory of Stephanie Marie Hare who brought her flute playing to the Holy Child Music Ministry.

Church: Holy Child Church

City: Staten Island

Account: 03-00612