SAINT SAVIOUR CHURCH

611 8TH AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY | 718-768-4055 | STSAVIOURCHURCH@GMAIL.COM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." - Mt 1:21

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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WE CELEBRATE EUCHARIST:

WEEKEND MASSES

5:00 pm: Saturday Evening
9:30 am Sunday Morning
11:30 am: Sunday Morning

WEEKDAY MASSES

8:30 am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

WE CELEBRATE SACRAMENTS:

Baptisms are celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Arrangements must be made in advance with either Emily SanPietro or Father Frank. Please note that we do no celebrate baptisms during Advent and Lent.

Marriages Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance and participation in the Diocesan Pre-Cana Program is required. Please call the Rectory to schedule an appointment with Fr. Frank who will discuss the necessary details.

Sacrament of the Sick In the event of serious illness, please call the Rectory and request the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Communion for the Homebound Eucharistic Ministers are available to bring Holy Communion to those unable to join us for Eucharist. Please call the Rectory to make arrangements.

Confessions First Saturday of the month in the church from 4:00-4:30 PM. By appointment for all other times.

ST. SAVIOUR PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Frank W. Spacek, D. Min., **Pastor**
Rev. Kevin P. Cavalluzzi, D. Min., **In Residence**
Emily SanPietro, **Administrative Assistant**
Deacon Paul E. Norman, **Faith Formation**
Dr. Nicholas J. Nicassio, **Music Ministry**

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Thursday 11:00 AM–4:00 PM
Friday No Office Hours
Saturday & Sunday No Office Hours
To speak with a priest, please call for an appointment. For sick calls, phone anytime.

ST. SAVIOUR HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Carolann Timpone, **Principal**
TEL 718.768.4406 · WEB www.stsaviour.org

ST. SAVIOUR CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Mr. Dean J. Fusto, M.A.T., M.A., **President**
Mr. Matthew Artigas, **Principal**
TEL 718.768.8000
WEB www.saintsaviourcatholicacademy.org

WHO IS WELCOME IN ST. SAVIOUR CHURCH?

Are you a sinner? Have you been away from the church for a long time? Are you divorced or separated? Are you physically or mentally challenged? Are you from a different culture? Are you not accepted because of your sexual orientation? Are you elderly, a teen or young adult? Are you discriminated against because of your color? Are you feeling broken? Are you poor or out of work? Have you been imprisoned? Have you a feeling that you are left out? **You are welcome here! This is your home, and we are your family!**

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PASTOR

I do hope that everyone will have a great time this Christmas with family and friends. Don't forget that while the rest of the world would have us believe that Christmas ends on Thursday evening (December 25th), in reality, OUR celebration of Christmas has really just begun, and it will continue right through to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (celebrated this year on January 11, 2026). I lament the fact that any inkling of Christmas music on the radio will be history by Christmas night, but we can certainly continue our celebration of Christmas knowing that our Saviour is with us (and we can certainly still make use of our Christmas CDs)! Make the most of this Christmas Season by allowing yourself to become everything our God created you to be. The Christmas Season always brings out the best in people, but that shouldn't end the day after Christmas. As Christians, our belief in Jesus should always bring out the best within us, for we consistently pray that we might be more like Christ. I can think of no better time than the present to continue our spirit of merriment, refreshed in the reality that God is indeed with us! Don't forget, being a Christian is a life-long process. It's not something we do only on special occasions or high holy days like Christmas.

I want to say a great big "THANK YOU" to Father Kevin for putting together our annual Christmas party for all the children in our Faith Formation Program today. I think he did a great job not only setting everything up and decorating the High School Cafeteria, but he also made sure that every child left the party today with a really nice Christmas gift. I also want to thank Deacon Paul and all our catechists and assistants for helping us in making today's Christmas party a memorable experience for our young people.

I would like to add a special thank to to Mrs. Carol Timpone, our high school principal, and all the students, faculty and staff of our high school for the great fund-raising idea of adorning the fence along 6th Street from the high school down to 8th Avenue with Christmas wreaths. They look absolutely beautiful and add a lot of Christmas décor to our parish. Great job everyone.

Finally on behalf of Father Kevin, Deacon Paul, myself and the entire Pastoral Staff of Saint Saviour Parish Family, I want to wish you and your family a happy, holy and blessed Christmas! You know the deal—no fighting with the relatives on Christmas! It's the day of our Saviour's birth—a day of peace and love and friendship. We can't pray and sing and celebrate while in church—only to go home and get frustrated and angry at the people who mean so much to us. Allow the Christ-Child to touch your heart this Christmas.

Have a great week everyone.

Father Frank

Annual Catholic Appeal 2025
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

As a committed parishioner, friend, and Catholic, we need your support to uphold our mission. We are grateful to the 107 donors who have already made a generous commitment to the 2025 Annual Catholic Appeal.

Parish Goal: $58,410
Raised: $90,108

You may also make your gift online now at **annualcatholicappeal.org**

UPCOMING PARISH COLLECTIONS

CHRISTMAS MASS REMEMBRANCE

Included with the monthly contributions envelopes is a special envelope for the Christmas Mass remembrance. Please use this envelope for your special intentions, which will be remembered at each of our celebrations of Eucharist this Christmas.

CHRISTMAS GIFT TO MY PARISH

At this time of the year we all receive many requests from worthy charities and soon realize that we can't respond to them all. However, one appeal that hopefully everyone will respond to is the annual **Christmas Gift to My Parish Collection.** A year-end Christmas gift is your chance to go beyond the day-to-day support of your parish that you fund through your weekly support in the Sunday collection.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Each year we take great pride in the beautiful Christmas decorations in our church. Contributions to help defray the expense of decorating the church for the holiday season may be made in memory of deceased relatives or friends, or in honor of the living. There are envelopes for this purpose in the set of monthly envelopes or you may obtain one in the vestibule of the church. Please help the Altar Guild in creating a beautiful setting for our liturgical celebrations during the Christmas season.

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

Today—Religious Retirement Fund
December 25—Christmas Offering
January 3-4—Maintenance & Repair

CHRISTMAS CANDLES

This year, we would like to offer YOU the opportunity to memorialize our Christmas Candles, which will grace our sanctuary here in church for the entire Christmas Season. Each Christmas Candle in the church can be memorialized in memory of a deceased loved one or in honor of someone who is living for an offering of $75.00. Please remember we only have (4) candles available. If you are interested in memorializing a Christmas Candle this year, please call or email Emily at the Rectory: stsaviourchurch@aol.com

ONLINE GIVING By WeShare

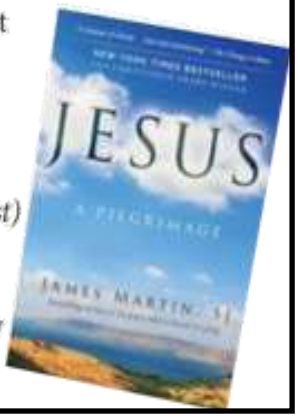
WeShare allows parishioners a safe and easy way to donate online. If you've never donated online before, signing up is easy!

1. Visit our website: www.stsaviourchurch.org
2. and click "Give Online."
3. Click on the collection you wish to donate to.
4. Click Recurring Donation, then enter your donation amount and frequency.

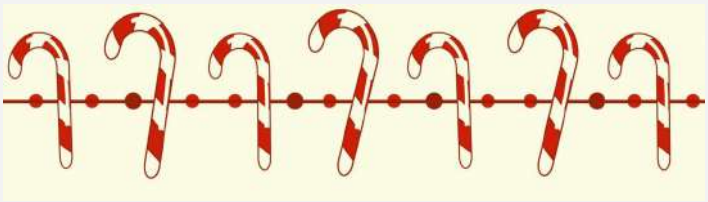
Once you've added your information, donations will automatically deduct from your account.

The St. Saviour Book Group will meet on Wednesday evening, January 7th at 7:30 to discuss James Martin S.J.'s New York Times best seller *Jesus: A Pilgrimage*. The group had a lively discussion when it read Fr. Martin's *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything* a few years ago.

Contact Betsy at ektbetsy@gmail.com for information on how to attend.



We still have Mass Intentions available for both weekday AND weekend celebrations of Eucharist. Please consider having a Mass celebrated for a loved one or family member—either living or deceased. We are ALL in need of prayers, and there is no greater prayer than the celebration of Eucharist. Each Mass Intention is only $15.00. If you are interested in having a Mass celebrated in memory of a deceased loved one, or in honor of someone who is living, please call Emily at the Rectory and she will be more than happy to assist you.



THE CANDY CANE LEGEND

A candy maker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would be a witness for his Saviour, so he made the Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus the Christ. He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. The white symbolizes the Virgin Birth (Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:26-35) and the sinless nature of Jesus (1 John 3:5). The hardness of the candy symbolizes the solid rock (1 Corinthians 10:4), the foundation of the Church (Matthew 16:18), and the firmness of the promises of God (Psalm 18:30-32). The candy maker made the candy into the form of a "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus, who came to earth as our Saviour (1 John 3:16-17), and a symbol to represent the staff of the Good Shepherd (John 10:14). The candy maker decided to stain it with red stripes, representing the stripes Jesus received prior to His crucifixion (Mark 15:15-20) for our healing (Isaiah 53:5). The large red stripe represents the shedding of His blood on the cross for our salvation (Romans 5:9;Ephesians 1:7)

PLEASE PRAY *for the*
SICK & HOMEBOUND

- **Nelista Skerrett**
- **Xiao Xiao Pan**
- **The Lanni Family**

The St. Thomas Aquinas Food Pantry is always in need of the following items: oatmeal, white or brown rice, pasta, evaporated milk, canned or dried black beans, canned tuna, salmon or chicken, bar soap, and shampoo.

Brownbaggers Homeless Outreach

The Brownbaggers project serves the poor in NYC during the fall and winter months. Since 2009 we have delivered thousands of lunches. Volunteers meet monthly in the Parish Hall at 12:30pm and assemble 100 bags with donated food and clothing items. We then travel via subway to multiple Manhattan and Brooklyn locations to distribute our lunches to those most in need, returning home at around 3:30 pm

Dave Beaudry is the current director of our Brownbaggers Homeless Outreach Program.

Please RSVP now for
Sunday, January 11

Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
Please wear comfortable shoes and bring a credit or OMNY card for the subway.

Twenty-five volunteers are needed for this event. RSVP to: davebeaudry@gmail.com

Please consider donating warm socks, hats or gloves into the Brownbaggers Donation Box located in the vestibule of the church. Any donations received will be distributed at a Brownbagger event.

Financial donations to purchase food items can be made in the Parish rectory.
Thank you for your support.

Just a reminder that all adults must be VIRTUS trained to attend.

"Arise, all ye nobles and peasants; Mary invites all, rich and poor, just and sinners, to enter the cave of Bethlehem, to adore and to kiss the feet of her new-born Son…Let us enter; let us not be afraid." - St. Alphonsus Liguori

The rectory office will be closed for Christmas on Wednesday, December 24th, through Friday December 26th. We will close for New Year's on Thursday, January 1st and Friday, January 2nd.

CHRISTMAS EVE 12/24
5:00 p.m.
12:00 Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY 12/25
10:00 a.m.

This week's Advent candle was donated
By one of our parish families
for a special intention

Sunday, December 21, Fourth Sunday of Advent
9:30 a.m. Peter LaVeglia/Joan Perchman
11:30 a.m. George Boolbol/Stanley Shor

Monday, December 22, Advent Weekday
8:30 a.m. Henry O'Meara

Tuesday, December 23, Advent Weekday
8:30 a.m. Joseph Glass

Wednesday, December 24, Late Advent Weekday
5:00 p.m. Christmas Mass Remembrance
Midnight Christmas Mass Remembrance

Thursday, December 25, The Nativity of the Lord
10:00 a.m. Christmas Mass Remembrance

Friday, December 26, Saint Stephen
8:30 a.m. NO MASS

Saturday, December 27, Saint John, Apostle
5:00 p.m. Christina Greene/Warren Pusz

Sunday, December 28, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
9:30 a.m. Sr. Barbara Hanlon, CSJ
11:30 a.m. Antonio Rivera

Mass Schedule

Wednesday, January 1st

10:00 a.m.

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