



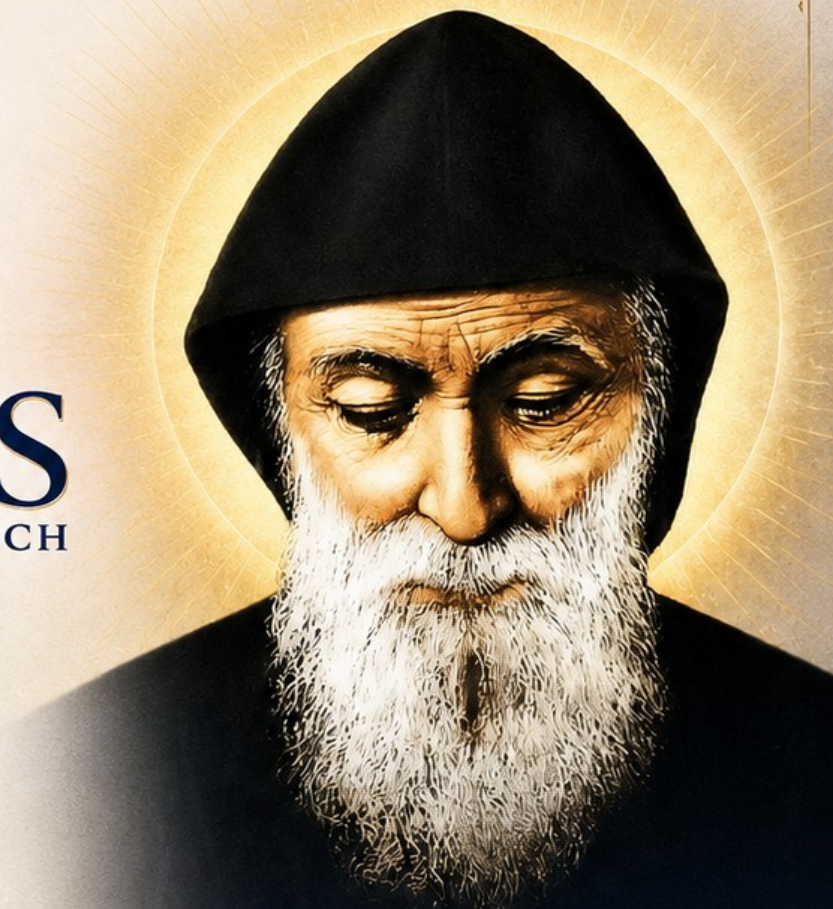
SAINT  
**PANCRAS**  
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

• GLENDALE, QUEENS •  
— DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN —



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

*Saint Charbel*  
IS COMING TO  
**SAINT PANCRAS**



“  
*He who loves  
Mary will make  
her loved.*

”  
— SAINT CHARBEL —

 **WEDNESDAY, JULY 15**



**6:00 PM**

TALK AT THE GROTTA



**7:00 PM**

MASS IN CHURCH



**8:00 PM**

BLESSING WITH  
THE RELIC AND OIL



*The saints never draw us away from Christ; they always lead us more deeply to Him. Each saint reflects something unique about the beauty of the Gospel and reminds us that holiness is possible in every age and every vocation.*

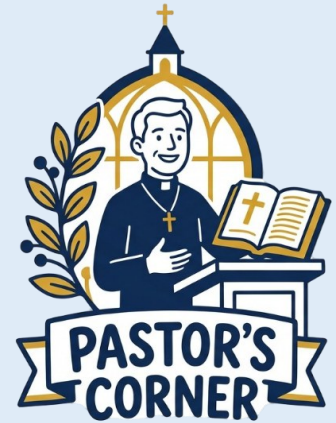
*Our parish has been blessed with a special devotion to Saint Pancras, our patron, whose youthful courage teaches us to remain faithful to Christ no matter the cost. We are also blessed to honor Saint Carlo Acutis, whose love for the Holy Eucharist reminds us that the Eucharist is truly “the highway to heaven” and that holiness is possible even in our own time.*

*Soon we will celebrate Saint Charbel Makhlof, the great Lebanese monk and hermit.*

*Through his life of prayer, silence, humility, and complete trust in God,*

*Saint Charbel reminds us that true strength is found not in worldly success but in closeness to the Lord.*

*May these holy men continue to inspire us, strengthen our faith, and always lead us to Jesus, who alone is the source of our hope and salvation.*



*Święci nigdy nie oddalają nas od Chrystusa. Przeciwnie – zawsze prowadzą nas do głębszej relacji z Nim. Każdy święty ukazuje w wyjątkowy sposób piękno Ewangelii i przypomina nam, że świętość jest możliwa w każdym czasie i w każdym powołaniu.*

*Nasza parafia jest szczególnie związana z św. Pankracym, naszym patronem, którego odwaga i wierność uczą nas wytrwać przy Chrystusie niezależnie od trudności. Wielkim darem jest również kult św. Karola Acutisa, którego miłość do Najświętszej Eucharystii przypomina nam, że Eucharystia jest prawdziwą „autostradą do nieba” i że świętość jest możliwa także w naszych czasach.*

*Wkrótce będziemy obchodzić wspomnienie św. Szarbela Makhlofa, wielkiego libańskiego mnicha i pustelnika. Jego życie modlitwy, milczenia, pokory i całkowitego zawierzenia Bogu przypomina nam, że prawdziwa siła rodzi się z bliskości z Panem.*

*Niech ci święci nieustannie umacniają naszą wiarę i prowadzą nas zawsze do Jezusa, jedyne go źródła naszej nadziei i zbawienia.*



*Los santos nunca nos apartan de Cristo; por el contrario, siempre nos conducen a una relación más profunda con Él. Cada santo refleja de manera única la belleza del Evangelio y nos recuerda que la santidad es posible en toda época y en toda vocación.*

*Nuestra parroquia tiene una profunda devoción a San Pancracio, nuestro patrono, cuyo valor y fidelidad nos enseñan a permanecer firmes en Cristo, sin importar las dificultades. También tenemos la alegría de honrar a San Carlo Acutis, cuyo amor por la Sagrada Eucaristía nos recuerda que la Eucaristía es verdaderamente la “autopista al cielo” y que la santidad también es posible en nuestro tiempo.*

*Pronto celebraremos a San Charbel Makhlof, el gran monje y ermitaño libanés. Su vida de oración, silencio, humildad y total confianza en Dios nos enseña que la verdadera fortaleza nace de la cercanía al Señor.*

*Que estos santos sigan inspirándonos, fortaleciendo nuestra fe y conduciéndonos siempre a Jesús, única fuente de nuestra esperanza y salvación.*

# Saint Pancras Roman Catholic Church

72-22 68th Street—Glendale, New York 11385

(t) 718-821-2323

(f) 718-639-0825

(w) [www.StPancras-Queens.org](http://www.StPancras-Queens.org)

## *Pastoral Staff/Equipo Parroquial/Personel Parafii*

**Rev. Msgr. Steven J. Aguggia, Pastor**

Email: [SAguggia@StPancras-Queens.org](mailto:SAguggia@StPancras-Queens.org)

**Rev. Wladyslaw Kubrak, Parochial Vicar**

Email: [WKubrak@StPancras-Queens.org](mailto:WKubrak@StPancras-Queens.org)

**Rev. Joseph Holcomb, Weekend Assistant**

**Dcn. Tomás Collado, Permanent Deacon**

**Mr. Juan C. Perez, Pastoral Associate, Director of Faith Formation**

Email: [JPerez@StPancras-Queens.org](mailto:JPerez@StPancras-Queens.org)

Email: [SchoolOfReligion@StPancras-Queens.org](mailto:SchoolOfReligion@StPancras-Queens.org)

**Mrs. Angela LoCascio, Youth Ministry Coordinator**

Email: [Angela@StPancras-Queens.org](mailto:Angela@StPancras-Queens.org)

**Mr. Jonathan D'Amico, Director of Music**

Email: [Jonathan@StPancras-Queens.org](mailto:Jonathan@StPancras-Queens.org)

**Mr. George Escobar, Plant Manager**

**Mr. Mateusz Zygodlo, Parish Office Manager**

Email: [Rectory@StPancras-Queens.org](mailto:Rectory@StPancras-Queens.org)



## *Parish Office Hours*

**Monday/Lunes/Poniedziałek**      **Friday/Viernes/Piątek**  
9:00AM—5:00PM                      9:00AM—5:00PM

**Tuesday/Martes/Wtorek**              **Closed for Lunch**  
9:00AM—5:00PM                      12:00PM—1:00PM

**Wednesday/Miercoles/Sroda**      **Saturday/Sabado/Sobota**  
9:00AM—5:00PM                      9:00AM—1:00PM

**Thursday/Jueves/Czwartek**      **Sunday/Domingo/Niedziela**  
9:00AM—5:00PM                      Parish Office Closed

## *Mass Schedule/Horario de Misas/Harmonogram Mszy*

**Weekday/Dia laborable/Dzien powszedni—8:30AM**

**Saturday Vigil/Sabado Vigilia/Sobotnia Wigilia—4:30PM**

**Sunday Mass/misa dominical/Niedzielna Msza sw—**  
8:00AM—English                      11:00AM—English  
9:30AM—Polski                      12:30PM—Español

## *Devotions/Oraciones/Modlitwy*

**Novena of O. L. of the Miraculous Medal and St. Anne**

Mondays following the morning Mass

**St. Pancras Novena**

Tuesdays following the morning Mass

**Rosary/Rosario/Rozaniec**

Prayed Daily after the 8:30AM Mass

**Eucharistic Adoration**

Each 1st Friday of the month following morning Mass until 9:00pm. If you are interested in signing up for an hour of adoration with the Lord, please call the rectory.

**July 12, 2026**

**Fifteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time**

## *Reconciliation/Reconciliación/Spowiedź św.*

Saturdays 3:30PM—4:00PM

First Friday of Month 6:00 PM to 6:50PM in Spanish

## *Baptism/Bautismo/Chrzest*

Baptisms will be celebrated the second Sunday of the month. Please call the Parish Office for scheduling and information.

## *Matrimony/Matrimonio/Malzenstwo*

Marriage arrangements must be made at least six (6) months prior to the proposed wedding date. Please call the Parish Office to make an appointment.

## *Prayer Groups/Grupos de Oracion/Grupy Modlitewne*

**Padre Pio Prayer Group (English-Italian)**

First Saturday of each month at 8:30am Mass.

**Spanish Prayer Group**

Prayer Group meets every other Tuesday at 7:30pm.

## *Catholic Cemeteries*

For information and available options, please call 718.894.4888.



*ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS*

**Saturday, July 11, 2026 - St. Benedict**

8:30 am Purgatorial Society  
 4:30 pm For the People of the Parish  
 Elizabeth Kolin - *1st Birthday in Heaven* (Linda)  
 Penelope Marie Rennison (Rennison Family)

**Sunday, July 12, 2026 - Fifteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time**

8:00 am Camile DePaola - *Birthday Remembrance*  
 (Vinnie & Anthony DePaola)  
 9:30 am (Polish) Wieslaw Bruszewski (Syna Wojciecha z Rodzina)  
 11:00 am Michael & Mary Leccese  
 (JoAnn & Phyllis Leccese)  
 12:30 pm(Spanish) Arturo Coronel - *4th Anniversary*  
 (Patricio Coronel)

**Monday, July 13, 2026 - St. Henry**

8:30 am Vita & Pietro Stabile (Rosaria Stabile)

**Tuesday, July 14, 2026 - St. Kateri Tekakwitha**

8:30 am Maria Chianetta (Salvatore & Gloria Lamasa)

**Wednesday, July 15, 2026 - St. Bonaventure**

8:30 am Maria Estrada (Maria Fernandez)

**Thursday, July 16, 2026 - Our Lady of Mount Carmel**

8:30 am Souls in Purgatory, Burgio Family & Toma  
 (Grazia)

**Friday, July 17, 2026**

8:30 am Lorenzo Benfari (Wife & Kids)

**Saturday, July 18, 2026 - St. Camillus de Lellis**

8:30 am Yolanda Mary Rimaldi  
 (Padre Pio & St. Joseph Prayer Group)  
 4:30 pm For the People of the Parish  
 Maria Meditz (Traudi Stiene)  
 Maureen O'Connor (Michael Dolphin)



**Memorial Gifts  
 Week of July 12, 2026**

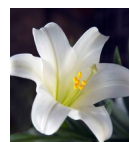
**Bells Rung:  
 In Memory of  
 Penelope Marie Rennison  
 Requested By: Rennison Family**

**Bread, Wine & Candles  
 In Memory of  
 Michael Barth  
 Requested By: Janet Barth**

**Please Pray for the Sick:**

Kathleen Eveline, Sharon & Barney Magro, Monica Giglietto,  
 Ryder Chevalley, Noah Seranno, Barbara Frankel,  
 Sylvia & Robert Nolde, Frank Crifasi, Anissa Johnson, Tom Hegyi,  
 Florenda Rose, Elena Barcelona, Thomas Marutollo, Jerry Ross,  
 William & Donna Nolde, Janet Seminara, Daniel Portalatin,  
 Antonia Lahara, Jerry Aguilar, Julie Maldonado, Edward Fried,  
 Linda Nolde, Susan Scanlon, Maureen Cooper, Rose Colon,  
 Neil Sussman, Eileen Moore, Diana Acosta, Jean DeFelice,  
 Lorraine Gloria Rocco, James Spoto, Tino Iorio, Cathleen Hock,  
 Veronica Bock, Vinnie DePaola, Jamie Makaron, Vincent Arcuri,  
 Charles R. Gruber, Nancy Gonzalez, Francesco Crifasi,  
 Edna Krusz, Ann Winkler, Marilyn Koch, Elizabeth C. Stein,  
 Carmen Reyes, Milagros Morales, Christopher Kelly,  
 Michele Gambino, Erna Perz, Rosemarie Maly, Lisa Chevalley,  
 Steven Piller, Richard Maly, Barbara Bauer, Catalino Ramirez,  
 Kevin Joost, Noah Rivera, Christopher Romeo, Justin Yankow,  
 Kathleen Bossio, William Bossio, Joe Vitale, Patricia O'Neil,  
 Francine Romeo, Elizabeth Clark, Rudy Magi, Ann Eveline,  
 Scott Lehman, Kathleen Giovanniello, Elsie Sola, Phyllis Souza,  
 Sondra Valencia, Eugene Strohmeier, Tom Harms,  
 Michael Stavola, Rose Mary Bock, Tommy Yankow,  
 Susie Maffea, Matthew Bianco, Wayne Espanet, Seifan Medhat,  
 Mery Medhat, Soheir Bektor, Dianna Zanolletti, Vincent Toronto,  
 Antonio Beutti, Danny Yankow, Mike Englert,  
 Linda-Ann Salierno, Adam Gorman, Sandy Yankow, Joan Ferriso,  
 Kelly Eveline, Michelle Gorman, Deniko Stewart, Thomas Lester,  
 Anthony Maffea Sr., Remi Bergdorfer, Calvin Humenik,  
 Alan Sonnenberg, Barbara Valle, Anne Kreitsch, Barbara Roberts,  
 Leticia Marie LoNigro, Monika & Michael Abel, Jenny Robison,  
 Muriel Geuss, Julia Szulewski.

**Please Pray for the Faithful Departed:  
 Libera Buono**



**May they rest in peace! Amen**

Mass Intentions are Available

Saturday, July 18, 2026 at 4:30pm  
 Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 8:30am  
 Thursday, July 23, 2026 at 8:30am  
 Saturday, July 25, 2026 at 4:30pm  
 Friday, July 31, 2026 at 8:30am  
 Sunday, August 2, 2026 at 12:30pm  
 Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at 8:30am  
 Monday, August 10, 2026 at 8:30am  
 Thursday, August 13, 2026 at 8:30am



There are weekly Memorials available :

- Bread, Wine and Candles (\$25)
- Sanctuary Lamps (\$25)
- The St. Anne Shrine Lamp (\$25)
- Ringing of the Bells (\$25)
- Blessed Mother Oil Lamp(\$25)
- St. Joseph Oil Lamp (\$25)
- Blessed Mother Candle (\$25)
- St. Therese Candle (\$25)
- St. Pancras Candle (\$25)

ST. PANCRAS GIFT SHOP

WE HAVE A WIDE VARIETY OF RELIGIOUS PRODUCTS, SACRAMENT GIFTS, SEASONAL GIFTS, STATUES, GREETING CARDS AND BOOKS. IF YOU DON'T SEE WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR, WE CAN ORDER IT FOR YOU.

MORE NEW INVENTORY COMING SOON!



SPECIAL ST. PANCRAS HOLY OIL



**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**JULY 12, 2026**

**FIRST READING:**

My word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it. (Is 55:11)

**PSALM:**

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest. (Ps 65)

**SECOND READING:**

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. (Rom 8:18)

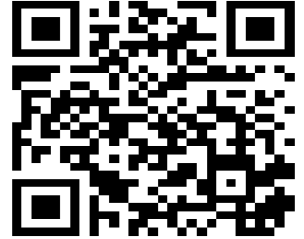
**GOSPEL:**

Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. (Mt 13:17)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. ©LPI

**“Who has faith in Me will do the works I do, and far greater than these.” Are you being called to do the work of the Lord as a priest, deacon, sister, or brother? If you are considering this possibility, contact the Vocation Office at 718-827-2454 or email: [vocations@diobrook.org](mailto:vocations@diobrook.org)**

Please scan this QR code to make your weekly donations to St. Pancras Church through Give Central.



**OUR CALL TO CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP**

“As each has received a gift, employ it for one another as good stewards of God’s Grace.” (1 Peter 4:10)

**June 21, 2026 (Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

**Attendance at Mass: 661**

**Sunday Offering Envelopes Received:**

**4:30PM Mass Totals: \$513.00 —Attendance: 72**

**8:00AM Mass Totals: \$979.00 —Attendance: 132**

**9:30AM Mass Totals: \$776.00 —Attendance: 159**

**11:00AM Mass Totals: \$1,450.00 —Attendance: 212**

**12:30PM Mass Totals: \$1,254.00 —Attendance: 245**

**Number of Give Central Users: 18**

**Amount Received from Online Giving Users: \$339.00**

**Total Weekly Contributions: \$5,005.00**



**One Church.  
Diverse Ministries.  
United Mission.**

The 2026 Annual Catholic Appeal is ongoing.

Your gift helps sustain the ministries that bring Christ’s love to life across Brooklyn and Queens - supporting Vocations, Faith Formation, Catholic Charities, Youth Ministry, Care for Retired Priests, and more.

Watch the video: [www.CFBQ.org/ACAVideo](http://www.CFBQ.org/ACAVideo)

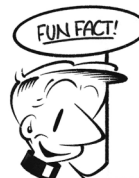
Let us pray for the success of this Appeal - that together we may extend love, strengthen our faith, and remain united in mission.

Make a pledge today to support your parish and the many ministries of our diocese by visiting [AnnualCatholicAppeal.org](http://AnnualCatholicAppeal.org) or texting **DONATE** to 917-336-1255.

“Did you hear about the Sister who opened a travel agency?”



“She schedules **PRAY-cations!**”



It’s always a good idea to schedule some time to step away from your everyday hustle and bustle and spend some time in prayer.

©LPI

## Music Ministry

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday, Jesus gives us one of His most familiar parables: the Parable of the Sower. A sower goes out to sow seed, and the seed falls in different places. Some falls on the path, some on rocky ground, some among thorns, and some on rich soil. The seed is the Word of God. The soil is the human heart.

What is striking about this parable is the generosity of the sower. He does not carefully ration the seed. He scatters it everywhere. God's Word is offered freely and abundantly. God continues to speak to His people, even when hearts are distracted, hardened, shallow, or overwhelmed. His grace is never stingy.

But Jesus also reminds us that the condition of the soil matters. Some hear the Word but do not understand it. Some receive it with joy, but without deep roots, they fall away when life becomes difficult. Some hear the Word, but anxiety, worry, and the lure of worldly things choke it before it can bear fruit. Then there is the rich soil: the heart that hears, understands, receives, and allows God's Word to grow.

Each of us can probably recognize all four types of soil in our own lives. There are times when we are closed off. There are times when our faith is enthusiastic but shallow. There are times when our worries, schedules, responsibilities, and desires crowd out the voice of God. And, by His grace, there are also times when we are open, ready, and willing to let Him work in us.

The first reading from Isaiah gives us hope: God says that His Word will not return to Him empty. Like rain and snow watering the earth, God's Word has power. It softens what is hard. It nourishes what is dry. It brings life where there was barrenness. Even when we feel spiritually tired or distracted, God is still patiently working the soil of our hearts.

The question for us this week is simple: What kind of soil am I offering to God? Are there rocks of pride or resentment that need to be removed? Are there thorns of anxiety or attachment that are choking my faith? Is there a place in my life where God is asking me to be more open to His Word?

Good soil does not become fruitful by accident. It must be prepared, watered, and cared for. The same is true of the soul. Prayer, the sacraments, Scripture, silence, and acts of charity all help prepare the heart to receive what God is planting.

The promise of the Gospel is not just that the seed can grow, but that it can produce an abundant harvest: thirty, sixty, or a hundredfold. When God's Word takes root in us, it never remains private or hidden. It bears fruit in patience, forgiveness, mercy, generosity, peace, and love.

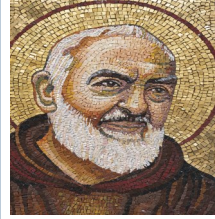
This week, may we ask the Lord to make our hearts rich soil. May His Word take root in us, grow within us, and bear fruit for the good of our families, our parish, and the world.

**Jonathan D'Amico, Music Director**



## Church News

### St. Joseph & Padre Pio Prayer Group



The Prayer Group meets the first Saturday of the month at the 8:30 am Mass.

All are welcome to join the prayer group. The yearly dues are \$25.00.

Please come and join us!

The next meeting is  
September 5, 2026



### Spanish Prayer Group

Grupo de Oración en Español

Martes, 14 de Julio a las 7:30

Ven y comparte un rato de oración al lado de Jesús.

NO te quedes en tu casa.

**VEN!**



### ST. PANCRAS BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Are you struggling with the recent loss of a loved one and would you like support? We invite you to join our Bereavement Group.

Our next monthly meeting is  
Thursday, July 23, 2026 at 7:30pm.

For more information,  
contact Ann Winkler at 917-860-7634.

# FOR THE CHILDREN OF ST. PANCRAS CHURCH

## God's Word is Like Seed...



In today's Gospel reading, Jesus explains the parable of the sower and the seed to the disciples. Like the seed, the word of God comes to all sorts of people. Some people hear it and the devil takes it away, like the seed that falls on the path and is eaten by the birds. Some people hear God's word and love it for a little while, but they don't let it grow deeply in themselves, like the seed on rocky ground that doesn't grow good roots. Some people hear God's word and it starts to grow in them, but they have so many other things going on in their lives that they forget God.



The people who hear the word of God and let it grow in them are like the good soil. When the sower plants the seed in the good soil it gets deep roots, grows high and produces a good harvest. When we receive the word of God well, it takes root in us so that it is really deep in our hearts. It grows when we feed it by learning more about God and trying to love Him more. It produces a harvest when other people come to love God because of us.



What kind of soil are you like? Do you let God's word be snatched away as soon as you hear it? Do you let it take root in your heart and love it, or is it like the seed sown on rocky ground that is too shallow? Do you let other things in your life crowd out God's life in you, or do you let God's word in deep and feed it and let it grow?



Answers to Unscramble Puzzle:  
Lord, rain, snow, earth, seed, bread, mouth, word, sent.

[www.thekidsbulletin.com](http://www.thekidsbulletin.com)

# The Kids' Bulletin

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 12th, 2026

Here is the parable Our Lord told in today's Gospel reading, with pictures!

A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed,


some of the  fell on the , and




came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil.

It sprang up at once because the soil was

not deep, and when the  rose it was

scorched, and it withered for lack of .

Some  fell among , and the thorns

grew up and choked it. But some  fell on

rich soil and produced fruit, a hundred or

sixty, or thirty-fold.



**REGISTRATION  
FOR  
2026-2027**

**ST. PANCRAS SCHOOL OF RELIGION**

72-22 68<sup>th</sup> Street

Glendale, NY 11385

Phone: 718-524-2968

e-mail: [schoolofreligion@stpancras-queens.org](mailto:schoolofreligion@stpancras-queens.org)

Please complete the registration form and return it with your money order, cash or check payable to "St. Pancras". **One form MUST be completed for each child. ALL REGISTRATION FORMS, MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL....** Transfer students must have a notice of release from their previous parish indicating the last grade completed and the Sacraments received. **Copies of Baptismal certificates MUST be provided for first time registrations.** If your child has not been baptized and is over seven (7) years of age, we will make arrangements to receive the Sacraments. In order to better serve your child, **please advise us of any special condition (medical, emotional, etc.)** All information you provide will be strictly confidential.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES SCHEDULE**

- **1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades:** Will meet on Tuesdays from 6:30 PM to 7:45 PM
- **Confirmation classes 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades:** Will meet on Wednesdays from 6:30 PM to 7:45 PM. **In addition to the classes, all grades will meet for additional activities according to the calendar that we will send by email and mail.**
- As part of the program, confirmation classes **MUST** actively participate within the various pastoral groups. (**Altar servers, Music Ministry**) Please choose one your child is interested in. **(THIS IS NOT AN OPTION)**

**REGISTRATION FEES**

**REGISTRATION UNTIL May 6<sup>th</sup> 2026**

- *One child: \$130.00*
- *Two children \$180.00*
- *Three or more children \$250*

**If you register after JUNE 26<sup>th</sup> 2026 (+ \$100)**

- *One child: \$230.00*
- *Two children \$280.00*
- *Three or more children \$350*

**In addition** to the Registration Fee, there is an additional fee of \$100.00 for those receiving the **Sacrament of Communion (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) & Confirmation (8<sup>th</sup> grade).**

**Please send registration forms and fee in a sealed envelope to the rectory attention: Mr. Perez ASAP**

The St. John's University Speech and Hearing Center will be offering FREE speech and hearing screenings from June 8, 2026 through July 30, 2026.

They will also be offering "Hearing Aid Help" from June 8, 2026 through July 30, 2026. This is a free service and is available for anyone who has a hearing aid and may be experiencing some difficulty caring for it or using it.

Please call the center at 718-990-6480 to schedule an appointment.

The Speech and Hearing Center is located at 152-11 Union Turnpike,  
Flushing, NY 11367

Anne-Marie Maher, MA, CCC-SLP, Clinic Director

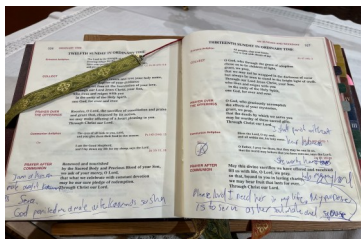


**ST. JOHN'S**  
**UNIVERSITY**

Last Thursday, July 2, an individual entered the church and lit all the candles in front of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The individual then went up to the altar, approached the Blessed Sacrament and walked around the sanctuary for several minutes. Later, the individual approached the altar and wrote, defacing the book used for the Eucharistic celebration, the Roman Missal.

This person remained in the church for approximately one hour. We believe these actions were disrespectful toward what is sacred.

Our church is a sacred place, the house of God, and we are grateful that it remains open each day for prayer and quiet reflection. The sanctuary (altar area) especially is a holy place which is not for casual conversation or non-liturgical actions. While it appears that this individual may have been experiencing significant personal difficulties, this incident reminds us that all of us share a responsibility to help preserve an atmosphere of reverence and respect. If you notice someone acting in a way that seems unusual, disruptive, or disrespectful toward our church, please notify a member of the parish staff immediately. By remaining attentive and looking out for one another, we can continue to keep our church open as a welcoming place of prayer for everyone.



## *DEVOTIONS, EXPLAINED!* *-SPIRITUAL DIRECTION-*

Spiritual direction is the practice of seeking counsel from someone who is trustworthy and learned in the faith for the purpose of discerning the will of God in one's life



and for more effectively living out one's baptismal calling.

All Christians are commanded, in a way, to provide spiritual aid to one another ("Go, make disciples of all nations...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" — Matthew 28:19), but a spiritual director is usually an individual who has received some form of training or formation for this specific purpose. The Catholic Church, however, does not have explicit requirements, professional standards or a formal certification process for spiritual directors. Spiritual directors can be lay, religious or ordained persons.

Spiritual direction is not to be confused with the sacrament of Penance, though the latter does usually include some spiritual counsel.