

COVER SHEET

Church Name: St. Athanasius

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Mr. John Fruner, <i>Pastoral Associate</i>	Ext. 44

PASTORAL CARE Please don't forget to inform us if you are going to be hospitalized so one of our priests can visit. Provide us with your name, hospital, room number, phone number and, when possible, how long you will be hospitalized. If you are unable to attend Mass, due to poor health, illness or advanced age, please call so a Eucharistic Minister can bring Communion to you. Anointing of the Sick may be requested because of scheduled surgery or treatment for a life-threatening illness. Call us prior to your surgery or treatment. **Anointing of the Sick at Mass** may be celebrated before you go into the hospital. Directly inform one of our priests or leave this information on Ext.44

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY DECEMBER 26 Holy Family Sunday

8:30 Joseph Zorn
 10:00 Christine, Joseph & Albert Niciforo
 10:00 SPANISH MASS (Lower Church)
 11:30 Purgatorial Society
 11:30 ITALIAN- Vito, Nicolina, & Vincenzo Ruvolo
 6:00 Frank, Fortunata & Carmela Ingrati

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27: *St. John the Evangelist*

7:00 Christmas Novena
 9:00 Carmela Serao (Anniversary)
 NOVENA AFTER MASS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28:

7:00 Christmas Novena
 9:00 Paola Pesce (Anniversary)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29:

7:00 Christmas Novena
 9:00 Antoinette Comes, Rosa Grisanzio, Filippo Comes,
 Teresa Pasqualicchio & Family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30:

7:00 Christmas Novena
 9:00 Nina Principe, Regina Principe Auz

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31:

7:00 **NO 7a.m. Mass today**
 9:00 Doreen & William Ganley
 5:30p.m. MASS INTENTION AVAILABLE
 (Vigil Mass for New Year's Day)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1: Christmas

9:00 Christmas Novena
 11:30 (Bilingual Mass- English & Italian)
 MASS INTENTION AVAILABLE
 5:30 (Vigil Mass for Sunday, Jan. 2)
 Robert A. Cannone

SUNDAY JANUARY 2 Epiphany (Three Kings)

8:30 In thanksgiving to the Immaculate Conception
 10:00 Alfred, Rudolfo & Alberto Annunziata
 10:00 SPANISH MASS (Lower Church)
 11:30 Purgatorial Society
 11:30 ITALIAN- Baldassare e Pietra Gerardi
 Giuseppe C Crocifissa DiStefano, Giuseppe
 DiStefano, Jr.
 6:00 George Bullock

WANT OUR WEEKLY BULLETIN EMAILED TO YOU?

Send us an Email (StAPastoralMin@aol.com)

SUNDAY COLLECTION ENVELOPES Every parishioner is encouraged to use the Sunday collection envelopes. We invite you & your family to register at the rectory by stopping in, up until 8p.m., for a "Welcome Packet."

OUR CALL TO CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Loving God, we give in confidence, knowing the seeds we plant today will sprout and produce a harvest that will feed body, mind and soul and "as each has received a gift, we employ it for one another as good stewards of God's grace." (1 Peter 4:10)

COLLECTION – 12/19/2004: \$8,217.00

COLLECTION- Last Year: \$7,780.00

AVG. WEEKLY EXPENSES \$10,500.00

Our weekly expenses reflects what is needed for salaries, insurances, utilities, bills as well as the costs of the many programs, ministries & services we offer here at St. A's.

THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR & THE ELDERLY AT QUEEN OF PEACE RESIDENCE thank St. A's parishioners for their gift of \$2,865.55 when they visited the parish on December 5th.

ST. JOHN CANTIUS PARISH THANKS THE WONDERFUL PEOPLE OF ST. A's FOR FOUR TRUCK LOADS OF GIFTS FROM THE ADVENT GIVING TREE. You made many children & families in East New York happier this Christmas and Epiphany Season.

SANCTUARY LAMP FOR THE WEEK – *donated in loving memory of Alphonse Sclafani requested by Francis & Frank Cammorata.*

SANCTUARY LAMP FOR THE WEEK – *donated by wife, Concetta & daughter Connie.*

HOSTS FOR THE WEEK- *donated in loving memory of William Kelly requested by Wife, Jean.*

WINE FOR THE WEEK – *donated in loving memory of Deceased of the Centorrino Family requested by Ann Centorrino and Eleanor Damiano.*

ALTAR CANDLES FOR THE WEEK- *donated in loving memory of Marino Del Re requested by Wife Gerzia & daughter Caterina.*

WELCOME, we're glad you're here! If this is the first time you have been to St. A's in a while, welcome back! We promise that if you keep your heart and mind open to God, you'll find what you're looking for. **Would you like to talk to someone?** We're here to listen and help if we can. Just call us at the Rectory when you're ready. In the meantime, remember that you are always prayed for and that it is our hope to pray with you each week.

PLEASE HELP US DEFRAY THE COST DECORATING OUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS Christmas flower offering envelopes have been placed next to all our bulletins. They can be placed in the Sunday collection.

If you haven't thought of this, please consider giving a CHRISTMAS GIFT TO THE CHURCH. Think about our work, about the children who count on us, & we're there. Think about the adults, who, through us, can hope for brighter ways, & the ability to cope. **"MY CHRISTMAS GIFT TO THE CHURCH"** envelopes are next to all our bulletins.

THE HOMELESS OUTREACH MINISTRY would like to thank the owners of Rimini Bakery at Bay Parkway and Bay Ridge Ave. for graciously allowing us to heat the donated food in their oven. Their cooperation makes our ministry possible. Your patronage is an expression of our gratitude.

THANK YOU to G.I.S.A. for donating \$1,000 as a Christmas gift to the parish.

DID YOU REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION? Our Religious Education program is now in session and we still have seats! Please call the Religious Education office at 718.331.8811 beginning Jan. 3, 2005!



IN THE SHADOW OF YOUR WINGS, THROUGH THE WATCHES OF THE NIGHT Most of us sleep at night, though we know that others like firemen, priests, policemen or hospital staff either are "on call and ready" or work while others sleep. Military service members know about night time operations, about standing watches through the night, about the special dangers that may be theirs during the night. Many members of our parish community are serving in Iraq & other areas. **In an effort to support the soldiers & their families here,** we ask that you call our Pastoral Counseling Office at 718.236.4973 and leave the service person's name, the branch of the service and the name of the family name. Please SPELL all names.

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES TO BEGIN IN JANUARY WITH FR. RON. Any adult (18+) who wishes to receive Confirmation is invited to call Fr. Ron (ext. 13) at the rectory.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE HAS ESTABLISHED AN OFFICE HERE IN ST. A'S RECTORY, Wednesdays, from 8:30-4:30p.m. You can enter through the SIDE DOOR of the rectory.

DURING FLU SEASON please take the following precautions: Please *wash your hands well* before coming to Mass and make sure all children do the same. Refrain from drinking from the cup *when you have a cold.* Use good judgment when exchanging the sign of peace, *limiting contact with others if one is sick.* If a Catholic is sick, there is *no obligation to attend Mass.* Personal prayer and reflection of the scriptures is encouraged, as well as viewing the mass on television.

THE PASTORAL TEAM OF ST. A'S PARISH WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR! May we grow together in our faith throughout this year 2005, and may the Lord bless us with health and peaceful hearts. With thanks for all you do throughout the year!

In your kindness please pray for those who are sick

Louise Antrinoro, Guy Ateniese
John Brown, Cameron Calderon, Judith Camminite, Carmine Cava, Peter Cianciotta, Alexandra Cortes, Katherine Casey, Mildred Cortese, Nancy Croce
Bruce Dalton, Marie D'Atre,
Paul DeFilippis, Eleanor DiLuise,
Philomena DiCurcio, Susan DiFabio,
Roger Esposito, Debbie Ferrara,
Calogero Gambino, Filippo Gambino,
Josephine Giuffrida, Diana Ingravallo,
Camille Liberti, Rosemarie Liberti,
John Henry Loria, Gabriela Luciano,
Adrienne Marciano, Maria Manino,
Catherine Marra, Grace Martino,
Maria Matraschia, Antoinette Martino,
Trudy McGranaghan, Beatrice McKenna,
Sal Mendola, Jacob Merkouris,
Joseph Midolo, Lucia Montella,
Josephine Morrone, Carol Muffoletto,
Mario Regina O' Hannon, Edgard & Diana Matos, Robin Price, Richie Pallarino
Silvana Pintieili, Alberta Piscioti,
Connie Puzzo, Perry Roszczy, Mary Rollo,
Caterina Ruggeri, Frances Ryan, Elisa Sciascia, Armando Sariano,
Lucille Satriano, Rita Schettini,
Charles Seidenberg, Gerry Sullivan,
Maria Tardio, Ethel Thomas,
Elvira Venezia, Rosemarie Valerio

In your kindness please pray for those who have died...

Elizabeth Eck, Anna Licciardi, Frank Coronato, Maria Dallone, Dorothy McHaran, Mary Scotto.

We send our prayers & condolences to the deceased's family.

TO ADD A NAME, please call ext. 44 on Monday, spelling the name. (When you call & hear "Thank you for calling St. Athanasius Church," hit 44 during that greeting.) **In order for us to keep our list up to date, we ask you to call each week with the name of the sick person.**

EXPLORING THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH AS A WAY OF LIFE: A retreat for young women.

If you could make a difference in today's world, would you? Would you choose to live & work to bring all people into unity with God & one another? If your answer is yes, come & explore the possibility of living out your Baptismal Call as a Sister of Saint Joseph. For more information & to register contact Sister Mary Walsh 516-483-6799 or email vocationscsj@aol.com

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL BEEPERS, PAGERS & CELL PHONES IN ORDER TO BE IN PREPARATION FOR PRAYER & WORSHIP.

SUNDAY BULLETIN DEADLINE The Sunday Bulletin is e-mailed to our printer at 5p.m. Monday. All announcements must be submitted in WRITTEN form (handwritten, typed, computer, fax, etc) by 12 noon Monday. Announcements received after the deadline will be published the following week.

THE ELIJAH CUP is a chalice presented to a family, individual, or couple each Sunday to take home and use as a focal point while praying for an increase in vocations. To schedule your week, please call the Pastoral Ministry Office at 718-236-0124, Ext. 24 or email StAPastoralMin@aol.com.

ROSARY FOR LIFE is prayed every Saturday after the 9a.m. Mass for an end to abortion.

THURSDAY MORNING SCRIPTURE REFLECTION & FAITH SHARING GROUP meets every Thurs. after the 9a.m. Mass in the Nazareth Institute to discuss the upcoming Sunday's Bible readings.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD is celebrated three Sundays a month at the 10a.m. Mass.

WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE SUNDAY READINGS? Visit <http://liturgy.slu.edu/> and www.lectorprep.org/ each week to prepare for Sunday Mass. **WANT A DAILY REFLECTION ON THE READINGS?** Visit www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/daily.html

DO YOU NEED A MINISTER OF CARING? Is someone in your family ill, hospitalized or in a care facility (assisted living or nursing home) & wishes a visit or a phone call from a MINISTER OF CARING, please call ext. 44 in the rectory

THE YOUTH PROGRAM IS HAVING A TRIP TO ATLANTIC CITY TAJ MAHAL on Sun. Jan. 23, 2005. The Return is \$15. Bus costs \$26 & leaves from St. A's at 10a.m. For tickets call Vinnie Principe at 331-5316 or Joe Russotti 259-6958.

OUR ADDITIONAL COOKBOOKS HAVE ARRIVED It makes a great gift or stocking stuffer for one and all. **We have 76 copies left, so get your while supplies last!** *THERE WILL BE NO MORE PRINTINGS!* You can purchase a cookbook for \$15 at the rectory.

A NEW LUNA HOLDER (the gold case that holds a large host used for Benediction) HAS BEEN DONATED
In memory of the MARY & JOSEPH ITALIANO.

COLUMBUS CITIZENS FOUNDATION: Elementary School Grant Program Grants & educational assistance to college, high school & elementary school students is available. To learn more & obtain an application, please visit www.columbuscitizensfd.org or call 212.249.9923.

A REFLECTION ON HOW ALL OF US ARE CALLED TO WELCOME NEWCOMERS TO ST. A'S Did you every think that the first time in the door for some may be the last

time, unless there's welcome? Don't leave the welcoming to only our ushers, staff, deacon, and priests!

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETS JANUARY 4th at 7:30p.m. in the Rectory Conference Room.

BISHOP KEARNEY HIGH SCHOOL CONGRATULATES ITS STUDENTS WHO ACHIEVED ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THIS SEMESTER: Principal's List: Anna Centola, Elizabeth Foglia, Agata Lesniewski, Kristen Raimonda. First Honors: Antonina Giamporcaro, Rindaanne Riccio. Second Honors: Francesca DeStefano, Jennifer LaManna, Keri Lynn Papaleo, Jessica Scarponi, Sarah Schackne, Janine Serio & Gina Utano.

POPE JOHN PAUL II HAS PROCLAIMED THIS YEAR AS "THE YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST." In his letter entitled: "On the Eucharist in its relationship to the Church," the Holy Father writes: "The Church draws its life from the Eucharist." How true this is! We receive the Lord Jesus in a most intimate way in Holy Communion & when we pray before the Tabernacle we are able to be in his presence whenever we choose. As we begin our observance of this Year of the Eucharist here at St. A's, we pray that God will bring each of us closer to Christ and to one another.

HOW DO WE RECEIVE COMMUNION IN THE HAND? When receiving communion in the hand, we approach the priest or Eucharistic minister with one hand resting on the other, palm up. The minister says: "The Body of Christ," we bow our head for a moment, raise our head, looking into the eyes of the minister or priest and we respond 'Amen.' After the priest or minister has placed the consecrated host in our hand, we step to one side and reverently place the host in our mouth. Only after placing the host in our mouth do we move to receive from the cup.

EVANGELIZATION MADE EASY Take an extra bulletin with you as you leave church today. Give it to a new neighbor as an invitation to worship & pray with us. Bring it to a parishioner who is sick and can not longer make it to church to keep that person in touch with the parish family.

JANUARY 1, 2005, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, is a Holy Day but the obligation to celebrate Mass is lifted. Why? Because the Holy Day falls on a Saturday, however, here at St. A's we will celebrate Mass on

Friday December 31 at 5:30p.m.

Saturday January 1 at 9a.m. in English and at 11:30a.m. in English & Italian.

5:30p.m. Mass on January 1 is the Vigil Mass for Epiphany, January 2.

WE HAVE MASS INTENTIONS AVAILABLE

Friday December 31 at 5:30p.m.

Saturday January 1 at 11:30a.m.

Please come to the rectory to reserve the intention.

BABY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS will be celebrated on Sunday January 9, 2005 at the 11:30a.m. All baby's baptized here at St. A's & any church, are invited, with their parents & Godparents, to receive a special blessing. If interested, call ext. 44 of the rectory & leave the baby's name.

Dal nostro DIACONO DANTE COLANDREA

Riflessione del mese di Dicembre

MESE DELL'IMMACOLATA E DEL SANTO NATALE**NATALE DEL SIGNORE OGGI E' NATO PER NOI IL****SALVATORE** Il Signore regna, esulti la terra, gioiscano le

nazioni tutte. I cieli annunziano la sua giustizia e tutti i popoli contemplano la sua gloria. Una luce si e' levata per il

giusto, gioia per i retti di cuore. Rallegratevi, giusti, nel Signore, rendete grazie al suo Santo Nome. **L'ANNUNCIO****DELLA NASCITA AI PASTORI.** Il Signore nasce in questo

mondo nella solitudine e nello squallore di una stalla. Gli e' culla una rozza greppia, scavata nella roccia, in cui si

cibano gli animali. Accanto allo squallore vi e' pure una vera umanita' con tutte le sue debolezze. Sono i pastori i

primi a ricevere l'annuncio della nascita di Gesu'. I grandi non intendono la saggezza del Signore. Come e' strano

questo segno: "Troverete un bambino adagiato in una mangiatoia". Il piccolo diventera' simbolo di grandezza, il

debole simbolo di potenza, il povero simbolo di ricchezza. Fin dalla nascita di Gesu' siamo costretti a convertirci e a

pensare in maniera del tutto diversa da quella umana. L'annuncio termina con il canto degli Angeli. Questo canto

e' la potente antifona al salmo della vita di Gesu', e' un prologo di profondo significato al grande avvenimento che

ora si compie sulla scena del mondo. "Gloria a Dio"; non e' solo un desiderio e una preghiera, ma e' la constatazione

e l'annuncio di un fatto: viene data veramente gloria a Dio e pace agli uomini. E' suonata l'ora della salvezza; essa ha

gia' iniziato la sua opera: e' nato il Redentore. **IL TUO****NATALE, O SIGNORE, PORTI AL MONDO LA PACE.** O

Salvatore del mondo, che hai esaudito le attese dei Patriarchi e dei Profeti, rivelati a coloro che attendono la

tua venuta. O Principe della pace, che per mezzo degli Angeli hai annunziato la pace agli uomini, custodisci la

nostra vita nella tua pace. O Re eterno, che hai voluto sperimentare la brevità della tua vita umana, donaci di

entrare per sempre nella gioia del tuo Regno. O Dio che in modo mirabile ci hai creati a tua immagine, e in modo

mirabile ci hai rinnovati e redenti, fa' che possiamo condividere la vita divina del tuo Figlio che oggi ha voluto

assumere la nostra natura umana. Egli vive e regna nei secoli dei secoli. Amen.

Possa Dio, che nella nascita del Cristo suo figlio ha congiunto la terra al cielo, Vi riempia della sua pace e del suo amore e la benedizione di Dio Padre onnipotente discenda su di voi e sulle vostre famiglie e rimanga con voi per sempre.

Buon Natale, Diacono Dante.

OGGI, DOMENICA, 26 DICEMBRE, per la festa della**Sacra Famiglia**, avremo, per la prima volta, la possibilita' di avere il presepe nel cortile della scuola al completo con

l'asinello, galline, pecorelle, e capretti proprio come creato da San Francesco. (I cammelli non hanno potuto venire).

Gi animali arriveranno alle 10am e resteranno fino all'una e trenta del pomeriggio. Portate la vostra famiglia per

fotografie e video accanto al nostro "presepe vivente".

SABATO, PRIMO GENNAIO, SOLENNITA' DI MARIA, MADRE DI DIO ci sara' una Santa Messa alle 11:30am, concelebrata, nella chiesa di sopra.

PADRE PIO NELLA PARROCCHIA CONFINANTE - Da appuntare sul vostro calendario le date di Lunedi' e Martedi' 14 e 15 Marzo, 2005 e Giovedi' 17 Marzo, 2005. Durante questi giorni la statua pellegrina di San Pio e le reliquie visiteranno la parrocchia di Saint Mary Mother of Jesus a 23 Avenue e 84 Street. I frati cappuccini vi invitano a partecipare a questa loro visita nella nostra comunita'.

IL ROSARIO PER LA VITA e' recitato ogni Sabato dopo la Messa delle 9 del mattino per mettere fino all'aborto, con l'intenzione che la luce del Bambino Gesu' brilla sui bambini non ancora nati.

Cortesemente siete pregati di spegnere i vostri telefonini cellulari e i vostri beeper quando siete in chiesa e durante la santa messa. Grazie.

E' NATALE - È Natale ogni volta che sorridi a un fratello e gli tendi la mano; ogni volta che rimani in silenzio per ascoltare un altro; ogni volta che volgi la schiena ai principi che relegano gli oppressi ai margini del loro isolamento; ogni volta che spero con i "prigionieri", gli oppressi dal peso della povertà fisica, morale e spirituale; ogni volta che riconosci con umiltà i tuoi limiti e la tua debolezza. È Natale ogni volta che permetti al Signore di amare gli altri attraverso di te. Preghiamo per essere capaci di accogliere Gesù a Natale non nella fredda mangiatoia del nostro cuore, ma in un cuore pieno di amore e di umiltà, un cuore caldo di amore reciproco. **Beata Madre Teresa di Calcutta**

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Le damos la bienvenida en nombre de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo Si Ud. ya pertenece a otra parroquia y solo viene de vez en cuando a orar con nosotros, le damos nuestra cordial bienvenida. Si Ud. no pertenece a una parroquia y le gusta nuestra manera de celebrar, le invitamos a hacerse miembro de esta parroquia. Recuerde que a todas las actividades y celebraciones Ud. está invitado y siempre será bienvenido.

Quien es bienvenida a nuestra parroquia? TU! Pecador? Alejado de la iglesia por mucho tiempo? Incapacitado? De una cultura diferente? No te aceptan por tu orientación sexual? Te sientes herido y abandonado? Eres pobre o no tienes trabajo? Has estado preso? Eres uno de los Santos de Dios? Tienes la sensación de que te ha dejado afuera de todo?

EL PLAZO PARA LOS ANUNCIOS DEL BOLETIN Para nosotros poder preparar el boletin a tiempo todos los anuncios deberan ser escritos el dia LUNES a las 12 del dia.