



A MESSAGE OF HOPE- CHOOSE HOPE



February 18 and 19, 2006

Dear Fellow Sacred Heart Parishioner,

In May of 2004, when Sacred Heart Parish received its “letter of intent” to suppress the parish on November 21, 2004, the situation looked bleak. Many said “It is hopeless” or “The Archdiocese will *never* change its decision.” We all witnessed, the power of hope, prayer and decisive actions by Parishioners succeed, and the Archdiocese reversed and “threw out” its May 2004 decision. **It is February, 2006, and Sacred Heart Parish still exists as a Vibrant Faith Parish Community.**

We now face another imposed decision deadline in May 2006. The Archdiocese has again threatened suppression of one or both Parishes in Lexington and the sale of Parish Buildings. Mark O’Connell, an Archdiocesan lawyer, has even said “Both Parishes in Lexington could be closed, and there would still be plenty of Parishes close by for people to attend”. (Official Minutes of Closed Combined PPC Meeting with Mark O’Connell November 21, 2005.)

Many Parishioners at Sacred Heart Parish will not succumb to fear or threats. We have chosen hope and work with a firm resolve for positive and creative solutions. We know that many of you share our goals and want Sacred Heart Parish to remain open with its current facilities. We are not naive or in denial; the Boston Archdiocese has a major financial crisis caused by the sex abuse scandal, cover up, and financial mismanagement. We offered to create and support creative solutions to assist with their financial crisis. One suggestion was the mentoring of a financially troubled Parish which would include subsidizing all or part of its operating expenses. As Catholics, we will share in the sacrifice necessary to save our Archdiocese. **However, we choose not to accept that the closing and selling of our Parish properties to pay for Archdiocesan debts is the one and only option.**

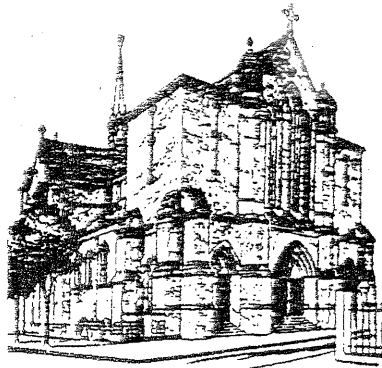
Lexington needs two parishes to support its current parishioners, provide choice in our worship and liturgy and, more importantly, provide for evangelizations and growth.

While some continue to say it is “impossible”, many other Archdioceses have two or more Parishes with one Pastor Models, including Nashoba Valley, Worcester, Springfield, and in multiple states. In fact, in South Boston the Archdiocese of Boston has two Parishes and One Pastor existing Model. See the reverse side for the two Parishes, one Pastor bulletin front page. Why is that exact Model not possible or permitted for our Parishes in Lexington?

Other religions in Lexington are growing and expanding their facilities. No other religious group is choosing closure and consolidation as its preferred model for the future. Join the many families that are acting to revitalize and grow Sacred Heart Parish. Our attendance numbers have stabilized and lately have increased. Our financial condition is sound; Father Colletti has said we have enough money to last to the end of the year. The MPC’s preliminary Building Report evaluated our buildings in “**Good**” to “**Very Good**” condition. Our disagreement is with an Archdiocese whose method is to “liquidate” our Parish properties as the one and only approach. **The Parish survey insists that you agree to be suppressed and give our Parish Assets, Buildings and Funds to the Archdiocese.**

Sacred Heart Parish is a vibrant, diverse and loving community committed to Faith and Community Service. Vote on the survey and raise your voice in support – anonymously if you must. Wear your ribbon to show: You choose Hope. Join us as Sacred Heart Parish celebrates its 75th Anniversary of active Catholic worship and practice. **Join us as Sacred Heart Parish celebrates its 75th Anniversary of active Catholic worship and practice. We look forward to our 76th year and the future of SACRED HEART PARISH.**

The Syrnick/Fiola Family, the Mahoney Family, the DiPietro Family, Ted and Patsy Heuchling, the Bellini Family, Daniel Rapperport and children, the Hegarty Family, the Gillis Family, the Cimino Family, the Laffey Family, Clora Bucci, the O’Connor and Ou Family, the Shine Family, the Sullivan/DeNatale Family, the Bosco Family, the Bourque Family, the Spillane Family, the Bradford Family, the Kush/Quartararo Family, M. Lorraine West and Family, the O’Sullivan Family and many other parishioners and families too numerous to fit on one page.



Established 1862

Gate of Heaven Parish

606 East Fourth Street, South Boston, MA 02127

PARISH PHONE NUMBERS

Parish Office: (617) 268-3344 • Parish Fax: 617-268-2666

School: 617-268-8431 • School Fax: 617-268-5131

Parish Website: www.GateofHeavenParish.com

School Website: www.GateofHeaven.net

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Gate of Heaven office located at St. Brigid Parish Office

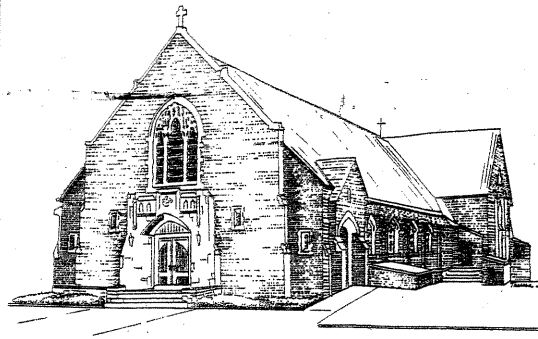
MASS SCHEDULE:

Daily Mass: 9:00 a.m. Mon - Sat.

Weekend: Saturday 4 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m. and 12 noon

Confession: Saturday: 8:30 a.m.-8:50 a.m.



Established 1908

Saint Brigid Parish

841 E. Broadway, South Boston, MA. 02127

PARISH PHONE NUMBERS

Parish Office: 617-268-2122 • Parish Fax: 617-268-2666

School: 617-268-2326 • School Fax: 617-268-7269

Convent: 617-268-3178

Parish Website: www.StBrigidParish.com

School Website: www.SaintBrigidSchool.com

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Open Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. • Saturday and Sunday Closed

MASS SCHEDULE:

Daily Mass: Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m.
and Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

Weekend: Saturday at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday at 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Confession: Saturday: 5:30-5:50 p.m.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Robert E. Casey, Pastor

Rev. Brian L. Flynn, Parochial Vicar • Rev. Benjamin Thuan LeTran, Parochial Vicar

In Residence: Rev. Daniel F. Hennessey, Rev. Daniel J. Sheehan, Sr. Priest

Deacon Richard C. Martin, Sr. Deacon

Mr. Stephen Fahrig, Pastoral Associate/Youth Minister

Mr. David Sullivan, Facilities Manager • Mrs. Jo-Ann Geary, Business Manager

Mr. Joseph F. Cirigliano, Principal St. Brigid School

Sr. Patricia McCarthy, CSJ, Principal Gate of Heaven School

Mr. James Fowkes, Director of Religious Education K-5 • Mrs. Margie Newcomb, Confirmation Coordinator Grade 6-10

Ms. Carolyn Martin, Music Director, Organist

Mrs. Michelle Harrington, Development Director for the Parishes & Schools

Secretaries: Mrs. Patricia Strumm, Mrs. Patricia Hamilton, Mrs. Carol Glenn, Mrs. Kathy Meoii

BAPTISM

Is celebrated the third Sunday of each month at Gate of Heaven Church and the second Sunday
of each month at St. Brigid Church.

Please contact the Parish office for an appointment.

MATRIMONY

Marriages must be arranged at least one year in advance of your wedding date.

Please contact one of the priests.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This is the front page of the Joint Two Parish Bulletin

NOTE: TWO PARISHES AND ONE PASTOR

(Excerpt from the Two Parishes - One Pastor web site)

Gate of Heaven is a unique parish because it works in collaboration with St. Brigid Parish, South Boston, while at the same time maintaining its own distinct identity and mission. There is one administration that works for the two parishes and two schools. This model enables Gate of Heaven to share resources and collaborate with St. Brigid for our Confirmation and Religious Education Programs. Our Collaborative Youth Ministry Program is open to all the parishes in South Boston.

NOTE: TWO PARISHES – ONE PASTOR – ONE ADMINISTRATION

TWO PARISHES – A SHARED CATHOLIC COMMUNITY