

## DEPUTY GRAND MARSHAL FATHER BILL SWEENEY

Father Bill Sweeney, the second son of William F. and Mary Frances Regan was born in Astoria on September 27, 1955, 7 days before the Brooklyn Dodgers beat the New York Yankees in the World Series. That is an important milestone because his father was a huge Dodger fan and had one of his first dates with Mary at Ebbets Field.

He attended St. Joseph's School in Astoria, Cathedral Prep in Elmhurst and Cathedral College in Douglaston where he majored in History. He entered the Immaculate Conception Seminary and was ordained a priest by Bishop Francis J. Mugavero on May 1, 1981 at Holy Family parish in Flushing.

Father Bill served at Holy Family in Flushing from 1981-88, St. Camillus Rockaway Beach from 1988-97; St. Francis Prep High School 1997-2016. He was named Pastor of St. Catherine of Sienna in St. Albans by Bishop Thomas Daily in June of 2002, served there till June 2008. In addition to parish work, he worked at St Agnes H.S. in College Point and Stella Maris H.S. in Rockaway.

Father Bill received a M.S. in Pastoral Counseling from Iona College in May 1987 and has been involved with the Alumni Association of Cathedral Prep where he served as President and has been inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Father Bill's mother Mary came to the USA in August 1947 from County Galway where she met his dad from Sunnyside whose Mother was Bessie Sweeney a legendary Irish musician. Bessie's roots came from Drumlish, County Longford.

Father Bill has an older brother Kevin who is married to Cindy and has a son Steven and they live in Kings Park.

A younger brother Tom married to Debbie and has 4 children, Kristen, Ryan, Bill and Noelle. And a younger sister Catherine married to Michael Morgese with 2 children, Jaclyn and Michael.

His is presently assigned to St. Francis de Sales Parish in Belle Harbor.