

## ***Parish Staff***

### ***Parochial Vicars***

***Rev David Powers, Sch.P***

Rev. Nelson Henao Sch.P.

Rev. Richard Wyzykiewicz Sch.P.

### ***Parish Secretary***

Mrs. Rosemarie Ortiz

### ***Organist***

Mr. Franco Bonanome

### ***Leader of Song***

Mrs. Terry Bonanome

***November-December, 2015***

### ***Director of Development***

Mrs. Stephanie Turtle

### ***St. Helena's School (718) 892-3234***

Early Childhood (3-4 year olds)

Elementary School (Grades K-8)

Principal: Mr. Richard Meller

2050 Benedict Avenue

Bronx, New York 10462

### ***High School:***

Monsignor Scanlan H.S. (718) 430-0100

<http://www.scanlanhs.edu/>

Principal: Mr. Peter Doran

915 Hutchinson River Parkway

Bronx, New York 10465

### ***St. Helena Rectory:***

1315 Olmstead Avenue

Bronx, N.Y. 10462

Phone: (718) 892-3232

Fax: (718) 892-7713

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

Email: [sthelenarc@yahoo.com](mailto:sthelenarc@yahoo.com)

Alumni: [sthelenasalumni@yahoo.com](mailto:sthelenasalumni@yahoo.com)



# ***saint Helena parish***



*Bronx, NY*

## ***Mass Schedule***

***Saturday:*** 5:30 PM

<b><i>Sunday:</i></b>	<i>AM</i>	<i>PM</i>
	7:30	12:00 (Spanish)
	9:00	1:30 PM
	10:30 (Family)	5:00 PM

### ***Confessions:***

Saturday — 4 to 5:30

### ***Sick Or Emergency Calls:***

At any time

call the Rectory at 892-3232

### ***Devotions:***

- Circulo De Oracion: Cada lunes, 7 a 8:30 PM,
  - Miraculous Medal Novena
  - Monday after 12:15 PM Mass
  - Eucharist Adoration
- Thursday, 12:15 Mass Benediction
- Bible Study - Tuesday 7:30pm - English-Spanish

***Holy Days:*** 6:50, 8:30 AM  
12:15 PM, 7:30 PM

***Weekdays:*** 6:50, 8:30 AM  
12:15 PM

Wednesday 7:30 PM (Spanish)

Morning Prayer - Daily 8:30 AM)

### ***Baptisms:***

Arrangements must be made at the Rectory for Baptismal Class. Bring child's Birth Certificate.

### ***Marriages:***

Arrangements for weddings should be made as soon as possible at the Rectory.

### ***Parish Registration:***

All Catholics who live within the parish boundaries should fill out a registration card at Church or Rectory.



**Handicapped Accessible**

**A WORD FROM THE PASTOR:****"Pretty in Pink" - Gaudete Sunday-**

While some people will look at today's liturgical color and will think of John Hughes' 1986 romantic comedy, the liturgical color rose actually symbolizes joy and happiness and is usually only used twice a year, Gaudete Sunday during Advent and its counterpart Laetare Sunday during Lent.

Like Lent, Advent is a penitential season, and so the ordinary liturgical color for Advent is violet, the color of royalty, which is appropriate having just ended the liturgical year with the great feast of Christ the King. But today, on the Third Sunday of Advent, having just passed the midpoint of Advent, we celebrate *Gaudete* (Latin: "Rejoice") Sunday, and the Church lightens the mood a little as it recognizes the joyful anticipation of the season that will culminate in the birth of Christ on Christmas by changing the liturgical color to rose. Rose is a "brightening" of the ordinary violet and thus symbolizes joy. We experience that the change in color provides us with encouragement to continue our spiritual preparation - especially prayer and fasting- for Christmas. It is for this same reason that the third candle of the Advent wreath is traditionally rose-colored.

It was not until the 1960's that the bright rose and sometimes even pink colors came into use. Prior to that, the rose color used in textiles came from a plant. Rose Madder is an organic dye, made from the root of the madder plant, which was extensively used until its active ingredient, alizarin, was synthesized in the late 19th century. This was the traditional rose-colored dye used since remote antiquity in Egypt. Due to its relative weakness, the use of this pigment was limited to textiles rather than for oil paint.

The spirit of the Liturgy all through Advent is one of expectation and preparation for the feast of Christmas as well as for the second coming of Christ, and the penitential exercises suitable to that spirit are thus on Gaudete Sunday suspended for a while in order to symbolize that joy and gladness in the promised Redemption.

Fr. David Powers



### **Our Lady of Guadalupe - December 12 Patroness of the Americas**

The Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City is the most visited Catholic pilgrimage site in the world, and the world's third most-visited sacred site, just behind the Meiji Shinto Shrine and the Kasha Vishwanath Temple.

Our Lady of Guadalupe (Spanish: *Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe*) is a title of the Virgin Mary associated with a celebrated pictorial image. The official Church account of the apparition states that on the morning of December 9, 1531, a Catholic Aztec peasant named Juan Diego saw a vision of a maiden at a place called the Hill of Tepeyac, which

would later become part of Villa de Guadalupe, a suburb of Mexico City. Tepeyac had once been the site of an important temple to the Aztec mother goddess Tonantzin and later the site of a small Spanish chapel dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Speaking to him in his native Nahuatl language, the maiden identified herself as the Virgin Mary, "mother of the very true deity" and asked that a magnificent church be built at that site in her honor.

Juan Diego then sought out the archbishop of Mexico City, Friar Juan de Zumarraga, to tell him what had happened. The archbishop instructed him to return to Tepeyac Hill and ask the lady for Castilian roses, which would be a miraculous sign to prove her

identity. The first sign she gave was the healing of Juan's uncle. The Virgin then told Juan to go to the top of Tepeyac Hill, which was normally barren, especially in December, to find the roses. Juan followed her instructions, and he found the roses, which are not native to Mexico, blooming there. He carefully arranged the flowers in his tilma, or cloak, and when he opened his cloak before the archbishop on December 12, the flowers fell to the floor, and on the fabric was the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe.

Juan Diego's *tilma* has become Mexico's most popular religious and cultural symbol, and has received widespread ecclesiastical and popular support. The tilma is made from woven cactus fibers and should have a life span of no more than 60 years, but it is still very well preserved after almost 500 years.

The first printed account of the image and apparitions was published in 1648 by Rev. Miguel Sanchez, a diocesan priest of Mexico City. The next printed account was a 36-page tract in the Nahuatl language, which was published in 1649. In the earliest account, the Virgin Mary tells Juan Bernardino, the uncle of Juan Diego, that the image left on the tilma is to be known by the name "the Perfect Virgin, Holy Mary of Guadalupe."

The image had originally featured a crown on the Virgin's head, but this disappeared in 1888, no doubt inspired by a desire to 'modernize' the image and reinforce its similarity to the nineteenth-century images of the Immaculate Conception.

According to the Sanchez account, the iconography of the Virgin is fully Catholic. He described her as the Woman of the Apocalypse from Revelation 12:1, the woman "clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars." She is described as a representation of the Immaculate Conception.

According to the second account, the image also had layers of meaning for the indigenous people of Mexico, which contributed to her popularity. Her blue-green mantle was the color reserved for the divine couple Ometecuhlti and Omecihuati, and her black belt is interpreted as a sign of pregnancy; and the cross-shaped image, symbolizing the cosmos and called *nahui-ollin*, is inscribed beneath the image's sash. She was called "mother of maguey, the source of the sacred beverage pulque. Pulque was also known as "the milk of the Virgin." The rays of light surrounding her are seen to also represent maguey spines.

Prior to the apparition, very few native peoples had converted to the faith in Mexico, but after the apparition hundreds of thousands of indigenous peoples converted to the Catholic faith, and today both their Catholic faith and their devotion to Our Blessed Mother remains strong.

In 1754, Pope Benedict XIV, in a papal bull, solemnly declared her to be the Patroness of New Spain (Spanish Central and North America), and Pope Pius XII in 1945 expanded that title to Patroness of the Americas.

### **CHRISTMAS MASSES FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS, THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD**

**Friday, December 25** is the Solemnity of Christmas, The Birth of Jesus. It is a HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION. Please invite family members and friends to celebrate Christmas with us here at St. Helena. Our Mass schedule is as follows:

**Thursday, December 24**

**5:00pm Christmas Readings and Music**

**5:30 pm** (Our Main English Mass) and **7:30 pm** (Spanish)

**Friday, December 25**

**7:30 am, 9:00am, 10:30 am (Family) Noon** (Spanish),

**1:30 pm and 5:00pm**

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Adult Choir will be singing on both **Thursday, December 24** and **Thursday, December 31** beginning at **5 pm** with carols and continuing into the **5:30 pm Masses**. Practices for these two important events take place on **Sundays at 11:30 am**.

### NEW YEARS MASSES FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

**Friday, January 1** is the Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God. It is a **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**. Please invite family members and friends to celebrate the New Year with us here at St. Helena. Our Mass schedule is as follows:

**Thursday, December 31**

**5:00pm Readings and Music**

**5:30 pm** (Our Main English Mass) and **7:30 pm** (Spanish)

**Friday, January 1, 2016**

**9:00am, 10:30 am** (Family), **NOON** (Spanish),

**1:00pm Mass in French in the school cafeteria**

**followed by a reception**

**1:30 pm and 5:00 pm**

**FRENCH MASS:** The French speaking community of St. Helena and the Bronx will be celebrating a Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God at **1 pm on Friday, January 1** in the cafeteria of St. Helena Parish. A reception will follow the Mass. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### Second Collection Today for Religious Retirement

The annual **Retirement Fund for Religious** collections will be held this weekend, **December 12-13**. Now in its 28th year, the appeal is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) and offers support for senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests whose communities lack sufficient retirement funding. Some 33,000 women and men religious past age 70 benefit from this collection.

The 2014 appeal raised \$28.3 million and the NRRO distributed more than \$25 million in financial support to 395 religious communities. Throughout the year, additional funding is allocated for communities with the greatest needs and for retirement planning and educational resources. Ninety-three cents of every dollar directly aids elderly religious, the remainder is used for administration and promotion of the appeal. Since the fund was launched in 1988, Catholics have donated \$755 million to assist religious communities in caring for their elder members. Many of the Sparkill Dominican sisters who taught for so many years here at St. Helena are now living in senior care facilities.

While the response to the collection is unprecedented, so is the need. The total cost of care for senior women and men religious has exceeded \$1 billion for each of the last six years. At the same time, the number of religious needing care is on the rise. In 2014, 66 percent of the religious communities providing data to the NRRO had a median age of 70 or older. Accompanying the higher median age is a decrease in the number of religious able to serve in compensated ministry, which further reduces the income available for eldercare.

Hundreds of religious communities also lack sufficient retirement savings, due in part to historically low compensation. "Most senior religious worked for years for small stipends and did not receive retirement benefits," said Sister Janice, director of NRRO. Religious communities are financially autonomous and thus responsible for the support and care of all members. Annual distributions from the Retirement Fund for Religious provide

supplemental assistance to help meet such day-to-day needs as prescription medications and nursing care.

In addition to providing financial assistance, the NRRO offers education and resources that help religious communities stretch retirement dollars and plan for future needs. Please be generous in this weekend's second collection.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**50/50 DRAWING: The Dec. 6 winners are: No. 310 & No. 408 @ \$25**

### OFFERING ENVELOPES

**December 6, 2015 \$5,246.34**

Our weekly budget, (Nuestro presupuesto semanal es) \$4,231.00

Thank you to everyone for your exceptional generosity since we went well over our weekly budget. Thank you for your support and for all that you do for St. Helena's Parish.

Gracias a todos por su generosidad y por todo lo que hacen por esta Iglesia de St. Helena.

- **HELPING ST. HELENA-** Your will is one of the most important documents you will make in your lifetime because it is through your will that you will carry on the work that God has called you to do while here on earth. A bequest to St. Helena can be made in several ways: a gift of a percentage of your estate, a gift of a specific asset, a gift of the residue of your estate, property, retirement plan assets, or an insurance policy. But, always seek an advisor before drafting your will. St. Helena's wishes you and yours a Blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas.
- **OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CELEBRATION-** Following the NOON Mass on **Sunday, December 13**, there will be a large celebration in the parish gymnasium that will feature food, raffles, and Mexican Folk Dancing in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- **ADVENT RECONCILIATION MONDAY-** Timothy Cardinal Dolan has designated **Monday, December 14, 2015** as Reconciliation Monday for Advent. All parishes in the archdiocese will have priests available to hear confessions from **4:00 PM - 8:00 PM**. St. Helena will also conduct an Advent Penance Service in the Church at 6:30 pm that day.
- **ITALIAN NATIVITY SCENE AT ST. PATRICK'S** Inspired by the City of Matera, Italy, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site and sponsored by the Italian National Tourist Board, this special Nativity Scene created by Maestro Francesco Artese is touring the world and is now at St. Patrick's Cathedral and will remain there throughout the Christmas season. So take the family, and visit it.
- **THE HOLY YEAR OF MERCY** which was solemnly declared by Pope Francis, began this past Tuesday on **December 8, 2015** and will last until **November 20, 2016**. You will soon receive more information about upcoming celebrations for the Year of Mercy. Meanwhile, we can all practice both the **corporal works of mercy** (feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, care for the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead) and the **spiritual works of mercy** (convert sinners, instruct the ignorant, advise the doubtful, comfort the sorrowful, bear wrongs patiently, forgive injuries, and pray for the living and the dead.) This is truly a time to heal, to help, and to forgive.



- **BANNER OF ST. HELENA**-Hopefully, you have noticed that we have a new banner of our parish patroness, St. Helena. It is a one-of-a-kind design hand made by Bromonte in Canada especially for our parish to celebrate our 75th anniversary. Notice that St. Helena is depicted holding our parish church in her hands.
- **2016 SUNDAY CHURCH ENVELOPES**-We are now registering new parishioners and distributing the **2016** Sunday Church envelopes today after all of our Masses, including **Saturday, December 12, Sunday, December 13** and **Sunday, December 20**. Volunteers are in the vestibule of the church to help you. Please verify with them your address, including the apartment number. We are grateful to all our parishioners who faithfully use the Sunday Church envelopes. We depend on your continued generosity in helping your parish.
- **CHRISTMAS ANGEL GIVING TREE**-There are Christmas ornaments on the tree in the narthex, each of which contains information about a deserving child who would really like a better Christmas this year. You are invited to take an ornament and buy a present and then bring your wrapped gift for the child and place it under the tree. Help us deliver love in the form of Christmas gifts and a message of hope.
- **PRODUCTS FROM THE HOLY LAND**-Bethlehem handicrafts will not be here this weekend. It has been postponed until March 13, 2016.
- **CHRISTMAS SEASONAL MUSIC**-St. Helena will present "Some Holiday Season Music" by Jazz Bassist Hilliard Greene on **Sunday, December 13** in the church. Hilliard will play at the **1:30 pm Mass** and will then give a 45-60 minute performance following the Mass. Everyone is welcome to attend. Greene has been acclaimed for composing and performing solo contrabass music since 1984 throughout North and South America, Europe, and Asia. Formally, he was the bassist and musical director for Jimmy Scott and Cecil Taylor. The Boston Globe wrote "Greene can keep the listener interested - very interested."
- **A CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-ALONG**. An afternoon of classic English and Spanish Christmas carols and music for both young and the young at heart. **December 13 at 3 pm**, The Church of St. Philip Neri, 3025 Grand Concourse. For more information, call 718-733-3200.
- **ANNUAL SCANLAN CHRISTMAS CONCERT**- "Celebrate With Scanlan" is the name of this year's Msgr. Scanlan High School Christmas Concert, which will feature Cantad!-Monsignor Scanlan's premiere vocal ensemble and will take place on **Tuesday, December 15 at 6:30 pm** here in the church. Tickets are \$5 each. Admission is free for alumni, but tickets are required. RSVP by calling **718-430-0100 x13** or e-mail [Kgennarelli@scanlanhs.edu](mailto:Kgennarelli@scanlanhs.edu)
- **PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY**-The annual St. Helena Parish Christmas Party will take place on **Saturday, December 19** from after the 5:30 pm Mass until 11 pm. There will be food, games, prizes, entertainment, dancing, and of course a visit from St. Nick himself. The cost is \$25/ couple, \$15/adult, and \$10 for children 12 and younger. Tickets will be sold in the narthex after all Masses and during the week in the Rectory. Donations of water, baked goods, toys and raffle prizes are welcome.
- **ST. ANTHONY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**-We are collecting new and almost new toys to be given to poor children at St. Anthony's Christmas Celebration on December 19. If you have a toy that you would like to donate for that cause, please bring it to either the school or the rectory.
- **NEW CHOIR ROBES**-We are grateful to Terry and Franco Bonanome for obtaining new, red choir robes for the adult choir. Adult choir practice is held **every Sunday at 11:30AM** in the rectory downstairs meeting room. The choir is preparing for its Christmas program before and during both the **5:30PM** Christmas Vigil Mass and the **5:30PM** New Years Vigil Mass.
- **BLESSED HOLY WATER NOW IN THE RECTORY**-The stainless steel container with the blessed Holy Water has been moved to the rectory foyer. You can now come to the rectory to obtain blessed holy water. Holy water, as our catechisms taught us, is "water blessed by the priest with solemn prayer, to beg God's blessing on those who use it and to seek God's protection from the powers of darkness." Most importantly, it is also reminds us of our Christian baptism. Sacramentals are instituted for the sanctification of certain ministries of the Church, certain states of life, a great variety of circumstances in Christian life, and the use of many things helpful to man. They always include a prayer, often accompanied by a specific sign, such as the laying on of hands, the sign of the cross, or the sprinkling of **holy water** (which recalls Baptism). The use of holy water in Catholic Churches goes back possibly to Apostolic times. There is a tradition that St. Matthew recommended it in order thereby to attract converts from Judaism by using a rite with which they were familiar in their former faith. Its use is mentioned in a letter written in 117 and ascribed to Pope Alexander I, and we also find a detailed account of its use in the "Pontifical of Serapion," which was written in the fourth century, and the formula of blessing mentioned therein has considerable resemblance to the one we currently use.
- **FLOCKNOTE SIGNUP**- Both the Parish and the Cardinal are sending out information by e-mail and texts about various topics such as Pope Francis and the upcoming Extraordinary Year of Mercy, but you need to register to receive these special messages. To register, Text **STHELENA** to **84576**, or you may visit [www.flocknote.com/sthelena](http://www.flocknote.com/sthelena). There is no charge, and in the future you will receive other messages from: the Cardinal, the parish, and the pastor. This is a good way of keeping our parishioners informed and is all part of our wonderful technological age.
- **75TH ANNIVERSARY DVD'S** are available at the Bookstore for \$10 each. We can also mail them to you; just call the rectory at **718-892-3232** to place your order.
- **CATHOLIC CHURCH INVESTIGATING POSSIBLE EUCHARISTIC MIRACLE IN UTAH**-A host, when put in water to dissolve it, has been bleeding in Utah for three days at St. Francis Xavier Church in Kearns. The Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City is investigating the event. Eucharist miracles have hailed the Catholic Church for over a millennium. The most common occurrence is the bleeding host, with the most famous being from a Mass at Bolsena, now depicted on the Vatican Palace walls. In this event, the sacramental bread bled on to the tablecloth in the shape of a cross.

- **CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**-St. John Chrysostom, 1144 Hoe Avenue, will hold an Open House on **Sunday, December 13 from 8 AM to 4 PM**. Stocking stuffers and "just in case" gifts are available. All vendors are small business owners. There is also an **Advent Retreat** on **December 15, 16 and 17 at 7:30PM** in the lower church.
- **BRONX SINGERS HOLIDAY CONCERT**-The Bronx Concert Singers present their 34th Annual Holiday Concert on **Sunday, December 13 at 4:30 pm**, featuring selections from Vivaldi, including his *Magnificat* at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1891 McGraw Avenue. Admission: \$20/adults, \$15/seniors and college students, and \$5/children. For more information call **917-743-4641**.
- **MARIAPOLIS LUMINOSA NATIVITY SCENES DISPLAY**-Visit more than 200 Nativity scenes from every continent of the world, on display at Mariapolis Luminosa, 200 Cardinal Rd., Hyde Park, **December 1-30, from 2-5PM**. For more information, call **845-229-0230 X 127**.
- **PARKCHESTER'S SEVENTH ANNUAL KWANZAA CELEBRATION** will be held this year at St. Helena's gymnasium, on **Saturday, December 26 from 3 - 8 PM**. Kwanzaa is a cultural event that celebrates an area's many diverse cultures and showcases the creative arts. Come and celebrate traditional family values, community responsibility, commerce, self improvement, and our diverse cultural connections. The event will feature African Attire, an African Market, cultural performances, speakers, food, raffles, children's games, and vendors. The event is free and open to the public, but participants are invited to bring a donation of toys or books. Vendors are welcome. For more information, contact DeBra Oguamah at **718-409-5253** or **347-525-4943**.
- **HISPANIC PASTORAL INSTITUTE FOR ADULT FAITH FORMATION**: trains lay Hispanic leaders to serve parishes in the Archdiocese of New York. Classes are actively being held at Christ the King and St. Philip Neri parishes in the Bronx. The institute is open to all Hispanic parishioners. For more information, call **212-371-1000 X 2982**.
- **THANK YOU FROM CORONA SELF HELP CENTER**  
Dear Parishioners of St. Helena: This is a note of appreciation and gratitude. As we stay sober, we can face almost anything with the help of others. We are very grateful for your generosity, kindness, and charity. Thank you for your trust in us. We have been reborn; therefore, we are in debt with God primarily in life, because we died emotionally and spiritually, many times, some of us nearly physically. Every day we make the decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understand him. We are survivors; all we have is our life experience that can be an inspiration for others to make the decision to change their way of acting, being and thinking which will directly change their way of living. Our wishes for you are that we pray to God to keep blessing you and everyone around you, today and always.
- **COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENT LEADERS**-Attention High School Seniors! The Venerable Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Programs provides a renewable \$2,000 college scholarship for Catholic students who have demonstrated scholarship, character, and leadership characteristics. Applications are available at the rectory. Application deadline **Friday, February 19**.

- **A COURSE IN QUANTUM FORGIVENESS**-Rogier F. van Vlissingen will teach a 13-week class in Quantum Forgiveness at St. Helena's on Sundays from **3 PM to 4:30 PM**, beginning **Sunday, January 10 through April 3**. It will be a study group on A Course in Miracles, with a focus on the application of forgiveness every day and every minute of every day. Pope Francis calls us to Forgive during this Extraordinary Year of Mercy. Forgiveness is still and quiet; it looks and waits and does not judge. An unforgiving thought makes a judgment that it will not raise to doubt. The mind becomes closed and will not be released. This bilingual workshop (English and Spanish) will center on forgiveness from a very different perspective. Rogier F. van Vlissingen is the author of "Closing the Circle, Pursah's Gospel of Thomas and A Course in Miracles." The required text for the class is A Course in Miracles, 3rd Ed., which is available from Amazon or Barnes and Noble. Priority seating is \$7 and is limited to 20 seats or one can make a cash donation at the door. For more information, call **917-549-0959**.
- **THE MIRACLE OF FORGIVENESS**-Perhaps there are few miracles greater than forgiveness. Rogier F. van Vlissingen will present an intriguing talk on the miracle of forgiveness on **Sunday, December 20 from 3-4:30 PM** that will also serve as an introduction to the 13-week course on Quantum Forgiveness that he will be offering at St. Helena beginning in January. He will discuss miracles from a very different and particular point of view. For more information, call **917-549-0959**. There will be an opportunity for Q & A.

***Please Pray for the Sick of our Parish***

Steven Gottfried

Valeria Reid

Joanne Frances Bernadette Sanabria

Jonah Hortaleza

Rev. Agustin Lopez, Sch.P.

Mama Rosa

***Please Pray for the Deceased and their Grieving Families:***

Rubet Hernandez

Margaret Campbell

Aida Colon

Charles F. Ratty

Rev. Robert J. Navins

- **HEATING HELP**-Households that need help paying their heating bills this winter can NOW begin applying for assistance from the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). The program provides financial assistance to help low-income and elderly New Yorkers keep their homes warm during the winter months. For more information, call **800-342-3009** or visit <http://on.ny.gov/1PM7ZL9>
- **PREMIUM HEALTH ASSISTANCE**-If you or your children live or work in New York or New Jersey and are eligible for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and you're eligible for health coverage from your employer, your state may have a premium health program that can pay for coverage, using funds from their Medicaid or CHIP programs. If you or your dependents are NOT currently enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, and you think you or any of your dependents might be eligible for either of these programs, dial **1-877-KIDS NOW** or go to [www.insurekidsnow.gov](http://www.insurekidsnow.gov) to find out how to apply. You

must request coverage within 60 days of being determined eligible for premium assistance. The annual Open Enrollment will run from **November 20-December 18, 2015.**

- **WE ARE HERE TO HELP-**Do you need assistance from health and social service professionals? ARCH CARE is sponsored by the Archdiocese of New York. It answers questions and assists with: housing for seniors and disabled persons, legal issues, support groups for caregivers, dementia care, transportation options, volunteer opportunities, etc. Call ARCHCARE at **855-951- CARE**. The line is open 7 days a week from 8 am until 8 pm, or go to [www.archcare.org/community-resources](http://www.archcare.org/community-resources). This service is offered by Catholic Charities.
- **PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BULLETIN ADVERTISERS-**We are very grateful to the businesses and offices that advertise and support the printing of our Sunday bulletin. Please consider patronizing them, and tell them that you saw their ad in our Sunday bulletin.
- **CLEANING AND PREPARING-**A special thank you to those members of the parish who have spent so many hours decorating the Shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe and cleaning the stone in front of the church as well as pointing and fixing the grout on both the stone rectory stairs as well as the church stairs. The church is looking much nicer because of your efforts, and we very much appreciate them.

#### Check these out and see all of the exciting things happening here at St. Helena

- Current and former parishioners and alumni have the ability to contribute electronically to St. Helena through the PARISH PAY link our website.
- **LIKE US ON FACEBOOK-**St. Helena has both a FACEBOOK page and a website. Please visit and then like us on FACEBOOK at: **St. Helena Catholic Church**.
- Our parish website is: [www.churchofstheleena.com](http://www.churchofstheleena.com).

### **ST. HELENA SCHOOL NEWS**

- **SAY CHEESE-**Faculty and 8th Grade Graduation Pictures, Monday, December 14

#### **ST. HELENA SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERTS**

The Christmas Concert for grades 3-8 will take place on **Thursday, December 17 at 7 PM.-**

The Christmas Concert for grades PK-3 to Grade 2 will take place on **Friday, December 18 at 7 PM.**

Everyone is welcome, and admission is the same as it has been for the past 20 years,

\$3 for students and adults, and no charge for infants.

- **Sixth-Grader Releases CD-**Congratulations to sixth grade student Seedel Chris-Emenike, who has recently released a two-song CD called "it's a miracle," which features both a solo and full choir version of the songs "it's a miracle" as well as "it's too hot, too cold."
- **Christmas vacation** begins after dismissal on Friday, Dec. 18. Then—"Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!"
- **Boxtops for Education.** Please continue to save your Boxtops for Education. Please see the website for qualifying products.  
[www.boxtops4education](http://www.boxtops4education)  
Thank you for helping our School.



### **ANUNCIOS EN ESPANOL**

- **VISITAS A LOS ENFERMOS:** Si tienes personas mayores o enfermas que deseen recibir la comunión o ser visitadas, favor anunciarlo en la rectoría o dejar su información en la sacristía antes o después de la misa.
- **FIESTA DE NAVIDAD:** Tendrá lugar el **19 de diciembre de las 5.30 pm** a las 11 pm. Habrá comida, juegos, rifas, y la visita de San Nicolás. El costo es de \$25/pareja; \$15/adulto y \$10/niños menores de 12.
- **VENTA DE TICKETS** a la salida hoy y la próxima semana. También en la rectoría.
- **DONACIONES: CARAMELOS, POSTRES** o cualquier comida. Bienvenida. Hablar con Fátima o Reina.
- **LUNES DE RECONCILIACION EN ADVIENTO:** El Cardenal Timothy Dolan designó el lunes 14 de diciembre de 2015 como el día de comenzar Adviento con el sacramento de la Reconciliación. Como en toda la arquidiócesis, aquí en Sta. Helena estaremos escuchando confesiones de 4 pm a 8 pm. Habrá servicio penitencial a las 6.30 pm.
- **ARBOL DE NAVIDAD DEL ANGEL:** En el árbol de Navidad que tenemos en la parte de atrás de la iglesia hay unos ornamentos que tienen la información de algún niño que está necesitado. Toma uno de ellos y tráele un regalo a ése niño. Es una forma de darle alegría y amor en Navidad.
- **CONCIERTO ANUAL:** "Celebre con Scanlan" es el nombre del concierto de este año del High School Msgr. Scanlan. Tendrá lugar este año el 15 de diciembre a las 6.30 pm en la Iglesia. \$5 cada tiquete.
- **MUSICA EN NAVIDAD:** El bajista de jazz Hilliard Greene se presentará el domingo 13 de diciembre en la iglesia. Después de la misa de 1.30 pm hará una presentación de 45-60 minutos. Todos están bienvenidos.
- **M&M: Ven a celebrar M&M con nosotros.** "Miércoles de la Misericordia" de 7 a 8.30 pm. Adoración Eucarística, Canto de la Coronilla de la Divina Misericordia y Misa

### **BUEN DIA, HERMANOS:**

Unos griegos se acercaron a Felipe y le dijeron: "Queremos ver a Jesús" (Jn 12, 21). Eran prosélitos; es decir, extranjeros convertidos al judaísmo. Habían subido a Jerusalén para el culto. Pero oyeron hablar de Jesús y su expectativa cambió. También hoy, hombres y mujeres de todas partes miran a la Iglesia y le piden, con justa razón: "Queremos ver a Jesús". Porque la misión de la Iglesia es hacer visible a Cristo en el mundo mediante la oración, el testimonio de vida y el apostolado.

El Espíritu Santo ha querido darnos un Papa muy sensible a esta misión. Con su exhortación "*Evangelii Gaudium*", Francisco nos introdujo en el dinamismo de una Iglesia "en salida" hacia el hombre y sus periferias existenciales. Ahora convoca un Año Santo —a partir del próximo 8 de diciembre—, un Jubileo Extraordinario bajo el signo de la misericordia. En la mente del Papa, la Iglesia "en salida" ha de tener "amplias entradas". Para ello, invita a cada cristiano a no mirar sólo la "superficie" de los demás, como hizo Simón, el fariseo, cuando juzgó a la mujer que se acercó a Jesús (cf. Lc 7, 36-50); en ese nivel es muy fácil equivocarse. La misericordia mira más adentro y solidariza el corazón con las verdaderas miserias de cada persona.



“He pensado mucho –dijo el Papa el 13 de marzo– cómo la Iglesia puede hacer más evidente su misión de ser testigo de la misericordia... He decidido convocar un Jubileo Extraordinario que tenga en el centro la misericordia de Dios. Será un Año Santo de la misericordia”.

### Año de la Misericordia:

Todas las miserias humanas puedan acercarse a la Iglesia. Ahora bien, las miserias se diversifican tanto como las necesidades del hombre. La Iglesia no pretende remediarlas todas, pero sí ofrecer su mejor esfuerzo. Ella busca aliviar la miseria corporal dando alimento, techo y vestido; la miseria afectiva dando cercanía, calidez y bondad; la miseria humana e intelectual educando y promoviendo la justicia; la miseria psicológica dando atención y acompañamiento; y, sobre todo, la miseria moral y espiritual enseñando la fe y administrando los sacramentos, que son su mayor tesoro. La Iglesia es experta en misericordia, porque es experta en humanidad. Su único fin es “continuar, bajo la guía del Espíritu, la obra misma de Cristo, quien vino al mundo para dar testimonio de la verdad, para salvar y no para juzgar, para servir y no para ser servido” (Concilio Vaticano II, *Gaudium et spes*, 3).

El Año de la Misericordia comprometerá a todos en la Iglesia. A los obispos y sacerdotes como ministros de la misericordia, a las personas consagradas como encarnación de la misericordia para cada ser humano, y a los fieles laicos como promotores de la misericordia en el ámbito de las realidades temporales.

Las “obras de misericordia”, corporales y espirituales, son una síntesis concreta y práctica al alcance de todos. Entre ellas cabe destacar el perdón de las ofensas como gesto propio de un año jubilar. Porque los jubileos nacieron, en la historia del pueblo de Israel, como “años de gracia”. En ellos se condonaban las deudas y se devolvía la igualdad a todos.

Ahora bien, la misericordia tiene un precio. “Si el grano de trigo no muere, queda solo; pero si muere, da mucho fruto”, explicó Jesús a Felipe. Para que germine la misericordia en nuestra vida, algo debe morir en nosotros: quizá una pereza, un apego, una visión superficial, un afán de mera justicia, un rencor, una desconfianza. Sin embargo, este morir es pasajero. Cuando somos misericordiosos reencontramos nuestra propia esencia, que lleva en sí la impronta de Dios; ¡y vivimos de nuevo! Porque nunca se parece tanto el hombre a Dios como cuando es misericordioso.

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The Second Collection will be our annual Christmas Flower Offering. Please help us to make our Church beautiful for Christmas

## Mass Intentions

**SUNDAY, Dec. 13, 2015-Third Sunday of Advent-  
Gaudete Sunday**

- 7:30** Xavier Francis, Meera, Staven and Jair Joseph (Intentions)
- 9:00** Intentions of Joyce Hoyt for Jesus Suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane
- 10:30** Angel Acevedo
- 12:00** Benedición de los niños por la Virgen de Guadalupe Junior de la Cruz Jackson Maria Castillo (4 year Anniversary-deceased)
- 1:30** Hector Escalera Our Parishioners
- 5:00** In Thanksgiving for Favors

**MONDAY, December 14, 2015-Feast of St. John of the Cross**

- 6:50** In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 8:30** Mabel Schoenthaler
- 12:15** Catherine Carolan

**TUESDAY, December 15, 2015-Feast of St. Mary DiRosa**

- 6:50** Intentions of Moses Baldeh (Recovery)
- 8:30** Michael Murphy
- 12:15** Altagracia, Carmen, Manuel Jose Capellan

**WEDNESDAY, December 16, 2015-Feast of St. Adelaide**

- 6:50** In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 8:30** For the Safety of Missionary Priests
- 12:15** Intentions of the Ceasar Family for Thanksgiving

- 7:30** Martha Maldonado Christian Orellana

**THURSDAY, December 17, 2015-Feast of St. Florian**

- 6:50** Adolfo Torres
- 8:30** Bridget and Pat Joe Early
- 12:15** Gerald Smalls, Sr.

**FRIDAY, December 18, 2015-Feast of St. Moses**

- 6:50** Sick of St. Helena's Parish
- 8:30** In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 12:15** Efrain Serrano

**SATURDAY, Dec. 19, 2015-Feast of St. Francis Xavier Mau**

- 6:50** Joseph and Matilda Carty
- 8:30** Angelica Javier
- 12:15** Genevieve Cerbone
- 5:30** Huldah Gordon

**SUNDAY, December 20, 2015-Fourth Sunday of Advent**

- 7:30** Special Intention of Joyce Hoyt
- 9:00** In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 10:30** Katherine Callaghan Our Parishioners
- 12:00** Angelica, Arturo and Louis Fernando Javier
- 1:30** In Honor of the Holy Spirit
- 5:00** Ann Lewis

### Readings for the Week of December 13, 2015

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-6/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-9/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Ps 85:9-14/Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-6, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45