

## ***Parish Staff***

### ***Pastor***

Rev. David Powers Sch.P.

### ***Parochial Vicars***

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

***December, 2015-January, 2016***

### ***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***

***Sunday: AM***

7:30

9:00

10:30 (Family)

***PM***

12:00 (Spanish)

1:30 PM

5:00 PM

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

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

Morning Prayer—Daily 8:30 AM

**Spanish Mass:** Sunday, 12:00 Noon

Holy Days — Evenings Before—7:30 PM

Wednesday — 7:30 PM (Spanish)

Monday 7:30 PM (every first Monday  
of the month in Spanish)

### ***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

### ***Baptisms:***

Arrangements must be made at the  
Rectory for Baptismal Class.

Bring copy of 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:****Important Information about Mass Intentions**

Some parishioners have been coming to the rectory to request Masses for their loved ones or for special requests only to discover that all of the Masses on the day they were seeking already had intentions. This is one reason that it is important to come to the rectory as early as possible to request Masses. In fact, although there are some Masses still available for 2016, we are already taking Mass requests for 2017. Therefore, this is a good time to discuss the topic of Mass Intentions and clarify some misconceptions about them.

The Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of our interior life, and, is indeed, the very life of the Catholic Church. Every time Mass is celebrated, the sacrifice of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Calvary is represented in an unbloody manner, affording the priest celebrant and all congregants who participate in the Mass an infinite amount of sanctifying grace. That grace can be applied to specific intentions, whether of the priest celebrant or the faithful.

Whenever a priest celebrates Mass, he has at least two intentions. The first intention is to celebrate the Mass according to what the Church does. The second is to apply the grace of that Mass towards a specific need, whether it be a person(s), living or dead, baptized or not, or a special need. In addition, every parish pastor is required, by Canon Law, to offer at least one Mass on Sunday for the needs and intentions of his parishioners (Can. 534 §1).

As to the first intention, many priests pray this traditional prayer, or one similar to it, while vesting: "My purpose is to celebrate Mass and to make present the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the rite of the holy Roman Catholic Church to the praise of our all-powerful God and all his assembly in the glory of heaven, for my good and the good of all his pilgrim Church on earth, and for all who have asked me to pray for them in general and in particular, and for the good of the holy Roman Church. May the almighty and merciful Lord grant us joy and peace, amendment of life, room for true repentance, the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit, and perseverance in good works".

As to the second intention, commonly called "the intention of the Mass" and most likely what everyone most wants to know about, that intention is usually announced first in the Church bulletin and then out loud at Mass. Often the Mass intention is requested by a parishioner for the repose of the soul of a loved one. When a parishioner requests that a Mass be offered for a specific intention, and the priest agrees to celebrate the Mass for that intention, then the priest has a most serious obligation to offer the Mass for that intention. It is a good and pious custom for the faithful here at St. Helena to make an offering, usually about ten dollars, to the priest who celebrates the Mass.

Historically, the purpose of offering a Mass stipend for a particular Mass intention has been twofold. On the one hand, the money that a priest received for saying his daily Mass for a specific intention was essentially his source of income, and today in some poorer mission countries it sometimes still is. Thus, the faithful are contributing to the good of the Church because they share in the Church's concern for the support of its ministers. At the same time, by giving a stipend, the person requesting that a Mass be celebrated makes a sacrificial offering of his own. The stipend **DOES NOT BUY A MASS!** Masses and graces are not for sale. Rather, the giving of a stipend is a gesture of solicitude to the priest for his upkeep.

In case you are wondering, no priest can get rich on Mass offerings since he is limited to celebrating one Mass on weekdays, and two on Sundays, although in special circumstances he could celebrate two Masses on weekdays (that's called bination) and three on Sundays (trination), but the priest, himself, can only keep one Mass stipend each day.

It often happens that the parish receives more requested intentions than Masses are available. In that case, the Congregation for the Clergy has stated that a pastor can 'bundle' a bunch of intentions once or twice a week and load those separate intentions onto one Mass as a single intention so long as the person requesting the Mass knows that their Mass Intention now includes more than what was originally requested and has agreed to it. In that case, no one loses out because there is an infinite amount of grace available at each and every Mass. (cf. Decree Mos iugiter obtinuit from the Congregation for the Clergy, 1991)

It is also important to note that a priest will frequently say Mass both for the INTENTION for which a stipend has been given and simultaneously for other REQUESTS or NEEDS as well. He may, for example, celebrate a regularly scheduled parish Mass for which some parishioner has provided an intention (and a stipend), but at the same time he may perhaps have in mind certain sick or deceased persons or a special need that had arisen, such as praying for vocations or some flood victims or people involved in recent acts of violence. In fact, he may remember as many requests or needs as he likes while offering a Mass, so long as he has accepted a stipend for no more than one intention. Sometimes a person asking that the priest remember a particular request or need during a Mass may make a DONATION TO THE CHURCH, but they cannot give a stipend to the priest. While on the surface this may seem illogical, keep in mind that the spiritual value of a single Mass IS INFINITE. The intention for which a stipend was offered is not somehow getting shortchanged if the celebrant remembers or mentions in that same Mass other needs or requests as well. Most of these other needs and requests are usually mentioned in the Prayer of the Faithful, while the Intention of the Mass is usually stated at the beginning of the Mass.

Here at St. Helena the stipended Mass Intention is printed in bold in the bulletin and is mentioned both at the beginning of the Mass and in the Prayer of the Faithful and sometimes during the Eucharistic Prayer, while a special Mass request is sometimes printed in regular type in the bulletin and is mentioned during the Prayer of the Faithful.

It is good that so many parishioners here at St. Helena's have been requesting that Masses be celebrated for particular needs and intentions, especially during the holiday seasons, and we seek to honor as many requests as we can. I hope that this clarifies things, and please know that all of you are remembered in our prayers and Masses. God Bless.

Fr. David Powers

## **The Feast of the Holy Family A Celebration Courtesy of Canada**

The Feast of the Holy Family celebrates both the human family unit and the Divine family unit: Jesus, his mother the Virgin Mary, and his foster father Joseph. The feast is not a solemnity and is usually celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas. If Christmas is a Sunday, then the feast is celebrated on December 30th.

We know very little about the life of the Holy Family through the canonical Gospels. They speak of the early years of the Holy Family, including the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, the flight into Egypt, and the finding of Jesus in the temple. Various non-canonical works, including the *Infancy Gospel of Thomas*, try to fill in the blanks. While the exact details of the day-to-day life of the Holy Family may be unknown, we can still learn a lot from the stories we do have.



## HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Devotion to the Holy Family is a rather recent development, but one that naturally grows out of a love for Jesus and his family. In 1643, Louis and Barbe d'Ailleboust came to Canada in order to devote their lives to the welfare of the natives there. After her husband had passed away, Barbe, with the assistance of the Jesuit Father Chaumonot, founded the Confraternity of the Holy Family. The confraternity and devotion to the Holy Family spread all over Canada and had the effect of promoting good morals. Monsignor François de Laval invited her to Quebec and gave her the general management of the confraternity, which still exists today. In 1675, the now Bishop de Laval had a little book printed in Paris instructing the members of the confraternity as to virtuous practices. Bishop de Laval also established the feast of the Holy Family and had a mass and office drawn up. Devotion to the Holy Family grew in popularity in the 17th century, and several religious congregations were founded under this title. The Holy Family also became portrayed in popular art of the period.

Popes Benedict XV and Leo XIII promoted the feast as a way to counter the breakdown of the family unit. Finally, on October 26, 1921, the Congregation of Rites (under Pope Benedict XV) inserted the Feast of the Holy Family into the Latin Rite general calendar as a way to counteract the breakdown of the family.

The Feast of the Holy Family is not just about the Holy Family, but about our own families too. The main purpose of the Feast is to present the Holy Family as the model for all Christian families, and for domestic life in general. Our family life becomes sanctified when we live the life of the Church within our homes. This is called the "domestic church" or the "church in miniature." St. John Chrysostom urged all Christians to make each home a "family church," and in doing so, we sanctify the family unit. Just how does one live out the Church in the family? The best way is by making Christ the center of family and individual life. Ways to do this include: reading scripture regularly, praying daily, attending Mass at least on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, imitating the actions of the Holy Family, going to confession frequently, and so forth, all done together as a family unit.

In addition to cultivating positive actions, the Church understands that various actions and behaviors are contrary to God's Divine plan for the family. These include abortion, contraception, embryonic stem-cell research, divorce, spousal abuse and child abuse, among other things. Catholic Teaching is that a marriage must be open to children. Anything artificial that prevents this is contrary to divine law, although spacing births for a just reason is permitted (and may be accomplished through "natural family planning").

Also, poverty, lack of health care, rights violations, government intrusion in the life of communities and families, and other justice concerns must be addressed by faithful Christians because of the negative effect these conditions have on the family unit. St. Paul gives us some advice on family life in Colossians 3:12-21: "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."

Thus, the Feast of the Holy Family is a good time to remember the family unit and pray for our human and spiritual families. We also may take time to reflect on the value and sanctity of the family unit, and to evaluate our own family life. What ways may it be improved? What would Jesus, Mary, and Joseph do? Finally, we can use this feast to ask ourselves what are we doing to promote the family within our own cultures, and communities.

### The Feast of the Holy Innocents December 28

Herod "the Great," the Roman-appointed king of Judea, was an Idumean Jew who was unpopular with his people because of his connections with the Romans and his religious indifference. Hence, he was insecure and fearful of any threat to his throne. He was a master politician and a tyrant capable of extreme brutality. He killed his wife, three of his sons, his brother, and his sister's two husbands, to name only a few.

The massacre of the Holy Innocents is found only in Matthew's Gospel, and its historicity has not yet been independently verified. Matthew 2:1-18 tells this story: Herod was "greatly troubled" when astrologers from the east came asking the whereabouts of "the newborn king of the Jews," whose star they had seen. They were told that the Jewish Scriptures named Bethlehem as the place where the Messiah would be born. Herod cunningly told them to report back to him so that he could also "pay him homage." They found Jesus, offered him their gifts and, when warned by an angel, avoided Herod on their way home. Jesus and His family escaped to Egypt at the command of an Angel.

Herod became furious and "ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under." The horror of the massacre and the devastation of the mothers and fathers led Matthew to quote Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children..." (Matthew 2:18). Rachel was the wife of Jacob/Israel. She is pictured as weeping at the place where the Israelites were herded together by the conquering Assyrians for their march into captivity. Rachel was buried in the town of Ephrathah.

The first non-Christian reference to the massacre is recorded four centuries later by Macrobius (c. 395-423), who writes in his *Saturnalia*: "When he [emperor Augustus] heard that among the boys in Syria under two years old whom Herod, king of the Jews, had ordered killed, his own son was also killed, he said: it is better to be Herod's pig, than his son."

The exact number of infants killed is not stated, but based on Bethlehem's estimated population of about 1,000 people at the time, the number killed may have been around twenty, and although they were all Jewish, the Catholic Church still considers them to be martyrs for Christianity.

### 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.



DECEMBER 27, 2015

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

50/50 DRAWING: The Dec. 20 winners are: No. 165 & No. 384 @ \$21

### OFFERING ENVELOPES

Sunday, December 20, 2015 \$4,035.04

Christmas Flower Offering \$1,516.49

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

Thank you to everyone for your generosity and 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.

- The next Sunday First Communion session is on **January 10** after the **10:30 am Family Mass**. The next **Spanish Family Session** will be held on **January 17** after the **NOON Mass**. The **English Family Session** will be held on **January 24** after the **10:30AM Mass**.
- The first **Confirmation Class** session for **St. Helena School 7th Graders** will take place on **Tuesday, January 5** after school. For more info, call Fr. Richard at **718-892-3232**.
- **HELPING ST. HELENA**— The commitment of our Christian faith penetrates all aspects of our life, allowing us to give glory to our Heavenly Father. Your financial support of St. Helena's is one opportunity to give witness to our faith. Please be generous in the Christmas collection during these holidays. We do rely on your prayers and support. Also, 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.
- **CHRISTMAS PARTY**—Thank you to everyone who made the Parish Christmas Party such a big success. There was lots of good food and wonderful music and a good time was had by all. It takes a lot of work to organize such an event, and we appreciate everyone's enthusiasm and efforts, and we look forward to next year's celebration.
- **FLEA MARKET**—For future reference, there will be a Flea Market every third Sunday of the month. The next one will be on **January 17** from **10AM-2PM** in the Family Center.
- **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.

- **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 cultural identity, 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**.

- **2016 SUNDAY CHURCH ENVELOPES**—We are grateful to all our parishioners who faithfully use the Sunday Church envelopes. We depend on your continued generosity in helping your parish. Pick yours up today in the Bookstore.
- **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 programs before and during both the **5:30PM** Christmas Vigil Mass and the **5:30PM** New Years Vigil Mass.
- **BAPTISM AND BIRTH CERTIFICATES**—Just a reminder that parents **MUST** bring a copy of your child's birth certificate to the Baptism Preparation Classes. If possible, the godparents should also be present for the class. Thank you.
- **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.
- **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.

- **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**.
- **BABY BOTTLE DRIVE FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN**-Please return your baby bottles to the Rectory before Christmas. Your cash, coin, and checks will support Expectant Mother Care Frontline Pregnancy Care Centers. Operating for 30 years through New York City, Expectant Mother Care counsels thousands of distraught expectant moms annually, providing free testing, ultrasound, practical and spiritual help. Your gift saves lives. For more information, go to [www.EMCFrontline.org](http://www.EMCFrontline.org) or call **212-213-4690** or write them at **P.O. Box Bronx, N.Y. 10470**
- **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**.
- **CHILDREN NEEDED FOR CEREBRAL PALSY RESEARCH STUDY CAMP**-Does your child have or do you know a child between the ages of 6-17 who has hemiplegic Cerebral Palsy? Columbia University is conducting a study examining the effects of extensive functional practice on affected hand and arm use and brain plasticity. The study is performed in a three-week day camp setting with other children at Teacher's College, Columbia University, located in New York City. The camp will take place from June 25 - July 15. Participation is FREE and scholarships are available to assist with TRANSPORTATION and logistics. Participation will include fun camp activities for the children, Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the brain, and Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation. For more information from the Center for Cerebral Palsy Research visit: <http://www.tc.edu/centers/cit> or call **914-368-3165** or **212-678-3332** or Email: [cpresearch@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:cpresearch@tc.columbia.edu)
- **FREE TEEN ART STUDIO AND BRONX RIVER ART CENTER CLASSES**-Registration is now underway for Bronx River Art Center, 2064 Boston Road, Winter 2016 Art classes, which will take place from **January 5-March 19**. Visit their website at [www.bronxriverart.org](http://www.bronxriverart.org) for course descriptions and site locations, and you can register online. Partial-tuition scholarships are available based on financial need and portfolio review. Classes are available for everyone ages 7 and older. BRAC also offers various Arts & Education workshops as well as the TEEN PROJECT STUDIO, which is a FREE 10-week interdisciplinary art design program offered Tuesdays from 4-6 pm. Students participate in art and digital workshops and attend monthly field trips to museums, galleries, and artist studios. For more information on all of these programs, call **718-589-5819**.
- **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 Vlassingen 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 Vlassingen 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**.

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

Steven Gottfried  
Valeria Reid  
Joanne Frances Bernadette Sanabria  
Jonah Hortaleza  
Lucy Cannavacciuolo  
David Murray  
Joan Ricci

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

Rubet Hernandez  
Rev. Agustin Lopez, Sch.P.  
Charles F. Ratty  
Rev. Robert J. Navins  
Deacon Franklyn Russell

- **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.

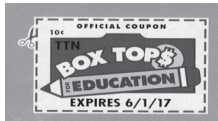
- **PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BULLETIN ADVERTISERS-** We are very grateful to the businesses and offices that advertise and support the printing of our Sunday bulletin. Please consider patronizing them, and tell them that you saw their ad in our Sunday bulletin.

#### 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.churchofsthehena.com](http://www.churchofsthehena.com).

### ST. HELENA SCHOOL NEWS

- The first School Mass of the new year will take place at **9:30 AM on Friday, January 8**. Classes will dismiss at NOON on that day.
- **ST. HELENA STUDENT PRACTICES THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON-** We would like to commend a St. Helena's student for her spirit of giving during this holiday season. For the past two years, third grade student Ella Vincent has said she wants no presents for herself at Christmas but instead has bought toys for children and brought them to a Homeless Shelter. This is a wonderful example of living the Gospel message and participating in the Spirit of Christmas.
- **Box tops for Education.** Please continue to save your Boxtops for Education. Please see the website for qualifying products.  
[www.bboxtops4education](http://www.bboxtops4education)  
Thank you for helping our School.



School is on vacation until Monday, January 4

*Kipper Williams*



### ANUNCIOS EN ESPANOL

- **CCD:** El mes de enero la reunión de todos los padres será el 17 después de la misa de 12 pm. A partir de febrero la reunión será los segundos domingos de mes.
- **FIESTA DE NAVIDAD:** Gracias a todos los que hicieron posible la celebración de la Fiesta de Navidad de nuestra parroquia. Fue un verdadero éxito y una muestra de alegría sana, en familia y conservando nuestros valores cristianos. Una celebración de estas demanda muchas horas de trabajo para hacerla posible y nosotros apreciamos todo el esfuerzo y el amor colocado en este proyecto.
- **FLEA MARKET:** Recordamos que cada tercer domingo de mes tendremos el flea market en la casita verde en el parqueadero. Están invitados a pasar por allí!
- **JUBILEO DE LA MISERICORDIA:** Recordamos que la celebración del Jubileo, anunciado por el Papa Francisco el 8 de diciembre, es tiempo de sanación, de ayuda y de perdón. Celebra con nosotros cada miércoles "M&M, Miércoles de la Misericordia" de 7 pm a 8.30 pm. Tenemos adoración al Santísimo, Coronilla de la Misericordia cantada y la celebración de la Eucaristía. ¡Descubramos juntos los tesoros de la Misericordia!
- **SOBRES DOMINICALES DE LA IGLESIA PARA EL 2016:** Agradecemos a aquellos que usan cada domingo los sobres para hacer su contribución a la Iglesia. Dependemos de su ayuda y generosidad para continuar adelante la misión de Santa Helena.
- **AGUA BENDITA EN LA RECTORÍA:** Les recordamos que se ha colocado un recipiente especial en la rectoría con agua bendita para su uso personal. Trae tu recipiente y lleva el agua que necesites.
- **CELEBRACION KWANZAA:** El sábado 26 de diciembre se efectuará la séptima celebración de este evento en el gimnasio de Santa Helena. Este es un evento en donde habrá muestras de arte, cultura, negocios, comida, responsabilidad comunitaria de diferentes países. Habrá una muestra de los vestidos tradicionales en Africa.

### BUEN DIA, HERMANOS:

HOY ha nacido el Salvador. Repetidamente en estas fiestas de Navidad hemos escuchado la palabra "hoy": "yo te he engendrado hoy", "hoy, desde el cielo, ha descendido la paz sobre nosotros", "has iluminado esta noche santa con el nacimiento de Cristo", "hoy nos ha nacido un Salvador", "hoy brillará una luz sobre nosotros", "hoy una gran luz ha llegado a la tierra", "hoy nos ha nacido el Salvador". Lo mismo pasará en la Epifanía: "hoy se nos ha manifestado", "hoy la estrella condujo a los magos".

Este "hoy" quiere significar que lo que celebramos en Navidad no es un aniversario, sino un "sacramento", o sea, una **actualización** del hecho salvífico del nacimiento humano del Hijo de Dios. En esta fiesta Dios nos comunica la gracia de un "nuevo nacimiento" como hijos en la familia de Dios. En la Navidad se une en totalidad el "ayer" de Belén, el "mañana" de la última venida del Señor y el "hoy" de la celebración de este año, que es un acontecimiento siempre nuevo, no sólo recordado afectivamente. Este es un maravilloso intercambio porque no es solamente recordar hechos que sucedieron siglos atrás, en algún punto de la historia, o pensar en promesas que algún día llegarán. Es ser conscientes de la existencia de una historia de salvación en donde el Señor ha venido actuando en medio de su pueblo en absoluta fidelidad, a pesar de la infidelidad del pueblo objeto de su amor. Esa fidelidad, demostrada a través de la historia, nos permite

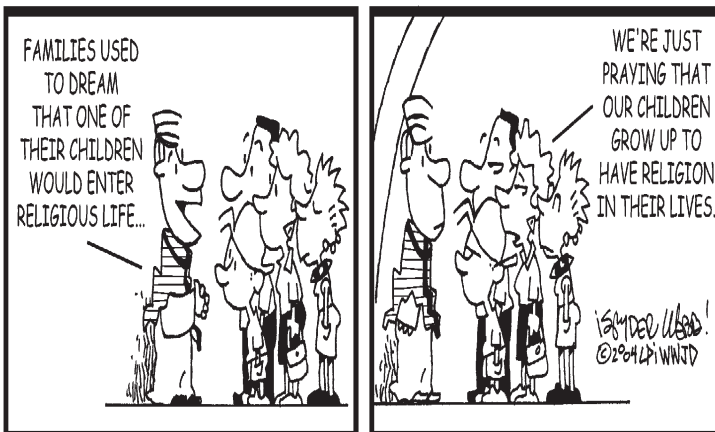
‘creer’ que, efectivamente, las promesas que aún falta por cumplirse se cumplirán y todo lo anterior es lo que da al creyente la capacidad de levantarse en medio de los retos y dificultades para celebrar día a día el misterio de la vida y caminar, con una esperanza basada en la roca, que es Jesucristo, hacia la Tierra Prometida.

Ya el profeta Isaías nos dice que “el pueblo que caminaba entre tinieblas vió una luz grande”. Es que Dios nunca abandona a los suyos, pero ciertamente el discípulo está llamado a hacer su parte, o sea, a vivir de acuerdo a una propuesta que se nos hace para recorrer el camino de santidad que Dios tiene para el creyente. Y para vivir esa experiencia tenemos el periodo de tiempo que llamamos vida. Ya hemos recibido el regalo más grande del amor y de la misericordia del Padre, la encarnación de su hijo. El creyente espera con alegría y confianza el final de los tiempos, aguardando la aparición gloriosa del gran Dios y Salvador, Jesucristo. En ese tiempo intermedio, teniendo la garantía del triunfo final, debemos llevar una vida sobria, honrada, religiosa. Estamos invitados permanentemente a *alinear* nuestra voluntad a la Voluntad de Dios, para de esa manera apreciar los valores que son temporales y los que son eternos. Como nos recuerda San Pablo, “todo lo que se ve es temporal y lo que no se ve es eterno”. Viviendo en el mundo estamos invitados a no apegarnos a las cosas del mundo, a no querer vivir según lo estándares del mundo, sino a vivir con la sabiduría del que descubre el verdadero tesoro, el tesoro del amor y de la eternidad que Cristo nos vino a anunciar. El tesoro es Jesucristo y quien descubre ese tesoro ya no lo quiere perder, lo que desea es crecer cada día más en él, porque sólo allí ‘su corazón encuentra descanso’, como nos enseña San Agustín.

¿Y cómo vivimos este misterio de Dios en lo concreto del día a día? Aquí es donde entra en juego el *Jubileo de la Misericordia* que el Papa Francisco ha propuesto a la Iglesia durante el presente año. Mirar y reflexionar sobre la historia de salvación es apreciar la misericordia de Dios en acción y el papa está convencido de que “el descubrimiento de la misericordia de Dios es la esencia del Evangelio”. La misericordia *experimentada* y *compartida* es la respuesta, nos dice el papa, a una humanidad quebrada por el dolor, por la guerra, por la incredulidad y la falta de fe. La humanidad demanda sentido y propuestas que la hagan capaz de superar los momentos de crisis en que se ve envuelta. Y la respuesta que el evangelio nos ofrece es la misericordia. Pidamos a Dios que nos ilumine durante este tiempo de nacimiento, para que nuestros corazones ardan en deseo de descubrir, de reflexionar y de practicar el arte divino de la misericordia, que Dios hace vivo, cada día, en nuestras propias vidas. FELIZ NAVIDAD.

P. Nelson

#### HOLY FAMILY



## Mass Intentions

**SUNDAY, Dec. 27, 2015-Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

7:30 Christmas Novena  
Our Parishioners  
9:00 John and Mary Quinn  
10:30 Carlos and Mercedes Delgado  
12:00 Rafael Lugo, Angel Torres and Brandon Otero  
1:30 Geronimo Lopez  
5:00 Ann Lewis

**MONDAY, December 28, 2015-Feast of the Holy Innocents**

6:50 Christmas Novena  
8:30 Antonio and Josefina Diaz  
12:15 For the Intentions of Mary Amato

**TUESDAY, December 29, 2015-Feast of St. Thomas Becket**

6:50 Christmas Novena  
8:30 Jose Davila Ortiz  
12:15 Karen Wiehler Kid (Healing)

**WEDNESDAY, December 30, 2015-Feast of St. Sabinus**

6:50 Christmas Novena  
8:30 Joan T Sullivan  
12:15 Mary Falkowska  
7:30 Elvis Lee Rosado

**THURSDAY, December 31, 2015-Feast of St. Sylvester I**

6:50 Christmas Novena  
8:30 In Thanksgiving for all Priests,  
Living and Deceased  
12:15 Paula Frank

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5:00 Readings and Music  
**VIGIL 5:30** Ralph A. Cerbone Jr.  
**MASSSES7:30** (Spanish) Thanksgiving for 1 Year of Life-  
Family Cruz Galicia  
(En Honor a la Virgen de la Nube por  
Luis Paguey)

**FRIDAY, January 1, 2016-Feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

There is no 7:30AM Mass  
9:00 Christmas Novena  
10:30 Mary L. Walsh  
12:00 Justicia Divina por los asesinatos de gente  
inocente por parte de pandilleros en  
San Salvador  
1:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors  
5:00 Jonah Hortaleza (Intentions)

**SATURDAY, January 2, 2016-Feast of St. Basil the Great**

6:50 Christmas Novena  
8:30 Julio Colon  
12:15 Gene Gonzalez (Intentions)  
5:30 Mary L. Walsh

**SUNDAY, January 3, 2016-The Epiphany of the Lord**

7:30 Constance L. Viola  
Our Parishioners  
9:00 Melissa Gonzalez (Intentions)  
10:30 Mary L. Walsh  
12:00 Our Lady of Guadalupe, for Blessings  
Received this Year (Familia Osorio Cruz  
Intentions)

1:30 Genevieve Cerbone  
5:00 Elbert Jones (deceased) and  
Maria Morin (Intentions)

**Readings for the Week of December 27, 2015**

Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6,  
9-10/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52  
Monday: 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Ps 124:2-5, 7-8/Mt 2:13-18  
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-3, 5-6/Lk 2:22-35  
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-10/Lk 2:36-40  
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-13/Jn 1:1-18  
Friday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21  
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1-4/Jn 1:19-28  
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt  
2:1-12