

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

May, 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.churchofsthelena.com

Email: sthelenarc@yahoo.com

Alumni: sthelenasalumni@yahoo.com



saint Helena parish



Bronx, NY

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5:30 PM

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

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

Morning Prayer—Daily 8:30AM

Sunday:	AM	PM
7:30	12:00 (Spanish)	
9:00	1:30 PM	
10:30 (Family)	5:00 PM	

Spanish Mass: Sunday, 12:00 Noon

Holy Days — Evenings Before—7:30PM

Wednesday —7:30 PM (Spanish)

Monday 7:30PM (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

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:**THE GREAT FEAST OF PENTECOST**

Today, Christians across the world are celebrating **Pentecost**, which is not as well-known or as popular as Christmas and Easter, though it commemorates a watershed event in Christian history because in many ways, Pentecost is the birthday of the church.

For Catholics, Pentecost is a holy day on which we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the early followers of Jesus. Before the events of the first Pentecost, which came a few weeks after Jesus' death and resurrection, there were followers of Jesus, but no movement that could be meaningfully called "the Church." Thus, from an historical point of view, Pentecost is the day on which the Church was started. This is also true from a spiritual perspective, since the Spirit brings the Church into existence and enlivens it. Thus Pentecost is the Church's birthday.



The English word "Pentecost" is a transliteration of the Greek word *pentekostos*, which means "fifty." It comes from the ancient Christian expression *pentekoste hemera*, which means "fiftieth day." But Christians did not invent the phrase "fiftieth day." Rather, they borrowed it from Greek-speaking Jews who used the phrase to refer to a Jewish holiday. This holiday was known as the Festival of Weeks, or, more simply, Weeks (*Shavuot* in Hebrew). This name comes from an expression in Leviticus 23:16, which instructs people to count seven weeks or "fifty days" from the end of Passover to the beginning of the next holiday (*pentekonta hemeras* in the ancient Greek translation of the Hebrew Scripture).

Shavuot was the second great feast in Israel's yearly cycle of holy days. It was originally a harvest festival (Exod 23:16), but, in time, turned into a day to commemorate the giving of the law on Mt. Sinai. This day became especially significant for Christians because, seven weeks after the resurrection of Jesus, during the Jewish celebration of *Shavuot*/Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon his first followers, thus empowering them for their mission and gathering them together as a Church.

This event is recorded in The Acts of the Apostles. Chapter 2 begins, "And when the day of Pentecost [*ten hemeran tes pentekostes*] had come, [the first followers of Jesus] were all together in one place" (2:1). All of a sudden, a sound came from heaven, like a strong wind, filling the house where the people had gathered. Something like tongues of fire rested on their heads. "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak" (24). The languages spoken by the early Christians were intelligible (not other worldly) and were heard by thousands of Jewish pilgrims who had come to Jerusalem to celebrate *Shavuot*. The content of the miraculous messages had to do with God's mighty works (2:11). Many who heard these messages in their own languages were amazed, though others thought the Christians were just drunk (2:12).

At some point, Peter, one of the leading followers of Jesus, stood up and preached his first sermon. He interpreted the events of that morning in light of a prophecy of the Hebrew prophet Joel. In that text, God promised to pour out his Spirit on all flesh, empowering diverse people to exercise divine power. This would be a sign of the coming "day of the Lord" (Acts 2:16-21; Joel 2:28-32). Peter went on to explain that Jesus had been raised and had poured out the Spirit in fulfillment of God's promise through Joel (2:32-33). When the crowd asked what they should do, Peter urged them to turn their lives around and be baptized in the name of Jesus. Then they would be forgiven and would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (2:37-39). Acts reports that about 3,000 people were added to the Church that day (2:41). Not a bad response to Peter's first sermon!

Red is today's liturgical color which serves as a symbol of the power and fire of the Spirit because what happened on that first Pentecost continues to happen to Christians throughout the world today, though usually not in such a dramatic fashion. We rarely get a heavenly wind and tongues of fire anymore. Nevertheless, God pours out the Spirit upon all who put their faith in Jesus Christ and become his disciples (see Romans 8:1-11). Christians are meant to live in the presence and power of the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit helps us to confess Jesus as Lord (1 Cor 12:3), empowers us to serve God with supernatural power (1 Cor 12:4-11), binds us together as the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:12-13), helps us to pray (Rom 8:26), and even intercedes for us with God the Father (Rom 8:27). The Spirit guides us (Gal 5:25), helping us to live like Jesus (Gal 5:22-23).

Pentecost presents us with an opportunity to consider how we are living each day. Are we relying on the power of God's Spirit? Are we an open channel for the Spirit's seven gifts of: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord (Isaiah 11:2)? Are we attentive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit? Are the nine biblically-based fruits of the Spirit, namely: **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control** (Gal 5:26-27) growing in our lives? What about the 12 traditional fruits of the Holy Spirit (some of which overlap the biblical list): **charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, long-suffering, humility or gentleness, fidelity or faithfulness, modesty, continence (self-control), and chastity**. Do we use these gifts to bear fruit in our lives? All of us who have received the sacrament of Confirmation are equipped with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to live a virtuous and holy life, and we have been sent forth to bear much fruit, something that is possible only when one stays firmly attached to Jesus, the vine (see John 15:1-8). The graces of the Spirit strengthen confirmed Christians to carry out their vocations for the good of others and the benefit of the Church and the world. Most Christians try to live in the presence and power of the Spirit, but only to a certain extent. We are often limited by our fear, our sin, and our low expectations, not to mention our tendency to be distracted from God's work in us. Pentecost offers a chance to confess our failures, to live by the Spirit, and to ask the Lord to fill us afresh with his power.

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on individual followers of Jesus as they were gathered together in Jerusalem. This gathering became the first Christian Church. New believers in Jesus were baptized as they joined this Church. They, along with the first followers of Jesus, shared life together, focusing on teaching, fellowship, Eucharist, and prayer. They shared their belongings so that no one was hungry or needy. As these first Christians lived out their new faith together, "the Lord added to their number those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47). Thus we speak of Pentecost as the birthday of the church.

In theory, the Spirit could have been poured out on the followers of Jesus when they were not gathered together. There are surely times when the Holy Spirit touches an individual who is alone in prayer, worship, or ministry to others. But the fact that the Spirit was given to a gathering of believers is not incidental. It underscores the centrality of the Church in God's work in the world. The actions of the earliest Christians put all of this in boldface. The Holy Spirit is not only given to individuals, but also, in a sense to the gathered people of God. Thus, in 1 Corinthians 3, the Apostle Paul observes that the Church is God's temple and that the Spirit dwells in the midst of the Church (3:16-17; in 1 Cor 6:19-20 we find a complementary emphasis on the dwelling of the Spirit in individual Christians).

Many Christians, especially those who have been influenced by the individualism of American culture, live as if the church is useful but unnecessary. We seem to believe that as long as we have a personal relationship with God, everything else is secondary. But

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Pentecost is a vivid illustration of the truth that is found throughout Scripture: the community of God's people is central to God's work in the world. Thus, Pentecost invites us to consider our own participation in the fellowship, worship, and mission of the Church. It is a time to renew our commitment to live as an essential member of the body of Christ, using our gifts to build the church and share the love and justice of Christ with the world.

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit empowered believers in Jesus to praise God in many languages that they had not learned in the ordinary manner (Acts 2:5-13). Symbolically, this miracle reinforces the multilingual, multicultural, multiracial mission of the church. We are to be a community in which all people are drawn together by God's love in Christ. As Paul writes in Galatians 3:28: "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

Although there are some glorious exceptions, it seems that the Church has not, in general, lived out its multilingual mission. We are often divided according to language, race, and ethnicity. Pentecost challenges all of us to examine our own attitudes in this regard, to reject any prejudice that lurks within us, and to open our hearts to all people, even and especially those who do not share our language and culture. It is not easy, but it is central to our calling. And it is something that the Spirit of God will help us to do if we are open to it.

Every Catholic and every member of St. Helena's Parish needs to ask: Am I serving God through the power of the Spirit? Am I exercising the gifts of the Spirit in my life, both in the church and in the world? Pentecost is a time to ask God to fill us afresh with the Spirit so that we might join in the ministry of Christ with gusto, and it is a time to renew our commitment to fulfilling our crucial role in the ministry of God's people in the world.

Pope St. John I Feast May 18

Pope St. John I was a native of Tuscany in Italy. John was elected Pope while he was still an archdeacon upon the death of Pope Hormisdas in 523. At that time, the ruler of Italy was Theodoric the Goth who subscribed to the Arian brand of Christianity, but had tolerated and even favored his Catholic subjects during the early part of his reign.

However, about the time of St. John's accession to the Papacy, Theodoric's policy underwent a drastic change as a result of the treasonable (in the sovereign's view) correspondence between ranking members of the Roman Senate and Constantinople and the severe edict against heretics enacted by the emperor Justin I, who was the first Catholic on the Byzantine throne in fifty years. Spurred on by the appeals of Eastern Arians, Theodoric threatened to wage war against Justin but ultimately decided to negotiate with him through a delegation of five bishops and four senators. At its head he named Pope John - much against the latter's wishes. Little is known for certain about the nature of the message which the Pope bore and the manner in which he carried out his mission. What is known is that he succeeded in persuading the Emperor to mitigate his treatment of the Arians and thus avoid reprisals against the Catholics in Italy. The Pope's visit also brought about the reconciliation of the Western and Eastern Churches which had been plagued by a schism since 482 when the Byzantine Emperor Zeno's *Henoticon* had been published, in an unsuccessful attempt to reconcile the two factions from the Council of Chalcedon.

However, Theodoric had been becoming more suspicious with each passing day. While waiting for the delegation to return, he ordered the execution of the philosopher Boethius and his father-

in-law Symmachus on a charge of treason; and as he got word of the friendly relations between the Pope and the emperor, he concluded that they were plotting against him. Hence, on the delegation's return to the capitol city of Ravenna, Pope John was imprisoned by order of Theodoric and died a short time later as a result of the treatment he experienced there.

POPE FRANCIS SPEAKS ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

"The Holy Spirit seems to be a 'luxury prisoner' in many Christians' hearts: someone who is welcomed to stay, but not allowed to act or move us forward," said Pope Francis during a recent homily. "The Spirit does everything, knows everything, reminds us what Jesus said, and can explain to us all about Jesus."

When St. Paul speaks with the disciples in Ephesus (Acts 19: 1-8), Pope Francis pointed out that they had "not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Likewise, while Christians today have a knowledge of the Holy Spirit as part of the Holy Trinity, they do not know what the Spirit's role is in the Church.

"The Holy Spirit is the one who moves the Church, the one who works in the Church and in our hearts," the Roman Pontiff said. The Third Person of the Trinity is "the protagonist of the Living Church," he said, while cautioning against simply reducing the Christian life to a code of "morals and ethics."

The faith, the Pope said, is something more. It "is not just an ethical life: it is an encounter with Jesus Christ."

The Holy Spirit "frees us from the 'orphan-like' condition which the spirit of the world wants to put us in. The Holy Spirit is the one who moves us to praise God, to pray to the Lord and who teaches us to see the Father and call him 'Father.'"

There is one thing the Holy Spirit "can't do" the Pope said: "The Holy Spirit cannot make us 'virtual' Christians who are not virtuous." Instead, "The Holy Spirit makes real Christians. The Spirit takes life and prophetically reads the signs of the times pushing us forward."

On this Pentecost Sunday, the Holy Father invites us all to prepare by opening up our hearts to the Holy Spirit. "This is what we must do this week: think of the Spirit and talk to him."



Are You Interested in Learning More About Authentic Church miracles? Visit the website www.miraclehunter.com, which was featured in the cover story of the December 2015 issue of *National Geographic*.

One of Pope Francis' Favorite Eucharistic Miracles occurred in Argentina while he was still archbishop there. It was August of 1996, and a priest in Buenos Aires, Fr. Alejandro Pezet, discovered a host in the back of his church, and so he took it and placed it in some water in the tabernacle to dissolve it. Over the next few days, he kept an eye on it, and it grew increasingly red. The priest decided to present the case to Archbishop Jorge Bergoglio, who ordered that the host be professionally photographed and eventually examined by a scientist in the U.S., who was not told the origin of the specimen he was testing. The tests showed the sample to be heart muscle with blood type AB, the same blood type found on the Shroud of Turin. The scientist was an atheist and he said, "why did you send me this heart muscle, what was the point of this?" He was told it was a consecrated host, and that atheist scientist converted to Catholicism as a result of that study.

MAY 15, 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Banns of Marriage

J - Armando Pena—Emilia Cuazitl

50/50 DRAWING: The May 8 winners are: No. 110 & No. 176 @ \$24

- **ENGLISH FAMILY SESSION**-will be held **May 15** after the **10:30AM Mass**.
- **SPANISH FAMILY SESSION** will be held on **May 15** after the **Noon Mass**.
- **CONFIRMATION PHOTOS WITH THE BISHOP HAVE ARRIVED**-They may be picked up at the Rectory, Monday-Friday **9AM—4:30PM** or by appointment.
- **ENGLISH BIBLE STUDY COURSE**-Our second semester English Bible Study is called **THE BIBLE TIMELINE**. It is a 24-week course that surveys the highlights of the Bible story. The course meets every **Tuesday from 7:30 pm to 9 pm**. Our next class is **Tuesday, May 17**, and we will begin our study of the New Testament.
- **PHONE-A-THON Volunteers Needed**-We are just under \$9,000 shy of our parish Cardinal's Appeal Goal, and the diocese is looking for volunteers to participate in a phone-a-thon from 5:30 - 8:30 PM on **Tuesday, May 24**. Training and dinner will be provided. The phone-a-thon will take place at the Catholic Center at 1011 First Avenue, or you may telephone from the comfort of your own home. Call the rectory if you are interested in participating.
- **COLLECTION TO HELP ECUADOR**-This is to inform you that on **May 15** we are having a clothing drive to send to Ecuador. Please bring clothing donations to the green building on **May 15**. Please do not bring the clothes to the Rectory on other days because we have no space.
- **FOOD FOR THE POOR**-Fr. Richard Nahman from Food for the Poor WILL be speaking and taking up a collection at all Masses this weekend **May 14-15**. Food For The Poor is one of the largest international relief organizations in the United States. It is an ecumenical Christian nonprofit organization based in Florida that provides food, medicine, and shelter, among other services, to the poor in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- **MISSION COOPERATIVE APPEAL POSTPONED**-You have special envelopes in your boxes for the Mission Cooperative Appeal for May 15. HOWEVER, the Mission Cooperative Collection will ACTUALLY be taken up during the weekend of **June 11-12**. OUTREACH TO HAITI is the group who will be speaking at all Mass that weekend and will be making the appeal. So change the date of those envelopes from May 15 to June 12. The Church in Africa Collection envelopes scheduled for that weekend can either be put in the collection basket that weekend or the following weekend.
- **SCOUT SEEKS FUNDING FOR EAGLE PROJECT**-One of the scouts in St. Helena's Boy Scout Troop 65 is seeking funds for his Eagle Scout Project, which is to build a Shrine to St. Gerard, the Patron Saint of the unborn, in front of the church. This is the 65th anniversary of Troop 65, which was established here in the parish in 1951. The funds will be used to buy supplies for the shrine. To contribute to this effort go to: GoFundMe.com/22e9g488

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Sunday, May 8, 2016	\$4,687.39
Ascension Thursday	\$ 906.00

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. We exceeded our weekly budget goal. You are always welcome here at St. Helena. We are your spiritual home. Your support means a lot, and together, we are making a difference.

Envelope users: Please enter the amount of your donation on the envelope in the space provided. This will be a big help to us when counting the collection. Also, it is usually not necessary to tape or staple the envelope closed. Your help is appreciated.

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

- **MAY FLEA MARKET** will take place today, Pentecost Sunday, **May 15** from **10AM - 3PM**.
- **FOUNDATIONS OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH**-Fr. Nelson is offering a six-week course in Spanish on Tuesday evenings from **7:30 - 9PM** on the Foundations of the Catholic Faith. The cost is \$15 for the course.
- **CONSIDER USING PARISH PAY** as your way to support your church. We live in an age of on-line banking and bill paying. If you are a person that likes to handle your financial affairs mostly on line, then consider using Parish Pay. It is easy and convenient. It lets you have weekly offerings automatically debited from a checking account or credit card. No more forgetting to bring the checkbook or having to stop at the ATM on Sunday morning. You choose how much and how often to give, and what payment method to use. You can also make special offertory donations for capital campaigns, special events, and holy days, and second collections. With Parish Pay you can support the works of our parish even if travel or bad weather keeps you from Mass on a given weekend. Think and pray about it. Then, if you want to begin using Parish Pay as your way of supporting St. Helena, go to our website www.churchofsthelena.com and click the Parish Pay link.
- **YOUNG ADULT MEET AND GREET**-On Sun., **June 5**, Christy Torres, the Bronx Young Adult Outreach Coordinator, will conduct a Meet and Greet in English at **11:30AM**, following the 10:30AM Mass and in Spanish at **1:30PM**, following the NOON Mass. Both meetings will take place in the conference room in the green Parish Center . Light refreshments will be served. If you are a young adult, **ages 18-40**, you are especially invited to attend this event. We will discuss current Catholic Young Adult Ministry in the Bronx and make plans for future young adult ministry here at St. Helena Parish.
- **PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS** and **do not allow your children to stand on the kneelers**. They get dirty and the people at the next Mass are confronted with dirty kneelers that can easily soil clean pants and dresses. Also, **please do not leave trash on the pews**. There are waste baskets available. We would like St. Helena to be a clean, peaceful place for worship.
- **LOOKING FOR A MEANINGFUL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**-The Ladies of Charity engage in ministries with flexible time commitments in parishes, nursing homes, child care agencies, and other institutions that care for the marginalized. They create and donate handmade items for those we serve, and they provide

- spiritual and social support for volunteers. For more information on becoming a Lady of Charity call **212-371-1000 X2542** or email: LOC@archny.org
- **PARISH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**-Anyone who is celebrating their 25th, 30th, 40th, 45th, 50th, 55th and higher wedding anniversary are invited to participate in our Parish Anniversary Celebration next weekend on **May 22** at both the **10:30AM** (English) and **Noon** (Spanish) Masses. Please contact the Parish Office and let us know which special anniversary you are celebrating.
 - **BIG TICKET RAFFLE ITEMS NEEDED FOR PARISH FUN DAY**-Are you looking for a tax break as well as a way to support St. Helena's, then consider donating a big ticket item to our Community "Fun" Day Raffle. This year, our parish "Fun" Day will take place on **Saturday, June 25**, and the raffle is the major parish fundraiser of the event. If you have a big ticket item you would like to donate for that raffle, please contact the rectory at **718-892-3232** as soon as possible. Thank you for your support.
 - **FIRST ANNUAL BRONX JOB FAIR** at Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club, 1930 Randall Avenue on **Saturday, May 21** from **11AM - 3PM**. Open to ALL job seekers. Dress is business attire and bring plenty of resumes. For more info, call **718-792-1140**.
 - **BRONX CONCERT SINGERS 35th ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT** on **Sunday, May 22** at **4:30PM**, featuring Mozart's *Requiem* at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1891 McGraw Ave., Parkchester. Gen. Admission \$20, Seniors and Students \$15.
 - **ADORATION CHAPEL**-Holy Cross Parish, 620 Thieriot Avenue, has a new Adoration Chapel, which is open **Monday-Friday from 10AM - 9PM..**
 - **SHEEN CENTER LECTURE**-On **June 2, 2016**, at **7 p.m.** Crossroads Cultural Center and Communion and Liberation will sponsor a discussion featuring Cardinal Timothy Dolan and Rev. Richard Veras on the life and works of Monsignor Luigi Giussani, an Italian priest, thinker, and educator who pioneered a new way to speak about Christ to modern men and women. The event will be the first in the annual Giussani Series on Faith and Modernity, to be held at the Sheen Center in New York City. The focus of the evening will be Msgr. Giussani--founder of the ecclesial movement Communion and Liberation--and his impact on today's culture, thinking, and Church. A recent anthology of Giussani's seminal works, *Christ, God's Companionship with Man*, will be the touchstone for the discussion. This is a ticketed event that is free and open to the public. Space is limited. Tickets are available at <http://sheencenter.org/shows/first-annual-luigi-giussani-series-on-faith-modernity/>
 - **FREE JOB TRAINING FOR WOMEN** for administrative and customer support positions within the legal, hospitality, government, finance, and healthcare sectors. This Grace Institute program is five months long and classes run Monday through Friday, 9AM - 4PM. Must have either a GED or a high school diploma. All candidates MUST attend an Open House in order to apply for the program, and you can register at www.graceinstitute.org
 - **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.

Please Pray for the Sick of our Parish

Valeria Reid, Joanne Frances Bernadette Sanabria, Jonah Hortaleza, Lucy Cannavacciuolo, Joan Ricci, Sylvia Carballo, Ruben Mercado, Mike Adorno, Carmelle and Nicole Antoine, Sr. Marie Murphy, Catherine Holden, Eustaguia Mejias, Maria Gonzalez, Indrowdi Sadu, Rosa Pena, Brenda Jackson, Jennifer Alleyne, Luz Santiago, Carlos Negro

Please Pray for the Deceased and their Grieving Families:

Msgr. Robert O'Conner, Msgr. Edward Weber, Sunil Ramdeo, Megan Aima, Jose Luis Oliva Montes, Estefan Gonzalez, Alfonso Santiago, Carmen Vargas, Ruben Torres, Jorge Medina

- **POPE FRANCIS IN AMERICA**-Our St. Helena bookstore now has copies of *Love Is Our Mission: Pope Francis in America*, the story of the recent papal visit to New York, Washington, and Philadelphia, along with copies of our St. Helena 75th Anniversary CD. So, stop by the bookstore and see what new things we have there.
- **THE NEW YORK CATHOLIC BIBLE SUMMIT**-will take place on **Saturday, June 18** at the New York Catholic Center, 350 East 56th Street, NY. Online registration at: www.nyfaithformation.org
- **ADULT DIAPERS**-If you or a loved one is in need of adult diapers, contact the rectory at **718-892-3232** to obtain information on how you can obtain some.
- **CATHOLIC INTERNET RADIO**-Oremus Communications offers daily at **12:05PM** Our Lady of Fatima Novena and Family Rosary Program among other programs. Log on to: www.oremuscomms.com and click on Listen Live.

SEVEN REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD BE REGISTERED HERE AT ST. HELENA

It is unfortunate that there are many families who come to Mass here at St. Helena but are not yet registered members of the parish, so here are some reasons why you should register.

- It helps support the Church
- It proves that you are a practicing Catholic
- It helps when you need to obtain sponsor certificates, release letters, or other documentation needed from the church
- It enables you or other members of your family to become eligible for any of the sacraments (Baptism, Penance, Eucharist, Confirmation, Marriage, Holy Orders, or Anointing of the Sick)
- It enables you to have your children registered in our Religious Education Program or our Parish School and to qualify for a discounted tuition.
- It gives you a sense of belonging to the Parish Family
- It is "Fun to be Good."

So please stop by the rectory Monday - Friday between 9AM and 4:30PM and register, or you can give us a call at **718-892-3232**.

ST. HELENA SCHOOL NEWS

St. Helena Pre-K Program Receives Outstanding Rating-This is the first year St. Helena School has had a Universal Pre-Kindergarten program, and the program was recently evaluated by the New York City Public School's Assessment Program using the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale which evaluates six aspects of our program on a scale from 1-7. St. Helena's program, which consists of four classes, received a 5.2 overall rating, which is well above the 3.9 New York City

average. We are very proud that our program received a maximum 7.0 rating for the Language Reasoning of our students, again well above the 4.7 New York City average, and the students received a 6.4 score for Interaction, as compared to the 4.7 New York City average. Congratulations to the students and teachers of our now officially outstanding UPK Program.

ANUNCIOS EN ESPANOL

- **CONFIRMACION DE LAS FOTOS DEL BISHOP LLEGARON:** las puede obtener en la Rectoria, Lunes-Viernes de **9:00AM-4:30PM** o por citas.
- **SESION FAMILIAR EN ESPAÑOL PARA NIÑOS EN CCD:** Mayo 15 después de la misa de 12 pm.
- **FLEA MARKET Y ECUADOR:** Hemos decidido donar, hoy domingo 15 de mayo, el producto de la venta de ropa y comida que se haga durante el Flea Market, para donar a las víctimas de Ecuador. Te esperamos después de la misa.
- **PEDIMOS EL FAVOR DE CONSIDERAR A LOS DEMÁS MIEMBROS DE LA PARROQUIA:** No permita que sus niños se paren en los espacios para arrodillarse. Debemos cuidar nuestra parroquia y conservarla limpia para los demás miembros de nuestra Iglesia. Entre todos podemos hacer de Santa Helena un lugar de adoración limpio y agradable para todos.
- **CELEBRANDO LOS ANIVERSARIOS DE BODA EN NUESTRA PARROQUIA:** El 22 de mayo habrá bendiciones especiales para las parejas que cumplen aniversario de bodas. Todas las parejas celebrando 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 ó más años de matrimonio, por favor regístrate en la oficina para tenerlos en nuestra lista.
- **COMIDA PARA LOS POBRES:** El P. Richard Nahman de "Food for the Poor" estará hoy hablando en nombre de esta institución y la segunda colecta será para colaborar con esta misión. "Food for the Poor" es una institución ecuménica sin ánimo de lucro, con su base en la Florida. Es una de las más grandes organizaciones de ayuda en los Estados Unidos. Ellos ayudan con comida, ropa, medicinas y alojamiento, entre otros servicios, a los pobres de America Latina y el Caribe.
- **CELEBRANDO LOS ANIVERSARIOS DE BODA EN NUESTRA PARROQUIA:** El próximo domingo 22 de mayo habrá bendiciones especiales para las parejas que cumplen aniversario de bodas. Todas las parejas celebrando 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 ó más años de matrimonio, por favor regístrate en la oficina para tenerlos en nuestra lista.
- **REGÍSTRATE EN NUESTRA PARROQUIA:** La vida de la parroquia no funciona lo mismo en USA que en nuestros países. La única información que das es tu nombre, dirección y teléfono. En cambio, tienes varios beneficios:
1) Queda en tu registro personal el tiempo que llevas en la Iglesia como miembro de ella.
2) Queda registrado en tu cuenta la colaboración que das a la parroquia.
3) Esto es muy importante para el momento que necesitas cartas de recomendación para cualquier institución que te las pida.
4) En caso de una emergencia podemos certificar que eres miembro de la parroquia.
5) Estar registrado es una forma de mostrar que eres un Católico practicante.
6) Automáticamente da posibilidad a miembros de tu familia a ser elegibles para recibir cualquiera de los sacramentos.
7) Estar registrado te da sentido de pertenencia a la Iglesia.
Esta es TU Iglesia, regístrate.

BUEN DIA, HERMANOS:

El **gran desconocido** de nuestra fe tiene un nombre: Espíritu Santo. En el libro de los Hechos de los Apóstoles 19, 1-8, se narra el diálogo de Pablo con algunos discípulos que estaban en Éfeso, dice así: "Mientras Apolo estaba en Corinto, Pablo atravesó la meseta y llegó a Éfeso. Allí encontró unos discípulos y les preguntó: ¿Recibisteis el Espíritu Santo al aceptar la fe?" **Contestaron:** "Ni siquiera hemos oido hablar de un Espíritu Santo."

Te hago la siguiente pregunta: Tú, ¿Conoces el Espíritu Santo? ¿Quién es el Espíritu Santo **para ti**? La realidad, de la cual necesitamos tomar conciencia, es que no siempre tenemos claro quien es el Espíritu Santo, ni cual es su papel en nuestra vida, si su presencia puede cambiar algo nuestra existencia o no. Parece que "eso" se relega para ciertos grupos que alaban al Espíritu, pero sin ser algo definitivo en nuestra vida. Considero que es muy importante cambiar esa percepción, porque eso significa que estamos perdiendo la oportunidad de enriquecer nuestra vida con el **regalo más grande** que Jesús nos dejó. Además, el Espíritu Santo es el **gran secreto** de Jesús durante su ministerio. Sin la acción permanente del Espíritu Santo en su vida, Jesús no habría realizado las cosas que hizo ni nos hubiera dejado el legado que nos dejó.

La razón y la fuente de sus milagros fue el Espíritu Santo, el origen de su generosidad, de su amor, de su sabiduría, de su poder fue la presencia **permanente y consciente** del Espíritu Santo en su vida. Jesucristo fue resucitado por la gloria del Espíritu Santo. Podemos decir que **Jesús encarnado** es obra del Espíritu Santo. Durante su permanencia entre nosotros Jesús se movió en la acción del Espíritu Santo y al regresar al Padre **nos introduce** a la acción de ese mismo Espíritu que lo guió a Él, para que aprendiéramos a conocerlo y a relacionarnos con Él como Jesús lo hacía. El Espíritu Santo es el **gran regalo** para nosotros y por eso es **imperativo** que lo conozcamos mejor.

El Padre nos atrae hacia Cristo por la acción del Espíritu Santo. O sea, cuando comienzas a sentir que Jesús es importante en tu vida y deseas conocerlo mejor, es señal de la acción del Espíritu Santo en tu vida. Es por la acción del Espíritu Santo que comenzamos a comprender cada vez más a Cristo en las Sagradas Escrituras. Sin la acción del Espíritu Santo las palabras que encontramos en la Biblia se nos hacen extrañas y sin sentido. Es el Espíritu Santo el que nos ayuda a comprender mejor la predicación, a tener deseo de recibir al Señor en la Eucaristía y a reconocer en ese pequeño pedazo de pan consagrado, por el mismo Espíritu Santo, la presencia real de Cristo que se vuelve alimento espiritual para nosotros.

Es el poder del Espíritu Santo, cuando lo invocamos y lo deseamos en nuestra vida, el que nos **renueva** de mente y corazón. Eso significa que el Espíritu Santo penetra "lo más íntimo de nuestra intimidad", como diría San Agustín, para desde allí, conociendo nuestras fragilidades pero también nuestro deseo de crecer junto a Él, llevarnos hasta horizontes a los que solos jamás podríamos llegar. Todo lo bueno que se despierta en nosotros, el deseo de servir, de amar, de dar, de entregarse, todo es consecuencia del Espíritu obrando en nuestras vidas.

Desde que fuimos concebidos Dios ha sembrado en nuestro ser muchas **semillas** de dones, virtudes, habilidades etc. Todo con un propósito especial, que las descubramos y hagamos nuestra parte (eso es 'participar') para que esas semillas divinas que están en cada uno de nosotros, reflejen al hombre y la mujer que quiere que seamos. Hombres y mujeres renovados dispuestos a dar todo

para ayudar a renovar el mundo. Esas semillas nos las ayuda a descubrir el Espíritu Santo y es Él quien nos ayuda a darles la forma que el Padre quiere, para que cumplamos mejor nuestra misión en el tiempo que nos sea dado en la tierra.

Jesús estaba tranquilo en casa con sus padres cuando oyó hablar del bautismo de Juan. Quiso ir a conocerlo y en un acto de extrema humildad, sin ser pecador, se dejó bautizar. Se nos describe en el capítulo 3 del evangelio de San Lucas que el Espíritu Santo descendió sobre Jesús y se oyó una voz del cielo: "Este es mi hijo querido, mi predilecto". El nombre Jesús significa "**Dios salva**", pero desde su bautismo ya no es sólo Jesús sino Jesucristo. Cristo significa, "**ungido**". En el capítulo 4 del mismo evangelio se nos narra cómo Jesús, lleno del Espíritu, fue llevado al desierto. Allí confronta y derrota a Satanás de las tentaciones. Esa victoria suya nos hace a nosotros también, por medio del Espíritu Santo, capaces de derrotar nuestras tentaciones.

Jesucristo, lleno del Espíritu Santo comienza a predicar con firmeza, con cariño, con autoridad, con compasión y misericordia, para dar a conocer al mundo el amor del Padre y la llegada del Reino en la persona de Jesús. Cristo, al igual que nosotros, tenía en su corazón la semilla de su misión en la tierra y es el Espíritu Santo el que la despierta, la hace crecer y le da a Jesús el poder de llevar a cabo lo que debía realizar, hasta la misma muerte en cruz, hasta la misma resurrección. Es con el poder del Espíritu Santo que Jesús expulsa demonios y debilita el poder del mal. Es la **plenitud** del Espíritu Santo en la vida de Jesús la que hace de Él un ser sin igual, capaz de arrebatarlos del dominio de las tinieblas para llevarnos al dominio de la luz, del amor y de la vida.

Es por eso que debemos orar mucho al Espíritu Santo, para que a través de su acción el Padre y el Hijo nos ayuden a descubrir las semillas que por amor se nos han dado. Cada corazón nuestro es un pequeño paraíso, allí habitan las semillas con las que podemos dar de la luz, del amor y de la vida que a nosotros se nos ha dado. Pero necesitamos la luz del Espíritu Santo para que ellas broten y den fruto. Muchos no conocen este regalo que Cristo nos dejó y eso significa dejar perder las semillas que nos hacen seres nuevos. Es importante entrar en el mismo ambiente en que Cristo se movió, el ambiente de intimidad con el Espíritu Santo. Jesús nos lo ha dicho en forma repetida: "*Permanezcan en mí como como yo permanezco en ustedes*". Y ¿cómo permanece Jesús en nosotros? En el Espíritu Santo.

P.Nelson



Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, May 15, 2016-Pentecost Sunday

- 7:30 Mother's Day Novena
Our Parishioners
- 9:00 Clifton Allen
- 10:30 Thomas Kelly (Birthday Remembrance)
- 12:00 Julio Medina
Christopher Arce Gonzalez
- 1:30 Sunil Ramdeo
- 5:00 Albert and Sara Echevarria

MONDAY, May 16, 2016-Feast of St. Simon Stock

- 6:50 Mother's Day Novena
- 8:30 Divine Justice for the Murder of 4 Nuns and 12 Other Christians in Yemen
- 12:15 In Thanksgiving for Favors

TUESDAY, May 17, 2016-Feast of St. Paschal Baylon

- 6:50 Grace and Jack G. Savino
- 8:30 St. Anthony
- 12:15 Louis Schiavone

WEDNESDAY, May 18, 2016-Feast of Pope St. John I

- 6:50 In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 8:30 Bridget and Pat Joe Early
- 12:15 Intentions of Fr. Szymon Kurpios, Sch.P. In Thanksgiving for His 14th Anniversary of Ordination, His Parents and Family
- 7:30 Justicia Divina por el asesinato de 4 monjas y 12 otros cristianos en Yemen

THURSDAY, May 19, 2016-Feast of St. Celestine

- 6:50 St. Helena's Benefactors
- 8:30 Joanne Savino's Intentions
- 12:15 Vallastar Brown
Maria Antonia Martell

FRIDAY, May 20, 2016-Feast of Bernardine of Siena

- 6:50 Divine Justice for the 170,000 Homicides Committed in Central America in 2015
- 8:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 12:15 Mary Elizabeth Churchill

SATURDAY, May 21, 2016-Feast of St. Christopher

- 6:50 Magallanes & Companions
- 8:30 For the Supreme Court's Approval of the President's Immigration Plan
- 12:15 Ana Maria Romero Pernas
- 5:30 Birthday of Jesse M Arroyo
- 5:30 Souls in Purgatory

SUNDAY, May 22, 2016-Most Holy Trinity Sunday

- 7:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 9:00 Julie Lane
- 10:30 Andres Ortiz
- 12:00 Maria Ocasio and Josephine Acevedo
Jose Rodriguez
Andres Ortiz
- 1:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 5:00 Deceased Members of Cordies and Azcuidiaz Families
Vincent Chorasey
Our Parishioners

Readings for the Week of May 15, 2016

Sunday: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-30/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39

Extended Vigil: Gn 11:1-9/Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b/Ez 37:1-14/Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-30/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39

Day: Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34/Rom 8:8-17 or 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26 or Jn 20:19-23

Monday: Jas 3:13-18/Ps 19:8-10, 15/Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: Jas 4:1-10/Ps 55:7-11, 23/Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday: Jas 4:13-17/Ps 49:2-3, 6-11/Mk 9:38-40

Thursday: Jas 5:1-6/Ps 49:14-20/Mk 9:41-50

Friday: Jas 5:9-12/Ps 103:1-4, 8-9, 11-12/Mk 10:1-12

Saturday: Jas 5:13-20/Ps 141:1-3, 8/Mk 10:13-16

Next Sunday: Prv 8:22-31/Ps 8:4-9/Rom 5:1-5/Jn 16:12-15