

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.churchofsthelenarc.com

Email: sthelenarc@yahoo.com

Alumni: sthelenasalumni@yahoo.com



saint Helena parish



Bronx, NY

Mass Schedule (Horario de Misas)

Saturday: 5:30 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 8:30AM

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

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:**THE FEAST OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST**

This Sunday, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ (often referred to by its Latin name of Corpus Christi). This is a feast day dedicated to celebrating the mystery of the Eucharist, which is "the source and summit of the Christian life" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #132). As Catholics we need to remember all we learned about the Eucharist and the "Real Presence" of Jesus in it. The feast of Corpus Christi celebrates the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist. Yet, it has only been within the last 700 years that the Feast of Corpus Christi has been celebrated throughout the world. The feast brings about great joy and celebrations. It was originally observed on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. However, in 1970, it was changed to the following Sunday for the United States and most of the rest of the world. But how did this wonderful feast begin?



It began, of course, at the Last Supper when Jesus took the bread and the cup, filled with wine and a little water, and said the words of consecration: "Take this, all of you, and eat of it... Take this, all of you, and drink from it... Do this in memory of me." According to the Calendar of Polemius (AD 448,) the Church celebrated a feast of the Birth of the Chalice on March 24, and it seems that the faithful had great devotion for the Blessed Sacrament for over a millennium, and then - much as is happening in many parts of the world today - the people gradually stopped receiving the Blessed Sacrament frequently, and the Lord responded by using a teenager to bring attention BACK to the central focus of our faith. Imagine at the age of sixteen seeing a vision above you of a silver moon with a small section altered. After seeing the vision, it faded. This actually happened to a young teenager, Juliana, in the 12th century. She was from Belgian. Juliana tried to make the image stop coming back, but it wouldn't.

Juliana decided to join the Norbertine convent at Mont Cornillon. She had a deep devotion to the Blessed Sacrament; however, she never thought the images were related to it. Then one day Juliana finally was told the meaning of the image. While deep in prayer, the Lord explained that the moon was the ritual year of the Church, and the altered area meant something was incomplete. The missing part was that there wasn't a feast to celebrate the Blessed Sacrament. God continued His explanation to Juliana by giving her three reasons why He wanted a feast day. The first reason was to strengthen the Catholic belief of the Eucharist. Secondly, it would encourage people to be virtuous and draw strength from the Sacrament. Lastly, it would be a compensation for abuse and sacrilegious acts against the Eucharist.

God informed Juliana that he wanted her to create this feast day. She immediately felt scared and overwhelmed. She pleaded with God not to give her this task, but He had chosen her. For years, Juliana put off doing anything about it. Twenty years went by and she became the Superior of her order. Juliana experienced many mystical visions, and she constantly had the urge to speak about the feast, and one day she finally did. She told Robert de Thorte, who was the Bishop of Liege. Thankfully, he believed her and discussed it with Jacques Pantaleon who served as Archdeacon in Liege and who later became Pope Urban IV. They liked the idea of the feast, and it was first celebrated in Liege in 1246.

Juliana of Liege died in 1258, but the solemnity hadn't quite reached the entire world. Later on, Juliana was declared a saint in 1869 by Pope Pius IX, but there was still some controversy in the Church about the feast. Some people felt that receiving the

Eucharist daily was enough to commemorate the Blessed Sacrament. However, God wanted a special feast day, and He made his point through a miracle which occurred in 1263 at a town called Bolsena.

During his journey to Rome, Father Peter of Prague, stopped in at Bolsena to serve Mass. He was a Godly man, but he never truly understood that Christ was present in the Blessed Sacrament. During that particular Mass, blood began to seep from the Host as he was speaking the words of the Consecration over the tomb of St. Christina. The blood went down his arms and onto the altar. He was very confused, and he requested to leave Mass to see Pope Urban IV who was in a town close by called Orvieto. The Pope listened and investigated the situation. In the end, the Pope considered this a great miracle and created a papal bull that initiated the Feast of Corpus Christi on September 8, 1264.

On at least 36 other occasions throughout the history of the Catholic Church, God has provided visible proof of the invisible reality of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

Today, on the Feast of Corpus Christi, at the end of the Holy Mass, there is often a procession of the Blessed Sacrament, generally displayed in a monstrance. The procession is usually followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. A notable Eucharistic procession is that presided over by the Pope each year in Rome, where it begins at the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran and makes its way to the Basilica of Saint Mary Major, where it concludes with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Here at St. Helena, we will have a short procession following the 10:30AM Mass and Benediction today following the 1:30PM Mass until the beginning of the 5PM Mass.

**ST. JOAN OF ARC - The Maid of Orleans
Feast May 30**

Six hundred years ago, a teenage girl with courage in her heart—and voices in her head—rose from obscurity to champion Charles VII of France and lead the French army to important victories during the Hundred Years' War. Burned at the stake as a heretic after a politically-motivated trial, Joan was beatified in 1909 and canonized in 1920.

Born of a fairly well-to-do peasant couple in Domremy-Greux (southeast of Paris), Jehanne D'Arc was only 12 when she experienced a vision and heard voices that she later identified as Sts. Michael the Archangel, Catherine of Alexandria, and Margaret of Antioch.

During the Hundred Years War, she led French troops against the English and recaptured the cities of Orléans and Troyes. This enabled Charles VII to be crowned as king in Reims in 1429. She never fought in a battle or killed an opponent. She was an inspirational mascot and military strategist, carrying a banner instead of a weapon, yet, she was at least twice wounded in battle. Captured near Compiègne the following year, she was sold to the English for 10,000 gold coins and placed on trial on 70 counts, including heresy, horse theft, and witchcraft. Professors at the University of Paris supported Bishop Pierre Cauchon of Beauvais, the judge at her trial; Cardinal Henry Beaufort of Winchester, England, participated in the questioning of Joan in prison. In the end, she was condemned as a "relapsed heretic" for wearing men's clothes, cutting her hair in a page boy style popular among knights, and claiming that God had directly contacted her. The English resented France's military success—to which Joan contributed.

On this day in 1431, she was burned at the stake in Rouen, and her ashes were scattered in the Seine River. A second Church trial petitioned by her mother and her two brothers and ordered by

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

Pope Callixtus III 25 years later nullified the earlier verdict, which was reached under political pressure.

Remembered by most people for her military exploits, Joan had a famously volatile temper as well as a great love for the sacraments, which strengthened her compassion toward the poor. Popular devotion to her increased greatly in 19th-century France and later among French soldiers during World War I. Theologian George Tavard writes that her life "offers a perfect example of the conjunction of contemplation and action" because her spiritual insight is that there should be a "unity of heaven and earth."

Pope says, "To ignore the poor is to despise God"

"To ignore the poor is to despise God! We must learn this well: to ignore the poor is the despise God," Pope Francis said earlier this week.

"If we don't show mercy to others we shouldn't expect to get it from God," Pope Francis said, stressing that while turning a blind eye to the poor might make life on earth easier, the eternal result will be much different.

He spoke to the thousands of pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square for his Wednesday general audience, continuing his ongoing catechesis on mercy as understood through scripture. Pope Francis focused his speech on the parable of The Rich Man and Lazarus, a poor beggar who laid outside the man's house every day, asking for the leftover scraps from his table. Both men eventually die, and the rich man, who ignored Lazarus and denied him the scraps, is tormented by constant fire and an insatiable thirst, whereas Lazarus is "carried by the angels" to heaven and comforted. During their lives, "the door of the rich man's house is always closed to the poor man," the Pope observed, noting that the rich man wore expensive, luxurious clothing and ate lavish feasts every day, Lazarus starved and was covered in sores, with only the dogs to lick his wounds.

This scene, he said, is reminiscent "of the harsh rebuke of the Son of Man at the final judgement. Lazarus represents well the silent cry of the poor in all ages and the contradiction of a world in which immense riches and resources are in the hands of the few," he said, noting that eventually everyone, rich and poor alike, will die, just like Lazarus and the rich man in the parable.

Francis pointed out that after both of them die, the tormented rich man appeals to Abraham for help, calling him "father." By using this word, the rich man is claiming to belong to the people of God, yet during his life "he showed no consideration for God, and in fact, he made himself the center of everything, closed in his world of luxury and waste."

Pope Francis then noted how in the parable, the rich man does not have a name, but is only referred to as "rich," while Lazarus, the name of the poor man, is repeated five times. Lazarus had served as a living reminder to the rich man to remember God, but the rich man did not welcome the opportunity, he said, explaining that in the end, the rich man "will be condemned not for his wealth, but for having been incapable of feeling compassion for Lazarus and assisting him."

The Pope then turned to the second part of the parable in which the tormented rich man, upon seeing Lazarus being comforted by Abraham, seems to see the poor man for the first time. But the rich man's words immediately betray him, the Pope said, recalling how the man asked Abraham to "send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger into the water to cool my tongue, because I am suffering terribly in the flame."

Suddenly the rich man recognizes Lazarus and knows his name, "while in life he pretended not to see him," Francis said, lamenting how all too frequently "so many people pretend not to see the poor! For them the poor don't exist." After first denying the poor

man the leftovers from his table, the rich man now asks Lazarus to fetch him something to drink, Francis said, noting that the rich man "still believes he is able to claim rights based on his previous social condition."

In turn, Abraham's response that the good and evil bestowed on the two men in the afterlife is meant "to compensate for earthly justice," offers the key to the whole parable, the Pope said. As long as Lazarus sat outside his house, the rich man had the opportunity for salvation, yet he denied it and "the situation has become irreparable."

"God's mercy toward us is linked to our mercy toward others," Francis warned, cautioning that if this aspect is missing from our attitude, God's mercy "cannot find space inside our closed hearts, it can't enter. If I don't throw open the door of my heart to the poor, that door stays closed. Even for God. And this is terrible."

Pope Francis observed that when the rich man then asks if he can warn his friends and relatives, Abraham responds by telling him they have Moses and the prophets. If we want to convert, we don't have to wait for "miraculous events," but must instead make the decision to open our hearts to the World of God, which calls us to love both God and neighbor," the Pope said. "The Word of God can revive a withered heart and cure its blindness," he said, adding that "the rich man knew the Word of God, but didn't allow it to enter his heart, he didn't listen to it, and because of this, he was unable to open his eyes and have compassion for the poor man."

Francis closed his address by stressing that "no messenger and no message can replace the poor we meet on the journey, because in them we meet Jesus himself." He encouraged all to pray alongside Mary, who in her canticle to God said: "you have cast down the mighty from their thrones and have exulted the lowly, you have filled the hungry with good things, and the rich you have sent away empty."

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO DIED WHILE SERVING

This weekend, we will have a special book in which you can write the names of your family members who died while serving their country, and they will be prayed for during our Monday Memorial Day Masses.

Memorial Day is an American holiday observed on the last Monday of May, and it honors men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military.

Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and only became an official federal holiday in 1971. Most Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, attending a religious service, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of summer.

The Civil War claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history, requiring the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries. By the late 1860s Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers. It is unclear where exactly this tradition originated; numerous communities may have independently initiated the memorial gatherings. The first widely publicized observance of a Memorial Day-type observance after the Civil War was in Charleston, South Carolina, on May 1, 1865. During the war, Union soldiers who were prisoners of war had been held at the Hampton Park Race Course in Charleston. At least 257 Union prisoners died there and were hastily buried in unmarked graves. Together with students, teachers and missionaries, black residents



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of Charleston organized a ceremony in 1865, which was covered by the national papers. Nevertheless, in 1966 the federal government declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day. Waterloo—which had first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—was chosen because it hosted an annual, community-wide event, during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

On May 5, 1862, General John A. Logan, leader of The Grand Army of the Republic, an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance. "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land," he proclaimed. The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle. On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there. Many Northern states held similar commemorative events and reprised the tradition in subsequent years; by 1890 each one had made Decoration Day an official state holiday. Many Southern states, on the other hand, continued to honor their dead on separate days until after World War I.

Memorial Day, as Decoration Day gradually came to be known, originally honored only those lost while fighting in the Civil War. But during World War I the United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict, and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars. For decades, Memorial Day continued to be observed on May 30, the date Logan had selected for the first Decoration Day. But in 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees; the change went into effect in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Banns of Marriage

999 – Armando Pena—Emilia Cuazitl

50/50 DRAWING: The May 15 winners are: No. 48 & No. 325 @ \$23
The May 22 winners are: No. 340 & No. 375 @ \$25

- **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROMOTION** will take place today, **Sun., May 29**, during the **10:30AM Family 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 31**, and we will conclude our study of the Gospel of Luke.
- **COMMUNITY FUN DAY MEETING TODAY**—There will be a very important meeting **TODAY, May 29**, at **1:30PM** downstairs in the gym for all of those people interested in participating in our Second Annual Community "Fun" Day. We will discuss the possibility of the event becoming a carnival, and we will hear a presentation from the son-in-law of the company that **LAST** ran St. Helena's annual carnival for many years over 25 years ago.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Sunday, May 22, 2016

\$4,117.18

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 came very close to 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.

- **MEMORIAL DAY MASS** at St. Raymond's Cemetery for our beloved service men and women **Monday, May 30 at 11AM**. Celebrant will be Archbishop Charles Palmer-Buckle of Accra, Ghana. Mass is in English, Spanish and Italian. Enter at the Lafayette Avenue Gate and go to the St. Francis Mausoleum for Mass. Cemetery car is available for those who need assistance from the street to the Mass location. All are invited.
- **WEEKLY ENVELOPES**—Many parishioners have not yet picked up their weekly envelopes. Envelope use helps record and document your annual church contributions for tax deduction purposes, as well as verifies that you are an active member of this parish. If you have not yet picked up your envelope box, you may get it either at the rectory during the weekdays or at the Bookstore on **Sun. from 8:30AM to 1PM**.
- **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 envel. from May 15 to June 12. The Church in Africa Collection envelopes scheduled for that weekend can be put in the collection basket that weekend or the following weekend.
- **FOUNDATIONS OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH**—Fr. Nelson is concluding his six-week course in Spanish on Tuesday evenings from **7:30 - 9PM** on the Foundations of the Catholic Faith.
- **A BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP** is beginning here at St. Helena. The group is intended for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one or a dear friend. There will be **TWO** opening sessions, and you are invited to attend either one. The first will be held on **Wednesday, June 8** from **6 - 7:15PM** in the Rectory Meeting Room, and the second on **Saturday, June 11** from **11AM - 12:15PM** in the Green Family Life Center. For more information, please contact Jessica Perez at jeniperez_s@yahoo.com
- **IT'S A PARADE FOR KIDS** will begin their parade on **Saturday, June 4** at **11AM** in the St. Helena's Parking Lot, and they will march up Westchester Ave. and end at Westchester Square. The parade is sponsored by Community Friends on the Move For God. Following the parade, there will be a day of fun, music, games, and prizes at Owen Dolan Park until 6PM. For more info, call **718-892-1590**.
- **WOODLAWN SPRING FESTIVAL**—**Saturday, June 4**—from **1-6PM** along Katonah Avenue

- **BIG TICKET RAFFLE ITEMS STILL 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.
- **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: Donald Hartnett at GoFundMe.com/22e9g488
- **GOLD MEDAL AWARD**-Msgr. Scanlan High School Board Chairman Christopher F. Gallagher '65 has been selected to receive the CYO Gold Medal Award from Timothy Cardinal Dolan on **Thursday, June 9** at the Waldorf Astoria.
- **QUO VADIS DAY VOCATIONAL RETREAT**-for boys in grades 5-8 who are interested in the priesthood, **Tuesday, June 28** from **9AM - 5PM** at St. Joseph's Seminary, 201 Seminary Ave., Yonkers. Fee: \$10/child & \$5/parent lunch. RSVP to vocations@archny.org
- **SISTERS OF LIFE SILVER JUBILEE**-**June 1** beginning with **10:30AM** Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, followed by a Block Party Celebration from **NOON - 4PM**. All are welcome; RSVP at sistersoflife.org
- **ADORATION CHAPEL**-Holy Cross Parish, 620 Thieriot Avenue, has a new Adoration Chapel, which is open **Monday-Friday from 10AM - 9PM**.
- **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.
- **DOMINICAN COLLEGE INFORMATION SESSION**-concerning both Graduate and Undergraduate Degree programs is scheduled for **Wed., June 8** from **5:30 - 7:30PM** in the Hennessy Center, 470 Western Highway, Orangeburg.
- **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

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, Eustagua Mejias, Maria Gonzalez, Indrowdi Sadu, Rosa Pena, Brenda Jackson, Jennifer Alleyne, Luz Santiago, Carlos Negro, James Leunge, Adam Mary, Carol Primak

Please Pray for the Deceased and their Grieving Families:

Alfonso Santiago, Carmen Vargas, Ruben Torres, Jorge Medina, Msgr. Donald Hendricks, Nealiani Rosario

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

- **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.
- **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.

St. HELENA SCHOOL NEWS

NO SCHOOL ON MONDAY, MAY 30
because of Memorial Day.

BLUE RIBBON ART SHOW WINNERS

We congratulate the following students who won blue ribbons in the school art show held last Wednesday evening:

Pre-K Green	Kai Nickerson
Pre-K Red	Kandal Marshall
Pre-K Yellow	Hosna Akther
Pre-K Blue	Skyl Torres
Kindergarten	Juliana Jimenez
Grade 1 Coloring Sheet	Jayden Fernandez
Grade 1 Free Hand Drawing	Yazmin Palacios
Grade 2 Coloring Sheet	Angelina Infante
Grade 2 Free Hand Drawing	Zuri Swinson
Grade 3 Coloring Sheet-Boys	Ethan Chatter
Grade 3 Coloring Sheet Girls	Rhian Grant
Grade 3 Free Hand Drawing	Jazmin Vasquez
Grade 4 Coloring Sheet-Boys	Lucas Jimenez
Grade 4 Coloring Sheet-Girls	Obianuju Obumneme Akaneme
Grade 4 Free Hand Drawing	Vicky Liu
Grade 5 Coloring Sheet-Boys	Ulises Paniagua
Grade 5 Coloring Sheet-Girls	Sammi Chong
Grade 5 Free Hand Drawing	Alyana Jusino
Grade 6 Color By Number	Tiana Beckford- Hutchinson
Grade 6 Coloring Sheet	Maria Delgado
Grade 6 Free Hand Drawing	Yuki Liu
Grade 6 Mosaic	Uchenna Obumneme Akaneme
Grade 7 Color By Number	Kaitlyn Diaz
Grade 7 Free Hand Drawing With Pencil	Dayana Cordero
Grade 7 Free Hand Drawing With Marker	Alyssa Soriano
Grade 8 Color By Letter	Matthew Manning
Grade 8 Free Hand Drawing With Pencil	Janell Alvarez

- **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE VIOLIN AND BAND ENSEMBLE** for presenting the first school music concert in over 25 years this past Monday evening. There were 23 students who participated in the concert from grades 1-8. Eighth grader Mykerine Vincent received a special certificate. The program was directed by Ms. Leslie Sloup and assisted by Paul Effman.

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ANUNCIOS EN ESPANOL

- **FOTOS DE LA CONFIRMACION:** Las fotos que fuer on tomadas con el Obispo ya llegaron. Puede reclamarlas en la Rectoría durante la semana.
- **ARTICULOS PARA LA RIFA DE NUESTRA FERIA DE LA COMUNIDAD:** El 25 de junio celebraremos nuestro "Fun Day" festival de la parroquia. Participa de este evento haciéndote voluntario para atender alas personas que vienen ese día a divertirse. Puedes ofrecerte a trabajar por algunas horas. ¿Deseas donar algún artículo que sea utilizado para la gran rifa que tendremos? Tráelo a la Rectoría. Gracias por tu colaboración, con esta rifa se obtienen buenos

fondos para la parroquia. Recuerda, lo que dones puede servir para deducción de impuestos.

- **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.
- **RAYO DE LUZ:** Ha llegado la revista RAYO DE LUZ a nuestra librería en la Iglesia. Ella tiene las lecturas del mes de **Junio** y cada día tiene su propia reflexión. Esta es una herramienta muy valiosa ara aquellos que quieren tomar en serio su fe, crecer en ella y encontrar la luz de Jesús para sus vidas. La estamos vendiendo en sólo **dos dólares**. Aprovecha a comprarla antes de que se acabe!!!

BUEN DIA, HERMANOS:

La semana que estamos terminando es la numero 8 del Tiempo Ordinario. Como ustedes lo saben, durante los días entre semana es San Marcos el evangelista que nos guía. En cambio, la primera lectura esta semana ha sido sobre la **Primera Carta de San Pedro**. Aunque no hay plena certeza de la autoría de Pedro, la tradición la ha atribuido a él desde muy antiguo. Es muy difícil, en algunos casos y debido a la antigüedad de los documentos, establecer el autor verdadero del escrito, pero los investigadores han determinado dos posibilidades: Una, que el autor es efectivamente Pedro, ya anciano, quizás en prisión y muy cercano a su muerte. En este caso la carta estaría escrita antes del año 67, fecha límite de su martirio y dirigida a los cristianos que sufrían la persecución de Nerón. La otra posibilidad es que algún discípulo cercano de Pedro la haya escrito y colocado su nombre en señal de autoridad del documento, práctica no desconocida en la época. En este último caso la carta se habría escrito hacia el año 90, para comunidades cristianas que atravesaban momentos muy difíciles de persecución bajo el emperador Domiciano.

El **tema dominante** de la carta es la pasión de Cristo, tema muy especial para las comunidades que sentían el peso de la exclusión por causa de su fe, ya que su estilo de vida era incompatible con el modo de vivir de los paganos. Esto es algo que el discípulo de Cristo experimenta también en nuestros días. Y es que aquellos hombres y mujeres sabían lo que les esperaba cuando, por medio del Bautismo, se convertían en seguidores de Jesús. Es que el Bautismo es una marca muy fuerte en la vida de la persona que se decide a vivirlo en plenitud. Podemos decir que esta carta del apóstol es una verdadera *catequesis bautismal*.

El autor les recuerda (nos recuerda) su Bautismo, para que por medio de la fe y de la esperanza se mantengan firmes en medio de las tentaciones, las tribulaciones y los desafíos. El autor les invita en forma insistente a 'tener puestos los ojos en el futuro que les aguarda si permanecen fieles', sin que eso signifique desentenderse de los deberes de la vida presente. Al contrario, el cristiano está invitado a vivir en excelencia su papel como ciudadano, o sea, con los fundamentos de la sabiduría de Dios y no con la superficial sabiduría del mundo.

En el capítulo primero la carta nos habla de la **vida nueva del cristiano**. Esto es muy importante para nosotros. El Bautismo nos abre las puertas a una nueva vida, en el Bautismo nacemos a una vida nueva "por el agua y el Espíritu". Y todo esto es posible para nosotros porque la fuente del sacramento es el amor y la misericordia del Padre que envió a su Hijo para que nos revelara

la presencia del Padre y su deseo inmenso de nuestra salvación. La pasión, la muerte y en particular la resurrección de Cristo nos llena de esperanza y nos da ánimo para seguir siendo fieles a Él, a pesar de las pruebas y de los sufrimientos.

Si los primeros cristianos tienen el mérito de haberse bautizado en medio de las persecuciones tan fuertes que experimentaron, la carta dice que el mérito de los cristianos de las siguientes generaciones (nosotros) está en “amar a Jesucristo sin haberlo visto; sin verlo hemos creído en Él y nos alegramos con un gozo increíble y transfigurado”. Todo esto nos indica algo muy importante, que Dios *siempre toma la iniciativa*, porque desde la resurrección de su Hijo y la oferta del Bautismo como sacramento de ‘**regeneración**’, el Padre nos ha puesto en el mejor y más seguro camino de salvación.

Esto es grande hermanos. Significa que por medio del Bautismo somos herederos del Padre y nuestra garantía de esa herencia ya está en el cielo con el Padre y se llama Jesucristo. Los cristianos deberíamos darle más importancia a nuestro Bautismo. Hay una ceremonia que recomiendo a los padres de los niños que bautizo. Les pido no botar la vela que durante el rito bautismal se enciende del Cirio Pascual. Esa llama significa la luz de Cristo que tanto los padres como los padrinos deben ayudar a mantener encendida en la vida del recién bautizado. Les sugiero que cada año, en el aniversario del Bautismo se reúnan, ojalá con los padrinos, para celebrar unidos esa fecha. La familia se puede reunir en la casa o ir a la Iglesia, orar, dar gracias a Dios por esa fecha tan especial. Es una linda oportunidad para que los padres den gracias por sus hijos y que les enseñen a ellos un poco más de lo que significa ser bautizado en Cristo. Sabemos que, desafortunadamente, en la mayoría de los casos esto no se hace, pero me parece una manera muy bella de agradecer a Dios por el regalo de la vida y por el regalo del Sacramento de **la nueva vida**.

Recordemos que, por medio del sacramento del Bautismo, nos hacemos ‘coherederos, con Cristo’ de una esperanza que no nos fallará y además, recibimos la ‘fuerza del Espíritu Santo’ para superar en la paz de Dios las dificultades de la vida, hasta la alegría final de la promesa cumplida.’

Otro punto importante de la carta es la **armonía del plan de Dios**. Pedro nos recuerda que ya los profetas del Antiguo Testamento, inspirados por el Espíritu de Jesús, predijeron la venida del Mesías, aunque eran conscientes de que ellos no lo verían. Los que vivieron y compartieron con Jesús (los apóstoles) también inspirados por el Espíritu, tampoco dejaron de anunciar la Buena Noticia de que en Jesucristo, en su muerte y resurrección se cumple lo anunciado desde antes. Y nos dejan la perspectiva del futuro, de la única promesa aún por cumplirse tras la revelación de Jesucristo.

¿Y mientras ese futuro llega, qué hacemos? Estar en comunión con Cristo. Si tenemos presentes los valores que nos presenta la revelación y permanecemos en fidelidad a ellos podemos vivir de una mejor manera nuestro presente. Eso implica la decisión de vivir vigilantes, no dormidos ni indiferentes, sino con una disponibilidad absoluta, guiados por Cristo, con la firme decisión de no querer ya amoldarnos a los criterios de este mundo sino a los criterios de Dios.

De allí la gran importancia de la Eucaristía bien vivida y que celebramos el día de hoy, en la solemnidad del **Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo**. La Eucaristía nos ayuda a ejercitar la *memoria del pasado, es profecía abierta al futuro y celebración vivencial del presente*. Por eso decimos: “Cada vez que comemos de este pan (**hoy**), anunciamos la muerte del Señor (**ayer**) hasta que vuelvas (**futuro**)”.

La Eucaristía, con la luz de la Palabra y la fuerza de la comunión nos va ayudando (*poco a poco*) a ordenar nuestros pensamientos, a ir creciendo en unidad interior como personas, reconociéndonos en camino desde el ayer y hacia el futuro y viviendo con serenidad y con empeño el día de hoy. La Eucaristía es nuestro mejor alimento para el camino.

P. Nelson

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, May 29, 2016-Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

- 7:30 Dolores O’Leary
- 9:00 Rejino Olivo (Death Anniversary)
- 10:30 For the Supreme Courts Approval of the President’s Immigration Plan
- 12:00 Altagracia Espinal
Luzy Guillermo (39th Anniversary)
Our Parishioners
- 1:30 Madeline Donovan
- 5:00 Fr. John Philip Patrick Maloney for Blessings and Thanksgiving on the 50th Anniversary of Offering His First Holy Sacrifice of Mass, His Parents and Family

MONDAY, May 30, 2016-Feast of St. Joan of Arc

- 6:50 In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 8:30 Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
- 12:15 Madeline Donovan

TUESDAY, May 31, 2016-Feast of St. Mechtildis

- 6:50 For the Safety of Our Country
- 8:30 Frank and Albina Greco
- 12:15 Marili Carcamo Davalos

WEDNESDAY, June 1, 2016-Feast of St. Justin Martyr

- 6:50 All Souls
- 8:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 12:15 Omar Morgan (Intentions)
- 7:30 de la legion de Maria-Ana Romero Acosta

THURSDAY, June 2, 2016-Feast of St. Marcellinus & St. Peter

- 6:50 John Wnek Sr.
- 8:30 Guillermina Martinez
- 12:15 Vera Fortunato

FRIDAY, June 3, 2016-Feast of the Sacred Heart First Friday

- 6:50 All Souls
- 8:30 Catherine Carolan
- 12:15 In Honor of the Holy Face of Jesus (Special Intention of Joyce Hoyt)

SATURDAY, June 4, 2016-The Immaculate Heart of Mary First Saturday

- 6:50 Joseph and Matilda Carty
- 8:30 Hughes Family and Mary Alice Hartnett
- 12:15 Sophie and Stanley Gay
- 5:30 Joanne Savino’s Intentions

SUNDAY, June 5, 2016-Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30 All Souls
- 9:00 Carmilo Abordo and Bernardo and Melchora Abordo
- 10:30 Raymond Canals
- 12:00 Aniversario 33 años Sor Cecilia Muñoz and Evelio Mesia Guerrero
Agradecimiento a San Antonio de Padua
- 1:30 Fr. Richard Wyzkiewicz, Sch.P., for Blessings and Thanksgiving on the 45th Anniversary of His Holy Ordination and Parents, Dorothy and Stephen
- 5:00 Katherine Callaghan

Readings for the Week of May 29, 2016

Sunday: Gn 14:18-20/Ps 110:1-4/1 Cor 11:23-26/Lk 9:11b-17

Monday: 2 Pt 1:2-7/Ps 91:1-2, 14-16/Mk 12:1-12

Tuesday: Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16/Is 12:2-6/Lk 1:39-56

Wednesday: 2 Tm 1:1-3, 6-12/Ps 123:1-2/Mk 12:18-27

Thursday: 2 Tm 2:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14/Mk 12:28-34

Friday: Ez 34:11-16/Ps 23:1-6/Rom 5:5b-11/Lk 15:3-7

Saturday: 2 Tm 4:1-8/Ps 71:8-9, 14-17, 22/Lk 2:41-51

Next Sunday: 1 Kgs 17:17-24/Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13/Gal 1:11-19/Lk 7:11-17