

## **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

**June, 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](http://www.churchofsthelena.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 PM

7:30 12:00 (Spanish)

9:00 1:30 PM

10:30 (Family) 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 8:30AM

**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:****AMEN: AN EXTRAORDINARY WORD**

*Amen* is the Bible's supreme expression of assent. By saying amen, we mean much more than simple agreement. It is a remarkable word because it allows us to succinctly articulate "Praise the Lord" and "I agree". For example, Jeremiah agrees with the words of Hananiah, a fellow prophet, by saying: "Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied" (Jer. 28:6).

This powerful word comes from the Hebrew root אמן (a-m-n) that is also related to the word אמנה (emunah) which means "faith". Interestingly, Amen is classified as an adjective which describes states and moods. This word is not another "Yes" or "No". When a person says Amen, they commit themselves to a state of conscious agreement, judgement and faith. In the Bible, having faith is not just a question of being spiritually awake, but of being firmly committed to one's religious identity. The structure of the old Semitic Hebrew language allows the expression of complex ideas such as self-awareness to one's faith. It is not surprising at all that this word was not translated to most languages and was simply kept in its original Hebrew form. Some words and meanings cannot be detached from the Hebrew language.

*By Fr. David*

**The Symbolism of the Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help**

The icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, a copy of which can be found in both our Rectory and Sacristy at St. Helena, is an example of the Western influence on Eastern art. Especially in the 12th and 13th centuries, as Franciscans traveled through the eastern Mediterranean, this influence became evident in a new class of icons called *Cardiotissa*, from the Greek word *kardia*, which means heart. *Cardiotissa*, then, refers to a type of icon which shows tenderness, compassion, and mercy. Our Lady's face, though serene and dignified, shows great sorrow in contemplating the sufferings of her Son.

An icon is not simply an artistic representation. Once it is blessed, it becomes a window to heaven, a point of contact, "so that in praying before it, one is in the spiritual presence of the person represented. Reverently kissing the icon, one kisses the personage; bowing before it, one bows before the personage". Icons are not meant to be realistic as far as physical representations, but rather to portray eternal truths in a way that immediately transports the viewer to a spiritual plane. The images are rendered in an extremely stylized, non-naturalistic way. The folds of garments appear as simple geometric forms, while faces and bodies portray human nature transformed by grace into the divine.

In the icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, the Child Jesus is not portrayed with the physical proportions of an infant, but appears almost as an adult in miniature form. This has been interpreted to indicate that He is God, having infinite knowledge. Yet He is human as well, for He clings to His Mother's hand in fear, while gazing up toward the angel over His shoulder. One of His sandals has come loose, indicating the haste with which He had run to her.

Why is the Child Jesus so frightened? The angels in the picture are holding instruments of His Passion and death, with the angel on the left bearing the gall, the lance and the reed, while the angel on the right holds the cross and nails. Their hands are covered with a cloth or veil, much like the humeral veil that the priest holds

when blessing with the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance at Benediction. The face of Our Lady is grave and sorrowful, with her large eyes directed not at Jesus, but at us. One feels that she is pleading with us to avoid sin, which has caused her Son to suffer so much for us. Her gaze makes us a part of the picture and the pain it portrays. "

Our Lady is clothed in the colors of royalty; her tunic is of dark red, which is also the color worn by virgins at the time of Christ, and her mantle is dark blue, which is the color worn by mothers in Palestine, with a green lining. The Child Jesus also wears the colors of royalty. Both Jesus and Mary have golden halos, but Christ's halo is decorated with a cross as a sign of His Divinity. Jeweled crowns were placed on the heads of both Mother and Child of the original icon by order of the Vatican in 1867, but those crowns were removed when the icon underwent restoration in the 1990's.

The Greek initials next to the head of Our Lady identify her as "Mother of God," while those next to the Child are the abbreviation for "Jesus Christ." The letters over the angels' heads indicate the one on the left as St. Michael and the one on the right as St. Gabriel. The 8-pointed star on Our Lady's veil tells us that she is the Star of the Sea, the Star that leads us to Jesus. The small ornate cross to the left of the star reinforces this concept.

Mary's mouth is small to indicate her spirit of silence and prayer. Her eyes are large, for they see all of our troubles and needs, and are always turned toward us. Christ's hands, turned palms down into His Mother's, indicate that He has placed the graces of the Redemption in her keeping. Our Lady's hand does not clasp those of her Son, but remains open, inviting us to put our hands in hers along with those of Jesus.

As in other icons, the background of the painting is gold to symbolize Heaven, where Jesus and Mary now reign in glory. This light of Heaven shines through their clothing, illuminating not only the picture itself, but those who behold it. This radiance speaks to us of God's light and grace, strengthening and consoling us as we journey through life to our heavenly goal.

Finally, it is of no small significance that Our Blessed Mother herself referred to the icon by the title of "Holy Mary of Perpetual Help." Surely this, along with the symbolism we see in the picture, should assure us of the loving concern and tenderness our Blessed Mother has for us, and her ardent desire ALWAYS to be a source of perpetual help to all who call upon her.

**Our Mother of Perpetual Help Anniversary Mass**

Today, **June 26 at 3PM**, the Filipino Community invites everyone to join with them at St. Helena to celebrate a Mass in honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help and to gain the special Jubilee Year Plenary Indulgence. A reception will follow in the gymnasium. This is a very special Mass because tomorrow, on June 27, 2016, Redemptorists worldwide will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Pope Pius IX entrusting the Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help to the Redemptorists, with the mission to "make her known" throughout the world.

The icon, which is now enshrined in the Redemptorist Church of St. Alphonsus in Rome, can be traced back to the year 1495, when the image, already considered ancient, was enshrined in a church on the island of Crete. When the island was threatened by Turks, the icon was carried off by a merchant who took it with him to Rome. Shortly after arriving there, the man became grievously

## THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ill. Before his death he begged a friend to take the icon to one of the churches in Rome so that it could be publicly venerated.

Upon his death, however, the friend's wife persuaded her husband to allow her to keep the painting in their home, where it remained for several months. One night the Blessed Virgin appeared to the man in a dream, warning him not to keep the picture. Twice she appeared to him with this message, and both times he disregarded her warning. The third time she told him that if he continued to disobey her, he would die a miserable death. This time the man tried to persuade his wife to give up the painting, but she refused. Our Lady appeared to the man again to tell him of his impending death; within a short time, he became sick and died.

Our Lady then appeared to the man's 6-year-old daughter, telling her to tell her mother, "Holy Mother of Perpetual Help commands you to take her out of your house!" The mother, who had seen a similar vision, was terrified and was about to give the picture to a church when a neighbor woman persuaded her that it was just a dream and that she should pay no attention to it. That night the neighbor became violently ill, and recognizing her fault, made a solemn promise to the Lady of the picture, whereupon she was immediately cured. Again the Blessed Virgin appeared to the young girl, this time commanding her to tell her mother to place her picture in a certain church between St. Mary Major's and St. John Lateran's. That very day, March 27, 1499, the picture was taken in solemn procession to the church of St. Matthew the Apostle, where it was placed above the exquisite white-marble altar. The church itself was very small — only about 75 feet long and 35 feet wide. Nevertheless, the shower of miraculous graces began even before the image entered its walls, with a paralyzed man being cured as the procession passed by his house. The history of the image up to this point was written in both Latin and Italian on a large piece of parchment, which for many years was hung next to the icon in St. Matthew's Church. Copies of the parchment are now kept in the Vatican Library.

For the next three hundred years, this humble church was one of the most popular pilgrimage places in Rome because of the miraculous picture. Then in 1798, the Church of St. Matthew was leveled to the ground by Napoleon's forces. The Augustinian monks who were caretakers of the church took the picture with them, but for 64 years it was lost to the rest of the world. Eventually even the monks forgot that the image had once been regarded as miraculous. One of the monks, Brother Augustine, who had had a great devotion to the miraculous image as a young religious, later recognized it in the monastery of Santa Maria in Posterula when he was transferred there in 1840. He would often tell Michael Marchi, one of the altar boys he was training, "Do you see that picture, Michael? It is a very old picture. Know Michael, the Madonna from St. Matthew's is the one that hangs here in the chapel... Always remember this."

And he did remember, even well after he entered the Redemptorists in 1855. As a young priest Fr. Marchi lived at the generalate of the order, which, along with the Church of St. Alphonsus, was built on the same piece of land on which the Church of St. Matthew once stood. One day while the community was at recreation, he had the opportunity of sharing this recollection from his youth with his fellow religious. One of the priests mentioned that he had learned that a miraculous image of the Blessed Virgin had once been venerated in the Church of St. Matthew which once stood there, but that it had been lost many years earlier. At this Fr. Marchi broke in: "But it is not lost! I know that picture — it is called Our Mother of Perpetual Help. I saw it often during the years of 1850 and 1851 when I was a young student. It is in the chapel of the Augustinian monastery of Santa Maria in Posterula." Father went on to explain what Brother Augustine had often told him about the image and its origin.

The Redemptorists now knew where the miraculous picture could be found, but they did not know about Our Lady's command. The

time had not come for the icon to come out of obscurity. It was several years later, because of a sermon given by a Jesuit priest in one of the churches of Rome, that the icon was finally returned to the place where Our Lady wished it to be honored. On February 7, 1863, Fr. Francis Blosi gave a sermon about several of the famous pictures enshrined in the churches of Rome. Among them he described the miraculous painting of Our Lady of Perpetual Help that was once enshrined in the Church of St. Matthew. He appealed to his listeners that anyone there who might know its whereabouts should remind its possessor that the Blessed Virgin had commanded that it be honored between the Basilicas of St. Mary Major and St. John Lateran. When the Redemptorists heard this, they went to their superior general, Fr. Nicolas Mauron, begging him to procure the picture from the Augustinians for their church, which stood on the site of the old Church of St. Matthew. On December 11, 1865, Fr. Mauron obtained an audience with Pope Pius IX and laid the matter before him. After hearing the story, the Pope was convinced that it was God's Will that the icon again be given public veneration in the location specified by the Blessed Virgin. According to tradition, this was when Pope Pius IX told the Redemptorist Superior General: "Make her known throughout the world!" Taking the written account of Fr. Marchi, which Fr. Mauron had brought with him, the Pope turned it over and wrote:

*December 11, 1865*

*The Cardinal prefect will call the Superior of the little community of Santa Maria in Posterula and will tell him it is Our will that the Image of the most holy Mary, of which this petition treats, be returned between St. John's and St. Mary Major's. However, the Superior of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer is obliged to substitute another suitable picture. Pope Pius IX*

The Augustinians were stunned to see the note from the Holy Father, for they had no idea that what a treasure they had had in their possession. Although they were sad to see the picture leave their monastery, they rejoiced to see it returned to the place where the Blessed Virgin desired it to be honored. In place of the original picture, they were given an exact replica within a short time. The Redemptorists were thrilled to receive the miraculous image, but wishing to give it a fitting welcome, delayed its installation in the church until it could be cleaned and repaired, and other suitable preparations could be made. Finally, on April 26, 1866, the solemn procession and the formal enthronement of the icon took place. Along the procession route the buildings and the roadsides were decorated with flowers, vines and banners. Once again Our Lady showed her pleasure at the love shown her by her children by an outpouring of grace, for several miraculous cures took place that day. When the procession returned to the church, the icon was enshrined over the main altar amid much rejoicing.

For three days the celebration continued, with beautiful High Masses, Benediction, special devotions and sermons each day. As the word of the miracles spread, people came by the hundreds to see the picture and honor the Blessed Virgin. Soon the whole front of the church was filled with abandoned crutches and canes and other ex votos, tokens left in thanksgiving for cures. Not even two weeks had passed when Pope Pius IX himself came and spent many long moments praying before the image. "How beautiful she is!" he said, after gazing at the picture. Later, when the Archconfraternity of Our Lady of Perpetual Help was formed, the Pope insisted that his would be the first name on the list of members.

On May 12, 1867, the Vatican ordered that the icon should be crowned. On June 23 of that year, after a Solemn High Mass, amid joyful hymns, two golden, jewel-encrusted crowns were blessed, with one crown being placed on the head of the Blessed Virgin and the other on the head of the Infant Jesus. The icon's popularity among Eastern Rite Catholics was emphasized by the

**JUNE 26, 2016**

presence of the Latin Patriarch of Constantinople, who presided at the ceremony.

Devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help spread quickly to the United States. When the Redemptorists established a mission church near Boston, they dedicated it to Our Lady under this title and were privileged to receive from Rome the first copy of the icon which had been touched to the original and blessed.<sup>1</sup> On Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 1871, the icon was carried in a magnificent procession to the church, where it was enshrined above the main altar. As with the original image in Rome, no sooner had the painting been displayed for public veneration than the miracles began. Soon the small wooden church was thronged with so many devotees of Our Mother of Perpetual Help that it soon became necessary to begin construction of a new, larger church. But even the large beautiful new church which was dedicated in 1878 could not hold the thousands who flocked to the miraculous image in those early years.

As part of the celebrations for the Jubilee year, the Holy Father Pope Francis has granted a **Plenary Indulgence** to all who make a pilgrimage, between June 27, 2015 and June 27 2016, to a church anywhere in the world to venerate the icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. The usual conditions for obtaining a plenary indulgence apply i.e. the celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation, Eucharistic communion and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father. The visit should conclude with the recitation of the Our Father, the Creed and prayers to Our Blessed Mother. Those who because of sickness, old age or some other grave reason are not able to make a pilgrimage may also obtain the plenary indulgence. They do this by associating themselves spiritually with the jubilee celebrations and pilgrimages in a spirit of sorrow for their sins and with the intention of fulfilling the usual conditions. In doing this they should seek the mercy of God, offering their sufferings before a small icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

### **St. Irenaeus June 28**

Saint Irenaeus was born in the year 120; he spoke Greek and was probably a native of Asia Minor. His Christian parents placed him while still young under the care of the great Saint Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, who cultivated his rising genius. In order to confound the heresies of his age, this future Doctor of the Church acquainted himself with the conceits of the pagan philosophers, and thereby became qualified to trace every error to its sources and set it in its full light. Tertullian described him as a luminous torch of truth in the darkness of those times.

After Irenaeus had spent a number of years in combat against the eastern gnostics, Saint Polycarp sent him to Gaul, where many gnostics were attacking the Catholic faith, which was beginning to find roots there. With a company of about forty Christians, this valiant soldier of Christ ascended the Rhone to Lyons to rejoin and aid Saint Pothinus, its bishop. Saint Pothinus was already advanced in age, and his church's neophytes could not always distinguish truth from the gnostic aberrations. Saint Pothinus received the apostles with joy and soon ordained Saint Irenaeus.

A hundred times Irenaeus exposed himself to martyrdom by his zeal, acting as the right arm of the aging bishop, but God was reserving that crown for him twenty-five years later. When Saint Pothinus had glorified God by his splendid martyr's death in the year 177, Irenaeus was chosen to be the second bishop of Lyons. The persecutors imagined that Christianity had been stifled in Lyons, and they ceased their pursuits for a time.

During that time, Irenaeus wrote many important works, of which

the most famous is his *Adversus Haereses*, (Against the Heresies,) an explanation of the Faith. By his preaching, Saint Irenaeus in a short time converted almost the whole country to the Faith; the Christians of Lyons became models by their candor, their estrangement from all ambition, their poverty, chastity and temperance, and in this way confounded many adversaries of their religion. Saint Irenaeus continued to imitate what he had seen done by his beloved master, Saint Polycarp, himself the disciple and imitator of Saint John the Apostle.

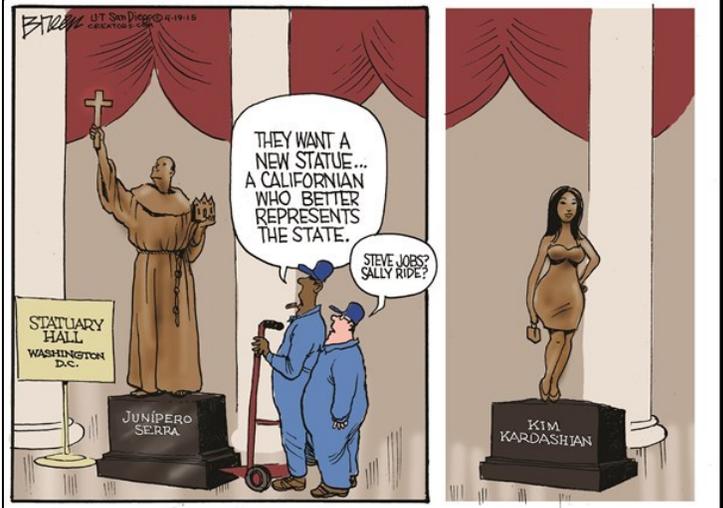
Finally he suffered martyrdom there, along with many others, in the year 202, under the Emperor Septimus Severus, after eighty years spent in the service of the Lord. The imperial decrees renewing the persecutions arrived at Lyons at the time of the celebration of Severus' tenth year of reign; the pagans found amid the celebrations an opportunity to take vengeance on the Christians, who refused to participate in the debaucheries which accompanied that celebration. Assassins armed with daggers, stones and knives filled the city with blood, and thousands of Christians won, along with their bishop, the martyr's crown. It was Irenaeus who first articulated the principles of the doctrinal tradition of the Church.

### **The Saint of the Californias July 1**

Miguel Jose Serra was born on the island of Majorca on November 24, 1713, and took the name of Junipero when in 1730, he entered the Franciscan Order. Ordained in 1737, he taught philosophy and theology at the University of Padua until 1749.

At the age of thirty-seven, he landed in Mexico City on January 1, 1750, and spent the rest of his life working for the conversion of the peoples of the New World. In 1768, Father Serra took over the missions of the Jesuits, who had been expelled by the government, in the Mexican province of Lower California and Upper California (the modern day State of California). An indefatigable worker, Serra was in large part responsible for the foundation and spread of the Church on the West Coast of the United States when it was still mission territory.

He founded twenty-one missions and converted thousands of Indians. The converts were taught sound methods of agriculture, cattle raising, and arts and crafts. Junipero was a dedicated religious and missionary. He was imbued with a penitential spirit and practiced austerity in sleep, eating, and other activities. On August 28, 1784, worn out by his apostolic labors, Father Serra was called to his eternal rest. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II on September 25, 1988 and canonized last year by Pope Francis in Washington, D.C. His statue, representing the state of California, is in National Statuary Hall. His feast day is July 1, and he is the patron Saint of Vocations.



### OFFERING ENVELOPES

**Sunday, June 19, 2016** \$4,171.04  
**Church in Africa Collection** \$1,206.46

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 close to meeting 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.

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Banns of Marriage

GG—*Enrique Loja - Dolores Aguayza*

50/50 DRAWING: The June 19 winners are: No. 47 & No. 130 @ \$26



### Welcome to the 2016 St. Helena Parish Festival

St. Helena's is pleased to invite you to a REVIVAL of our Annual Parish Festival. Last put on 25 years ago, McDaniel Brothers Shows, run by the son-in-

law of the original vendor who last organized the carnival, will bring to St. Helena new rides and games, while the parish will prepare various American, Hispanic and other ethnic foods. The festival will take place **June 24, 6-10PM, June 25, 3-11PM and June 26, 1-10PM**. The parking lot will be closed during this time, and there is no better way to celebrate the beginning of summer than by joining us.

An extensive line-up of carnival rides and game booths will insure that kids of all ages will have a blast. Fantastic live music, delicious home-cooked food, and great prizes guarantee fun for adults as well. Not only will this festival bring out the best of our St. Helena community, but it will also give us an opportunity to celebrate the beginning of summer with all of our friends and neighbors from the surrounding communities. Many volunteers are still needed, and sign-up sheets are available in the back of the church. We look forward to seeing you there.

Raffle tickets are on sale for \$2 each or 3 for \$5 First prize is \$333 cash. Second prize, a 14K Yellow Gold Byzantine Bracelet from Turkey, and third prize is a signed canvas print by Br. Ricardo of the painting of the Sacred Heart that hung behind the main altar at Easter. There are many other prizes as well.

Ride tickets are normally \$1 each, but you can purchase 12 tickets for \$10 at the back of the Church, along with food tickets. Buy your tickets early and avoid the long lines.

- **CONFIRMATION PHOTOS WITH THE BISHOP** may be picked up at the Rectory, Monday-Friday **9AM—4:30PM** or by appointment. There is no cost for these photos.

- **SUMMER MARIAN BIBLE STUDY**-This summer, we will offer a four-week course entitled *Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother*. The same course will be offered at two different times on **Tuesday, July 5, 12, 19, and 26**. The **FIRST** time will be at 1PM (following the 12:15PM Mass,) and the **SECOND** time will be at 7:30PM. Both sessions will be held in the green Parish Family Life Center and will last about 90 minutes. Participants are welcome to attend either session. Our Fall Semester course will begin **September 6** and will be Church History.
- **FILIPINO MASS OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP**-Every year, the Filipino Community celebrates Mass here at St. Helena on the Sunday closest to the feast of our Lady of Perpetual Help (June 27). This year's Mass will take place on **Sunday, June 26 at 3PM** in the church. This year has a special Plenary Indulgence attached to attending it. A reception will follow in the gymnasium. All are welcome.
- **A CELEBRATION OF ST. THOMAS AND THE CULTURE OF INDIA**-The feast of St. Thomas usually takes place on July 3, but this year that date falls on a Sunday. However, there will be a special celebration during the **1:30PM** Mass remembering St. Thomas and his bringing the faith to India. There will be a reception here at St. Helena featuring Indian ethnic food and cultural activities in the gym following the Mass. The Martyrology has this to say about St. Thomas: "At Mylapore (near Madras in India) the martyrdom of the apostle Thomas - he announced the Gospel to the Parthians, and finally came to India. After he had converted numerous tribes to Christianity, he was pierced with lances at the king's command."
- **ST. HELENA WHITE MASS**-St. Helena will celebrate our White Mass, honoring the dedicated work of ALL healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, therapists, technicians, nursing home personnel, etc) and caregivers, including those who visit the sick and the homebound, on **Sunday, July 10** during the **10:30AM** Mass. You are invited to wear your uniforms or some appropriate symbol of your ministry. All are welcome.
- **COINS FOR THE POOR**-We all have spare change. Perhaps it is the coins you are carrying from your last trip abroad. Perhaps it is the change you received from your last purchase at the drugstore or the supermarket or the department store. We have many people who come to St. Helena looking for some money for food or the bus or to assist them in an urgent need. The bills and change put in the poor box go to help these people who come to us with so many different needs. As Catholics, we can be of service to our brothers and sisters, and one way is by putting some extra money in the poor box. So, the next time you have that annoying spare change or a few extra bills, please consider putting it in the poor box, and showing your children how important it is that we all help the poor.
- **BOOKSTORE** will re-open in September.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **BACKPACK GIVEAWAY**-Hope for Us will host a backpack giveaway at three different locations for hundreds of children in the Bronx on **August 13**. You can donate: unused backpacks, unused school supplies, money, or gift cards. All donations are tax deductible. You can drop off your donations in the rectory by **August 12**. For more information, call Vera Acquah at **646-229-4256**.

- **ADORATION CHAPEL**-Holy Cross Parish, 620 Thieriot Avenue, has a new Adoration Chapel, which is open **Monday-Friday from 10AM - 9PM.**
- **DONATION CHALLENGE**-The Msgr. Scanlan H.S. Board of Directors is challenging you to contribute to the 2015-2016 Annual Giving Campaign. The Board will match your donation - dollar for dollar up to **\$75,000** starting today. Contributions may be sent to Msgr. Scanlan High School and indicate that it is for the Matching Donation Challenge.

*Please Pray for the Sick of our Parish*

Joanne Frances Bernadette Sanabria, Sylvia Carballo, Ruben Mercado, Mike Adorno, Catherine Holden, Carmelle and Nicole and Marie Denise Antoine, Eustaguia Mejias, Indrowdi Sadu, Rosa Pena, Brenda Jackson, Jennifer Alleyne, Carlos Negro, James Leunge, Adam Mary, Carol Primak, Lucy Cannavacciuolo, Dominic Lane, Aaron Sylvester, Sean Gaffney, Peter Vaccaro, Gino Vaccaro

*Please Pray for the Deceased and their Grieving Families:*  
Luz Santiago, Victims of the Terrorist Shooting in Orlando

## ANUNCIOS EN ESPANOL

- **MISA BLANCA:** En la misa del 10 de julio se honrará a todos aquellos que trabajan en el área de la salud (doctores, enfermeras/os, terapistas, técnicos, casas de ancianos, etc.) y también a todos aquellos que visitan a los ancianos o enfermos en sus casas. Se les invita a venir con sus uniformes o algún simuló apropiado a su ministerio o trabajo. Esta celebración se realizará también en inglés en la misa de 10.30 am.
- **MONEDAS PARA LOS POBRES:** Todos tenemos monedas que nos sobran. Tenemos muchas personas en nuestra parroquia que vienen buscando un poco de dinero para el bus o alguna ayuda urgente. Ese dinero que colocas en “la caja del pobre” nos ayuda para ofrecer este servicio. Esta es una manera de servir al hermano que tiene menos que nosotros y una forma de enseñar a sus hijos la importancia y el valor de ser solidario con los demás.
- **BOOKSTORE:** Estará cerrado hasta septiembre.
- **BACKPACK GIVEAWAY:** Tienes mochilas en buen estado que te sobren, que ya no utilices más? Utensilios de la escuela que no uses más? Gift Cards a las que les sobra un dólar? Hasta el 13 de agosto puedes dejarlas en la rectoría. La institución “Hope for Us” las recoge para ayudar a cientos de niños del Bronx que no tienen lo que a ti te sobra. Si deseas más información puedes llamar al 646-229-4256 y preguntar por Vera Acquah.
- **FORMACION:** Una de las cosas que más apoyamos los Escolapios es la formación, ese es nuestro carisma, la formación en la piedad y las letras, o sea, en el intelecto y en la fe. La mejor manera para conocer nuestra fe, lo que ella significa y la forma en que puede transformar nuestras vidas es a través de la formación. Pues bien, les adelanto algunos programas que tenemos preparados para Setiembre.
- **TALER DE ORACIÓN y VIDA**-Siguiendo el método del P. Larrañaga, muy conocido en el mundo, este taller es muy valioso para crecer en nuestra vida de oración. Cada jueves a las 7 pm a partir del 25 de agosto hasta el 8 de diciembre.

- **MES DE LA FAMILIA**-Tendremos durante cada domingo del mes de septiembre temas sobre sexualidad y todo lo referente al tema **Pro-Vida** (la persona humana, amenazas para la vida, etc.). Hay temas para los padres y los hijos. Se realizarán estas actividades después de la misa de 12. Se distribuirá almuerzo entre los que están inscritos y la actividad será de una hora y media.
- **UNA FE BIEN CONSTRUIDA**-El P. Nelson continuará dictando este curso que profundiza sobre el significado de ser Católico y su relación con nuestra vida diaria. El curso se seguirá dando los martes de 7.30 a 9 pm. desde la primera temas de septiembre hasta el comienzo del mes de diciembre. Ya les confirmaré las fechas exactas. Piensa durante este tiempo que clase deseas tomar, cada cual es responsable de su propia formación. **SIGAMOS CRECIENDO JUNTOS EN NUESTRO CAMINO HACIA EL SEÑOR!!!**

## BUEN DIA, HERMANOS:

Durante esta semana que termina hemos terminado de reflexionar con el **Sermón de la Montaña**, el más largo y famoso discurso de Jesús, que es como el corazón de lo que es nuestra fe cristiana. Allí encontramos varias ‘perlas’ que vale la pena tener en mente, porque son parte del mensaje central de vida que Jesús nos ha dejado.

En el Sermón de la Montaña Jesús va desmantelando todos aquellos prejuicios y estructuras internas que esclavizan a la persona y nos presenta todo **un nuevo proyecto de vida** que tiene como centro *el Reino de Dios* para quienes aceptamos a Jesús como nuestro Dios y Señor. Ya esto Jesús lo ha hecho con varios temas como la abolición de la Ley del Talió, el afán de poseer y la angustia por el mañana. En este momento deseo comentar sobre *el juicio contra el hermano*.

Y es que Jesús quiere ir mucho más allá de darnos un consejo para tener una actitud más civilizada en cuanto a comprensión y tolerancia. Jesús nos invita a no juzgar en absoluto, lo cual no significa, por ejemplo, que los padres no pueden o deben corregir a los hijos o el amigo no debe hacer ver al otro el error en el que está o que la esposa debe aceptar toda la irresponsabilidad del marido sin decir ni una palabra. No juzgar tiene un significado más profundo, es una **actitud** que surge del corazón y nos invita en forma permanente a mirar al hermano de la misma manera que Dios nos mira a nosotros.

El gran problema es que la inmensa mayoría de las veces cuando juzgamos lo hacemos mal, lo hacemos con nuestro propio criterio y según nuestro propio corazón que, estando también infectado por el pecado, es muy rápido cuando se trata de juzgar al hermano, pero muy lento para ver los propios errores. Y entonces Jesús advierte: “Así como ustedes juzgan, así van a ser juzgados”, o sea, “la medida que usamos con los hermanos va a ser usada con nosotros”. Entonces, ante nosotros tenemos la opción de juzgar al otro con la rigurosidad con que a menudo lo hacemos, o de juzgar con la misericordia con la que el Señor nos mira, siempre dándonos el espacio suficiente para corregir el camino y recomenzar de nuevo.

Esta afirmación de Jesús con respecto al hacer juicios sobre los demás es muy similar a aquella que rezamos permanentemente en el Padre Nuestro: “perdona nuestras ofensas, así como nosotros perdonamos al que nos ofende”. Y es que nosotros no estamos llamados a actuar como jueces o fiscales y menos cuando no

tenemos a mano todos los datos ni la información necesaria ni la actitud justa de corazón para hacer un juicio sobre el hermano.

Cuántos problemas comienzan por un mal juicio o por muchos juicios hechos sobre una persona. Peor es que en la mayoría de los casos esos juicios se hacen sin que la persona tenga la oportunidad de defenderse ni dar algún tipo de explicación. Y a todo lo anterior se le puede agregar que en muchos casos, al enjuiciar a una persona, se han **incrementado** en forma escandalosa los hechos por lo cual se le juzga. Es por eso que Jesús hace también una comparación escandalosamente exagerada: “Por qué te fijas en la pelusa que está en el ojo de tu hermano y no miras la viga que hay en el tuyo? Hipócrita, mira primero la viga de tu ojo y entonces **podrás ver claramente** para sacar la pelusa del ojo de tu hermano”.

En nuestras oraciones somos muy agradecidos por todas las ocasiones en que Dios nos ha perdonado y vivimos con confianza porque sabemos que siempre nos perdonará, pero somos muy duros cuando se trata de juzgar a nuestros hermanos y familiares. Cuántos matrimonios viven en peleas permanente porque insisten en juzgarse mutuamente sin compasión alguna y sin deseo de ser transparente? Cuántas amistades se acaban por juicios mal hechos?

En el fondo, la reflexión del día de hoy es acerca de la Misericordia. Ya el Papa Francisco dió un ejemplo cuando fue preguntado acerca del homosexualismo y dijo que él no era nadie para juzgar a los homosexuales. El Papa con esa frase no estaba negando las enseñanzas de la Iglesia sino mirando al hermano con la compasión de Dios. La Iglesia tiene unas enseñanzas que vienen de la Palabra de Dios y que son criterio de vida para el cristiano y la sociedad, pero nunca la falta de amor y misericordia es parte de ese criterio.

La misericordia deja siempre un espacio para reconstruir relaciones y construir la paz entre las naciones, las personas y en nuestros corazones. Y siempre esa misericordia comienza cuando nos reconocemos pecadores y por lo tanto también necesitados de misericordia. Sólo la misericordia nos permite entrar en un proceso de “*ensanchamiento del corazón*” de manera tal, que comenzamos a apreciar en el hermano las cualidades que quizás nunca se le reconocen ni se le aprecian, por encima de los defectos que la persona tiene.

Vuelvo al mismo ejemplo de antes, cuantos matrimonios o relaciones de amistad o de trabajo serían diferentes si fuéramos capaces de ser misericordiosos en nuestra mirada del hermano/a y lo viéramos con la mirada de amor con que Dios nos perdona?

Quien es duro para juzgar es, en términos generales, la persona que es incapaz de mirar al otro con los ojos de Dios, con los ojos del amor. La persona que se conoce bien a sí misma es capaz de mirar al hermano de otra manera, sabiendo que a ese hermano también le es difícil cambiar, que también le es difícil luchar contra sus propios demonios. Un corazón grande no se enreda en la vida de

los demás sino que es capaz de perdonar y olvidar. Es al fin y al cabo lo que hace Dios con nosotros: perdonar, olvidar y abrir el espacio para un nuevo comienzo.

Hoy puede ser un día propicio para hacer un compromiso con uno mismo y con el Señor: que cada vez que tenga la tentación de juzgar al otro me voy a esforzar antes en mirar sus cualidades y virtudes, en descubrir todas las cosas buenas que se esconden en ese hermano/a.

P.Nelson

## Mass Intentions

### SUNDAY, June 26, 2016-Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 Father's Day Novena  
 9:00 Sergio Rosario/Augustine Cruz  
 10:30 Joanne Savino's Intentions  
 12:00 Migdalia Morales  
 Nurys Medina  
 Edwin Menzies  
 1:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors  
 3:00 Filipino Mass in Honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help Our Parishioners

5:00 Intentions of Eliza Ombele in Thanksgiving

### MONDAY, June 27, 2016-Feast of St. Cyril of Alexandria and Our Lady of Perpetual Help

6:50 Father's Day Novena  
 8:30 in Thanksgiving for Favors  
 12:15 Carol McClafferty

### TUESDAY, June 28, 2016-Feast of St. Irenaeus

6:50 Joanne Savino's Intentions  
 8:30 Mary Theresa Early (Intentions)  
 12:15 Joseph Perez and Steve Perez

### WEDNESDAY, June 29, 2016-Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul

6:50 Joanne Savino's Intentions  
 8:30 Rafael Maldonado  
 12:15 Charles E. Slates and Jose Manuel Garcia  
 7:30 Rafaela Sanchez  
 Esmeralda Reyes Alicia

### THURSDAY, June 30, 2016-Feast of the First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church

6:50 In Thanksgiving for Favors  
 8:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors  
 12:15 In Honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for Favor

### FRIDAY, July 1, 2016-Feast of St. Junipero Serra

6:50 St. Helena's Benefactors  
 8:30 David Kennelly (Intentions)  
 12:15 Elvira Sandoval-Gras

### SATURDAY, July 2, 2016-Feast of St. Bernardino Realino

6:50 Telma Anith and Family (Intentions)  
 8:30 Joanne Savino's Intentions  
 12:15 Maudie Carmody (Intentions)  
 5:30 Carol McClafferty

### SUNDAY, July 3, 2016-Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 Our Parishioners  
 9:00 Vivian Serrano Torres  
 10:30 Katherine Callaghan  
 12:00 Migdalia Morales  
 1:30 Azucena Cervantes  
 5:00 Intentions of Eliza Ombele in Thanksgiving

### Readings for the Week of June 26, 2016

Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:16b, 19-21/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11/Gal 5:1, 13-18/Lk 9:51-62

Monday: Am 2:6-10, 13-16/Ps 50:16-23/Mt 8:18-22

Tuesday: Am 3:1-8; 4:11-12/Ps 5:4-8/Mt 8:23-27

Wednesday: Vigil: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 19:2-5/Gal 1:11-20/Jn 21:15-19

Day: Acts 12:1-11/Ps 34:2-9/2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18/Mt 16:13-19

Thursday: Am 7:10-17/Ps 19:8-11/Mt 9:1-8

Friday: Am 8:4-6, 9-12/Ps 119:2, 10, 20, 30, 40, 131/Mt 9:9-13

Saturday: Am 9:11-15/Ps 85:9-14/Mt 9:14-17

Next Sunday: Is 66:10-14c/Ps 66:1-7, 16, 20/Gal 6:14-18/Lk 10:1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9

### BIRTH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

