

## **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

### **Organists**

Mr. Franco Bonanome

Mr. Patrick Marques

### **Leaders of Song**

Mrs. Terry Bonanome

Mr. Alex Henriquez

**September—October 2016**

### **Director of Development**

Mrs. Stephanie Turtle

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

Early Childhood (3Yr Olds & Pre-K for All)

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 (Horario de Misas)**

**Saturday:** 5:30 PM

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

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

**Weekdays:** 6:50AM, 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)

Primeros lunes de mes

### **Confessions:**

Saturday — 4 to 5:30

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

At any time

call the Rectory at 892-3232

### **Devotions:**

- Circulo De Oracion: lunes, 7 a 9PM,
- Miraculous Medal Novena  
Monday after 12:15 PM Mass
- Exposición del Santísimo y Coronilla de la Divina  
Misericordia: miércoles, 7PM
  - Eucharistic Adoration  
Thursday between the 8:30 & 12:15 Masses
  - Sacred Heart Novena: Thursday, Noon
  - English Bible Study: Tuesday, 7:30PM

### **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:****VATICAN ANNOUNCES NEW RULES FOR APPROVING MIRACLES**

The Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints has issued new rules governing the medical boards that investigate reported miracles in connection with the causes of candidates for beatification and canonization.

The new regulations toughen the requirements for acceptance of a miracle's authenticity. Since 1743, all reported miracles have been examined by medical experts and in 1959, Pope John XXIII established rules for the medical boards responsible for the investigations; these rules have been updated under Popes Paul VI, John Paul II, and now Francis.

The new rules require that at least 5 medical experts out of a 7-member board, or 4 out of a 6-member board, approve the certification of a miracle. If a reported miracle is rejected, it cannot be examined again by the same consulting group; and in no case can one report be examined more than three times.

The new rules do not apply retroactively; those miracles that have already been certified by review boards will not be re-examined. Also, the Vatican statement affirms that the Roman Pontiff has the final say: the "exclusive competence of acknowledging an extraordinary event as a true miracle." *Fr. David*

**St. Francis of Assisi - Feast October 4**

In 1182, Pietro Bernardone returned from a trip to France to find out his wife had given birth the previous year to a son. Far from being excited, Pietro was furious because she'd had his new son baptized Giovanni after St. John the Baptist. The last thing Pietro wanted in his son was a man of God -- he wanted a man of business, a cloth merchant like he was, and he especially wanted a son who would reflect his infatuation with France. So he renamed his son Francesco -- which is the equivalent of calling him Frenchman.

Francis enjoyed a very rich easy life growing up because of his father's wealth and the permissiveness of the times. Everyone loved Francis. He was constantly happy, charming, and a born leader, but no one tried to control him or teach him. As he grew up, Francis became the leader of a crowd of young people who spent their nights in wild parties.

Francis fulfilled every hope of Pietro's -- even falling in love with France. He loved the songs of France, the romance of France, and especially the free adventurous troubadours of France who wandered through Europe. And despite his dreaming, Francis was also good at business. But Francis wanted more...more than wealth. But not holiness! Francis wanted to be a noble, a knight. Battle was the best place to win the glory and prestige he longed for. He got his first chance when Assisi declared war on their longtime enemy, the nearby town of Perugia.

Most of the troops from Assisi were butchered in the fight. Only those wealthy enough to expect to be ransomed were taken prisoner. At last Francis was among the nobility like he always wanted to be...but chained in a harsh, dark dungeon. All accounts say that he never lost his happy manner in that horrible place. Finally, after a year in the dungeon, he was ransomed. Strangely, the experience didn't seem to change him. He gave himself to partying with as much joy and abandon as he had before the battle.



The experience didn't change what he wanted from life either: Glory. Finally a call for knights for the Fourth Crusade gave him a chance for his dream. But before he left, Francis had to have a suit of armor and a horse -- no problem for the son of a wealthy father. And not just any suit of armor would do but one decorated with gold with a magnificent cloak. Any relief we feel in hearing that Francis gave the cloak to a poor knight will be destroyed by the boasts that Francis left behind that he would return a prince.

But Francis never got farther than one day's ride from Assisi. There he had a dream in which God told him he had it all wrong and told him to return home. And return home he did. What must it have been like to return without ever making it to battle -- the boy who wanted nothing more than to be liked was humiliated, laughed at, called a coward by the village and raged at by his father for the money wasted on armor.

Francis' conversion did not happen over night. God had waited for him for twenty-five years and now it was Francis' turn to wait. Francis started to spend more time in prayer. He went off to a cave and wept for his sins. Sometimes God's grace overwhelmed him with joy. But life couldn't just stop for God. There was a business to run, customers to wait on.

One day while riding through the countryside, Francis, the man who loved beauty, who was so picky about food, who hated deformity, came face to face with a leper. Repelled by the appearance and the smell of the leper, Francis nevertheless jumped down from his horse and kissed the hand of the leper. When his kiss of peace was returned, Francis was filled with joy. As he rode off, he turned around for a last wave, and saw that the leper had disappeared. He always looked upon it as a test from God, one that he had passed.

His search for conversion led him to the ancient church at San Damiano. While he was praying there, he heard Christ on the crucifix speak to him, "Francis, repair my church." Francis assumed this meant church with a small c -- the crumbling building he was in. Acting again in his impetuous way, he took fabric from his father's shop and sold it to get money to repair the church. His father saw this as an act of theft -- and put together with Francis' cowardice, waste of money, and his growing disinterest in money made Francis seem more like a madman than his son. Pietro dragged Francis before the bishop and in front of the whole town demanded that Francis return the money and renounce all rights as his heir.

The bishop was very kind to Francis; he told him to return the money and said God would provide. That was all Francis needed to hear. He not only gave back the money but stripped off all his clothes -- the clothes his father had given him -- until he was wearing only a hair shirt. In front of the crowd that had gathered he said, "Pietro Bernardone is no longer my father. From now on I can say with complete freedom, 'Our Father who art in heaven.'" Wearing nothing but castoff rags, he went off into the freezing woods -- singing. And when robbers beat him later and took his clothes, he climbed out of the ditch and went off singing again. From then on Francis had nothing...and everything.

Francis went back to what he considered God's call. He begged for stones and rebuilt the San Damiano church with his own hands, not realizing that it was the Church with a capital C that God wanted repaired. Scandal and avarice were working on the Church from the inside while outside heresies flourished by appealing to those longing for something different or adventurous.

Soon Francis started to preach. (He was never a priest, though he was later ordained a deacon under his protest.) Francis was not a reformer; he preached about returning to God and obedience to the Church. Francis must have known about the decay in the

## TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Church, but he always showed the Church and its people his utmost respect. When someone told him of a priest living openly with a woman and asked him if that meant the Mass was polluted, Francis went to the priest, knelt before him, and kissed his hands -- because those hands had held God.

Slowly companions came to Francis, people who wanted to follow his life of sleeping in the open, begging for garbage to eat...and loving God. With companions, Francis knew he now had to have some kind of direction to this life, so he opened the Bible in three places. He read the command to the rich young man to sell all his goods and give to the poor, the order to the apostles to take nothing on their journey, and the demand to take up the cross daily. "Here is our rule," Francis said -- as simple, and as seemingly impossible, as that. He was going to do what no one thought possible any more -- live by the Gospel. Francis took these commands so literally that he made one brother run after the thief who stole his hood and offer him his robe.

Francis never wanted to found a religious order -- this former knight thought that sounded too military. He thought of what he was doing as expressing God's brotherhood. His companions came from all walks of life, from fields and towns, nobility and common people, universities, the Church, and the merchant class. Francis practiced true equality by showing honor, respect, and love to every person whether they were beggar or pope.

Francis' brotherhood included all of God's creation. Francis really felt that nature, all God's creations, were part of his brotherhood.

Following the Gospel literally, Francis and his companions went out to preach two by two. At first, listeners were understandably hostile to these men in rags trying to talk about God's love. People even ran from them for fear they'd catch this strange madness! And they were right. Because soon these same people noticed that these barefoot beggars wearing sacks seemed filled with constant joy. They celebrated life, and people had to ask themselves: Could one own nothing and be happy? Soon those who had met them with mud and rocks, greeted them with bells and smiles.

Francis did not try to abolish poverty, he tried to make it holy. When his friars met someone poorer than they, they would eagerly rip off the sleeve of their habit to give to the person. They worked for all necessities and only begged if they had to. But Francis would not let them accept any money. He told them to treat coins as if they were pebbles in the road. When the bishop showed horror at the friars' hard life, Francis said, "If we had any possessions we should need weapons and laws to defend them." Possessing something was the death of love for Francis. Also, Francis reasoned, what could you do to a man who owns nothing? You can't starve a fasting man, you can't steal from someone who has no money, you can't ruin someone who hates prestige. They were truly free.

Francis was a man of action. His simplicity of life extended to ideas and deeds. If there was a simple way, no matter how impossible it seemed, Francis would take it. So when Francis wanted approval for his brotherhood, he went straight to Rome to see Pope Innocent III. You can imagine what the pope thought when this beggar approached him! As a matter of fact, he threw Francis out. But when he had a dream that this tiny man in rags held up the tilting Lateran basilica, he quickly called Francis back and gave him permission to preach.

Sometimes this direct approach led to mistakes that he corrected with the same spontaneity that he made them. Once he ordered a brother who hesitated to speak because he stuttered to go preach half-naked. When Francis realized how he had hurt someone he loved he ran to town, stopped the brother, took off his own

clothes, and preached instead.

Another example of his directness came when he decided to go to Syria to convert the Moslems while the Fifth Crusade was being fought. In the middle of a battle, Francis decided to do the simplest thing and go straight to the sultan to make peace. When he and his companion were captured, the real miracle was that they weren't killed. Instead Francis was taken to the sultan who was charmed by Francis and his preaching. He told Francis, "I would convert to your religion which is a beautiful one -- but both of us would be murdered."

Francis did find persecution and martyrdom of a kind -- not among the Moslems, but among his own brothers. When he returned to Italy, he came back to a brotherhood that had grown to 5000 in ten years. Pressure came from outside to control this great movement, to make them conform to the standards of others. His dream of radical poverty was too harsh, people said. Francis responded, "Lord, didn't I tell you they wouldn't trust you?" He finally gave up authority in his order -- but he probably wasn't too upset about it. Now he was just another brother, like he'd always wanted.

Francis' final years were filled with suffering as well as humiliation. Praying to share in Christ's passion he had a vision in which he received the stigmata, the marks of the nails and the lance wound that Christ suffered, in his own body. Years of poverty and wandering had made Francis ill. When he began to go blind, the pope ordered that his eyes be operated on. This meant cauterizing his face with a hot iron. Francis spoke to "Brother Fire": "Brother Fire, the Most High has made you strong and beautiful and useful. Be courteous to me now in this hour, for I have always loved you, and temper your heat so that I can endure it." And Francis reported that Brother Fire had been so kind that he felt nothing at all.

How did Francis respond to blindness and suffering? That was when he wrote his beautiful *Canticle of the Sun* that expresses his brotherhood with creation when praising God. Francis never recovered from this illness. He died on October 4, 1226 at the age of 45. Francis is considered the founder of all Franciscan orders and the patron saint of ecologists and merchants.



### ST. FRANCIS AND THE BLESSING OF ANIMALS

The Blessing of Animals will take place this year at St. Helena on two different days. It will first take place on **Tues., October 4**, the actual Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, from **3-4PM** in the church parking lot. Because many people are working that day, we will again have a blessing on **Sunday, October 9**, also from **3-4PM** in the church parking lot, and because we expect many different animals, please make sure your pet is either on a leash or otherwise under control.

Children are invited to bring their stuffed animals to either the **10:30AM Family Mass** or the **Noon Spanish Mass** on **October 9** for a blessing, while their real pets can be blessed at **3PM** in the parking lot.

OCTOBER 2, 2016

**ALUMNI REUNION COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED:**

We are planning THREE St. Helena School alumni reunions. One for the classes 1940-1969, a second for the classes 1970-1999, and a third for the classes 2000-2016. We are NOW looking for people from those years who are willing to give of their time and talent to serve on one of the three committees that we are forming to plan those celebrations.

Please either call the rectory at **718-892-3232** or send an email to [sthelenarc@yahoo.com](mailto:sthelenarc@yahoo.com) to let us know that you would like to participate in planning your special alumni event.

**REAL CANDLE VOTIVE LIGHTS**

Our insurance company has approved the use of the St. Killian Votive Light system, which is handmade in Ireland. We have purchased three stands, two small stands for the newly renovated Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the parking lot, and one large stand for Our Blessed Mother Altar. The candles are safe and smokeless and will burn for 1 1/2-2 hours. Our suggested donation is \$1 per candle. This is the same candle system used at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Votive candles are lit for prayer intentions and symbolize the prayers the worshipper is offering for him or herself, or for other people.

**OPEN HOUSE FOR CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE BRONX**

All Hallows	10/9 (Sunday)	12-4PM
Aquinas	10/2 (Sunday)	1-3PM
Cardinal Hays	10/15 (Saturday)	10AM-1PM
Cardinal Spellman	10/23 (Sunday)	11AM-3PM
Cathedral	10/23 (Sunday)	12-2:30PM
LaSalle	10/15 (Saturday)	10AM-2PM
Mt. St. Ursula	10/23 (Sunday)	10AM-1PM
Loyola	10/6 (Thursday)	5:30PM
and	10/26 (Wednesday)	5:30PM
Msgr. Scanlan	10/15 (Saturday)	1-4PM
Notre Dame (Manhattan)	10/30 (Sunday)	2:30-5PM
Sacred Heart	10/7 (Friday)	Reservations needed
St. Catherine's	10/23 (Sunday)	11AM-2PM
St. Jean Baptiste	10/15 (Saturday)	2-5PM
St. Raymond's Boys	10/16 (Sunday)	12-3:30PM
St. Raymond's Girls	10/14 (Friday)	5PM
Xavier	10/22 (Saturday)	1-4PM

**PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Banns of Marriage*

*II--Anthony Villafañia-Janet Bravo*

*II--Jose Pomavilla-Maria Mayancela*

**50/50 DRAWING:** The Sept. 25 winners are: No. 239 & No. 335 @\$26

- **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES HAVE BEGUN** for the **2016-2017** school year. You may still register for First Communion, Confirmation, RCIA or regular religious education classes with Fr. Richard at the rectory during the weekdays.
- **FIRST COMMUNION SESSION** will be held **TODAY, October 2**, after the **10:30AM Family Mass**, in the cafeteria.

- **SPANISH CHARISMATIC MASS** on **Monday, Oct. 3**, beginning at **7PM**.
- **ADULT SACRAMENT PREPARATION**-Classes have begun for adults who would like to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and/or Confirmation. Spanish sessions take place every **Sunday** from **10-11:15AM** in the green building. English sessions take place every **Sunday** from **3-4PM** in the downstairs rectory meeting room. The sacraments will be received at the Easter Vigil in **April 2017**. If you are interested in these classes, contact Fr. Richard or call the rectory at **718-892-3232** and leave your contact information.
- **BIBLE STUDY**-The Fall Semester class is Church History. It meets every Tuesday both at **1PM** and **7:30PM** in the green building. This Tuesday, we will discuss Missionaries of the 6th Century. You can attend one class or as many as you like. Everyone is welcome.
- **SPANISH CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETING** takes place every **Monday** evening at **7PM**. There will be a special 30th anniversary concert on **Sat., October 8** from **12-5PM**. The cost is \$7/person including a meal.
- **FLEA MARKET**-**Sunday, October 16** from **10AM-3PM**.
- **FOUNDATIONS OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH**-This is a continuation of last semester's course. It will be conducted in Spanish by Fr. Nelson every Tuesday evening from **7-8:30PM** in the cafeteria.
- **FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS NEEDED**-If you have a degree in business or accounting or have experience running a business or managing money, etc., then we would like you to consider joining the Parish Finance Council. If you are interested, please call the Rectory at **718-892-3233**.
- **PARISH BOOKSTORE** has opened. **Now Available in the Bookstore: St. Patrick's Cathedral**. A beautiful book with dozens of unseen photos This coffee table book explores the cathedral's legacy as told by Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Bishop Robert Barron, Dr. Henry Kissinger, Stephen Colbert, and many others. Published by Edition du Signe. Available in English and Spanish. The book retails for \$40, but it is now **ON SALE** in the bookstore, along with Mother Teresa Holy Cards, also available in English and Spanish
- **FREE CATHOLIC INTERNET SITE**-St. Helena's Parish NOW has a subscription to an online platform called **FORMED**, which is a kind of Netflix for Catholics, and so all parishioners now have unlimited access to faith formation programs, Bible Studies, Catholic-themed movies, e-books and much more. A number of Spanish-language resources are also available on FORMED. All you need to enter is the Parish Code: **2KQQYD**. Go to [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org).

**OFFERING ENVELOPES**

**Sunday, September 25, 2016**

**\$4,422.51**

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 have some major capital repair expenses coming up, and I am again glad to report that we exceeded our weekly budget goal. Keep up the good work. Remember, everyone is welcome here at St. Helena. We are your spiritual home, and your support means a lot, and together, we are making a difference.

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

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

Joanne Frances Bernadette Sanabria, Sylvia Carballo, Ruben Mercado, Mike Adorno, Catherine Holden, Carmelle and Nicole Antoine, Indrowdi Sadu, Rosa Pena, Adam Mary, Brenda Jackson, James Leunge, Carol Primak, Lucy Cannavacciuolo, Joan Ricci, Aaron Sylvester, Sean Gaffney, Peter Vaccaro, Gino Vaccaro, Veronica Gonzalez, Bertha Mero, Ronald Home, Doris Waldropt, Milagro Vasquez, Juana Carmen Rodriguez, Ynes Tavaréz, Theresa Delevan, Neil Duggan, Annamma, Humberto Prieto, Fr. Jesús Alvarez Ferat, Sch.P., Jenny Mauro, Jimmy Mauro, Mariana Rivera, Sonia Candelario, Justin Abreu

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

George and Mary Jane Gisselbrecht, Fidela Tougove  
Louisa Josefá Massanet, Jose Cartagena, Stephen Bonneau, Julio Zunun, Alma Quinones, Alberto Mendoza, Shanta Cruz, Eulalia Balaguer, Msgr. Robert F. McCormick, Adele Palau, Rev. Gerard D. O'Shea, Kelyn Rodriguez, Feliciano de Jesus

- **BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASSES** for October will be held at 7PM on **October 13 and 27**.
- **BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**-A Bereavement Support Group has been formed 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 sessions, one in English, and another in Spanish, both in the green building. To register or for more information about this program, contact either: Jessica Perez at [jeniperez\\_s@yahoo.com](mailto:jeniperez_s@yahoo.com) or Stephanie Colon at [srcolon610@gmail.com](mailto:srcolon610@gmail.com) or **917-504-4455**.
- **SICK AND DECEASED** members of the parish are remembered in the Offertory Prayers. If you know of any current or former parishioners who are seriously ill or have passed, or you know of any sick parishioners who need Holy Communion brought to them, please contact the rectory at **718-892-3232** and let us know about their condition.
- **KNITTING PRAYER MINISTRY**-Do you like to knit? We are looking for people to knit either Prayer Shawls or Prayer Pockets. You can knit them either in your own home, or you can come to the Church for a group knitting. If you are interested in this new ministry, please call the rectory at **718-892-3232**.
- **PRAYER AND LIFE WORKSHOP** is a free 15-week course in Spanish for adults who seek a more vibrant and vivid presentation of Jesus and a true adaptation to the needs of our present society. Its emphasis is on love, which is a transforming power, rather than fear and punishment. It is being held here on **Thurs. evenings from 7-9PM**.
- **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC, or are you an Adult Needing Communion, Confirmation, or the Convalidation of Your Marriage?** Make an appointment with one of the parish priests by calling **718-892-3232**. Leave your contact information, and a priest will get back to you to set up an appointment.
- **APARTMENTS WANTED**-Within the Parkchester area. If you know of one that is available, please call the Rectory.

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**-The observance, **September 15 - October 15**, recognizes the contributions made to and the important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans in the United States and

celebrates their heritage and culture. About one-third of all Catholics in the United States are Latinos. Hispanics make up more than HALF of the Catholic population in the Archdiocese of New York and over 60% of St. Helena's parishioners. They have a profound and positive influence on our country through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service.

- **FREE VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE** on **Thursday, October 6** from **2-6PM** at the Castle Hill Train Station and **Saturday, October 8** from **10AM - 2PM** at the Parkchester Train Station. Remember, your vote counts.
- **THE ITALIAN APOSTOLATE OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK** invites you to attend the **2016 Columbus Day Mass and Parade** at St. Patrick's Cathedral on **Monday, October 10** at **9:30AM**. Call the Rectory if you would like tickets to the parade or the Mass.
- **DAN SCHUTTE CONCERT**-Dan Schutte, the composer of "Here I Am Lord" and "Table of Plenty" will offer an evening of music, prayer, and reflection focused on the Jubilee Year of Mercy on **Friday, October 14** at **7PM** at St. Therese Church, 120 Monroe Ave., Cresskill, NJ They will take up a free will offering.
- **PILGRIMAGE TO THE NATIONAL SHRINE**-Join Timothy Cardinal Dolan on an upcoming pilgrimage to Mary's Shrine in the United States – the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. on **Saturday, October 15**. We will be making a special Year of Mercy pilgrimage there, and I am sure it will be a day of great spiritual value. We will have an opportunity to tour this magnificent church, where Fr. David was ordained, pass through the Holy Door, go to confession, and celebrate Mass. Buses are departing from several locations throughout the Archdiocese of New York. For more information and to register, please visit [www.archny.org/mercy](http://www.archny.org/mercy).
- **LITURGICAL MINISTER WORKSHOP** is intended for all who exercise a ministry at the Eucharist, from musicians and lectors to Eucharistic ministers and ushers. The workshop will focus on things that inspire people to do their ministries. Lunch will be provided. The workshop will take place on **Saturday, October 15** from **10:30AM - 1:30PM** at St. Therese Parish Center, 120 Monroe Ave., Cresskill, NJ. The cost is \$25.
- **HALL OF FAME AWARDS DINNER** at Monsignor Scanlan High School on **Saturday, October 22** from **5-9PM**. The dinner will recognize the contributions of: Dave Smith '60, Ann Pavelka Smith '62, Michael Mullen '55, Thomas Renaghan '56, Sr. Eileen Clifford, O.P., and Br. Joseph Maura, FMS. Even if you cannot attend, you may purchase a journal ad or a sponsorship for this event. For more information, call **718-430-0100 X13**.
- **2016 ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK MEN'S CONFERENCE** will take place on **Saturday, October 29** at the Westchester Hilton in Rye Brook, featuring Hall of Fame Baseball Player Mike Piazza and Al Kelly, Planner for Super Bowl XLVIII and the Papal Visit to NYC. Closing Mass with Timothy Cardinal Dolan. **COST: \$50**. Registration begins at 11AM. Conference includes lunch, and there will be an opportunity for confession during the day. Group reservations are available, so please contact the rectory at **718-892-3232** if you are interested in attending, as a bus will be going to it from here.

- **HOMESCHOOLERS** can earn up to 60 college credits online at Angelicum Academy. Enroll now at [angelicum.net](http://angelicum.net) or call **410-282-6172**. Credits accepted by NYU.
- **NOURISHMENT FOR SENIORS:** Are you a SNAP-eligible senior citizen living in NYC? You may qualify for a *free monthly food package*. For more information, call **917-982-2564**. [www.nycommonpantry.org](http://www.nycommonpantry.org)
- **NEED SOMEONE TO RUN ERRANDS?** If you are a senior living in Parkchester, PEP has a volunteer who can run errands for you. The volunteer is available every **Friday** in the late morning/early afternoon. If you need this service, call **718-409-1619** and speak with either Nicole or Gordon.
- **ADORATION CHAPEL**-Holy Cross Parish, 620 Thieriot Avenue, has an Adoration Chapel, which is open **Monday-Friday from 10AM - 9PM**.
- **WIC** is now being offered at the Morris Heights Health Center, 2019 Westchester Avenue, Bronx. WIC services will be available **Monday-Friday from 8:30AM - 5PM**.
- **FORGIVING FINES**-NYC is reducing penalties and interest for many violations issued by City agencies for a one-time 90-day period from **Sept. 12 - Dec. 12**. To take advantage of this opportunity to reduce the amount you owe the city, visit [nyc.gov/forgivingfines](http://nyc.gov/forgivingfines)

## ANUNCIOS EN ESPAÑOL

**IMPORTANTE:** La serie **PRO-VIDA** se ha pospuesto. Ya les informaré al respecto. Estén atentos, por favor.

- **MES DE LA HERENCIA HISPANA:** Septiembre 15 a Octubre 15. La Iglesia reconoce importancia de los Hispanos en la Iglesia Católica de USA. Más de la tercera parte de la Iglesia Católica en USA es Hispana. Más de la mitad de los Católicos de NY son Hispanos. Más del 60% de los parroquianos de Santa Helena son Hispanos. El Hispano tiene una gran influencia en nuestro país. Su compromiso con la familia, su fe, el trabajo fuerte y el servicio hacen de la Iglesia Católica en USA una Iglesia más dinámica y mucho más joven.
- **CLASES DE RCIA:** Estas clases son dictadas por el P. Nelson los **domingos de 10 am a 11.15 am**, para preparar a personas adultas en el camino de la fe. **Si te falta algún sacramento (Bautismo, Primera Comunión o Confirmación)** ven a esta clase para aprender acerca de tu fe, recibir tus sacramentos y vivir tu vida en plenitud. Las clases comienzan el **domingo 25 de septiembre**. Aprovecha esta **ULTIMA** oportunidad para comenzar.
- **MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO PARROQUIAL:** Si tienes un título o experiencia en negocios o contabilidad, quisiéramos que consideraras ser parte de este importante órganos de la parroquia. Necesitamos tu experiencia y conocimiento para ser na parroquia más sólida. Llamar al **718-892-3233**.
- **CLASES DE PREPARACION PARA EL BAUTISMO:** Se realizan cada **segundo y cuarto jueves** de cada mes a las **7 pm** en la Iglesia. Entrada por el parqueadero. Se recuerda que deben inscribirse previamente en la rectoría. Los bautismos en **Español** se realizan los segundos y cuartos **sábados** de cada mes a las **2.30 pm**.
- **GRUPO DE ORACIÓN:** Todos los lunes de 7 pm a 9 pm. Ven a alabar al Señor con tus hermanos y hermanas!!!
- **MIÉRCOLES DE LA MISERICORDIA:** Todos los **miércoles a las 7 pm**. Ven a dar gracias a Dios por su

misericordia. Música, Coronilla de la Misericordia. Adoración al Santísimo, Eucaristía.

- **CONCIERTO CARISMÁTICO:** El grupo de oración está preparando una celebración por los 35 años de servicio el **8 de octubre**. Separa tu tiempo para estar presente desde las **12 del día hasta las 5 p**. Valor de la entrada con almuerzo incluido: 7 dólares.
- **AGUA BENDITA:** Una bella tradición de nuestra fe es el uso del agua bendita. Ven a la rectoría y lleva agua bendita a tu casa. Úsala con fe en Cristo en las personas y en los objetos. No es magia, es **relación** con Dios.
- **GRUPO JUVENIL:** Se está organizado el grupo juvenil de nuestra parroquia. Si estás interesado/a en participar el grupo de líderes, ponte en contacto con el P. Richard al **718-892-3232**
- **Se vende casa en Santo Domingo.** Infor mes con **María Pérez**, tel: 718-829-8623.

## BUEN DIA, HERMANOS:

Recordemos que la liturgia de la Palabra tiene dos ciclos esenciales: el ciclo de los domingos y el ciclo de los días entre semana. Durante la semana que termina hemos estado leyendo el libro de Job, obra que pertenece al estilo sapiencial, o sea, aquel que reflexiona sobre la realidad humana y la sabiduría de Dios.

Aunque no es un libro histórico, Job representa a la humanidad que durante todos los tiempos se ha cuestionado acerca del problema del mal. ¿Por qué Dios permite que al justo le sucedan tantas cosas tan malas? Especialmente cuando en ocasiones parece que al malo le va bien.

El libro comienza con un **cuento dramático**, mediante el cual se supone que Dios acepta el reto de Satanás para probar la fidelidad de Job, no sólo en las buenas sino también en las malas. Efectivamente, es la historia de Job, quien de tener bienes y salud se termina encontrado en una situación desesperada. Job en ningún momento se rebela contra Dios, pero eso no evita que entre en una crisis profunda. La primera pregunta que nos podemos hacer es: ¿Cómo reacciono yo ante el sufrimiento o las dificultades, cuando ellas aparecen?

Normalmente, cuando escuchamos el nombre de Job lo relacionamos con la paciencia. Sin embargo, ante la crisis, Job lanza un grito desgarrador: ¿Por qué? ¿Por qué a mi? Y maldice el día en que nació. “Muera el día en que nací...”, ¿Por qué no perecí al salir del vientre de mi madre? La paciencia se acaba. Aquí podemos hacer otra reflexión: “¿Soy yo todavía parte de las cadenas de los ‘por qué’ cuando las dificultades tocan a mi puerta?” No debemos sorprendernos si aún es así, porque muchos personajes de la Biblia que son modelo de vida para nosotros han pasado por el mismo camino.

Jeremías es uno de ellos... y el mismo Jesús, cuando en la cruz grita: “Dios mío, ¿por qué me has abandonado?” Es el grito de los que han sufrido y siguen sufriendo injustamente. Aunque los cristianos tenemos una ventaja que no tuvo ni Job ni Jeremías, que es la muerte y resurrección de Jesús, nos sigue costando dar con la clave para responder a la pregunta del misterio del sufrimiento. Sin embargo, siempre es bueno recordar que, aunque el Sábado Santo fue todo oscuridad para Jesús (y para el mundo), cuando amaneció llegó la resurrección. Aquí podemos hacernos otras preguntas: ¿Sé convertir en oración mis dudas y mis sufrimientos? ¿Estoy aprendiendo a confiar en Dios, como Job y sobre todo como Jesús, a pesar de que hay tantas cosas de la vida que no comprendo?

Todos los que intentan ‘aconsejar’ a Job durante su sufrimiento, al final se quedan sin argumentos, lo único que logran es meterle cizaña en el tiempo de tristeza. Sus argumentos son que el castigo es consecuencia del pecado, que ésa es la voluntad de Dios. El reto es que eso es algo que nos puede suceder a nosotros mismos. ¿Le hacemos pensar a la persona que sufre que lo sucedido es castigo por el pecado, o que es importante encontrar el sentido que tiene el sufrimiento en la vida?

Sin embargo, en el tema del sufrimiento tampoco el libro de Job pretende encontrar una solución definitiva. Al final, el único que tiene la respuesta es Dios. Nosotros la respuesta la tenemos en Cristo quien en su dolor asumido, en su solidaridad total, en su muerte inocente y en su resurrección nos ha salvado. Jesús entró hasta el fondo en nuestro sufrimiento y le dió un sentido redentor, de amor. Él nos mostró como el Siervo de Yahvé se entrega por los demás voluntariamente, a pesar de ser inocente. Dios nos ha mostrado su amor a través de su dolor, que es amor solidario de nuestro dolor. Por lo tanto, con nuestro dolor nosotros podemos ser solidarios con su dolor, le podemos dar sentido y la finalidad es la misma: salvar al mundo.

Job en el fondo nunca perdió la fe en Dios y al contrario, a través del dialogo aprende que en realidad no está solo. Es que nuestro dolor y nuestra muerte tienen su sentido más profundo en nuestra solidaridad con Cristo Jesús, en nuestra comunión de destino con Él. Por el Bautismo hemos sido incorporados no sólo a su muerte, no sólo a su dolor sino también a su resurrección. Estamos unidos a Él no sólo en el sufrimiento en la tierra, sino también en la vida eterna a su lado.

Esta es la fe que ilumina la vivencia de los momentos difíciles y nos ayuda a comunicar a otros nuestra fe y nuestra esperanza. Cuando nos encontramos con alguien que sufre, que tal vez se rebela, ¿cómo le ayudamos? ¿lo hundimos más? ¿intentamos animarlo con argumentos imposibles? o ¿sabemos infundir esperanza con nuestra esperanza humana y con nuestro testimonio de fe?

Cuando Jesús tuvo su crisis en Getsemani buscó el consuelo de los discípulos pero ellos no se dieron cuenta, estaban dormidos. ¿Nos enteramos de cuándo alguien necesita nuestra cercanía? Al final Job se vuelve sabio porque se reconoce pequeño ante Dios. Se queda callado, decide no hablar más. Ya no pretende dar una respuesta que sabe que no tiene, ahora comprende que en el sufrimiento también puede vivir una experiencia que lo enriquece.

Nosotros, además de apoyarnos, como Job, en el inmenso poder y sabiduría de Dios, aprendemos poco a poco a recordar más y más el amor que Dios nos tiene. Aunque no podemos explicar el misterio del sufrimiento, tenemos motivos mayores para confiar en el amor de Dios. Dios no quiere el mal ni lo quiere para nosotros. Lo que Dios hace es sacar bien para nosotros, inclusive del mal.

La muerte de Jesús inocente no tenía sentido y sin embargo terminó salvando a la humanidad, a cada uno de nosotros. Dios asume el dolor y le da valor de redención y de amor. La vida nos ayuda a madurar y una de las cosas que más influyen en nuestro crecimiento son las pruebas, los momentos de dolor. No sabemos lo que es tener fe hasta que esta se pone en prueba. Así sucede con el amor, o la amistad o la fidelidad.

Por otro lado, si sólo le servimos cuando todo nos va bien, ¿estamos en realidad sirviéndole a Él o buscándonos a nosotros mismos?

*P. Nelson*

# Mass Intentions

**SUNDAY, Oct. 2, 2016-Twenty-Seventh Sun. in Ordinary Time**

- 7:30 Mercedes Disierto (Healing-Intentions)**  
**9:00 Katherine Callaghan**  
 Our Parishioners  
**10:30 Ruth Smalls**  
**12:00 Angel Torres and Brandon Otero**  
**Zoila Moreno Rodriguez**  
**Jesus Mastanza Baca**  
**Baby Erika Bustos Sanchez (1 month Anniv.)**  
**Josefina Wilthew**  
**1:30 Ralph A. Cerbone Jr.**  
**5:00 Jenny and James Mauro (Healing Intentions)**  
**Intentions of Amevor Koffi; Etse Dogbe;**  
**Therese & Pauline Atsu; Ama, Komla,**  
**Damienne, Stephane and Carmel Afeli; and**  
**Hillary Clinton**

**MONDAY, October 3, 2016-Feast of St. Maximian**

- 6:50 Raymond Marin**  
**8:30 Divine Justice for the Murder of Priests**  
**and Nuns**  
**12:15 Intentions of the Shine Family**  
**7:30 Para Abuelos que han sido negados la**  
**oportunidad de relacionarse con sus nietos**

**TUESDAY, October 4, 2016-Feast of St. Francis of Assisi**

- 6:50 Joseph and Matilda Carty**  
**8:30 Hughes Family and Mary Alice Hartnett**  
**12:15 Norma Iris Cruz**

**WEDNESDAY, October 5, 2016-Feast of St. Flora**

- 6:50 In Thanksgiving for Favors**  
**8:30 Fr. Charles Newburn, Sch.P. (6th Month Anniv.)**  
**12:15 Barney Daly**  
**7:30 Catalina Carrera, Lorenza Morales,**  
**Vicente Petronilo and Flavia Sanchez**

**THURSDAY, October 6, 2016-Feast of St. Bruno**

- 6:50 Samuel Ceesay and Terles Ceesay**  
**8:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors**  
**12:15 Michael Guido**

**FRIDAY, October 7, 2016-Feast of St. Sergius**

- 6:50 Pierre Emma**  
**8:30 Gina Vaccaro (Intentions)**  
**12:15 Ralph A. Cerbone Jr.**

**SATURDAY, October 8, 2016-Feast of St. Benedicta**

- 6:50 Telma Anith and Family (Intentions)**  
**8:30 For Grandparents who are Being Denied the**  
**Right to Visit Their Grandchildren**  
**12:15 Margaret Burrell**  
**5:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors**

**SUNDAY, Oct. 9, 2016-Twenty-Eighth Sun. in Ordinary Time**

- 7:30 Elvis Lee Rosado**  
 Our Parishioners  
**9:00 Efrain and Daisy Rodriguez**  
**(Birthday-Anniversary)**  
**10:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors**  
**12:00 Julio Medina**  
 Rosario Rodriguez  
**1:30 Lillian Pirozzi, Fred Havelka, Ana Brinz and**  
**Larry Young**  
**5:00 Frantz Guignard**

## Readings for the Week of October 2, 2016

Sunday: Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14/Lk 17:5-10

Monday: Gal 1:6-12/Ps 111:1-2, 7-10/Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday: Gal 1:13-24/Ps 139:1-3, 13-15/Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday: Gal 2:1-2, 7-14/Ps 117:1-2/Lk 11:1-4

Thursday: Gal 3:1-5/Lk 1:69-75/Lk 11:5-13

Friday: Gal 3:7-14/Ps 111:1-6/Lk 11:15-26

Saturday: Gal 3:22-29/Ps 105:2-7/Lk 11:27-28

Next Sunday: 2 Kgs 5:14-17/Ps 98:1-4/2 Tm 2:8-13/Lk 17:11-19