

## 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

### Music Director

Mr. Patrick Marques

### Organists

Mr. Franco Bonanome

Mr. Jim Donaldson

### Cantors

Mrs. Terry Bonanome

Mr. Alex Henriquez

January-February 2017

### Development Director

Mrs. Stephanie Turtle

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

<http://www.sthelenaelementary.org>

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—7:00PM

Wednesday —7:00 PM (Spanish)

Monday 7:00PM (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

## THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL

### Feast January 25

St. Paul was born in Tarsus, the capital of Cilicia, of Jewish parents who were descended from the tribe of Benjamin. He was a Roman citizen from birth. As he was "a young man" at the stoning of Stephen, about the year 34, and "an old man" when writing to Philemon, about the year 63, he was probably born around the beginning of the Christian era.

St. Paul, named Saul at his circumcision, was brought up as a strict Jew and later became a violent persecutor of the Christians. While on his way to Damascus to make new arrests of Christians, he was suddenly converted by a miraculous apparition of Our Lord. From a fierce persecutor, he became the great Apostle of the Gentiles. He made three missionary journeys which brought him to the great centers of Asia Minor and southern Europe, and he made many converts. Fourteen of his Epistles are found in the New Testament.



To complete his schooling, St. Paul was sent to Jerusalem, where he sat at the feet of the learned Gamaliel and was educated in the strict observance of the ancestral Law. Here he also acquired a good knowledge of exegesis and was trained in the practice of disputation. As a convinced and zealous Pharisee, he returned to Tarsus before the public life of Christ opened in Palestine. Some time after the death of Our Lord, St. Paul returned to Palestine. His profound conviction made his zeal develop to a religious fanaticism against the infant Church. He took part in the stoning of the first Christian martyr, St. Stephen, and in the fierce persecution of the Christians that followed.

Entrusted with a formal mission from the high priest, he departed for Damascus to arrest the Christians there and bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he was nearing Damascus, about noon, a light from heaven suddenly blazed around him. Jesus with His glorified body appeared to him and addressed him, turning him away from his apparently successful career. An immediate transformation was wrought in the soul of St. Paul. He was suddenly converted to the Christian Faith. He was baptized by Ananias and started using his Roman name of Paul and began traveling and preaching the Faith. He was martyred as an Apostle in Rome by beheading around 66 AD.

## St. Thomas Aquinas - Feast January 28

### Five Proofs For the Existence of God

An Italian Dominican philosopher and theologian, St. Thomas Aquinas was one of the most influential medieval thinkers of Scholasticism and the father of the Thomistic school of theology.

The son of Landolph, count of Aquino, St. Thomas Aquinas was born circa 1225 in Roccasecca, in the Kingdom of Sicily. Thomas was the youngest of eight siblings. His mother, Theodora, was countess of Teano. Before St. Thomas Aquinas was born, a holy hermit shared a prediction with his mother, foretelling that her son would enter the Order of Friars Preachers and become a great learner and achieve unequalled sanctity.

Following the tradition of the period, he was sent to the Abbey of Monte Cassino to train among Benedictine monks when he was just 5 years old, and he remained there until he was 13. Circa 1239, he began attending the University of Naples. In 1243, he secretly joined an order of Dominican monks, receiving the habit in 1244. When his family found out, they felt so betrayed that he

had turned his back on the principles to which they subscribed that they decided to kidnap him. Thomas's family held him captive for an entire year, imprisoned in the fortress of San Giovanni at Rocca Secca. During this time, they attempted to deprogram Thomas of his new beliefs. Thomas held fast to the ideas and went back to the Dominican order following his release in 1245.

From 1245 to 1252, St. Thomas Aquinas continued to pursue his studies with the Dominicans in Naples, Paris and Cologne. He was ordained in Cologne, Germany, in 1250, and went on to teach theology at the University of Paris. Under the tutelage of St. Albert the Great, St. Thomas Aquinas subsequently earned his doctorate in theology. Consistent with the holy hermit's prediction, Thomas proved an exemplary scholar, though, ironically, his modesty sometimes led his classmates to misperceive him as dim-witted. After reading Thomas's thesis and thinking it brilliant, his professor, St. Albert the Great, proclaimed in Thomas's defense, "We call this young man a dumb ox, but his bellowing in doctrine will one day resound throughout the world!"

After completing his education, St. Thomas Aquinas devoted himself to a life of traveling, writing, teaching, public speaking and preaching. At the forefront of medieval thought was a struggle to reconcile the relationship between theology (faith) and philosophy (reason). People were at odds as to how to unite the knowledge they obtained through revelation with the information they observed naturally using their mind and their senses. People assumed the two types of knowledge were in direct opposition to each other. St. Thomas Aquinas's revolutionary views asserted that "both kinds of knowledge ultimately come from God" and were therefore compatible. Not only were they compatible, according to Thomas's ideology, they could work in collaboration: He believed that revelation could guide reason and prevent it from making mistakes, while reason could clarify and demystify faith. St. Thomas Aquinas's work goes on to discuss faith and reason's roles in both perceiving and proving the existence of God.

St. Thomas Aquinas believed that the existence of God could be proven in five ways, mainly by: 1) observing movement in the world as proof of God, the "Immovable Mover"; 2) observing cause and effect and identifying God as the cause of everything; 3) concluding that the impermanent nature of beings proves the existence of a necessary being, God, who originates only from within himself; 4) noticing varying levels of human perfection and determining that a supreme, perfect being must therefore exist; and 5) knowing that natural beings could not have intelligence without it being granted to them by God. Subsequent to defending people's ability to naturally perceive proof of God, Thomas also tackled the challenge of protecting God's image as an all-powerful being.

St. Thomas Aquinas also uniquely addressed appropriate social behavior toward God. Thomas believed that the laws of the state were, in fact, a natural product of human nature, and were crucial to social welfare. By abiding by the social laws of the state, people could earn eternal salvation of their souls in the afterlife, he purported. St. Thomas Aquinas identified three types of laws: natural, positive and eternal. According to his treatise, natural law prompts man to act in accordance with achieving his goals and governs man's sense of right and wrong; positive law is the law of the state, or government, and should always be a manifestation of natural law; and eternal law, in the case of rational beings, depends on reason and is put into action through free will, which also works toward the accomplishment of man's spiritual goals.



## THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Combining traditional principles of theology with modern philosophic thought, St. Thomas Aquinas's treatises touched upon the questions and struggles of medieval intellectuals, church authorities and everyday people alike. A prolific writer, St. Thomas Aquinas penned close to 60 known works ranging in length from short to tome-like. Handwritten copies of his works were distributed to libraries across Europe. His philosophical and theological writings spanned a wide spectrum of topics, including commentaries on the Bible and discussions of Aristotle's writings on natural philosophy.

While teaching at Cologne in the early 1250s, St. Thomas Aquinas wrote a lengthy commentary on scholastic theologian Peter Lombard's *Four Books of Sentences*. Written from 1265 to 1274, St. Thomas Aquinas's *Summa Theologica* is largely philosophical in nature. He is also known for writing commentaries examining the principles of natural philosophy espoused in Aristotle's writings.

In June 1272, St. Thomas Aquinas agreed to go to Naples and start a theological studies program for the Dominican house neighboring the university. During the Feast of St. Nicolas in 1273, St. Thomas Aquinas had a mystical vision that made writing seem unimportant to him. At Mass, he reportedly heard a voice coming from a crucifix that said, "Thou hast written well of me, Thomas; what reward wilt thou have?" to which St. Thomas Aquinas replied, "None other than thyself, Lord." In January 1274, St. Thomas Aquinas embarked on a trip to Lyon, France, on foot to serve on the Second Council, but never made it there. Along the way, he fell ill at the Cistercian monastery of Fossanova, Italy. The monks wanted St. Thomas Aquinas to stay at the castle, but, sensing that his death was near, Thomas preferred to remain at the monastery, saying, "If the Lord wishes to take me away, it is better that I be found in a religious house than in the dwelling of a layperson." He died on March 7, 1274 and was canonized by Pope John XXII in 1323.

### PRO-LIFE MEANS ALL HUMAN LIFE

Because of the Catholic Church's fundamental teaching that human life is sacred from the first moment of creation, Catholics believe that every human life must be respected in law, including the woman facing an unplanned pregnancy, the innocent unborn child she carries in her womb, the elderly person facing severe or even terminal illness, and the prisoner on death row.

The National Pro-Life Rally will begin at 11:45AM, and the March for Life will begin at 1PM on January 27 on the grounds of the National Mall, and the MFL will end in front of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Kellyanne Conway, President of the polling company, Inc./ WomanTrend, and the highest-ranking woman in President Trump's administration, will join other notable speakers including Timothy Cardinal Dolan, at the March for Life rally on the National Mall. The 2017 March for Life's theme is, 'The Power of One', said Jeanne Mancini, President of March for Life.

"Our other speakers also personify 'The Power of One' theme and show how one person has the power to change the world and saves lives," Mancini concluded. "It is our hope that this year's March for Life will encourage each of us to seek and fulfill our unique mission to the best of our ability because only in doing so we will collectively build a culture of life in the U.S. — a culture where abortion is unthinkable."

Tens of thousands of Americans are set to travel from across the nation to D.C. for this year's March for Life, which seeks to promote the dignity of every human life and to stand against the greatest human rights violation of our time – abortion-on-demand.

**MARCH FOR LIFE**-One bus going to the March for Life in D.C. will leave Holy Cross Rectory, 620 Thieriot Ave. at **6AM** and will return at **10PM** on **Friday, January 27**. The cost is \$40. Payment due by January 23. Reserve your seat by calling **718-893-5550**.

**SECOND COLLECTION** today is to help defray the costs of our elementary school. Please remember St. Helena has one of the last remaining parish-based schools left in the diocese.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**-At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (see John 17.21). Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services. The event that touches off this special experience is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Traditionally the week of prayer is celebrated from **Jan. 18-25**, between the feast days of St. Peter and St. Paul. The theme for 2017 is "Reconciliation-the Love of Christ Compels Us."

**DIA DE LA ALTAGRACIA**, or **Altagracia Day**, is a day commemorating "Our Lady of Altagracia" (Our Lady of High Grace), patronal image and protector of the people of the Dominican Republic. It is a feast day and annual public holiday on January 21. We will celebrate a special Mass at **NOON** on **January 22** in her honor, which will be followed by a cultural reception in the gym. "Our Lady of Altagracia" is a cloth portrait of the Virgin Mary painted in the 16th century. The portrait is 13 x 18 inches and kept in The Basilica of Our Lady of Altagracia in the city of Salvaleón de Higüey. The festival was originally held on August 15, but was moved to January 21 to celebrate victory over the French in 1690. Our Lady of Altagracia is the patron saint of the Dominican Republic. The portrait was crowned in 1978 by Pope St. John Paul II.

### Parish Cardinal's Appeal Just Shy of Goal

There were 156 St. Helena's parishioners who pledged \$34,664, just a little shy of our \$36,000 goal for the 2016 Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal. Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously. The total appeal exceeded its \$20 million goal by over 2 million dollars with 57,750 people donating.

**Do You Have Your Envelopes?** This year, we are trying something new. Instead of giving out boxes with envelopes for the entire year, we will instead mail envelopes out every six weeks. We understand that many people lose or misplace their envelope boxes, and we hope this method will encourage more parishioners to use their envelopes. We will automatically mail envelopes only to those parishioners who regularly use them, and we have placed special violet Welcome envelopes in the pews and in the Narthex for anyone who has not yet received their envelopes to indicate that they would like us to mail them their envelopes. If you want envelopes, just fill in the violet envelope and either drop it in the collection basket or bring it to the rectory. Your new envelopes will be sent out in February. Offertory envelopes serve as a symbol of how faithful giving is critical to establishing a long-term sustainable ministry. They also serve as proof of active parish membership as well as documentation for charitable giving deductions when doing your taxes. We encourage all parishioners to either use parish pay on-line giving, available through our parish website: [www.churchofsthelena.com](http://www.churchofsthelena.com) or use the weekly offertory envelopes.

JANUARY 22, 2017

**ST. HELENA ALUMNI INFORMATION AND**

**ADDRESSES NEEDED**-We are seeking to update our alumni data base. We realize that many alumni have either moved, married, passed, or are not on the alumni list. If you have not received any recent mailings from St. Helena, please call or email your information to us so we can add you. Also, let us know if anything special has happened in your life such as a marriage or a promotion, so we can share it with other alumni. Please contact the rectory if you would like us to mail you your 2016 offering statement for tax purposes.

**SOLUMN VOWS**-Br. Vinod will profess his Solemn Religious Vows as a Piarist during a special liturgy on **Monday, February 20 at 10AM** here at St. Helena. Our Piarist Father General will be flying in from Rome to receive them. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. A luncheon will follow the Mass in the gymnasium.

**PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Banns of Marriage*

\$\$\$—*Leonard Arcos-Melony Rosario*

- **NEW 50/50 DRAWING**-Many parishioners have suggested that we revise our traditional 50/50 drawings to allow for a larger cash prize. Therefore, starting in January, we will no longer have a weekly drawing, but rather a monthly drawing, and the cost to participate in it will be only \$5/month, which is actually \$3 less than if you contributed \$2/week for four weeks. We hope that you will enjoy this new drawing. As we have done previously, pink 50/50 envelopes will be available both in your mailed offertory envelopes as well as at the entrances to the church. The **FIRST** drawing will take place on **January 30**. Good luck.
- **ENGLISH FAMILY SESSION** for our Religious Education classes will be held at **11:30am** on **January 22** in the cafeteria.
- **CHILD PROTECTION VIRTUS TRAINING**-If you are an employee or work with children anywhere within the Archdiocese of New York, you are required to take special child protection training. St. Helena will be offering Virtus training on **Monday, January 30** from **6-9PM**. There is no cost for this training, and the certificate you will receive at its completion will be valid throughout the Archdiocese of New York and will be transferable to almost every other diocese in the country. To register for this training session, please call the rectory at **718-892-3233**.
- **2017 PARISH BI-LINGUAL CALENDARS**-There are a few still available in the rectory.
- **BIBLE STUDY**-We have begun our 24-week second semester Bible Study in English of the Gospel of Matthew. Classes meet every **Tuesday** at both **1PM** and **7:30PM**. All are welcome. This Tuesday, **January 24**, we will study Mt. 2.
- **NEXT BAPTISM PREP CLASS** will be held on **Jan. 26** at **7PM**. Please bring a copy of the child's birth certificate as well as either a letter of suitability for the godparents from their local pastor or a copy of the godparent's Confirmation Certificate and if a godparent is married, a copy of their Catholic Marriage Certificate.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES**

**Sunday, January 15, 2017**

**\$5,258.36**

**Emergency Recovery Fund**

**1,221.59**

Our weekly budget, (Nuestro presupuesto semanal es) \$4,423.00 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 on our boilers and air conditioning coming up, and this week we exceeded our normal income. Again, thank you for your generosity. I ask you to please consider increasing your regular weekly offerings a little so that we can meet or exceed our 2017 weekly budget goal and be able to pay for much needed physical plant improvements.

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

- **PARISH FLEA MARKET** on **Sunday, January 29** from **10AM-3PM** in the Gym. Many new items will be available. This is the event postponed from last November.
- **HEALTH FAIR**-St. Helena will be hosting a Health Fair on **Sunday, Feb 12** from **9:30AM - 6PM**. The fair will feature free Heart Screening, something many people need to have done but cannot always afford. More details will soon follow.
- **PARISH BOOKSTORE** is open every **Sunday** from **8:30AM to 1PM**.
- **BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP** will restart on **Saturdays** at **11AM** beginning **February 25** for 6 weeks in the Green Parish Center. The group is intended for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one or a dear friend. To register or for more information about this program, contact: Jessica Perez at [jeniperez\\_s@yahoo.com](mailto:jeniperez_s@yahoo.com).
- **SHORT TERM COUNSELING AVAILABLE**-Let's face it. Life can be so confusing, especially during the holiday season, and we all need counseling sometimes. But costs can keep people away. Now, thanks to the Catholic Charities Parish Counseling Network, St. Helena parishioners now have access to affordable, short-term professional counseling. What's more, counseling is available at convenient locations throughout the Archdiocese. Up to six sessions can take place with just an inexpensive \$10 co-pay per session. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact one of the priests here at St. Helena.
- **NEW TAX LEGISLATION**-Did you know that Congress passed permanent legislation for parishioners who are: 70 1/2 Years of Age with--Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) and want to withdraw money from their IRA to Give Tax Free to St. Helena. In addition, if you converted your traditional IRA to a Roth IRA this year, you can offset the taxable income generated by the conversion by making a charitable gift to St. Helena.
- **AA BIG BOOK STUDY** meets every **Sat., 7-8:30PM** in the green building.
- **CO-DEPENDENTS ANNONYMOUS** meets every **Monday** from **7-8:30PM** in the green building.
- **A COURSE IN MIRACLES**-Rogier F. van Vlissingen is teaching a 13-week class A Course in Miracles every Sunday at St. Helena's from **3 to 4:30 PM**. For more information, call **917-549-0959**. A suggested donation is \$7/session.
- **FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME MAINTENANCE OR HANDYMAN JOB** position needed. E-mail: [josecolon1080@gmail.com](mailto:josecolon1080@gmail.com) or call **347-964-9539**.
- **APARTMENTS WANTED**-Within the Parkchester area. If you know of one that is available, please call the Rectory.

- **THE PIERRE TOUSSAINT SCHOLARSHIP**-provides graduating high school seniors with \$2,000 to be used to attend college and may be renewed for up to three additional years. Applicants must be practicing Catholics within the Archdiocese, have demonstrated academic achievement, and exhibited good character and leadership abilities. Contact the rectory if you wish to apply for this scholarship. Applications must be postmarked no later than **Feb. 17**.
- **EXPLORE A FREE CATHOLIC INTERNET SITE**- St. Helena's Parish has a free subscription to an online platform called **FORMED**, and all parishioners now have unlimited access to faith formation programs, Bible Studies, Catholic-themed movies and programs, enjoy music, e-books and much more. It is very easy to register with **FORMED**. FIRST go to [formed.org](http://formed.org) and click the REGISTER link in the middle of the page; enter the parish code **2KQYD** and your email, then click "Go." Fill in the registration information. After registering, you will receive a message asking you to verify your email address. Check your email (it may be in your spam folder) and click VERIFY. You will be prompted to login. You can then enjoy using **FORMED**.

## SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Mattei Reaches 150 Points in Horsemen Victory**

Francisco Mattei hit a game-high 15 points against Our Lady of the Assumption to help propel the varsity Horsemen to a 41-30 win, and his final shot put him at 150 points for the season.

Mattei also scored one of the two Horsemen threes sunk during the first quarter. Omari Ward hit the other three, which was a buzzer beater, and he ended the game with 9 points, which puts him at 108 season points. Chris Colter was the other Horseman in double digits for the game with 13, nine of which were scored in the first quarter, putting him at 74 season points. Justin Hernandez and Kameron Carrasquillo both also hit a two in the first quarter. The Horsemen put 22 points on the boards in the first quarter.

Benny Castro had a team-high nine points for OLA, and he was the only player in the game to score in all four quarters. OLA's best quarter was also the first, sinking 10 points. The Horsemen were 3 for 6 from the line, while OLA was 9 for 15.

The junior varsity Horsemen lost their footing against OLA, allowing them to take an 11-point lead in the first quarter. Jahli Ward had a team-high nine points, followed by William Manning's two twos, scored one each in the second and fourth quarters. Danny Bahora had the third Horsemen score, a two with 20 seconds remaining in the half. Kyle Austion added three points in the third quarter to complete the Horsemen scoring.

Jaylen Pray had a game-high 16 points for OLA. The Horsemen were 2 for 6 from the line, while OLA shot 2 for 11.

The next JV home game is Monday, Feb. 6 at 5PM against Immaculate Conception, while the varsity play Tuesday, February 7 at 6PM against Loyola.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **CARDINAL DOLAN READ AT INAUGURATION**- Timothy Cardinal Dolan of New York read a passage from Scripture at Donald Trump's inauguration ceremony for the U.S. presidency on January 20th. The passage he chose was Wisdom chapter 9. The choice is noteworthy because the

Old Testament book of Wisdom is accepted by the Catholic Church as canonical but is rejected by Protestants. Trump himself identifies as Presbyterian (a Scottish Protestant denomination). Wisdom 9 is a prayer of King Solomon praising God and asking Him for wisdom to rule Israel. Cardinal Dolan has been clear that his participation is not meant to be taken as a partisan endorsement of Donald Trump for president over Hillary Clinton or any other candidate. "Had Mrs. Clinton won and invited me, I would have been just as honored," he said.

- **CREATING UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY PRESENTS: *A Conversation about Service and the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*** PARKCHESTER LIBRARY, **Tuesday, February 21**, from **5 - 6:30PM**.
- **BODY OF MURDERED PRIEST IN MEXICO FOUND**- The body of Father Joaquín Hernández Sifuentes, a priest in northern Mexico who had been missing since Jan. 3, was found on Thursday, his diocese announced. Corrections to Morning Prayer Fr. Hernandez' body was found in Parras de la Fuente, a town 90 miles west of Saltillo, and a homicide investigation has been opened. Two persons have reportedly been detained in connection with the murder. Fr. Hernández was ordained a priest in 2004 at the age of 30. He had served in Castaños and Monclova before being transferred to Saltillo in 2013. Drug trafficking has led to increased murder and kidnapping in Mexico, with priests not unaffected. In the last four years, 16 priests in the country have been murdered. In September 2016, the bodies of three kidnapped priests were found, in the states of Michoacan and Veracruz.
- **EXORCIST AUTHOR EXCISED**-Author William Peter Blatty, 89, died Thursday in Bethesda, Maryland. Blatty, a Catholic, is most famous for his 1971 novel "The Exorcist" and its 1973 film adaptation, for which he wrote the Academy Award-winning screenplay. Blatty's tale of two Jesuits doing battle with the devil in the form of a possessed adolescent girl was rooted in part in his own Jesuit education -- he attended Brooklyn Preparatory High School and Georgetown University. Late in life, Blatty called for Georgetown to be stripped of its Catholic and Jesuit designations, a request the Vatican denied.
- **DAYS OF PRAYER AND HEALING** offer the opportunity to experience the love and mercy of God and to heal the wound of abortion. Do you know someone who is carrying the grief of a past abortion? There is help and hope available and the pain and sorrow of abortion need not endure for a lifetime. A *Spanish Day of Prayer and Healing* will be held on **Sat, Feb 4**. For location and confidential registration call the Sisters of Life at **(866)-575-0075**.
- **FREE ONLINE FAITH FORMATION COURSES** for those in parish ministry and those who simply wish to learn more about their faith. Sign up at: [www.nycatholicfaith.org/learn](http://www.nycatholicfaith.org/learn)
- **ENCOURAGE** is a Catholic Apostolate for those who have family members with same sex attraction. A new website has been created to help the faithful who are searching for information about Encourage, the Church's teachings on same sex attraction, and spiritual support: [www.encourageny.com](http://www.encourageny.com)
- **EMERGENCY SNOW LABORERS**-Sign up to be an emergency snow laborer and help remove snow and ice from bus stops, step streets, and other locations throughout the

### ***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, Brenda Jackson, James Leunge, Carol Primak, Joan Ricci, Lucy Cannavacciuolo, Aaron Sylvester, Sean Gaffney, Bertha Mero, Peter Vaccaro, Gino Vaccaro, Veronica Gonzalez, Ronald Horne, Doris Waldropt, Milagro Vasquez, Juana Carmen Rodriguez, Ynes Tavarez, Theresa Delevan, Humberto Prieto, Jenny Mauro, Jimmy Mauro, Mariana Rivera, Anniisa Ramratansingh, Catherine Gregson, Noemi Cross, Arley Johnson, Josefina Gonzalez, Rosa Amelia Escribano Santiago, Fr. Andrew Buechele, Sch.P.

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

Emilio Rivera, Jr., Luz Maria Vega, Maria Soto, Anthony Vacco, Elizabeth Romero, Neil Duggan, Juan Tirado, Julio Ortiz Borea

city this winter. Snow laborers will be paid \$15.00 per hour and, \$22.50 per hour after 40 hours are worked in a week. Must be at least 18 and eligible to work in the USA. Sign up at Bronx Yard, Mosholu Ave. & Broadway from **7AM-3PM**.

- **MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY**, a free eight-week course exploring what are the sacramental, spiritual, psychological, and societal aspects of marriage and family life, takes place on **Mondays from 7:30-9PM** in the Conference Room, 1573 Zerega Ave. It is not a pre-cana course. For more info, call **718-828-2380**.
- **CATHOLIC VOLUNTEER NETWORK**-Check out *RESPONSE 2017*, which is a free guide listing nearly 200 faith-based volunteer programs. Volunteers serve full-time for periods of one week to one year or more. To receive a free copy of *RESPONSE 2017*, call **800-543-5046** or e-mail [info@catholicvolunteernetwork.org](mailto:info@catholicvolunteernetwork.org). Website: [www.catholicvolunteernetwork.org](http://www.catholicvolunteernetwork.org) for more info.

## **ANUNCIOS EN ESPANOL**

- **FLEA MARKET, ENERO 29:** Les informamos que el Flea Market que se debió posponer en diciembre será realizado desde las **10 am hasta las 4 pm**. No hay necesidad de traer donaciones para este evento pues debido a su generosidad tenemos bastante mercancía para vender. Gracias por su deseo de contribuir en diferentes formas al bien de nuestra comunidad.
- **PROXIMA SESION DE PREPARACION AL BAUTISMO: Enero 26 a las 7 pm** en la Iglesia. Se debe traer una copia y el original del certificado de nacimiento del niño/a que será bautizado. **Los padrinos deben traer:** 1- una carta del pastor de la Iglesia donde pertenecen y 2- si están casados deben traer el certificado de matrimonio de la Iglesia Católica.
- **MIERCOLES DE LA MISERICORDIA:** Durante el último año hemos celebrado los miércoles el “*Año de la Misericordia*”, gracias al regalo del Papa Francisco que nos ha invitado a conocer y reflexionar más acerca del misterio maravilloso de la misericordia de Dios. De ahora en adelante la meta no es solamente reflexionar acerca de la Misericordia de Dios, sino “*ser misericordia de Dios*”. Ven los miércoles a adorar al Santísimo y a vivir con alegría el misericordioso regalo de la Eucaristía. **Invita a tus amigos y familiares a esta fiesta de amor!!!**
- **GRUPO DE ORACIÓN:** Todos los lunes de 7 pm a 9 pm. Ven a alabar y adorar al Señor.

- **LEGION DE MARIA:** Todos los viernes a las 7 pm, ven a rezar el Rosario y a planear servicio a la comunidad.
- **SISTEMA DE SOBRES:** Les recomiendo registrarse en la parroquia, es una práctica sana mediante la cual la persona da sus aportes en los sobres que recibe. La Iglesia dará referencias y constancias y de membresía a la persona que esté registrada. Desde este año los sobres se enviarán mensualmente a sus casas.

## **BUEN DIA, HERMANOS:**

Buen día querido hermanos y hermanas. Al comienzo de este tiempo ordinario tenemos la oportunidad de leer una obra maravillosa, con un profundo significado teológico, se trata de la Carta de San Pablo a los Hebreos. Esta carta la leemos durante cuatro semanas, lo cual significa que la liturgia de la Iglesia le da una importancia especial. Ella va dirigida a cristianos que provienen del judaísmo, muchos de ellos sacerdotes que dieron un paso radical al dejar su fe, su culto, sus raíces, etc, para abrazar la nueva fe que los acoge. Se nota que al momento de escribir la carta muchos de ellos están débiles en su fe o ella es muy superficial.

Aunque esta introducción nos parezca muy lejana por referirse a la experiencia judía de la época, en realidad también toca con fuerza nuestra propia experiencia pues, debido a la indiferencia de nuestra sociedad con respecto a los asuntos de la fe, las presiones permanentes de un sistema de consumo que nos hace ver la felicidad en todo lo que la propaganda nos invita a comprar y nuestra propia superficialidad en las relaciones con Dios, puede suceder que también corramos el riesgo de pasar momentos de gran debilidad en nuestra relación con Jesús.

En esta carta Pablo muestra paso a paso por qué Cristo es digno de adoración y de confianza, por qué es superior a Moisés o a los demás profetas del Antiguo Testamento e inclusive más que los mismos ángeles. En esta carta Pablo nos enseña por qué Jesús hace inútiles los sacrificios sacerdotales de antes y, en cambio, se convierte Él mismo en sacerdote y víctima por la salvación de todos nosotros.

Pablo exhorta a los judíos desanimados de la época a que se den cuenta que todo lo sucedido en la antigua alianza fue una “*sombra y una promesa*” de Cristo Jesús. En otras palabras, todo lo sucedido antes de la llegada de Cristo fue simplemente el proceso necesario que debía cumplirse para que un día el Hijo de Dios fuera revelado en plenitud. Por eso Pablo le dice a sus hermanos judíos y a nosotros, que vale la pena mantenerse fieles en nuestra fe a pesar del cansancio o de las persecuciones.

Por eso, desde el inicio de la carta Pablo nos dice que al comienzo Dios nos habló por medio de los profetas, pero que en la plenitud de los tiempos, que es en la cual estamos, nos hablaría enviándonos a su propio hijo, Cristo. Esto nos indica, queridos hermanos, algo muy importante, no tenemos un dios mudo, tenemos un Dios cercano, que siempre está saliendo de sí mismo para hablarnos y enseñarnos la Palabra que se hace vida en nosotros en la medida que la acogemos en nuestros corazones.

La verdad, es una suerte vivir en la época en la que vivimos porque tenemos la oportunidad de conocer a Cristo, creer en Él y sentir su presencia en la Iglesia. Es que **sólo** por medio de Él Dios nos ofrece continuamente su vida. Tenemos, por ejemplo, la fortuna de poder ‘tocar’ y recibir en nosotros mismos la presencia divina de Jesús en la Sagrada Eucaristía.

Todo lo anterior lo sabemos por el proceso de fe que realizamos y en el que el mismo Jesús nos va mostrando el camino. La pregunta es: Cuál es la respuesta que le estamos dando? Nosotros nos llamamos *crístianos*, o sea, afirmamos creer en Jesús, de verdad creemos en Él como la Palabra definitiva de Dios? Y si la respuesta es positiva, intentamos vivir esa Palabra como Dios nos invita a vivirla? Nos esforzamos por escucharlo? Buscamos *intencionalmente* ser sus discípulos cada día de la vida? Deseamos conocer cuál es su mentalidad y sus criterios de vida para aprender a aplicarlos a nuestra propia vida?

Otro tema que Pablo elabora en la carta es el de Jesús, quien siendo *siempre* el Hijo de Dios, quizo experimentar en su totalidad nuestra experiencia humana. Pablo se atreve a asegurar inclusive que "Dios juzgó conveniente perfeccionarle y consagrarle con sufrimientos." Esta frase debe ser bien comprendida porque nuestra fe nunca contempla la idea de un Dios que se haya deleitado viendo ni dando sufrimiento a su propio hijo. Lo que siempre la fe de la Iglesia ha sostenido es el deseo infinito de Dios por conducirnos a todos a su gloria, tanto que el Hijo, quien aceptó voluntariamente venir a rescatarnos, no se avergonzó de llamarnos *hermanos*.

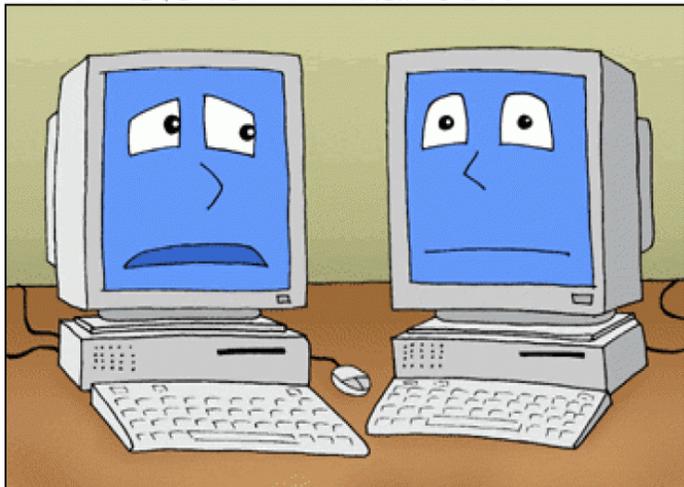
Esto nos debe llevar a a admirar. Por un lado, la superioridad de Cristo Jesús sobre todo el cosmos, incluidos los ángeles, porque es Hijo y está en íntima comunión con el Padre. Por otro lado, nos debe admirar sobre todo su total *solidaridad* con la raza humana, con cada uno de nosotros. Dios mismo no se avergüenza de llamarnos hermanos. Esto debería llenar de vergüenza a aquellos que discriminan por cualquier causa.

Jesús compartió "en todo" nuestra condición humana, menos en el pecado. Él nos ama y nos anuncia la salvación. Él sufrió por nosotros, pagó con su sangre por nuestra salvación. Jesús se ha acercado a nosotros haciéndose uno de nosotros para llevarnos, junto con Él, a la comunión de vida con el Padre.

Antes de comulgar en la Eucaristía decimos siempre la oración que Él mismo nos enseñó, en la que nos sentimos hijos del mismo Dios y por tanto hermanos los unos de otros. Pero somos hermanos, ante todo, de Cristo Jesús. Esa es la razón por la que nos podemos sentir y somos en verdad Hijos de Dios y hermanos de los demás. Bendiciones.

*P. Nelson*

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Thanks to Kerry Hodgkinson

11-29-2005

OH MY NO ... HUMANS DIDN'T INVENT US AT ALL ... WE EVOLVED FROM PLASTIC, WIRES, AND LITTLE MICRO THINGERS

# Mass Intentions

## SUNDAY, January 22, 2017-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30 Our Parishioners
- 9:00 Catherine Carolan
- 10:30 Lydia Camacho and Pedro Camacho  
Elvis Lee Rosado
- 12:00 Concepcion Rivas Bernabe
- 1:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 5:00 Luz Maria Vega

## MONDAY, January 23, 2017-Feast of St. Vincent

- 6:50 Miranda & Arroyo Families in Thanksgiving  
& Special Intentions-Feast of San Ildefonso
- 8:30 Divine Justice for the Attack on Girls and  
Women by ISIS in Iraq
- 12:15 Maria de Lourdes

## TUESDAY, January 24, 2017-Feast of St. Francis de Sales

- 6:50 In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 8:30 Liz Romero
- 12:15 José Fagundo

## WEDNESDAY, Jan. 25, 2017-Feast of St. Paul's Conversion

- 6:50 Ellen Conroy
- 8:30 Protection of the Faithful Against the Most  
Unjust Trials at the End of Time
- 12:15 José Sanabria
- 7:30 Nurys Medina

## THURSDAY, January 26, 2017-Feast of St. Timothy & St. Titus

- 6:50 In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 8:30 Tricia Briska Intentions
- 12:15 Souls in Purgatory

## FRIDAY, January 27, 2017-Feast of St. Angela Merici

- 6:50 Carmelo Greco and All Souls
- 8:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 12:15 Mary Ann McGowan

## SATURDAY, January 28, 2017-Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas

- 6:50 Luz Maria Vega
- 8:30 For the Future Security, Emotional and  
Spiritual Well-Being of Baby Alessandra Mia Savino
- 12:15 Liz Kelly (Healing Intentions) and  
The Maloney Family
- 5:30 For Our Newly Elected Government Officials  
For the Health of Fr. Andrew Buechele,Sch.P.

## SUNDAY, January 29, 2017-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30 Umberto Degli Esposti
- 9:00 Victor Cruz
- 10:30 Elvis Lee Rosado
- 12:00 Juan Checo  
Luis Quinones  
Avelino Huertas  
Jonathan Huertas  
William Gonzalez  
Aurea De Jesus
- 1:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 5:00 Errol McCord  
Our Parishioners

## Readings for the Week of January 22, 2017

**Sunday:** Is 8:23--9:3/Ps 27/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

**Monday:** Heb 9:15, 24-28/Ps 98/Mk 3:22-30

**Tuesday:** Heb 10:1-10/Ps 40/Mk 3:31-35

**Wednesday:** Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117/Mk 16:15-18

**Thursday:** 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96/Mk 4:21-25

**Friday:** Heb 10:32-39/Ps 37/Mk 4:26-34

**Saturday:** Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Lk 1/Mk 4:35-41

**Next Sunday:** Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a