

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

February-March 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

Email: sthelenarc@yahoo.com

Alumni: sthelenasalumni@yahoo.com



saint Helena parish



Bronx, NY

Mass Schedule (Horario de Misas)

Saturday: 5:30 PM

Holy Days: 6:50AM, 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

Sunday: *AM* *PM*

7:30 12:00 (Spanish)

9:00 1:30

10:30 (Family) 5:00

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

*With joy and in thanksgiving
for the gift of religious vocation*

**The Order of the Pious Schools
Province of the USA and Puerto Rico**

joyfully invites you to attend
The Solemn Profession of

Br. Vinod Angadathu George Sch. P.

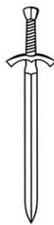
during the Eucharistic Celebration
at **10:00 a.m. on Monday, 20 February 2017**

Very Rev. Pedro Aguado, Sch.P.
Piarist Superior General, Presiding
St. Helena Church

(lunch will be served after the ceremony)

One Meaning of the Sword in the Presentation

We recently celebrated the Feast of the Presentation of Mary, and many people always inquire as to the meaning of the "sword" that will pierce Mary's soul. So, let us exam this passage. When Mary and Joseph bring the infant Jesus to the temple, Simeon tells Mary, "34 Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted 35 (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." (Luke 2:34-35)



These words warn Mary that she will suffer along with her son as he fulfills God's work. Pope John Paul II, in his encyclical letter *Redemptoris Mater*, explains it this way: "While this announcement, on the one hand, confirms [Mary's] faith in the accomplishment of the divine promises of salvation, on the other hand it also reveals to her that she will have to live her obedience of faith in suffering, at the side of the suffering Savior, and that her motherhood will be mysterious and sorrowful."

The Greek word that is used in this passage is ῥομφαία {rhomphaia} and it means a large sword or javelin; properly, a long Thracian javelin or a kind of long sword usually worn on the right shoulder. Interestingly, in the Book of Revelation, that same word is used to describe the archangel Michael as keeper of Paradise (ἡ φλογινή ῥομφαία.)

We all know that swords are violent weapons that are formed not to hunt animals, but to kill men. In the Jewish mind, the sword is a physical weapon but it is very frequently used as a metaphor for the tongue. The tongue sends out lethal words that strike men down. Even Christ in Revelation is depicted with a sword coming from his mouth to slay His enemies. It is also the real meaning behind the phrase "the pen is mightier than the sword."

With this new meaning of the term "sword," we can now say that Mary's soul is slain in two ways. First, if "sword" is used as a metaphor for the tongue, the evil words which were spoken against Christ during His ministry and up to His death rip open the soul of Mary who perfectly knows that He is the innocent and immaculate Lamb of God who only loves mankind and seeks to save it. Every

hostile word toward Christ thrusts a sword through her soul. Second, if "sword" is used as piercing Christ her Son, we can say that ultimately, when her eyes see Christ's pure flesh pierced with nails and His dead chest pierced with the lance, her own soul is pierced with love for Christ and for those whom He died for: every single human person.

Simeon says that this piercing of Mary is a "sign of contradiction," which probably refers to Isaiah 7:14 where a sign is given that "a virgin shall bear a son." This is a sign of "contradiction" because virgins are not mothers.

Now, what about those "many hearts" whose thoughts will be revealed? The manifest love of the Son for his Virgin Mother is at the cross when He proclaims, "Behold your mother." Her love is also most manifest at the cross. And so too for every human person, our love should be most manifest at the foot of the cross where a sword will pierce through our own soul as well and thus the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

Notice how the piercing of Mary's soul reveals the thoughts of the many hearts. Perhaps, the way a person speaks of the Blessed Virgin as a quiet mother and co-sufferer with Christ reveals their heart. In general, someone who has a very gentle and respectful appreciation for Mary's suffering will be a very holy person: "that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." And likewise, someone who denigrates Mary and says, "Yeah, but she ain't special or anything," is often a bitter and lost person: "that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

So, today, let us place our mind's eye on Jesus pierced on the cross and ask for the gift to feel part of what His Mother felt as she looked upon Him making the perfect sacrifice for the entire human race.

By Fr. David

St. Valentine(s) - Feast February 14

February 14th was the feast date of at least three different martyrs named St. Valentine, and, in the Middle Ages, over fifty St. Valentines were celebrated over the course of the year. One of these, a Roman priest, has inspired several legends, all of which arose long after his death.

One legend claims that St. Valentine was a martyred priest during the reign of the Roman emperor Claudius II. The story says that the emperor outlawed marriage so that soldiers could not be tied down by families. St. Valentine refused to honor this decree and continued to marry couples until he was imprisoned and put to death. Another legend suggests that St. Valentine met and fell in love with a girl while he was imprisoned. At his death, he wrote a love letter to the girl, which said "From your Valentine."



Famous British authors such as Chaucer and Shakespeare may have been at least partially responsible for the holiday's evolution into something sweet and romantic in spite of its dark Saturnalian origins. In 1381, Geoffrey Chaucer made the first recorded connection between St. Valentine's Day and love in his poem "The Parliament of Fowls," identifying the day as the time when "every foul cometh there to choose his mate." Valentine's Day was regularly celebrated in the Middle Ages, with the first actual Valentine appearing in 1415 in the form of a poem by the Duke of Orleans to his wife. French and English writers of the 14th and 15th centuries also allude to the day as one reserved for lovers.

The exact origins of Valentine's Day are difficult to determine, but there are indications that the holiday may have roots in both Roman and Norman tradition dating back to ancient Roman

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

history and about 300 C.E. Between February 13 and 15 in ancient Rome, a holiday known as Lupercalia was celebrated. This was a rather brutal and violent festival during which men would slaughter animals, consume them and then use the animals' hides to whip women as part of a fertility ritual. The festival also included a matchmaking process in which men and women would be paired up based on a random lottery.

The Norman holiday known as Galatin's Day was celebrated around the same time in the calendar year, and this holiday's similarity to the word 'Valentine' may also provide clues as to the modern holiday's origins. Additionally, the word 'Galatin' means 'lover of women,' which points to the more romantic side of the modern Valentine's Day.

Manufactured Valentine's Day cards first appeared in England in the 1800s, and by 1835, over 60,000 Valentine's Day cards were being sent in England alone. However, the modern Valentine's Day is likely the responsibility of Hallmark, which started mass-producing cards for the holiday in 1913.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND, FEB. 12, will help defray the cost of repairing the boilers for both the green building and the church and school, which to date has cost \$56,000. Your generosity is most appreciated.

SECOND COLLECTION FEBRUARY 26, will help defray the escalating cost of our Elementary School. Remember we are a parish-based school, and your support is urgently needed to help us maintain the high quality of education Pope Francis addresses in his message on the importance of Catholic Education.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SOW HOPE-Speaking on February 9 to the members of the Congregation for Catholic Education, Pope Francis said that Catholic schools "have the mission of offering horizons open to transcendence." The Pope said that Catholic schools are "a most valuable resource for the evangelization of culture, even in those countries and cities where hostile situations challenge us to greater creativity." He spoke about the need to combat "an intrusive individualism, which makes us humanly poor and culturally barren." Catholic schools should also promote a "culture of dialogue," the Pontiff continued. In opposition to extremism, he said, Catholic educational institutions should promote mutual respect and appreciation for cultural diversity. Dialogue, in Catholic universities, should be recognized as "a method of intellectual dialogue aimed at the search for truth." Finally, the Holy Father said, Catholic education should be a means of "sowing hope."

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION-Thank you for your generous support in last week's Peter's Pence Collection. As a parish, we collected \$1,420.24. Our contributions will be combined with those from our brothers and sisters around the world to help Pope Francis provide essential relief to people in need. If you missed the collection, it is not too late to give, visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections, and click on the "How to Give" link on the left. There are still some envelopes in church.

ENCYCLICAL ON THE CARE OF CREATION-In Pope Francis's encyclical on caring for all creation, he highlights overconsumption and excessive economic development as the primary causes of the destruction of our common home. With him, let us pray to "discover the worth in each thing" and to embody that discovery by buying less and recycling our possessions when we no longer need them.

SAVE THE DATE-Parish Carnival, June 22-25. Big ticket items for the raffle are needed. To donate, please call the rectory

Do You Have Your Envelopes? This year, instead of giving out boxes with envelopes for the entire year, we are mailing envelopes out every six weeks. If you want envelopes and have not yet received them, just fill in the violet Welcome 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.churchofsthehena.com or use the weekly offertory envelopes.

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.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **OUR FIRST 50/50 DRAWING WINNER-** was #159. Congratulations, you won **\$235**. Thank you to everyone who participated in our first monthly drawing. Many parishioners have suggested that we revise our traditional 50/50 drawings to allow for a larger cash prize, which is why we no longer have two weekly drawings, but rather one monthly drawing, and the cost to participate in it is only \$5/month, which is actually \$3 less than if you contributed \$2/week for four weeks. We hope that you enjoy this new drawing. As we have done previously, pink 50/50 envelopes are available both in your mailed offertory envelopes as well as at the entrances to the church. The February drawing will take place on **February 27**. Good luck.
- **SPANISH FAMILY SESSION** will take place on **Sunday, February 12 at 1:30PM** in the cafeteria.
- **ENGLISH FAMILY SESSION** will take place on **Sunday, February 19 at 11:30AM** in the cafeteria.
- **BIBLE STUDY-**We have begun our 24-week second semester Bible Study in English of the Gospel of Matthew. Classes meet in the green building every **Tuesday** at both **1PM** and **7:30PM**. All are welcome. This Tuesday, **February 14**, we will study Chapter 5.
- **NEXT BAPTISM PREP CLASS** will be held on **Feb. 23 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.
- **HEALTH FAIR-**St. Helena will be hosting a Health Fair today, **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. Both Blue Cross & Blue Shield and Montefiore Hospital have said that they will also be present. Also, Caring Kind (formerly Alzheimer's Association) will be handing out materials for your info.

FEBRUARY 12, 2017

- **ENGLISH PRAYER GROUP INTRODUCTORY AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING** will take place on **Wednesday, February 22 at 7:30PM** in the meeting room of the green building. Anyone interested in participating in an English language prayer group is invited to attend. You will learn how the prayer group will be structured and organized, and there will be a discussion concerning the best day, time, and place to meet. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- **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.
- **CARDINAL'S APPEAL 2017** has begun. Envelopes are available both at the doors and in the pews. Please complete and either put it in the collection basket or mail it to the diocese.
- **DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT LETTERS** are available in the rectory for any parishioner who may need them for income tax purposes.
- **THE OLIVEWOOD CARVING EVENT**-This indigenous form of art has become an industry of great importance to the local people of the Holy Land who rely on it for livelihood, and to Christian pilgrims from all around the world whose holy pilgrimage can be memorialized for a lifetime in cherished olive wood or mother of pearl souvenirs. The olive wood carving market is the major source of income in the Bethlehem area. More than 80 percent of the income of the community in Bethlehem comes from this work. They will be here **March 18-19**.
- **BREAST CANCER MOBILE CARE CLINIC** will be at St. Helena on **Sunday, March 26** to provide **NO COST** digital mammograms and clinical breast exams. The unit is funded by a grant from the American Italian Cancer Foundation. To be eligible, you must be a woman aged 40 and older, currently living anywhere in New York City and who has NOT had a mammogram in the past 12 months. If you have one, bring your insurance card. No co-pays are required and deductibles are waived. Uninsured patients are welcome. Early detection of breast cancer saves lives. You must register for a time slot by **Friday, March 3** either by calling the rectory at **718-892-3233** or **877-628-9090**.
- **REVIVE** is a three-night Parish Mission that brings people together to reflect and listen to various voices on their journey of faith and ultimately become ready to put their faith into action. The Mission will take place in Spanish here at St. Helena Parish and in English at Santa Maria Church. Both begin on **Monday, March 27 at 7PM** and continue for the next two days at the same time. For more information, call **718-863-3282**.
- **PARISH BOOKSTORE** is open every **Sunday** from **8:30AM to 1PM**.
- **SHORT TERM COUNSELING AVAILABLE**-Let's face it. Life can be so confusing, 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.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Sunday, February 5, 2017

\$5,404.02

Peter's Pence Collection

\$1,420.24

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 weekly budget. 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.

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.

- **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.
- **FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME MAINTENANCE OR HANDYMAN JOB** position needed. E-mail: 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**.
- **CHILDREN'S MOVIES NOW ON FORMED**-11 Award-Winning Children's Movies, available in both English and Spanish, are Now on FORMED. *Saints and Heroes movies use comedy, song, captivating illustrations, and heartwarming emotion to tell the tales of some of the great saints and epic heroes of the faith.* 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 and click the REGISTER link in the middle of the page; enter the parish code **2KQQYD** 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

Varsity Horsemen Take Two

Francisco Mattei and Chris Colter both put over thirty points each on the boards this week to aid the Horsemen in their 45-40 win over Ignatius Loyola and their 54-32 victory over Immaculate Conception.

Mattei scored a game-high 20 points, including two threes, in all four quarters against Loyola and 11 points, including a three,

against Immaculate Conception. Colter put in a game-high 20 points (all twos) against Immaculate Conception and 15 points, scored in all four quarters, against Loyola.

Omari Ward scored 15 points against Immaculate Conception and 8 against Loyola. Kameron Carrisquilla had a two in the first against Loyola, and Hope Martinez sank a two in the third against Immaculate Conception. Justin Hernandez rounded out the scoring with 6 against Immaculate Conception. Michael Rice had a team-high 14 points for Loyola, followed by 13 points for Tommy Kelly.

The Horsemen scored 17 points in the final quarter against Loyola, which was one more than their previous two quarters combined, while they scored in double digits in every quarter against Immaculate Conception. They were 13 for 21 from the line against Loyola, which was 7 for 9; and they shot 5 for 9 from the line against Immaculate Conception, which was 0 for 6.

JV HORSEMEN WIN THREE STRAIGHT

The JV Horsemen have come a long way since the beginning of the season, when they struggled to win a single game, taking down this week Ignatius Loyola, 45-40, and Immaculate Conception twice, first by 39-31 and then again 54-32.

They won first against Immaculate Conception by holding them to a single point in the fourth quarter, while putting up 11 points themselves. William Manning had a game-high 14 points, followed by both Peter Lugo and Jahli Ward with 7 points, Antonio Martinez with 6 points, including a three, and Eric Cardero with five points. The Horsemen were 6 for 16 from the line, and Immaculate Conception was 2 for 10.

In their second game against Immaculate Conception, they allowed IC to score only a single point from the line as well as two points the entire first half. No one scored in all four quarters. Jose Velez was the only Horsemen in double digits, with 10. Manning had six points and Lugo five points, followed by a two in the second for Kevin Vasquez, and another for Antonio Martinez, as well as a two in the third for Eric Cardero. The Horsemen were 7 for 12 and Immaculate Conception was 1 for 9 from the line.

For the second time in a row, the JV team held the opponent scoreless in the second quarter, while the Horsemen put up 13 points, which, combined with five Horsemen free throws in the final quarter, was enough to seal the deal. Manning had a team-high 12 points for the Horsemen and Alejandro Perez had a game-high 15 for Loyola. Also for the Horsemen, Martinez scored 9 points and Cardero 7 points, followed by Ward with 4 in the third

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, Carole 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, Jenny Mauro, Jimmy Mauro, Mariana Rivera, Annissa Ramratansingh, Catherine Gregson, Noemi Cross, Arley Johnson, Josefina Gonzalez, Rosa Amelia Escribano Santiago, Fr. Andrew Buechele, Joseph Lopez, John Ford

Please Pray for the Deceased and their Grieving Families:

Julio Ortiz Borea, Gloria Mangual, Brother Patrick Lally, F.M.S.

and Lugo with three in the first. The two teams were even from the free throw line, with the Horsemen 7 for 16 and Loyola 6 for 13. Congratulations to the JV Horsemen.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **A NEW JAPANESE MARTYR**-Dom Justo Takayama Udon (1552-1615), a samurai who converted to Catholicism at the age of 12, was beatified as a martyr in Osaka, Japan, on **February 7**. As a result of Takayama's lay evangelizing activity, Osaka at one point was over 80% Catholic. Exiled from Japan at the end of his life, Takayama died shortly after arriving in the Philippines. "Rather than make compromises, he renounced honors and comfort, accepting humiliation and exile," Pope Francis said. "He remained faithful to Christ and to the Gospel; therefore he represents an admirable example of strength in faith and devotion in charity."
- **50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**-Couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary anytime during 2017 are invited to attend the Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass with Cardinal Dolan at the Cathedral of St. Patrick, **Sunday, June 11th at 2:00 pm**. Pre-registration is required. Please contact the rectory for registration. **The closing date to register for the Mass is Friday, May 12th, 2017**. This event is sponsored by the Family Life + Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New York.
- **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**.
- **FIRST PARKCHESTER BUSINESS NETWORKING EVENT** will be held on **Tuesday, February 21** from **6:30-8:30PM** at 20 Metropolitan Oval. Mingle with other local businesses and learn who's who in Parkchester. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres. RSVP by **Feb. 14** by calling **718-320-6038**.
- **BIG EAST CONFERENCE**-Discount tickets for the games at Madison Square Garden on March 8 and 9 are available. If you are interested, call the rectory. (718) 892-3232. the number one seed will play March 9 in the morning
- **CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND-March 21-31, 2017**, \$3,599.00 per person including air from JFK, breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. Holy Mass daily at the Holy Sites. For more information, please call Cathie or Mike Milano at **1-800-773-2660**.
- **MSGR. SCANLAN HIGH SCHOOL** is presenting the play "Much Ado About Nothing", **Sunday, March 26 @ 2PM**. For tickets, call **(718) 430-0100 X46 or X58**. Adults-\$20, Seniors-\$15 & Students-\$10. Refreshments and raffles will be sold. All are welcome!
- **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
- **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
- **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 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, is continuing through February on **Mon. from 7:30-9PM** in the Santa Maria Conference Room, 1573 Zerega Ave. Please note that 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. Website: www.catholicvolunteernetwork.org for more info.

ANUNCIOS EN ESPANOL

- **SERVICIOS A INMIGRANTES Y REFUGIADOS:** La arquidiócesis de NY ha establecido un sistema de ayuda para casos legales en situaciones relacionadas con temas inmigratorios. El grupo que maneja este tipo de servicios estará recibiendo llamadas que describan situaciones irregulares que atenten contra la unidad de la familia o los derechos de las personas. ¿Qué se debe hacer para recibir el consejo de un abogado o su representación, si esta es necesaria? Ustedes deben ponerse en contacto con su Iglesia y describir la situación a su sacerdote. A nosotros se nos ha dado un número telefónico (*sólo el ministro puede usarlo*) desde el cual podemos llamar y describir brevemente su caso. Un abogado o un paralegal o un administrador de casos se pondrá en contacto con la persona que hace la denuncia y deciden si le pueden ayudar dando consejo por teléfono o si le asignan un profesional que lo acompañe en el caso. **Aquí estamos para ayudarlos!**
- **CLASES DE BIBLIA:** *Evangelio de San Mateo*. Estás a tiempo para inscribirte en nuestro Curso de de Biblia. **Lugar:** Cafetería. **Hora:** 7pm-8.30 pm.
- **CLASES DE BAUTISMO:** Las próximas clases de preparación para el sacramento de Bautismo serán los jueves **23 de febrero y 9 de marzo** a las **7 pm**. en la Iglesia.
- **CENTRO DE DESARROLLO PARA NEGOCIOS PEQUEÑOS:** Talleres gratuitos para ayudarle a mejorar su negocio o a emprender uno nuevo. Consejeros profesionales, miembros de la comunidad y el profesorado de la universidad de Lehman ofrece estos servicios. Para mayor información llamar **718-960-8806**.
- **REVIVE:** Es una misión de tres días que invita a las personas a reflexionar y a vivir de mejor manera la Cuaresma y la Pascua. La misión se tendrá en Español en Santa Helena y en Inglés en Santa María. Las dos sesiones serán el **lunes 27, martes 28 y miércoles 29 a las 7 pm**.
- **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.

BUEN DIA, HERMANOS:

Hola queridos hermanos y hermanas. Después de la carta a los Hebreos, que leímos durante las últimas cuatro semanas en las misas entre semana, la Iglesia nos continúa guiando en esta preciosa catequesis que nos ayuda a conocer más del maravilloso misterio del "Plan de Salvación", mediante el cual Dios quiere que todas sus amadas criaturas lo conozcan, se conozcan a sí mismos y lleguen de esa manera a las alturas que Él nos invita, las alturas del amor y de la verdadera felicidad. El lunes pasado hemos iniciado la lectura del libro del Génesis y lo haremos por dos semanas.

Antes de hacer el comentario sobre lo sucedido en la última semana, quisiera recordarles cuál es mi intención al escribir este artículo semanal sobre las lecturas de la semana que termina. **La primera es la importancia y la primacía de las Sagradas Escrituras en la vida del creyente.** Queridos hermanos y hermanas, si nosotros creemos que verdaderamente Dios existe, que quiere que nos relacionemos con Él, que se ha "revelado" a nosotros para que tengamos ese conocimiento que nos enriquece y nos salva, lo más lógico es que queramos relacionarnos mejor con Él y una de esas maneras es a través de la comprensión de su Palabra en la Biblia. Allí es donde Él mejor expresa quien es y lo que quiere de nosotros para que alcancemos las riquezas que Él nos quiere dar.

Otra razón para escribir este artículo es que muchos de ustedes trabajan entre semana y no siempre tienen el tiempo de ir a misa o de leer las Escrituras. Aunque, repito, es una responsabilidad del creyente estar cerca a la Palabra de Dios. Pues bien, el artículo intenta explicar algunos aspectos de la doctrina de nuestra fe que les pueda ayudar a su propio crecimiento espiritual. En ese sentido tenemos una riqueza tan grande, que podemos gastar nuestra vida intentando reflexionar y comprender el significado de la Palabra de Dios y el mensaje que tiene para cada uno de nosotros, y todavía podemos siempre aprender algo nuevo.

Bueno, vamos a nuestro tema de hoy. El libro del Génesis. En estas dos semanas se va a hacer un breve recorrido sobre los primeros once capítulos del libro. En ellos se nos habla de el origen del mundo y de la humanidad hasta la historia de la Torre de Babel. Allí se interrumpe la lectura de este libro porque es el momento en el que se inicia la Cuaresma, que como sabemos es el tiempo que nos prepara para la Pascua. Se dan cuenta lo rápido que pasa el tiempo? Del próximo miércoles en dos semanas estaremos ya celebrando el **"Miércoles de Ceniza"**.

El Génesis no es un libro científico. No es su propósito contarnos con 'pelos y señales' cómo fue todo el proceso de la creación. Lo que el libro intenta es responder a los grandes interrogantes que el pueblo de Israel, con su maravillosa intuición de la existencia de "un sólo Dios" se hacía acerca del origen del mundo, de la vida, del hombre. El libro no busca decirnos cómo se hizo el mundo sino quién es su origen, su autor; el libro no nos quiere

decir “cómo se hizo al cielo sino cómo se va al cielo”, frase que se atribuye al astrónomo italiano Galileo Galilei.

Las narraciones y los diferentes estilos literarios son herramientas utilizadas por el autor para explicar realidades que de otra manera sería imposible de comunicar. Creo que la idea central se puede resumir diciendo que “Dios interviene en esta historia profundamente humana como verdadero protagonista. En muchos rasgos actúa a imagen del ser humano, pero su soberanía aparece sobre todo porque su medio ordinario de acción es la Palabra.” Dicho de otra manera, la misma Palabra que dirige la vida de los Patriarcas (Abraham, Isaac, etc.), crea el universo con su poder.

Dios aparece siempre de manera misteriosa e imprevisible y su Palabra es la que establece el contacto decisivo entre el ser humano y su Dios. Su Palabra nos llama, nos interpela y es por esa razón que tanto el hombre como la mujer son invitados de honor a *participar* como verdaderos autores de la historia de la salvación. Qué es la Palabra de Dios? Es *mandato, anuncio y promesa y el ser humano debe obedecer, crecer y esperar*. Esa es la dinámica en la cual se desarrolla la historia de salvación, una historia que es intensamente humana y soberanamente divina.

En las lecturas de esta semana hemos visto cómo hay dos historias de la creación. La primera narración que encontramos en el primer capítulo nos muestra un plan armónico de creación, de vida nueva que sale de la nada por medio de la Palabra de Dios. Vemos además que cada una de las criaturas (sol, luna, animales, etc.) es creada para servir al ser humano y no al contrario. Esto contrasta con otras religiones en donde animales eran adorados como divinidades.

Deberíamos todos ser capaces de asombrarnos por las cosas que nos ha regalado Dios y que hacen posible que el mundo sea como es. Esta lectura debe llevarnos a tomar conciencia de la relación de Dios con el ser humano y el mundo y se debe resaltar la responsabilidad que con esta bella creación se nos ha dado: debemos cuidarla. No se nos dio para apropiarnos de ella, o peor aún, para que unos cuantos se apoderen de ella. Se nos ha dado para que aprendamos a vivir en ella como verdaderos hijos de Dios. Es por eso que somos creados a ‘imagen y semejanza de Dios’. Dios los crea varón y mujer para que administren conjuntamente su obra en igualdad de responsabilidades.

Una de las grandes enseñanzas de este relato es acerca de la belleza de la creación: “Dios vio que todo era bueno”. Es que por medio de la creación Él nos comunica su ser y su vida, todo lo bendice y lo llena de su amor. Esta nueva creación será completada más tarde con su nueva y definitiva creación en Cristo, en la que nos comunicará de modo más pleno todavía la participación en su vida divina.

En la narración nos dice que Dios creó la pareja humana. “Creó al hombre a su imagen, a imagen de Dios los creó, hombre y mujer los creó.” Ahí se afirma la dignidad y la igualdad del hombre y la mujer. Dios creó los dos sexos, los creó diferentes, pero los creó de manera tal que se necesitan mutuamente para complementarse en totalidad. El amor y la atracción entre un hombre y una mujer es idea del Dios que quiere la vida y no la muerte, que quiere el amor y no el odio, la igualdad y no la esclavitud y que quiere la comprensión y no la manipulación de una persona por otra. Continuamos la reflexión la próxima semana.

P. Nelson

Happy Valentine's Day

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, February 12, 2017-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 Andrew Pugliese

9:00 Erasmo Rivera

10:30 Luz Maria Vega

12:00 Para que la gracia de Dios ilumine a las parejas que no se han casado hacia el matrimonio
Felix Perez

1:30 Maria de Lourdes Santiago Capacette
Our Parishioners

5:00 William Fortuno

MONDAY, Feb. 13, 2017-Feast of St. Catherine de Ricci

6:50 Cicily Job, Xavier Francis, Meera Job,
Staven and Jair Joseph (Intentions)

8:30 Walter Schoenthaler

12:15 In Honor and Thanksgiving for Jesus's
Agonizing Suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane

**TUESDAY, February 14, 2017-Feast of St. Valentine and
Sts. Cyril and Methodius**

6:50 Rose Filkins

8:30 Louis Fernando Javier and Arturo Javier

12:15 Deceased Members of the Cerbone Family

**WEDNESDAY, February 15, 2017-Feast of St. Claude La
Colombiere**

6:50 Karen Meller

8:30 Catherine Carolan

12:15 Louis Javier and Arturo Javier

7:30 Germania Zambrano

THURSDAY, February 16, 2017-Feast of St. Daniel

6:50 In Thanksgiving for Favors

8:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors

12:15 Thomas and Rosina Guido

**FRIDAY, February 17, 2017-Feast of The Seven Holy
Founders of the Servite Order**

6:50 Tricia Briska (Intentions)

8:30 Alberto Brinz

12:15 Josette A. Parisien (Healing Intention)

SATURDAY, February 18, 2017-Feast of Fra Angelico

6:50 Annamma

8:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors

12:15 Mary Ramos

5:30 All Souls

SUNDAY, Feb. 19, 2017-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 Elvis Lee Rosado

9:00 For the Spiritual, Physical and Emotional
Well-Being of Sandra Aritonang Savino

10:30 Katherine Callaghan
Our Parishioners

12:00 Jose Antonio Lazo, Segundo Daniel Mayancela,
Jesusa Gausco Laza and Manuel Gausco
Justina Cirino

1:30 To Avoid the Deportation of Abandoned
Children, Tearing Families Apart and
Withholding Federal Funds that Provide
Humanitarian Aid to Undocumented
Refugees

5:00 Antonio Riccoboni

Readings for the Week of February 12, 2017

Sunday: Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37; **Monday:** Gn 4:1-15, 25/Ps 50:1, 8, 16bc-17, 20-21/Mk 8:11-13; **Tuesday:** Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Ps 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9c-10/Mk 8:14-21; **Wednesday:** Gn 8:6-13, 20-22/Ps 116:12-15, 18-19/Mk 8:22-26; **Thursday:** Gn 9:1-13/Ps 102:16-21, 29, 22-23/ Mk 8:27-33; **Friday:** Gn 11:1-9/Ps 33:10-15/Mk 8:34-9:1
Saturday: Heb 11:1-7/Ps 145:2-5, 10-11/Mk 9:2-13; **Next Sunday:** Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48