

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

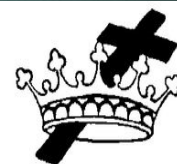
www.churchofsthelenarc.com

Email: sthelenarc@yahoo.com

Alumni: sthelenasalumni@yahoo.com



saint Helena parish



Bronx, NY

Mass Schedule (Horario de Misas)

Saturday: 5:30 PM

Holy Days: 6:50AM, 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)

What Are Perpetual Solemn Vows

On Monday, February 20, Br. Vinod Angadathu George, Sch.P. will profess perpetual, solemn vows before the Father General of the Piarist Fathers. This is the first time such a ceremony has taken place at St. Helena, and some people may be wondering just what will be taking place.

Like solemn vows, simple vows are taken publicly, i.e., received by the superior of a religious community in the name of the Church. These vows may be temporary (taken for a fixed period of time) or perpetual (taken for the rest of one's life.) Simple vows permit ownership of property, while solemn vows do not. Acts contrary to simple vows, e.g., getting married, would be illicit, but valid. A religious society of simple vows is called a congregation, while a religious society in solemn vows is an order. Religious women in simple vows are called sisters, while nuns, strictly speaking, are religious women who have taken solemn vows. Solemn vows are perpetual, and contrary acts, like getting married, are not only illicit but invalid. Religious in solemn vows cannot own property.

Secularization requires a papal indult, except from purely diocesan societies (those established by a bishop with approval from the Holy See). Likewise, a papal indult is necessary for readmission to an order or congregation, with the requirement that they begin again in the novitiate and make a new profession.

All members of the Piarist Fathers profess four solemn canonical vows: poverty, chastity, obedience, and the education of youth, especially the poor. We congratulate Br. Vinod on his upcoming solemn profession and invite you to attend.

Fr. David

The Feast of the Chair of St. Peter February 22

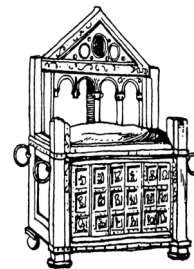
We are certain that St. Peter founded the See of Antioch before he went to Rome. Antioch was then the capital of the eastern part of the Roman Empire, and St. Gregory the Great says that Peter was the bishop of that city for seven years before founding the See of Rome. The feast of the Chair of Saint Peter at Rome has been celebrated from the early days of the Christian era on January 18th, in commemoration of the day when Saint Peter held his first service in Rome. The feast of the Chair of Saint Peter at Antioch, commemorating his foundation of the See of Antioch, has also

been long celebrated at Rome, on February 22nd. At each place, a chair (cathedra) was venerated which the Apostle had used while presiding at Mass. One of these chairs is mentioned about 600 AD by an Abbot Johannes who had been commissioned by Pope Gregory the Great to collect oil from the lamps which burned at the graves of the Roman martyrs.

Since early times, the Roman Church has had a special commemoration of the primatial authority of St. Peter. The Roman See, which is the "seat of government" of the universal Church, has always held a peculiar place in the affection and obedience of orthodox believers because of its "presiding in love" and service over all the Churches of God.

It is written in the Gospel that Jesus Christ, willing to begin the mystery of unity in His Church, among all His disciples chose twelve; but that, willing to consummate the mystery of unity in the same Church, among the twelve He chose one to be the leader. He called His disciples and among them, He chose twelve. Here is the first separation, those who were chosen to be Apostles. And these are the names of the twelve Apostles: the first, Simon, who is called Peter. [Mt. 10, 1-2] Here, in a second separation, St. Peter is set at the head, and called for that reason by the name of Peter, 'which Jesus Christ,' says St. Mark, 'had given him,' in order to prepare, as you will see, the work which He was proposing to raise all His building on that stone.

Jesus marks out Peter personally, and by the new name which He has given him. It is One who speaks to one: Jesus Christ the Son of God to Simon son of Jonas; Jesus Christ, who is the true Stone, strong of Himself, to Simon, who is only the stone by the strength which Jesus Christ imparts to him. It is to him that Christ speaks, and in speaking acts on him, and stamps upon him His own immovableness. And I, He says, say to you, you are Peter; and, He adds, upon this rock I will build my Church, and, He concludes, the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. [Mt. 16, 18] To prepare him for that honor Jesus Christ, who knows that faith in Himself is the foundation of His Church, inspires Peter with a faith worthy to be the foundation of that admirable building. You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. [Mt. 16, 16] By that bold preaching of the faith he draws to himself the inviolable promise which makes him the foundation of the Church.



It was, then, clearly the design of Jesus Christ to put first in one alone (Peter), what afterward He meant to put in several (the successors to St. Peter), but the sequence does not reverse the beginning, nor the first lose his place. That first word, "Whatsoever you shall bind," said to Peter alone, has already ranged under his power down the line to each successive pope, and that is what we celebrate in this feast.

St. Polycarp Feast February 23

Polycarp was a pupil of the apostle John, and he lived between 70 and 155 A.D., which connects him to both the biblical apostles and the age of the early church fathers. Several ancient sources document the contributions of Polycarp to Christianity, including his letters written to the church at Philippi, in which he encourages the members to remain strong in their faith and to flee from materialism. He also instructed its members in the proper handling of financial dishonesty that was creeping into the church. Polycarp served as the bishop of the church at Smyrna (modern day Izmir in Turkey), and was recognized as one of the early combatants of Christian heresies. He rejected the teachings of Marcion, an influential heretic who tried to create a "new

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

of Marcion, an influential heretic who tried to create a "new brand" of Christianity by redefining God and rejecting Old Testament teachings. In his well-known thesis, Polycarp combats Gnostic heresies that were beginning to spread throughout the Christian church.

Perhaps Polycarp's greatest contribution to Christianity may be his martyred death. His martyrdom stands as one of the most well documented events of antiquity. The emperors of Rome had unleashed bitter attacks against the Christians during this period, and members of the early church recorded many of the persecutions and deaths. Polycarp was arrested on the charge of being a Christian, which many Romans considered a politically dangerous cult whose rapid growth needed to be stopped. Amidst an angry mob, the Roman proconsul took pity on such a gentle old man and urged Polycarp to proclaim, "Caesar is Lord". If only Polycarp would make this declaration and offer a small pinch of incense to Caesar's statue he would escape torture and death. To this Polycarp responded, "Eighty-six years I have served Christ, and He never did me any wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?" Steadfast in his stand for Christ, Polycarp refused to compromise his beliefs, and was burned alive at the stake.

Polycarp, while bishop of the church of in Smyrna, at one time made a visit to Rome. Marcion and Polycarp had known each other very well back East. When Polycarp happened to come across Marcion on the street, he was going to pass without speaking. Marcion stopped him and said, "Don't you know me anymore, Polycarp?" "Yes," answered Polycarp, "I know who you are. You are the first-born of Satan." So, let us stay steadfast in our faith.

PRESIDENT'S DAY is an American holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February. Originally established in 1885 in recognition of President George Washington, it is still officially called "Washington's Birthday" by the federal government. Traditionally celebrated on February 22—Washington's actual day of birth—the holiday became popularly known as Presidents' Day after it was moved as part of 1971's Uniform Monday Holiday Act, an attempt to create more three-day weekends for the nation's workers. While several states still have individual holidays honoring the birthdays of Washington, Abraham Lincoln and other figures, Presidents' Day is now popularly viewed as a day to celebrate all U.S. presidents past and present.

NO SCHOOL AT ST. HELENA—Monday and Tuesday, February 20 & 21 President's Day

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 below on the importance of Catholic Education.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SOW HOPE—Speaking on February 9th 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."

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 late March. 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.churchofstheleena.com or use the new weekly offertory envelopes.

STORM DAMAGE REPAIRS—During the past week, gale-force winds caused several limbs on our Trees of Heaven to crack and break. Upon examining the trees, we noticed we have several other branches that are in need of pruning and removal, which should be done for safety reasons. We will be contracting with a professional company to do this. We also have several deep potholes in the parking lot, so you have probably noticed that this week we had a contractor come in to patch the potholes in order to make the parking area a safer as well as a nicer place.

SAVE THE DATE—Parish Carnival, June 22-25. Big ticket items for the raffle are urgently needed. To donate, please call the rectory. Remember, such donations are tax deductible.

ASH WEDNESDAY is on March 1. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses, 6:50AM, 8:30AM, 12:15PM and 7:00PM as well as at 3:45PM all in the Church.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **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 **Feb. 27**. Good luck.
- **ENGLISH FAMILY SESSION** will take place on **Sunday, February 19 at 11:30AM** in the cafeteria.
- **NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS THIS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22**
- **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 21**, we will study Chapter 6, part 2 of the Sermon on the Mount.
- **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.

FEBRUARY 19, 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.
- **FREE GOSPEL CONCERT**-The Gospel group *Akladanatoto*, from Benin, invites you to a free Gospel Concert honoring the release of his first album *Listen to the Voice* on **Saturday, February 25** from **7-11PM** in the St. Helena gymnasium. For more info call **347-849-2661**.
- **YOUTH GROUP MEETING**-St. Helena's is currently forming a new Youth Group. There will be an introductory meeting for all youth ages 12-18 and their parents in the gymnasium on **Sunday, February 26** from **2-4PM**. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- **EARL WOODS SCHOLAR PROGRAM** open to graduating high school seniors with academic excellence, community service, and financial need. Applications must be postmarked by **March 15**. Call the rectory for an application.
- **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**.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Sunday, February 12, 2017

\$4,006.23

Utility Fund

\$1,953.08

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 grounds and air conditioning coming up, and this week the freezing rain caused us to fall shy of 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 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.

- **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** documenting your yearly parish contributions are available in the rectory for any parishioner who may need them for income tax purposes.
- **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. 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 wanted. 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.
- **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**.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA**, the network of diocesan charitable agencies, has launched a four-month, \$8-million fundraising campaign to assist "immigrants and refugees of all faiths who are already living in communities across our country."
- **CATHOLIC COUPLE CHECKUP GIVEAWAY**-The Archdiocese of New York's Family Life+Respect Life Office is excited to announce that as part of World Marriage Week, they are offering 100 free codes for married couples to take the Catholic Couple checkup! Visit nyfamilylife.org during the month of **February** to get your free code. The free codes are first come, first serve.
- **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**.
- **SERRA CLUB LUNCHEON-Wednesday, Feb. 22** at Eastwood Manor, 3371 Eastchester Rd. Fr. James Annor-Ohene from St. Ann's in Yonkers is the guest speaker. His topic will be Promoting Vocations in the Global Village. The luncheon is \$25. Call **718-671-8915** for more information.
- **12th ANNUAL DIVINE MERCY CONFERENCE** at Cardinal Spellman High School, Bronx, on **April 8** from **9-5:30PM**. Topic: The Message of Fatima and Divine Mercy - Refuge for Sinners. For more info and to register call **1-800-462-7426**.
- **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**.
- **PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA**-Fr. John Palatucci, a former Parochial Vicar here at St. Helena, is leading a pilgrimage to Fatima **June 26-July 6** for the 100th Anniversary of the Marian apparitions. The trip will include a journey through

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, Dick Williams

Please Pray for the Deceased and their Grieving Families:

Brother Patrick Lally, F.M.S., Carole Ann Currier

Spain to visit Santiago de Compostela and Avila. For more info, call the rectory or Fr. John at **(845) 735-7405** or e-mail: johnfrancisx10@gmail.com.

- **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!
- **COMMUNITY BOARD NINE MEETING** for seniors and disabled on **Wednesday, March 29, 10-11AM** at 1967 Turnbull Ave, Second Floor, Suite #7.
- **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.
- **STUDENT SPONSOR PARTNERS** provides partial tuition support to eligible students in 24 non-public high schools, including Msgr. Scanlan H.S. and St. Raymond's, throughout New York City. Each student is also paired with a mentor for all four years of high school. There are a limited number of students admitted to the program each year. You can download the application by going to: www.mytads.com/fa/ssp
- **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**.
- **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

- **INVITACION ESPECIAL:** El **lunes 20 de febrero** nuestro hermano Vinod Angadathu hará la profesión de los **votos solemnes**, por medio de la cual él decide -y la Orden de los Padres Escolapios lo acepta- a consagrarse de por vida al Señor en el servicio del reino de Dios por medio de la educación a los niños y jóvenes tanto en el servicio de los niños y jóvenes por medio de la enseñanza tanto de la fe

como de las letras. A las **10 am** se celebrará una misa presidida por el Padre General de los Escolapios quien viaja desde Roma para esta celebración. Después de la Eucaristía se ofrecerá una recepción-almuerzo en el gimnasio. Están todos invitados a participar de este importante evento en la vida de la Iglesia.

- **CCD CLASES:** Se recuerda que no habrá clases el miércoles 22 de febrero
- **MIERCOLES DE CENIZA:** El *primero de marzo* se distribuirán las cenizas en todas las misas y a las 3.45 pm en la Iglesia.
- **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.**
- **ABC, GRUPO JUVENIL DE SANTA HELENA:** Ya estamos en la fase final de preparación del primer grupo juvenil de nuestra parroquia. Habrá una reunión introductoria el **26 de febrero de 2 a 4 pm** en el gimnasio. Tanto os padres como los jóvenes interesados están invitados a participar. ¿Qué significa la sigla ABC? *“Todo acerca de Cristo, todo acerca de Calasanz.”* (All about Christ, all about Calasanz)
- **REPARACIONES CAUSADAS POR LA TORMENTA:** Durante la tormenta y los fuertes vientos de la semana pasada, varias ramas de los árboles se quebraron. Al examinar los árboles nos hemos dado cuenta de que hay varias ramas que se deben quitar, especialmente por razones de seguridad. La parroquia debe contratar un profesional ara hacer este trabajo. También tenemos varios huecos en la zona del parqueadero, por lo cual un contratista ya vino a taparlos y de esa manera hacer lucir mejor nuestra parroquia y que sea más segura.
- **ATENCION:** Carnaval de la parroquia. Este año será de cuatro días, del 22 al 25 de junio. Se necesitan donaciones para los premios de la rifa. Puede comunicarse a la rectoría.
- **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:** 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.
- **50 ANIVERSARIO DE BODAS:** Si quieres celebrar el **aniversario 50** de tu matrimonio con el **Cardenal Dolan** en la Catedral de NY, te puedes inscribir en la rectoría. La misa se celebrará el sábado **25 de junio a la 1.30 pm** ó el **domingo 26 a las 2 pm.** Es necesario inscribirse con anterioridad. Hay *plazo* para inscribirse hasta el **24 de mayo.**

- **A todos los novios y las parejas casadas o comprometidas** La Oficina de Vida Familiar+Respeto a la Vida de la Arquidiócesis de Nueva York se complace en anunciarles que como parte de la semana del Día Mundial del Matrimonio, le ofreceremos 100 códigos gratuitos para participar en una evaluación de su relación, a través del programa Catholic Couple Checkup! Visite nuestra página, nvfamilylife.org durante el mes de febrero para obtener su código gratuito. No se lo pierda-le daremos los códigos soso a las primeras 100 personas!

BUEN DIA, HERMANOS:

Hola queridos hermanos y hermanas. La riqueza y la profundidad de la Palabra de Dios es infinita, al fin y al cabo viene de Dios mismo. Nunca el ser humano es capaz de llegar al final de la comprensión y la búsqueda de su significado. Ella está allí siempre presente, con su *omnipotencia misericordiosa* que nos recuerda de donde venimos, cuál es nuestra misión aquí en la tierra y cuál es nuestro destino final. Hemos terminado la segunda semana de reflexión en el libro del Génesis, palabra cuyo significado es *“en el principio”*. Pero este principio no se refiere exclusivamente al origen y principio de las cosas, de la materia, ni siquiera simplemente de la creación del hombre y de la mujer como criaturas de Dios.

El principio que el Génesis nos enseña con un énfasis permanente es *“el principio de nuestra relación con Dios, con nuestros semejantes y con nosotros mismos.”* Nos enseña cómo el pecado desde el inicio comenzó a dañar el tejido de relaciones entre el ser humano, de manera tal que las consecuencias se comenzaron a ver desde muy temprano. Hemos visto cómo en el capítulo 4, después de la desobediencia a Dios por parte de Adán y Eva, se nos narra el primer crimen que conoce la humanidad, un hermano matando al hermano. Desde ese primer momento esta es una historia que no ha dejado de repetirse una y otra vez, por una razón que la Biblia nos invita a “ver” en el mensaje que nos entrega: el pecado ha enterrado sus garras en el corazón del ser humano de una manera tal, que sin la ayuda del mismo Dios el estaríamos siempre a merced del mal, con consecuencias devastadoras para la creación entera.

Después de haber cometido el crimen, Dios le pregunta a Caín: ¿Dónde está tu hermano? Y él le da una respuesta que bien podríamos aplicar a nuestra propia experiencia: *“No sé. ¿Soy yo acaso, el guardián de mi hermano?”* El significado profundo de esta narración es mucho más que el contarnos la historia de un asesinato. Ni siquiera es la historia de la muerte de una persona, es la historia de lo que sucede en la sociedad cuando grupos de poder anteponen sus intereses a los del común causando con ello ‘muerte y pobreza’. Los grandes grupos de poder son una permanente tentación para el ser humano porque estar fuera de ellos es una desventaja, es pertenecer al grupo de los oprimidos, de los perdedores. Para la Biblia, quienes se dejan llevar por ese tipo de tentación son unos malditos, porque generan estructuras que son malditas.

¿Cómo descubrirlos? La clave la encontramos en al narración de Caín: son aquellos que matan a sus hermanos. Por su forma de actuar, por la lucha del poder con fines exclusivos de enriquecimiento personal y de control sobre las diferentes estructuras de la sociedad, ellos, de una u otra manera ‘matan a sus hermanos.’ Las estructuras de poder han causado y causan mucho daño a la igualdad estructural con que Dios creó el mundo. ¿Hay algo que se pueda hacer al respecto? La única

esperanza es que los creyentes comprometidos sean capaces de reconocerlas para acabar con ellas.”

El creyente tiene un papel vital en la salvación del mundo. El creyente es una voz de protesta, es una resistencia activa a las estructuras que invitan a vivir la vida con unos principios morales tan bajos y con un desinterés tal con la suerte del hermano, que logra en cierta forma que la sociedad se haga cómplice del asesinato del hermano. Allí es donde el creyente debe traer la luz de Cristo, ser sal para darle al mundo un sabor diferente a la basura y la corrupción que permanentemente se ofrece. Si el creyente no expresa con su vida y con su palabra el mensaje de Cristo, ¿quien podrá entonces destruir la oscuridad?

El pecado destruye y divide, eso sucedió en el relato del diluvio. Todo ese relato nos dice, en su interpretación fundamental, que el abandono de la *justicia y del compromiso con la vida* trae como consecuencia verdaderas catástrofes. Sin embargo, Dios confía en nosotros, lo vemos en el capítulo nueve con la alianza que Dios hace con Noé. Allí suceden dos cosas muy interesantes, al igual que en la creación. Primero, Dios bendice la obra creada y de modo especial a todos los seres vivientes. Segundo, Dios le confía a Noé y a su familia el cuidado y la administración de la creación. Esto nos dice que a pesar de nuestro pecado y de nuestra fragilidad, un día llegaremos a un nivel de conciencia tal, que la civilización del amor será una realidad. Por ahora, los discípulos de Jesús debemos dar el testimonio de que esto es posible para quien confía en el Señor.

El énfasis y la diferencia en esta alianza con respecto a la primera es el hecho de que ahora Dios quiere que comprendamos que la prioridad principal es el hermano, es el otro, especialmente el que sufre, el que está solo.

Todos estos mensajes fueron clave para la vida del pueblo de Israel, y lo son para nosotros, pero ahora ellos comienzan a comprender -y quizás a resistirse- al hecho de que la alianza es con “todos” y no sólo con ellos. Ellos siempre se han sentido “mucho más cerca de Dios” por haber sido el pueblo elegido. Sin embargo, esta distinción quedará abolida con la presencia de Jesús.

En Jesús ya no hay más separación ni división entre pueblos y creyentes. En adelante, lo único que establece diferencias entre los fines es el amor y la práctica de la justicia, la escucha de la Palabra de Dios y su puesta en práctica. Ya Pablo lo expresó con una claridad absoluta en su carta a los Gálatas: *“Por la fe en Cristo Jesús todos ustedes son hijos de Dios. Los que se han bautizado consagrándose a Cristo se han revestido de Cristo. Ya no se distinguen judío y griego, esclavo y libre, hombre y mujer, porque todos ustedes son uno con Cristo Jesús. Y si ustedes pertenecen a Cristo, son descendencia de Abrahán, herederos de la promesa.”*

P. Nelson

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“The meek shall inherit the Earth, but the lawyers will end up with Asia, Africa, South America and most of Europe.”

Mass Intentions

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 Guasco
Justina Cirino
Katie Silva (Intentions)

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

MONDAY, Feb. 20, 2017-Feast of St. Basil

6:50 Sick of St. Helena's Parish

8:30 All Piarists Who Died in 2015

10:00 Br. Vinod Angadathu George, Sch.P.

Solemn Profession

12:15 Souls in Purgatory

TUESDAY, February 21, 2017-Feast of St. Damian

6:50 For the Protection of the Faithful Against Unjust Trials at the End of Time

8:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors

12:15 Intentions of Florence Churchill

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 22, 2017-The Chair of St. Peter the

Apostle

6:50 Angelo and Sofia Bellizzi

8:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors

12:15 Norma Iris Cruz

7:00 Nurys Medina

THURSDAY, Feb. 23, 2017-Feast of St. Polycarp

6:50 In Thanksgiving for Favors

8:30 Gloria Mangual

12:15 Madeline and Daniel Donovan

FRIDAY, February 24, 2017-Feast of St. Sergius

6:50 All Piarists Who Died in 2016

8:30 Cantegeña-Diaz

12:15 Intentions of David Chan and Cicilia Chan
Martina Graciano

SATURDAY, February 25, 2017-Feast of St. Victorinus

6:50 Harry Heck

8:30 Martina Graciano

12:15 José Sanabria

5:30 Florde Maria Rojas Salazar

SUNDAY, Feb. 26, 2017-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 Rev. Fr. Robert Barnes, O.C.S.O.

9:00 Rosa Riccoboni

10:30 Luz Maria Vega

Our Parishioners

12:00 Luis Quiñones

Lauro Pacheco

1:30 Allison Garcia

5:00 Nino Jesus—Thanksgiving Norma & Family
Martina Graciano

Readings for the Week of February 19, 2017

Sunday: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48; **Monday:** Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1-2, 5/Mk 9:14-29; **Tuesday:** Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/Mk 9:30-37; **Wednesday:** 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6/Mt 16:13-19; **Thursday:** Sir 5:1-8/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Mk 9:41-50; **Friday:** Sir 6:5-17/Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34-35/Mk 10:1-12; **Saturday:** Sir 17:1-15/Ps 103:13-18/Mk 10:13-16; **Next Sunday:** Is 49:14-15/Ps 62:2-3, 6-9/1 Cor 4:1-5/Mt 6:24-34