

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

Business Manager

Anne Kathy Rice

Facilities Manager

Alina Hernandez

Music Director

Mr. Patrick Marques

Musicians

Mr. Jim Donaldson

Mr. Alex Henriquez

**November-December
2017**

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

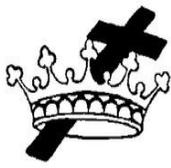


• John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me."

Mk 1:4, 6-7a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1998, 1970 CCD Cover Design © Liturgical Publications Inc | Photo © Shutterstock.com 10160008

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

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

Sunday: AM PM

7:30 12:00 (Spanish)

9:00 1:30

10:30 (Family) 5:00

Confessions: Saturday — 4 to 5:30

Sick Or Emergency Calls:

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
- Spanish Bible Study: Tuesday, 7:00PM

Baptisms: Arrangements must be made at the Rectory for Baptismal Class Bring a copy of the 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 the Bookstore or Rectory.



Handicapped Accessible

Christ the King The Last Sunday of the Liturgical Year

Pope Pius XI universally instituted The Feast of Christ the King in 1925 in his encyclical *Quas Primas*. Pope Pius XI did this in order to connect the denial of Christ as king to the rise of secularism. At the time of *Quas Primas*, secularism was on the rise, and many Christians, even Catholics, were doubting Christ's authority, as well as the Church's, and even doubting Christ's existence.

The Pope and the rest of the Christian world witnessed the rise of dictatorships in Europe and saw Catholics being taken in by these earthly leaders. Just as the Feast of Corpus Christi was instituted when devotion to the Eucharist was at a low point, the Feast of Christ the King was instituted during a time when respect for Christ and the Church was waning, when the feast was most needed. In fact, it is still needed today, as many of those problems have not vanished, but instead, have worsened.

Pope Pius hoped the institution of the feast would have various effects, including:

1. That nations would see that the Church has the right to freedom, and immunity from the state (*Quas Primas*, 32).
2. That leaders and nations would see that they are bound to give respect to Christ (*Quas Primas*, 31).
3. That the faithful would gain strength and courage from the celebration of the feast, as we are reminded that Christ must reign in our hearts, minds, wills, and bodies (*Quas Primas*, 33).

Today, the same distrust of authority exists, although the problem has gotten worse. Individualism has been embraced to such an extreme, that for many, the only authority is the individual self. The idea of Christ as ruler is rejected in such a strongly individualistic system. Also, many balk at the idea of kings and queens, believing them to be oppressive. Some even reject the titles of "lord" and "king" for Christ because they believe that such titles are borrowed from oppressive systems of government. However true these statements might be (some kings have been oppressive), these individuals miss the point: Christ's kingship is one of humility and service.

According to Cyril of Alexandria, "Christ has dominion over all creatures... by essence and by nature... His kingship is founded upon the hypostatic union... The Word of God, as consubstantial with the Father, has all things in common with him, and therefore has necessarily supreme and absolute dominion over all things created."

Jesus said: "You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to become great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:42-45, NAB).

And Pontius Pilate said to Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?"... Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here." So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world to testify to the truth (John 18:33b, 36-37).

Thus, Jesus knew the oppressive nature of secular kings, and in contrast to them, he connected his role as king to humble service and commanded his followers to be servants as well. In



other passages of Scripture, his kingdom is tied to his suffering and death. While Christ is coming to judge the nations, his teachings spell out a kingdom of justice and judgment balanced with radical love, mercy, peace, and forgiveness. When we celebrate Christ as King, we are not celebrating an oppressive ruler, but one willing to die for humanity and whose "loving-kindness endures forever." Christ is the king that gives us true freedom, freedom in Him. Thus we must never forget that Christ radically redefined and transformed the concept of kingship.

Christ the King Sunday used to be celebrated on the last Sunday of October, but since 1969, the feast falls on the last Sunday of Ordinary Time, which is the Sunday before Advent. The latest date it can fall is November 26, which is the case this year. The liturgical vestments for the day are colored white or gold, in keeping with other joyous feasts honoring Christ. And it is fitting that the feast celebrating Christ's kingship is observed right before Advent when we liturgically wait for the promised Messiah (King).

Why Should We Pray?

In the wake of the recent earthquakes in Mexico that left 10,000 people dead, and Hurricane Maria that left 48 people dead in Puerto Rico, and the horrible shooting at a Texas Baptist church that left 26 people dead, or the eight people who died in Manhattan in the deadliest terror attack since September 11, 2001, when a motorist in a rented pickup truck deliberately drove down a bike path and after running them down jumped out of the truck and yelled "Allahu Akbar" (God is Great), there has been an outpouring of prayer for the repose of the dead, the consolation of the victims' families, and the communities. And for many, such prayer offers some way of coping with the awfulness of it all.

Perhaps the most high-profile Tweet and that which best sums up the negative thoughts of some people on this subject came from *Star Trek: the Next Generation's Will Wheaton*, who said about the *Texas shooting*, "The murdered victims were in a church. If prayer did anything, they'd still be alive..."

It is interesting to note how quickly people will criticize. For one thing, the prayers after these events were explicitly meant for consolation and healing after the fact, not for preventing natural or human-initiated violence before. It doesn't make sense to mock prayers as useless for a certain outcome when they weren't offered for that outcome. But beyond that, there are important theological and apologetical issues at stake here for all believers.

To begin, both history and the present day are full of human solutions to complex problems. Some solutions have been terrible (such as Fascism and Communism), some were moderately effective but flawed and were eventually replaced (such as the iron lung), and some are effective to a degree and still in use (such as chemotherapy). Few, even in our age of technological marvels, are perfect. Nonetheless, we value the good that they do, even if they do not always produce the desired outcome.

And like the effectiveness of modern innovations, when it comes to prayer, we can also say that it may not always seem to work in either the way we expect or desire. This is only logical because prayer is not magic, and God is not a genie. When we invoke divine aid, we should reasonably expect that it will have some positive outcome, but God acts according to divine priorities and not mere human wish-fulfillment.

If the past is full of human interventions, it's also full of divine interventions. Not just the big, miraculous ones that we find in the Bible or even in the history books, such as the time praying the rosary saved Europe from falling to the Turkish invasion of the last Islamic Caliphate, but also the small and personal ones. Countless people, both past and present, can attest that prayer *does* bring consolation to the suffering. It *does* set our lives on new paths. It *does* help people beat addictions and vices. It *does* fill voids in our soul that worldly things cannot.

- 2 Therefore, there's nothing crazy or fanciful about praying for ourselves or for those affected by tragedy or natural disasters. It's

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

a sound response rooted in widespread human experience. Yes, it's possible that the effects of prayer are all coincidences or common delusions, but without good arguments to this point, those who mock such prayers deserve themselves to be mocked: for denying a plain reality without good reason.

Implicit in the mockery of those prayers is the suggestion that those who pray don't *act*. If only we stopped reciting prayers to our God and started making phone calls to newspapers or our congressman, the charge goes, we might see *real* results. But this charge also fails to find root in reality, since most if not all good Christians follow some variant of the wise advice, "Trust in God—but lock your car." Most if not all Christians are well aware of the fallen world we live in and of the need to take worldly measures to preserve peace and promote justice. Most if not all Christians strive to act with as much conviction as they pray.

Ora et labora is the monastic motto. Indeed, we have centuries of Christian tradition on how to reconcile the divine order with the secular. Moreover, it lays bare the poverty of the prayer-skeptics' worldview. Because, what if, by rejecting prayer, they're missing out on something big?

When speaking to critics of prayer, one can use a variant of **Pascal's Wager**, which would go like this: What if Catholics are right, and there is a God who answers prayers by changing hearts and history? In that case, you should consider how much supernatural help you're forfeiting by not praying. It might even be the kind that Stephen Willeford, who fought and neutralized the Texas church gunman, believes he received.

And if the skeptics are right? Well, even the AMA says that the psychological value of prayer by itself means that those who pray are still better off because in the end, everybody dies, and no corpse has ever regretted praying to a nonexistent God. So in your next encounter with skeptics or mockers, offer to pray for or with them. What do they have to lose?

After all, just what is prayer? The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that: "Christian prayer is a covenant relationship between God and man in Christ. It is the action of God and of man, springing forth from both the Holy Spirit and ourselves, wholly directed to the Father, in union with the human will of the Son of God made man." We believe that the Holy Spirit who teaches the Church and recalls to her all that Jesus said also instructs her in the life of prayer, inspiring new expressions of prayer: "blessing, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, and praise." Christian prayer is a communion of love with the Father, not only through Christ but also *in him*." The Father gives us when our prayer is united with that of Jesus 'another Counselor, to be with [us] for ever', the Spirit of Truth, and the [Holy] Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes with sighs too deep for words."

Prayer is commonly called efficacious (or effective) when, in response to a petition made in prayer, God brings about some effect in the created order which in some way answers the prayer. For example, if a man prays that his mother be healed of cancer and, in response to his prayer, God actually heals the man's mother of cancer, then the man's prayer would be said to be efficacious. That prayer CAN be efficacious is clearly attested both in Scripture and in official Church documents.

Now, Catholic doctrine also unwaveringly affirms the fact that God's providence is absolutely unchangeable in every way. Also, since God's providence is one with the divine essence, which is absolutely unchangeable in every respect, it follows that God's providence must itself be unchangeable in every respect. St. Thomas Aquinas said, "In order to throw light on this question we must consider that divine providence decrees not only what effects shall take place, but also from what causes and in what order these effects shall take place. Now among other causes, human acts are the causes of certain effects. Wherefore it must be that men do certain actions, not that thereby they may change the divine decree, but that by those actions they may achieve certain effects according to the order of the divine decree: and the same is to be said of natural causes. And so it is with regard to prayer.

For we pray, not that we may change the divine decree, but that we may impetrate that which God has decreed to be fulfilled by our prayers, in other words, that by asking, men may deserve to receive what Almighty God from eternity has decreed to give." Here St. Thomas is pointing out that divine providence is so all-comprehensive that it not only extends to those things that come about in the created order, but also to the way or the mode in which they come about. Thus, as regards our human acts, not only the acts themselves but also the very freedom with which they are done, is included under the all-comprehensive scope of God's unchangeable providence. How mysterious and wonderful this truly is. So, let us pray...

Fr. David

R.I.P. Raquel Rincón de Henao, the mother of Fr. Nelson who passed away peacefully in Columbia at the age of 80.

Le pape François explique l'Évangile du dimanche

Chers frères et sœurs, bonjour: Ce dimanche, l'Évangile (cf. Mt 25, 1-13) nous indique la condition pour entrer dans le Royaume des cieux. Il le fait grâce à la parabole des dix vierges : il s'agit de ces demoiselles d'honneur qui étaient chargées d'accompagner l'époux à la cérémonie des noces, et puisque à l'époque c'était l'usage de les célébrer de nuit, les demoiselles étaient dotées de lampes.

La parabole dit que cinq de ces vierges son sages et cinq sottes : en effet, les sages ont apporté avec elles l'huile des lampes, alors que les sottes ne l'ont pas apportée. L'époux tarde à arriver et elles s'endorment toutes. A minuit, on annonce l'arrivée de l'époux, alors les vierges sottes s'aperçoivent qu'elles n'ont pas d'huile pour leurs lampes, et elles en demandent aux sages. Mais celles-ci répondent qu'elles ne peuvent pas leur en donner parce qu'il n'y en aura pas assez pour elles toutes.

Ainsi, alors que les sottes vont chercher de l'huile, l'époux arrive. Les vierges sages entrent avec lui dans la salle du banquet et la porte se referme. Les cinq sottes reviennent trop tard, frappent à la porte, mais la réponse est : « Je ne vous connais pas » (v. 12) et elles restent dehors. Qu'est-ce que Jésus veut nous enseigner par cette parabole ? Il nous rappelle que nous devons nous tenir prêts à la rencontre avec lui. Très souvent, dans l'Évangile, Jésus exhorte à veiller, et il le fait aussi à la fin de ce récit : « Veillez donc, parce que vous ne savez ni le jour ni l'heure » (v. 13). Mais par cette parabole il nous dit que veiller ne signifie pas seulement ne pas dormir, mais être prêts. En effet, toutes les vierges dorment avant l'arrivée de l'époux, mais au réveil, certaines sont prêtes et d'autres non. Voilà donc ce que signifie être sages et prudents : il ne s'agit pas d'attendre le dernier moment de notre vie pour collaborer avec la grâce de Dieu mais de le faire maintenant déjà.

Si c'était aujourd'hui, comment me suis-je préparé.e ? Mais je dois faire ceci et cela... Se préparer comme si c'était le dernier jour: cela fait du bien. La lampe est le symbole de la foi qui éclaire notre vie, alors que l'huile est le symbole de la charité qui nourrit la lumière de la foi, la rend féconde et crédible. La condition pour être prêts à la rencontre avec le Seigneur ce n'est pas seulement la foi, mais une vie chrétienne riche en amour du prochain.

Si nous nous laissons guider par ce qui semble le plus commode, par la recherche de notre intérêt, notre vie deviendra stérile, incapable de donner la vie aux autres, et nous ne faisons aucune provision d'huile pour la lampe de notre foi. Et celle-ci – la foi – s'éteindra au moment de la venue du Seigneur, ou même avant.

Si, au contraire nous sommes vigilants, et que nous cherchons à faire le bien, par des gestes d'amour, de partage, de service du prochain en difficulté, nous pouvons être tranquilles alors que nous attendons la venue de l'époux : le Seigneur pourra venir à n'importe quel moment, et même le sommeil de la mort ne nous effraie pas, parce que nous avons une réserve d'huile, accumulée par les bonnes oeuvres de chaque jour. La foi inspire la charité et la charité garde la foi. Que la Vierge Marie nous aide à rendre notre foi toujours plus agissante par la charité ; afin que notre lampe puisse resplendir déjà ici, pendant le chemin terrestre, et ensuite pour toujours, à la fête des noces, au paradis.

NOVEMBER 26, 2017

St. Andrew - November 30 Patron Saint of Scotland

Saint Andrew was the first disciple of Jesus. He was the younger brother of Saint Peter and was born in Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee. The brothers were fishermen by trade, and Jesus called them to be his disciples by saying that he would make them "fishers of men."

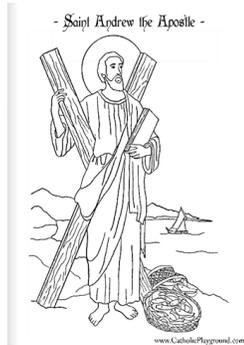
The Gospel of John teaches us much about St. Andrew who was originally a disciple of St. John the Baptist. When John pointed to Jesus and said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" Andrew understood that Jesus was greater and immediately left John to follow Jesus. He visited in Jesus' home and later brought his brother Simon Peter, who Jesus also called to be an apostle. It is believed that Saint Andrew and Saint Peter continued their trade as fishermen until Christ called them to a closer relationship, and they left all things to follow Jesus.

After Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, St. Andrew the Apostle preached the gospel in Asia Minor and in Scythia as far as Kiev. Not much is mentioned in the Book of Acts regarding the life of Saint Andrew. Saint Andrew was martyred by crucifixion at Patras in Achaia in Greece. Because St. Andrew deemed himself unworthy to be crucified on the same type of cross on which Christ had been crucified, he asked to be tied to a *Crux decussata* or an X shaped cross. The Apostle Andrew did not die right away but instead, he was left to suffer for two days while he continued to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ until he finally died.

Although little is mentioned in the Book of Acts regarding the life of St. Andrew, much can be learned through St. Andrew's life. He and Saint Peter gave up their lifelong careers and lifestyles, leaving everything behind, to follow Jesus. Their undying faith in a difficult world is an inspiration to all Christians. His relics consist of a small finger, the top of his cranium and pieces of the cross. These are kept in a shrine at the Church of St. Andrew in Patras.

Saint Andrew is the Patron Saint of Scotland, Russia, and Greece. Scots celebrate Saint Andrew's Day around the world on the 30th of November. The flag of Scotland is the Cross of St. Andrew. According to legend, in AD 832, King Oengus II led an army of Picts and Scots into battle against the Angles. The legend states that he was heavily outnumbered and hence whilst engaged in prayer on the eve of battle, Oengus vowed that if granted victory he would appoint Saint Andrew as the Patron Saint of Scotland. On the morning of battle white clouds forming an X shape in the sky were said to have appeared. Oengus and his combined force, emboldened by this apparent divine intervention, took to the field and despite being inferior in numbers were victorious. Having interpreted the cloud phenomenon as representing the *crux decussata* upon which Saint Andrew was crucified, Oengus honored his pre-battle pledge and duly appointed Saint Andrew as the Patron Saint of Scotland. The white saltire set against a celestial blue background is said to have been adopted as the design of the flag of Scotland on the basis of this legend.

Andrew's connection with Scotland may have been reinforced following the Synod of Whitby when the Celtic Church felt that



OFFERING ENVELOPES

Sunday, November 19, 2017	\$4,470.62
Catholic Charities	\$1,713.23

Our weekly budget, (Nuestro presupuesto semanal es) \$4,423.00 Thank you for your generosity and your support and for all that you do for St. Helena's Parish. This week we met our weekly goal. We have replaced the carpet in the gym and are currently fixing the windows in the school and we have just had asbestos testing done, so I ask you to still 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. Nosotros estamos haciendo reparaciones en la escuela y la iglesia; por favor, considere aumentar su oferta para ayudar y apoya estas mejoras.

Columba had been "outranked" by Peter and that Peter's brother would make a higher ranking patron. The 1320 Declaration of Arbroath also cites Scotland's conversion to Christianity by Andrew, "the first to be an Apostle"

Study Jesus, Mary and the Catholic Catechism

Do the truths of the faith, which are listed in the Nicene Creed, really permeate your life? Don't miss this opportunity to take part in a compelling and inspiring learning experience that is sure to draw you closer to Christ through a deeper understanding of the teachings of His Church. Join us in the Green Building at **11:30 AM on Sundays** or at either **1 PM** or **7:30 PM on Tuesdays** and continuing for the next four weeks. Today, we will study Session Nine, the Death of Jesus and paragraphs 631-747 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, which is available for sale in the Religious Goods Room.

MASS OF THE HOLY CHILD-The Mass of the Holy Child will take place during the Spanish Mass at **Noon on Sunday, December 3**, which is the First Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the new liturgical year. After the Mass, there will be a special Ecuadorian celebration for the Divino Nino downstairs in the gymnasium from **12-6PM**.

Banns of Marriage

III—Cesar Jimenez & Estela Rojas

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **THIS IS THE LAST WEEKEND FOR THE NOVEMBER 50/50**-Pink envelopes for the November drawing are available at both entrances to the church. Remember, it only costs **\$5.00** to enter. The next winner will be picked on **Monday, November 27**.
- **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES** for both children and adults take place on **Wednesdays**, from **3:45PM-5PM**.
- **FIRST COMMUNION SESSION** next weekend, **Sunday, December 3** at **11:30AM** in the cafeteria.
- **ADULT RCIA CLASSES** take place on Sundays. The **Spanish** class that takes place at **10AM** in the cafeteria **has been cancelled** and the English class is held at **3PM** in the downstairs rectory meeting room will still take place.
- **NO SPANISH BIBLE STUDY CLASS**-On **Tues., Nov. 28** due to the death of Fr. Nelson's mother.
- **SPANISH CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** meets on **Mondays**, at **7:00PM** in the Church.
- **ENGLISH CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** meets on **Wednesdays** at **7:30PM** in the Green Building.
- **WORKSHOP OF PRAYER AND LIFE** in Spanish takes place every **Thursday** from **7-9PM** in the cafeteria.
- **YOUTH GROUP** for ages 12-18 meets on **Fridays** from **7-8:30PM** in the gym.
- **RELIGIOUS ARTICLES ROOM** is now open. Advent items are available.
- **2018 MASS BOOK** is now open. Please come into the Rectory to reserve a Mass Intention. The suggested donation or stipend for 2018 remains the same at \$10 for either weekday or weekend Masses. People who have requested Masses are encouraged to sit in the front pews during their Masses and are invited to bring up the gifts at the offertory.
- **SPANISH MARRIAGE PREPARATION SESSIONS** take place every **Monday**, from **7:30PM to 9:00PM** and will continue for the next six months, St. Helena is offering a special marriage preparation course both for couples preparing for marriage and for those already married couples who wish to strengthen their marriage or who wish to have

their civil marriage convalidated in the Church. For more info, contact Fr. Nelson at 718-892-3232.

- **NEXT BAPTISM PREP CLASS** will be held this **Thursday, November 30**, 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. These must all be brought to the class.
- **THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE**-If you would like to share some of your canned food and non-perishables, please either bring them to the rectory or deposit them in the special container at the back of the church. All items will benefit St. Anthony's Soup Kitchen and their Thanksgiving Food Program. If you donate a large quantity of food, you could receive a tax deduction letter. Come to the rectory with those donations. Thank you for your generosity. Donations will be accepted until **December 1**.
- **THANKSGIVING RAFFLE TICKETS** have been mailed and are available in the rectory and in the religious articles room. This year, in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the dedication of St. Helena's Church on **May 3, 1942**, the cash prizes will be one \$1,075 grand prize, two \$575 second prizes and five \$175 third prizes. The cost is still \$1 a chance or \$20 for 22 chances. The drawing will take place on **Sunday, December 3**.
- **TWO TOY DRIVES AND A CLOTHING DRIVE**-This Christmas Season, you can help bring smiles to the faces of children. TWO groups will be conducting a Toy Drive.

The **Mother Teresa Group** is collecting toys to be given to children in **JACOBI HOSPITAL**. Your donation can be brought to the rectory and labeled for **Hospital Children**.

You can also assist children living in **HOMELESS SHELTERS** throughout New York City. Through **December 23**, you may bring to the rectory your gently used clothing, especially children and adult winter coats. **Hope For Us**, which is managed by Vera Acquah, will distribute them to children and people of all ages living in homeless shelters.

At the same time, **Hope for Us** will also have its annual **GIVING TREE** at the back of the church, which will contain ornaments with all of the information necessary for you to buy toys for specific children living in NYC Homeless Shelters. Your gifts can be placed under the tree.

- **CANDY NEEDED FOR PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY** -Candy donations are needed for the Parish Christmas Party, which will take place on **Sunday, December 10** from 2-8PM in the gymnasium. Candy donations can be brought to the rectory as soon as possible but at any time prior to the party.
- **PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY** will take place on **Sunday, December 10** from 2-8PM. Tickets are \$15/adult, \$10/youth (13-17), and \$40/Family. We will have food, games, dancing and a special guest. We will also have special Quick Silver Pull Tabs available. You can win cash prizes and special raffle prizes only for those who buy them at the party.
- **QUICK SILVER PULL TABS** are available for \$1.00 each in the rectory or at the back of the church. Win cash prizes up to \$100.
- **NEXT BEREAVEMENT GROUP BEGINS IN DEC.**- Each of us mourns the death of a loved one differently, especially around the holiday seasons. While some people attempt to cope with their grief by themselves and do not want or need outside assistance, many others seek and find comfort in sharing the pain, anger, depression and other emotions they feel following a loss. St. Helena will next offer a bi-lingual, four-week Bereavement Session that will

be held in the Green Building on **Sat., Dec. 2, 9, 16, & 23** at 11AM. For more info, call Jessica at 347-791-2381.

- **THE ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE** begins at 9:00PM on **Friday, Dec. 8**, The Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and ends at 1:00AM on **Saturday, Dec. 9**, and we here at St. Helena will be taking part in it. There will be Mass in Spanish at 7PM and in English at 6:50AM, 8:30AM, 12:15PM and 8PM. We invite you to come to the church and spend at least 30 minutes in prayer before Our Blessed Lord. During the Hour of Unity from 12AM - 1AM, we will be united with churches across the country in prayer. It was on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (then celebrated on Dec 9) that Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the unborn and of the Americas, first appeared to St. Juan Diego. The National Night of Prayer for Life bridges these two feasts to honor Our Blessed Mother and to pray for the Lord's mercy and restore life, liberty, faith, and peace.
- **FREE LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE** presented by members of the adult and children's choirs of Annunciation Parish and St. Francis de Chantal on **Sunday, December 10** at 2:30PM at Annunciation Church, 470 Westchester Ave., Tuckahoe.
- **ADVENT RECONCILIATION MONDAY** will take place on **Mon., December 18** from 4-8PM. Priests will be in the confessionals during those times to hear confessions in either English or Spanish.
- **ENRICH YOUR MARRIAGE WITH THIS AWARD-WINNING SERIES-BELOVED**. St. Helena Parish still has a free subscription to **FORMED**. All parishioners have unlimited access to its programs, and 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.

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SPEECH CONTEST WINNERS**-St. Helena's held its School Speech Contest for students in grades 5-8 this week. The winner was eighth grade student Seedel Chris-Emenike, who will represent St. Helena's at the Bronx Catholic Schools Regional Contest at St. Raymonds on **December 6**. The school runner up was seventh grader Dana Rivera, and taking third place was sixth grader Gabriel Rivera. Congratulations to the winners.
- **PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE** on **November 30** from 3-6PM.

Varsity Horsemen Win Five Straight

The Varsity Horsemen jumped out to a fast 19-0 lead over St. Ignatius of Loyola and never looked back, easily winning their fifth consecutive game 55-37 at home on Monday night. The JV scored well but struggled and shot poorly from the line, giving Loyola a 21-25 win.

It looked like the Horsemen were going to shut out Loyola in the first quarter until Tommy Kelly sank one from the line to give Loyola their lone first-quarter point. Francisco Mattei had a game-high 17 points, and both Omari Ward and Christian Colter also scored in double digits with 14 each. Khalil Black sank a 2 in the first and a three in the third, while Danie Bahora sank both a two and a three in the second. All 16 Horsemen played, cheered on by 15 cheerleaders. The Horsemen were 3 for 4 from the line. Jack Freel had a team-high 11 and Alex O'Donnell hit for 10 points for Loyola. Loyola was 3 for 5 from the line.

The JV Horsemen had the game tied 4-4 at the end of the first. Jahli Ward scored 12 points and was the only player of the night to score in all four quarters, and he had the only three of the JV game. Kyle Austin hit for 6 points in the fourth, and Isaac Lerdo had a 2 in the fourth. Joseph Fernandez rounded out the team scoring, sinking a free throw in the third. The Horsemen were 2 for 11 from the line. James Rice was the only player for Loyola in double digits with 10. Loyola was 3 for 5 from the line.

On Saturday, the JV team lost an Exhibition game to St. Gabriel's 24-30. Again, Ward had a game-high 13 points and hit the only team three of the game. Loyola had 3 threes from three different players. Austin had 8 points, and Peter Lugo sank a free throw in both the second and fourth. Isaiah LaCasse had a free throw in the second. The Horsemen were 5 for 15 from the line and St. Gabriel's was 3 for 5.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CONCERT** presented by Br. Ricardo and the St. Joseph Seminary Schola Cantorum on **December 1 at 7:30PM** and **December 3 at 4PM** at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers. Ticket offering \$25.
- **THE BIBLE AND THE VIRGIN MARY**-This FREE online study begins on **December 3** and will continue through the end of the year. **Sign up now at www.stpaulcenter.com to participate in this deeply moving Bible study.**
- **FREE LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE** presented by members of the adult and children's choirs of Annunciation Parish and St. Francis de Chantal on **Sunday, December 10 at 2:30PM** at Annunciation Church, 470 Westchester Ave., Tuckahoe.
- **36th ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT**-The Bronx Concert Singers will present *An International Potpourri* on **Sunday, December 10 at 4:30PM** at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1891 McGraw Ave. in Parkchester. General Admission \$20, Seniors and HS Students \$15, and children \$5. For more info, call **917-743-4641**. Flyers are in the vestibule of the Church.
- **RADIO MARIA**-To listen to *Radio Maria* in English on Radio 620AM, type www.radiomaria.us. Then, click on "Live Stream" on the bottom left where it says "24/7 Live Listening. Listen Live"
- **EMERGENCY SNOW LABORERS NEEDED** for the upcoming season. Register with the DSNY between **7AM-3PM**. Garage locations can be found at www.nyc.gov/sanitation. Snow laborer will be paid \$15/hr., must be at least 18 years old and be able to work in the U.S. Bring with you two small photos (1.5 sq. in.), social security card, the original and a copy of two forms of I.D. Bronx registration locations include 800 and 850 Zerega Avenue.
- **JOIN THE CATHOLIC ACTION NETWORK**-Join with thousands of others to work for justice in our society and to

Please Pray for the Sick of Our Parish

Joanne Frances Bernadette Sanabria, Ruben Mercado, Louis Lopez, Mike Adorno, Catherine Holden, Carmelle and Nicole Antoine, Indrowdi Sadu, Rosa Pena, Brenda Jackson, James Leunge, Luzvina Vega, Carole Primak, Anna Baez, Lucy Cannavacciuolo, Aaron Sylvester, Bertha Mero, Peter Vaccaro, Gino Vaccaro, Ronald Horne, Mr. Inham, Doris Waldropt, Milagro Vasquez, Ynes Tavarez, Theresa Delevan, Mariana Rivera, Noemi Cross, Arley Johnson, Annissa Ramratansingh, Catherine Gregson, Josefina Gonzalez, Rosa Amelia Escribano Santiago, Joseph Lopez, Fr. Andrew Buechele, John Ford, Dick Williams, Melanie Rosario, Ayyapan Pandikatil, Mary T. Early, Agnes Griffith, Belen Bonhomme, Clifford Brown, Joel Rivera, Prospero Corona, Olga Olonzo, Jose Andujar, Jose Rosario, Augustine Ayala, Michelle Vega, Raymond Concepcion, Marlene Oliveras, Patrick Marquez

Please Pray for the Deceased and their Grieving Families:

Nestor Luis Tirado, Manuel Fonseca Jeannie Zervas, Geraldo Sarmiento, Rohelia Medina, Raquel Rincón de Henao

promote the values important to our faith. Stay informed/strengthen the Catholic voice. Visit: www.nyscatholic.org and click the CAN icon in the upper right corner to sign up, then go to the Take Action section to view our latest alerts. Never has advocacy been so simple.

- **YOUNG MARRIED CATHOLIC COUPLES**-The Archdiocese of New York is looking for young, married, Catholic couples to be part of a new and evolving multimedia Pre-Cana day Marriage Prep program. We need your help to engage the social media generation. We are currently recruiting for two roles: Facilitator Couples, who will orchestrate the day's program and Host Couples, who will serve as the first point of contact for couples attending the Pre-Cana day. A stipend is provided to both couples. For more information, visit: www.NYFamilyLife.org/About/WorkingWithUs.
- **MARRIAGE SAVEHOUSE**-is a free parish based ministry helping spouses resolve problems that threaten a marriage... using a team of married couples. Sessions are **every 3rd Saturday morning** at St. Benedict's convent, 1082 Edison Avenue. Completely confidential! Call **718-828-3403 ext. 107**, for an appointment.
- **CABRINI CARE TO GO**-High quality and compassionate care is now available in the privacy of your own home through Cabrini Certified Home Health Agency. If you or a loved one are in need of rehabilitation or skilled nursing care, call **914-693-6800 X 550**.
- **NEWSIES**-Archbishop Stepinac High School Theatre presents the Disney hit, NEWSIES. Show dates are: **Dec. 1, 2, 8, and 9 at 7:30PM** and matinees on **Dec. 9 & 10 at 2PM**. Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$18 for seniors and children under 12. For reservations, call **914-946-4800 X 200**.

ANUNCIOS EN ESPAÑOL

- **RIFA DE THANKSGIVING:** Se han enviado. Si desea comprar tickets o ayudar a vender puedes acercarte a la rectoría. Los premios para este año son: Primer premio, **\$1,075**. Dos segundos premios de **\$575** cada uno. Un tercer premio de **\$175**. La rifa se efectuará el **domingo 3 de diciembre**.
- **MISA PARA EL DIVINO NINO**—La Misa del Divino Nino se celebra el **3 de diciembre a las 12pm**, que es el primer domingo de Adviento, el comienzo del nuevo año litúrgico. Después de la Misa, habrá una especial celebración ecuatoriana para el Divino Nino abajo en el gimnasio de **12-6 PM**.
- **LA FIESTA DE NAVIDAD** de la parroquia se celebra el **domingo 10 de diciembre de 2-8 pm**. Los boletos son \$15/ Adulto, \$10/Jóvenes (13-17), y \$40/Familia. Vamos a tener comida, juegos, baile y un invitado especial. También tendremos una nueva rifa **QUICK SILVER PULL TABS** donde puede ganar dinero en efectivo y premios especiales sólo para aquellos que los compran en la fiesta. Estos esta disponible en la rectoría o detrás de la iglesia después de la misa del domingo y cada uno es \$1.00.
- **CLASES DE BAUTISMO:** La proxima clase se realizará el **jueves 30 de noviembre a las 7 pm** en la Iglesia. Entrada por el parqueadero. **NOTA:** Se debe traer copia del certificado de nacimiento del niño. Hay dos posibilidades para tener padrinos de Bautismo: si los **padrinos** son pareja, deben estar **casados por la Iglesia** y traer el **certificado de matrimonio de la iglesia donde se casaron**. La otra posibilidad es que **una o dos personas** que tengan al menos 16 años y hayan recibido el Sacramento de la Confirmación acepten ser los padrinos. Esta o estas personas deben traer el **Certificado de Confirmación** y/o una carta del pastor de la

Iglesia a la que pertenecen, donde se certifique que puede ser padrino ó madrina de Bautismo.

- **GRUPO CARISMATICO DE ORACIÓN: Lunes a las 7 pm en la Iglesia.**
- **GRUPO SANTA TERESA DE CALCUTA:** Visitan cada semana a los ancianos que viven en Rebekka. Se celebra con ellos la Eucaristía una vez al mes. Únete a este grupo de compasión y amor. Informes: **Elba Vega: 1646 667 5365**
- **MIÉRCOLES DE LA MISERICORDIA:** Ven los miércoles a las **7 pm.** 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!!!**
- **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. Les escribo esta breve nota desde Bogotá, en donde me encuentro para darle la despedida final a mi madre, Raquel Rincón de Henao, quien falleció el martes 21, a las 10.45 am. Antes que nada deseo agradecer a todos ustedes por las amorosas expresiones de cariño y apoyo, estas se hacen posible en la medida que la comunidad de Jesús se va construyendo y en donde en el nombre del Señor aprendemos, poco a poco, a compartir las alegrías y también las tristezas. Cuento con sus oraciones.

En momentos en que la muerte toca las puertas de nuestra vida es cuando más importante rehace la reflexión sobre la vida, recordando que la reflexión sobre la vida no se debe ‘reducir’ a la vida que tenemos aquí en la tierra, sino a la vida que se extiende hasta una eternidad que sólo la fe hace posible. Creo que es sano recordar el origen de la muerte, el origen está en el pecado. Esa es la realidad que siempre nos acompaña y de la cual no nos podemos separar lo deseemos o no.

Pero antes del pecado había una realidad que es importante tener siempre presente. Desde el comienzo Dios creó al ser humano para que estuviera siempre con Él, y nada, ni siquiera el pecado ni la muerte podían destruir ese deseo inmenso de Dios, que sólo tiene explicación en el amor. Por lo tanto, recordemos que hemos sido creado por Dios para Dios. En otras palabras, nuestra experiencia en la tierra tiene muchos propósitos, de hecho cada uno de nosotros vive su propio proyecto de vida, pero sin duda hay un proyecto que supera en profundidad de significado y en la extensión del tiempo a cualquier otro proyecto. El proyecto grande es vivir nuestra vida en la tierra de manera tal, que al final podamos verdaderamente regresar a nuestro origen, y nuestro origen es Dios y Dios es amor y Dios es eternidad. Allí es donde radica en forma resumida el verdadero propósito de nuestra vida. Ojalá la conciencia de esta realidad nos acompañe cada día y en cada actividad de nuestra vida.

Cuando la muerte se hace presente en cualquier persona, pero en especial cuando hace su aparición en alguien muy cercano a ti, es cuando sientes el poder del misterio de la vida y de su significado. Es entonces cuando nos veos confrontados al misterio de la existencia y es cuando para nosotros los creyentes la fe se hace presente en todo su esplendor. La pérdida de un ser querido es siempre un paso difícil y doloroso, pero el regalo inmenso de la fe, que es consecuencia de todo lo que Jesús nos enseñó con su vida y sus palabras, es el bálsamo que te hace ver este paso, no como algo que termina, sino como el proceso de transformación que nos lleva felizmente a la casa verdadera.

Jesús nos prometió que nos tendría preparadas unas mansiones en el cielo a nuestro regreso. Inmediatamente pueden venir a nuestras imágenes las mansiones que conocemos aquí en la tierra. Sion embargo, San Pablo nos enseña que ninguna de las imágenes que la mente humana tiene preconcebidas por la experiencia, se asemeja en nada a lo que nos espera. Qué es? Cómo es? Cuándo será? Las respuestas a esas preguntas no tienen sentido, no tienen importancia, no tenemos porque saber esas respuestas, no tenemos por qué saberla. Lo importante es vivir cada día con la “lámpara de aceite llena.” La verdadera sabiduría en esta vida es estar preparados, la verdadera sabiduría nos la entrega Aquel que nos dice de muchas maneras que “es el camino, la verdad y la vida.”

Doy gracias a Dios por la vida de mi madre. Doy gracias a Dios por todas las enseñanzas que nos dejó, por su ejemplo y por su amor y entrega incondicional a cada uno de nosotros. Mi madre fue muy feliz con el regalo de la vocación que el Señor me dió. Ahora, como sacerdote, en compañía de toda la familia, la entregamos a su amor, a su bondad y a su misericordia.

Todo esto es una razón más para desear un día estar allá, reunidos todos de nuevo, pero mientras ese momento llega, deseo vivir en plenitud el sacerdocio que el Señor me regaló. Quiero usar cada día de mi vida para servir a su pueblo. Pido perdón por los errores cometidos, por los momentos de fragilidad, pero quiero que sepan que mi deseo es continuar compartiendo con todos ustedes las maravillas de la Palabra de Dios que nos enriquece y nos fortalece y nos da paz y nos da esperanza, como nada en el mundo lo puede hacer.

P. Nelson

MASS INTENTIONS

SUN., Nov. 26, 2017-Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

7:30 All Souls
9:00 Murphy and Warneke Families
10:30 Anne Marie Blancato Intentions
12:00 Bertha Mero Healing Intentions
Pedro Figueroa; Valentin Avelez;
Belinda Rodriguez; Rafael Arias;
Ana Louisa Perez; Apolonio Cruz
Timothy Harty Health Intentions
5:00 Alessandra Mia Savino Intentions

MONDAY, November 27, 2017-St. Maximus

6:50 All Souls
8:30 Closing Jubilee Year Mass Piarist
12:15 Geronimo Lopez, Jr.

TUESDAY, November 28 2017-St. James of the March

6:50 Stephanie Fijalkowski
8:30 Antonio Colon
12:15 Karen Limardo Birthday Intentions

WEDNESDAY, November 29, 2017-St. Saturninus

6:50 All Souls
8:30 Richard Smalls
12:15 Raquel Rincón de Henao
7:00 Marisol Guzman Health Intentions

THURSDAY, November 30, 2017-St. Andrew

6:50 Lucy Cannavacciuolo Intentions
8:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors
12:15 Michael P. Churchill Intentions

FRIDAY, December 1, 2017-St. Florence

6:50 Josephine Schubert
St. Helena's Benefactors
8:30 Carlos Galindo
12:15 Bernard Farley

SATURDAY, December 2, 2017-St. Bibiana

6:50 In Thanksgiving for Favors
8:30 Augusto Rivera
12:15 The Shine Family Intentions
5:30 Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Scanlon

SUNDAY, December 3, 2017-First Sunday of Advent

7:30 Mamie Herman
9:00 Angel Acevedo
10:30 Felipe Olivo, Sr.
12:00 Mario Vasconcellos 1st Yr Anniversary;
In Honor of the Souls in Purgatory;

Fieles Difunto, Petra Feliciano, Lorensa Morales,
Esteban Carrera, Vicente Petronilo, Catalina Carrera &
All the Faithful Who Have Departed

1:30 Fernando Rubin
5:00 For the Reunification of a Husband and
Father Unjustly Deported

Readings for the Week of November 26, 2017

Sunday: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-3, 5-6/1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46;
Monday: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52-56/Lk 21:1-4; **Tuesday:** Dn 2:31-45/
Dn 3:57-61/Lk 21:5-11; **Wednesday:** Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62-67/
Lk 21:12-19; **Thursday:** Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8-11/Mt 4:18-22; **Friday:** Dn 7:2-14/
Dn 3:75-81/Lk 21:29-33; **Saturday:** Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82-87/Lk 21:34-36;; **Next**
Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk
13:33-37