

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

December 2017
January 2018

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

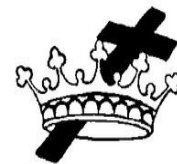
www.churchofsthelena.com

Email: sthelenarc@yahoo.com

Alumni: sthelenasalumni@yahoo.com



saint Helena parish



Bronx, NY

Mass Schedule (Horario de Misas)

Saturday: 5:30 PM

Sunday: AM

7:30

9:00

10:30 (Family)

PM

12:00 (Spanish)

1:30

5:00

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

Weekdays: 6:50AM, 8:30 AM and 12:15 PM

Morning Prayer—Daily 8:30AM

Spanish Mass: Sunday, 12:00 Noon

Holy Days — Evenings Before—7:00PM

Wednesday —7:00 PM (Spanish)

Monday 7:00PM (every first Monday of the month in Spanish) Primeros lunes de mes

Confessions: Saturday — 4 to 5:30

Sick Or Emergency Calls:

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

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**Sunday, December 31****5:00pm Parish New Year's Mass (Bi-lingual)****Monday, January 1, 2018****NO 7:30AM MASS****9:00am (Children's Choir)****10:30am (Adult Choir)****NOON (Spanish Mass and Choir)****1:30pm****5:00pm****The Catholic New Year**

The word *year* is German in origin and means "that which makes a complete cycle." In Hebrew the word signifies repetition, and since there was no necessary starting-point in the circle of the year, there exists among different nations a great variety of dates with which the new year began.

The opening of spring was a natural beginning, and in the Bible, itself, there is a close relationship between the beginning of the year and the seasons. The ancient Roman year began in March, but Julius Caesar, in correcting the calendar (46 B.C.), made January the first month. Though this custom has been universally adopted among Christian nations, the names, September, October, November, and December (i.e., the seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth month), remind us of the past, when March began the year. Christian writers and councils condemned the heathen orgies and excesses connected with the December 17 festival of the *Saturnalia*. Toward the end of the sixth century, the Council of Auxerre forbade Christians on New Year's Day from exchanging presents, then called *strenae* (named from the goddess Strenia.) Instead, the Second Council of Tours, held in AD 567, prescribes prayers and a Mass of expiation for New Year's Day, adding that this is a practice long in use. Dances were forbidden, and pagan crimes were to be expiated by Christian prayers and fasts.

In AD 375, when Christmas was fixed on December 25, New Year's Day was sanctified by commemorating on it the Circumcision, for which feast the Gelasian Sacramentary (AD 750) gives a Mass. It was the adoption of the Gregorian calendar that eventually brought uniformity to the New Year's date of January 1. Christians generally did not wish to make the celebration of this feast very solemn, lest they might seem to condone in any way the pagan extravagance of the opening year.

Among the Jews, the first day of the seventh month, *Tishri* (end of September), began the civil year with the sound of trumpets. In the Bible, the day is not mentioned as New Year's Day, but the Jews so regarded it, so named it, and so consider it now. The sacred year began with Nisan (early in April) and was memorable because in this month "the Lord thy God brought thee out of Egypt by night." Christian nations did not agree on the date of New Year's Day. In the Christian liturgy, the Church does not refer to the first of the year, any more than she does to the fact that the first Sunday of Advent is the first day of the ecclesiastical year. They were not opposed to January 1 as the beginning of the year, but rather to the pagan extravagances which accompanied it. Evidently the natural opening of the year, the springtime, together with the Jewish opening of the sacred year, Nisan, suggested the propriety of putting the New Year in that beautiful season. Also, the Dionysian method (so named from the sixth century Abbot Dionysius) of dating events from the coming of Christ became an important factor in New Year calculations. The Annunciation, with which Dionysius began the Christian era, was fixed on March 25 and became New Year's Day for England in early times up until January 1, 1752, when the current custom was introduced. In Ireland, November 1 was the beginning of the new year. Some countries, such as Germany, began the new year with Christmas,

thus being almost in harmony with those ancient peoples who made the winter solstice their starting-point. Notwithstanding the movable character of Easter, France, and the Low Countries took it as the first day of the year, while Russia, up to the eighteenth century, made September the first month. The western nations, however, since the sixteenth, or, at the latest, the eighteenth century, have adopted and retained the first of January.

In the United States, the Fathers of the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore (1884) successfully petitioned Rome to be able to celebrate New Year's Day, January 1, as the Feast of the Circumcision. Pope John XXIII's 1960 rubrical and calendrical revision removed the mention of the circumcision of Jesus and called January 1 simply the Octave of the Nativity. The 1969 revision of the liturgical year and the calendar states: "January 1, the Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord, is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God."

How then does this relate to the Catholic celebration of New Year's Day? The answer is that *dates do matter* and that the marking of these dates defines how we understand our place within history and God's plan. New Year's should reinforce our sense of vocation for the coming year. New Year's teaches us how properly to measure time and how to mark the coming of salvation into the world in light of its progressive unfolding in our lives and in human history.

**Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus
January 3**

In a world of fiercely guarded corporate names and logos, it should be easy to understand this feast. The letters IHS are an abbreviation of *Iesous*, the Greek name for Jesus. The January 3 Feast of the Holy Name (traditionally celebrated as part of the Feast of the Circumcision) is a major feast of the Church. It reflects the significance of the Holy Name, Jesus. The name Jesus is from the Hebrew *Joshua* or *Yehoshuah* meaning "Yahweh is salvation" or "Yahweh will save."

Although St. Paul might claim credit for promoting devotion to the Holy Name because Paul wrote in Philippians that God the Father gave Christ Jesus "that name that is above every name," this devotion became popular due largely to the influence of 12th-century Cistercian monks and nuns but especially through the preaching of St. Bernardine of Siena, a 15th-century Franciscan. Bernardine used devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus as a way of overcoming bitter and often bloody class struggles and family rivalries or vendettas in Italian city-states. The devotion grew, partly because of Franciscan and Dominican preachers. It spread even more widely after the Jesuits began promoting it in the 16th century. In 1530, Pope Clement V approved an Office of the Holy Name for the Franciscans. In 1721, Pope Innocent XIII extended this feast to the entire Church. This feast invites us to a continual remembrance and veneration of the Holy Name in order that God might plant in us, and in every heart, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton - January 4

Elizabeth Ann Bayley was born in New York City on August 28, 1774, to a prominent Episcopal family, and lost her mother at the age of three. In 1794, at the age of 19, Elizabeth married William Magee Seton, a wealthy businessman with whom she had five children. William died of tuberculosis in 1803, leaving Elizabeth a young widow. After discovering Catholicism in Italy, where her husband had died, Elizabeth returned to the United States and entered the Catholic Church in 1805 in New York.

After a number of difficult years, Elizabeth moved in 1809 to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph's, the first community for religious women established in the United States. She also began St. Joseph's

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Academy and Free School, planting the seeds of Catholic education in the United States. Her legacy now includes religious congregations in the United States and Canada, whose members work on the unmet needs of people living in poverty in North America and beyond.

Mother Seton, as she is often called, was canonized on Sunday, September 14, 1975, in St. Peter's Square by Pope Paul VI. She was the first citizen born in the United States to be given the title of "Saint." Her remains are entombed in Emmitsburg in the Basilica at the National Shrine that bears her name.

St. John Neumann - January 5

Neumann was born in Prachatice, Bohemia (modern-day Czech Republic), then within the Austrian Empire. He attended a school in Budweis operated by the Piarist Fathers before entering the seminary there in 1831. Two years later he transferred to the University of Prague, where he studied theology. He was interested in astronomy and botany. He intended to be ordained, but his bishop, in 1835, decided there would be no more ordinations, as Bohemia had a high number of priests already. Neumann, who spoke eight languages then wrote to other bishops in Europe, but they all replied that they also had too many priests already. He was inspired by the missionary writings of Bishop Frederic Baraga in America, and because he had learned English by working in a factory with English-speaking workers, Neumann wrote to bishops in America, requesting to be ordained in the United States. In 1836, he arrived in the United States with very little money and was ordained to the priesthood in old St. Patrick's Cathedral on June 25, 1836. He was assigned by Bishop John DuBois, the third the Bishop of New York to work with recent German immigrants in mission churches in the Niagara Falls area, where he visited the sick, taught catechism, and trained teachers to take over when he left. After four years of service there, he realized his own need for support and came to realize the importance of communal activity in his work. He thus applied to the Redemptorists. He was accepted and entered the novitiate of the order in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In January 1842, he took the vows to enter the order in Baltimore, Maryland and became the first Redemptorist in the New World. After six years of difficult but fruitful work with the order, he was appointed the order's provincial superior in the United States. Neumann was naturalized as a citizen of the United States in Baltimore on February 10, 1848.

In March 1852, Neumann was consecrated in Baltimore, as the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was the first to organize a Catholic diocesan school system and increased the number of Catholic schools in his diocese from one to two hundred. He also introduced the School Sisters of Notre Dame to the New World to assist in religious instruction and staffing the orphanage. In 1853, he established Saint Peter's Parish in Riverside, New Jersey. Neumann was not a popular bishop and received criticism. He had to deal with the Know Nothings, a political group determined to deprive foreigners and Catholics of their civil rights; the group burnt down convents and schools. Discouraged, Neumann unsuccessfully wrote to Rome and asked for someone else to take his place. Neumann wrote in many Catholic newspaper and magazine articles. He also published two catechisms and a Bible history in German. There were also many teaching orders brought in by him. In 1860, Neumann died due to a stroke at the age of 48 while walking down a street in Philadelphia. Only after his death, did people begin to speak of how great he had been, and he was later canonized by Pope Paul VI on June 19, 1977.

à Noël, la naissance d'un « monde nouveau »

A Noël, un monde nouveau est en train de naître: la Nativité de Jésus change le cours de l'histoire, explique le pape François. Le pape François a en effet consacré sa catéchèse du mercredi au sens de la fête de la Nativité, ce 27 décembre 2017, en la salle Paul VI du Vatican.

Le pape François a invité à accueillir ce changement que la Nativité opère dans l'histoire de l'humanité: « Avec les petits, les méprisés, Jésus établit une amitié qui continue dans le temps et nourrit l'espérance d'un avenir meilleur. Avec eux, Dieu veut construire un monde nouveau où il n'y aura plus de personnes rejetées, maltraitées, indigentes. En ces jours de fête, ouvrons

Parishioner Update

This week, I sent EVERYONE in the parish BOTH an **E-mail** and a **Text Message** concerning our Mass Schedules for the Feast of the Holy Family and the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God. IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE either of these messages, then you should PLEASE update your information in the form below, cut it out and drop it in the collection basket.

In addition, if you have moved or changed your name or perhaps have had a family member who has passed within the past two years, please fill out the form with your updated information. Also, if you have not yet registered in the parish, please complete the form. Thank you very much for your assistance and cooperation. We should have as accurate records as possible.

We DO NOT share any of this information with any outside groups or agencies.

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cell Phone(s) _____

E-Mail _____

notre esprit et notre cœur pour accueillir cette grâce. »

« A une époque où nous assistons à une sorte de dénaturation de Noël, il faut dire que c'est la naissance de Jésus qui est le vrai Noël, sans Jésus ce n'est pas Noël ! », a réaffirmé le pape. Il a invité à contempler la surprise et la lumière que représente cette naissance: « A travers l'annonce de l'Eglise, comme les bergers de l'Evangile, nous sommes guidés pour trouver la vraie lumière, celle de Jésus qui se révèle de façon surprenante : il naît d'une pauvre jeune fille inconnue, qui le met au monde dans une étable, avec la seule aide de son mari. »

Le pape a expliqué que Dieu vient ainsi aujourd'hui encore dans le monde actuel: « C'est ainsi que le Fils de Dieu se présente encore à nous aujourd'hui : comme le don de Dieu pour l'humanité qui surgit dans la nuit et dans la torpeur du sommeil, alors que souvent l'humanité préfère demeurer dans l'obscurité et ne pas changer ses habitudes erronées. »

Pour le pape, ce sont là les fondements nouveaux d'une « vie nouvelle », d'une histoire où Dieu intervient: « Par l'incarnation de son Fils, Dieu nous a ouvert le chemin d'une vie nouvelle, fondée sur l'amour et non sur l'égoïsme. A Noël, l'histoire humaine a été visitée par l'histoire de Dieu. » Dans un tweet posté sur son compte @Pontifex_fr, le pape a ensuite ajouté: « Dieu, épris de nous, nous attire par sa tendresse, naissant pauvre et fragile au milieu de nous, comme un de nous. »

THREE KINGS FOOD BASKETS-Thank you for being an angel to someone in need this holiday season. St. Helena Boy Scout Troop 65 raised \$1,002 in their recent Pennies For the Pantry food drive. The scouts really want to thank all of the members of the St. Helena School and St. Helena Parish Community who were so very generous. Members of the Scout Troop helped to solicit the funds to buy the food and to package the Food Baskets, which will be distributed during the Holiday Season of Christmas, the Solemnity of Mary - Mother of God, and Three Kings (Epiphany). This year, the troop celebrated its 66th anniversary, and the parish celebrated the 75th anniversary of the dedication of the parish church by Francis Cardinal Spellman. If you know of a family or someone in need of a basket, please call the rectory.

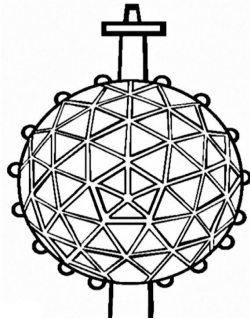
HISTORY OF THE TIMES SQUARE BALL DROP

It's no secret that one of the most popular destinations in the world for the most highly anticipated night out of the year – New Year's Eve – is New York City. It's all about the sights, sounds, and unique entertainment that this city has to offer—centered, of course, on the Times Square Ball. When you gather in Midtown to watch the Ball Drop, you're part of a long, rich history of partying!

In 1903, The New York Times newspaper was about to open their new headquarters, the city's second tallest building, in what was then known as Longacre Square. The paper's owner, Adolph Ochs, decided to commemorate their opening with a midnight fireworks show on the roof of the building on December 31, 1903. After four years of New Year's Eve fireworks celebrations, Ochs wanted a bigger spectacle at the building to draw more attention to the newly-renamed Times Square. An electrician was hired to construct a lighted Ball to be lowered from the flagpole on the roof of One Times Square. The iron Ball was only 5 feet in diameter! The very first drop was 110 years ago, on New Year's Eve 1907, one second after midnight. Though the Times would later move its headquarters, the New Year's Eve celebration at One Times Square remains a focal celebration for the world.

The Ball has gone through some major transformations in its 100-plus years of partying. The original Ball was replaced in 1920 with a 5-foot, 400-pound iron Ball. This Ball lasted to 1995 (with the exception of a 1942 and 1943 World War II hiatus) when a third Ball debuted, adding rhinestones and a computerized lighting system featuring strobe lights. For the arrival of the new millennium, an entirely new Ball was constructed. Weighing 1,070 pounds and measuring 6 feet in diameter, the fourth ball was covered with 504 Waterford Crystal triangles illuminated with 168 halogen bulbs outside. Internally, 432 bulbs of clear, red, blue, green and yellow colors along with strobe lights and spinning mirrors lit up the night. It was retired on December 31, 2006 newly rigged with light-emitting diodes.

In honor of the Ball Drop's 100th anniversary, a fifth design debuted New Year's Eve 2008. Manufactured again by Waterford Crystal with a diameter of 6 feet, weighing 1,212 pounds, it used LEDs, computerized lighting pattern, and can produce over 16.7 million colors, but only consumes the electricity of 10 toasters! The 2008 Ball was only used once—a sixth new Ball debuted on New Year's Eve 2009 and is still in use. Today's Ball is 12 feet in diameter, weighing 11,875 pounds. While retaining the 2008 design, this Ball was rebuilt double its previous size. To accommodate this new Ball, the flagpole was also enlarged, now rising 475 feet above the street. It remains atop One Times Square year-round, reminding the people below of the most exciting night of the year, and building the anticipation.



OFFERING ENVELOPES

Fourth Sunday of Advent	\$4,566.39
Christmas Collections and Donations	\$15,001.80

Our weekly budget, (Nuestro presupuesto semanal es) \$4,423.00 Thank you to all of our St. Helena Family for your generosity this Christmas and your support and for all that you do for St. Helena's Parish. This week we surpassed our weekly goal. During the Christmas vacation, we will be doing major plumbing, weather stripping, and window work, so I ask you to still please consider increasing your regular weekly offerings a little so that we can 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.

SECOND COLLECTION—The Annual Combined Collection for the Catholic University of America and the Catholic Communications Campaign will be taken up during the weekend of **January 6-7**. Catholic University educates students from all 50 states in philosophy, theology, and the arts and sciences. Catholic Communications produces outstanding spiritual programs for radio and television. Half your donation will go to the New York Archdiocesan Communications Office.

ST. HELENA'S NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION on Sunday, December 31 from 7:30PM-1:30AM in the gym. Our celebration will feature ethnic foods and cultural programs. We invite you to prepare and bring an ethnic dish from your country or to present something cultural from your tradition. Everyone is invited to our celebration, and there is no charge. Come usher in the New Year 2018 with your parish family. Call the rectory if you plan to bring or present something.

SOON TO BE ST. PAUL VI—The Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints has recognized a miracle attributed to the influence of Pope Paul VI, clearing the way for his canonization. The miracle—which was reportedly approved by the Congregation earlier this month—involved the healthy birth of a girl from Verona, Italy, named Amanda after the mother's placenta had ruptured months earlier in the pregnancy. A panel of doctors had already certified that the case had no medical explanation. Pope Paul VI, a native of Brescia, was beatified by Pope Francis in October 2014, concluding the extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the Family.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **50/50**—Pink envelopes for the **December** drawing are available at both entrances to the church. Remember, it only costs **\$5.00** to enter. The next winner will be picked on **Tuesday, Jan. 2**. This is usually our biggest drawing.
- **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES** start again on **January 3**. Contact Fr. Richard if you have any questions.
- **NO ADULT RCIA CLASSES** will take place on **Dec. 31**. Class will resume on **January 7**.
- **SPANISH BIBLE STUDY CLASS**—will resume our study of Genesis on **Tuesday, January 9**.
- **NO SPANISH CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** on **January 1**. The Spanish Charismatic Mass will be held at **7PM** on **Monday, January 8**.
- **ENGLISH CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** meets on Wednesdays at **7:30PM** in the Green Building.
- **STUDY THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**—Join us in the Green Building on **Tuesday, January 2**, at both **1PM** and **7:30PM**. We will begin our study of the Acts of the Apostles as well at **11:30AM** on **Sunday, January 7**.
- **YOUTH GROUP** for ages 12-18 meets on **Fridays** from **7-8:30PM** in the gym.
- **RELIGIOUS ARTICLES ROOM** is now open but will be closed **December 31**.
- **NEXT BAPTISM PREP CLASSES** will be held on **Thursday, January 11 and 25** 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.
- **CUB SCOUT WEBELOS**: A boy who is ten years old or is in the fourth grade is a Webelos Scout. Cub Scout Pack 65 invites all current fourth and fifth-grade boys to consider joining us. Call **917-327-6932** for more information.

- **TOY AND CLOTHING DRIVE**-This Holiday Season, you can help bring smiles to the faces of children. The **Youth Group** is collecting toys for the children at **JACOBI HOSPITAL**. Donations can be brought to the rectory and labeled for **Hospital Children**. The **Youth Group** will be distributing the toys which will be distributed on **Saturday, January 6** for Three Kings Day. The **Mother Teresa** group is also still collecting new clothing and unwrapped gifts for the seniors at **REBEKAH NURSING HOME**, which will be distributed on **January 8**, in celebration of Three Kings Day.
- **FRENCH MASS** on **Saturday, December 30** at **6:30PM** in the Church featuring the French Choir. A reception will follow in the gym sponsored by our West African community. Everyone is welcome to participate.
- **HOME HEALTH CARE AIDS** needed for two elderly homebound ladies. Fax resume to: **718-892-7713**.
- **FORMED**-With humor, compassion, and clarity, renowned preacher and retreat director, Father Larry Richards, illuminates how the true joy of Christmas is found in the gift of Jesus Christ to the world. **ST. HELENA PARISH** 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. You can then enjoy using **FORMED**.
- **HOLIDAY MASS TIMES**, weather cancellations, ministry updates and more **delivered to your phone**. To sign up, text the keyword **sthelena** to the number **84576**. Or sign up online at www.flocknote.com/StHelena

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **AN IMPOSSIBLE UNITY**-Join us **January 12-14** for the The New York Encounter, a cultural event consisting of a weekend of public discussions, exhibits, and live performances at the Metropolitan Pavilion, 125 West 18 St., NY. Visit: www.newyorkencounter.org
- **CATHOLIC TEACHERS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**-The Annual Retreat Day for Catholic Teachers in Public Schools will take place on **Saturday, Feb. 3** from **9AM - 1:30PM** at the Maryknoll Fathers, 55 Ryder Rd., Ossining. The cost is \$25. Lunch will be served.
- **GET PAID** up to \$70,000 to care for your family and friends through the **CDPAP Program**. Se habla espanol. Bronx office: 1878 Cross Bronx Expressway. Visit us at: www.housecallshc.org or call **212-671-1299**. House Calls Home Care is a licensed home care agency certified to provide Home Care services in Brooklyn, Bronx, Manhattan, Staten Island, Queens and Westchester County.
- **MUSLIMS DESTROY COPTIC CHURCH IN EGYPT**-About 5,000 people came out of a village mosque to encircle and destroy the village's only church. They were "furious because a bell tower was being planned.
- **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 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.
- **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**.
- **NOTIFY NYC APP**-New York City residents, families, and commuters can stay informed in more ways than ever before with Notify NYC's new mobile application, which provides information about emergency events and important City services, based on your location. Anyone can sign up and customize the alerts they would like to receive by downloading the Notify NYC app for their Apple or Android device (visit NYC.gov/notifynycapp, visiting NYC.gov/notifynyc, calling 311 or 212-639-9675 for Video Relay Service, or TTY: 212-504-4115), or following @NotifyNYC on Twitter.
- **IT'S A GIRL**-Congratulations to parishioners Avalino and Yadira Huerta on the birth of their new daughter on **December 28** at Jacobi Hospital.

ANUNCIOS EN ESPAÑOL

ACTUALIZA TU INFORMACION EN LA PARROQUIA

Esta semana envié a todos en la parroquia un e-mail y un mensaje de texto sobre el horario para la FIESTA DE LA SAGRADA FAMILIA y la SOLEMNIDAD DE MARIA, MADRE DE DIOS. Si usted **no** ha recibido ninguno de estos mensajes, por favor actualice su información en el siguiente formulario y déjela en la canasta de donación o en la rectoría.

Es importante que todo cambio de dirección, o de nombre, o si algún pariente ha fallecido, sea comunicado a la parroquia. Gracias por su cooperación. Como siempre, esta información es exclusivamente para uso de la parroquia, nunca se comparte con ningún instituto o agencia externa.

NOMBRE: _____

DIRECCIÓN: _____

CIUDAD: _____ ESTADO: _____

CODIGO POSTAL: _____

CELULAR: _____

E-MAIL: _____

- **CELEBRACION DE FIN DE AÑO EN SANTA HELENA:** Un grupo de voluntarios ha tenido la idea, apoyada por la comunidad Escolapia, de celebrar juntos la llegada de fin de año. Si deseas venir con tu familia, o si no tienes aquí tu familia, eres bienvenido/a a compartir. Puedes colaborar con algo de comida o postre o inclusive con participación en canto o actividades. Tendremos **oración** unos minutos antes del fin de año y unos minutos después de los abrazos y deseos de felicidad. Puedes comunicarte con Fátima Cabrera al **917-584-7293**
- **CALASANZ COMMUNICATIONS:** Te enriqueció espiritualmente alguna de las homilías del P. Nelson? Deseas escucharla de nuevo o compartirla con alguien más? Sólo tienes que ir a [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) y buscar: **Calasanz Communications**. Allí las encontrarás. También te puedes subscribir al canal para que te llegue automáticamente la última homilía. Ayuda a propagar la Palabra de Dios!!!! *Es una buena manera de evangelizar.*
- **CANASTAS DE COMIDA PARA NAVIDAD:** El grupo de Boy Scout de la parroquia recogió dinero para donar canastas de comida durante el final y el comienzo de año. Si conoces a alguien en necesidad de alimentos, llama a la rectoría y deja la información.
- **CATEQUESIS DE ADULTOS (RCIA) Domingo:** Retomaremos las clases el **domingo 7 de enero. Buen descanso!**
- **CLASES DE BIBLIA, Martes 7.30 pm:** Retomaremos las clases el **martes 9 de enero. Buen descanso!**
- **GRUPO DE ORACION:** No habrá encuentro ni el 25 de Diciembre ni el 1 de enero. El próximo encuentro será el **8 de enero.**
- **TIENDA DE ARTICULOS RELIGIOSOS:** Estará cerrada el 24 y el 31 de diciembre.
- **CLASES DE PREPARACION PARA EL BAUTISMO:** Las clases de Enero serán los días **11 y 25** a las 7 pm. **NOTA IMPORTANTE:** 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.

We will be starting a new list next week. Please inform the rectory if you or a loved one wishes to be added to or remain on the sick list.

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 Tarez, Theresa Delevan, Mariana Rivera, Noemi Cross, Arley Johnson, Annissa Ramratansingh, Catherine Gregson, Josefina Gonzalez, Rosa Amelia Escibano 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, Florence Churchill, David Sheehan, Joyce Hoyt

Please Pray for the Deceased and their Grieving Families:

Carmen Gonzalez, Sandy Centeno, Marie Smith, Juana Matos, Sol Maria Mendoza, Alfredo Ramirez, Victor Cantres, Maria C. Cortez

LA PALABRA NOS DICE:

El último boletín de año se dedica de corazón a Nuestro Señor Jesucristo quien durante todo el año nos ha guiado en el camino maravilloso de la vida, en el camino de la santidad, en el camino que nos guía con mano segura hacia la eternidad. Como Cristianos Católicos que somos, agradecemos también la presencia amorosa de María, a quien como, al contrario de lo que algunos dicen, nosotros **no** adoramos sino **veneramos**, por su intercesión y modelo de fidelidad permanente que nos guía a su Hijo.

Nuestra querida Iglesia nos enseña de una manera pedagógica el misterio de Dios, con la autoridad de veinte siglos llevando la Palabra de salvación a la humanidad. Es por eso que en esta época del año celebramos lo que se llama la **Octava de Navidad**. Qué significa esto? Simplemente que el misterio de la Encarnación es tan grande que esa fiesta se celebra durante ocho días como si fuera uno sólo. Es una invitación a apreciar con más detenimiento ese misterio que toca de manera directa la vida de cada ser humano y, ciertamente, de una manera muy especial, la vida de cada creyente. En el año sólo vivimos dos octavas, la de Navidad y la Octava de Pascua, en donde siguiendo el mismo método, se reflexiona durante ocho días acerca del misterio pascual, o sea, la pasión, muerte y resurrección de Jesús.

Hoy quisiera afrontar un tema de vital importancia con una pregunta: ¿Cuándo los evangelistas Mateo y Lucas nos dicen, cada uno a su manera y siguiendo cada uno sus tradiciones, acerca de la **concepción de la Virgen María por el poder del Espíritu Santo**, es esto una realidad histórica? Sucedió realmente así? O es simplemente una historia piadosa o una leyenda que busca expresar o interpretar el misterio de Jesús de alguna manera? Hay una persona que nos puede ilustrar muy bien en este punto, porque partiendo de algunas raíces teológicas protestantes que se han colado en algunos lugares del catolicismo, se ha hecho daño en la fe de muchos creyentes, diciéndoles que la historia de la concepción virginal de Jesús por medio del Espíritu Santo, no es exactamente como se describe en los evangelios.

Por eso, para los interesados en el tema, les recomiendo la trilogía de libros del Papa Emérito Benedicto XVI sobre Jesús, son una verdadera joya para la teología y nuestra fe y nos ayudan a hacer nuestro camino sobre terreno seguro y razonable. Uno de estos libros habla sobre las narraciones de la infancia de Jesús, otro sobre su vida pública y el otro sobre su pasión, muerte y resurrección. El Papa Emérito (es un título dado a quien fue Papa y aún está vivo) nos recuerda que desde los años cuarenta se ha intentado explicar este misterio maravilloso desde la historia de las religiones, intentado relacionarlo con otras historias o mitos sobre la divinidad, especialmente en Egipto. Sin embargo, nos recuerda también que ninguna de esas historias ofrece un real paralelo con el nacimiento virginal de Jesús, porque las diferencias son muy profundas.

Las narraciones de Mateo y Lucas preservan de manera muy clara la distancia infinita entre Dios y sus creaturas, no hay mezclas, no hay un semi-dios. Los evangelios nos hablan de la **Palabra Creativa de Dios**, como la que **"hace todo nuevo."** Jesús, nacido de María, es totalmente Dios y totalmente humano, sin confusión y sin separación. Estas historias están firmemente enraizadas en la tradición bíblica de Dios el Creador y el Redentor. Son tradiciones que se transmitieron por tradición familiar **"haciendo memoria de eventos que realmente sucedieron."** Esto significa que el misterio que ha llegado hasta nosotros ya era conocido por otros. Y agrega el papa Benedicto: "Me parece natural que sólo hasta después de la muerte de María el misterio se hizo público y pasó a ser patrimonio de los primeros cristianos."

Después de que este evento tan importante se hizo dominio público, se convirtió en objeto de reflexión y comprensión. Todas

las profecías que hasta el momento se habían hecho y que están fielmente registradas a todo lo largo del Antiguo Testamento, de repente se mueven hacia el presente en la persona de Jesús. Al contrario de otros mitos de la historia, la narración de los evangelios no hablan de una revolución cósmica, ni de encuentros físicos entre Dios y los seres humanos. Lo que ellos nos narran es una preciosa historia humilde, cuya humildad trae precisamente la grandeza única que tiene. Es la obediencia de María la que abre las puertas a Dios. La Palabra de Dios, su Espíritu es el que crea el niño en ella. Eso es lo que produce la puerta de la obediencia en María.

Desde allí Jesús se convierte en el nuevo Adán, el nuevo comienzo, que se coloca totalmente a la disposición de la voluntad de Dios. Esta nueva creación está, sin duda alguna, atada al “sí” de la criatura humana, al “sí” de María. Ese “sí” radical es el que *hace posible siempre una nueva creación*, es el destino del creyente fiel, ser cada día una nueva creación en Jesucristo Nuestro Señor. Por eso en el Credo decimos con fe total: “Creo en Dios, Padre Todopoderoso, Creador del cielo y de la tierra; Creo en Jesucristo, su único Hijo, Nuestro Señor, que fue concebido por obra y gracia del Espíritu Santo, nació de Santa María Virgen...”

Nos recuerda el Papa que hay dos momentos en la historia cuando Dios interviene en el mundo material: el nacimiento virginal y la resurrección de la tumba. Esos momentos son un escándalo para el espíritu moderno que considera que a Dios se le puede dejar actuar en el mundo de las ideas, en el campo de lo espiritual, pero no en lo material. Según la ciencia atea, Dios no pertenece al mundo material, lo material sólo pertenece a nosotros. Pero allí es donde está el punto: Dios es Dios y Él no obra sólo en el mundo de las ideas. A la pregunta sobre si la materia pertenece también a Dios podemos responder afirmativamente, en reforma razonable, porque el poder creativo de Dios abarca el total de la creación. Cómo decir que Dios creó sólo las ideas y nada tiene que ver con la materia? Si Dios no tuviera poder sobre la materia, simplemente no sería Dios.

Pero Dios tiene todo el poder y a través de la concepción virginal y la resurrección ha iniciado una nueva creación. Por eso Dios no es sólo nuestro Creador sino también nuestro Redentor. Por todo lo anterior, la concepción de Jesús de María, la Virgen, es un elemento fundamental de nuestra fe y un signo radiante de esperanza, culmina diciendo el Papa Emérito Benedicto XVI en el capítulo II de las narraciones de la infancia de Jesús.

Que el comienzo del Nuevo Año traiga a todos mucha alegría, pero que la alegría más grande sea saberse verdaderamente **Hijo/a de Dios** y por lo tanto una **nueva creación**, proceso

maravilloso en el que el mismo Dios nos acompaña. Que el “sí” de María sea nuestra inspiración permanente, para que en nuestros corazones sea también concebido el Dios de la vida y del amor, *el que hace todo nuevo*. P. Nelson

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, Dec. 31, 2017-The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

7:30 Christmas Novena

9:00 Gerry McMahon (Health Intention)

10:30 Mary McNiff (Healing Intention)

12:00 Virgin de la Nube;

Silvia Cruz (acción de Gracias);

In Honor and In Thanksgiving to St. Nino Viajero;

José Sislema, Mariano Pomaquiza,

Manuel Sislema, José Cela, Manuel Gonzalez,

Angel Quishpi, José Pomaquiza and Pablo Sumba

1:30 Concepcion de Garcia

Vigil for the Solemnity of the Mother of God

5:00 Ralph A. Cerbone, Jr.

MONDAY, Jan. 1, 2018-Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

NO 7:30AM MASS

9:00 Margarita Figur

Christmas Novena

10:30 Thanksgiving Mass and Special Intention

Miranda and Arroyo Families

12:00 Luis Perez, Sylvia Carsado and Manuel Perez

1:30 Special Intention for a Friend

5:00 In Thanksgiving for Favors

TUESDAY, January 2, 2018-St. Basil and St. Gregory Nazianzen

6:50 Christmas Novena

8:30 Telma Anith and Family (Intentions)

12:15 Terence Lorino (Healing Intention)

WEDNESDAY, January 3, 2018-The Most Holy Name of Jesus

6:50 Dolores Cronk

8:30 For the Reunification of a Husband and Father
Unjustly Deported

10:00 Funeral Mass-Maria C. Cortez

12:15 Terence Lorino (Healing Intention)

7:00 John and Kevin Russell

THURSDAY, January 4, 2018-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

6:50 Gerard Millotti

8:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors

12:15 Maudie Carmody (Health Intention)

FRIDAY, January 5, 2018-St. John Neumann

6:50 Divine Justice for Crimes Committed Against 3
Young Girls

8:30 Domenica and Vincenzo D'Agostino

12:15 Anthony Pisciotta

**SATURDAY, January 6, 2018-The Traditional Epiphany and
St. Andre Bessette**

6:50 Consuelo Olivo Gonzalez

8:30 Genevieve Cerbone

12:15 Carmen Judy Colon

5:30 Valentine Wnek

SUNDAY, January 7, 2018-The Epiphany of the Lord

7:30 Isolina Rose Squillante

9:00 Lucy Cannavacciuolo (Health Intention)

10:30 Special Intention for a Friend

12:00 Pedro Figueroa and Julia Serrano

1:30 Fred Tadino

5:00 Michael James Kelly and Sean Kelly

Readings for the Week of December 31, 2017

Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, [7a, 8a] or Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40; **Monday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21; **Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28; **Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 [3cd]/Jn 1:29-34; **Thursday:** 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 [3cd]/Jn 1:35-42; **Friday:** 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 [2a]/Jn 1:43-51; **Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38; **Next Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

