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*	*PM*
	7:30	12:00 (Spanish)
	9:00	1:30
	10:30 (Family)	5:00

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

Who Were the Magi?

The Gospel of Matthew mentions the Magi who came from the East to worship the newborn Christ child . Oftentimes, the English translations of the Bible use the word astrologers for magi. In Greek, the original language of the Gospel, the word *magos* (*magoi*, plural) has four meanings: (1) a member of the priestly class of ancient Persia, where astrology and astronomy were prominent in Biblical times; (2) one who had occult knowledge and power, and was adept at dream interpretation, astrology, fortune-telling, divination, and spiritual mediation; (3) a magician; or (4) a charlatan, who preyed upon people using the before mentioned practices. From these possible definitions and the description provided in the gospel, the magi were probably Persian priest-astrologers who could interpret the stars, particularly the significance of the star that proclaimed the birth of the Messiah.

More importantly, the visit of the Magi fulfill the prophecies of the Old Testament: The diviner Balaam prophesied in the Book of Numbers about the coming Messiah marked by a star: "I see him, though not now; I behold him, though not near: A star shall advance from Jacob and a staff shall rise from Israel..." Psalm 72 speaks of how the Gentiles will come to worship the Messiah: "The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts, the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay Him homage, all nations shall serve Him." Isaiah also prophesied concerning the gifts: "Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the Lord." St. Matthew recorded that the Magi brought three gifts, each also having a prophetic meaning: gold, the gift for a king; frankincense the gift for a priest; and myrrh -- a burial ointment, a gift for one who would die as a sacrifice. St. Irenaeus (d. 202) in his *Adversus haereses* offered the following interpretation for the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh respectively King, God, and Suffering Redeemer as well as virtue, prayer, and suffering.

Traditionally, we think of the three magi as the three kings. We usually have the three kings in our nativity sets. We even sing, "We three kings of orient are...." Here the three gifts, Psalm 72, and the rising star in the East converge to render the Magi as three kings traveling from the East. Actually, the earliest tradition is inconsistent as to the number of the Magi. The Eastern tradition favored 12. In the West, several of the early Church fathers, including Ongen, St. Leo the Great, and St. Maximus of Turin, accepted three. An early Christian painting in Rome found at the cemetery of Sts. Peter and Marcellinus depicts two magi and at the cemetery of St. Domitilla, four. Since the seventh century in the Western Church, the magi have been identified as Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar.

A work called the *Excerpta et Collectanea* attributed to St. Bede (d. 735) wrote, "The Magi were the ones who gave gifts to the Lord. The first is said to have been Melchior, an old man with white hair and a long beard, who offered gold to the Lord as to a king. The second, Caspar by name, young and beardless and with a ruddy complexion, honored Him as God by his gift of incense, an oblation worthy of divinity. The third, black-skinned and heavily bearded, named Balthasar. .. by his gift of myrrh testified to the Son of Man who was to die." An excerpt from a Medieval saints calendar printed in Cologne read, "Having undergone many trials and fatigues for the Gospel, the three wise men met at Sewa (Sebaste in Armenia) in AD 54 to celebrate the feast of Christmas. Thereupon, after the celebration of Mass, they died: St. Melchior on January 1, aged 116; St. Balthasar on January 6th, aged 112; and St. Gaspar on January 11th, aged 109." The Roman Martyrology also lists these dates as the Magi's respective feast days.

Emperor Zeno brought the relics of the Magi from Persia to Constantinople in 490. Relics (whether the same or others) appeared in Milan much later and were kept at the Basilica of St. Eustorgius. Emperor Frederick Barbarossa of Germany, who plundered Italy, took the relics to Cologne in 1162, where they remain secure to this day in a beautiful reliquary housed in the Cathedral, along with the relics of St. Helena.

Even though some mystery remains as to the actual identity of the Magi, the Church respects their act of worship: The Council of Trent, when underscoring the reverence that must be given to the Holy Eucharist, decreed, "The faithful of Christ venerate this most holy sacrament with the worship of latria which is due to the true God.... For in this sacrament we believe that the same God is present whom the eternal Father brought into the world, saying of Him, 'Let all God's angels worship Him.' It is the same God whom the Magi fell down and worshipped, and finally, the same God whom the apostles adored in Galilee as Scripture says" (*Decree on the Most Holy Eucharist*, 5).

As we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, we too must be mindful of our duty to adore our Lord through prayer, worship, and self-sacrificing good work.

The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ is one of the oldest Christian feasts, and throughout the centuries, it has celebrated a variety of things. *Epiphany* comes from a Greek verb meaning "to reveal," and all of the various events celebrated by the Feast of the Epiphany are revelations of Christ to man.

Like many of the most ancient Christian feasts, Epiphany was first celebrated in the East, where it has been held from the beginning almost universally on January 6, and it is both a Solemnity and a Holy Day of Obligation, although in most countries and dioceses, the celebration is transferred to the Sunday between January 2 and January 8. Today, among both Eastern Catholics and Eastern Orthodox, the feast is known as Theophany—the revelation of God to man.

Epiphany originally celebrated four different events, in the following order of importance: the Baptism of the Lord; Christ's first miracle, the changing of water into wine at the wedding in Cana; the Nativity of Christ; and the visitation of the Wise Men or Magi.

Each of these is a revelation of God to man: At Christ's Baptism, the Holy Spirit descends and the voice of God the Father is heard, declaring that Jesus is His Son; at the wedding in Cana, the miracle reveals Christ's divinity; at the Nativity, the angels bear witness to Christ, and the shepherds, representing the people of Israel, bow down before Him; and at the visitation of the Magi, Christ's divinity is revealed to the Gentiles—the other nations of the earth. Eventually, the celebration of the Nativity was separated out, in the West, into Christmas; and shortly thereafter, Western Christians adopted the Eastern feast of the Epiphany, while still celebrating the Baptism, the first miracle, and the visit from the Wise Men. Thus, Epiphany came to mark the end of Christmastide—the Twelve Days of Christmas, which are celebrated in the song and which began with the revelation of Christ to Israel in His Birth and ended with the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles at Epiphany.

Over the centuries, the various celebrations were further separated in the West, and now the Baptism of the Lord is celebrated on the Sunday after January 6, and the wedding at Cana is commemorated on the Sunday after the Baptism of the Lord.

In many parts of Europe, the celebration of Epiphany is at least as important as the celebration of Christmas. While in England and her historical colonies, the custom has long been to give gifts on Christmas Day itself, in Puerto Rico, Italy and other Mediterranean countries, Christians exchange gifts on Epiphany—the day on which the Wise Men brought their gifts to the Christ Child. In Northern Europe, the two traditions have often been combined, with gift-giving on both Christmas and Epiphany (often with smaller

gifts on each of the twelve days of Christmas in between). (In the past, though, the main gift-giving day in both Northern and Eastern Europe was usually the feast of Saint Nicholas.

The first idea of the feast is the manifestation of Christ as the Son of God. A second important idea in Epiphany is the extension of Christ's kingship to the whole world. The revelation of Christ to the three kings at Bethlehem is a symbol of His revelation to the whole of the Gentile world. Epiphany presents to us the calling of not merely a chosen few, but all nations to Christianity. Closely linked to both these themes of divine manifestation and world kingship is a third idea running through the Epiphany feast: that of light. During Advent, the world was in darkness, and we prayed and waited in the spirit of the Jewish nation which lived in expectation of the Coming Light during thousands of years. At Christmas the Light shone forth, but dimly, seen only by a few around the crib: Mary and Joseph and the shepherds. But at Epiphany the Light bursts forth to all nations and the prophecy is fulfilled: "The Gentiles shall walk in Thy light, and kings in the brightness of Thy rising." The mysterious star of Epiphany, "flashing like a flame," is still another facet of the light-motif, a symbol capable of being interpreted in a dozen different ways. Epiphany demands that, like the three wise men, we should have the courage to follow the light of the star we have seen, however hazardous the journey; that the light of our faith, like that of the wise men, should be so strong that we are able to see and recognize our Lord and Ruler in however unexpected a way He may present Himself to us; and that having recognized Him, we should bow down and adore Him, offering Him our total loyalty.

An Epiphany Blessing of Homes and Chalking the Door

In some parts of the world, there is a custom of gathering in places of residence or work to ask God's blessing on those dwellings and upon all who live, work, and visit there.

Each year, many people mark their homes, usually at the front or main entrance, with sacred signs and symbols. In Exodus, the Israelites marked their doors with blood so that the Lord would pass over their homes; but in this custom, people mark their doors with chalk as a sign that they have invited God's presence and blessing into their homes.

Due to the linking of the liturgy to the visit of the three Magi, it is most appropriately used at the start of the season of Epiphany. But because the service is so flexible in where it may be used, it might be used any time during the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany — or as part of a celebration observing the changing of the secular calendar from one year (or millennium) to the next. The service commonly takes place on Twelfth-Night. We know that Christmas Day is December 25 and that there are twelve days of Christmas, observed as December 25 through January 5. The day after the twelfth day of Christmas is January 6, which is observed as Epiphany, commemorating the visiting of the Christ Child by the three Magi (Wise Men) with their gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh. The season of Epiphany is also known as Twelfth-Tide; and the night Epiphany is known as Twelfth-Night. On Twelfth-Night in Europe, many families gather in their homes to celebrate this feast with friends, food, singing, and gifts. It is at these Twelfth-Night celebrations that "Chalking the Door" is most often observed.

Chalk, a substance made of common elements of the earth, is used by teachers to instruct students and by children in their games and play. We sometimes use chalk as an ordinary substance put to holy use. Further, chalk will not permanently mar the dwelling. As its image fades from view over time, those who participated in its original placement will remember it and the purpose for which it was intended. In doing so, they may rededicate themselves to that purpose. After a year passes and a new Epiphany arrives, they will have the opportunity once again to celebrate the themes of this season and once again to seek God's blessing on their homes and on those who come and go through the home.

Traditionally we remember the names of the Magi as Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar — although these names are not to be found in Scripture. During the chalking ceremony, the first letters of these three names — C, M, B — are inscribed on the door frame. Some suggest the C M B may also stand for "Christus Mansionem Benedicat," meaning "May Christ bless this dwelling." These letters are inscribed between the numbers of the year of the ceremony. Thus, as people are given the opportunity to participate in the chalking of the door, they will inscribe one or more of these symbols: 2017 C M B 2018 or 20 C + M + B 12 on the upper horizontal piece of the door frame of the front entrance to a home or hospital room; but if younger children or people in wheelchairs participate, they can place the symbols anywhere on the door frame they can comfortably reach.

Parishioner Update

IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVING either my Text or E-mail 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.

Please note that 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_____

Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord
January 8

This year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord on **Monday, January 8**, which brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

In the Eastern Church, this feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the baptism of John. He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world.

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolic of what happened at our own Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism, the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism, the heavens were opened; at our Baptism, heaven was opened to us. At His baptism, Jesus prayed; after our Baptism, we must pray to avoid actual sin.

In the 4th century, the Fathers of the Church deepened the understanding of the faith with regard to the Christmas mystery in the light of Jesus' Humanity. They affirmed that Jesus is the Christ from the first instant of conception in Mary's spotless womb because He Himself, with His Divine Power, consecrated, anointed

and 'Christified' that human nature with which He became incarnate. In the mystery of Christ's Baptism in the Jordan River, we again encounter and represent the truth of the Lord's incarnation and His manifestation as the Christ. The Father's voice from heaven shows that Jesus of Nazareth is the eternal Son and the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove shows the Trinitarian nature of the Christian God. The true and unique God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, shows Himself in Christ, through Him, with Him and in Him.

The Baptism in the Jordan returns to the great Christmas theme of 'Christification,' Jesus of Nazareth's spiritual anointing, His presentation as the Anointed One par excellence, the Messiah or the One sent by the Father for the salvation of mankind. The Spirit that descended on Jesus shows and seals in an incontrovertible way the 'Christification' of Jesus' humanity that the Word had already fulfilled from the first moment of His miraculous conception by Mary. Jesus, from the very beginning, was always the Lord's Christ, He was always God. Yet, His one, true humanity, that which is perfect in every way, as the Gospel records, constantly grew in natural and supernatural perfection.

In Israel, at 30 years of age, one reached full maturity and therefore could become a master. When Jesus came of age, the Holy Spirit, descended and remained on Him, definitively consecrated His whole being as the Christ. The same Spirit, that descended on the water of the River Jordan wafted over the waters during the first creation. Therefore, the Baptism in the Jordan presents yet another truth: that Jesus has started a new creation. He is the second man (1 Cor 15:47) or the last Adam (1 Cor 15:45), that comes to repair the first Adam's guilt. He does this as the Lamb of God, who takes away our sins.

Le pape explique l'acte pénitentiel du début de la messe

Pour l'audience générale de ce mercredi 3 janvier 2018, le pape François a poursuivi ses catéchèses sur la messe, méditant sur l'acte pénitentiel du début de la liturgie.

« Il est donc important que chacun reconnaisse, en se frappant la poitrine, que lui-même a péché; également par omission », a-t-il notamment souligné : « Car il ne suffit pas de dire 'je n'ai fait de mal à personne' pour être sans péché; il faut encore choisir d'accomplir le bien qu'il est possible de faire. »

Frères et sœurs, les rites d'introduction de la Messe comprennent un acte pénitentiel. Que Dieu pourrait-il donner, en effet, à celui qui a déjà le cœur rempli de lui-même ? Seul celui qui prend conscience de ses misères et baisse les yeux avec humilité sent se poser sur lui le regard miséricordieux de Dieu. Il est donc important que chacun reconnaisse, en se frappant la poitrine, que lui-même a péché; également par omission. Car il ne suffit pas de dire «je n'ai fait de mal à personne» pour être sans péché; il faut encore choisir d'accomplir le bien qu'il est possible de faire.

Cette confession générale des péchés se fait en présence des frères, car le péché nous sépare de Dieu, mais aussi de nos frères. Nous implorons ensuite l'intercession de la Vierge Marie et des Saints qui nous soutiennent sur notre chemin de communion avec Dieu. Enfin, l'absolution du prêtre nous pardonne nos péchés. N'oublions pas, cependant, que cette absolution n'a pas la valeur du Sacrement de pénitence qui reste indispensable pour le pardon de péchés graves – dits mortels – qui ont fait mourir la vie divine en nous.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	**$3,943.28**
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	**$1,866.76**

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. Perhaps the cold weather kept people home, but this week we did not reach our weekly goal. During the Christmas vacation, we performed 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 this weekend **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.

PARISH JOB OPENING-We are seeking to hire a part-time rectory cook to prepare lunch and dinner 5 days per week. Approximately 25 hours weekly. If interested, please call the rectory at 718-892-3232.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **50/50-**The winner of our **December 50/50** is **Number 29**. Remember, it only costs **$5.00** to enter. The next winner will be picked on **Monday, January 29**.
- **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES** begin at **3:45** in the church every **Wednesday.** An adult session in Spanish takes place at that same time in the church. Contact Fr. Richard if you have any questions.
- **CCD BAPTISMAL PREPARATION-**Fr. Richard will soon send a letter to all of the parents of a child in Religious Education Classes who have not yet been baptized detailing what must be done for their child to be baptized.
- **FIRST COMMUNION SESSION** will take place today, **Sunday, January 7**, at **11:30AM** in the cafeteria.
- **SPANISH FAMILY SESSION** will take place on **Sunday**, **January 14** at **1:30PM** in the cafeteria.
- **ENGLISH FAMILY SESSION** will take place on **Sunday, January 21** at **11:30AM** in the cafeteria.
- **ADULT RCIA CLASSES will resume on January 7.**
- **SPANISH BIBLE STUDY CLASS-**will resume our study of Genesis on **Tuesday, January 9.**
- **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.
- **SATURDAY ENGLISH PRAYER GROUP MEETINGS** The English Prayer Group will meet in the Green Building on **Saturday, January 21** and **29** at **1PM**, just after the **12:15PM** daily Mass. We hope this will be a more convenient time to meet.
- **STUDY THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES-**Join us in the Green Building on **Sunday, January 7**, at **11:30AM**. as well as on **Tuesday, January 9**, at both **1PM** and **7:30PM**. We will study Chapter 1 of the Acts of the Apostles.
- **MARDI GRAS MASQUERADE BALL-**The Youth Group is presenting an Adult Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball in the gymnasium on **Saturday, February 10** at **7:00PM**. There will be food, dancing, Mardi Gras activities, and both a DJ and a Live Band. The cost is $30/person or $50/couple.

- **YOUTH GROUP** for ages 12-18 meets on **Fridays** from **7-8:30PM** in the gym.

- **RELIGIOUS ARTICLES ROOM** will reopen today, **Sunday, January 7.**
- **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.
- **PREPARING VEGETABLE LASAGNA-**A whole foods plant-based Suppers Communal Meal will take place on **Saturday, January 20** from **3-5:30PM** in the cafeteria. The main dish will be a vegetable lasagna. We will also prepare a salad and a side of spinach. The meal prep will take place at **3PM**, the meal will begin at **4PM**. The $15 contribution is non-refundable, except if we don't spend it all. It is for groceries and there will be a refund if we do not spend it all. Usually, it works out that way. To register, call the rectory.
- **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.
- **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**
- **IT'S A GIRL-**Congratulations to parishioners Avalino and Yadira Huerta on the birth of their new daughter on **December 28** at Jacobi Hospital.

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**
- **WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES-**Pope Francis will celebrate a special Mass in the Vatican basilica on **Sunday, January 14**, for the 104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, the Vatican has announced. In his message for the observance, the Pope said society has an obligation "to welcome, to protect, to promote, and to integrate" migrants and refugees. "Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ," he wrote.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.

ANUNCIOS EN ESPAÑOL

ACTUALIZA TU INFORMACION EN LA PARROQUIA
Si usted no ha recibido ningún mensajes de texto o e-mail, 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:_____

- **OFERTA DE TRABAJO EN LA PARROQUIA**: La comunidad Escolapia desea contratar persona para preparar almuerzo y cena de lunes a viernes, trabajando un promedio de 5 horas a la semana. Si esta interesad@ puede llamar a la rectoría o venir directamente para hacer una cita para la entrevista.
- **CERTIFICADOS PRO-VIDA:** Las siguientes personas pueden pasar por la rectoría para recoger sus certificados: Carmen Romero / Frances S. Vega / Gabriela Flores / Isabel Pérez / Juan Montero / Lilia Piñeros Ruiz / Luis Enrique de Aquino / María Perez / Maribel Alley / Maricela Martínez / Marina Fuentes / Zeneida Vasquez.
- **SESION DE PADRES EN ESPAÑOL**: Domingo **7 de enero a las 11.30 am** en la cafetería.
- **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:** El próximo encuentro será el **8 de enero**.
- **GRUPO DE ORACION**: Edades de 12-18, los viernes de 7 pm a 8.30 pm.
- **FIESTA DE MASCARAS EN EL GIMNASIO:** El grupo juvenil presentará …… el sábado 10 de febrero a las 7 pm. Habrá comida, baile y actividades. Estará amenizado por una banda y un DJ. El costo es de $30 US por persona o $50 US por pareja.
- **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** 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.*
- **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 C**ertificado 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.

LA PALABRA NOS DICE:

Hola queridos hermanos. Feliz año para todos! Deseo iniciar este primer boletín del año haciendo un pequeño resumen del camino recorrido en las últimas semanas. El tiempo de Adviento comenzó el 3 de diciembre, fueron cuatro semanas de preparación espiritual, humana, personal y comunitaria, para celebrar y renovar en nuestra vida cristiana uno de los dos eventos históricos más importantes jamás sucedidos en la historia de toda la humanidad: el cumplimiento de la gran promesa hecha desde antiguo, en la que todos los profetas del Antiguo Testamento indicaban que un día, cuando el tiempo de Dios se cumpliera, el Mesías que podría sacar a la humanidad de su estado de pecado y, como consecuencia de error, se haría presente en medio de nosotros. Ese sería el regalo más grande que nosotros podríamos esperar de Dios Padre, que nos enviara a su propio Hijo para revelarnos su infinito amor por nosotros.

Dios siempre cumple sus promesas y esa gran promesa se hizo realidad visible y transformadora en la forma en que Dios prefiere hacer las cosas, desde la humildad y desde la sencillez, lo cual es precisamente lo que da la grandeza y profundidad que tiene el evento del nacimiento de Jesús. Por eso en la Iglesia, y valga la pena resaltar, *sólo en la Iglesia*, tenemos cada año un tiempo especial de preparación para recibir este inmenso regalo, que es tan grande, que ni la vida entera nos alcanza para comprender en plenitud la magnitud de su significado. Sin embargo, cada pequeño o grande descubrimiento que hacemos de ese divino misterio, es lo que nos mantiene en el camino alegre y confiado del sentido de la vida.

Como sabemos, Adviento termina el 24 de diciembre con el nacimiento de Jesús. Para el cristiano esta fecha está llena de vida, es algo que trasciende la barrera de la fiesta y de los regalos, que por sí solos no son algo malo, pero que sin Jesucristo se quedan en una fiesta muy pobre que lo único que hace es alimentar la gran celebración del mundo: el comercio. Nosotros los cristianos no nos dejamos arrebatar el verdadero significado de este tiempo que es, sin duda alguna, el verdadero tesoro que poseemos, o mejor, el verdadero tesoro que nos posee *en amor y libertad*. Hay tantos niños en el mundo llenos de regalos, pero tan vacíos por dentro. Eso es lo que hace Navidad, le muestra a la persona, sea adulta o adolescente o niño, el verdadero significado de la vida. Pero la ceguera de la humanidad no le permite *aún* apreciar, con verdadera admiración, lo único que es sólido, permanente y eterno, eso es lo que se llama "verdadera pobreza."

Esa es la gran pobreza de la humanidad en nuestro tiempo, porque ***económicamente el mundo jamás había experimentado tanta riqueza material y, sin embargo, al mismo tiempo jamás había experimentado tanta desigualdad***. No sólo me refiero a la desigualdad económica, que de hecho es escandalosa, sino a la desigualdad social en general, de oportunidades y de respeto del uno por el otro. Es que si bien siempre existirá en el mundo el rico y el pobre, como el mismo Jesucristo lo reconoció, no es justo que hayan diferencias entre ellos que sobrepasan los límites del respeto a la dignidad humana. Esta es una realidad que podemos ver, oler y sentir cada día en la cotidianidad de nuestros países, en donde los mal llamados 'poderosos', cada vez se apropian más de lo que en justicia pertenece a todos. La pobreza del mundo se hace visible en la medida que rechaza celebrar al que es la vida, el amor, la solidaridad, la justicia. Por eso el mundo no celebra la llegada de Jesús al mundo, porque es una piedra en el zapato, la figura de Jesús es incómoda para aquellos que necesitan mantener bajo su custodia el control y el poder. ***"La luz vino a los suyos y los suyos no la recibieron."***

Aquí deseo resaltar algo muy importante queridos hermanos y hermanas. La celebración de la Navidad tiene, ciertamente, un lado romántico, a quien no le conmueve la inocencia del niño que acaba de nacer? Pero esa imagen del niño en la cuna representa la presencia del Dios que vino a entregar su vida por nuestra salvación y que vino a confrontar a los poderes del mundo. Es importante apreciar la imagen del Niño Dios en su verdadera dimensión, no podemos quedarnos en la imagen desfigurada de un niño que se usa como disculpa para comprar regalos o para

We have begun a new list. 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, Carmelle and Nicole Antoine, Indrowdi Sadu, Rosa Pena, Luzvina Vega, Michelle Vega, Lucy Cannavacciuolo, Jose Rosario, Augustine Ayala, Florence Churchill, David Sheehan, Joyce Hoyt, John McClafferty

Please Pray for the Deceased and their Grieving Families:

Juana Matos, Sol Maria Mendoza, Alfredo Ramirez, Victor Cantres, Maria C. Cortez, Rev. Joseph Irwin, Ethel Elizabeth Sistrunk, Pedro J. Lopez, Sr., Rosa Torres, Awilda Cruz Maldonado, Daniel Radice

emborracharse. No, lo que se celebra en Navidad es la esencia misma de la vida, celebramos lo único que da verdadero sentido a nuestra existencia. Es por eso que esta fecha la Iglesia la celebra como una sola durante ocho días seguidos, a lo cual se le llama la Octava de Navidad, que va desde el 25 de diciembre, inclusive, hasta el 1 de enero, inclusive.

El 31 de diciembre de este año, que cayó en domingo, se celebró la fiesta de la **Sagrada Familia**, y esto es algo sobe lo que deseo reflexionar en las líneas que me quedan. ***No encuentro una institución más importante sobre la tierra que la familia***. El mundo, desde el primer ser humano que existió, ha sido posible por la historia de miles y millones de familias. Nosotros los cristianos, que somos los que de verdad conocemos la historia de nuestras raíces, -algo que hace tanta falta hoy entre tantos adultos, adolescentes y niños- podemos darle nombre y podemos recorrer con fidelidad histórica el camino de la evolución de la humanidad por medio de la familia, constituida por el hombre, la mujer y los hijos. La familia es la institución que más debemos proteger, porque es la que da sustento al tejido social.

La familia es irreemplazable y ni siquiera la ciencia, que frecuentemente se quiere colocar en el lugar de Dios, puede acercarse a los límites del valor de la familia. A menudo se hacen experimentos a unos costos que son sólo accesibles a personas con grandes recursos económicos de copiar lo que Dios ha hecho en forma natural para todo ser humano sin importar la raza, o el color, o la capacidad económica. De nuevo, es la dinámica del mundo que se mueve en dirección contraria a la dinámica de Dios.

Hoy día se quieren hacer muchos experimentos con *"nuevas mezclas de relaciones que quieren llamar familia."* Eso es falso y nada tiene que ver con el mal uso que a veces se le da a la palabra 'discriminación.' Con la excusa de que si no decimos *si* a toda propuesta que se hace hay discriminación, nos quieren **obligar** a aceptar realidades que, en su mayoría, son impuestas como consecuencia de influencias ideológicas y económicas que, con un lenguaje muy refinado, quieren presentar como moral lo que no lo es. La familia ha sido "desde el comienzo" un precioso regalo de Dios para la humanidad y en ella la Iglesia invita a colocar a Jesús en el centro. La familia **no** ha sido un invento de la sociedad ni de ningún gobierno, sino un don de Dios que en la familia sienta las bases de la educación y formación de todo ser humano.

Es por eso que la familia, como la conocemos, es tan atacada, porque debilitándola se resquebraja el tejido social y ello permite a los de siempre dominar a su antojo. Nosotros los cristianos, inspirados en Dios mismo que en la tierra habitó en una familia, nos oponemos a que a la familia se le despoje de aquello que le pertenece. El Niño Dios es mucho más que una figurita bonita, es el símbolo de la presencia del Dios que, desde la cuna hasta la cruz y la resurrección, nos muestra el rostro del amor verdadero, del amor que respeta a cada ser humano, y que por ello muestra un camino seguro de vida y de eternidad. *P. Nelson*

"They say they are three kings."

MASS INTENTIONS

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; Intentions of Ruben and Miquelina Mercado-Healing & Intentions of Ronald & Melissa Horne in Thanksgiving
- 1:30 Fred Tadino
- 5:00 Michael James Kelly and Sean Kelly

MONDAY, Jan. 8, 2018–St. Appolinaris
- 7:30 Juan Tirado
- 8:30 Mabel Schoenthaler
- 12:15 In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 7:00 Utavie Iniya

TUESDAY, January 9, 2018-St. Adrian Of Canterbury
- 6:50 Intention for Alessandra Mia Savino for a Relationship With Her Paternal Grandmother
- 8:30 In Honor of St. Jude
- 12:15 For the Soul of Fr. Mario Russo

WEDNESDAY, January 10, 2018–St. William
- 6:50 Barbara Archambault
- 8:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 12:15 In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 7:00 Lizardo Orellana

THURSDAY, January 11, 2018–St. Paulinus
- 6:50 Msgr. Arthur J. Scanlan
- 8:30 Lauro Pacheco
- 12:15 Michael Guido

FRIDAY, January 12, 2018–St. Benedict Biscop
- 6:50 Ben A. Gonzales
- 8:30 Manuel Fonseca
- 12:15 For the Sick of St. Helena's Parish

SATURDAY, January 13, 2018–St. Hilary
- 6:50 Xavier Francis, Meera Job, Staven and Jair Joseph Intention for Immigration Status
- 8:30 Intentions of God's Will Be Made Known to David Savino
- 12:15 Mary Voge
- 5:30 Duanny Jose Medrano

SUNDAY, January 14, 2018-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
- 7:30 Alberto Brinz
- 9:00 Lucy Cannavacciuolo (Health Intention)
- 10:30 Special Intention for a Friend
- 12:00 Rita, Felicia, Tinita and Lalo Capellan Juanita, Joanne and Bobby Sanabria (Health Intention)
- 1:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 5:00 Florence Churchill (Healing Intention)

Readings for the Week of January 7, 2018

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; **Monday:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3]/Mk 1:7-11; **Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1]/Mk 1:21-28 or 1 Sm 1:1-8 and 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1]/Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28; **Wednesday:** 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [8a and 9a]/Mk 1:29-39; **Thursday:** 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25 [27b]/Mk 1:40-45; **Friday:** 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19 [2]/Mk 2:1-12; **Saturday:** 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [2a]/Mk 2:13-17; **Next Sunday:** 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

SIGN IN SHOE REPAIR STORE

We will heel you
We will save your sole
We will even dye for you.