

Parish Staff

The Piarist Fathers

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

April 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

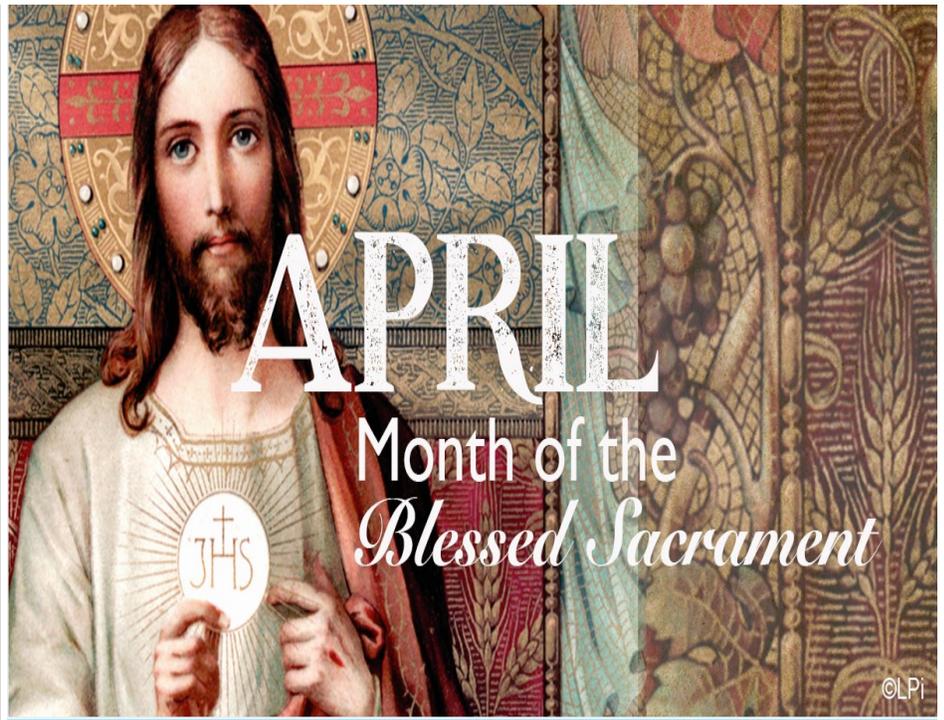
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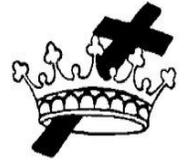
www.churchofsthelena.com

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 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

Divine Mercy Sunday Schedule

Divine Mercy Sunday: April 8

Masses: 7:30AM, 9:00AM, 10:30AM (Family), Noon (Spanish), 1:30PM and 5:00PM

1:30PM Lunch, Movie "Risen" (gym)

3:00PM Divine Mercy Devotions in Spanish (gym) and in English (Church) including Adoration Chaplet, Confession and Veneration of Divine Mercy Image

The Divine Mercy Devotion

Today is the last day of Easter, an eight-day celebration. It has a special name - Divine Mercy Sunday. From the diary of a young Polish nun, a special devotion began spreading throughout the world in the 1930s. The message is nothing new; it is a reminder of what the Church has always taught through scripture and tradition. God is merciful and forgiving, and we, too, must show mercy and forgiveness. But in the Divine Mercy devotion, the message takes on a powerful new focus, calling people to a deeper understanding that God's love is unlimited and available to everyone — especially the greatest sinners.

The message and devotion to Jesus as **The Divine Mercy** is based on the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Even before her death in 1938, the devotion to The Divine Mercy had begun to spread. The message of mercy is that God loves us — all of us — no matter how great our sins. He wants us to recognize that

His mercy is far greater than our sins so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy. It is a message we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC.

- A. Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.
- B. Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.
- C. Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

Devotion to The Divine Mercy involves a total commitment to God as Mercy. It is a decision to trust completely in Him, to accept His mercy with thanksgiving, and to be merciful as He is merciful. The devotional practices proposed in the diary of Saint Faustina are completely in accordance with the teachings of the Church and are firmly rooted in the Gospel message of our Merciful Savior. Properly understood and implemented, they will help us grow as genuine followers of Christ.

There are two scriptural verses that we should keep in mind as we involve ourselves in these devotional practices:

1. "This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me" (Is 29:13);
2. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (Mt 5:7).

It's an ironic and somewhat frightening fact that many of the most religious people of Christ's time (people who were actively practicing their religion and eagerly awaiting the promised Messiah) were not able to recognize Him when He came. The Pharisees, to whom Christ was speaking in the first quotation



above, were very devoted to the prayers, rules, and rituals of their religion; but over the years, these outer observances had become so important in themselves that their real meaning had been lost. The Pharisees performed all the prescribed sacrifices, said all the right prayers, fasted regularly, and talked a lot of about God, but none of it had touched their hearts. As a result, they had no relationship with God, they were not living the way He wanted them to live, and they were not prepared for the coming of Jesus.

When we look at the image of the Merciful Savior, or pause for prayer at three o'clock, or pray the Chaplet — are these things drawing us closer to the real sacramental life of the Church and allowing Jesus to transform our hearts? Or have they just become religious habits? In our daily lives are we growing more and more as people of mercy? Or are we just giving "lip service" to God's mercy?

The devotional practices revealed through Saint Faustina were given to us as "vessels of mercy" through which God's love can be poured out upon the world, but they are not sufficient unto themselves. It's not enough for us to hang The Divine Mercy image in our homes, pray the Chaplet every day at three o'clock and receive Holy Communion on the first Sunday after Easter. We also have to show mercy to our neighbors. Putting mercy into action is not an option of the Divine Mercy Devotion; it's a requirement! Our Lord strongly speaks about this to St. Faustina:

I demand from you deeds of mercy which are to arise out of love for me. You are to show mercy to your neighbors always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse yourself from it (Diary, 742).

Like the gospel command, "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful," this demand that we show mercy to our neighbors "always and everywhere" seems impossible to fulfill. But the Lord assures us that it is possible. "When a soul approaches Me with trust," He explains, "I fill it with such an abundance of graces that it cannot contain them within itself, but radiates them to other souls" (Diary, 1074).

How do we "radiate" God's mercy to others? By our actions, our words, and our prayers. "In these three degrees," he tells Sister Faustina, "is contained the fullness of mercy" (Diary 742). We have all been called to this threefold practice of mercy, but we are not all called in the same way. We need to ask the Lord, who understands our individual personalities and situation, to help us recognize the various ways we can each show His mercy in our daily lives.

By asking for the Lord's mercy, trusting in His mercy, and sincerely trying to live His mercy in our lives, we can assure that we will never hear Him say of us, "Their hearts are far from Me," but rather that wonderful promise, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."

Jesus - I Trust In You, I Know You are With Me

Today, is Divine Mercy Sunday. St. Faustina heard Jesus direct her to "paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: *Jesus, I trust in You*. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and then, throughout the world."

In today's Gospel, for whatever reason, Thomas leaves the room, and when he returns, the rest of the apostles are jubilant because they had seen the Lord, and he missed it. We know from the Gospel account that Thomas refuses to believe. He famously says: "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe." (John 20:25)

Now and forever it seems, Thomas, previously called the twin, is now known as doubting Thomas. Sadly, that is where most people stop looking at this story. It becomes a sort of platitude about believing and not questioning. But that is not the whole story. Interestingly, when Jesus appears again, Thomas is in the room. Jesus looks at Thomas, and he says "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Do you think that, upon seeing

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Jesus standing there, Thomas still needed the proof? Do you think he actually still needed to probe Jesus' wounds? Probably not. Why would the Lord even bring it up? You see, in saying those words to Thomas, Jesus is making it clear that he heard Thomas. Even when the Lord was not visible, when Thomas thought he was distant, and possibly not even alive, Jesus heard Thomas.

I think Jesus said those words, "put your finger here ..." because he knows us. I think he knows us well enough to understand that we forget he is here. We struggle, and we wonder if he is really listening. We think that, because we can't see him, that means he is somehow far away, or possibly not even alive. I think Jesus says these words to Thomas because he wants all of us to hear something too, something important. "I am with you." And then, we are called to respond and to trust in Him.

St. Stanislaus of Cracow - April 11

Stanislaus was born in 1030 and was educated at Gnesen and at Paris. After his ordination to the priesthood, he was made a canon of the cathedral at Cracow as well as archdeacon and preacher. Upon the death of the bishop of Cracow, he was nominated bishop of the diocese by Pope Alexander II. The king at the time, Boleslaus II, trying to strengthen his own power, led an expedition against the grand duchy of Kiev, making himself very unpopular with the nobles of the country, who opposed his policies. St. Stanislaus of Cracow sided with the nobles, led by the king's brother, Ladislaus, and this brought him into conflict with the king. Stanislaus had opposed the king before for his tyrannical ways and once confronted him boldly for his immoral behavior when Boleslaus had abducted the wife of a Polish nobleman and carried her off to his castle. No one seemed willing to face the king for fear of his rage, but Stanislaus boldly went to the king and threatened excommunication if he did not change his ways. Furious, the king promised revenge on the bishop. Later, Stanislaus sided with the nobles in their opposition to the king's political policies, and the king accused him of being a traitor and condemned him to death. At first the king commanded his soldiers to kill the bishop while he was celebrating Mass at St. Michael's chapel in Cracow, but the soldiers refused, fearing to bring down upon themselves the wrath of God. Undeterred, the king himself entered the church, drew his sword, and killed the bishop, ordering his soldiers to dismember the body. Pope Gregory VII placed the country under interdict and Boleslaus fell from power, fleeing to Hungary, where he entered the monastery of Osiak to do penance for his crime. Stanislaus was canonized by Pope Innocent IV in 1253, and he is one of the patron saints of Poland.

The Easter Lily

The beautiful trumpet-shaped white flowers that blanket our altars here at St. Helena this special season symbolize purity, innocence, hope, and life – the spiritual essence of Easter. Often called "the white-robed apostles of hope," lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ's Agony.

Tradition has it that the beautiful white lilies sprang up where drops of Christ's sweat fell to the ground in His final hours of sorrow and deep distress. Churches continue this tradition at Easter time by banking their altars and surrounding their crosses with masses of Easter Lilies to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus and the hope of everlasting life.

Since the beginning of time, lilies have played a significant role in allegorical tales concerning motherhood. Roman mythology links the lily to Juno, the queen of the gods. The story goes that while Juno was nursing her son Hercules, excess milk fell from the sky. Although part of it remained above the earth and created the group of stars known as the Milky Way, the remainder fell to earth and created lilies. Another legend has it that the lily sprang from the repentant tears of Eve as she went forth from the Garden of Eden.

The pure white lily has long been associated with the Virgin Mary. In early paintings, the Angel Gabriel is pictured extending to Mary

a branch of pure white lilies and announcing that she is to be the mother of the Christ Child. In other paintings, saints are pictured bringing vases of white lilies to Mary and the Infant Jesus. Saint Joseph is depicted holding a lily branch in his hands to indicate that his wife Mary was a virgin. A legend tells that when the Virgin Mary's tomb was visited three days after her burial, it was empty except for bundles of majestic white lilies. Early writers and artists made the lily the emblem of both the Annunciation and of the resurrection of the Virgin, the pure white petals signifying her spotless body and the golden anthers her soul glowing with heavenly light.

A mark of purity and grace throughout the ages, the regal white lily is a fitting symbol of the greater meaning of Easter. The flowers embody purity and joy, hope and life, as they grace millions of homes and churches. We can thank Louis Houghton, a World War I soldier, for the popularity of the Bermuda Lily – now known as the Easter Lily – in our country. In 1919 he brought a suitcase full of hybrid lily bulbs to the southern coast of Oregon and gave them to family and friends to plant. As it turned out, the climate there was ideal for growing this lily, a native of the Ryukyu Islands of Japan, and by 1945 more than 1,000 West Coast growers were producing bulbs for the commercial market. Despite a sales window of only about two weeks each year, Easter Lilies are the fourth largest potted plant crop in the United States, ranking among poinsettias, mums, and azaleas as America's favorite potted plant.

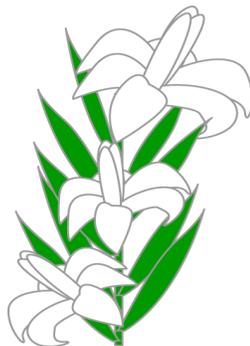
"Can a modern person still reasonably believe in the divinity of Christ?"

Fr. Luigi Giussani, the founder of the Catholic movement *Communion and Liberation* (which organizes the annual Way of the Cross over the Brooklyn Bridge) proposes an answer. He was an original and innovative thinker and educator, able to propose Christianity in a way that answers the challenges of our time. To make his thought known to a wider public, Crossroads has established the annual "Giussani Series on Faith and Modernity" to present every year a specific aspect of Fr. Giussani's rich theological and pedagogical understanding. The 2018 Giussani Series will take place on **Tuesday, May 1 at 7:00pm** at the Sheen Center and will focus specifically on how Giussani's thought addresses modernity. Speakers are philosopher Dr. Michael Hanby and theologian Fr. Paolo Prosperi, both professors at the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family at the Catholic University of America. The event is free of charge but reservations are required at sheencenter.org/shows/giussani.

« Et moi, aujourd'hui, en cette Pâques 2018, qu'est-ce que je fais ? »

Après l'écoute de la Parole de Dieu, de ce passage de l'Évangile, trois choses me viennent. Premièrement : l'annonce. Il y a là une annonce : le Seigneur est ressuscité. Cette annonce qui dans les premiers temps des chrétiens allait de bouche en bouche ; c'était la salutation : le Seigneur est ressuscité. Et les femmes, qui sont allées oindre le corps du Seigneur, se sont trouvées face à une surprise. La surprise... Les annonces de Dieu sont toujours des surprises, parce que notre Dieu est le Dieu des surprises. C'est ainsi depuis le début de l'histoire du salut, depuis notre père Abraham. Dieu te surprend : "Mais vas-y, vas-y, quitte, quitte ta terre et va". Et il y a toujours des surprises l'une après l'autre. Dieu ne sait pas faire une annonce sans nous surprendre. Et la surprise est ce qui te touche le cœur, qui te touche justement là, où tu ne l'attends pas. Pour le dire un peu avec le langage des jeunes : la surprise est un coup bas ; tu ne l'attends pas. Il le fait et te touche. Premièrement : l'annonce faite surprise.

Deuxièmement : la hâte. Les femmes courent, vont dire en hâte : "Mais, nous avons trouvé cela !". Les surprises de Dieu nous mettent en chemin, tout de suite, sans attendre. Et ainsi ils courent pour voir. Et Pierre et Jean courent. Les bergers, cette nuit de Noël, courent : "Allons à Bethléem voir ce que nous ont dit les anges". Et la Samaritaine, court pour dire aux gens : "Voilà une nouveauté : j'ai trouvé un homme qui m'a dit tout ce que j'ai fait". Et les gens savaient ce qu'elle avait fait. Et ces gens courent, ils



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laissent tout ce qu'ils sont en train de faire, même la femme au foyer laisse les pommes de terre dans la casserole – elle les trouvera brûlées -, mais l'important est d'aller, de courir, pour voir cette surprise, cette annonce. Cela arrive encore aujourd'hui. Dans nos quartiers, dans les villages, quand il arrive quelque chose d'extraordinaire, les gens courent pour voir. Aller en hâte. André n'a pas perdu de temps et est allé en hâte vers Pierre pour lui dire : "Nous avons trouvé le Messie". Les surprises, les bonnes nouvelles, se donnent toujours ainsi : en hâte. Dans l'Evangile, il y a quelqu'un qui prend un peu de temps ; il ne veut pas prendre de risque. Mais le Seigneur est bon, il attend avec amour, c'est Thomas. "Je croirai quand je verrai les plaies" dit-il. Le Seigneur a aussi de la patience pour ceux qui ne se pressent pas tant.

L'annonce-surprise, la réponse en hâte et la troisième chose que je voudrais vous dire aujourd'hui est une question : "Et moi ? Ai-je le cœur ouvert aux surprises de Dieu, suis-je capable d'aller en hâte vers les surprises de Dieu, suis-je capable d'aller en hâte ou toujours avec ce refrain : "Mais, demain je verrai, demain, demain ?". Qu'est-ce que me dit la surprise ? Jean et Pierre sont allés au sépulcre en courant. L'Evangile nous dit de Jean : "Il crut". Pierre aussi : "Il crut", mais à sa façon, avec la foi un peu mélangée du remords d'avoir renié le Seigneur. L'annonce faite surprise, la course aller en hâte, et la question : « Et moi, aujourd'hui, en cette Pâques 2018, qu'est-ce que je fais ? Toi, qu'est-ce que tu fais ? »

PRE-PLANNING YOUR FUNERAL-A speaker from Ascension Cemetery will speak at all Masses today to inform you about the Cardinal's initiative concerning burying a poor loved one. Information will be available at the back of the church.

NEW ALTAR CLOTHS-Our very special thanks to the parishioner who donated in memory of her deceased husband the beautiful new matching altar cloths we first used at Easter on the main altar, the back altar, and the two side altars. Our prayers, thanks, and appreciation are extended to you.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **50/50**-Remember, it only costs \$5.00 to enter. The next winner will be picked on **Monday, April 30**. You cannot win unless you enter. Special pink envelopes are available at the two Church entrances or in your envelope packet.
- **RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES resume April 11 at 3:45PM**. Important First Communion and Confirmation information will be given out on that day.
- **FIRST COMMUNION SESSION** will be today **April 8** in the cafeteria following the **10:30AM** Family Mass.
- **SPANISH FAMILY SESSION** will be today **April 8** in the cafeteria following the **Noon** Spanish Mass.
- **ENGLISH FAMILY SESSION** will be on **Sunday, April 15** at **11:30AM** in the cafeteria.
- **ENGLISH CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** meets every **Saturday** at **1PM**, following the **12:15PM Mass**, in the Green Building. They will sponsor a Prayer and Praise Luncheon on **Saturday, April 21** at **1:30PM** in the cafeteria.
- **STUDY THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**-Join us in the Green Building today **Sunday, April 8**, at **11:30AM**, and then on **Tuesday, April 10**, at both **1PM** and **7:30PM**.
- **ROSARY** every **Wednesday** in the church after the **12:15PM** Mass and every **Friday** in Spanish at **7PM** in the rectory meeting room.
- **BOY SCOUTS**, every **Wednesday** at **6:30PM** in the cafeteria.
- **YOUTH GROUP** for ages 12-18 meets on **Fridays** from **7-8:30PM** in the gym.
- **2019 MASS BOOK** is filling up. Come in now if you want very specific Mass dates and times.

- **RELIGIOUS ARTICLES ROOM** is open every **Sunday** from **8AM-1:30PM**. We are expanding the room. Do you have any religious articles or handicraft you wish to donate to the church? If so, bring them to the rectory.
- **NEXT BAPTISM PREP CLASSES** will be held on **Thursday, April 12 and 26** 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, bring a copy of their Catholic Marriage Certificate. These must all be brought to the class.
- **CONFIRMATION INITIATION MASS** will take place at **10:30AM** on **Sunday, April 15**. Everyone who is being confirmed on **May 19** is expected to attend this special Mass where they will be presented to the parish community.
- **HOW TO PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES AND WHAT TO DO IF THERE IS ONE** is the topic of a special Parish presentation by the New York City Fire Department that will take place here at St. Helena's on **Sunday, April 15** in English following the **10:30AM** Mass and in Spanish following the **NOON** Mass. This is **VERY IMPORTANT** information that could save your life in an emergency. The presentation will take place in the gymnasium and will last for 30 minutes. There will also be information tables with materials from the NYFD, the Red Cross, and the Office of Emergency Management.
- **GELA** will be performing live here at St. Helena on **Monday, April 16** from **7-9PM**. She will be singing songs of prayer and praise. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the rectory.
- **PRAYER AND PRAISE LUNCHEON**-The English Prayer Group will sponsor a Prayer and Praise Luncheon on **Saturday, April 21**. Msgr. Theophilus Joseph of Brooklyn will celebrate and preach at the **12:15PM** Mass, and he will be the guest speaker at the luncheon, which will follow the Mass in the cafeteria. The cost is \$5 to attend the luncheon and tickets are available at the rectory or from a member of the prayer group. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- **WHOLE FOODS PLANT-BASED SUPPERS MEAL** on **Saturday, April 21** from **4:00-6:30PM**. The cost is \$15.00. You must reserve for it by **April 20**. Please call the Rectory.
- **COMMUNITY SAFETY SUMMIT MEETING**-Come and ask members of the NYPD and Parkchester Security questions and express your concerns about police safety issues of importance to you. The meeting will take place in the gymnasium on **Wednesday, April 25** from **6:30-7:30PM**.
- **50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**-Couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary anytime during 2018 are invited to attend the Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass with Cardinal Dolan at the Cathedral of St. Patrick, **Sunday, June 3** at **2:15 pm**. Pre-registration is required. Please contact the rectory for registration. **The closing date to register for the Mass is Monday, May 14, 2018.**

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Sunday, April 1	\$7,647.64
Holy Thursday	\$1,409.00
Good Friday	\$1,237.53

Our weekly budget, (Nuestro presupuesto semanal es) \$4,423.00
Thank you all for your generosity and support and for all that you do for St. Helena's. We thank you for your generosity.

HAVE A BLESSED EASTER SEASON

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 apoyar estas mejoras.

- **RAFFLE PRIZES**-If you received a gift card or a gift which you do not wish to use, please consider donating to St. Helena's as a prize for our upcoming Parish Carnival **June 28-July 1**. Monetary donations always welcome, of course. All donations are tax deductible. You will receive a letter acknowledging your donation.
- **NEW PARISH ORGANIST**-We welcome Daniel Ambe as our new parish organist and canter. Daniel has been playing at the Filipino Masses at St. Helena since he was 14. He is now a professional opera singer. We wish Patrick Marques all the very best as he advances his professional career, and we thank him for his three years of ministry at St. Helena.
- **MUSICIANS AND PIANO NEEDED**-We are in need of a good used (or new) piano for the church. We are also in need of a musician to play at the **5PM Sunday** night Mass. If you can help us in either way, please contact the rectory.
- **PARISH DIRECTORY**-You asked for it, and we aim to please. We are now compiling an official St. Helena School and Parish Directory, especially since our school is parish-based. The directory will be available either on line or in print format. You will have the option of uploading your own family photo or submitting one to us, and we will upload it. You will also have the ability to update your photo as your family changes. We will provide you with more info soon about this exciting new Instant Church Directory.
- **AA BIG BOOK STUDY** meets every **Sat., 7-8:30PM** in the green building.
- **CO-DEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS (CODA)** meets every **Monday** from **7-8:30PM** in the rectory meeting room.
- **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** Call **1-800-621-HOPE**
- **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION** are still needed to help support our School. We only need the special square labels. You can drop them in the collection basket or bring them to either the rectory or the school office. For a list of participating products, go to BTFE.com

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **VATICAN WILL PUBLISH A DOCUMENT ON GENDER THEORY**-Archbishop Angelo Vincenzo Zani, Secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education since 2012, said recently that his dicastery would soon publish a document on gender theory. An additional "deeper" document is being prepared by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.
- **NEW PAPAL DOCUMENT TO BE RELEASED TOMORROW**-A new apostolic exhortation by Pope Francis, on the universal call to holiness, will be released on April 9. The document, entitled *Gaudete ex Exsultate*, is the third apostolic exhortation, following *Evangelii Gaudium* in 2013 and *Amoris Laetitia* in 2016.
- **VATICAN INSTALLS STATUE OF CHURCH DOCTOR**-President Serzh Sargsyan of Armenia visited the Vatican on April 5, to join Pope Francis at a ceremony at which a large replica statue of St. Gregory of Narek (951-1003), an Armenian monk, poet, and mystical theologian, was installed on the grounds of the Vatican gardens. The original small statue had been given to Pope Francis by the Armenian leader when the Pontiff visited his country in 2016. Doctor of the Church is a title given by the Church to a holy man or woman who has contributed to the Church's learning in some special way. St. Gregory is the 36th and latest saint to be declared a doctor of the Church and is the only one who is not Catholic but, rather, belongs to the Armenian Apostolic Church. His most famous work is his *Book of Lamentations*. Armenia was the first nation to

- officially declare itself to be a Christian nation in AD 301.
- **ORTHODOX IMMIGRANTS ON THE RISE IN ITALY** In Italy, the number of Orthodox Christian immigrants has surpassed the number of Muslim immigrants. Italy, a nation of 62 million, now has a rising yearly number of Orthodox Christian immigrants (over 1.6 million), a declining number of Muslim immigrants (1.4 million), and a declining number of Catholic immigrants (just over 1 million). In the United States, a nation of 327 million, 61% of the 1 million yearly legal immigrants are Christian, 14% atheist or agnostic, 12% Muslim, 7% Hindu and 5% Buddhist. Estimates suggest 83% of all illegal immigrants are Christian.
- **PRIEST KIDNAPPERS DEMAND A HALF-MILLION DOLLARS**-Father Celestin Ngango was abducted after he celebrated Easter Sunday Mass at his parish in the North Kivu province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- **BOKO HARAM KILLS 15 AND WOUNDS 83** in an attack on Easter Sunday on two villages in northern Nigeria. The jihadist group, also known as the Islamic State in West Africa, was founded in 2002 and is active in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger.
- **ISIS CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR KILLING A PAKISTANI CHRISTIAN FAMILY**-The day after Easter, gunmen opened fire on a rickshaw carrying four members of a prominent Christian family in Quetta, a Christian-majority city of 1 million located in Pakistan
- **ABORTION EXPANSION WAS NOT INCLUDED** in the final enacted New York State Budget. Thank you for all you did to educate senators and oppose late-term abortion expansion in the 2019 State Budget. More than 8,700 messages were sent to State Senators, plus there were hundreds of phone calls made and prayers said.
- **CHINA REMOVES BIBLES FROM BOOKSTORES**-Chinese authorities have removed Bibles from the country's bookstores, following the release of a new government "white paper" on the role of religion in China. The government directive had stressed that religious activities must take place under the "active guidance" of the state, raising concerns that the Communist Party, which will now have direct oversight for religious activities, may want its own edition of the Bible.
- **ATTENTION STUDENTS**-Summer Employment-The American Turner Club is looking for lifeguards. Call Ida or Pat @ **718-829-4200**. 748 Clarence Avenue, Bx, NY 10465
- **PROM DRESS & SUIT DRIVE**-Help a poor teen have a happy prom. Donate formal and semi-formal dresses and suits, shoes, jewelry, and accessories by **April 13**. Drop them off at Keller Williams Realty, 2300 Eastchester Rd. or call **718-514-3849** to schedule a pickup.
- **ARCHDIOCESAN HYMN FESTIVAL**-Join fellow choir members and cantors from around the tri-state area in discovering and singing the "hidden gems" of Catholic hymnody as well as beloved favorites. All voices are welcome at this exciting evening of music making and fellowship. Church of St. Joseph (Somers), **Mon., April 16, 7-8:30PM**. Suggested donation \$15 (participants keep all distributed music). For more info and registration: nyliturgy.org/workshops. Contact: liturgy@archny.org or **914-968-6200 x8177**.
- **13th ANNUAL DIVINE MERCY CONFERENCE** at Cardinal Spellman HS on **April 28** from **9AM-5:30PM**. Featured speaker, Christopher West. Registration \$60. Call **800-462-7426** for more information.
- **HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE** with Msgr. Graham on **July 16-26**. The cost is about \$3,800, which includes air, most meals, and hotels. For more info, call **718-792-5500**. It is an inspiring experience of faith.

- **WORLD YOUTH DAY IN PANAMA**-Registration is open for the World Youth Day celebration that will be held in Panama in **January 2019**. There is an **8-Day Pilgrimage, January 21-28, 2019**-\$3200 all inclusive and a **5-day Pilgrimage, January 24-28, 2019**-\$2425 all inclusive. Participants attending World Youth Day with the Archdiocese of New York must be between the ages of 18 and 35, as recommended by the USCCB. There is no age limit for group leaders/priests. Rooms are limited. For more info or to sign up, contact: MaryElise.Zellmer@archny.org
- **POPE INSTITUTES FEAST OF OUR LADY, MOTHER OF CHURCH**-The liturgical memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church—currently celebrated in Poland and Argentina—has been extended to the universal Church and will be celebrated on the day after Pentecost Sunday. Cardinal Robert Sarah, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, said that the new feast emphasizes “the importance of the mystery of Mary’s spiritual motherhood, which from the awaiting of the Spirit at Pentecost has never ceased to take motherly care of the pilgrim Church on earth.”
- **MAKE DISCIPLES EFFECTIVELY, EFFICIENTLY, AND AFFORDABLY**-Ascension Press wants to make your Bible Study experience as easy and low-cost as possible. Our small-group digital platform does just this. With our digital delivery platform, parishes and groups no longer have to purchase DVDs to run studies. AND, everyone can get digital access to all 45 of our learning systems—with no monthly fee or extra cost. The first sessions are free for those already on the digital platform. Call **800-376-0520** for info.

ANUNCIOS EN ESPAÑOL

- **CONCIERTO - TESTIMONIO: GELA**, desde Los Angeles. **Lunes 16 de abril de 7 am a 9 pm.**
- **CHAT “LA SEMILLA DEL DIA”**: El P. Nelson ha iniciado un chat en *WhatsApp* de lunes a viernes, en el cual hace una reflexión de aproximadamente cinco minutos sobre la Palabra del día. Si deseas que te llegue la reflexión diaria deja en la rectoría tu nombre y número telefónico para ser inscrito.
- **CLASES EDUCACION RELIGIOSA (CCD)**: Comienzan de nuevo el 11 de abril. Ese día habrá importante información tanto para la **Primera Comunión** como para la **Confirmación**.
- **SESION DE PRIMERA COMUNION**: Abril 8 en la cafetería después de la misa de 10.30 am.
- **SESION DE FAMILIA EN ESPAÑOL**: Abril 8 en la cafetería después de la misa de Español.
- **BOY SCOUTS**: Se reúnen cada miércoles a las 6.30 pm en la cafetería.
- **YOUTH GROUP**: Cada viernes de 7 a 8.30 pm. **Edades**: de 12 a 18.
- **LIBRO DE MISAS**: Ya se está llenando el libro para el **2019**. Ven a separar las fechas que te interesan.

Please Pray for the Sick of Our Parish

Joanne Frances Bernadette Sanabria, Carmelle and Nicole Antoine, Indrowdi Sadu, Rosa Pena, Luzvina Vega, Michelle Vega, Jose Rosario, Lucy Cannavacciuolo, Augustine Ayala, Florence Churchill, David Sheehan, Joyce Hoyt, Heyllie Cardona, Genil Alcantara, Maria Barro, Erica Vargas, Vayron Orellana, Teresa Orellana, Khether Raby, Caroline Caper, Chaya Jonathan, Leah Rodriguez, Alen George, Phillip Williams

Please Pray for the Deceased and their Grieving Families:

Sr. Virginia Sebert, SSND, Alice Carrion, Maureen Sullivan, Alice Delarosa, Higinio Santana Jr., Margot Arroyo, Carmen Rivera, Carlos Morales, Cecilia Leon, Emma Perez Rodriguez, Rev. Antimo Fiorillo, Gladys Ponce Santiago, Carmen Gonzalez, David Rosario, Aida Bruno, Ernest Lanzot, Placida Lopez, Antonio Santiago

- **CLASES DE PREPARACION PARA EL BAUTISMO**: Las clases se realizan cada segundo y cuarto jueves de mes a las 7 pm. Las **próximas clases** serán los **jueves 12 y 26 de abril** a las 7 pm. **NOTA IMPORTANTE**: Se debe traer copia del certificado de nacimiento del niño. **SOBRE LOS 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.
- **MISA DE INICIACION PARA LA CONFIRMACION**: Se realizará el **domingo 15 de abril** a las **10.30 am**. Aquellos que serán confirmados el **19 de mayo** deben estar presentes en esta misa.
- **COMO PREPARARSE PARA EMERGENCIAS**: Es una presentación especial realizada por el *New York Fire Department* en el gimnasio. Domingo 15 de abril después de la misa de 10.30 en inglés y después de la misa de 12.15 pm en español. Es una información importante que puede salvar vidas.
- **REUNION CON EL NYPD PARA LA SEGURIDAD DE LA COMUNIDAD**: Ven a conversar con los miembros de NYPD. Es la oportunidad de hacer preguntas y dar sugerencias. La comunidad debe estar involucrada en su propia seguridad. La policía de NY trabaja con nosotros y para nosotros. **Colaboremos! Gimnasio: Abril 25 de 6.30 a 7.30 pm.**
- **MISA CON EL CARDENAL PARA CELEBRAR LOS 50 AÑOS DE MATRIMONIO**: Las parejas que celebran esta maravilloso aniversario de las *Bodas de Oro*, pueden asistir a la Catedral de Saint Patrick el domingo **3 de junio a las 2.15 pm**. Es necesario registrarse con anterioridad hasta el *14 de mayo de 2018*.
- **CALASANZ COMMUNICATIONS**: Te enriqueció espiritualmente alguna de las homilias 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 suscribir al canal para que te llegue automáticamente la última homilia. Ayuda a propagar la Palabra de Dios!!!! *Es una buena manera de evangelizar.*

ACTIVIDADES EN ESPAÑOL

- LUNES 7 - 9 pm Grupo Carismático de Oración**. Misa cada primer lunes
- MARTES 7.30 - 9 pm Clase “Mariología”**
- MIERCOLES 7 - 9 pm** Coronilla de la *Divina Misericordia*, Adoración, Eucaristía
- VIERNES 7 - 9 pm Legión de María**. Rosario y reunión **JECAFA**. Jesús, Calasanz y la Familia. Grupo de reflexión. Segundos y cuartos viernes. Edificio verde

LA PALABRA NOS DICE

Hola queridos hermanos y hermanas. **Jesús está vivo!!!** Esa es la expresión y la fe de aquellos hombres y mujeres que vivieron en primera persona la experiencia del Dios hecho hombre, del Dios que se abajó a vivir nuestra experiencia para, desde allí, llevarnos a vivir su experiencia. Sin embargo, corremos el riesgo de hablar muy fácilmente de Jesús resucitado y, sin embargo, continuar adelante nuestras vidas como si hubiéramos comprado un carro nuevo, o un vestido nuevo. A veces, incluso, se puede poner más atención a estas cosas que a la resurrección de Jesús y al impacto de **su nueva vida** en nuestras vidas.

Qué sería eso de la resurrección de Cristo para los primeros cristianos? La convicción desde el comienzo es que la resurrección es algo que sucedió al crucificado, es un **hecho real**. No es producto de la fantasía o de la reflexión de un grupo. Este evento es el que hace brotar en los discípulos **una fe nueva**. Antes de esta experiencia ellos que el Mesías liberara al pueblo de Israel. Poco a poco se dan cuenta de que, en realidad, la misión del Mesías se trata de algo mucho más grande que eso. Se trata del perdón de los pecados, de la liberación de frustraciones, de los resentimientos, se trata de progresivamente perder el miedo a aquellas cosas, personas o ideas que nos paralizan. El discípulo ya no tiene miedo, ni siquiera la muerte. *Se trata de vivir radicalmente una nueva experiencia de vida*. Pero todo eso es consecuencia de la resurrección de Cristo.

La resurrección de Cristo no fue volver a la vida que tenía antes de morir. Se trata de una vida superior, una nueva vida que no tiene límites ni en el tiempo ni en el espacio. Cuando Jesús resucitó a Lázaro, este volvió a morir. Esto no sucederá con Jesús ni con los que creen en Él. Jesús ha entrado definitivamente en la vida de Dios Padre. Ha cumplido su misión aquí y ahora regresa al lugar de donde vino. Jesús es el mismo de antes, pero al mismo tiempo hay algo en Él totalmente nuevo. Para aquellos cercanos a Él es difícil reconocerlo al comienzo y, sin embargo, cuando esto sucede, ya no se quieren apartar jamás de Él. Es Jesús verdaderamente, pero la relación ya no puede ser la misma de Galilea, ahora es más intensa porque es más profunda y permanente. *Es una manera nueva de relacionarse con Él*. Ya no es posible verlo con los ojos físicos, de ahora en adelante se necesitarán los ojos de la fe.

Cuando todo parecía perdido, Dios comienza una **nueva** creación y esa **nueva** creación se especializa en hacer 'todo **nuevo**'. No hay otra experiencia como esta en el mundo. Con la resurrección del Hijo, el Padre mostró al mundo nuestro destino final. Es tan bello y tan grande ese destino que muchos todavía no lo pueden creer, siguen contentándose con las cosas pequeñas del mundo: acumular dinero, poder, creerse el mejor, preocuparse por sí mismo, etc.

Nadie presenció la resurrección, por eso no se pudo considerar un hecho histórico, no es algo que se pueda constatar y verificar y comprobar. Nadie puede "comprobar" a Dios. Sin embargo, es un **hecho real** que ha dejado huellas en la historia de la humanidad, que ha llevado esa historia más allá de sí misma y ha creado lo que es definitivo. Para aquellos que creemos en Jesucristo y hemos vivido la experiencia del "encuentro" con el Resucitado, no hay nada más real, importante y decisivo en nuestras vidas. Por eso lo llamamos "Señor, fuerza divina, fuerza de Dios, resucitado por la gloria de Dios. Por eso hablamos de un cuerpo glorioso y vivificado por el aliento vital y creador de Dios.

Por eso decimos que Jesús es el primogénito entre muchos, porque es el primero que ha nacido a la vida definitiva de Dios.



En otras palabras, Jesús se adelantó a disfrutar de una plenitud que te espera también a ti, lector de esta columna. Ahora bien, si lo anterior es verdad, la resurrección no afecta sólo a Jesús o a ti o a mi, es también la resurrección de la humanidad y de la creación entera. *"Dios, que resucitó al Señor, nos resucitará también a nosotros por su fuerza"*. 1 Corintios 6, 14.

La fe en Jesucristo no se apoya en el vacío, algo muy grande ha sucedido en ellos. La forma en que comienzan a predicar, el miedo que han perdido de anunciar a Cristo, la radicalidad de su fe, el deseo de vivir lo que de Él aprendieron, el amor y el corte con el que vivieron la persecución y la cárcel habla de la calidad de experiencia que tuvieron. Sus vidas fueron totalmente transformadas por la experiencia del resucitado. Está tu vida siendo transformada por es a misma experiencia? *P. Nelson*

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, April 8, 2018-DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

- 7:30** Michael Novasky and Tatiana Martins Intentions and for Granting U Visa Certification for Xavier Francis & Meera Job; *Easter Novena*;
9:00 Lucy Cannavacciolo-Health Intentions
10:30 Evelyn Moro
12:00 Pedro Figueroa & Maximina Santiago; Aurora Soto
1:30 Jose A. Garcia
5:00 Katherine Callaghan

MONDAY, April 9, 2018-St. Gaucherius

- 6:50** Easter Novena
8:30 William Troy
12:15 Kevin S. Kelly

TUESDAY, April 10, 2018-St. Fulbert

- 6:50** Luz Maria Castro
8:30 Catherine Carolan
12:15 Michael Guido

WEDNESDAY, April 11, 2018-St. Stanislaus

- 6:50** Andrew Pugliese
8:30 Sr. Virginia Sebert, SSND
12:15 Stanley and Sophie Gay
7:00 Cecilia G. Leon (dec) For Divine Mercy

THURSDAY, April 12, 2018-St. Julius

- 6:50** Divine Justice for the Criminal Persecution of Catholics and Their Clergy
8:30 Michael Novasky and Tatiana Martins Intentions and for Granting U Visa Certification for Xavier Francis & Meera Job
12:15 John McClafferty

FRIDAY, April 13, 2018-St. Martin I

- 6:50** Xavier Francis Intentions
8:30 Maria Kutty Devassy
12:15 Duanny Jose Medrano

SAT., April 14, 2018-Sts. Tiburtius, Valeran, & Maximus

- 6:50** In Thanksgiving for Favors
8:30 Michael Stack
12:15 Theresa Scalia Intentions
1:00 Misa San Miguel Arcangel
5:30 Daniel Bahora-13th Birthday Intentions

SUNDAY, April 15, 2018-Third Sunday of Easter

- 7:30** Lucy Cannavacciolo-Health Intentions
9:00 In Gratitude to the Sacred Mother
10:30 Angel Enrique Rodriguez
12:00 Jose Bernabe; Luis Jose Herrera
1:30 Josephine Cozzolino
4:30 Ray Ruiz (dec) For Divine Mercy

Readings for the Week of April 8, 2018

Sunday: Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31; **Monday:** Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8, 8-9, 10, 11 [8a, 9a]/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38; **Tuesday:** Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/Jn 3:7b-15; **Wednesday:** Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [7a]/Jn 3:16-21; **Thursday:** Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 [7a]/Jn 3:31-36; **Friday:** Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [cf. 4abc]/Jn 6:1-15; **Saturday:** Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 [22]/Jn 6:16-21; **Next Sunday:** Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 [7a]/1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48