

The Piarist Fathers

Pastor

Rev. David Powers Sch.P.

Parochial Vicars

Rev. Nelson Henao Sch.P.

Rev. Richard Wyzykiewicz Sch.P.

Parish Staff

Parish Secretary

Mrs. Rosemarie Ortiz

Business Manager

Anne Kathy Rice

Facilities Manager

Alina Hernandez

Music Director

Mr. Daniel Ambe

Musicians

Mr. Jim Donaldson

Mr. Alex Henriquez

May 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

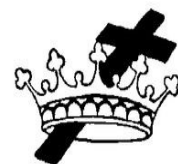
www.churchofsthelenas.com

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 9:00PM
- 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
- Rosary: Wednesday, 1:00PM

Baptisms: Arrangements must be made at the Rectory for Baptismal Class. Bring a copy of the child's Birth Certificate and Godparent documents.

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 Rectory.



Handicapped Accessible

Ascension Thursday - May 10

The Solemnity of the **Ascension** commemorates Jesus' return to heaven forty days after his resurrection. Thus, Ascension Day usually falls on the 6th Thursday of Easter, unless a local bishop's conference has moved it to the following Sunday. Our Masses here at St. Helena will be at **7PM** in Spanish on **Wednesday, May 9**, and at **6:50AM, 8:30AM, 12:15PM, and 7:30PM** on **Thursday, May 10**.



Ascension

Forty Days after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the *Acts of the Apostles* records Jesus' ascension into heaven. The Ascension is an important holy day that attests to the reality of Jesus Christ, God and human, returning to the Father, to return again in the future second coming. The Ascension is the final component of the *pascal mystery*, which consists also of Jesus' suffering, crucifixion, death, and resurrection.

In *John 20:17*, Jesus says he must ascend to the Father. The text that follows implies that Jesus almost immediately "ascends" only to return later in the day. This ascension is for the purpose of Jesus' post-resurrection glorification. It is historically and theologically distinct from Jesus' final ascension in *Acts*. The Ascension mentioned in *Acts*, and celebrated during the Feast of the Ascension, is Jesus' final appearance on earth. Thus, after ascending he becomes physically absent from the Church until the final *parousia*, i.e. his return to judge the living and the dead. Of course, Jesus is still present to us, particularly in the Eucharistic bread and wine (which are his body and blood). Thus, the two ascensions are not conflicting accounts, but rather both are two separate events, serving two very distinct, but important, theological purposes.

Along with the Resurrection, the Ascension functioned as a proof of Jesus' claim that he was the Messiah. The Ascension is also the event whereby humanity was taken into heaven, and it was also the "final blow" so-to-speak against Satan's power, and thus the lion (Jesus) conquering the dragon (Satan) is a symbol of the Ascension. Early Christian art and iconography portrayed the Ascension frequently, showing its importance to the early Church.

The Catholic Catechism summarizes three important theological aspects of the Ascension concisely: 1. Christ's Ascension marks the definitive entrance of Jesus' humanity into God's heavenly domain, whence he will come again; this humanity in the meantime hides him from the eyes of men. 2. Jesus Christ, the head of the Church, precedes us into the Father's glorious kingdom so that we, the members of his Body, may live in the hope of one day being with him forever. 3. Jesus Christ, having entered the sanctuary of heaven once and for all, intercedes constantly for us as the mediator who assures us of the permanent outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Evidence from John Chrysostom, Egeria, and Gregory of Nyssa, suggest that the annual celebration of Ascension Day probably originated in the 4th century AD. However, Augustine says the festival is apostolic. Often the feast was celebrated with a procession, symbolizing Christ's journey to the Mount of Olives. Until rather recently, the Paschal Candle, which was lit at the Easter Vigil, was extinguished on Ascension Day. It is often celebrated as an octave, with its own proper preface and Ascension collect being used until the Saturday before Pentecost.

First Holy Communion - May 12

First Holy Communion this year will take place on **Sat., May 12** at **10AM** in the church, which is also the Feast of Blessed Imelda Lambertini, the patron saint of First Communicants.

Following the ancient tradition and practice of the Church, the season of the First Sacraments is approaching. It corresponds to the Paschal (Easter) season in the life of the Church.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us "The sacraments of Christian initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, and the

Eucharist - lay the *foundations* of every Christian life. The sharing in the divine nature given to men through the grace of Christ bears a certain likeness to the origin, development, and nourishing of natural life. The faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life. By means of these sacraments of Christian initiation, they thus receive in increasing measure the treasures of the divine life and advance toward the perfection of charity.

First Holy Communion is the common name for a person's first reception of the sacrament of the Eucharist. Roman Catholics recognize the importance of this event as the Eucharist is the central focus of the sacramental life of the Catholic Church. First Communion is not practiced in the Eastern Catholic Churches, which practice Infant Communion. First Communion is traditionally also a festive occasion for families of the First Communicant.

Traditions surrounding First Communion usually include large family gatherings and parties to celebrate the event. Special clothing is usually worn. The clothing is often white to symbolize purity. Girls often wear fancy dresses and a veil attached to a headdress, as well as white gloves (long or short). In other communities, girls commonly wear dresses passed down to them from sisters or mothers, or even simply their school uniforms plus the veiled headdress and gloves. In Scotland, boys traditionally wear a kilt for the ceremony. In many Latin America countries, boys wear a kind of military-style dress uniform with fancy gold braid augelltes. In Switzerland, both boys and girls wear plain white robes with brown wooden crosses around their necks.

First Communicants are usually given gifts of a religious nature, such as rosaries or prayer books, in addition to religious statues and icons. Many families also have formal professional photographs taken in addition to many candid snapshots of the day. With regards to First Holy Communion, the Catechism teaches us "Having become a child of God clothed with the wedding garment, the neophyte is admitted 'to the marriage supper of the Lamb' and receives the food of the new life, the body and blood of Christ. The Eastern Churches maintain a lively awareness of the unity of Christian initiation by giving Holy Communion to all the newly baptized and confirmed, even little children, recalling the Lord's words: 'Let the children come to me, do not hinder them.' The Latin Church, which reserves admission to Holy Communion to those who have attained the age of reason, expresses the orientation of Baptism to the Eucharist by having the newly baptized child brought to the altar for the praying of the Our Father.

Let us pray for St. Helena's First Holy Communicants:

Orion Bonet
Sydney Bowman
Karina Castro
Julio Chalba, Jr.
Jonathan Cinto
Carmen Cruz
Prince Davila
Zanera DeGuzman
Emily Flores
Julissa Flores
Luz Flores
Ryan Garcia
Fatima Gomez
Rilee Grant
Vanessa Guzman
Alexa Jimenez
Melissa Juarez
Jasmine Lema Loja
Shirley Lema Velasquez
Jennifer Loja Guasci
Heiley Lopez

Kedwin Lopez
David Mancheril
Xavier Perez
Marisa Polanco
Edgar Ramirez
Jonathan Ramirez
Orneil Ramnarayan
Kylie Reddy
Kayli Reinoso
Jacob Rivera
Annelisse Rodriguez
Eidam Rodriguez
Olivia Roman
Darling Sanchez
John Solis Ortiz
Aaliyah Thomas
Mayden Tirado
Yarren Tirado
Irving Trinidad
Kevin Trinidad
Jason Vargas

Suri Zambrano

SACRAMENTS and SACRAMENTALS

Many of our young people are preparing to receive the SACRAMENTS of First Holy Communion, First Penance, and Confirmation. As a gift, they may receive a SACRAMENTAL such as a blessed rosary or a crucifix or a holy medal. The words sound similar, but their meaning is very different.

Much of the time, when we hear the word *sacramental* today, it's being used as an adjective—as something related to one of the seven sacraments. But in the Catholic Church, the word *sacramental* has another meaning, as a noun, referring to objects or actions that the Church recommends to us to inspire devotion. So, just what is the difference between a sacrament and a sacramental?

The simple answer is what most of us learned as a youth when he studied the Baltimore Catechism. A SACRAMENT is an external sign, instituted by Christ to give us grace. The Sacraments give grace of themselves when we place no obstacle in the way; the sacramentals, such as holy water, rosaries, statues of saints, and scapulars excite in us pious dispositions, by means of which we may obtain grace. Like the sacraments, however, sacramentals remind us of an underlying reality that isn't obvious to the senses.

The Sign of the Cross reminds us of Christ's sacrifice and also the indelible mark that is placed on our soul in the Sacrament of Baptism. Statues and holy cards, which you can obtain in the religious goods room, help us to imagine the lives of the saints so that we can be inspired by their example to follow Christ more faithfully. Still, it's true that we don't need any sacramentals the way we need the sacraments.

To take just the most obvious example, Baptism unites us to Christ and the Church; without it, we cannot be saved. No amount of holy water and no rosary or scapular can save us. But while sacramentals cannot save us, they aren't contrary to the sacraments, but complementary. In fact, sacramentals like holy water and the Sign of the Cross, holy oils and blessed candles, are used in the sacraments as visible signs of the graces conferred by the sacraments. While the grace of the sacraments, derived from Christ's sacrifice on the Cross, is certainly sufficient for salvation, we can never have too much grace to help us live lives of faith and virtue. In reminding us of Christ and the saints, and in calling to mind the sacraments that we have received, sacramentals encourage us to seek the grace that God offers us every day to grow in love for Him and for our fellow man.

Blessed Imelda Lambertini - May 12

Pope Pius X declared Blessed Imelda Lambertini the Patroness of First Communicants in the early part of the 20th century. The life of this young child was quite astonishing.

She lived only from 1322 to 1333 - a time in the Latin Church when First Communion was reserved for children of at least 12 years. Blessed Imelda offers a charming study in child sanctity. It was on the occasion of her fifth birthday that Imelda asked her pious parents if she also could receive communion. She already possessed a love of Christ, but she was far too young. With an understanding of what communion really means, she wondered aloud: "Tell me, can anyone receive Jesus into his heart and not die?"

At the early age of nine, she entered the Dominican convent near Bologna. The one great desire of her life in those days was to receive within her breast her sacramental God. Custom had established the age of twelve as the proper time for little ones to receive First Holy Communion, and the convent chaplain would not listen to a suggested deviation from this rule. Frequently did the child beseech her confessor for permission to approach the divine banquet table, only to be repulsed.

On May 12, 1333, the vigil of the Ascension, the community partook of the Eucharist as a body, leaving Imelda alone in her choir stall. Her frail body shook with emotion, tears flowed down her babe-like face, and with a voice that trembled with grief, she asked to be fed upon the Body of her Lord. No attention was paid



to her. The Mass came to a close. The religious left the choir. But Imelda remained behind uncomfortable. Suddenly a sweet fragrance, as of roses, filled the air and was seemingly wafted throughout the monastery. The nuns, tracing its source, returned to the chapel, and there, to their astonishment, beheld a Sacred Host suspended in the air above the head of the weeping maiden. The priest who had just celebrated Mass came, paten in hand, and, with holy impatience, awaited developments. The Host slowly descended, rested on the paten, and from the hands of the chaplain Imelda received her Eucharistic God.

The transport of love which took possession of her little heart at this longed-for moment was too great for her finite being. Imelda died in the state of ecstasy in sheer joy and made her thanksgiving for First Holy Communion among the angels in Heaven. The cultus of this young Blessed has grown so popular that a confraternity for First Communicants has been established in her honor, and the last Eucharistic Congress held in Bergamo passed a resolution petitioning for her solemn canonization. Her incorrupt body can be seen in the Church of San Sigismondo in Bologna.

ONU : intensifier les efforts de consolidation de la paix

Pour Mgr Auza, « l'ONU peut et doit réaffirmer et intensifier ses efforts de consolidation de la paix ». Entre autres, « renforcer la résilience des États, mettre en place des institutions légitimes, responsables et efficaces et consolider l'État de droit sont des initiatives à long terme qui exigent un leadership et une responsabilité au niveau national et un soutien international soutenu », a-t-il affirmé. Mgr Bernardito Auza, nonce apostolique et observateur permanent du Saint-Siège auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, est intervenu à la séance plénière de la Réunion de haut niveau sur la consolidation et le maintien de la paix, à New York, les 24 et 25 avril 2018. Le représentant du Saint-Siège a en outre invité à « mettre un terme au trafic d'armes et au financement illicite » et à considérer « l'inclusivité » comme « un aspect crucial de la paix durable ». Il a souligné en particulier le « rôle actif » que doivent jouer les femmes « dans tout l'éventail de la prévention des conflits, de la résolution des conflits et de la consolidation de la paix après les conflits ».

La consolidation de la paix est l'une des activités les plus importantes des Nations Unies et mérite donc toute l'attention de la communauté internationale. Le Saint-Siège estime par conséquent que le concept de « maintien de la paix » devrait être au cœur de nos efforts à l'ONU pour prévenir les conflits et maintenir la paix. Il englobe toutes les dimensions de la prévention et de la paix, à savoir la prévention des conflits, la consolidation efficace de la paix, le traitement des causes profondes des conflits et la non-récurrence en cas de conflit. Si la prévention est la priorité, nous devons nous engager sans réserve à soutenir la paix.

Le Saint-Siège souhaite souligner cinq priorités dans la consolidation et le maintien de la paix. Premièrement, l'ONU peut et doit réaffirmer et intensifier ses efforts de consolidation de la paix, notamment en assurant une action unifiée et généralisée, en élaborant des stratégies efficaces de transition et de sortie, des analyses continues, des synergies et une cohérence plus fortes, et un ajustement constant des réponses. Deuxièmement, en tant que partie intégrante de la diplomatie préventive, la communauté internationale devrait se concentrer sur le renforcement des institutions et des capacités dans les États où il existe des situations de conflits potentiels ou imminents. Cette étape est également essentielle pour préserver les transitions réussies d'un conflit à une paix durable. Renforcer la résilience des États, mettre en place des institutions légitimes, responsables et efficaces et consolider l'État de droit sont des initiatives à long terme qui exigent un leadership et une responsabilité au niveau national et un soutien international soutenu. Cela exige également des approches holistiques et l'identification de facteurs déstabilisateurs spécifiques, tels que le manque de responsabilité, la corruption, les griefs et les différends non résolus, y compris ceux concernant la propriété, la propriété foncière et l'accès aux ressources vitales.

Troisièmement, pour construire et maintenir la paix, le flux illicite et l'accumulation d'armes doivent être résolus. Mettre un terme au

MAY 6, 2018

trafic d'armes et au financement illicite qui contribuent directement ou indirectement à la corruption et à la commission de crimes atroces sont des éléments essentiels au maintien de la paix. En outre, les programmes de démobilisation et de réintégration et l'assistance à la réforme du secteur de la sécurité créent non seulement un environnement plus sûr et plus propice au maintien de la paix, mais offrent également des incitations aux anciens combattants pour qu'ils deviennent une solution pacifique. Au fur et à mesure que les anciens combattants sont réintégrés, il est essentiel qu'ils soient correctement évalués et formés afin que leurs anciennes victimes ne se sentent pas menacées par leurs nouveaux rôles dans la communauté. Sans ces mesures, leur réintégration sapera la confiance dans les institutions, ainsi que dans la justice elle-même, avec des conséquences négatives inévitables pour la construction d'une paix durable.

Quatrièmement, l'inclusivité est un aspect crucial de la paix durable. Les processus et les efforts de prévention des conflits, de résolution des conflits et de consolidation de la paix doivent impliquer tous les secteurs de la société. Les femmes doivent jouer un rôle actif dans tout l'éventail de la prévention des conflits, de la résolution des conflits et de la consolidation de la paix après les conflits. De larges consultations et des mécanismes participatifs qui n'excluent aucun groupe ou segment de la société consolident la légitimité de l'État et favorisent la confiance entre tous ses citoyens. Inversement, l'absence d'inclusivité menace les processus de paix et de réconciliation et la stabilité de l'État lui-même. En appuyant la création de partenariats inclusifs au niveau national, la Commission de consolidation de la paix peut renforcer la pleine participation des personnes et des groupes marginalisés et exclus. La participation de tous les citoyens à la consolidation de la paix contribue à des accords inclusifs et à une paix et une stabilité durables.

Cinquièmement et enfin, le succès de la transition d'un conflit à l'établissement et au maintien de la paix exige que la justice et la responsabilité soient le plus sérieusement abordées. La justice et la responsabilité légale sont des vecteurs essentiels de la réconciliation, et non son contraire. Les gouvernements nationaux ont clairement la responsabilité principale de poursuivre et de punir les responsables d'atrocités. S'ils ne parviennent pas à le faire, ou sont incapables de s'acquitter de leurs responsabilités, la Cour pénale internationale doit jouer pleinement son rôle. L'incapacité à garantir la justice et à mettre un terme à l'impunité pourrait saboter les efforts de consolidation de la paix après les conflits et finir par ranimer les conflits, arrêter le développement et violer les droits de l'homme. Ma délégation voudrait exprimer sa gratitude pour les réalisations des missions de l'ONU dans la prévention ou la fin des conflits qui touchent de nombreuses régions du monde, contribuant ainsi grandement à l'instauration d'une paix et d'une stabilité durables qui permettent le développement et le respect des droits de l'homme. Le Saint-Siège réitère son engagement à collaborer, dans la mesure du possible, à la prévention des conflits, à la résolution des conflits et à l'instauration d'une paix durable.

CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE-

Thank you for your generous contributions last week to the collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. As a parish, we collected \$1,586.86 to help restore the Church and build the future in over 25 countries. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give, visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections, and click on the "How to Give" link on the left.

SR. GLENDA, an International Catholic singer, and musician will perform live here at St. Helena on **Friday, May 11 at 7PM**. Tickets are \$20 and are available at the rectory. Sr. Glenda is from Chile, and she first became famous when she sang before Pope John Paul II at World Youth Day in Toronto in 2002.

MOTHER'S DAY NOVENAS are available at the two entrances to the church. Mother's Day is **Sunday, May 13**.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **50/50-The April 50/50 winner is #376 @ \$230.** Remember, it only costs **\$5.00** to enter. The next winner will be picked **Monday, May 28**. You cannot win unless you enter. Special pink envelopes are available at the two Church entrances or in your packet.
- **RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES** meet every **Wednesday at 3:45PM** in the Church.
- **IMPORTANT FIRST COMMUNION SESSION** today **Sunday, May 6 at 11:30AM** in the cafeteria. All students and parents are required to attend.
- **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** will be on **Sat., May 12 at 10AM** in the Church.
- **MAY CROWNING** will be on **Sunday, May 13**, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, at **10:30AM** in English and at **Noon** in Spanish. Children must wear their First Communion attire.
- **SPANISH CHARISMATIC MASS** on **Monday, May 7 at 7PM** in the Church.
- **ENGLISH CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** meets every **Saturday at 1PM**, following the **12:15PM Mass**, in the Green Building. There is a different teaching every week.
- **STUDY THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**-Join us in the Green Building today **Sunday, May 6., at 11:30AM**, and then on **Tuesday, May 8**, 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. May is the month of Mary.
- **BOY SCOUTS**, every **Wednesday at 6:30PM** in the cafeteria.
- **YOUTH GROUP** every **Friday from 7-8:30PM** in the gym.
- **2019 MASS BOOK**-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. **First Communion** materials are in. Do you have any religious articles or handicraft you wish to donate to the church? If so, bring them to the rectory. **Now On Sale** in the Religious Goods Room: **THE FISHERMAN'S TOMB**. Author John O'Neill, a 1967 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and an oil and gas litigator from Houston, swore off writing after publishing "*Unfit for Command: Swift Boat Veterans Speak Out Against John Kerry*." But a visit to the Vatican intrigued him so much that he embarked on "*The Fisherman's Tomb: The True Story of the Vatican's Secret Search*," an account of the clandestine quest to find the bones of St. Peter. It's a tale that recalls "Indiana Jones" or "The Da Vinci Code," complete with mistakes, red herrings and bureaucratic back-stabbing, redeemed by a large measure of faith — and unlike those works of fiction, it's all true.
- **NEXT BAPTISM PREP CLASSES** will be held on **Thursday, May 17 and 31 at 7PM**. **Arrangements must be made at the Rectory for the Baptismal Class**. 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

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Sunday, April 29	\$5,015.92
Church in Central and Eastern Europe	\$1,586.86

Our weekly budget, (Nuestro presupuesto semanal es) \$4,423.00. We continue to update our heating and cooling systems, and we are doing some electrical upgrades. Thank you all for your generosity and support and for all that you do for St. Helena's.

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.

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.

- **A PLANT-BASED HEALTH FAIR** will take place at St. Helena on **Saturday, May 26** from **10AM- 6PM** in the gymnasium. There will be speakers and vendors and special guests throughout the day who will give demonstrations and discuss health and wellness issues, especially the benefits of following a plant-based lifestyle.
- **SPECIAL WEDDING CELEBRATIONS**-Are you celebrating a special wedding anniversary, such as the 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, etc. St. Helena will recognize all couples celebrating these milestone anniversaries at a special Mass on **Sunday, May 27** in English at the **10:30AM** Family Mass and in Spanish at the **NOON** Mass. We will give a special certificate, but we need to know which anniversary you are celebrating, so call the rectory at **718-892-3233** and give us *your name* and the *date you were married*.
- **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.**
- **NURSING HOME GIFTS NEEDED**-We are currently collecting Mother's Day and Father's Day gifts for the residents of the Rebekah Rehab and Extended Care Center. You can bring your donations to the rectory.
- **PARISH CARNIVAL RAFFLE PRIZES NEEDED**-We need large raffle prizes for our upcoming Parish Carnival. 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. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year.
- **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.
- **FORMED**-An interesting series on St. Peter is now available, and St. Helena's has a free subscription to **FORMED**. All parishioners have unlimited access to its programs. 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**.
- **ST. HELENA'S ON THE WEB**-In this day and age of The Internet, you can always see what is happening here at St. Helena's. For current information, visit our Parish Website

at: www.churchofsthelena.com or our School Website at: www.sthelenaelementary.com for all the latest information. Also, look for us and like us on Facebook. Our Parish is *St. Helena Catholic Church* and our School is *St. Helena School*. Our School alumni are at: *St. Helena's grammar school alumni*, and our high school alumni are at: *St. Helena High School, Bronx, NY*.

- **AA BIG BOOK STUDY** meets every **Sat., 7-8:30PM** in the green building. New members are always welcome.
- **CO-DEPENDENTS ANNONYMOUS (CODA)** meets every **Monday** from **7-8:30PM** in the rectory meeting room.
- **RAIN** Home Attendant Services-**718-829-2131**.
- **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?** Call **1-800-621-HOPE**
- **ARE YOU LOOKING TO RENT YOUR HOUSE, APARTMENT, OR CONDO?** An active, mature parishioner is looking to rent a two-bedroom unit in the Parkchester area. If you have one, call **718-892-3233**.

SCHOOL NEWS

- **SPELLING BEE WINNER**-Congratulations to 7th-grader Dana Rivera who won our local School Spelling Bee. She will now advance to regionals.
- **HAMPTON TO SPEAK AT ST. HELENA'S-WNBA** legend Kym Hampton will speak to the students at St. Helena's School on **Monday, May 7** in the gym. She is a sports and entertainment professional with a passion for music, acting and public speaking. Her 15-year career included playing in Europe and with the New York Liberty. She is 9th in NCAA history in rebounding and is the all-time eating scorer and rebounder in Arizona State University history. She is a vibrant personality with a penchant for brand representation, motivating the leaders of tomorrow through motivational speeches and entertaining the masses through the gift of song. She has excellent communication and interpersonal skills with a reputation for forming strong relationships with individuals from all industries.
- **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

- **BRONX CONCERT SINGERS 37TH ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT**, **Sunday, May 6** at **4:30PM** at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1891 McGraw Ave. Gen. Admission is \$20/2 for \$35; children through high school is \$5. Call **917-743-4641**. Flyers are in the vestibule.
- **FREE RAIN BARREL GIVE-A-WAY** on **Sat., May 12** at Loretto Park, Morris Park Ave, **Noon-2PM**, or on **Saturday June 2** at the Piagentini & Jones Campus, 650 Hollywood Ave, **Noon-2PM**. RSVP to **718-931-1721**.
- **DIVINE INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE MASS**-**Sunday, May 13 - 12 noon** Mass. Our Lady of Solace-St Dominic Parish. Bring your family & friends (especially children) to honor The Divine Child Jesus together. *Remember His promise: "The More You Honor Me, The More I will bless you."* We look forward to welcoming you!
- **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**.
- **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.

- **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**.
- **WIC** is now being offered near St. Helena's at the Morris Heights Health Center, 2019 Westchester Ave., Bx. WIC services will be available **Mon.-Fri. from 8:30AM-5PM**.
- **NOURISHMENT FOR SENIORS**-Are you a SNAP-eligible senior citizen living in NYC? You may qualify for a **free monthly food package**. For more information, call **917-982-2564** or visit: www.nycommonpantry.org

ANUNCIOS EN ESPAÑOL

- **RECUERDEN: LA HERMANA GLENDA** estará en concierto en Santa Helena el **viernes 11 de mayo de 7.30 pm a 9.30 pm**. Los tickets tienen un valor de \$20 y están disponibles cada día en la rectoría o en la puerta el día del concierto
- **NOVENAS PARA EL DIA DE LAS MADRES:** Disponibles en las entradas de la Iglesia.
- **PREMIOS PARA LAS RIFAS DEL CARNAVAL:** Se necesitan donantes de buenos regalos para el próximo festival. Todas las donaciones tienen deducción de impuestos.
- **CLASES EDUCACION RELIGIOSA (CCD):** Cada miércoles de 3.45 pm a 5 pm. **La última clase será el 16 de mayo.**
- **PRIMERA COMUNION: SE RECUERDA** que la Primera Comunión será el **12 de mayo a las 10 am** en nuestra Iglesia.
- **CORONACION DE LA VIRGEN:** El 13 de mayo en la misa de 12 pm. Haremos la coronación de la Virgen. **Los niños** que han hecho la Primera Comunión están invitados a venir a la misa con su vestido blanco para ser presentados en comunidad.
- **CLASES DE PREPARACION PARA EL BAUTISMO:** Normalmente las clases se realizan cada segundo y cuarto jueves de mes a las 7 pm. Pero en **mayo** las clases serán el **17 y el 31**. **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. Si es persona soltera debe traer Certificado de Confirmación y ser mayor de 16 años. Puede ser un hombre o una mujer o un hombre y una mujer.
- **CLASES EDUCACION RELIGIOSA (CCD):** Cada miércoles de 3.45 pm a 5 pm. **La última clase será el 16 de mayo.**
- **CELEBRACION ESPECIAL DE ANIVERSARIO MATRIMONIAL:** Si celebra 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 o más años de matrimonio, deseamos hacer una celebración

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, Augustine Ayala, Florence Churchill, David Sheehan, Joyce Hoyt, Heyllie Cardona, Genil Alcantara, Maria Barro, Erica Vargas, Vayron Orellana, Teresa Orellana, Kheether Raby, Caroline Caper, Chaya Jonathan, Leah Rodriguez, Alen George, Phillip Williams, Bertha Mero, Marie Lopez, Pat Callahan

Please Pray for the Deceased and their Grieving Families:

Lucy Cannavacciuolo, Magaly Martinez, Mario Zirau, Manuela Perez, Charles Patti, Gamalier Velazquez, Maria Baez, Lydia Cora, Msgr. Neil Graham, Yovanny Garcia, Margaret Flanagan, Judith Rodriguez, Anselmo Ortiz, Edwin Figueroa, Andres Mendez, Israel Ortiz, Carmen Iris Lopez, Joe Lucas

especial para usted. Se les dará un certificado especial y se les bendecirá en la misa de 12 m. Por favor, llame con anticipación a la rectoría (718 892 3233) y nos da su nombre y la fecha en la cual se casaron, para preparar el certificado adecuado para usted.

- **DIRECTORIO DE LA PARROQUIA:** Se está elaborando el **directorio** tanto de la escuela como de la parroquia. Estará disponible tanto online como impreso. Usted tiene la posibilidad de subir a la edición online o traer a la parroquia la foto de su familia. También tiene la posibilidad de de actualizar la foto en la medida que la familia se transforma. En la rectoría se dará más información acerca de este nuevo proyecto.
- **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 homilía. Ayuda a propagar la Palabra de Dios!!!! *Es una buena manera de evangelizar.*
- **LA SEMILLA DEL DIA:** Deseas recibir por **WhatsApp** la reflexión sobre la **Palabra de cada día** por el P. Nelson? Llama a la rectoría al 718-892-3233 o envía un e-mail a: jnelsonh55@yahoo.com con tu nombre y número de teléfono y el P. Nelson te agregará a su grupo.
- **MISA DEL SANTO NIÑO DE PRAGA-Domingo - 13 de Mayo** - Misa de las **12pm**. Nuestra Señora del Consuelo/ Santo Domingo Traiga a su familia y amigos (especialmente niños) para honrar al Divino Niño Jesús. *Recuerden su promesa "El que más me honre, más bendiciones recibirá de mí"*

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 - 8 pm 7 - 8.30 pm 7.30 - 9 pm	Legión de María. Rosario y reunión. Grupo Juvenil. Edades 12-18. 7-8.30pm JECAFA. Jesús, Calasanz y la Familia. Grupo de reflexión. Segundos

LA SEMILLA DE LA SEMANA

Hola queridos hermanos. La semana que termina nos ha seguido regalando uno de los tesoros más grandes de nuestra fe, el testamento de Jesucristo. Me refiero a los capítulos trece al diecisiete del Evangelio de San Juan, en los cuales se nos entrega el discurso de la 'Última Cena' de Jesús con sus apóstoles. No es solamente la última cena con el grupo cercano, es también la última vez, aquí en la tierra, que compartirá en una mesa como solía hacerlo, con alegría, haciendo de cada momento una oportunidad para dar a conocer mejor al Padre, para dar a conocer lo que el Padre quiere de nosotros: que demos frutos abundantes durante el tiempo que nos corresponda vivir, para que desde allí podamos aspirar con esperanza y confianza a la promesa de vida eterna a su lado.

Ya antes nos había dejado tesoros como el gesto de lavar los pies a sus discípulos, en donde deja claro que su pasión, próxima a comenzar, no es sino un servicio de amor hasta el extremo: hasta dar la vida *por los suyos*. A pesar de esa entrega la acción de Satanás es permanente y se hace visible en la traición de la cual sería objeto por parte de Judas y en la profetizada negación que Pedro haría en tres ocasiones de Él. A pesar de ello la decisión del amor es más fuerte y promete a los discípulos que su misión en el cielo será preparar muchas habitaciones para nosotros.

Ante las dudas y preguntas de algunos discípulos Jesús aclara dos

cosas vitales en nuestra jornada de fe: **Primero**, que Él es el camino para ir al Padre, no hay otro camino sino el Buen Pastor que se convierte en la puerta única de acceso a la vida divina con el Padre. **Segundo**, ver y creer en Jesús es ver y creer en el Padre y Jesús va a pedir al Padre que nos envíe el Espíritu Santo en su nombre. Aquí encontramos la revelación de que la *habitación* de la Santísima Trinidad en el cristiano es una realidad temporal y eterna al mismo tiempo. Esta realidad no la puede conocer el mundo porque quien no lo conoce a Él no puede conocer la realidad más profunda de la existencia del ser humana. Esa verdad sólo puede ser revelada por Dios mismo. **Tercero**, La manifestación de la realidad de Dios es algo que se realiza de corazón a corazón. Dios no está interesado en hacer ‘shows’ o demostraciones dignas de un artista común. No, para acceder al misterio de Dios el requisito indispensable es la fe que se hace visible en las obras que son consecuencia del amor, del amor que Jesús nos enseñó con su ejemplo.

En el capítulo quince Jesús nos deja la preciosa imagen de la vida verdadera en donde se describe la íntima unión suya con los discípulos y viceversa. Jesús es la vida, la cepa y quien cree en Él es parte de la vida de los sarmientos. La vida de la vida, que es la savia, es parte de la vida de los sarmientos, mientras ellos estén *unidos* a la vida, de otra manera el sarmiento se va quedando seco y no puede dar fruto, simplemente morirá. El verbo que más utiliza el evangelista Juan es “*permanecer*”, verbo que en su evangelio aparece sesenta y ocho veces y once veces sólo en este capítulo. Jesús aclara también que el viñador es el Padre. Es la humildad del Mesías, quien no tiene problema en dar crédito absoluto a la obra del Padre en el mundo y en Él. el Padre lo que quiere es que **no** perdamos la unión con Cristo, porque la única manera en que podemos dar fruto es ‘permaneciendo’ unidos a Él. Sin estar unidos a Él no podemos dar fruto. El Padre está dispuesto, inclusive, a recurrir a la poda para que demos más frutos. En otras palabras, será necesario un camino de purificación en la tierra, no como castigo, sino como método para hacer de nosotros discípulos ‘que dan fruto’.

Esta imagen de la cepa y los sarmientos es la que más íntimamente describe la unión vital de Cristo con los seguidores, con el Padre y con el Espíritu Santo. Es inclusive una unión más profunda que la que expresó con otras comparaciones como el Pastor con sus ovejas o como el Maestro con sus discípulos, porque allí se habla de una relación que es vital pero el pastor es el pastor y el maestro es el maestro. En la imagen de la vida y los sarmientos no es sólo relación, sino además **unión** total, unión de vida, es un trasvase que se hace de la vida del Padre a la vida del Hijo, quien nos deja su vida por medio del Espíritu Santo. San Pablo nos habla de otra imagen que nos deja ver esa unión vital, cuando se refiera a Cristo como a “la cabeza del cuerpo”, implicando que todos nosotros somos miembros de un mismo cuerpo, en donde hay única cabeza que es Jesucristo.

El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica nos recuerda que **esta comunión la realiza el Espíritu**: «La finalidad de la misión del Espíritu Santo es poner en comunión con Cristo para formar su Cuerpo. El Espíritu es como la savia de la vida del Padre que da su fruto en los sarmientos» (CEC 1108). Esta unión tiene consecuencias importantes para nuestra vida de fe: «el que permanece en mí y yo en él, ése da fruto abundante». Pero, por otra parte, también existe la posibilidad contraria: que no nos interese vivir esa unión con Cristo. Entonces no hay comunión de vida y el resultado será la esterilidad: «porque sin mí no podéis hacer nada», «al que no permanece en mí, lo tiran fuera y se seca», «como el sarmiento no puede dar fruto por sí, si no permanece en la vida, así tampoco vosotros si no permanecéis en mí».

Es bueno que hoy nos preguntemos: ¿por qué no doy en mi vida los frutos que seguramente espera Dios de mí? ¿qué grado de unión mantengo con la cepa principal, Cristo? En un capítulo anterior, el evangelista Juan pone en labios de Jesús otra frase

muy parecida a la de hoy, pero referida a la **Eucaristía**: «el que come mi Carne y bebe mi Sangre, **permanece** en mí y yo en él... Como yo vivo por el Padre, así el que me coma vivirá por mí» (Jn 6, 56-57). Bendiciones. P. Nelson

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, May 6, 2018-Sixth Sunday of Easter

- 7:30 Henry Warneke
- 9:00 Lucy Cannavacciuolo
- 10:30 Josephine Cozzolino
- 12:00 Digna Robles; Dominga Perez, Gladiz Perez, Ulda Porta & Nancy Duena; Hector Resto (1Yr Anniv); Francisco Chavier; Pedro Figueroa & Eddie Rios; Perilita Gonzaga; Reynaldo Sanchez; Rafael Miquel; Jose Rivera
- 1:30 Anna Rodriguez
- 5:00 Mary Quinn

MONDAY, May 7, 2018-St. John of Beverley

- 6:50 Justina Ramos
- 8:30 Thanksgiving in Honor of St. Michael
- 12:15 Nathalie Innocent-Special Health Intention
- 7:00 Deceased Members of St. Helena's Parish

TUESDAY, May 8, 2018-St. Peter

- 6:50 Brenda Van de Weghe Intentions for Her Spiritual Needs and Recuperation of Eye Surgery
- 8:30 Dennis P. Flores
- 12:15 Jose Fagundo

WEDNESDAY, May 9, 2018-St. Pachomius

- 6:50 In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 8:30 Walter Schoenthaler
Divine Assistance and Protection
- 12:15 Michael Guido
- 7:00 Adelina Rosete

THURSDAY, May 10, 2018-ASCENSION THURSDAY

- 6:50 For the Safety of Our Country
- 8:30 Leontine Ceasay-Prayers for Good Health
- 12:15 Ralph A. Cerbone, Jr.
- 7:30 For Our First Holy Communicants

FRIDAY, May 11, 2018-St. Francis di Girolama

- 6:50 In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 8:30 Rosina and Thomas Guido
- 12:15 Chee Chat Chan for His Soul

SATURDAY, May 12, 2018-Sts. Nereus, Achilleus & Pancras

- 6:50 Alberto Brinz
- 8:30 Almora Cara Cena & Families & Dominga & Higenio Families
- 10:00 First Holy Communion Mass
- 12:15 Sandra Ward
- 5:30 Mary Parker and Anna D'Amico

SUNDAY, May 13, 2018-Seventh Sunday of Easter

- 7:30 Genevieve Cerbone
- 9:00 Constance Warneke and Mildred Murphy
Mother's Day Novena
- 10:30 Josephine Acevedo
Lydia Comacho
- 12:00 Altagracia, Carmen, Manuel and Jose Capellan; Virgen de la Nube; Maria Ocasio and Norma Acosta; Gladys Rivera and Josephine Acevedo; Anjelica Javier; Duanny Jose Medrano; Laura Villegas-Birthday Intention; Alejandrina Alicea and Virginia Velez; Rose Marie La Roche
- 1:30 Kathleen Murphy
- 5:00 Xavier Francis, Meera Job, Staven and Jair Joseph Intentions for Immigration Status

Readings for the Week of May 6, 2018

Sunday: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 [cf. 2b]/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17; **Monday:** Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 15:26--16:4a; **Tuesday:** Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [7c]/Jn 16:5-11; **Wednesday:** Acts 17:15, 22--18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15; **Thursday:** Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20; **Friday:** Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [8a]/Jn 16:20-23; **Saturday:** Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10 [8a]/Jn 16:23b-28; **Next Sunday:** Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20 [19a]/1 Jn 4:11-16/Jn 17:11b-19