

The Piarist Fathers



Pastor

Rev. David Powers Sch.P.

Parochial Vicars

Rev. Nelson Henao Sch.P.

Rev. Richard Wyzykiewicz Sch.P.

Parish Staff

Deacon

Valentin Acabeo

Parish Secretary

Mrs. Rosemarie Ortiz

Business Manager

Anne Kathy Rice

Facilities Manager

Lillian Nazario

Music Director

Mr. Daniel Ambe

Musicians

Mr. Jim Donaldson

Mr. Alex Henriquez

January-February 2019

St. Helena's School (718) 892-3234

<http://www.sthelenaelementary.org>

Early Childhood (3Yr Olds & Pre-K for All)

Elementary School (Grades K-8)

Principal: Mr. Richard Meller

2050 Benedict Avenue

Bronx, New York 10462

High School:

Monsignor Scanlan H.S. (718) 430-0100

<http://www.scanlanhs.edu/>

Principal: Mr. Peter Doran

915 Hutchinson River Parkway

Bronx, New York 10465

St. Helena Rectory:

1315 Olmstead Avenue

Bronx, N.Y. 10462

Phone: (718) 892-3232

Fax: (718) 892-7713

www.churchofsthelena.com

Email: sthelenarc@yahoo.com

Alumni: sthelenasalumni@yahoo.com

GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US EVERY DAY



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

History of the Devotion to the Divine Child Jesus

According to old narrators, the devotion to the Divine Child Jesus began on Mount Carmel, in Israel, a beautiful mountain near Nazareth. The Divine Child, accompanied by his parents and grandparents frequently went there to walk and pray, and after Jesus ascended to Heaven, the religious inhabitants of Mount Carmel remembered with great affection and devotion the Child Jesus. Later, when the Carmelites spread out in Europe, they carried the devotion to the Divine Child everywhere.



In 1200, Saint Anthony of Padua, and in 1500 Saint Cajetan had a great devotion to the Child Jesus, and because of that, there is a painting of each saint carrying the divine child in his arms. But those who most popularized the devotion to the Divine Child Jesus were Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus and Saint John of the Cross. From Saint Theresa, we are told that she was climbing some steps toward a corridor where she saw the Child Jesus who greeted her kindly. Since then, the saint always carried with her in her travels a statue of the Divine Child, and in all the homes of her order, ordered that a beautiful picture of the Child Jesus be placed and honored. She almost always left one as a present as she left.

The Carmelite Fathers and Sisters, following the example of their founding saints, Saint Theresa and Saint John of the Cross, have made the point of spreading wherever they went the following fact: The devotion to the Miraculous Child Jesus is not the belief that an image made of plaster, metal, fabric or cardboard will perform a miracle for us (because images cannot do miracles for anyone). It is to honor the first twelve years of Jesus on Earth, His childhood years, and to draw from the merits that Jesus gained during his twelve years of childhood. In 1636, Our Lord made to Venerable Marguerite of the Most Holy Sacrament a promise that became very famous: "Everything that you want to ask for, ask for it through the merits of my childhood, and your prayer will be heard".

The Santo Niño de Atocha is an advocacy or title of the Holy Child Jesus with origins that reach back to Mexico and Spain. On the outskirts of Madrid in the barrio of Atocha there is an ancient church that houses an image of the Virgin with the Christ Child. This image is known as Nuestra Señora de Atocha, Our Lady of Atocha. According to legend, the Christ Child would visit Spanish Christian prisoners of the Moors during the Islamic presence in Spain. Dressed as a pilgrim with a broad-brimmed hat, traveling cloak, and walking staff the Christ Child brought bread and water to Spanish prisoners who were amazed that his basket never went empty and his water gourd never stopped flowing. As the Santo Niño traveled from cell to cell and prison to prison he wore out his sandals. In time, it became customary for devotees of the Santo Niño to leave baby shoes at shrines dedicated to him. Many New Mexican survivors of the Bataan Death March attribute their survival to the intercession of the Santo Niño de Atocha. He is a patron of travelers, prisoners, and the ill and crippled.

During the late eighteenth century, an image of Nuestra Señora de Atocha was brought to a church in Zacatecas, Mexico. At some point thereafter the figure of the Christ Child was removed from his mother's arms and was placed in a chair. Devotion to the figure soon developed apart from that to his mother. Legends and stories arose which told of the miraculous Child's peregrinations bringing relief to prisoners and miners in the nearby mines of Plateros and Fresnillo. Eventually, devotion to the Santo Niño was spread northward to present-day New Mexico by Zacatecan colonists. Today a famous shrine called the Santuario de Chimayo in the village of Potrero houses an image of the Santo Niño de Atocha. It draws thousands of visitors annually who seek cures from sacred earth dug from around the chapel.

A great many devotions in the whole world have stood the test of asking for favors from God through the merits of Jesus' childhood, and have obtained wonderful favors. Today, we will bless many images of the Divine Child to celebrate this special devotion.

February - The Month of the Holy Family

In January, the Catholic Church celebrated the Month of the Holy Name of Jesus; and in February, we turn to the entire Holy Family—Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. In sending His Son to earth as a Baby, born into a family, God elevated the family beyond a mere natural institution. Our own family life reflects that lived by Christ, in obedience to His mother and foster father. Both as children and as parents, we can take comfort in the fact that we have the perfect model of the family before us in the Holy Family.

One commendable practice for the month of February is a Consecration to the Holy Family. When Jesus came to save mankind, He was born into a family. Even though He was truly God, He submitted Himself to the authority of His mother and His foster father, thus setting an example for all of us on how to be good children. We offer our family to Christ and ask Him to help us to imitate the Holy Family so that, as a family, we can all enter Heaven. And we ask Mary and Joseph to pray for us. If you have a prayer corner or a home altar, you can gather the entire family and recite the consecration prayer, which reminds us that we aren't saved individually. We all work out our salvation in conjunction with others—first and foremost, together with the other members of our family. If you don't have a prayer corner, your dining room table will suffice.



BLESSING OF THROATS FOR ST. BLAISE

We will have the Blessing of Throats in honor of St. Blaise at all Masses today. St. Blaise was a physician and Bishop of Sebaste, Armenia in the 4th century. He lived in a cave on Mount Argeus and was a healer of men and animals. Legend tells us that sick animals would come to him on their own for help but would never disturb him at prayer. As bishop, Blaise became a healer of souls and taught his people how to live a holy life by his example. His great virtues and sanctity were confirmed by many miracles. Crowds came to him for the cure of both bodily and spiritual afflictions.

One day, Agricola, the governor of Cappadocia, came to Sebaste to persecute Christians. His hunters discovered Blaise praying while seeking wild animals for the arena and arrested him as a Christian. Blaise was taken to prison, but on the way there he interceded to God on the behalf of a child who was choking to death on a fish bone. The child was cured, which led to the current practice of the blessing of throats on Blaise's feast day.

Thrown into a lake to drown, Blaise stood on the water's surface and invited his persecutors to walk out and prove the power of their gods; they drowned. When he returned to land, he was martyred by being beaten, his flesh torn with wool combs (which led to his association with and patronage of those involved in the wool trade), and then (just to be sure) he was beheaded.

In the holy wars, his relics were dispersed over Europe and veneration of St. Blaise was increased by many miraculous cures, especially of sore or diseased throats. Thus, he became the patron of those suffering from throat ailments. As one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers, St. Blaise became one of the most popular saints of the Middle Ages. In 1222, the Council of Oxford banned servile work (heavy manual labor) in England because it happened to fall on Saint Blaise's feast day.

The rite of the blessing of throats may take place before or after Mass. The aid of St. Blaise is often asked in delivering the faithful from throat ailments and other evils, which shows how the Church is truly concerned with the bodily needs of the person as well as their spiritual needs. When blessing throats, the priest first consecrates two candles and then holds each in a crossed position on the throat of the person being blessed. At the same time the following blessing is given: "Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from all ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

St. Joseph Calasanz Patron Saint of All Christian Public Schools

As we conclude Catholic Schools week, it is good to remember the person Pope Pius XII called "the Heavenly Patron Saint of ALL Christian Public Schools." Jose de Calasanz was born September 11, 1557, in the tiny village of Peralta de la Sal in Aragon, Spain. He went to Rome in 1592 and lived there for 56 years, dying there at the age of 90. Fortune alternately smiled and frowned on the work of Joseph Calasanz. A priest with a doctorate in both canon law and theology and respected for his wisdom and administrative expertise, he put aside his career because he was deeply concerned with the need for educating poor children.

When he was unable to get other institutes to undertake this apostolate at Rome, Joseph and several companions personally provided a free school for deprived children. It was in 1557, in two rooms adjoining the sacristy of the Church of St. Dorothy (whose Feast Day is this week on February 6), that Joseph Calasanz opened the world's first free public school. So overwhelming was the response that there was a constant need for larger facilities to house their effort. Soon, Pope Clement VIII gave support to the school, and this aid continued under Pope Paul V. Other schools were opened; other men were attracted to the work, and in 1621 the community—for so the teachers lived—was recognized as a religious order under solemn vows, the Clerks Regular of the Poor of the Mother of God of the Pious Schools—known for short as the Piarist Fathers. It is the religious order that now administers St. Helena's. Not long after, Joseph was appointed superior for life.

A combination of various prejudices and political ambition and maneuvering caused the institute much turmoil. Some did not favor educating the poor, for education would leave the poor dissatisfied with their lowly tasks for society! Others were shocked that two Piarist priests were sent for instruction to Galileo, who was a good friend of Joseph. This action divided the members into opposite camps. These two priests later became Galileo's secretaries. Repeatedly investigated by papal commissions, Joseph was demoted; and when the internal struggle within the institute persisted, the Piarists were suppressed in every country save Poland. Only after Calasanz's death were they once again formally recognized as a religious community. His Feast Day is August 25.



St. Agatha - February 5

St. Agatha is a legendary Christian saint and virgin martyr and the patron saint of breast cancer patients. She is cited in the martyrology of St. Jerome, the Calendar of Carthage (c. 530), and other works. Although she was one of the most-venerated virgin martyrs of Christian antiquity, the traditional particulars of her martyrdom are of little historical value. Palermo and Catania are both mentioned as her possible birthplace, and tradition holds that she was born around AD 230 to wealthy and noble parents. Having consecrated her virginity to God at a young age, she resisted the advances of a Roman prefect sent by the emperor Decius to govern Sicily. Her profession of faith and rejection of the prefect resulted in her brutal torture, during which her breasts were cut off (a condition often reflected in her iconography). During her imprisonment, she famously had a vision of St. Peter the Apostle, who is said to have comforted her and healed her wounds with his prayers. She was sent to the stake, but, according to some accounts, as soon as the fire was lighted, an earthquake occurred, causing the people to insist upon her release; she then allegedly died in prison around AD 251.

St. Paul Miki and Companions - February 6

On Feb. 6, the Catholic Church honors the 26 Martyrs of Nagasaki, a group of native Japanese Catholics and foreign missionaries who suffered death for their faith in the year 1597.

During the 16th century, the Catholic faith reached Japan by the efforts of the Jesuit missionary Saint Francis Xavier (1506-1552). Jesuit outreach to the Japanese continued after his death, and around 200,000 Japanese had entered the Church by 1587. Religious tensions led to a period of persecution during that year, during which many churches were destroyed and missionaries forced to work in secret. But few episodes of martyrdom took

place during this time, and within a decade 100,000 more Japanese became Catholic despite the restrictions.

During 1593, Franciscan missionaries came to Japan from the Philippines by order of Spain's King Philip II. These new arrivals gave themselves zealously to the work of charity and evangelism, but their presence disturbed a delicate situation between the Church and Japanese authorities.

Suspicion against Catholic missionaries grew when a Spanish ship was seized off the Japanese coast and was found to be carrying artillery. Toyotomi Hideyoshi, who was a powerful imperial minister, responded by sentencing 26 Catholics to death.

The group was comprised of three native Jesuits, six foreign Franciscans, and several lay Catholics including some children. Sentenced to die by crucifixion and lancing, they were first marched 600 miles to the city of Nagasaki.

During the journey, they underwent public torture meant to terrorize other Japanese believers in Christ. But all of the 26 held out courageously, even singing the hymn of praise "Te Deum" when they arrived at the hill where they would be crucified.

Three of the best-known martyrs of Nagasaki are Saints Paul Miki, John of Goto, and James Kisai. Though none were priests, all were associated with the Jesuits: Miki was training for the priesthood, while Kisai was a lay brother and John of Goto was a catechist preparing to enter the order. Paul Miki offered an especially strong witness to his faith during the group's month-long march to Nagasaki, as he joined one of the captive Franciscan priests in preaching to the crowds who came to mock the prisoners.

The son of a wealthy military leader, Miki was born in 1562 and entered the Church along with the rest of his family. He joined the Jesuits as a young man and helped many Buddhists to embrace Christianity. His last act of evangelism took place as he hung on his cross, preaching to the crowds. "The only reason for my being killed is that I have taught the doctrine of Jesus Christ," he announced. "I thank God it is for this reason that I die. I believe that I am telling the truth before I die."

"After Christ's example, I forgive my persecutors. I do not hate them. I ask God to have pity on all, and I hope my blood will fall on my fellow men as a fruitful rain."

St. Paul Miki and his 25 companions were stabbed to death with lances on February 5, 1597, at the site that became known as "Martyrs' Hill." Pope Pius IX canonized the Martyrs of Nagasaki in 1862.

St. Jerome Emiliani - February 8

Jerome Emiliani was born in Venice, Italy, in 1481. He became a soldier and eventually was made a commander of a fortress in Treviso. When this fortress fell to the Venetians, he was captured and imprisoned. It was during this time spent in a dark, damp cell that Jerome had time to reflect upon his life. He had never given much thought to God and had always felt very much in charge of his own life. He realized, however, that stripped of his army and weapons he was helpless. He called out to God in his weakness and God responded. Suddenly Jerome's mind and heart were freed. His life had changed. Jerome was able to escape the dungeon in which he was being held captive and returned to Venice, where he was ordained a priest in 1518. He began caring for and ministering to many famine and plague victims, and he soon came to focus his attention on the many children who had been orphaned by these epidemics. Using his own money to rent a house for the orphans, he began feeding, clothing and educating them. He helped them learn their faith through the method of question and answer. He later founded orphanages at Brescia, Bergamo, and Como, as well as a hospital at Verona and a home for repentant prostitutes. In the year 1532, Jerome, along with two other priests, founded a congregation known as the Clerks Regular of Somascha. Jerome's constant devotion to the poor and sick took its toll on his health, and in 1537, while helping others, he fell ill and died at the age of 56.

Pour l'équilibre du monde

Il est facile de voir comment les divers événements survenus sur la planète ont contribué de manière significative à la mise en péril de l'équilibre de la civilisation actuelle. C'est pour cette raison que les hommes de bien devraient participer à des événements de

cette nature, dans un cadre de la pluralité, pour réaliser une promotion humaine authentique, sachant également que « ceux qui s'efforcent de défendre la dignité des personnes peuvent trouver dans la foi chrétienne les arguments les plus profonds de cet engagement » (Lettre enc. *Laudato si'*, 65).

L'environnement humain et l'environnement naturel vont de pair et peuvent se dégrader ensemble. La dégradation de l'environnement ne pourra pas être traitée de manière adéquate si nous ne comprenons pas les causes liées à la dégradation humaine et sociale (cf. *ibid.*, 48). Pour cette raison, lors de ma visite pastorale à Cuba, j'avais déjà indiqué qu'il fallait cultiver une « culture de rencontre », en particulier chez les jeunes, en promouvant une « amitié sociale » (voir *Salutations aux jeunes*, La Havane, 20 septembre). 2015), qui nous rassemble dans un objectif commun de promotion des personnes.

Je vous encourage à rechercher des alternatives efficaces autour de la pensée de José Martí, « un homme de lumière », tel que défini par Saint Jean-Paul II lors de sa visite à Cuba (*Rencontre avec le monde de la culture*, La Havane, 23 janvier 1998). Que les enseignements de ce maître et écrivain cubain résonnent en nous et nous rappellent, avec leurs mots, que « tous les arbres de la terre se concentreront à la fin dans un seul qui donnera éternellement un arôme très doux: l'arbre de l'amour, aux branches si robustes et si généreuses qu'à son nom tous les hommes seront souriants et en paix » (*Obras completas*, vol. 5, 103).

Je vous souhaite que ces journées de travail et de réflexion portent des fruits de compréhension et de dialogue pour la réalisation d'une civilisation de plus en plus fraternelle.

2019 Cardinal's Appeal has Begun

This year is the 40th anniversary of the *Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal*. During these 40 years, the campaign has raised millions of dollars to support St. Helena's and many other parishes and Catholics throughout New York.

There are so many reasons why the *Appeal* is important. Your support helps countless people and sustains the good work of our parishes. You will soon receive a letter from Cardinal Dolan explaining the details and asking for your help. Part of being a good steward means living with trust in God's generosity and responsibly tending that which God has entrusted to us. Cardinal Dolan is asking all of YOU to participate by making a gift (either great or small) to this important annual initiative.

Please note that no contributions to the Church, including the *Cardinal's Appeal*, are used for the expenses of outreach victims of clergy sexual abuse. 100% of your contribution goes to support the following five areas: **1.** To support needy parishes by providing emergency funding; **2.** To provide staff to all parishes for church management and financial assistance; **3.** To help educate children in our Catholic schools and religious education programs; **4.** To provide for retired priests by giving them the retirement care they deserve after decades of service; **5.** To help educate our future clergy and prepare them for a life of service.

The archdiocesan goal for the 2019 Appeal is \$20 million, and our parish goal here at St. Helena is \$46,000. I ask that you prayerfully consider your gift. It is only with your support that the campaign can be a success. We all have in our hearts the capacity to give as Jesus asked us to do. You can complete a pledge card or pledge online at www.cardinalsappeal.org. You will be given an opportunity to make your pledge during Mass on Commitment Weekend, March 9-10. Thank you for all you do.

RENEW AND REBUILD CAMPAIGN-Pledge cards for the Archdiocesan Renew and Rebuild Campaign, are at the two church entrances. It is a five-year campaign to raise funds for the growing needs of the parish and the Archdiocese. You are asked to complete the cards and to make a pledge. You may put your cards in the basket or turn them into the rectory. Parish needs include handicap access, new boilers, and air conditioning upgrades.

National Marriage Week is February 7-14.

Calasanz Movement Organizational Meeting There will be an important organizational meeting for any adults who are interested in working with teenage youth. The meeting will take place on **Mon., Feb. 4 at 7PM** in the Peralta Rectory Meeting Room

The Peter's Pence Collection, will be taken up next weekend. This collection provides Pope Francis with the funds he needs to carry out his charitable works around the world. The proceeds benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and natural disasters. For more information, visit www.usccb.org/peters-pence.

Bring in your old Palms.

They can be placed in the container at the back of the church and will be burned for use on Ash Wednesday.

Prayer for Piarist Vocations

Lord, you said in the Gospel: "The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few." Look with compassion on so many children and young people in today's world who do not yet know You, because there is no one to break with them the bread of culture and faith. Trusting in your infinite Love, we ask you to send workers into Your vineyard. Under the inspiration of St. Joseph Calasanz, may the coming of your kingdom be announced through piety and literacy, and may the world be renewed by the power of your love. Through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **The January 50/50 winner of \$230 was #390**-You cannot win unless you enter. Special pink envelopes are available at the two Church entrances or in your packet. The next winner will be picked by a special guest on **Mon., Feb. 25.**
- **FIRST COMMUNION FAMILY SESSION** will take place today **Sunday, February 3 at 11:30AM** in the cafeteria. All second year First Communion students and their parents are required to attend.
- **SPANISH FAMILY SESSION** will take place on **Sunday, February 10 at 1:30PM** in the cafeteria.
- **SPANISH CHARISMATIC MASS** will take place on **Monday, February 4 from 7-9PM** in the Church.
- **ENGLISH CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** meets every **Saturday from 1PM to 3PM**, in the Green Building.
- **ENGLISH BIBLE STUDY CLASS**-The Book of Exodus is our current study which continues with chapters 11-15 on **Tuesday, February 5 at 1PM or 7:30PM** and **Sunday, February 10 at 11:30AM** in the Green Building. Today, we will study chapters 8-10, which is The Plagues of Egypt.
- **YOUTH GROUP** every **Friday from 7-8:30PM** in the gym. **We are looking for new leaders** to help with an exciting new youth (teenage) project. **February 4 at 7PM** in the rectory
- **2019 MASS BOOK**-Come in now if you want very specific Mass dates and times.
- **RELIGIOUS ARTICLES ROOM** is open every **Sunday from 8AM to 1:30PM**. New items have arrived.
- **NEXT BAPTISM PREP CLASSES** will be held at **7PM on Thursday, February 7 in English and February 14 in Spanish**. Arrangements must be made at the Rectory to

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Sunday, January 27	\$4,627.77
Envelope System	\$1,310.00

Our new weekly budget, (Nuestro presupuesto semanal es) \$5,192.31. This week, we had the roofer come because of leaks, and we must remove some dead trees. Thank you all for your generosity and support and for all that you do for St. Helena's.

Gracias a todos por su generosidad y por todo lo que hacen por esta Iglesia de St. Helena. Nosotros estamos haciendo reparaciones en la escuela y la iglesia; por favor, considere aumentar su oferta para ayudar y apoya estas mejoras.

take 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 or a copy of the godparent's Confirmation Certificate, or if a godparent is married, bring a copy of their Catholic Marriage Certificate. These must all be brought to the class.

- **BEREAVEMENT GROUP**-Are you mourning the loss of a loved one? A new five-week Bereavement Group will be starting on **Saturday, March 2** and will run every Saturday in March at **11AM** in the Green Building. The group will meet in both English and Spanish. Please register for the group by calling the rectory at **718-892-3232**.
- **REGISTER NOW FOR A FREE MAMMOGRAM** that will take place here at St. Helena on **Sunday, March 17** from **9AM - 4:30PM** in the front of the church. Any women ages 40-79 who live in New York City and have not had a mammogram in the last 12 months are eligible for a free mammogram screening, sponsored by the American Italian Cancer Foundation. If you have health insurance, please bring your insurance card. You will not pay anything for this service. You must register for a timeslot ASAP by calling the St. Helena Rectory at **718-892-3232**.
- **USED MAGAZINES**-Please bring in any magazines (Spanish especially) that you have already read, so we can donate them to Rebekah Nursing Home. Thank you.
- **NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**-This past week, St. Helena students participated in a wide range of activities to celebrate National Catholic Schools Week. Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week. The theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2019 was "Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed." Schools typically observe the annual celebration week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities, and our nation.
- **AA BIG BOOK STUDY** meets every **Sat., 7-8:30PM** in the green building. New members are always welcome.
- **CO-DEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS (CODA)** meets every **Monday** from **7-8:30PM** in the rectory meeting room.
- **FOR SALE**-Construction tools, 2 speakers, electric tire cutter, and a telescope. Call **646-467-3503** for more details.

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Junior Varsity Played Last CYO Home Game

Sean Dubose led the junior varsity Horsemen with a team-high 11 points, and the Horsemen had some good moments in their final CYO home game, but St. Frances de Chantal played just a little better and won the game 23-32.

The Horsemen were able to stay within 4-6 points for most of the game, with de Chantal leading 7-13 at the quarter and the Horsemen narrowing the gap to 12-16 at the half. Dubose had two 3's, and Larry German scored his five points all within the first half. Chris Williams contributed 6 points, and Manase Manigar rounded out the Horsemen scoring by hitting a free throw in the third. The Horsemen were 5 for 8 from the line.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SHOP AMAZONSMILE AND DONATE TO ST. HELENA** Will you be our Valentine? Valentine's Day is **February 14**, and many of you are already shopping for gifts. This is a great opportunity to donate to St. Helena by doing your regular shopping. Just shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/13-1740343 and AmazonSmile will donate to St. Helena's.

- **CHINESE NEW YEAR** is **Tuesday, February 5** and is the Year of the Earth Pig. The Yellow Emperor (Huangdi) is considered the Creator of the Chinese Nation, so this year is Huangdi 4717.
- **CHURCH IN BANGLADESH CELEBRATES 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF EVANGELIZATION FEB. 7-8** "The Portuguese came mainly for business, but they also brought with them the faith in Christ," said Archbishop Moses Costa of Chittagong. Despite being a tiny minority, Christians are highly regarded by Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists for their contributions in the fields of education, healthcare and other services for the underprivileged and helpless.
- **MARCH FOR LIFE APOLOGIZES FOR CONDEMNING COVINGTON CATHOLIC STUDENTS** The March for Life has issued a statement apologizing for an earlier condemnation of pro-life marchers from Covington Catholic High School. "For our rush to judgment and initial statement based on incomplete and misleading information, we apologize," the Jan. 28 statement said. On Jan. 19, Jeanne Mancini, the president of the March for Life, had described the students' behavior as "reprehensible." The statement promised that in the future, the group would not respond hastily to media reports: "we will not trust, we will verify."
- **FREE CONFIDENTIAL PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT TO FAMILY CAREGIVERS** caring for a frail or chronically ill family member or someone with Alzheimer's or dementia. Professionals meet with family caregivers at Circle of Care Stations or in the client's home. For more info., call **866-665-1713** or Email_careinfo@pssusa.org.
- **EPISCOPAL ORDINATION**-The Reverend William J. Muhm, a priest of our archdiocese, currently serving as administrator of the Church of the Most Precious Blood in Walden, has been appointed by His Holiness, Pope Francis as an auxiliary to the Archbishop for the Military Services, USA. His episcopal consecration Mass will be held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC on **Monday, March 25**, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord at **2:00PM**.
- **BERNADETTE YEAR BEGINS AT LOURDES**-Beginning on February 11, 1858, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared 18 times to St. Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, France. 2019 is the 175th anniversary of St. Bernadette's birth and the 140th anniversary of her death.
- **POPE LAUNCHES HIS CLICK TO PRAY APP PROFILE**-Pope Francis has unveiled his very own user profile in Click To Pray, the official app of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, including its youth branch, the Eucharistic Youth Movement. Click To Pray, which can be found at (www.clicktopray.org) is a platform that invites men and women from around the world, to accompany the Pope in a mission of compassion for the world. It has a website and a mobile app, both for Android and iOS, with its social networks, available in six languages (Spanish, English, Italian, French, Portuguese, and German).
- **COMMON SENSE PARENTING**- This program empowers parents and caretakers by exploring effective, practical strategies that teach and encourage positive, respectful behaviors. Sessions blend presentations, videos, and practice exercises. New classes geared towards parents of children ages 6 - 16 began this month! Cost: \$30 includes book & workbook. Upcoming dates (all Wednesdays): **Feb. 6, Feb. 20, March 6, March 20, April 3 and April 10**. For more information, contact Sue DiSisto, **646-794-3191**, or Sr. Cora Lombardo, **914-961-1076**.
- **EMMAUS MINISTRY FOR GRIEVING PARENTS RETREAT (SPANISH)**-This support group serves the spiritual needs of Spanish-speaking parents whose children of any age have died, no matter how long ago. **Saturday,**

February 9, 9:30 a.m. - 7:30PM. St. John-Visitation Pastoral Center 275 West 230th Street, Bronx .

- **BEATIFICATION OF BLESSED CLELIA MERLONI**, foundress of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus who serve at Santa Maria and Sacred Heart parishes, on **Saturday, February 9 at 2PM.** Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Cardinal Dolan. RSVP to <https://tinyurl.com/blessedclelia>

SANTA HELENA “TU LUGAR DE ENCUENTRO” INFORMACION Y EVENTOS

- Fe. 2-3** *La bendición de las gargantas* en honor de St. Blaise, médico, obispo y mártir, se llevará a cabo en todas las Misas de fin de semana el próximo fin de semana.
- Fe. 3** **SESION DE FAMILIA PRIMERA COMUNION.** *Domingo, 11:30pm, cafetería.* Todos los estudiantes de Primera Comunión y sus padres deben asistir.
- Fe. 4** **¿TE GUSTA TRABAJAR CON JÓVENES?**-Pues, te estendemos la invitación a formar parte de un Nuevo y emocionante Proyecto Juvenil en nuestra Parroquia para mas info. *Lunes, 7pm* en el Salon Calasanz de la Rectoría.
- Fe. 10** **SESION DE FAMILIA.** Español. *Domingo, 1:30pm cafetería*
- Fe. 14** **CLASE DE BAUTISMO.** *Jueves, 7 pm, Iglesia.* Traer los documentos necesarios a la clase: Certificado de nacimiento. Carta del pastor de la parroquia de los padrinos indicando que pueden ser padrinos, o Certificado de Matrimonio de la Iglesia si son casados, o Certificado de Confirmación si son solteros. Información en la rectoría.
- Fe. 25** **50/50.** El próximo ganador se definirá el lunes 25 de febrero.

Campaña de Renovación y Reconstrucción: Las tarjetas de compromiso se encuentran en las entradas de la Iglesia. Se trata de tu compromiso personal con la arquidiócesis. Si deseas hacerlo puedes llenarlas y dejarlas en la rectoría.

Segunda colección de la próxima semana: Peter's Pence-Esta colección le proporciona fondos al Papa Francisco para llevar a cabo sus obras de caridad en todo el mundo. Los ingresos benefician a nuestros hermanos y hermanas en los márgenes de la sociedad, incluidas las víctimas de la guerra, la opresión y los desastres naturales. gracias.

Conoces a alguien que está cargando con la aflicción de un aborto? Hay ayuda y esperanza disponible y no tienes que soportar por toda tu vida el dolor y la tristeza de un aborto. “*Días de Oración y Sanación*” ofrecen la oportunidad de experimentar el amor y la misericordia de Dios y de sanar la herida del aborto. El próximo Día de Oración y Sanación en Español será el Sábado 23 de febrero 2019. Para más información contacte con Anna 917-250-1766, o bien Zoila 914-720-8235 o zoibendecida707@gmail.com.

ACTIVIDADES EN ESPAÑOL

LUNES	7 - 9 pm	Grupo Carismático de Oración. <i>Misa cada primer lunes</i>
MARTES	7.15-9.15pm	ENCUENTRO CON CRISTO- <i>cafetería</i>
MIERC.	10 am	Grupo Santa Madre Teresa de Calcuta: <i>Visita a pacientes de Rebeka</i> <i>Misa en Rebeka: segundos lunes de mes a las 10.30am</i>
	7 - 9 pm	Coronilla de la Divina Misericordia, <i>Adoración, Eucaristía</i>
VIERNES	7 - 8 pm	Legión de María. Rosario y reunión.
	7 - 8.30 pm	Grupo Juvenil. Edades 12-18. 7-8.30pm
	7.30 - 9 pm	JECABA. Jesús, Calasanz y la Familia. Grupo de reflexión. Segundos y cuartos viernes. Edificio verde.
SABADO	9.30 am	Grupo Derrumbando Muros y Creando Comunidad. Desayuno y planeación de trabajo. Cafetería.

- **FORDHAM PREPARATORY SCHOOL HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM** for rising 8th grade boys will take place **June 24-July 24** at Fordham Prep. The boys will take classes in critical thinking, math, and writing in the morning and will participate in athletic events in the afternoon. The program includes a service project. For an application, visit fordhamprep.org/HAP or call **718-367-7500 X263**.
- **ARE YOU A HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR AND A PRACTICING CATHOLIC** attending an Archdiocesan parish or faith community? Have you demonstrated academic achievement, leadership, and good character? Apply for the \$2,000 Venerable Pierre Toussaint Scholarship. Contact your Fr. David to receive an application and to request a reference letter. Applications are due **February 15**.
- **NEW YORK ENCOUNTER CULTURAL EVENT** will take place **February 15-17** at the Metropolitan Pavilion at 215 West 18th St. It is free. For more info, please visit: www.newyorkencounter.org.
- **HEALING AFTER ABORTION**-Do you know someone who is carrying the grief of a past abortion? There is help and hope available, and the pain and sorrow of abortion does not need to endure for a lifetime. A “Day of Prayer and Healing” offers the opportunity to experience the love and mercy of God and to heal the wound of abortion. Upcoming dates: **Feb. 9, Feb. 23** (Spanish), and more dates in the coming months. For more dates, location, and confidential registration, or to talk to a Sister, please call the Sisters of Life at **(866)-575-0075 (toll free)** or you may email them at: hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org.
- **CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY, JUNE 2-14:** daily Mass, visiting Venice, Florence, Bologna, Siena, Assisi, and Rome; breakfast and dinner included, \$3,899 per person with air from JFK. For more info, call **800-773-2660**.
- **CAMP VERITAS** is a week-long play and pray pilgrimage and summer camp for teens entering grades 7-12. There are five locations. The cost is \$400 and limited scholarships are available. Registration is now open. www.campveritas.org
- **CAMP FATIMA AND CAMP BERNADETTE**-Camp Fatima for boys and Camp Bernadette for girls are now accepting registrations for the **2019** summer season. The camps, located in the Lakes Region of NH, offer 2-week overnight sessions for children, ages 6-15. Round trip bus transportation is available out of Long Island. For more info or to request a brochure, contact Brendan Stackhouse at **603-364-5851** or email brendan@bfcamp.com, or visit and register online at www.bfcamp.com.
- **LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE SEARCH**-The search begins for the longest married couple in the Archdiocese of New York. To enter couples must be sacramentally married

Please Pray for the Sick of Our Parish

Joanne Frances Bernadette Sanabria, Carmelle and Nicole Antoine, Indrowdi Sadu, Rosa Pena, Luzvina Vega, Augustine Ayala, Florence Churchill, 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, Bertha Mero, Marie Lopez, Jose Vargas, Pat Callahan, Sabina Acosta, Isham, Ruben Mercado, Margarita Torres, Thomas Darrigo, Ralphie Lugo, Ofelia Torres, Lydia Sffreda, Roseanne and Joseph Pane, Rosa Maria Santos, Mary Brennan, David Sheehan, Jr., Mary Charlotte, Jenny Mauro, Ana Espinosa, Stella Caballero, Montseratte Rivera, Pylar Pagan, Peggy Ward

Please Pray for the Deceased and their Grieving Families:

Pedro Vega, Digna Robles, Isabel Garcia. James Flynn, Lisa Toth, Armando Berrios, William Candelario, Sr., Daisy Monsanto, Lydia Rodriguez, Dionisio Mojica, Rev. Rufino Lecumberri, Victor Cruz Torres, Emilia Rivera, Ann Amilio, Joan Anderson, Marcos A. Vazquez, Amelio Garcia Colon, Edward Anthony Watkins, Mary Ellen O'Connor, Deacon Eugene Burke, Lesbia Rodriguez

for a minimum of 65 years and must reside within the Archdiocese. The longest married couples will receive commemorative certificates signed by Cardinal Dolan. The winning couple will be featured in an article in Catholic New York. For more information contact Joan Brisson at **646-794-3190** or Joan.brisson@archny.org or contact the parish office at **718-892-3233**.

ANUNCIOS EN ESPAÑOL

FORMACION ESPIRITUAL CONTINUA

- **“LA SEMILLA DEL DIA”:** Deseas recibir *cada día* la reflexión sobre la *Palabra de Dios* por el P. Nelson? **Inscríbete** al grupo de WhatsApp **“La Semilla del Día”**. Sólo tienes que *enviar un e-mail a:* jnelsonh55@yahoo.com, o dejar tu **nombre** y **número de teléfono** en la rectoría, o puedes llamar a la rectoría (**718-892-3233**) y dejar tu información, diciendo que quieres ser parte de “La Semilla del Día”. **Conocer la Palabra de Dios es conocer a Dios.**
- **“LA SEMILLA DE LA SEMANA”:** El P. Nelson te invita a leer cada semana su artículo **“La semilla de la semana”** en el boletín de la parroquia. Encontrarás allí la reflexión sobre algún punto importante de la *Palabra de Dios* durante la semana.

LA SEMILLA DE LA SEMANA

COMENTARIO A LA PALABRA DE DIOS. DOMINGO III, DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

El evangelio de hoy, nos muestra a Jesús, que vuelve a Nazaret, ciudad que lo vio crecer desde su infancia, pasando por la juventud, hasta llegar a la madurez de su vida pública.

Un sábado, según su costumbre judía, va a orar a la sinagoga, y leyó las Escrituras. Pero, ¿qué leyó Jesús aquel día? El texto del profeta Isaías donde se explica cómo será el Mesías que ya viene y que salvará al Pueblo de Israel. Éstas son sus características:

Alguien lleno del Espíritu del Señor
Que libera de los miedos y anuncia la alegría al pobre
Que trae la libertad a los esclavizados y encarcelados
Que restaura la luz para el ciego que vive en tinieblas
Que trae el perdón y la amnistía definitiva al pecador

Jesús es la imagen perfecta del Padre, el que toma nuestra naturaleza humana, para que en Él podamos conocer definitivamente los planes de Dios y su corazón. Pero, sobre todo en Jesús, aprendemos a ser como Él. En definitiva, comenzamos con Jesús una nueva versión de nuestra vida: aprendemos a ser alegres, misericordiosos, libres para amar, llenos de sabiduría nueva, cercanos a los más necesitados, amorosos como el Padre. Para que todo esto ocurra, hemos de estar llenos del Espíritu Santo, del Espíritu del Señor que estaba con Jesús de Nazaret.



Hemos recibido el Espíritu Santo por medio del bautismo, que nos hace ser “templos vivos de la Santísima Trinidad”. Este Espíritu Santo vuelve a confirmar su presencia en el Sacramento de la Confirmación, pues Él vive en nosotros y nosotros en Él. Que, como Jesús el Señor, aprendamos a ser Buena Noticia para quienes nos encontramos en los acontecimientos de nuestra vida cotidiana. Así, la gente podrá leer el evangelio de nuestra vida, y nos convertiremos en facilitadores del amor del Padre, revelado en nosotros y a través de nosotros. *Fr. Negro*

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, February 3, 2019-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30** Catherine Warneke
- 9:00** Gilbert Calcano
- 10:30** Lucy and Joseph Hilowsky
- 12:00** Luis Tiofilo Calle; Un año de aniversario de boda Silvia y Victor Galicia y pur un año mas de vida a Gracia Galicia; Flores Gonzalez Family Intentions; Jean Nimkin; Agradecimiento por el embarazo de mariuxi; Bendicion Niños Jesus (La Candelaria)
- 1:30** Jonah Iluma, Phibiana Gabriel Egba and Imimova Sorgwa
- 5:00** Katherine Callaghan

MONDAY, February 4, 2019-St. Veronica

- 6:50** For the Soul in Purgatory Nearest to Heaven
- 8:30** Antonia and Enrico Scalera
- 12:15** John Curran
- 7:00** Msgr. Arthur J. Scanlan

TUESDAY, February 5, 2019-St. Agatha

- 6:50** For the Prevention of Injury to the Eyes
- 8:30** Mary Purcell
- 12:15** Eduardo Bruno and Fr. Charles Szivos
Irene Concepcion-God Give Me A Healthy Birthday

WED., Feb. 6, 2019-St. Paul Miki & Companions & St. Dorothy

- 6:50** Grace Artiemo Biolzi
- 8:30** Michael Peter Churchill
- 12:15** Michael Guido
- 7:00** Mayalis Montero; Lourdes Garcia

THURS., February 7, 2019-St. Richard of Lucca & Bl. Pius IX

- 6:50** In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 8:30** Thomas McMahon
- 12:15** Mary Ellen O'Connor

FRIDAY, February 8, 2019-St. Jerome Emiliani

- 6:50** Maria Giuseppe Biolzi
- 8:30** Walter Murphy
- 12:15** Antonia and Enrico Scalera

SATURDAY, February 9, 2019-St. Apollonia

- 6:50** Intentions for Tricia Briska's Eyesight
- 8:30** Loretta Bozzone
- 12:15** James Flynn
- 5:30** Madeline Donovan

SUNDAY, February 10, 2019-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30** Mildred Murphy
- 9:00** Liam Morris
- 10:30** Steve Jimenez, Jr.
- 12:00** Altagracia, Carmen, Manuel and Jose Capellan; Intentions For Prosperity In Business-Amigos Flowers
- 1:30** Geraldine Del Giacco
- 5:00** In Thanksgiving for Favors

Readings for the week of February 3, 2019

Sunday: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17 [cf. 15ab]/1 Cor 12:31—13:13 or 13:4-13/Lk 4:21-30; **Monday:** Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 23, 24 [25]/Mk 5:1-20; **Tuesday:** Heb 12:1-4/Ps 22:26b-27, 28 and 30, 31-32 [cf. 27b]/Mk 5:21-43; **Wednesday:** Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a [cf. 17]/Mk 6:1-6; **Thursday:** Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11 [cf. 10]/Mk 6:7-13; **Friday:** Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc [1a]/Mk 6:14-29; **Saturday:** Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/Mk 6:30-34; **Next Sunday:** Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8 [1c]/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/Lk 5:1-11