

The Piarist Fathers



Pastor

Rev. David Powers Sch.P.

Parochial Vicars

Rev. Andrew Berinyuy, Sch.P.

Rev. Luis Alberto Cruz, Sch.P.

Very Rev. Fernando Negro, Sch.P.

Rev. Richard Wzykiewicz Sch.P.

Parish Staff

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

October—November 2019

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

<http://www.sthelenaelementary.org>

Early Childhood (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. Kris Keelin

915 Hutchinson River Parkway

Bronx, New York 10465

St. Helena Rectory:

1315 Olmstead Avenue

Bronx, N.Y. 10462

Phone: (718) 892-3232

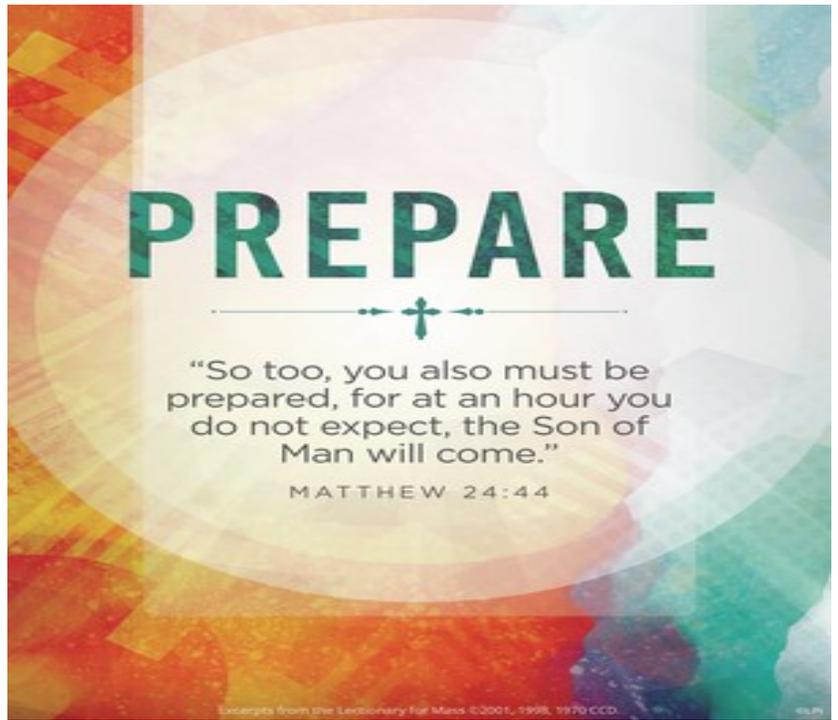
Fax: (718) 892-7713

www.churchofsthelena.com

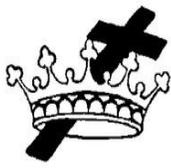
Email: sthelenarc@yahoo.com

Alumni: sthelenasalumni@yahoo.com

Alumni: sthelenasalumni@yahoo.com



saint Helena parish



Bronx, NY

Mass Schedule (Horario de Misas)

Saturday: 5:30 PM

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

Sunday: AM

PM

Weekdays & Sat.: 6:50AM, 8:30AM, 12:15 PM

Morning Prayer: Daily 8:30AM

7:30

12:00 (Español)

Spanish Mass: Sunday, 12:00 Noon

9:00

1:30

Holy Days—Evenings Before—7:00PM

10:30 (Family)

5:00

Wednesday—7:00PM (Español)

6:00 (Français)

Monday 7:00PM (every first Monday of the month in Español) Primeros lunes

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, 1PM & 7:30PM
and Sunday 11:30AM
- 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

The Season of Advent

Advent begins today on the Sunday right after Thanksgiving. Applying the rule from the *New General Roman Calendar*: Advent begins with First Vespers (Evening Prayer I) of the Sunday that falls closest to November 30, and it ends before First Vespers of Christmas. Advent starts the new Liturgical Year and can be seen as an opportunity to spiritually begin anew. Holy Mother Church knows how many times we need to start again! There are particular themes in the Liturgy throughout Advent: a spirit of waiting, of conversion and joyful hope. These liturgical themes inspire what we do with the family or Domestic Church during Advent.

One major theme of Advent is coming. The word "advent" means the arrival or "coming" of a notable person, thing, or event. In Latin, the English word "Advent" had an intriguing range of meanings. *Adventus* is a form of the verb *advenio* which is defined not only as *arrive, come to*, but also as *develop, set in, and arise*. *Adventus* itself also refers to an *invasion, incursion, ripening, and appearance*—all denotations that are rich with implications for the gospel accounts of Christ. The relationship between *adventus* and military comings is especially noteworthy. In ancient Rome, *Adventus* was a technical term for the 'glorious entry' of an emperor into his capital city. Often this happened after a military victory. In addition to celebrating conquest on the battlefield, the birthday of the royal leader was also solemnly commemorated as an *Adventus*. Now it makes sense why the liturgical color of Advent is royal purple.

Another major theme of Advent is waiting. It is not idle waiting, but waiting in a spirit of preparation. There are three ways we are waiting for the coming of Christ: **in history, in mystery, and in majesty**.

- **In History:** We recall the Old Testament waiting for the Son of God to be born at Bethlehem.
- **In Mystery:** We await Christ's coming at Mass in the Eucharist and prepare for our reception of Him at Communion.
- **In Majesty:** Our true preparation of Advent is preparing our hearts for Christ for our final judgment at Parousia, the end of time "when God will be all in all."

These are the three comings of Christ that we contemplate during Advent. So often the emphasis is placed on Christ at Bethlehem, but if we listen carefully to the Liturgy there are also many other eschatological reminders, urging us to prepare for the Second Coming of Christ. Our waiting involves preparedness, and just like the Wise Bridesmaids in the parable, we must keep our eyes on the coming of Christ and not end up without extra lamp oil.

The Advent Wreath and the Candle of Prophecy

The first mention of Advent occurred in the 300's A.D at a meeting of church leaders called the Council of Saragossa. It gradually developed into a season that stretched across the month of December. Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas.

The Advent season not only symbolizes the waiting for Christ's birth but also for His final return. One of the most beautiful traditions of Advent is the lighting of the Advent wreath.

In Scandinavia during Winter, lighted candles were placed around a wheel, and prayers were offered to the god of light to turn "the wheel of the earth" back toward the sun to lengthen the days and restore warmth. By the Middle Ages, Catholics adapted this tradition and used Advent wreaths as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. After all, Christ is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God.

The Advent wreath is used in the church, at home, and in Sunday school. In church, it is placed in or near the chancel, and it is lit for every service during the Advent season. The purpose of the Advent wreath is to deepen our understanding of Christmas. The



symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. There are four candles. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles, in particular, symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

On the first Sunday of Advent, the first purple (or violet) candle is lit. This is called the "**Prophecy Candle**" and recalls the prophets, particularly Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Jesus Christ. It truly represents hope or the expectation of the coming Messiah. Each Sunday following, an additional candle is lit.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish

Celebration: Our parish celebration will begin at **4AM on Thursday, December 12** at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe with the Rosary. The Mariachi will play at **5AM**, followed by the Salida de la Antorcha at **5:30AM** and the Holy Mass in Spanish will take place at **6AM**. The three Masses in English will take place at **7:15AM, 8:30AM and 12:15PM**. The final Spanish Mass will take place at **7PM** in the church. **1PM** video presentation in the green building.



Pearl Harbor and Fr. Al Schmitt

Fr. Aloysius Schmitt (Lieutenant, Junior Grade), known to all affectionately as "Father Al," had just finished celebrating 7 a.m. Mass aboard the battleship USS *Oklahoma* (BB-37) at Pearl Harbor on Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, when Japanese aircraft began their attack on the U.S. Pacific Fleet. A member of the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps for only two years, the thirty-two-year-old priest had been assigned to minister to the spiritual needs of the sailors on the *Oklahoma* for less than a year. Despite his short time on board, he had endeared himself to the men and was known for his approachability, sense of humor, and willingness to serve them. Soon after the first Japanese bombs fell on Ford Island, the *Okie* was hit in rapid succession by three torpedoes and within ten minutes of the first strike had rolled almost upside down. As a result, a large portion of the crew found themselves trapped. Fr. Al and several sailors attempted to escape the sinking ship through a porthole. The priest helped many sailors squeeze through the small porthole, and he was the last to make it through. When another group of sailors came into the compartment, which was quickly filling with water, Fr. Al ordered the escaped sailors to push him back through the porthole so that he could help the others escape. The men protested, knowing the chaplain would not be able to get out in time, but he insisted. Once back in the compartment, Fr. Al helped other sailors escape before the rushing waters overwhelmed him. He was the first Catholic chaplain to die in the Second World War. The Department of the Navy recognized his lifesaving actions when he was posthumously awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal. The Navy later commissioned the destroyer escort USS *Schmitt* (DE-676) in 1943 to honor his sacrifice. Fr. Schmitt died on the vigil of the sixth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Although his ministry was short-lived, the memory of Fr. Al and his sacrifice "for God and country" is not forgotten. As we remember today the seventy-eighth anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, let us recall the brave sacrifice of Fr. Al and all Catholic chaplains who have served our nation faithfully, and pray that many more priests may give of themselves as chaplains in our armed forces.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saint Francis Xavier - Dec. 3

Jesus asked, "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" The words were repeated to a young teacher of philosophy who had a highly promising career in academics, with success and a life of prestige and honor before him. Francis Xavier, 24 at the time, and living and teaching in Paris, did not heed these words at once. They came from a good friend, Ignatius of Loyola, whose tireless persuasion finally won the young man to Christ. Francis then made the spiritual exercises under the direction of Ignatius, and in 1534, joined his little community, the infant Society of Jesus. Together at Montmartre, they vowed poverty, chastity, obedience, and apostolic service according to the directions of the pope.

From Venice, where he was ordained a priest in 1537, Xavier went on to Lisbon and from there sailed to the East Indies, landing at Goa, on the west coast of India. For the next 10 years, he labored to bring the faith to such widely scattered peoples as the Hindus, the Malaysians, and the Japanese. He spent much of that time in India and served as provincial of the newly formed Jesuit province of India. Wherever he went, Xavier lived with the poorest people, sharing their food and rough accommodations. He spent countless hours ministering to the sick and the poor, particularly to lepers. Very often he had no time to sleep or even to say his breviary but, as we know from his letters, he was filled always with joy. Xavier went through the islands of Malaysia, then up to Japan. He soon learned enough Japanese to preach to simple folk, to instruct, and to baptize, and to establish missions for those who were to follow him. From Japan, he had dreams of going to China, but this plan was never realized. Before reaching the mainland, he died. His remains are enshrined in the Church of Good Jesus in Goa. He and St. Therese of Lisieux were declared to be co-patrons of the missions in 1925.

Saint John Damascene - Dec. 4

John spent most of his life in the Monastery of Saint Sabas near Jerusalem, and all of his life under Muslim rule, indeed protected by it. He was born in Damascus in 676, received a classical and theological education, and followed his father in a government position under the Arabs. After a few years, he resigned and went to the Monastery of Saint Sabas.

He is famous in three areas: **First**, he is known for his many writings against the iconoclasts, who opposed the veneration of images. Paradoxically, it was the Eastern Christian emperor Leo who forbade the practice, and it was because John lived in Muslim territory that his enemies could not silence him. **Second**, he is famous for his treatise, *Exposition of the Orthodox Faith*, a summary of the Greek Fathers, of which he became the last. It is said that this book is for Eastern schools what the *Summa* of Aquinas became for the West. **Third**, he is known as a poet, one of the two greatest of the Eastern Church, the other being Romanus the Melodist. His devotion to the Blessed Mother and his sermons on her feasts are well known.

John was allowed to devote himself to religious poetry, which became the heritage of the Eastern Church, and to theological arguments in defense of the doctrines of the Church, and to the refutation of all heresies. His three great hymns or "canons," are those on Easter, the Ascension, and St. Thomas's Sunday. He is a Doctor of the Church, and his eloquent defense of images has deservedly procured him the title of "The Doctor of Christian Art."

The Real Santa Claus - Dec. 6

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara in Asia Minor. At the time, the area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.



Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. The prisons were so full of bishops, priests, and deacons, there was no room for the real criminals—murderers, thieves and robbers. After his release, Nicholas attended the Council of Nicea in AD 325, where he struck the heretic Arius in the face. He died December 6, 343 in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church, where a unique relic, called manna, formed in his grave. This liquid substance, said to have healing powers, fostered the growth of devotion to Nicholas. The anniversary of his death, December 6, became a day of great celebration, St. Nicholas Day.

Many stories have been told about him. He gave gold marriage dowries to those poor girls. One story tells of three theological students, traveling on their way to study in Athens. An evil innkeeper robbed and murdered them, hiding their remains in a large pickling tub. It so happened that Bishop Nicholas, traveling along the same route, stopped at this very inn. In the night he dreamed of the crime, got up, and summoned the innkeeper. As Nicholas prayed earnestly to God the three boys were restored to life and wholeness. In France the story is told of three small children, wandering in their play until lost, lured, and captured by an evil butcher. St. Nicholas appears and appeals to God to return them to life and to their families. Thus, St. Nicholas is celebrated as the patron and protector of children.

Saint Ambrose - Dec. 7

One of Ambrose's biographers once observed that at the Last Judgment, people would still be divided between those who admired Ambrose and those who heartily disliked him. He emerges as the man of action who cut a furrow through the lives of his contemporaries. Even royal personages were numbered among those who were to suffer crushing divine punishments for standing in Ambrose's way. When Empress Justina attempted to wrest two basilicas from Ambrose's Catholics and give them to the Arians, he dared the eunuchs of the court to execute him. His own people rallied behind him in the face of imperial troops. In the midst of riots, he both spurred and calmed his people with simple, bewitching new hymns set to exciting Eastern melodies.

In his disputes with Emperor Auentius, he coined the principle: "The emperor is in the Church, not above the Church." He publicly admonished Emperor Theodosius for the massacre of 7,000 innocent people. The emperor did public penance for his crime. This was Ambrose, born in 337, he became the fighter sent to Milan as Roman governor, and chosen while yet a catechumen to be the people's bishop.

But, there is yet another side of Ambrose—one which influenced Augustine of Hippo, whom Ambrose converted. Ambrose was a passionate little man with a high forehead, a long melancholy face, and great eyes. We can picture him as a frail figure clasping the codex of sacred Scripture. This was the Ambrose of noble, aristocratic heritage and learning. Augustine found the oratory of Ambrose less soothing and entertaining but far more learned than that of other contemporaries. Ambrose's sermons were often modeled on Cicero, and his ideas betrayed the influence of many contemporary thinkers and philosophers. He had no scruples in borrowing at length from pagan authors. He gloried in the pulpit in his ability to parade his spoils—"gold of the Egyptians"—taken over from the pagan philosophers. His sermons, his writings, and his personal life reveal him as an otherworldly man involved in the great issues of his day. Humanity for Ambrose was, above all, spirit. In order to think rightly of God and the human soul, the closest thing to God, no material reality at all was to be dwelt upon. He was an enthusiastic champion of consecrated virginity.

The influence of Ambrose on Augustine will always be open for discussion. The *Confessions* reveal some manly, encounters between Ambrose and Augustine, but there can be no doubt of Augustine's profound esteem for the learned bishop. Neither is there any doubt that Saint Monica loved Ambrose as an angel of God who uprooted her son from his former ways and led him to his convictions about Christ. It was Ambrose, after all, who placed his hands on the shoulders of the naked Augustine as he descended into the baptismal fountain to put on Christ. Ambrose died at the age of 60, and he exemplifies for us the truly catholic character of Christianity. He is a man steeped in the learning, law, and culture of the ancients and of his contemporaries.

DECEMBER 1, 2019

LE TEMPS DE L'AVEINT: COMMENT LE VIVRE PLEINEMENT?

Chers freres et soeurs,

Nous voici au debut de l'annee liturgique – c'est le temps de l'aveint. C'est un temps fort et un temps de grace. C'est un temps ou nous sommes tous invites a vivre pleinement et sincerement notre engagement chretien. Pour vivre pleinement ce temps fort, il nous faut comprendre d'abord les principes de base de ce temps:

1. Quelle est la signification du mot Avenir ?

Le mot "Avenir" vient du mot latin "adventus" qui veut dire "avenement". L'Avenir est dont la periode durant laquelle les fideles se preparent interieurement a celebrier Noel, evenement inouï et decisif pour l'humanite, puisque Dieu s'est fait homme parmi les hommes. Cette annee 2019, le temps de l'aveint ira du 1er decembre jusqu'au 24 decembre matin. Cette periode des trois a quatre semaines est divisee en deux grandes periodes. Du 1er decembre jusqu'au 16 decembre, la liturgie nous situe dans le dernier avenement de notre Seigneur Jesus a la fin de temps. Du 17 au 24 decembre, nous lirons concretement la preparation de la venue du Messie dans l'ancien testament.

2. Caracteristiques du temps de l'Avenir

C'est un temps d'attente qui comporte plusieurs formes : il nous fait revivre d'une part l'attente du peuple juif de la venue du messie, l'attente de la naissance de Jesus. D'autre part, l'Avenir est l'attente de l'avenement du Christ a la fin des temps. Chaque annee le temps de l'Avenir commence le quatrieme dimanche avant le 25 decembre, donc selon les annees entre le 27 novembre et le 3 decembre. Le premier dimanche de l'Avenir est le debut de l'annee liturgique.

3. Les grandes figures du temps de l'Avenir

Les grands temoins de l'attente de la venue du Christ sont le prophete Isaie, Jean-Baptiste et Marie:

Le prophete Isaie exprime l'esperance messianique, il annonce la naissance de l'Emmanuel. Il incarne a la fois la preparation de Dieu et les desirs de l'humanite.

Jean-Baptiste annonce la venue proche du messie et il invite a un baptême de conversion pour s'y preparer. Il est le precurseur. Des son enfance, puis adulte, il precede Jesus.

Marie accepte d'être la mere du messie. Elle est le symbole de l'habitation de Dieu en nous.

Retenons qu'il y a trois sens dans la celebration de l'aveint. D'abord la celebration de la premiere venue de Jesus dans l'histoire. C'est – a- dire sa naissance. C'est cette venue que nous celebrons a Noel. Deuxiemement l'aveint nous permet de mediter sur la derniere venue de Jesus a la fin de temps quand il viendra juger les vivants et les morts. Finalement, l'aveint nous rappelle la venue quotidien de Jesus dans notre vie. Il veut entrer et nous transformer. Ainsi nous lisons dans le livre de l'apocalypse 3:20 "Voici, je me tiens a la porte et je frappe; si quelqu'un entend ma voix et ouvre la porte, j'entrerai chez lui pour souper, moi pres de lui et lui pres de moi."

Pendant cette periode, nous porterons la couleur violette dans la liturgie. Le violet signifie l'esperance. Aussi nous n'allons pas chanter le chant de Gloria. Comme c'est un chant qui a annonce la naissance de Jesus aux bergers par les anges, nous allons le chanter de maniere solennelle a la messe de la veillee.

Pour bien vivre ce temps, nous nous efforcerons de nous purifier par le sacrement de la confession et de vivre sincerement selon la volonte de notre Seigneur. Que ce temps fort de l'eglise permet a chacun de nous de rencontrer de maniere intime et personnelle Dieu dans notre vie. Bon temps de l'aveint!!! *Pere Andrew Berinyuy*

Consecrate Yourself to the Blessed Virgin Mary-Dec. 8

You are invited to consecrate yourself to the Blessed Virgin Mary on Dec. 8, The Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Taking our heavy hearts to Mary, our mother, can bring comfort and much consolation to all of us in these days ahead. There is a free copy of the consecration book *33 Days to Morning Glory* available in the rectory. The consecration book maps out everything you need to know to prepare for this consecration, which will take

place at every Mass on **Sunday, December 8**. Please take a book and use it every day with your family. On that same day, we will bless a new painting of the Immaculate Conception that will hang in St. Helena's.

Charity and Justice Collection—Thank you for generously supporting the Catholic Charities Campaign for Charity and Justice! As a parish we raised \$1,450.07 to support parish and community-outreach to those on the margins. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! To donate, please visit: www.catholiccharitiesny.org.

THANKSGIVING RAFFLE TICKETS were mailed to every family. They are also available in the rectory and in the religious goods room. Tickets are \$3 each, 2 for \$5, or 10 for \$20. Eight prizes, including a \$1,000 1st prize, a \$900 Philip Lim Leather Satchel, a \$500 prize, and five \$100 prizes. The drawing will be **Saturday, December 7** at the Christmas Party. Please support St. Helena and our many programs.

Winter Wonderland—Live Christmas Trees (\$45) and fresh Wreaths (\$20) will be sold at St. Helena from **Nov. 29-Dec. 24**. Kiddie rides, food, and pictures with Santa are available on the weekends. See the fliers at the church entrances.

Letters to Santa

Santa is waiting to hear from you. If you are under 12 years of age, we invite you to do the following:

1. Write your Christmas letter to Santa, and be sure to include a greeting (i.e. Dear Santa,), the body of the letter, a closing (i.e. Sincerely,), and your signature.
2. Put your letter in an envelope, and on the back of the envelope write your name, address, and phone number.
3. The letter can be written in English, French, or Spanish
4. You must bring your letter to either the rectory or the school office or place it in the special box at the church entrance by **Sunday, December 1**. We will mail all the letters to the North Pole for you, but Santa will have a special gift for some lucky children who wrote letters to him. The gifts will be given out at the Parish Christmas Party, which will take place on **Saturday, December 7** from **6-12AM**. So, start writing your letters today.



Reconciliation Monday. St. Helena and all of the parishes throughout the Archdiocese of New York are offering people confession on **Monday, December 16** from **4:00 PM to 8:00PM** in preparation for Christmas. According to St. Thomas Aquinas. "Three conditions are necessary for Penance: contrition, which is sorrow for sin, together with a purpose of amendment; confession of sins without any omission; and satisfaction by means of good works."

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

I—*Juventino Rivera & Yesica Moran*

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **November's 50/50 winner is #186 @ \$222.** Special pink envelopes are available at the two Church entrances or in your packet. It only costs \$5.00 to participate. The December winner will be picked in the afternoon on **Monday, Dec. 30**.
- **FIRST COMMUNION FAMILY SESSION** will take place today **Sun., December 1** at **11:30AM** in the cafeteria.
- **NO CCD OR RCIA** this weekend.
- **SPANISH FAMILY SESSION** will take place on **Sunday, December 8** at **1:30PM** in the cafeteria.
- **SPANISH CHARISMATIC MASS** on **Mon, Dec. 2, @ 7PM**.
- **ENGLISH CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** meets every **Saturday** from **1PM to 3PM**, in the Green Building.

- **THE LEGION OF MARY** is now meeting on Saturdays from **11-12:30PM** in the Peralta downstairs rectory room.
- **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** takes place at St. Helena every **Thursday** from **9AM-12PM** and on First Fridays from **1-7PM** in the church.
- **THE DIVINE OFFICE AT ST. HELENA**-We pray morning prayer everyday during the **8:30AM Mass** and **Evening Prayer** every **Tuesday** and **Thursday** in the church at **5:45PM**. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- **BIBLE STUDY**-Today, **Sunday, December 1** at **11:30AM**, we continue our new Bible Study, **Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John**. Session five covering Chapters 7-9, will take place on **Tues., Dec. 3** at either **1PM** or **7:30PM** in the Green Building as well as on **Sun., Dec. 8** at **11:30AM**. Jesus wants you to be more than just a believer. He wants you to be his disciple and friend. *Follow Me* is your guide to a personal encounter with Christ. He calls us to be his disciples, to trust him, to open ourselves to his merciful love, and to love others as he has loved us. The workbook cost is \$20.
- **NEXT BAPTISM PREP CLASSES** will be held at **7PM** on **Thursday, December 5** in **English** and **December 12** in **Spanish**. Prior arrangements must be made at the Rectory to take the Baptismal Class.
- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE CHRISTMAS CHOIR**-Rehearsals take place every Saturday at **4PM** in the choir loft. All voices are needed for this trilingual concert on **Tuesday, December 24** at **6PM**.
- **THE RELIGIOUS GOODS ROOM** is open every **Sunday-8AM-1:30PM**. Spanish Bibles and new rosaries are here.
- **CALASANZ MOVEMENT YOUTH GROUP** meets every **Friday**, from **7-9PM** in the gym.
- **VIDEO ON THE LIFE OF ST. NICHOLAS** will be shown in the Green Building on **Friday, Dec. 6** at **1PM** following the 12:15PM Mass.
- **BOY SCOUTS** meet every **Wednesday** at **6:30PM** in the cafeteria. Our **Cub Scouts** meet in the Calasanz Room on **Sat.**
- **THE MOTHER TERESA GROUP** is collecting toys for the children at Jacobi Hospital and clothes for the seniors at Rebekah Nursing Home, and they invite people to purchase items for their drives. In January, they will begin an "Adopt-a-Grandparent" program whereby people can select an elderly person that they will regularly visit.
- **PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY** on **Sat., Dec. 7, 6-12PM**. Music, Food, prizes, raffles, and photos with Santa. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and children under 12, and \$40 for families (2 Adults and children).
- **FIESTA DIVINO NINO CELEBRATION** will take place on **Sunday, December 8** from **1:30-5PM** in the gym. Sponsored by the Ecuadorian Community, there will be food, games, music, and raffles. Everyone is welcome.
- **BCW WRESTLING** on **Friday, December 13** at **7:00PM** in the gym. Parish Members tickets are \$15 pre-sale.
- **AREA PARISH ADVENT RETREAT**-You are invited to an evening of reflection and prayer during this holy season of Advent! Come nourish your spiritual life as we await the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. St. Helena's is teaming up with St. Raymond's Parish, St. Dominic's and Santa Maria to offer a spiritual area Advent Retreat on **Wednesday, December 18** from **6:30-9:30PM**. The Spanish retreat will take place here at St. Helena's, and the English Retreat at Santa Maria Parish. The retreats will begin with Adoration from 6:30-7PM, followed by three faith testimonials, one from each of the three parishes. Fr. Fernando Real, M.Id., the current Vicar General of the Idente Missionaries and former long-time pastor of Santa Maria will speak at the Spanish Retreat, and Fr. Robert

Badillo, M.Id., the current pastor and Provincial of the Idente Missionaries will speak at the English Retreat. Fr. Fernando Negro, Sch.P. the Provincial of the Piarist Fathers will celebrate the Spanish Retreat Mass, while Fr. James Cruz, the pastor of St. Raymond's, will celebrate the English Mass. Mass will be followed by confession, food and fellowship. Everyone is urged to attend this powerful Advent experience.

- **ST. HELENA'S FIRST PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS**, on **Saturday, December 21** at **10AM**. Deacons Pedro Rivas, Sch.P. and Manuel Sanchez, Sch.P. will be ordained as priests and Br. Orlando Rodriguez will be ordained as a deacon. Mark your calendars for this historic parish event.
- **HOPE FOR US 7th ANNUAL TOY DRIVE**-This season help bring smiles to the faces of children living in homeless shelters throughout New York City. From now thru **Dec. 22**, Hope for Us Inc. will be collecting new, unwrapped toys, money, and gift cards. A **GIVING TREE** will be in the vestibule of the Church which will contain ornaments with all of the information necessary for you to buy toys for specific aged children. Please bring your gift to the Rectory.
- **GREAT GATSBY GALA**-St. Helena's Great Calasanz Movement Youth Group is hosting a Great Gatsby Gala on **February 29, 2020**, from **7-11PM** in the gym. Funds raised will support the youth group. Tickets are \$30 each or 2 for \$50.00. In January, tickets will be the regular price of \$35 per person and \$60 for couples. This will be a great opportunity to not only dress up like the 1920s but also have fun as a parish community! For more info, send an Email to cmsthelena@gmail.com.
- **FREE RESOURCES ON FORMED**-We hope you are enjoying the free parish subscription to www.formed.org. Today is the 1st Sunday of Advent. Watch **FORMED Daily**: "Advent" with Dr. Tim Gray or "Mary" with Dr. Brant Pitre, or listen to "The Legends of Robin Hood." Not on FORMED? There is now a new and easier way to log onto Formed. 1. Log into Formed. org; 2. Type in your parish name, zip code or city. Scroll down, select your correct parish, and click Next; 3. Enter your name and e-mail address; 4. Click on Sign Up and you are logged onto the platform.
- **AA BIG BOOK STUDY** meets every **Saturday, 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.

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **TOURING TUESDAYS**-Since its inception six years ago, Touring Tuesdays have been attended by thousands of families. The tours offer parents an opportunity to see Catholic schools in action, learn about the admission process, and meet with principals, faculty, and students at the school. Touring Tuesday reservations are required and can be made by contacting the school. Tours can also be arranged at other times to accommodate parent schedules. Our next scheduled dates are **Tuesday, December 3** and **January 7 and 28** from **9-11AM**. For more info, call St. Helena School at **718-892-3234**.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **MAGNIFICAT HOLIDAY CONCERT**-**Dec. 7, 7:30-9:30PM** at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, 627 E. 187th St. Tickets \$20. For discounts, call **347-657-3704**.

WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPES

Sunday, November 24	\$4,691.94
Charity and Justice Collection	\$1,450.07

Our weekly budget, (Nuestro presupuesto semanal) is \$5,192.31. Thank you all for your generosity and support and for all that you do. Gracias a todos por su generosidad y por todo lo que hacen.

- **30th ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE**-On **Sunday, Dec. 8** from **9PM-1AM** in the church. It was on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (it was then celebrated on December 9th) that Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas and the unborn, first appeared to St. Juan Diego. The National Night of Prayer for Life bridges these two feasts to honor Our Blessed Mother and to pray for the sanctity of all human life. We ask each parish to join in praying on this holy occasion. The National Night of Prayer for Life is a pro-life prayer service consisting of exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 20 decades of the Rosary, prayer to St. Michael, silent prayer and hymns.
- **SALESIAN HIGH SCHOOL** is offering its Scholarship Exam for 8th grade boys. Test date is **Sat. Dec. 7 at 8:15AM** Register at salesianhigh.org/admissions/scholarshipexam. Or call Steve Sallustio at **914-632-0365**. Cost is \$30.
- **LIFESTYLE MEDICINE DINNER**-If you are in the medical field, you are invited to attend a lifestyle medicine dinner on **Thursday, Dec. 12** from **6:00 to 9:00PM** at the Neerob Restaurant on Starling Ave. that will discuss the medical benefits of a whole food plant-based diet.
- **ARE YOU WITHOUT IMMIGRATION STATUS?-STAND UP** is a campaign to protect the rights and welfare of immigrants, especially the undocumented. It is confidential, dependable, and secure. For info, call **212-736-8500 X305**.
- **IMMIGRATION ADVOCATE'S COURSE**-Perhaps you feel God is calling you to help undocumented immigrants in a very special way. This 40-hour course runs **March 24-June 20** on **Tuesdays** from **6-9PM** at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 19 West 31st St., NY. The course is based on the Immigrant Legal Resource Center's curriculum. Non-lawyers who complete the course will receive ILRC certificates and NY lawyers will receive 42 New York CLE credits. Scholarships available for staff and volunteers of non-profit organizations such as St. Helena's. Registration deadline is **March 11**. For more info, call **212-736-8500 X305**.
- **CHRISTMAS FLEA MARKET** on **Sunday, Dec. 8** from **8AM - 4PM** at Holy Family Church Mechler Hall, 2158 Watson Ave. Over 70 vendors. For info, call **718-863-9156**.
- **POPE EXTENDS FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LORETO TO THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH**-Pope Francis has decreed that "the optional memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Loreto should be inscribed in the Roman Calendar on **December 10**, the day on which the feast falls in Loreto, and celebrated every year." The October 7 decree, published on October 31, comes two months before the beginning of the December 2019-December 2020 Loreto jubilee year.
- **38th ANNUAL BRONX CONCERT SINGERS HOLIDAY CONCERT** on **Sunday, Dec. 15** at **4:30PM** at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1891 McGraw Ave. \$20/adult, \$15 seniors/college students, \$5 students under 18. For more info, call **917-743-4641**.
- **ANGIE: HIGH QUALITY PROFESSIONAL HAIR**

ACTIVIDADES EN ESPAÑOL

LUNES	7 - 9 pm	Grupo Carismático de Oración. Misa cada primer lunes
MIERC.	10 am	Grupo Santa Madre Teresa de Calcuta: Visita a pacientes de Rebeka Misa en Rebeka: segundos lunes de mes a las 10.30 am
	7 - 9 pm	Coronilla de la Divina Misericordia, Adoración, Eucaristía
VIERNES	7 - 8.30 pm 7.30—9pm	Grupo Juvenil. Edades 12-18. 7-8.30 pm JECAFA. Jesús, Calasanz y la Familia. Grupo de reflexión. Segundos y cuartos Viernes. Edificio verde.
SÁBADO	11-12:30pm	Legión de María. Rosario y reunión.

CARE, 1559 Metropolitan Ave., **347-981-5806**.

- **SPANISH WOMAN** looking for a room. Please contact Hilliary Juracán-**646-508-5882**.
- **SINGLE LADY** looking to rent a room for around \$400/month. Call Joyce at **347-261-2010** if you have a room to rent.

DIA VEINTE: Hoy te ofrezco unos pensamientos sacados de un libro que leí no hace mucho. Está escrito en inglés y se titula: "Controlling Anger Before it Controls You"^[1] (Controla tu Enfado Antes de que Él te Controle). Es un libro escrito precisamente para mujeres, con el objetivo de ayudarlas a liberarse del resentimiento y el enfado que muchas veces llevan reprimido. Los pensamientos que ofrezco son muy interesantes y cargados de sabiduría, para ayudarte a crecer:

- a) La felicidad nace de dentro, no de la manipulación que queramos hacer de la realidad.
- b) Incluso cuando estás desorientada, hay dentro de ti una energía capaz de llenarte de paz.
- c) Cuando alguien te hiere, puedes responder con la moneda del rencor, o con la del perdón. Esta última opción requiere que te abras a la GRACIA.
- d) Incluso cuando sientas ira o rencor, recuerda que la máxima ley es la del AMOR.
- e) Tu mayor satisfacción llegará el día en que espontánea y generosamente comiences a servir a los demás. Será el momento culmen de tu vida. Vivimos para amar.
- f) Mientras aprendes a llevar tu propio fardo, te entrenas para ayudar a otros a llevar el suyo.
- g) No caigas en la trampa de desarrollar la misma ira que otros te inflijan. Tú eres tú y ellos son ellos. ¡Canta tu propia canción!
- h) Incluso sin quererlo, a veces herirás a otros en la vida. Lo que es totalmente cierto es que siempre los herirás si lo intentas. Piensa en todo esto. Puedes añadir otros pensamientos de tu propia cosecha. Para terminar, te ofrezco estas otras frases que escribí hace tiempo:

Para ver bien con el corazón es necesario que te veas a ti mismo tal y como eres, limitado, sí, pero con un universo de posibilidades infinitas que te llaman a crecer.

¡Reconstruyamos desde dentro este puzle en el que vivimos, el puzle de mi propio ser!

Y el río, lleno de agua a punto de introducirse en el Océano inmenso, le dijo a la fuente de donde nació: ¡Gracias!

Los grandes dictadores son personas inseguras que "necesitan" sentir que todo lo controlan. Pero la realidad no les da la razón.

Todo está lleno de tu luz, Señor, si al menos puedo buscarla.

El camino ya es la meta aunque nunca llegue a alcanzarla.

Mírate al espejo y di: "ese que ves ahí no es realmente yo sino una imagen de mi yo". Tú eres mucho más grande, más hermoso y mejor que tu propia imagen.

No maldigas nada. Bendícelo todo, es decir, busca la bondad que se encuentra absolutamente en todo y todos.

Please Pray for the Sick of Our Parish

Carmelle and Nicole Antoine, Indrowdi Sadu, Rosa Pena, Luzvina Vega, Augustine Ayala, Joyce Hoyt, Leena Shaji, Florence Churchill, Myrna Perez, Heyllie Cardona, Genil Alcantara, Maria Barro, Erica Vargas, Gina Fay, Vayron Leah Rodriguez, Alen George, Phillip Williams, Marie Lopez, Jose Vargas, Pat Callahan, Sabina Acosta, Margarita Torres, Thomas Darrigo, Ralphy Lugo, Lydia Sffreda, Stella Caballero, Pylar Pagan, Roseanne and Joseph Pane, Rosa Maria Santos, Mary Brennan, Jenny Mauro, David Sheehan, Jr., Mary Charlotte, Ana Espinosa, Montserrat Rivera, Peggy Ward, Maria Teresa Roque, Nicole Cancel, James Leung, Millie Morales, Gabrielle Tingue, Josefina Gonzalez and Maritza Gonzalez, Sandra Miller, Paul Harper, Nancy Calderon, Miriam Ortiz, Michael Signorini, Linu Kutty and Leena, Terique Collins, Annalee - a newborn baby born with defective lungs and is in the hospital, Jacqueline French and Nancy Rosado, Alex Francis, Miguel A. Maldonado, Baby Ainhoa Zoe Marrero Huertas

Please Pray for the Deceased and their Grieving Families:

Bernardo Del Valle, Ada Perez, Alcibiades Nunez Jimenez, Aida Jimenez, Matilda Ramos, Fr. Moses Navascues, Sch.P., Helen Junta

Nunca supe cuánto valía hasta que alguien me lo dijo amándome sin condiciones., P. Fernando

SANTA HELENA
“TU LUGAR DE ENCUENTRO”

Dec 12 Clase de Bautismo. 7 pm en la Iglesia. Traer los documentos requeridos. Traer el Certificado de Nacimiento del niño/a. Si los padrinos son casados deben traer el *Certificado de Matrimonio de la Iglesia*. Si el padrino o madrina son solteros deben traer su Certificado de confirmación.

Inscripciones para Bautismo: Martes de 1 a 4 pm.
Jueves de 1 a 8 pm.

Dec. 21 ST. LAS PRIMERAS ORDENACIONES SACERDOTALES DE HELENA, el sábado 21 de diciembre a las 10 a.m. Diáconos Pedro Rivas, Sch.P. y Manuel Sanchez, Sch.P. serán ordenados sacerdotes y fr. Orlando Rodríguez será ordenado diácono. Marque sus calendarios para este histórico evento parroquial.

INFORMACION Y EVENTOS

CONCURSO CARTAS PARA SANTA-Para niños menores de 12 años. Reglas: 1. Presentación (Carta con Sobre)-Nombre, dirección y # de teléfono; 2. Redacción (Saludo, Texto y Despedida)-Puede ser: Inglés, Francés o Español; 3. Entregar hasta 1 ro. de **Diciembre del 2019**-(En la Rectoría o después de las Misas) Habrá una cajita especial esperando por sus cartas; 4. I.D. Necesario (para comprobar la edad). Los premios serán entregados en Nuestra Fiesta de Navidad **Sábado Diciembre 7**, desde las **6pm**.

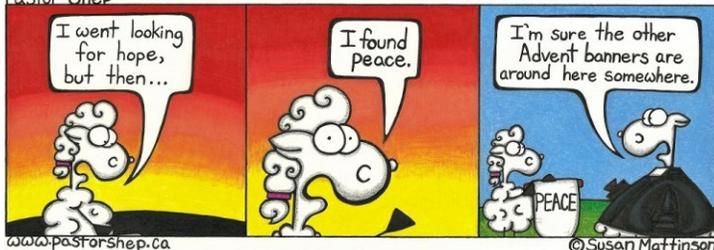
TIENDA DE ARTICULOS RELIGIOSOS ahora está abierto. **Semana antes de la Colecta**-La proxima semana, nuestra segunda colecta sera para la Campana de Caridad y Justicia de Caridades Catolica. Familias incontable viven en la pobreza. El ano pasado esta colecta ayudo los esfuerzos parroquiales y comunitarios para ayudar a los pobres en todo el Arquidiocesis. Apoyando esta colecta, ustedes estan dando a ellos una mano amiga. Informense mas acerca la colecta en www.catholiccharitiesny.org.

Winter Wonderland - Árboles de Navidad naturales (\$45) y coronas de navidad (\$20) serán vendidos en St. Helena del 29 de noviembre al 24 de diciembre. Habrán juegos para niños, comida y fotos con Santa durante los fines de semana. Las fotos. On Santa tienen un costo de \$10, con la posibilidad de tener entrega gratis o un 50% de descuento si realiza un pedido por adelantado a través del colegio o llamando a la rectoría al 718-892-3232. Vea los volantes en las entradas de la iglesia.

THE MOTHER TERESA GROUP está recolectando juguetes para los niños en el Hospital Jacobi y ropa para las personas mayores en el Hogar de Ancianos Rebekah, e invitan a las personas a comprar artículos para sus viajes. En enero, comenzarán un programa de "Adopta a un abuelo" por el cual las personas pueden seleccionar a una persona mayor que visitarán regularmente.

RETIRO DE ADVIENTO PARROQUIAL- St. Helena se está asociando con la Parroquia de San Raymond, Santa María y Santo Domingo para ofrecer un Retiro de Adviento en el área de Parkchester el miércoles 18 de diciembre de 6:30-9:30PM. El retiro en español se llevará a cabo aquí en Santa Elena, y el retiro en inglés será simultáneo en la parroquia de Santa María. Ambos retiros comenzarán con Adoración de 6:30-7PM, seguido de tres testimonios de fe, uno de cada una de las tres parroquias. El p. Fernando Real, M.Id., el actual Vicario General de los Misioneros Idente y antiguo pastor de Santa María hablará en el retiro en español, y el Padre Robert Badillo, M.Id., el actual párroco y Provincial de los Misioneros Idente hablará en el retiro de inglés. El p. Fernando Negro, Sch.P., Provincial de los Padres Escolapios,

Pastor Shep



celebrará la Misa del retiro en español, mientras que el Padre James Cruz, párroco de St. Raymond's, celebrará la misa en inglés. Luego de la Misa, habrán confesiones, comida y un compartir fraterno. Se insta a todos a asistir a esta poderosa experiencia de Adviento.

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, December 1, 2019-First Sunday of Advent

7:30 Mamie Herman
9:00 For Alessandra Mia Savino's Utmost Facility in Achieving Salvation and for a Close and Loving Relationship with Her Paternal Grandmother
10:30 David Price
12:00 Digna Zea; Cecilia Elba de Susaña, Mayra Susaña, Christiana Susaña and Elsa Mercedes Susaña; Carmen Cruz-Cumpleaños; En acción de gracias a la Virgen María; Jordan Castrejo; Julio Cintron
1:30 Virgilio Rolon
5:00 Katherine Callaghan
6:00 Margaret Bongyii and Raphael Mbinkar

MONDAY, December 2, 2019-St. Chromatius

6:50 In Thanksgiving for Favors
8:30 Intentions of Ms. Marie Panas
12:15 Helena Brown from Yvonne and Vallida
7:00 Arthur Perea

TUESDAY, December 3, 2019-St. Francis Xavier

6:50 David Sheehan, Sr.
8:30 Alberto Brinz
12:15 Ruben Mercado

WEDNESDAY, December 4, 2019-St. John Damascene

6:50 For the Safety of Our Country
8:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors
12:15 Elaine A. Collins
7:00 St. Helena's Volunteers

THURSDAY, December 5, 2019-St. Sabas

6:50 St. Helena's Benefactors
8:30 Kristal Nicole Delgado
12:15 Michael Guido

FRIDAY, December 6, 2019-St. Nicholas

6:50 In Thanksgiving for Favors
8:30 Mildred Murphy
12:15 Stephanie Fijalkowski

SATURDAY, December 7, 2019-St. Ambrose

6:50 Andrew Pugliese
8:30 Mary T. Early
12:15 Carmen Serrano-Birthday-Health Intention; Sick of St. Helena's Parish
5:30 Wilfred Mootoo
Georgina Roman;
Miguel Angel Maldonado-Healing Intention

SUNDAY, December 8, 2019-Second Sunday of Advent

7:30 Walter Murphy
9:00 Melchora, Bernardo and Camilo Abordo and Reginald Culpepper

10:30 John Patrick Parker
12:00 Misa Divino Niño-Cong. Ecuatoriana Deleg; Berta Mero

1:30 Madeline and Daniel Donovan

5:00 Ralph A. Cerbone, Jr.

6:00 Margaret Bongyii and Raphael Mbinkar

Names only said in Prayer of the Faithful are in Italics

Readings for the week of December 1, 2019

Sunday: Is 2:1-5/ Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 1]/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44; **Monday:** Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11; **Tuesday:** Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24; **Wednesday:** Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37; **Thursday:** Is 26:1-6/Ps 118: 1 and 8-9. 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27; **Friday:** Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31; **Saturday:** Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8; **Next Sun.:** Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 19 [cf. 7]/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12