

# 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 Wyzykiewicz 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

**December 2019**

**January 2020**

**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:

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Bronx, N.Y. 10462

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# saint Helena



## Mass Schedule (Horario de Misas)

**Saturday:** 5:30 PM

**Sunday:** AM PM  
7:30 12:00 (Español)  
9:00 1:30

**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

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

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

Morning Prayer: Daily 8:30AM

**Spanish Mass:** Sunday, 12:00 Noon

Holy Days—Evenings Before—7:00PM

Wednesday—7:00PM (Español)

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

**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 Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

On January 6, the Church celebrates the feast of "Epiphany." This feast commemorates the mysterious visit of the *magi* to the Baby Jesus. "Epiphany" means "manifestation," and it comes from Greek roots that mean "to show, to display" (*phainein*) and "on, to" (*epi-*). An epiphany is thus a time when something is shown, displayed, or manifested to an audience.



The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the world. The great feast of Epiphany originally celebrated the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (*magi*) from the East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee. In the magi, representatives of the neighboring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation. The magi's coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the king of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations. Their coming means that pagans can discover Jesus and worship him as Son of God and Saviour of the world only by turning towards the Jews and receiving from them the messianic promise as contained in the Old Testament. The Epiphany shows that "the full number of the nations" now takes its "place in the family of the patriarchs", and acquires *Israelitica dignitas* (is made "worthy of the heritage of Israel.")

In some countries, Epiphany is a holy day of obligation. Where that is the case, it is celebrated on January 6th. In the United States, Epiphany is not a holy day of obligation, and its celebration is transferred to the first Sunday after January 1st, which this year is January 5. In the early Church, Epiphany was the celebration of the birth of Christ as the dawning of the new light, the true sun, of history. Eventually, however, the emphasis on January 6 shifted—particularly in the west (and in some parts of the east)—to reflect manifestations of Christ beside that which occurred at his birth (namely, those that occurred at the coming of the magi, at his baptism, and at the wedding feast of Cana). Thus, Epiphany came to mark the end of Christmastide—the Twelve Days of Christmas (celebrated in the song), which began with the revelation of Christ to Israel in His Birth and ended with the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles at Epiphany. This year, the baptism of the Lord Jesus is celebrated on January 12, the first Sunday after Epiphany, and the wedding at Cana is celebrated on January 19.

Magi are understood to be members of the Persian priestly caste. In Hellenistic culture they were regarded as "rulers of a distinctive religion," but at the same time their religious ideas were thought to be "strongly influenced by philosophy," and Greek philosophers have often been portrayed as their pupils. They were astrologers, magicians, and possessors and users of supernatural knowledge and ability. They apparently had material of a prophetic nature (some have suggested that they got it from an eastern Jewish community, such as the one in Babylon) that allowed them to identify the birth of the new "king of the Jews" astronomically.

They may have been especially motivated to come to see *this* king of the Jews since there was an expectation at the time that a universal ruler would shortly come from Israel. Pope Benedict explains: "We know from [the Roman historians] Tacitus and Suetonius that speculation was rife at the time that the ruler of the world would emerge from Judah. Probably, because they had assumed the newborn king would be a son of Herod—the current "king of the Jews," it was quite natural that their search for the newborn king of the Jews should take them to Israel's royal city and to the king's palace. That, surely, is where the future king must have been born. This, of course, played into King Herod's paranoia for his throne and led to the slaughter of the innocents."

We really don't know the names of the magi because the Bible doesn't tell us. In fact, the Bible is silent on how many wise men

visited Jesus. However, tradition has it that there were three wise men who came to seek and honor the infant Jesus, and they were named Gaspar, Balthasar, and Melchior. The tradition that there were three wise men arose from the fact that the Bible mentions three gifts, gold frankincense, and myrrh according to Matthew 2:11. However, the Bible doesn't say how many wise men made the journey to see the baby Jesus, and the unfounded idea that they were also kings came from the imagery of Isaiah 60:3.

It is hard to know whether the star was a natural phenomenon at all, pointing out that it seemed to lead the magi to Jerusalem, and then disappear, and then reappear and hover over the house in Bethlehem. But this isn't what Matthew says. He does not say that the star led them to Jerusalem. They merely report that they had seen the new king's star "in the east" (Mt. 2:2; that is, back in their homeland), which is why they came to Jerusalem. Departing from Jerusalem at night, they may have noted on the short 6-mile trip to Bethlehem that the star was in front of them in the sky, but this was, perhaps, a coincidence arranged by divine providence. Then, when they got to the house, they noticed it was directly over the house—again, a coincidence arranged by divine providence but not necessarily an unusual motion for a star. Thus the question of whether it could have been a natural phenomenon remains. Pope Benedict remarks: "It would be wrong to dismiss it *a priori* on account of the theological character of the story. With the emergence of modern astronomy, developed by believing Christians, the question of this star has been revisited and various proposals have been made, including for rare astronomical phenomena like the conjunction of certain planets in certain constellations, or supernovas.

### The Epiphany House Blessing

Epiphany (also known as Twelfth Night, *Theophany*, or Three Kings Day) marks the occasion of a time-honored Christian tradition of "chalking the doors." The formula for the ritual is simple: take chalk of any color and write the following above the entrance of your home: **20 + C + M + B + 20**.

The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi — Caspar, Malchior, and Balthazar — who came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, *Christus mansionem benedicat*: "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross, and the "20" at the beginning and the "20" at the end mark the year. Taken together, this inscription is performed as a request for Christ to bless those homes so marked and that He stay with those who dwell therein throughout the entire year.

The chalking of the doors is a centuries-old practice throughout the world. It is, however, an easy tradition to adopt, and a great practice whereby we dedicate our year to God from its very outset, asking His blessing on our homes and on all who live, work, or visit them there. It is usually performed on the traditional Feast of the Epiphany — the Twelfth Day of Christmas. Most often the chalking takes place after Epiphany Mass, and can be done at any church, home, or dwelling. Traditionally the blessing is done by either a priest or the father of the family. This blessing can be performed simply by just writing the inscription and offering a short prayer, or more elaborately, including songs, prayers, processions, the burning of incense, and the sprinkling of holy water.

After many Epiphany Masses, blessed chalk and sometimes holy water are distributed. These can then be brought home and used to perform the ritual. We will distribute Blessed Chalk here at St. Helena at all of our Epiphany Masses. Practicing traditions like the chalking of the doors helps us to live our Faith more concretely and serves as an outward sign of our dedication to Our Lord. Our homes are also the place where many of us will make the greatest strides in our spiritual growth, through the observance of daily prayer, spiritual reading, and work offered as an oblation to God. The chalking of the doors of a home encourages Christians to dedicate their life at home to God and to others. Seeing the symbols over our doors can help to remind us while passing in and out on our daily routines, that our homes and all those who dwell there belong to Christ. It also serves as a reminder of the royal

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

welcoming the Magi gave to Jesus. We should strive to be as welcoming to all who come to our homes to visit us!

### Prayer for Blessing the Home

**Leader** (*Priest, if present, or father of the family*): Peace be to this house.

**All:** And to all who dwell herein.

**Leader:** From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial.

**All Pray:** The Our Father. .

**Leader:** All from Sheba and Saba shall come

**All:** Bringing gold and frankincense.

**Leader:** O Lord, hear my prayer.

**All:** And let my cry come to You.

**Leader:** Let us pray. O God, who by the guidance of a star didst on this day manifest Thine only-begotten Son to the Gentiles, mercifully grant that we who know Thee by faith may also attain the vision of Thy glorious majesty. Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** Be enlightened, be enlightened, O Jerusalem, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee—Jesus Christ born of the Virgin Mary.

**All:** And the Gentiles shall walk in thy light and kings in the splendor of thy rising, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee.

**Leader:** Let us pray.

Bless, + O Lord God almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness, and mercy, the fulfillment of Thy law, the thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

*(After the blessing, each room of the home is sprinkled with Holy Water and incensed, and then the initials of the Magi are inscribed upon the doors with the blessed chalk as follows:*

*20 + C + M + B + 20 )*

### St. John Neumann - January 5

John Neumann was born in Prachatice in Bohemia (now the Czech Republic) on March 28, 1811. He was educated by the Piarist Fathers and studied theology in the seminary of Budweis. Zealous for the missionary life and to lead souls to Christ, he decided to leave his homeland to dedicate himself to the European immigrants in America, who were deprived of spiritual support. Neumann was ordained a priest by the bishop of New York in June 1836 and gave himself to the pastoral care of people in the vast area around Niagara Falls. Wanting to live in a simple religious community that corresponded more to his missionary vocation, in January 1842 he entered the Redemptorists. A tireless missionary, Neumann busied himself in particular with the German immigrants, first in Baltimore, then in Pittsburgh. Having filled the role of vice-provincial superior of the Redemptorists from 1846-49, he became the parish priest of St. Alphonsus Church in Baltimore. In 1852, at the age of 41, he was named bishop of Philadelphia.

Neumann had a strong effect on the religious life of the United States by founding Catholic schools and promoting devotion to the Eucharist. He founded a new religious institute—the Third Order of Saint Francis of Glen Riddle. The School Sisters of Notre Dame likewise regard Neumann as their secondary founder, their “Father in America.” In just seven years, he built 89 churches, as well as several hospitals and orphanages. As a bishop, Neumann was untiring in visiting his vast diocese.

On January 5, 1860, at the age of 48, he died suddenly of a heart attack on a Philadelphia street. Neumann was beatified during the Second Vatican Council on October 13, 1963, and was canonized on June 19, 1977. In the homily on the occasion of Neumann’s canonization, Pope Paul VI summarized the activity of the new saint: “He was close to the sick, he loved to be with the poor, he was a friend of sinners, and now he is the glory of all emigrants.” St. John Neumann is invoked as a patron of sick children and of immigrants.

### Saint André Bessette - January 6

Brother André expressed a saint’s faith by a lifelong devotion to Saint Joseph. Sickness and weakness dogged André from birth. He was born in 1845, the eighth of 12 children born to a pious French Canadian couple near Montreal. Adopted at 12, when both parents had died, he became a farmhand. Various trades followed: baker, shoemaker, blacksmith—all failures. He was also a factory worker in the United States during the boom times of the Civil War. At 25, André applied for entrance into the Congregation of the Holy Cross. After a year’s novitiate, he was not admitted because of his weak health. But with an extension and the urging of Bishop Bourget, he was finally received. He was given the humble job of doorkeeper at Notre Dame College in Montreal, with additional duties as sacristan, laundry worker and messenger. “When I joined this community, the superiors showed me the door, and there I remained for 40 years,” he said.

In his little room near the door, he spent much of the night on his knees. On his windowsill, facing Mount Royal, was a small statue of Saint Joseph, to whom he had been devoted since childhood. When asked about it he said, “Some day, Saint Joseph is going to be honored in a very special way on Mount Royal!” Whenever he heard someone was ill, he visited to bring cheer and to pray with the sick person. He would rub the sick person lightly with oil taken from a lamp burning in the college chapel. Word of his healing powers began to spread. When an epidemic broke out at a nearby college, André volunteered to nurse. Not one person died. The trickle of sick people to his door became a flood. His superiors were uneasy; diocesan authorities were suspicious; doctors called him a quack. “I do not cure,” he said again and again. “Saint Joseph cures.” In the end he needed four secretaries to handle the 80,000 letters he received each year.

For many years the Holy Cross authorities had tried to buy land on Mount Royal. Brother André and others climbed the steep hill and planted medals of Saint Joseph. Suddenly, the owners yielded. André collected \$200 to build a small chapel and began receiving visitors there—smiling through long hours of listening, applying Saint Joseph’s oil. Some were cured, some not. The pile of canes, crutches, and braces grew. The chapel also grew. By 1931, there were gleaming walls, but money ran out. “Put a statue of Saint Joseph in the middle. If he wants a roof over his head, he’ll get it.” The magnificent Oratory on Mount Royal took 50 years to build. The sickly boy who could not hold a job died in 1937 at 92. He is buried at the Oratory. He was beatified in 1982 and canonized in 2010. At his canonization in October 2010, Pope Benedict XVI said that Saint Andre “lived the beatitude of the pure of heart.”

### St. Raymond of Penyafort - January 7

Born in 1175 into the Aragonian nobility, he was educated at the cathedral school in Barcelona, Spain and then became a noted Philosophy teacher around age 20. He was ordained as a priest and graduated from law school in Bologna, Italy. He joined the Dominicans in 1218 and was summoned to Rome in 1230 by Pope Gregory IX. He was assigned to collect all official letters of the popes since 1150. Raymond gathered and published five volumes and helped write Church law. He was chosen master general of the Dominicans in 1238, and he reviewed the Order’s Rule and made sure everything was legally correct. He then resigned his position in 1240 to dedicate himself to parish work. He was offered an archbishopric, but he declined, choosing instead to return to Spain and the parish work he loved. His compassion helped many people return to God through Reconciliation. During his years in Rome, Raymond heard of the difficulties missionaries faced trying to reach the non-Christians of Northern Africa and Spain. So, Raymond started a school to teach the language and culture of the people to be evangelized. Along with Saint Thomas Aquinas, he wrote a booklet to explain the truths of the faith in a way that non-believers could understand. His great influence on Church law led to his patronage of lawyers. He died in 1275 at the age of 100.

### Venerable Pauline-Marie Jaricot - January 9

Pauline Marie Jaricot was born into a very pious Catholic family in Lyons, France, July 22, 1799, and grew up dreaming of becoming a great missionary. Through her brother, she developed a real concern for the Asian missions, and at age 17, she began to lead a life of unusual abnegation and self-sacrifice, and on Christmas

Day, 1816, took a vow of perpetual virginity. At age 18, she composed a treatise on the *Infinite Love of the Divine Eucharist*.

In order to repair the sins of neglect and ingratitude committed against the Sacred Heart of Jesus, she established a union of prayer among pious servant girls, the members of which were known as the "Réparatrices du Sacré-Coeur de Jésus-Christ." During an extended visit to her married sister at Saint-Vallier (Drôme), she succeeded in effecting a complete transformation in the licentious lives of the numerous girls employed by her brother-in-law. It was among them and the "Réparatrices" that she first solicited offerings for the foreign missions. Her systematic organization of such collections dates back to 1819 when she asked each of her intimate friends to act as a promoter by finding ten associates willing to contribute one cent each week to the propagation of the Faith. One out of every ten promoters gathered the collections of their fellow-promoters; through a logical extension of this system, all the offerings were ultimately remitted to one central treasurer. The Society for the Propagation of Faith at its official foundation (3 May 1822) adopted this method and easily triumphed over the opposition which had sought from the very start to thwart the realization of Pauline Jaricot's plans. In 1826 she founded the Association of the Living Rosary. The fifteen decades of the Rosary were divided among fifteen associates, each of whom had to recite daily only one determined decade. A second object of the new foundation was the spread of good books and articles of piety. An undertaking of Pauline's interest in social reform began with prudence and involved her in considerable financial difficulties and ended in failure. She died on January 9, 1862 and was declared venerable on February 25, 1963.

### St. Peter of Orseolo - January 10

Peter Orseolo, of Rivo Alto, Italy, served as commander of the Venetian navy before becoming doge of Venice in 976. In this office he rebuilt the fire-ravaged Saint Mark's Cathedral, funding the work from his own wealth. From Constantinople, he obtained for the cathedral's high altar what is considered the earliest known example of a gold altar cloth. He also founded a hospice for pilgrims. But after governing the city for only two years, Peter suddenly disappeared from the city during the night of September 1-2, 978. He fled his prestigious station to devote the rest of his life to God, traveling over five hundred miles westward to enter the Benedictine monastery of Cuxa, at the foot of the eastern Pyrenees, along the French-Spanish border. As he neared the monastery, Peter took off his shoes and walked the remaining steps of the journey bare-footed. As a monk, he excelled in humility, devotion to prayer, charity, and self-denial. Thereafter, Peter's zeal for even greater perfection prompted him to obtain permission to live in solitude a short distance from the monastery.

### National Migration Week Jan. 5-11

For nearly a half century, the Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week by reflecting on the situation confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children and victims and survivors of human trafficking. The theme for National Migration Week 2020, "Promoting a Church and a World for All," draws attention to the fact that every family has a migration story, whether recent or in the distant past. During National Migration Week, Catholics are encouraged to take the opportunity to engage migrants in a meaningful way, as community members, neighbors and friends.

Over the past year, Catholic dioceses on the U.S. side of the border with Mexico, in places such as El Paso and Brownsville, Texas, scrambled to accommodate the growing number of men, women, and children, crossing the border, seeking asylum and entering the U.S. Donations, volunteers and financial help flowed into shelters to help clothe, feed and provide other temporary help to the migrants. But the introduction of the Migrant Protection Protocols, also called MPP and popularly known as the "Remain in Mexico" policy, rolled out by the Trump administration in early 2019, greatly slowed the flow of migrants into the U.S. in the last part of the year. Yet, it didn't slow the exodus, nor the conditions of violence, climate change and poverty that have sent tens of thousands fleeing from Central America, seeking safety or better economic conditions to the north. Many still are fleeing, and as

2019 came to an end, Catholic dioceses remained on alert to help the migrants. "Remain in Mexico" dictated that anyone seeking asylum in the U.S. had to stay on the other side of the border until their case could be heard by a U.S. immigration court. Since January, more than 55,000 trying to enter the U.S. to ask for asylum at various ports of entry have been forced to stay in Mexico and some in dangerous territories controlled by drug cartels.

Some dioceses have stepped in to help but can only do so with the help of their sister dioceses across the border. Makeshift camps have formed close to the border in Mexico, where people wait their turn for a hearing on U.S. soil, even as figures released Dec. 19 showed the slim chance migrants have of getting in: Just 117, out of the tens of thousands who showed up at the border since the policy began, have been granted protection, according to a December Syracuse University report based on immigration court figures. Previously, authorities had released migrants inside the U.S. and many passed through shelters en route to a family member's home or a friend's, anyone who would take them in while they waited for a hearing. About 2,000 families have camped out on the Mexico side of a bridge while they wait to be called for their asylum cases. Some groups, including Catholic organizations, are looking for short-term solutions, such as organizing cleaning crews, taking food and clothes and tents to provide minimum protection, and medical help. For its part, the Catholic Church in the U.S. and around the world, through its numerous organizations and via its leaders, maintains its steady commitment to extend help – even if it means having to cross a border to do so, just as the Texas bishops did in mid-December and just as El Paso's Bishop Mark J. Seitz did in late June when he helped a group of migrants with health conditions enter the U.S. Through advocacy and lobbying efforts, the Church has publicly supported migrants, and leaders have raised their voices in the migrants' defense, including support of young adults who were brought into the country illegally as children and whose fate may be decided in 2020 by the U.S. Supreme Court when it rules in the DACA case — Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. The Church also supports beneficiaries of Temporary Protected Status who are at risk of losing protections in the upcoming year.

Perhaps one of the Church's biggest shows of support for these migrants came from the pope himself Dec. 19, when he welcomed to Rome 33 migrants who had arrived through the Greek island of Lesbos. "We must rescue and save because all are responsible for the lives of our neighbor and the Lord will ask us to account for them at the moment of judgment," he said during the meeting.

### BONNE ET HEUREUSE ANNEE 2020!!!

Chers freres et soeurs,

Savez-vous l'origine du nom du premier mois de l'annee. Le premier mois de l'annee est bel et bien appele "Janvier". La signification de ce nom est profond et ca peut nous aider a bien commencer l'annee. Le nom de janvier provient du nom latin du mois, januarius ou januarius, lui-même nommé en l'honneur de Janus, dieu romain des commencements et des fins, des choix, des clés et des portes. Il est dessine avec deux tetes et deux faces: une face tournée vers le passe et l'autre tournée vers l'avenir. Ce premier mois de l'annee nous invite dont a regarder en arriere et en meme temps a regarder le devant.

Pour entrer dont en 2020, nous sommes invites a regarder 2019. Mais pourquoi faire? Pour deux raisons fondamentales: **pour rendre grace et pour pardonner.**

Le passage de l'evangile de St. Luc 17:11-19 nous presente la guerison des dix lepreux qui ensemble criaient vers le Seigneur. Apres leur guerison, seulement un seul a fait la marche arriere pour dire merci a Jesus la source de la guerison. Autrement dit, il est le seul qui a su faire le lien entre sa priere de demande et sa reponse. Et nous? Tres souvent dans notre vie, nous sommes attentifs aux manquements et a ce qui va mal. Et par consequent nous ne voyons pas le grand bien qu'il y a. Quand nous ne nous asseyons pas pour compter nos benedictions, il y a deux dangers - **la jalousie** et **les comparaisons inutiles**. Et ces comparaisons ne peuvent qu'introduire dans nos vie qu'une attitude de **"self-pity" pitie pour soi**.

Certainement 2019 n'a pas ete totalement une reussite. Tout

n'était pas alle comme on aurait souhaite. Mais il faut absolument reconnaître que nous ne sommes pas ou nous etions il y a un an. Il y a eu un progres dans notre vie. Alors, remercions Dieu sans lequel rien ne pouvait nous arriver. Dieu a ete tres bon et nous devons lui rendre grace.

Regarder en arriere nous invite egalement a **pardoner**. Nous sommes arrives enfin d'annee. Certainement tout n'a pas ete parfait. Beaucoup nous ont offense, decu, trahi, blesse. Nous avons commis beaucoup des erreurs, les promesses non accomplis. A la fin de l'annee il faut seulement reconnaître que nous ne sommes que des etres humains et par consequent, le pardon est tres important pour pouvoir avancer dans la vie. Ainsi Saint Paul nous invite dans sa lettre aux Colossiens 3:12ss, a **se supporter et a pardonner**. Le pardon ne veut jamais dire que tu affirme l'offense, mais tu pardonne parce que tu as besoin de la paix interieure. Deposons les peches commis contre Dieu dans le sacrement de la confession. Pardonnez ceux qui nous ont offense du fond de notre Coeur. Et j'insiste, l'objectif de ce pardon c'est pour ta paix interieure dont tu as tellement besoin pour recevoir les graces de la nouvelle annee.

Regardons le devant, 2020 avec **l'experience du peuple d'Israel**. Notre traverser d'une annee a une autre est similaire a l'exode du peuple d'Israel. Ils ont connu une exode d'un point a un autre, de l'esclavage a la liberation, de l'Egypte en Terre Promise. Pour les Israelites, **l'objectif** de partir de l'Egypte etait de pouvoir arriver en Terre Promise. Ne connaissant pas ou se trouve cette terre, ils n'avaient pas de choix que de faire confiance a Moise, leur chef. Ils ont mit leur confiance dans la foi de Moise. Qu'est-ce que cela veut dire pour nous aujourd'hui, nous ne connaissons pas comment va se passer 2020, mais nous devons mettre **notre confiance dans le nouveau Moise qui est JESUS CHRIST**. Jesus est l'Alpha et Omega, le debut est la fin. Il est important de souligner le fait que nous entrons dans la nouvelle annee en pleine octave de Noel. Noel nous permet de celebrer la naissance de Dieu parmi les hommes. Noel c'est Emmanuel, Dieu avec nous. Si Dieu est pour nous qui sera contre nous en 2020? Il est Emmanuel, Dieu-avec-nous. Par consequent, **nous devons lui faire confiance et focaliser sur lui**.

*Pere Andrew Berinyuy*

**This weekend** we take up a second collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign and for the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Your support helps CCC connect people to Christ in the United States and around the world through the Internet, television, radio, and print media. Half the funds we collect remain here in the Archdiocese to support local efforts. Catholic University offers graduate and undergraduate courses in more than 180 academic programs. By giving, you will help support more than 6,000 students who are seeking a faith-filled education at an institution that supports cutting-edge research in multiple fields.

## **PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **50/50-The December winner is #529 @ \$217.** Special pink envelopes are available at the two Church entrances or in your packet. It only costs \$5.00 to participate. The lucky January winner will be picked on **Monday, January 27**.
- **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES WILL RESUME ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8.**
- **FIRST COMMUNION FAMILY SESSION** will take place on **Sunday, January 5 at 11:30AM** in the cafeteria.
- **ENGLISH CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** meets every **Saturday** from **1PM to 3PM**, in the Green Building.
- **SPANISH CHARISMATIC MASS** on **Monday, Jan. 6**, the traditional date for the Epiphany, at **7PM** in the church.
- **THE LEGION OF MARY** is now meeting on Saturdays from **11-12:30PM** in the Peralta downstairs rectory room.
- **NEXT BAPTISM PREP CLASSES** will be held at **7PM** on **Thurs., January 9 in English** and **January 16 in Spanish**. Prior arrangements must be made at the Rectory to take the Baptismal class.

## **EL BELÉN QUE LLEVO DENTRO**

Dentro de mi corazón llevo el belén de mis sueños, de la persona Buena que siempre quise y quiero ser.

Llevo un pastor que, en la noche, mientras velo, oye un murmullo de ángeles que llenan de paz mi cielo, mientras anuncian que en Belén ha nacido el Rey de la Gloria, el del Amor Eterno.

En libertad dejo a los tres Reyes Magos que, contemplando estudian el libro del cosmos en los astros del cielo, aprendiendo la sabiduría que los acompaña por caminos nuevos, en dirección al portal, trayendo regalos al Niño que ellos mismos recibieron: oro de grandeza real; incienso frágil y leve que toca el Misterio; la mirra de la humanidad hecha de barro y soplo divino del Cielo.

A veces, lo reconozco, siento la vil tentación de imitar al rey Herodes en sus ambiciones. Por eso, al Niño Jesús le pido Que me conserve sencillo.

**¡FELIZ NAVIDAD!**

Dentro de mi corazón, en un rincón escondido, he construido un aprisco de animales amigos que hablan de sí mismos: la oveja simple y mansa, el asno de la obediencia y el buey pacífico que, acogedoramente calienta con su soplo la transparencia del Niño Jesús, mi Rey dormido.

En este rincón escondido, en plena noche santa, María me da a su Hijo, que entre las pajas yace y le doy humilde cobijo.

... José, simplemente vela, y, emocionadamente, calla y observa.

Veo la estrella alumbrar Radiante y bella más que la luna llena, más que mil soles tejiendo su luz en el universo.

Jesús es el Astro que eternamente acarrea luz plena y verdadera.

Descalzo mis pies al entrar en el recinto sacro de mi belén interior de amor bien entramado.

(Fernando Negro, Sch.P.)

- **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** takes place at St. Helena every **Thursday** from **9AM-12PM** and on **First Friday** 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**-We will begin a brand new Bible Study on **Tues., Jan. 7 at 1PM** and **7:30PM** and on **Sunday, Jan. 12 at 11:30AM** in the Green Building. *The Bible and the Church Fathers* will teach you everything you need to know about how the Bible took form. As Christians, we should want to know our family tree. We should want to know who has gone before us in the Faith, where they came from, and what they believed. We should want to know about our history. Enter *The Bible and the Church Fathers*, the St. Paul Center's newest video Bible Study. In twelve beautifully produced lessons, you'll learn who the Early Church Fathers were and how they shaped the way we read Scripture. *The Bible and the Church Fathers* will teach you everything you need to know about how the Bible took form. You'll learn powerful tools for reading it, and you'll understand all about Scripture's relationship to Tradition and, in particular, to the Sacraments. What's more, you'll recognize the powerful effect of Scripture on the Church Fathers. For them, this was no academic pursuit. Their love of God's Word transformed their lives—just as it has the power to transform ours today.

- **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.
- **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**-In January, they will begin an "Adopt-a-Grandparent" program whereby people can select an elderly person that they will regularly visit.
- **ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS 2020**. Now is the time to come to the rectory and reserve your special Mass Intentions for 2020. Masses are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis, and having a particular Mass celebrated on a particular date may be important for you, so come in early.
- **SOUL TO SEA COAT DRIVE**-A coat drive will take place on **Sun., January 12** from **12-2PM** in the Calasanz Room. If you have a new or gently used coat, you may bring it to the rectory at any time for the drive, and if you are in need of a coat, you may come to the Calasanz Room, which is the room located between the two church restrooms on **Jan. 12** to receive a nice coat.
- **MEXICAN PLANT-BASED COOKING**-Our **January 18** cooking class begins at **2PM** and is a collaboration with Tacqueria Tlaxcalli and whoever wants to contribute some of their recipes. We will get some Nixtamalized Tortillas and make some nice Mexican style dishes. The Cost is \$15. Please register for it by **January 15** in the rectory.
- **SUPER SMASH BROTHERS ULTIMATE VIDEO GAME TOURNAMENT** on **Sunday, January 26** from **2-6PM** in the gymnasium. \$5 buy in. See the rectory workers to register or for more information.
- **GREAT GATSBY GALA**-In the Spirit of the Great Gatsby, St. Helena's Great Calasanz Movement Youth Group is hosting a Great Gatsby Gala on **February 29, 2020**, from **7-11PM** in the gym. All funds raised will support the youth group. Tickets are \$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! This will be a night to remember as you are whisked to an era of jazz and culture and enjoy performances throughout the evening. For more info, send an Email to [cmsthelena@gmail.com](mailto:cmsthelena@gmail.com).
- **FREE RESOURCES ON FORMED**-We hope you are enjoying the free parish subscription to [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org). Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. Watch *The Epiphany of the Lord* or *The Gift* by Dr. Tim Gray; or listen to *Prepare the Way of the King* by Dr. Scott Hahn. During family gatherings, you may find yourself in conversation with family members and friends who may be interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. Here are some suggestions on Formed for them: If they are interested in learning more about the relationship between faith and science: Cosmic Origins. If they are looking to understand who God is *Why Believe?: "Who is God?"* To grow in a deeper understanding of the Eucharist we recommend *Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist* To learn more about the richness of our faith, *Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained*. Also keep in mind that FORMED now offers you more access choices: ROKU, Apple TV, Android, and iOS. 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

#### WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPES

**Sunday, December 29** \$5,490.92  
**Christmas** \$13,752.22

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.

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. We help confirm and develop healthy relationships.

### SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT

- **SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL MEETING Thursday, January 9** at **6PM** in the cafeteria.

### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **OLDEST KNOWN CHURCH IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA UNEARTHED**-The discovery of the fourth-century church and its contents, located just 30 miles northeast of Aksum, the capital of the ancient Ethiopian empire, confirm Ethiopian tradition that Christianity arrived at an early date in an area nearly 3,000 miles from Rome.
- **MUSIC DIRECTOR NEEDED**-St. Joseph/St. Boniface Parish in Spring Valley is looking for a full-time Director of Music/Organist beginning **January 31, 2020**. Responsibilities include providing music for weekend Masses, direction of the choir, supervision of cantors, and providing music for special occasions. Salary negotiable. If interested, please contact Rev. Levelt Germain, Pastor **(845) 356-0311**.
- **PILLARS OF THE CATECHISM**-Father Ricardo Garcia will be offering a 4-week adult education course, in Spanish, at St. Frances de Chantal Parish on the four pillars of the Catechism on the following Thursdays --- **JANUARY 9, 16, 23 AND 30** --- at **7 pm** in the Meeting Room of the church .... enter at the back of the church in the parking lot.
- **CARDINAL DOLAN DENOUNCES ANTI-SEMITIC ATTACKS**-Following the Monsey, NY Hanukkah stabbing, Cardinal Timothy Dolan lamented "the latest in a series of sickening acts of violence against our Jewish brothers and sisters. Such acts must be condemned completely and without reservation as totally contrary to everything that people of faith stand for."
- **MUSLUM TERRORISTS BEHEAD BRIDAL PARTY**-Father Francis Arinse, communications director of the Catholic Diocese of Maiduguri, confirmed that a bride-to-be, Martha Bulus, and her bridal party were beheaded Dec. 26 by Boko Haram insurgents at Gwoza, in northeastern Nigeria's Borno state.
- **ADVANCE AND EARN** which takes place at Mosholu Montefiore Community Center (MMCC) 3512 Dekalb Ave., BX is offering a **FREE** program for 16-24 year olds living within the 5 boroughs to help you think about your long-term

#### *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, Ralphie Lugo, Lydia Sffreda, Stella Caballero, Pylar Pagan, Roseanne 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 Tingué, 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:*

Joseph Pane, Emilia Collazo, Maria Ramos, Tita Lopez, Elsie Irizarry, Gerardo Fundoro, Rachel Wilson, Wanda Segarra, Susana Figueroa, Aracelis Acosta, Arthur Douglas, Josue Angel Lopez, Orlando Camajo, Maria Mangome, Hector Munoz, Vidal Rivera, Angel Garcia

career and educational goals, and create a plan to achieve them! This 15-week program will provide you with life-changing opportunities and could be your first step towards a degree and your dream job. Also offering Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training for ages 21-24. For more info please call (718) 652-0282 or visit: [mmcc.org](http://mmcc.org)

- **THE 47th ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE AND MARCH FOR LIFE IN WASHINGTON, DC** is on **Friday, Jan. 24, 2020**. This will be the first March for Life since the passing of the devastating Reproductive Health Act last January, and it is an opportunity for New Yorkers to make a pilgrimage on behalf of life, praying for our state and our nation. A bus from the Bronx is leaving from St. Lucy's Parish. You may call Fr. Nikolin Pergjini at **718-882-0710** for more details.
- **ARCHWAYS**-The Winter 2019-20 edition of *Archways*, the quarterly magazine of the Archdiocese of New York, is now available online. To view or download it, go to <https://www.archny.org/archways>.
- **ANGIE: HIGH QUALITY PROFESSIONAL HAIR CARE**, 2515 E. Tremont Ave., St. Peter's Place-347-981-5806.

**SANTA HELENA  
"TU LUGAR DE ENCUENTRO"**

**Ene. 16 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**

**ACTIVIDADES EN ESPAÑOL**

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



After the Three Wise Men left, the Three Wisest Women arrived.

**INFORMACION Y EVENTOS**

**El grupo de la madre Teresa**-En enero, comenzarán un programa de "Adopta a un abuelo" por el cual las personas pueden seleccionar a una persona mayor que visitarán regularmente.

**Mass Intentions**

**SUNDAY, January 5, 2020-The Epiphany of the Lord**

- 7:30** Mabel Schoenthaler
- 9:00** Akossiwa Atsu-Birthday Intention
- 10:30** John Blessington
- 12:00** Digna Zea; Gail Holland; John Correa, Manuel Cruz, Angel Leon, Felix Figueroa and William Lebron; Christopher ARCP Gonzalez; Salustia Castillo; Crystal Nicol Delgado; Ignacio Sanchez Sanabria; Virgen de Guadalupe Agraciamiento
- 1:30** Patrick McGoohan
- 5:00** Divine Justice for Undeserved Hardships
- 6:00** Margaret Bongyii And Raphael Mbinkar

**MONDAY, January 6, 2020-St. André Bessette**

- 6:50** Valentine Wnek
- 8:30** In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 10:00** Funeral Mass: Orlando Camajo
- 12:15** Frances Smith Cavaliero-Happy Birthday in Heaven  
*Christopher Ramos-Happy Birthday in Heaven*
- 7:00** Francisco Ariel Chavier

**TUESDAY, January 7, 2020-St. Raymond of Peñafort**

- 6:50** Intentions for Joanne Savino
- 8:30** In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 12:15** Patrick McGoohan  
*Dolores Torres*

**WEDNESDAY, January 8, 2020-St. Thorfinn**

- 6:50** In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 8:30** Saveria Verlezza
- 10:00** Funeral Mass: Arthur Douglas
- 12:15** Terence Lorino-NYFD
- 7:00** Carmen Milagros Rodriguez; Lizardo Orellana-7 Year Anniv. & Rosa Orellana-1 Year Anniv.; Rafael T. Rosa Ayala

**THURSDAY, Jan. 9, 2020-Venerable Pauline-Marie Jaricot**

- 6:50** For Alessandra Mia Savino's Utmost Facility in Achieving Salvation and for a Close and Loving Relationship with Her Paternal Grandmother
- 8:30** Catherine Blessington
- 12:15** Terence Lorino-NYFD

**FRIDAY, January 10, 2020-St. Peter Orseolo**

- 6:50** In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 8:30** Intentions for Brenda and Scott Van de Weghe
- 12:15** William Blessington

**SATURDAY, Jan. 11, 2020-St. Theodosius the Cenobiarch**

- 6:50** Sheila Lane
- 8:30** In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 12:15** Altigracia, Carmen, Manuel and Jose Capellan
- 5:30** Daniel Ambe-Intentions

**SUNDAY, January 12, 2020- The Baptism of the Lord**

- 7:30** Ben A. Gonzales
- 9:00** Bridget Early
- 10:30** Aurora Soto
- 12:00** Mariangelys Figueroa Ferrer & Family; Bertha Mero
- 1:30** Mary T. Early
- 5:00** Katherine Callaghan
- 6:00** Margaret Bongyii And Raphael Mbinkar

*Names only said in Prayer of the Faithful are in Italics*

**Readings for the week of January 5, 2020**

**Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12; **Monday:** 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25; **Tuesday:** 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:34-44; **Wednesday:** 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:45-52; **Thursday:** 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a; **Friday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Lk 5:12-16; **Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30; **Next Sun.:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17