

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

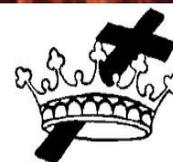
Musicians

Mr. Jim Donaldson

Mr. Alex Henriquez



saint Helena



January-February 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:

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

Mass Schedule (Horario de Misas)

Saturday: 5:30 PM

Sunday: AM

7:30

9:00

PM

12:00 (Español)

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 Meaning of the Baptism of the Lord

At first glance, the Baptism of the Lord might seem an odd feast. Since the Catholic Church teaches that the Sacrament of Baptism is necessary for the remission of sins, particularly Original Sin, why was Christ baptized? After all, He was born without Original Sin, and He lived His entire life without sinning. Therefore, He did not need the sacrament, as we do.

In submitting Himself humbly to the baptism of St. John the Baptist, however, Christ provided the example for the rest of us. If even He should be baptized, though He did not need it, how much more should the rest of us be thankful for this sacrament, which frees us from the darkness of sin and incorporates us into the Church, the life of Christ on earth! Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the added importance of a second creation in which the entire Holy Trinity intervenes. His Baptism, therefore, was necessary—not for Him, but for us. Many of the Fathers of the Church, as well as the medieval Scholastics, saw Christ's Baptism as the institution of the sacrament. His Flesh blessed the water, and the descent of the Holy Spirit (in the form of a dove) and the voice of God the Father announcing that this was His Son, in Whom He was well pleased, marked the beginning of Christ's public ministry.

The Baptism of the Lord has historically been associated with the celebration of Epiphany. Even today, the Eastern Christian feast of Theophany, celebrated on January 6 as a counterpart to the Western feast of Epiphany, focuses primarily on the Baptism of the Lord as the revelation of God to man. After the Nativity of Christ (Christmas) was separated from Epiphany by Pope Julius I, the Church in the West continued the process and dedicated a special celebration to each of the major epiphanies (revelations) or theophanies (the revelation of God to man). There was the Birth of Christ at Christmas, which revealed Christ to Israel; the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles, in the visit of the Wise Men at Epiphany; the Baptism of the Lord, which revealed the Trinity; and finally, the miracle at the wedding feast at Cana, which revealed Christ's transformation of the world. Thus, the Baptism of the Lord began to be celebrated on the octave (eighth day) of Epiphany, with the miracle at Cana celebrated on the Sunday after that. In the current United States liturgical calendar, the Baptism of the Lord is always celebrated on the Sunday after January 6, which brings an end to the Christmas Season, and, a week later, on the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, we hear the Gospel of the Wedding at Cana.

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism, Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism, we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the holy heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism, we must pray to avoid actual sin.

Baptism of Infants

Jesus was baptized as an adult, and you may well be asked by a non-Catholic, concerning baptizing infants, "where is that found in the Bible?" The answer is, "It may not be stated directly anywhere in the Bible that we can or cannot baptize infants, but it sure is implied."

We need Baptism because of original sin. The doctrine of original sin is that "in" Adam all have sinned. This parallels the doctrine of justification that "in" Christ all are righteous. We can begin to understand this parallel—namely, through the first Adam all have died and through the second Adam (Christ) all have life—by looking at Romans 5. Verse 12 which says that "sin came into the world through one man and death through sin." Because of Adam's sin, all men were made subject to sin and death. That is Scripture's teaching on the doctrine of original sin.



This sin of Adam was not your ordinary sin. This was a sin that affected all mankind forever. This sin changed the course of human history. It did not just affect Adam personally; it also affected his human nature—which means it affected our nature since we inherited it from him. Adam and Eve were created with immortal bodies. They knew no suffering, they knew no disease, they knew no death. Before the fall, their bodies would not have been subject to cancer or to Alzheimer's disease or heart attacks or any one of a host of other diseases. But ours are.

Some people have a problem with the concept that we, Adam's posterity, should have to pay a price for a sin we didn't commit. They do not understand how the Church is using the term original sin. As the Catechism says, "original sin is called 'sin' only in an analogical sense: it is a sin 'contracted' and not 'committed'—a state and not an act" (CCC 404). Adam's sin changed everything both for him and for us. There was a fundamental change in man's relationship with God. God no longer walked the earth with man. What's more, Satan was now the ruler of the world. There was a fundamental change in the relationship of man to nature and a fundamental change in nature itself. We are born with a fallen nature, a nature that is separated from God as a result of Adam's sin. We have to be born again to become joined to God, to be in Christ, to become a member of the body of Christ, to be saved. We are born of Adam's body into condemnation. We are born of Christ's body unto salvation.

Finally, we reach the part where this ties into infant baptism. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). In verse 5 he repeats himself: "Unless one is born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." In other words, being born again is the same thing as being born of water and the Spirit, and it is a necessary condition for entering the kingdom of God. Jesus is saying that a man must be born of water and the Spirit—in other words, he must be baptized. The Bible tells us that you cannot enter the kingdom of God if you are not baptized. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:6). So, remember that The Bible says that which is born of the flesh is flesh. Not only that but "it is the Spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail" (John 6:63).

Now, when a child is born, it is born into the flesh. But the Bible tells us that the flesh is of no avail because of the consequences of original sin. That's why Jesus says we have to be born again. The first birth is the birth of the flesh, but we need something more in order to have life. What is that something more? The Bible tells us: Everyone must be born of the Spirit in order to have eternal life; it is the Spirit that gives life, not the flesh. And how do we receive the Spirit? The Bible tells us that we receive the Spirit by being born again—by being born of water and the Spirit—by being baptized. We find this in Ezekiel 36:25–27, John 3:3–5, Acts 2:38, and elsewhere. When we are baptized we put on Christ (cf. Gal. 3:27). We are buried with him in baptism (Rom. 6:4). We become members of the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13). We receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). We become a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17).

Thus, Adam is the representative of the flesh. Christ is the representative of the Spirit. When we are born physically, born into the flesh, we are in Adam. When we are baptized—when we are born again, when we are born of the Spirit, we are in Christ. Infants need to be baptized, just like anyone else, so that they can be "in Christ," so that they can put on Christ so that they can become children of God so that they can become members of the body of Christ so that they can be granted eternal life.

So, does the Bible support infant Baptism? Yes, if you remember two things: 1. We are by nature children of wrath. Original sin is real. It is not something the Catholic Church invented. We are born of the flesh, not of the Spirit. Indeed, we are not born in a state of holiness. We are born in a state of original sin. 2. Through baptism



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

we are “born again” and made new creatures in Christ; through baptism, our sins are forgiven. Through baptism, we become members of the body of Christ, which is the Church. Through baptism we receive the Holy Spirit; through baptism, we are saved. Baptism is necessary for salvation.

Thus, the washing away of original sin is a good and necessary thing. The joining of the infant to the body of Christ, the Church, is a good and necessary thing. The infant receiving the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is a good and necessary thing. The infant receiving the free gift of God’s salvation is a good and necessary thing. It’s that simple. As Catholics, we want all these things for our children, not just for adults. Why would anyone want to deny infants and children the incredible gifts received through baptism? As the Bible tells us, the promise is to you and your children (cf. Acts 2:39). So, when you explain infant baptism in the context of original sin and sacramental baptism—of being born into a state of original sin and being born again into a state of grace—you make a very powerful argument on behalf of the Church’s teachings in this area.

Black Christ of Esquipulas

The statue of the Black Christ (El Cristo Negro), commissioned by Spanish conquistadors for a church in Esquipulas, was carved in 1594 by Quirio Cataño in Antigua and installed in the church in 1595. By 1603, a miracle had already been attributed to the icon, and it attracted increasing numbers of pilgrims over the years. The history of the Basilica begins in 1735 when a priest named Father Pedro Pardo de Figueroa experienced a miraculous cure after praying before the statue. When he became Archbishop of Guatemala, he commissioned a beautiful basilica to properly shelter the beloved statue. The church was completed in 1759. The main church, which the Vatican upgraded to the category of Basilica in 1968, is the home of the “Cristo Negro de Esquipulas” or “Black Christ of Esquipulas,” in English. It is one of the most popular images of the Catholic faith, because of the many miracles attributed to it, devotees all over the country pray to the Black Christ for personal petitions. The sculpture of the Black Christ is made of cedarwood, and it inspires one of the most important Catholic pilgrimages, topped only by the Virgin of Guadalupe in Mexico.

Who are the Fathers of the Church?

Our new Bible Study Class which begins today, **January 12 at 11:30AM** in the Green Building discusses how the Fathers of the Church shaped the Bible as we know it. So, who are these fathers?

The Fathers of the Church are so-called because of their great leadership in the early Church, especially in defending, defining, expounding, and developing Catholic doctrines. For the first two centuries, most of these men were bishops, although in later years certain priests and deacons were also recognized as Fathers. The list includes such notables as: Clement of Rome (d. 97), Ignatius (d. 110), Polycarp (d. 155), Justin Martyr (the Church’s first major lay apologist; d. 165), Irenaeus (d. 202), Cyprian (d. 258), Athanasius (d. 373), Basil (d. 379), Cyril of Jerusalem (d. 386), Amrose (d. 397), John Chrysostom (d. 407), Jerome (d. 420), Augustine (d. 430), Cyril of Alexandria (d. 444), Pope Leo the Great (d. 461), and Pope Gregory the Great (d. 604).

The Church demands four major characteristics to be exhibited in the life and works of an early Church leader if he is to be truly considered a Father of the Church. These are antiquity, meaning that he lived before the eighth century (the death of St. John Damascene [cir. A.D. 750] is generally regarded as the close of the age of the Fathers); doctrinal orthodoxy; personal sanctity; and approval by the Church.

Ordinary Time Begins Tomorrow

Ordinary Time begins on the day after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which occurs on the Sunday after the Epiphany. The weekdays that follow the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord are reckoned as belonging to the first week of Ordinary Time and the following Sunday as the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time. There is no “First Sunday of Ordinary Time”. Ordinary Time continues

until the Tuesday that immediately precedes Ash Wednesday, which is on the 40th day (excluding Sundays) before Easter Sunday.

Ordinary Time is then interrupted by Lent and Eastertide and resumes on the Monday after the Solemnity of Pentecost, the 50th day of Eastertide. It concludes on the afternoon before the first Sunday of Advent. The second period of Ordinary Time can thus sometimes last as much as seven months. Ordinary Time is called “ordinary” not because it is common but simply because all the weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. The Latin word *ordinalis*, which refers to numbers in a series, stems from the Latin word *ordo*, from which we get the English word order. Thus, all of the numbered weeks of Ordinary Time, in fact, represent the ordered life of the Church—the period in which we live our lives neither in feasting (as in the Christmas and Easter seasons) or in more severe penance (as in Advent and Lent), but in watchfulness and expectation of the Second Coming of Christ.

The decision to treat the whole of Ordinary Time as a unit, calling it in Latin *Tempus per annum* (which literally means “the through-the-year season”), led to abandonment of the previously used terminology, whereby the Sundays of the first period were called “Sundays after Epiphany” and those of the second period were “Sundays after Pentecost.” The weeks, rather than the Sundays alone, are spoken of, in view of the assigning of specific Scripture readings at Mass not only to the Sundays of Ordinary Time but also to the weekdays. Taken thus as a unit, Ordinary Time is the longest season of the liturgical year, and is composed of 33 or 34 complete or partial weeks. In about 2 years out of 3, Ordinary Time comprises only 33 weeks, so in those years one week is skipped when resuming Ordinary Time after Pentecost Sunday. The liturgical color assigned to Ordinary Time Sundays and weekdays is green.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor

Devotion to Our Lady of Prompt Succor dates back to 1802 when the Ursuline Order in New Orleans pleaded for help in sustaining the Order with new sisters from France. Their prayers were answered with papal permission for sisters to be transferred from France to New Orleans. In thanksgiving for this favor, the grateful Ursulines dedicated a statue in their convent chapel to Our Lady of Prompt Succor in 1810.

In 1812, a terrible fire broke out in New Orleans, and the wind was blowing the flames toward the convent. Prayers before the statue of Our Lady were answered with a reversal of the wind direction and the convent was spared. During the Battle of New Orleans, in 1815, the sisters again invoked the assistance of Our Lady of Prompt Succor. As the sound of guns and cannons thundered around the chapel during Mass, they vowed to have a Mass of Thanksgiving sung every year if the Americans were victorious. At Communion time, a messenger arrived with the news that Gen. Andrew Jackson’s overmatched army had somehow successfully driven the British from the city. Once again, Our Lady had responded promptly. In 1928, the Holy See approved the selection of Our Lady of Prompt Succor as the Patroness of the city of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana, and a Mass of Thanksgiving is offered each **January 8** at the Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor in New Orleans.

Saint Hilary of Poitiers - January 13

This staunch defender of the divinity of Christ was another holy contemporary of St. Anthony and a gentle and courteous man, devoted to writing some of the greatest theology on the Trinity, and was like his Master in being labeled a “disturber of the peace.” In a very troubled period in the Church, his holiness was lived out in both scholarship and controversy. He was bishop of Poitiers in France.

Raised a pagan, he was converted to Christianity when he met his God of nature in the Scriptures. His wife and his daughter Apra were still living when he was chosen, against his will, to be the bishop of Poitiers in France. He was soon taken up with battling what became the scourge of the fourth century, Arianism, which denied the divinity of Christ. The heresy spread rapidly. St. Jerome said, “The world groaned and marveled to find that it was Arian.” When Emperor Constantius ordered all the bishops of the West to sign a condemnation of Athanasius, the great defender of the faith

in the East, Hilary refused and was banished from France to far off Phrygia. Eventually, he was called the "Athanasius of the West." While writing in exile, he was invited by some semi-Arians (hoping for reconciliation) to a council the emperor called to counteract the Council of Nicea. But Hilary predictably defended the Church, and when he sought public debate with the heretical bishop who had exiled him, the Arians, dreading the meeting and its outcome, pleaded with the emperor to send this troublemaker back home. In the East, he had heard the hymns used by Arians and orthodox Christians as propaganda. These hymns were not based on Holy Scripture as are Western hymns but were full of personal beliefs about God. Back at home, Hilary started writing hymns of propaganda himself to spread the faith. His hymns are the first in the West with a known writer. Hilary was welcomed by his people, and he died in 368. He was declared a doctor of the Church in 1851.

St. Paul, the first hermit—January 15

St. Paul is called "the first hermit," and he was the standard-bearer of those courageous men who for the love of Christ left the world and entered the wilderness to dedicate themselves wholly to contemplation amid all the privations of desert life. The hermits were the great men of prayer in those difficult times when the Church was locked in fierce struggle with heresy after heresy. For centuries the example of their lives served as the school of Christian perfection. Their action set the background for the rise of monasticism and religious orders in the Church.

Legend says that one day St. Anthony, then ninety, was divinely inspired to visit the hermit Paul, then 113. Though they had never met previously, each greeted the other correctly by name. While they were conversing at length on spiritual matters, the raven that had always brought Paul half a loaf of bread, came with a whole loaf. As the raven flew away, Paul said: "See, the Lord, who is truly good and merciful, has sent us food. Every day for sixty years I have received half a loaf, but with your arrival, Christ sent His servants a double ration." Giving thanks, they ate by a spring. After a brief rest, they again gave thanks, as was their custom, and spent the whole night praising God. At daybreak, Paul informed Anthony of his approaching death and asked him to fetch the cloak he had received from St. Athanasius, that he might wrap himself in it. Later, as Anthony was returning from his visit, he saw Paul's soul ascending to heaven escorted by choirs of angels and surrounded by prophets and apostles.

St. Ita - January 15

Ita reputedly was of royal lineage. She was born in 475 at Decies, Waterford, Ireland, refused to be married and after securing her father's permission to live a virginal life, she moved to Killeedy, Limerick, and founded a community of women dedicated to God. She also founded a school for boys, and one of her pupils was St. Brendan. Many extravagant miracles were attributed to her (in one of them she is reputed to have reunited the head and body of a man who had been beheaded; in another, she lived entirely on food from heaven), and she is widely venerated in Ireland. She died at the age of 95.

St. Anthony - January 17

St. Anthony the Abbot (sometimes called St. Anthony of Egypt) was inspired by the Gospels to sell all his possessions and live a life of solitude in the Egyptian desert. He established for himself a quiet hermitage away from the world, but he wasn't able to completely escape from his most persistent enemy.

The devil, knowing that St. Anthony was a very holy man and close to God, threw everything he had against him. If the devil couldn't turn Anthony away from God through the riches of the world, he would try to attack him both physically and spiritually. St. Athanasius records several of these encounters in his *Life of St. Anthony*. After failing to tempt him with the lure of wealth, the devil "attacked the young man, disturbing him by night and harassing him by day, and even the onlookers saw the struggle which was going on between them." After each temptation, however, St. Anthony would "fortify his body with faith, prayers, and fasting." Frustrated, the devil tried to confront Anthony by taking on the shape of a boy and conversing with him. Anthony replied, "You are very despicable then, for you are black-hearted and weak as a child. Henceforth I shall have no trouble from you, for the Lord is my helper, and I shall look down on mine enemies."

For a time the devil left Anthony alone but returned again to test him, this time with a multitude of demons. The devil severely beat Anthony physically, hoping that Anthony would return to his former way of life out of fear. Remaining steadfast in his faith, Anthony called out to the devil, "Here am I, Anthony; I flee not from your stripes, for even if you inflict more, nothing shall separate me from the love of Christ ... though a camp be set against me, my heart shall not be afraid." After each encounter, Anthony was strengthened in his faith, and God came to his aid. In teaching his many disciples Anthony taught them how to defeat the demons, "Sign yourselves therefore with the cross, and depart boldly, and let these make sport for themselves." And elsewhere he said to them, "But we need not fear their dreadful suggestions, for by prayer, fasting, and faith in the Lord their attack immediately fails." Anthony died in 356 at the age of 105. In whatever temptations we may encounter, Anthony teaches us that faith, prayer, fasting, and the sign of the cross is enough to defeat the snares of the Evil One. The devil may appear powerful, but the saints, again and again, prove that he is not and is no match for those who put their trust in God.

QU'EST-CE QUE LE BAPTEME?

Chers freres et soeurs,

L'Eglise celebre aujourd'hui la fete du Bapteme de notre Seigneur. Si le bapteme etait compris comme le rite de purification au temps de Jesus, il y a lieu de poser la question de savoir si Jesus avait besoin d'etre baptise? Jesus n'avait pas besoin d'etre baptise parce qu'il est Dieu et par consequent, sans peche. Toutefois, il s'est fait baptise pour pouvoir s'identifier a l'humanite pecheresse. Son bapteme est le prolongement de son incarnation. Ce bapteme l'a inaugure dans son ministere publique. Selon le catechisme de l'Eglise Catholique au numero 1224, "Notre Seigneur s'est volontairement soumis au Bapteme de Saint Jean, destine aux pecheurs, pour "accomplir toute justice" (Mt 3,15). Ce geste de Jesus est une manifestation de son aneantissement."

La celebration du bapteme de Jesus est occasion pour nous de mediter sur notre propre bapteme. Quels sont les effets de ce sacrement que nous avons recu? Les deux effets principaux sont la purification des peches et la nouvelle naissance dans l'Esprit Saint. Le Catechisme de l'Eglise Catholique nous enseigne une fois de plus ceci: "Par le bapteme, tous les peches sont remis, le peche original et tous les peches personnels ainsi que toutes les peines du peche. (Numero 1263).

Le bapteme ne purifie pas seulement de tous les peches, il fait aussi du neophyte "une creation nouvelle", un fils adoptif de Dieu qui est devenu participant de la nature divine, membre du Christ et coheritier avec lui, temple de l'Esprit Saint. (1265)j Par le bapteme, nous sommes entres dans la mort de Jesus pour ressusciter avec lui dans la nouvelle. Par consequent, nous sommes marques du sceau du Christ. "Incorpore au Christ par le Bapteme, le baptise est configure au Christ. Le bapteme scelle le chretien d'une marque spirituelle indelebile de son appartenance au Christ. Cette marque n'est efface par aucun peche, meme si le peche empeche le Bapteme de porter des fruits de salut. Donne une fois pour toutes, le Bapteme ne peut pas etre reitere. (1273)

Pere Andrew Berinyuy

Feast of Our Lady of Altigracia, patroness of the island of Hispaniola, next **Sunday, January 19 at 1:30PM** in the gym.

The Second Collection taken up next week, **Sun., January 19**, is for our Elementary School. Thank you for your generosity.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **50/50**—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 **Mon., Jan. 27**.
- **SPANISH FAMILY SESSION** takes place today, **Sunday, January 12 at 1:30PM** in the cafeteria.
- **ENGLISH FAMILY SESSION** will take place on **Sunday, January 19 at 11:30AM** in the cafeteria.
- **ENGLISH CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** meets every **Saturday** from **1PM to 3PM**, in the Green Building.

- **SPANISH CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** meets every **Monday** from **7-9PM** 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 16 in Spanish and January 23 in English.** Prior arrangements must be made at the Rectory to take the Baptismal class.
- **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 **Sunday, Jan. 12** at **11:30AM** in the Green Building, and another session will take place on **Tuesday, January 14** at **1PM** and **7:30PM.** *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.
- **YOUTH GROUP BAKE SALE** on **Sunday, January 12** from **10:30AM-1:30PM** in the narthex. Please support the Youth Group.
- **BOY SCOUTS** meet every **Wed. at 6:30PM** in the cafeteria. Our **Cub Scouts** meet in the Calasanz Room on **Saturdays.**
- **POPCORN THIS WEEKEND**-The cub scouts will be selling popcorn after some Masses this weekend as a fundraiser. Please support St. Helena Cub Scout Pack 65.
- **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 takes place today, **Sunday, January 12** from **12-2PM** in the Calasanz Room. If you have a new or gently used coat, or you are in need of a coat, you may come to the Calasanz Room, which is the room located between the two church restrooms. There will also be free books and other items.
- **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 still \$30 per person and \$50 for couples until the end of January. 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.
- **FREE RESOURCES ON FORMED**-We hope you are enjoying the free parish subscription to www.formed.org. Today is the Baptism of the Lord, so watch *Baptism of the Lord* or *City of Saints*. In Spanish, view *Fatima: Esperanza Para el Mundo* or *Echo en Espanol con el Obispo Donald Hying*. Listen to *Truth and Life Dramatized Audio Bible* or *Manalive* by G.K. Chesterton. 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 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.
- **HONOR ROLL**-Congratulations to Dina Fontana, who made the Honor Roll at St. Francis Preparatory School for the second quarter of the current school year by receiving an average of 90% or better.
- **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

- **ST. HELENA SCHOOL** has just received four new Kindergarten computer tables, and just before Christmas, the school collected dozens of toys for St Anthony's Christmas Toy Drive.
- **OPEN HOUSE** on **Saturday, January 25** from **11AM-1PM.** We offer full day UPK for All, Kindergarten to 8th Grade, a free ASPIRA After School Program for students in 6th-8th grade, an early bird breakfast program, and a SETTS Tutoring Program. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to come to our Open House.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **JOIN THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF PARKCHESTER-** They offer music and production coding and gaming, graphic design, family game nights, photography and videography and winter sports. Program begins **January 6-April 8** from **3-9PM.** All members must live in Parkchester and bring in a copy of their birth certificate, a completed application, and a recent report card before you start For more info, call **718-320-6065.**
- **ANOTHER HOMELESS SHELTER TO OPEN NEAR ST. HELENA**-The NY Department of Homeless Services has announced that it will be opening a Homeless Shelter at 951 Olmstead Avenue to provide temporary shelter for families with children. The shelter is expected to open in 2021. According to DHS, there are more homeless people

from Community Board 9 in the current shelter system than the city has the capacity to shelter them. There are 1,992 people from CB9 currently in the system, and there are only 790 of those people who are living in shelters within the CB9 area. Of these, 468 people now reside in cluster sites that are scheduled to be closed. Once these sites are closed, the area will have 1,600 fewer beds than is currently required. The Olmstead Avenue shelter will provide for 161 families. The Urban Resource Institute will provide services at the Olmstead Ave. site, including case management and counseling services. The addition of this shelter means there will be a total of 12 homeless shelters in CB9. Just to note, CB10 will have only 3 shelters, and CB11 will have none. While there is a clear homeless epidemic in New York City, and we do have a moral responsibility to help people, the question many people are asking is whether all Community Board areas are receiving their fair share of shelters.

- **PLANNING CATHOLIC FUNERAL LITURGIES WORKSHOP** on Feb. 1 from 10AM-12PM at St. Joseph's Seminary. When a loved one dies, we want to prepare a beautiful funeral Mass, but the burden of grief can make this difficult. Learn how to prepare a prayerful and beautiful funeral liturgy that gives glory to God and honors the deceased in Christ. Presenter: Fr. Matthew Ernest, S.T.D., Professor of Liturgy at St. Joseph's Seminary. Fee: \$15. Register at: nyliturgy.org/funeralworkshop
- **CARDINAL TIMOTHY M. DOLAN** of New York joined about 25,000 New Yorkers who took to the streets for a Jan. 5 "Solidarity March" in protest of anti-Semitism. "When there's an attack on you, there's an attack on all of us," Dolan said in remarks at the rally in Brooklyn after participants had crossed the Brooklyn Bridge.
- **PIARIST PRIEST KIDNAPPED AND SHOT FOUR TIMES, BUT LIVES**-A Mexican Piarist priest is in serious condition after being kidnapped and shot because he recognized one of his captors. Father Roly Candelario Piña Camacho, Sch.P. was found on a roadside, with four gunshot wounds, after his family paid a ransom to his kidnappers. Catholic priests continue to be the targets of kidnappers.
- **SISTERS CONDEMN US STRIKE ON IRANIAN GENERAL**-The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas "join with people across the world in condemning the drone strike assassination of Qassem Soleimani, leader of Iran's Quds force, outside of Baghdad. We call on our government to reject violence and extreme militarism and instead to engage in the hard work of diplomacy."
- **US BISHOPS EXPRESS SORROW FOR DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE AFTERMATH IN PUERTO RICO**-"The Church in the United States stands with you. In our prayer, we recall in trust that Jesus is the resurrection and the life, offering Himself to us and calling us to Himself even in our hardest hour," Archbishop José Gomez of Los Angeles said following the January 7 earthquake in southern Puerto Rico.
- **ELECTION 2020**-We all have a duty to vote in an informed way in the 2020 elections. Visit www.ProLifeVote.com to view a series of short videos on this subject.
- **HIRING A FULL-TIME MAINTENANCE MAN**-Good Counsel Homes, a Catholic women's shelter in the Bronx is hiring a full-time maintenance person/handyman. Experience with basic plumbing, electrical and sheetrock repair is important. Must have a valid driver's license. The position

WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPES

Sunday, January 5 \$7,183.75
Catholic Communications \$1,579.19

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.

does include health insurance. Please send a resume to human_resources@GoodCounselHomes.org.

- **JOB FAIR** on Thursday, January 30 from 5-8PM at the Bronx House, 990 Pelham Parkway S. Bring Resumes. For more info, call 718-931-1721.
- **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 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.
- **ADVANCE AND EARN** which takes place at Mosholu Montefiore Community Center (MMCC) 3512 Dekalb Ave., BX is offering a FREE, 15 week program for 16-24 year olds living within the 5 boroughs to help you think about your long-term career and educational goals, and create a plan to achieve them! Also offering Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training for ages 21-24. For more info please call (718) 652-0282 or visit: 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. Nikolín Pergini 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

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.

Disparo de escolapio mexicano aún sobrevive

Los obispos de México pidieron rezar por la pronta recuperación del P. Roly Candelario Piña Camacho, Sch.P., un sacerdote escolapio que había sido secuestrado y que fue encontrado apenas vivo con cuatro heridas de bala.

El sacerdote de 40 años de edad fue liberado el lunes 6 por la tarde, luego de haber sido secuestrado y tras el pago del rescate exigido por sus captores quienes lo dejaron abandonado, con cuatro impactos de bala en el cuerpo. Debido a su estado de salud fue llevado a un hospital local donde la Guardia Nacional se encarga de custodiar al sacerdote para evitar que sea asesinado.

“Nos unimos en oración por la pronta recuperación de la salud del Padre Roly Candelario Sch.P (Escolapio) y lamentamos profundamente la situación de violencia que se vive en el país”, indicaron los prelados mexicanos a través de su cuenta de Facebook. “El sacerdote escolapio, que ejerce su ministerio sacerdotal en nuestra diócesis, fue privado de su libertad y posteriormente liberado y encontrado herido sobre la carretera

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 Ainhua Zoe Marrero Huertas

Please Pray for the Deceased and their Grieving Families:

Rachel Wilson, Wanda Segarra, Susana Figueroa, Aracelis Acosta, Arthur Douglas, Josue Angel Lopez, Orlando Camajo, Maria Mangome, Hector Munoz, Vidal Rivera, Angel Garcia, Vicente Garcia, Evelyn Miranda, Louis Perez, Hector Hernandez, Yolanda Negron, Madison Alexirose Fernandez, Patria Morales, Margaret Baez

ACTIVIDADES EN ESPAÑOL

LUNES	7 - 9 pm	Grupo Carismático de Oración. Misa cada primer lunes
MIERC.	10 am	Grupo Santa Madre Teresa de Calcuta: <i>Visita a pacientes de Rebeka</i> Misa en Rebeka: <i>segundos lunes de mes a las 10.30 am</i>
	7 - 9 pm	Coronilla de la <i>Divina Misericordia</i> , Adoración, <i>Eucaristía</i>
VIERNES	7 - 8.30 pm	Grupo Juvenil. Edades 12-18. 7-8.30 pm
	7.30—9pm	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.

federal México-Puebla. Desafortunadamente, su estado de salud es delicado, debido a los impactos de bala que recibió. La Diócesis de Tlaxcala manifiesta su solidaridad y su cercanía espiritual con el Padre Roly, con la comunidad escolapio y su familia. Hacemos oración para que cese la violencia y se respete la vida humana. El Padre se encuentra delicado pero estable," concluye el comunicado de la Diócesis de Tlaxcala publicado el 8 de enero.

Mass 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; Zaida Hernandez; Jose Louis Garcia; Elezar Ayala; Martha Mejia
- 1:30** Mary T. Early
- 5:00** Katherine Callaghan
- 6:00** Sandra Gresl, Harry Chernoff & Jeffrey Berman-Inten.

MONDAY, January 13, 2020-St. Hilary of Poitiers

- 6:50** Eamon Kissane-Intentions
- 8:30** Xavier Francis, Meera Job, Staven and Jair Joseph-Intentions In Thanksgiving

- 12:15** Mary T. Early

TUESDAY, January 14, 2020–St. Sava

- 6:50** Fritz Antoine-Healing Intention
- 8:30** Mary T. Early
- 12:15** Souls in Purgatory

WEDNESDAY, January 15, 2020–St. Paul and St. Ita

- 6:50** Dan Noor-Intentions
- 8:30** Mary T. Early
- 12:15** Annie T. Clarke
- 7:00** Carlos Perez

THURSDAY, January 16, 2020-St. Honoratus

- 6:50** In Thanksgiving
- 8:30** Mary T. Early
- 12:15** Jack Casey-Healing Intention

FRIDAY, January 17, 2020-St. Anthony

- 6:50** Joseph and Matilda Carty
- 8:30** Thank You to St. Jude
- 12:15** Mary T. Early

SATURDAY, January 18, 2020-St. Deicolus

- 6:50** Devasia Madappallil
- 8:30** Guirline Bosquet
- 12:15** Bernardo Del Valle
- 5:30** Ana Wnek

SUNDAY, Jan. 19, 2020– Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30** Julian Atsu
- 9:00** Mary T. Early
- 10:30** In Thanksgiving for the Family of Mary & Joseph Diallo
- 12:00** Alfonso Toro, Petra Verdejo, Luis Alfonso Toro, Alejandra Lugo and Miguelina Verdejo
- 1:30** Daniel and Madeline Donovan
- 5:00** Apolina Tavares
- 6:00** Margaret Bongyii And Raphael Mbinkar

Names only said in Prayer of the Faithful are in Italics

Readings for the week of January 12, 2020

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/ Mt 3:13-17; **Monday:** 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19 [17a]/ Mk 1:14-20; **Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1]/ Mk 1:21-28; **Wednesday:** 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b -9, 10 [8a and 9a]/Mk 1:29-39; **Thursday:** 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25 [27b]/Mk 1:40-45; **Friday:** 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16 -17, 18-19 [2]/Mk 2:1-12; **Saturday:** 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [2a]/Mk 2:13-17; **Next Sunday:** Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

