

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

February-March 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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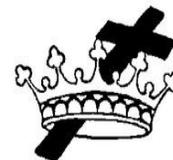
Alumni: sthelenasalumni@yahoo.com



“You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.”

“Ustedes son la luz del mundo. No se puede ocultar una ciudad construida en lo alto de un monte”.

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

Moses' Serpent and the Son of Man

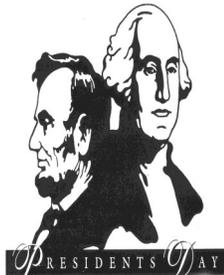
Jesus once said, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so, must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life (Jn 3:14-15). As he is the Son of Man, Jesus will do something similar to what Moses' serpent did when Israel wandered in the wilderness. When a plague breaks out among the Israelites for strongly speaking "against God and against Moses" (Num 21:5), deadly serpents begin to attack the people. When the people cry out for help, God tells Moses to fashion a fiery serpent (;רָחָשׁ שָׂרָפָה *nahash sharaf*) and raise it up in the camp, so that when the people gazed upon Moses' serpent they would be saved (Num 21:6-9). In light of this Torah background, the analogy that John draws between the miraculous salvation of Moses' serpent and the Son of Man is clear: Just as the serpent in Numbers saved Israel from certain death, the heavenly Son of Man offers eternal life: all it takes is to trust and look upon the Son of Man.



But why did Moses make an image of a *serpent* and not something else? After all, the serpent (;רָחָשׁ *nahash*) seems an odd choice as a means for salvation, since the serpent in the Garden of Eden leads Adam and Eve to a *loss* of eternal life. Ancient rabbis taught that miraculous healing from God can always be distinguished from a more common, mundane healing. When a doctor does his job, he hurts the patient with a knife and later heals him by putting on bandages. But "unlike a physician, God smites and heals by the same very means" (*Exodus Rabbah* 26:2). Moses' staff was simultaneously a rod of blessing and a tool of great destruction. Likewise, the flood in Noah's day brought death and judgment but also renewed the earth and humanity. And that is why, when Israel is in the wilderness, one snake kills but another gives life. The snake that reminds us of our rebellion kills, but he who has no sin became a sin offering for us to bring us life (2 Cor 5:21).

President's Day and the Bible

Tomorrow is Presidents' Day, an American holiday celebrated each year on the third Monday in February. Originally established in 1885 in recognition of our nation's first president, George Washington, it is still officially called "Washington's Birthday" by the Federal Government. With the passing of the Uniform Monday Holiday Act and the move away from February 22, President George Washington's actual day of birth, Presidents' Day was seen by many as a way to honor both Washington and Abraham Lincoln, who was born on February 12. Some believe it is a day to honor the lives and achievements of all the presidents of the United States, while others argue that grouping George Washington and Abraham Lincoln together with less successful presidents minimizes their legacies. For many people today, however, Presidents' Day is nothing more than a paid holiday from work and a time for special sales in retail stores.



It has been said that a nation rises and falls on its leadership. If that is so, the Bible has been one of the greatest influences in some of America's best-known, most courageous leaders. George Washington, our first president, added the prayer, "So help me, God," to his inauguration oath, then reverently stooped and kissed the Bible which had been used in the oath of office. In his first inaugural address to Congress, he stressed God's role in the birth of this republic: "No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency ... We ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious smiles of heaven cannot be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which heaven itself has ordained." Also, one of George Washington's very early official acts was the first

Thanksgiving Proclamation, which reads, "Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly implore His Divine protection and favor," it goes on to call the nation to thankfulness to Almighty God.

Abraham Lincoln stated, "It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Sacred Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord." Concerning the Bible, Lincoln said, "All the good from the Saviour of the world is communicated through this Book; but for it, we could not know right from wrong. All the things desirable to man are contained in it." So, remember that the Bible declares, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, and the people whom he hath chosen for his very own inheritance." (Psalm 33:12)

Venerable Glicerio Landriani - Feb. 15

The Grace of a Piarist Vocation

Among the many collaborators of St. Joseph Calasanz in the first twenty years of his educational apostolate in Rome, the best known for upholding the Piarist tradition are undoubtedly the elder priest Gaspar Dragonetti and the young cleric Glicerio Landriani. The latter was the nephew of both Cardinals Cario and Federico Borromeo, and he had arrived in Rome from his city of Milan with the desire to make a career. At twenty, he lived as a rich and vain churchman, but God used his brother Fabrizio, the bishop of Pavia, to call him to conversion, and his response to grace was generous. He gave himself totally to help others. Between 1610 and 1611, he was introduced to the work of the Pious Schools and its Founder. With the help of the Carmelite Fathers of La Scala, he found among the children and with Calasanz and his companions the definitive vocation of his life. On May 31, 1612, he joined the group, and in 1617, he began the novitiate in the new Pauline Congregation, but he died half a year later, in February 1618.

Glicerio was committed to the education of children and to guide them in Continuous Prayer, an original practice that takes place in Piarist works until today. He used to give an image of the child Jesus to the little ones, and with the older students, he used to teach literature as a means to open cultural horizons and to invite them to participate in the new Church movements. During the week, he worked in school, and on Sundays and holidays, he was engaged in teaching catechesis at parishes. Both in the school and in the parishes, he became an excellent Catechist who, far from making his sessions boring or superficial, incorporated singing, movements, Psalms and prayers so that the children became interested in learning doctrine and studying the word of God. In addition to his youthful enthusiasm, he contributed to the nascent Congregation the idea of accompanying the children through the streets back to their homes. He wrote a letter to Cardinal Federico Borromeo to ask for his help to establish schools of evangelization and catechesis with young lay people who were well trained for this purpose.

Calasanz saw in the young Glicerio a future leader for his work, but he soon realized the young man's precarious health that, in fact, led to his untimely death at age 30. Calasanz introduced his cause for his beatification, in which he testified as a witness of his virtues. The only letter we have from Calasanz concerning his young spiritual son begins like this: "Jesus and Mary have always occupied the whole heart of our most dear in the Lord, Br. Glicerio."

Seven Founders of the Servite Order - Feb. 17

On this day we celebrate the feast of the Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order. Their names in the world were Buonfiglio dei Monaldi (Bonfilius), Giovanni di Buonagiunta (Bonajuncta), Amadeus de Amidei (Bartolomeus), Ricovero dei Lippi-Ugguccioni (Hugh), Benedetto dell' Antella (Manettus), Gherardino di Sostegno (Sostene), and Alessio de' Falconieri (Alexius). St. Alexius lived to be a hundred years old. He died on February 17, 1310. The Seven Holy Founders share a common feast, just as they share a common grave.

About the year 1240, while the struggle between the Emperor Frederick II and the Apostolic See left Italian cities torn by rival factions, seven Florentine merchants decided to retire in solitude to live a common life marked by penance and prayer. They were already members of a lay group called Servants of Saint Mary and

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

were noted for their special devotion to Our Lady, and for a close adherence to the gospel ideal of fraternal love and service to one another and to many others, especially to the poor and the sick. Consequently, they put aside their commercial activities, left their homes and distributed their few personal possessions among the churches and the poor. The grey cloth that was commonly worn by penitents became their regular dress. They moved into a small house outside the city walls where they continued to minister to the spiritual and material needs of those who came to them for help. In 1304, Pope Benedict XI definitively approved the Order of Servants of Saint Mary with the Bull *'Dum levamus*. He wrote concerning the original spirit of the Order: 'Because of the great devotion you have for the glorious Blessed Virgin Mary, you have taken her name, humbly calling yourselves her Servants.'

Peter Damian - Feb. 21

Peter Damian was born in or around 1007 in Ravenna, Italy. He acquired the name Damianus after his elder brother, who cared for him in his youth. Peter studied liberal arts and law in Ravenna, Faenza and Parma, and gained a reputation as a good teacher of rhetoric. About 1035, Damian experienced a religious conversion and entered the old monastery at Fonte Avellana, near Gubbio. Because of his zealous devotion and his learning, Damian was soon entrusted with administrative and teaching tasks in his own and other monasteries. He became prior of Fonte Avellana in 1043 and led the monastery to a new prosperity. Damian developed into one of the most influential persons in the Church of his time who, through his writings and personal contacts, sought to foster monastic reform and reform of the Church. In 1057, Damian was nominated Cardinal-Bishop of Ostia against his will; he was later relieved of at least some of the many duties related to the office. Because of Damian's rhetorical skills and his knowledge of Canon Law, the Pope used him as his own legate on several occasions. Damian died when returning from one such mission on the 22nd or 23rd of February 1072 in Faenza.

Peter Damian was a voluminous writer. The most important part of his production is his letters, which number 180. Damian's few treatises are also included in the collection of letters because they take the form of letters. The only one of Damian's works which is considered to be of philosophical interest is Letter 119, which is better known as *De divina omnipotentia (On Divine Omnipotence)*. This letter is addressed to Abbot Didier of Monte Cassino and his community, and it is dated at the beginning of 1065. In this work, Damian treats two questions related to the limits of divine power: can God restore virginity to a woman who has lost it, and, can God change the past?

Feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

So what are we celebrating on February 22? On the one hand, there is a physical object--an ancient, ornamented chair--located in the apse of St. Peter's Basilica below the well-known, stained glass image depicting the Holy Spirit as a dove. On the other hand, there is the spiritual authority that this chair represents.

The physical chair is about one foot ten inches above the ground, and two feet eleven and seven-eighths inches wide; the sides are two feet one and one-half inches deep; the height of the back up to the tympanum is three feet five and one-third inches; the entire height of the chair is four feet seven and one-eighth inches. The oldest portion is a perfectly plain oaken arm-chair with four legs connected by cross-bars. The wood is much worm-eaten, and pieces have been cut from various spots at different times, evidently for relics, and to the right and left of the seat four strong iron rings, intended for carrying-poles, are set into the legs. In order to preserve for posterity this precious relic, Alexander VI enclosed, after the designs of the famous Italian architect Bernini, the *Cathedra Petri* above the apsidal altar of St. Peter's in a gigantic casing of bronze, supported by four Doctors of the Church (Ambrose, Augustine, Athanasius, Chrysostom).

Concerning the spiritual significance of the feast, Benedict XVI said, "This is a very ancient tradition, proven to have existed in Rome since the fourth century. On it we give thanks to God for the mission he entrusted to the Apostle Peter and his Successors. "Cathedra" literally means the established seat of the Bishop, placed in the mother church of a diocese which for this reason is known as a "cathedral"; it is the symbol of the Bishop's authority



Chair of St. Peter (Vatican Basilica)

and in particular, of his "magisterium", that is, the evangelical teaching which, as a successor of the Apostles, he is called to safeguard and to transmit to the Christian Community. The See of Rome, after St Peter's travels, thus came to be recognized as the See of the Successor of Peter, and its Bishop's "cathedra," thus, represented the mission entrusted to him by Christ to tend his entire flock. Celebrating the "Chair" of Peter, therefore, means attributing a strong spiritual significance to it and recognizing it as a privileged sign of the love of God, the eternal Good Shepherd, who wanted to gather his whole Church and lead her on the path of salvation."

Saints Jacinta and Francisco Marto - Feb. 20

Between May 13 and October 13, 1917, three young Portuguese shepherd children from Aljustrel, received apparitions of Our Lady at Cova da Iria, near Fátima, a city 110 miles north of Lisbon. At that time, Europe was involved in an extremely bloody war, and Portugal itself was in political turmoil, having just overthrown its monarchy in 1910; the government disbanded many religious organizations soon after.

At the first appearance, Mary asked the children to return to that spot on the thirteenth of each month for the next six months. She also asked them to learn to read and write and to pray the rosary "to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war." They were to pray for sinners and for the conversion of Russia, which had recently overthrown Czar Nicholas II and was soon to fall under communism. Up to 90,000 people gathered there for Mary's final apparition on October 13, 1917.

Less than two years later, Francisco died of influenza in his family home. He was buried in the parish cemetery and then re-buried in the Fátima basilica in 1952. Jacinta died of influenza in Lisbon in 1920, offering her suffering for the conversion of sinners, peace in the world, and the Holy Father. She was re-buried in the Fátima basilica in 1951. Their older cousin Lúcia dos Santos, became a Carmelite nun and was still living when Jacinta and Francisco were beatified in 2000; she died five years later. Pope Francis canonized the younger children on his visit to Fátima to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first apparition--May 13, 2017. The shrine of Our Lady of Fátima is visited by up to 20 million people a year.

Did Jesus Really Call All Gentiles Dogs?

We love our pets and often treat them as members of the family. So it seems strange that Jesus would seemingly use that term to describe a Gentile woman. Both Matthew and Mark record a meeting between the Judean Jesus and a Greek woman. Jesus goes to Tyre and Sidon (an allotment territory of the tribe of Asher that was never fully taken over by Israel). There, he meets a desperate mother willing to do anything for her suffering child: "*Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely tormented by a demon.*"

As we continue reading, we see that Jesus first gave her the silent treatment. Then, when his Jewish disciples demanded he answer her, he responded: "*I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*" However, the woman was relentless. "*She came, knelt before him, and said, "Lord, help me!" He answered her: "It isn't right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."*

The most offensive statement, of course, has to do with Jesus' comparison of Greek Gentiles to dogs. The key to understanding this text is found in the realization that only in the modern Western world are dogs thought to be part of the family. Dogs often live inside and not outside of the family home, but it was not so in the ancient times in the East. In other words, the comparison to dogs was not meant to dehumanize the Greek woman but to emphasize that Jesus' primary mission was to Israel -- to those inside of God's family, not outside of it. Understood this way, there was nothing dehumanizing in Jesus' response.

It is no different from what the Apostle Paul would later write: "... *the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek.*" In spite of some misunderstood statements about his seeming disregard for the simple physical family, Jesus here says -- family first! But what made Jesus act different towards her now? Clearly it was her response: "*Yes, Lord,*" she said, "*yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.*" Then Jesus replied to her, "*Woman, your*

faith is great. Let it be done for you as you want.” This Sidonian woman displayed the true faith of Israel exemplified in the Torah by both Abraham and Moses. Just like them, she was willing to argue with God, believing with unwavering faith that He is just, good, and merciful.

Guerir le mal a ses raciness

En philosophie, on parle du principe de causalite. Le **principe de causalité** s'énonce ainsi: « Tout phénomène a une cause ». Comme l'écrivit Spinoza: « D'une cause déterminée résulte nécessairement un effet; et, inversement, si aucune cause déterminée n'est donnée, il est impossible qu'un effet se produise ». Il est interessant de voir la presence abondante de ce principe de “cause – effet” dans la vie ordinaire. Chaque chose est l'effet d'une cause. Prenons l'exemple de la maladie. Quand tu te presente a l'hopital avec une maladie, les medecins cherchent a connaitre les vraies causes de cette maladie. Quand la cause n'est pas bien diagnostiquer, le traitement ne sera pas effectif.

Dans la vie spirituelle egalement, il y a les causes qui produisent les effets. Les peches ont les causes. Pour guerir d'un peche, il faut attaquer la cause. C'est l'approche de Jesus dans l'evangile de ce Dimanche. Dans cet evangile, Jesus attaque les raciness et les causes des deux maux a savoir: la colere et l'adultere. Cet enseignement de Jesus va au dela de l'enseignement des scribes et des pharisiens. Jesus invite ses auditeurs a dépasser la justice des scribes et des pharisiens. Concretement il dit: *“Vous avez appris qu'il a été dit aux anciens: Tu ne commettras pas de meurtre, et si quelqu'un commet un meurtre, il devra passer en jugement. Eh bien! moi, je vous dis: Tout homme qui se met en colère contre son frère devra passer en jugement.”* En suivant la logique du principe de causalite, le meurtre serait l'effet dont la cause est la colere. Ce n'est dont pas seulement le meurtre qui est mauvais mais meme la colere qui peut conduire au meurtre. Quand on n'arrive pas gerer sa colere, on peut facilement arriver au niveau regrettable de meurtre. Comment est-ce que nous gerons le sentiment de la colere?

En plus Jesus dit: *“Vous avez appris qu'il a été dit: Tu ne commettras pas d'adultère. Eh bien! moi, je vous dis: Tout homme qui regarde une femme avec convoitise a déjà commis l'adultère avec elle dans son cœur”*

Nous entendons souvent que le cerveau est le premier organ sexuel. Avant que nous passions a l'acte de commettre un peche, nous le meditons d'abord dans notre tete. Tres souvent notre esprit est nourri par ce que nous regardons. Alors, le Seigneur attire notre attention sur notre regard. Ainsi nous devons pratiquer plus de discipline pour pouvoir maitriser nos regards.

Pour suivre Jesus, nous devons etre tres radical dans nos choix quotidiens. Que lui-meme nous accompagne avec sa grace. Amen
Pere Andrew Berinyuy

Four Regional Lenten Events

1. Free Spiritual Lenten Retreat on **Saturday, February 29** from **12-5PM** at St. Raymond's, hosted by the Legion of Mary.
2. An Evening of Recollection and Prayer on **Thurs., March 12** at **7PM** in English at St. Frances de Chantal, directed by Father Charles Mangano and his sister, Laurie; they are internationally known musicians and directors of parish days of prayer and recollection. Parking is available.
3. A Day of Recollection on **Wednesday, March 18** in English will be directed by the Sisters of Life at their retreat house in Connecticut. The day begins with Mass at **8AM** at St. Frances de Chantal. The bus leaves at **8:30AM** and returns at **3:30PM**. Tickets are \$45, which includes the bus, lunch, and a donation to the Sisters; seating is limited and reservations are required.
4. An Evening of Recollection and Prayer on **Thurs., March 26** at **7PM** in Spanish at St. Frances de Chantal, directed by Father Joseph Espaillat, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua in the Bronx and Charismatic speaker. Parking is available.

The Second Collection-Today is for the maintenance and upkeep of our thirty-five year old boilers. Thank you.

2020 Cardinal's Appeal Needs Your Support

Our registered parishioners have already received letters from Cardinal Dolan concerning the Appeal which begins every January. This year, our parish goal has been set at \$49,000. So far, 4 parishioners have responded to the Appeal and have donated \$2,650. Thank you so very much. You may pledge online at www.cardinalsappeal.org.

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 February winner will be picked on **Monday, February 24**.
- **ENGLISH FAMILY SESSION** takes place today, **Sunday, February 16 at 11:30AM** in the cafeteria.
- **ENGLISH CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** meets every **Saturday** from **1PM to 3PM**, in the Green Building.
- **NO CCD CLASS ON Wednesday, February 19**. Class will resume on **Ash Wednesday, February 26** with Mass.
- **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 Thursday, February 20 in English and February 27 in Spanish**. Prior arrangements must be made in person at the Rectory to take the one-hour Baptismal class.
- **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** takes place at St. Helena every **Thursday** from **9AM-12PM** and on all First Friday's 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 **5:30PM**. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- **BIBLE STUDY**-We are doing a Bible Study which meets on **Sundays at 11:30AM** in the Green Building, and another session will take place on **Tuesdays at 1PM** and at **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. You'll learn who the Early Church Fathers were and how they shaped the way we read Scripture. You'll learn powerful tools for reading it, and you'll understand all about Scripture's relationship to Church Tradition and, in particular, to the Sacraments. For them, this was no academic pursuit. Their love of God's Word truly transformed their lives—just as it has the power to transform ours today.
- **THE RELIGIOUS GOODS ROOM** is open every **Sun.-8AM-1:30PM**. New items have recently arrived.
- **BOY SCOUTS** meet every **Wednesday** at **6:30PM** in the cafeteria. Our **Cub Scouts** meet in the Calasanz Room on select **Saturdays** from **9:30AM-NOON**.
- **BOY SCOUT MERIT BADGE FAIR** on **Saturday, March 7** from **8AM-4PM** in the school and cafeteria.
- **CALASANZ MOVEMENT YOUTH GROUP** meets every **Friday**, from **7-9PM** in the gym.
- **PARISH BAZAAR** on **Sunday, Feb. 23** from **10AM-3PM** in the cafeteria. This is a church fundraising event. Breakfast and lunch can also be purchased. If you want to donate items for the Bazaar bring them to the rectory.

- **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 now \$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 cmsthelelena@gmail.com.
- **CIVIL RIGHTS ICON, CLAUDETTE COLVIN STREET NAMING CEREMONY** will take place on **Friday, March 6** from **3:30-6:30PM** in the gym. A light dinner will be served. All are welcome to attend.
- **REGISTER NOW FOR YOUR MOBILE NO-COST BREAST CANCER SCREENING** in front of St. Helena on **Sunday, March 22** from **9AM-5PM**. To qualify, you must be a woman age 40-79 who lives in NYC and has not had a mammogram in the past 12 months. Walk-ins are accepted on an availability basis. If you have health insurance, please bring your card. You will not be charged for this screening. Appointments are required, so either call the rectory at **718-892-3232** or call **877-628-9090**.
- **BRING IN YOUR OLD PALMS** and put them in the special containers at the church entrances. They will be burned and become the ashes distributed this year.
- **BIRTHDAY CARDS FOR PRISONERS**-If you have unused Birthday Cards, you may bring them to the rectory. They will be used to send birthday greetings to those who are imprisoned. They make a big difference.
- **COMMUNION TO THE SICK OR HOMEBOUND**-Call the rectory if you know of someone who is very sick or homebound and is not able to come to Mass to receive Holy Communion. The faithful who are ill are deprived of their rightful and accustomed place in the Eucharistic community, so in bringing communion to them the Minister of Holy Communion represents Christ and manifests faith and charity on behalf of the whole community toward those who cannot be present at the Eucharist. For the sick the reception of communion is not only a privilege but also a sign of support and concern shown by the Christian community for its members who are ill.
- **THE NEW BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**-The new and improved Box Tops mobile app uses new state-of-the-art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to our school's earnings online. use the new Box Tops app to scan your receipt. Box Tops are still worth 10¢ each for St. Helena. The app will find participating products purchased at any store and will instantly add cash to our school's earnings. For more info, go to boxtopsforeducation.com
- **ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS**-Come to the rectory and reserve your special Mass Intentions for 2020. Masses are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.
- **FREE RESOURCES ON FORMED**-We hope you are enjoying the free parish subscription to www.formed.org. Choose one of their Bible Studies, and keep in mind that FORMED now offers you more access choices: ROKU, Apple TV, Android, and iOS. On the 20th we remember Saints Francisco & Jacinta Marto. Watch: *Finding Fatima, The 13th Day*, or *The Day the Sun Danced: The True Story of Fatima*. Listen to: *Our Lady of Fatima*. On the 22nd is the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter, Apostle. Study: *Lectio: Peter* or watch: *Saint Peter*, or *Keys of the Kingdom: Understanding the Papacy*. 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.

- **AL-ANON MEETINGS** will begin here on **Saturday, March 7** from **11AM-12PM** in the green building.
- **AA BIG BOOK STUDY** meets every **Saturday, 7-8:30PM** in the green building. New members are always welcome.
- **CO-DEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS (CODA)** meets every **Monday** from **7-8:30PM** in the rectory meeting room. We help confirm and develop healthy relationships.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **WORLD'S OLDEST NUN TURNS 116**-Sister André, a French Daughter of Charity, celebrated her 116th birthday on February 11. Believed to be the second-oldest woman in the world, she is now blind and wheelchair-bound but retains a sense of humor. On her birthday she remarked, "May the good Lord not be too slow, and make me wait longer."
- **SAN DIEGO BISHOP SAYS ABORTION AND ENVIRONMENT ARE "CORE LIFE ISSUES."**-"More than 750,000 unborn children are directly killed in the United States every year," said Bishop Robert McElroy. "At one time, there was bipartisan support for erecting policies that made abortion rare. Now that commitment has been eviscerated in the Democratic Party." He added, "The death toll from abortion is more immediate, but the long-term death toll from unchecked climate change is larger and threatens the very future of humanity."
- **EMPLOYED STUDENTS OR STUDENTS RETURNING TO COLLEGE** after some years of employment, consider Boricua College, 890 Washington, Ave., Bronx. Call Tammy Jeffries at **347-964-8600 X 371**.
- **THE CHALLENGES OF CATHOLICISM IN 2020 AMERICA** is the title of a talk to be given by National Review Vice President Jack Fowler at the upcoming Serra Club five-course luncheon on **Wed., Feb 19** from **Noon-3PM** at the Eastwood Manor, 3371 Eastchester Rd. The luncheon is \$35. For more info, call **718-798-7176**.
- **FREE EVANGELIZATION WEBINAR: PLANTING THE SEEDS OF EVANGELIZATION**-The second session of the Sowing Good Seed series, is on **Thurs., Feb. 20** at **2PM**. To register, visit www.4LPi.com/SEED.
- **VOCATIONAL DAY OF RECOLLECTION** for guys ages 14-18 on **Saturday, February 22** from **9AM-4PM** at Annunciation Church, 88 Convent Ave., Manhattan. To register, see Br. Sebastian.
- **31st NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN** on **Tuesday, Feb. 25** from **1:30-2:30PM** at the Parkchester Branch of the New York Public Library, Westchester and Pugsley. Choose any 5-min segment from a longer work written by an African American author that you will share with the audience. Community members of all ages are encouraged to participate.
- **DAY OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION FOR LITURGICAL MINISTERS** on **Saturday, March 7** from **10AM-3PM** at St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers.
- **VIVA Las Vegas**, a Handbag Bingo & Raffle Night on **Sat., March 7** at **7PM** at the Mt. St. Michael Academy gym. Tickets are \$50/person. This is a fundraiser for the Matthew Wallace Foundation. For info, call **914-619-6872**.
- **AMERICA MEDIA FORUM** at Fordham Prep Leonard Theatre, located on the Rose Hill Campus of Fordham University, on **March 8** from **3-5PM**. The main speaker is Fr. Greg Boyle, S.J., the founder of the largest urban gang

intervention, rehabilitation, and re-entry program in the world. Reservations: fordhamprep.org/march8

- **IMMIGRATION ADVOCATE'S COURSE**-Perhaps you feel God is calling you to help undocumented immigrants in a very special way. This 40-hour course runs **March 24-June 20** on **Tuesdays** from **6-9PM** at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 19 West 31st St., NY. The course is based on the Immigrant Legal Resource Center's curriculum. Non-lawyers who complete the course will receive ILRC certificates and NY lawyers will receive 42 New York CLE credits. Scholarships available for staff and volunteers of non-profit organizations such as St. Helena's. Registration deadline is **March 11**. For more info, call **212-736-8500 X305**.
- **ANNUAL SERRA CLUB DAY OF RECOLLECTION** will take place at St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers, on **Sat., March 14** from 9AM-3PM. The cost is \$35, which includes breakfast and lunch. Registration deadline is **February 21**. To register or for more info, call **718-798-7176**.
- **CAMP VERITAS** is a one-week play-and-pray sleep away summer camp teens entering grades 7-12. There are five locations: June 29-July 4 at Clongowes Wood college in Ireland; July 19-25 at Mount Saint Michael College in Newburgh, NY; July 26-Aug 1 in Emmitsburg, MD; Aug 2-7 in Lake Placid, FL and Aug 16-22 at Camp Lakota in Wurtsboro, NY. Enrollment opens 1/1/2020 and enrollment price for each week is only \$400 per camper. Early bird rates (before 4/1/20) are \$400 and \$450 after that. Registration is now open. www.campveritas.org
- **PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND** from **Nov. 9-18**. The cost is \$3,498 inclusive. For more info, call Fr. Dan at **718-828-3403**.
- **CAREGIVERS PROGRAM** designed to assist and support informal and formal caregivers. Neighborhood Shopp will be providing Caregiver Programming at PEP, 1525 Unionport Rd. Some of the FREE Services include: Care Coordination, Info & Referral, Counseling, Educational Workshops, Support Groups, Short-term Respite, and more. Call **718-542-0006** or email: caregivers@nshopp.org
- **OPPOSE ASSISTED SUICIDE**-Legislation has been introduced in the New York State Legislature that would allow doctors to legally prescribe a lethal dose of pills at the request of a terminally ill patient. While proponents call these bills "death with dignity" and "patient self-determination," in reality they are unnecessary, flawed and dangerous. Legalizing assisted suicide would endanger elderly, disabled and vulnerable people. It will send the message to others that suicide is acceptable and lead to an increase in suicides. It will leave people with depression and other mental illnesses untreated. And it will turn doctors and many other health professionals from healers into killers. Please contact your legislator to tell them you oppose this bill. Please visit: www.nyscatholic.org. For more information, please visit: lifeofficenyc.org/assisted-suicide
- **FREE DAILY GOSPEL REFLECTION**-Receive a daily Gospel reflection in your email inbox each morning. It's free! Here's something simple to enhance your Lent this year. Visit: <https://dailycatholicgospel.com/lent>
- **ARE YOU WITHOUT IMMIGRATION STATUS?-STAND UP** is a campaign to protect the rights and welfare of immigrants, especially the undocumented. It is confidential, dependable, and secure. For info, call **212-736-8500 X305**.

WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPES

Sunday, February 9 \$5,473.72
Peter's Pence Collection \$1,489.00

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.

- **CERTIFIED NURSE'S ASSISTANT (CNA) POSITION OPEN** at the Jeanne Jugan Residence in Throggs Neck. Contact Susan O'Connor at **347-329-1734** or email: bxhumanresources@littlesistersofthepoor.org
- **ONLINE TRAINING FOR LECTORS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS**-Are you a lector or a Eucharistic Minister who wants to learn more about the Scriptures? Do you want to become certified? Sign up for a new online training program, offered in English and Spanish. You will watch an instructional video, and be certified in as little as two hours. Register at nvliturgv.teachable.com
- **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.
- **MARRIAGE SAVEHOUSE**-Problems in your marriage? This ministry helps spouses overcome the stress and issues that plague so many couples. For ore info, call Deacon Mike at **718-828-3403 X107**.
- **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>.
- **THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** is the largest Catholic men's fraternal organization in the world. Membership in the Knights is NOW available to most Catholic Men through our NEW Online Membership. If you are a Catholic Man at least 18 years of age and would like to have access to the Membership Benefits available to you and your family, go to knights.net or KofC.org/JoinUs to become an Online Member. If you have questions, call **914-420-6836** or Email: william.schneider@kofc.org.
- **ANGIE: HIGH QUALITY PROFESSIONAL HAIR CARE**, 1670 Metropolitan Avenue, Apt 2C. **347-981-5806**.

SÉ LA PERSONA QUE ERES

Una rosa es rosa por ser una rosa. Tú eres persona por ser una persona. Así como la rosa está llamada a despedir un buen olor y a destellar la belleza de sus colores, también tú estás llamada a ser lo mejor de ti misma: alegre, vibrante, gozosa, sabia, espontánea, amable, buena y amorosa.

El estado esencial de la persona, según el plan trazado por Dios para cada uno de nosotros, es la felicidad. Felicidad es la mayor congruencia posible entre lo que eres y lo que puedes llegar a ser.

Por eso, la antítesis de la felicidad es la mediocridad. La persona mediocre se conforma con sobrevivir sin aspirar a metas altas y nobles. Al mediocre le molesta que a su alrededor haya alguien que le recuerde que hay un cielo abierto esperándole para volar en él.

¿Has sentido alguna vez una llamada secreta a amar sin condiciones? ¿Se te parte el corazón al ver a personas concretas pidiendo la ayuda de tu compañía? ¿Has deseado dar lo mejor de

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, Montseratte Rivera, Peggy Ward, Maria Teresa Roque, Nicole Cancel, James Leung, Millie Morales, Gabrielle Tingue, Josefina Gonzalez and Maritza Gonzalez, Sandra Miller, Paul Harper, Nancy Calderon, Miriam Ortiz, Michael Signorini, Linu Kutty and Leena, Terique Collins, Annalee - a newborn baby born with defective lungs and is in the hospital, Jacqueline French and Nancy Rosado, Alex Francis, Miguel A. Maldonado, Baby Ainhua Zoe Marrero Huertas

Please Pray for the Deceased and their Grieving Families:

Aurelia Lopez, Lucia Roman, Carmen Raquel Natal, Wayne Camacho, Sara Perez, Juanita Martinez, Heriberto Gonzalez

ti misma en las tareas que llevas entre manos? ¿Se te ha ensanchado el corazón deseando amar sin condiciones? Si tu respuesta ha sido un sí categórico, es señal de que has estado o estás viva.

Cuando vivimos con una pasión que mueve nuestra mente, nuestra afectividad y nuestra voluntad, estamos realmente 'vivos'. Cuando estamos vivos, podemos decir que somos felices, pues somos capaces de conectarnos conscientemente con todo lo que sucede dentro y fuera de nosotros.

Nadie nos regala la felicidad. Un amigo puede despertar una melodía interior que nos abra a la experiencia de estar 'vivos', pero nadie puede darnos el regalo de la felicidad. Como hemos dicho anteriormente, felicidad eres tú. Para eso hemos sido creados y hacia ese fin se dirigen nuestros pasos. La felicidad es la sinfonía, la amistad es una melodía dentro de la gran sinfonía.

No se trata de buscar la felicidad fuera de nosotros mismos, como quien busca un tesoro que alguien escondió no se sabe dónde, sino de meternos dentro de nosotros y darnos cuenta de que somos felicidad cuando somos genuinos. El estado normal de una persona es la de ser feliz; lo cual no significa que no vamos a sufrir. Sufrimiento y felicidad son realidades que a menudo coexisten. En definitiva: la felicidad es un trabajo hacia adentro, más que una búsqueda desde afuera. *P. Fernando*

INFORMACION Y EVENTOS

Feb. 27 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

Venta de Bazar-Domingo, 23 de Febrero-10am

-3pm-Artículos Variados para el Hogar, Religiosos, Ropa, Zapatos, etc. Venta de Comida-Desayunos-Almuerzos

ACTIVIDADES EN ESPAÑOL

LUNES 7 - 9 pm *Grupo Carismático de Oración.*
Misa cada primer lunes

MIERC. 10 am *Grupo Santa Madre Teresa de Calcuta: Visita a pacientes de Rebeka*
Misa en Rebeka: segundos lunes de mes a las 10.30 am

7 - 9 pm Coronilla de la *Divina Misericordia*, Adoración, *Eucaristía*

VIERNES 7 - 8.30 pm *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.



"We're tailgating."

Una noche de recogimiento y oración el jueves 26 de marzo a las 7PM en español en St. Frances de Chantal, dirigida por el Padre Joseph Espaillat, pastor de St. Anthony of Padua en el Bronx y conferencista carismático. Estacionamiento disponible.

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, February 16, 2020-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 Walter Schoenthaler
9:00 Mercedes Gonzales and Leroy Walford
10:30 Terence Lorino-NYFD
12:00 Liam Bleton Garcia-Healing Intention;
Maria Hilda Antonieta Coll Cardenas de Miranda;
Elva Montañez; Jose Elias Hernandez;
Sirenia Amador; Eduardo Nieves; Juan Cancino;
Jacqueline French and Nancy Rosado-Healing Inten.
1:30 Helen Junta
5:00 Vincent McDonnell-Intentions
6:00 Francois Dossou-3rd Anniversary;
Âmes de Purgatoire et Repos des âmes de Colette,
Felicite, Emmanuel Ahodikpe

MON., Feb. 17, 2020-Seven Founders of the Servite Order

6:50 In Thanksgiving for Favors
8:30 Tim Boyle and Marvin Akumwafon
12:15 Continued Healing for David Sheehan, Jr.

TUESDAY, February 18, 2020-St. Theotonius

6:50 Gina Vaccaro and Joanne Savino's Intentions
8:30 Shirr Teved
12:15 Souls in Purgatory

WEDNESDAY, February 19, 2020-St. Boniface of Lausanne

6:50 In Thanksgiving for Favors
8:30 Anne-Marie Etienne-Health Intention
12:15 Leona Ridge

7:00 Sandra Gresl, Harry Chernoff & Jeofory Berman-Inten

THURSDAY, Feb. 20, 2020-Sts. Jacinta & Francisco Marto

6:50 Joseph and Matilda Carty
8:30 Anne-Marie Etienne-Health Intention
12:15 David Sheehan, Sr.

FRIDAY, Feb. 21, 2020-St. Peter Damian

6:50 Vincent McDonnell-Intentions
8:30 Clara DiMeglio-Health Intention
12:15 Damienne Afeli-Birthday Intention

SAT., Feb. 22, 2020-Feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

6:50 Angelo and David
8:30 Marvin Akumwafon
12:15 Norma Iris Cruz
5:30 Herberto Torres, Jr.

SUNDAY, Feb. 23, 2020-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 Anastacia Olivo
9:00 Mercedes Gonzales, Leroy Walford and Veronica Gonzalez

10:30 Grace and Tom Biolzi
12:00 Marlene Ebanks Godman;
Maria Hilda Antonieta Coll Cardenas de Miranda;
1:30 Daniel Donovan
5:00 In Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus & Mary
6:00 Johnny Cipriani-Intentions

Names only said in Prayer of the Faithful are in Italics

Readings for the week of February 16, 2020

Sunday: Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34 [1b]/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37; **Monday:** Jas 1:1-11/Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76 [77a]/Mk 8:11-13; **Tuesday:** Jas 1:12-18/Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19 [12a]/Mk 8:14-21; **Wednesday:** Jas 1:19-27/Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5 [1b]/Mk 8:22-26; **Thursday:** Jas 2:1-9/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [7a]/Mk 8:27-33; **Friday:** Jas 2:14-24, 26/Ps 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. 1b]/Mk 8:34—9:1; **Saturday:** 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19; **Next Sunday:** Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 [8a]/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48