

The Piarist Fathers



Pastor

Rev. David Powers Sch.P.

Parochial Vicars

Rev. Andrew Berinyuy, Sch.P.
 Very Rev. Fernando Negro, Sch.P.
 Rev. Jesús Negro, Sch.P.
 Rev. Richard Wyzykiewicz Sch.P.

Parish Staff

Parish Secretary

Mrs. Rosemarie Ortiz

Business Manager

Anne Kathy Rice

Music Director

Mr. Daniel Ambe

Musicians

Mr. Jim Donaldson
 Mr. Alex Henriquez

February—2021

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

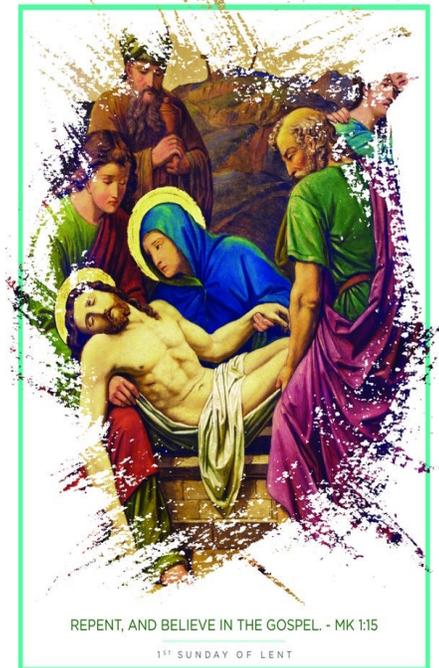
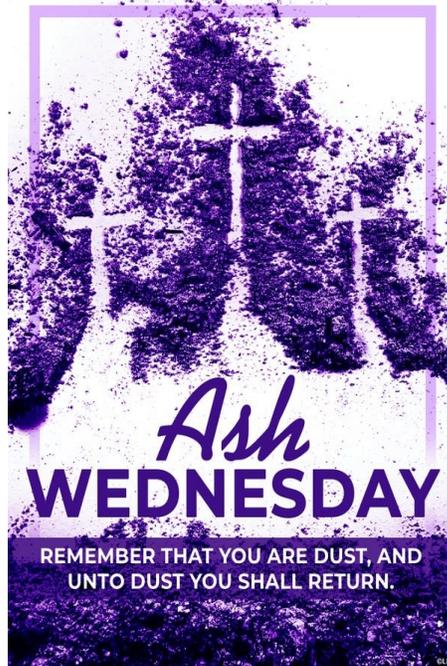
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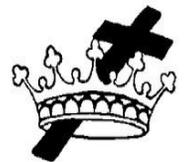
www.churchofsthelena.com

Email: sthelenarc@yahoo.com

Alumni: sthelenasalumni@yahoo.com



saint Helena



Mass Schedule (Horario de Misas)

Saturday: 5:30 PM

Sunday: AM PM
 8:00 12:00 (Español)
 10:00 (Family) 5:00
 6:30 (Français)

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
- First Friday: 1 to 6:30PM
- Sacred Heart Novena: Thursday, Noon
- English Bible Study: Tuesday, 1PM & 7:30PM
and Sunday 11:15AM
- Rosary: Wednesday, 1:00PM

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

Weekdays & Sat.: 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 de mes

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.

Stations of the Cross-Fridays during Lent-1PM-Eng & 7PM-SP



Handicapped Accessible

THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER - Feb. 22

This feast calls to mind the mission of teacher and pastor that was conferred by Christ on a simple fisherman, Simon, son of Jonas, who He named the Rock (Peter), and this mission has continued in an unbroken line down to the present Pope. We celebrate the unity of the Church, founded upon the Apostle, and renew our assent to the Magisterium of the Roman Pontiff, extended both to truths which are solemnly defined *ex cathedra*, and to all the acts of the ordinary Magisterium. The feast of the Chair of Saint Peter at Rome has been celebrated from the early days of the Christian era on January 18th, in commemoration of the day when Saint Peter held his first service in Rome. The feast of the Chair of Saint Peter at Antioch, commemorating his foundation of the See of Antioch, has also been long celebrated at Rome, on February 22nd. At each place, a chair (cathedra) was venerated which the Apostle had used while presiding at Mass. One of the chairs is referred to about AD 600 by an Abbot named Johannes who had been commissioned by Pope Gregory the Great to collect oil from the lamps which burned at the graves of the Roman martyrs.

ST. POLYCARP - Feb. 23

St. Polycarp of Smyrna was converted to Christianity in AD 80 by St. John the Evangelist. He was a disciple of the apostles and a friend of St. Ignatius of Antioch. He was ordained bishop of Smyrna (now Izmir, Turkey) and held the see for 70 years when the Roman pro-consul urged him to renounce Christ and save his life. St. Polycarp said, "For eighty-six years I have served Him, and he has never wronged me. How can I renounce the King who has saved me?" He and twelve others suffered martyrdom in 155 by burning at the stake in the amphitheater of Smyrna. He was a staunch defender of orthodoxy and an energetic opponent of any heresy, especially Marcionism and Valentinianism which were the most influential of the Gnostic sects.

ST. WALBURGA - Feb. 25

St. Walburga was born around 710. She is the daughter of Saint Richard and the niece of St. Boniface. When St. Richard set out on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with his sons, Sts. Willibald & Winibald, he entrusted 11-year-old Walburga to the monastery school at Wimborne. She remained as a nun, spending a total of 26 years there. When St. Boniface put out an appeal for nuns to help him in the evangelization of pagan Germany, St. Walburga answered the call. On the way to Germany, there was a terrible storm at sea. Walburga knelt on the deck of the ship and prayed. The sea immediately became calm. Some sailors witnessed this and spread the word that she was a wonderworker, so she was received in Germany with great respect. She was made abbess at Heidenheim, near to where her brother, Winibald served as an abbot over a men's monastery. After his death, she ruled both monasteries. She worked many miracles in the course of her ministry. She wrote a biography of her brother, Winibald, and of Willibald's travels in Palestine, in Latin. She is regarded as the first woman author in both England and Germany. In 776, she assisted Willibald in translating the incorrupt relics of their dear brother, Winibald, to a new tomb in the church at Heidenheim. Shortly after this, she fell very ill. Willibald cared for her until she died on February 25, 777, then placed her next to Winibald in the tomb. In 893, St. Walburga's frail body was found to be immersed in a mysterious sweet-smelling liquid. It was found to work miraculous healings. The liquid, called St. Walburga's oil, has flowed from her body, ever since.

PAULA MONTAL - Feb. 26

Saint Paula Montal Fornés de San José de Calasanz was born in Barcelona, Spain, in 1799. She was the oldest of five daughters. Her father died when she was only 10, and Paula had to go to work as a lacemaker and a seamstress to help her mother support the family. She also helped her mother raise her younger sisters. Paula was disappointed that she could not attend school, and she promised God that she would devote her whole life to the Christian education of girls and young women.

Paula and her best friend, Inés Busquets, moved to a city near the border of Spain and France in 1829 to open their first school. It offered special training for girls and also educated them in the Catholic faith. After their third school was built, Paula was given permission from the pope in 1847 to form an order of nuns who were committed to her work. The name Paula chose was the Daughters of Mary, Religious of the Pious Schools. The community was devoted to our Blessed Mother and to the education of young

women. The presence of the two Piarist priests Jacinto Felú and Agustín Casanovas proved to be to her benefit for their assistance allowed her to achieve the appropriate canonical structure of her order. When the community gathered to elect a Mother Superior, Sister Paula was not chosen. This was unusual because she had founded the order, but Paula was not upset. She saw it as a sign that God wanted her to continue to work closely with the girls in the Pious Schools. Paula personally founded eight more schools. She was also responsible for the formation of the young women who wanted to become Daughters of Mary nuns. The young nuns and the students she taught were inspired by her holiness. Mother Paula Montal died in 1889 at one of the schools she founded, Olesa de Montserrat. She was canonized in 1993, at which time there were more than 800 poor Sisters of the Pious Schools in 19 countries.

ST. GREGORY OF NAREK - Feb. 27

St. Gregory of Narek is the 35th and last Doctor of the Church, declared as such in 2015. A doctor of the church is a person whose teaching on faith has been deemed sound and of benefit to the church through their writing, study, or research. Along with significant theological contribution, the person must also display a high degree of sanctity, which is why all church doctors are also canonized saints. A third requirement to be named a doctor of the church is a formal proclamation as such by the pope or a council.

On February 2, 2021, Pope Francis decreed that St. Gregory of Narek be added to the General Roman Calendar. St. Gregory of Narek, Doctor of the Church, Armenian monk, poet, mystical philosopher, theologian, writer and saint of the Armenian Apostolic Church and Catholic Church was born about AD 950 into a family of writers. He and his two brothers entered monastic life at an early age. Based in the monastery of Narek, he was "Armenia's first great poet" and as "the watchful angel in human form." He launched his writings with a commentary on the "Song of Songs," which was commissioned by an Armenian prince. Despite his reservations that he was too young for the task, he wrote the commentary, which is very famous for its clarity of thought and language, and its excellence of theological presentation. However, his masterpiece is considered to be his Book of Lamentations, commonly called "Narek." St. Gregory of Narek is considered the greatest poet of the Armenian nation and its first and greatest mystic. His writing style and command of the Armenian language are unparalleled, and his saintly person has been an inspiration to the Armenian faithful for centuries. St. Gregory's poetry is deeply biblical and is filled with images and themes of sacred history, while also distinguished with an intimate and personal character. Numerous miracles and traditions have been attributed to him and he is referred to as "the watchful angel in human form." He died in AD 1003.

SIMPLE DAILY PENANCES-While the Church has eased the strict fastings and penances of Lent, we are still expected to do some private fasting and penance. It need not be fasting from food, but we can all do some daily penance which will help to keep our unruly minds and bodies in check while at the same time it will show that we are grateful to our loving Savior for everything that he suffered for us. A kind word, a few extra prayers each day, control of our temper in the home, less talk and especially less uncharitable talk among our neighbors, a helping hand to a neighbor in need, a fervent prayer, and a donation toward helping the starving millions at home and in other lands. The sincere Catholic will find a hundred such ways during this Lenten season. We can all keep the last verse of today's reading before our minds with great profit. "Repent and believe in the gospel." This is the essence, the marrow, of Christ's teaching. Turn away from sin and come back to God.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS takes place in the church every Friday during Lent at **1PM** in English and **7PM** in Spanish.

SECOND COLLECTION taken this weekend, is for our Boilers/Utility Fund.

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION-Thank you for your support of last week's Peter's Pence Collection. If you missed the collection, it is not too late to give. Visit www.usccb.org/peters-pence.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES resume **Wed., Feb. 24.**

FIRST COMMUNION FAMILY SESSION takes place today **Sun., Feb. 21 at 11:30AM** in the cafeteria. It is important that

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

the parents of any child expecting to receive First Communion in May attend. We will discuss Penance and First Communion.

SPANISH FAMILY SESSION takes place today **Sunday, February 21** at **1PM** in the cafeteria. Parents should attend.

NEXT FOOD PANTRY FEB. 21-We will have our next Hot Meal Food Pantry today, **Sunday, Feb. 21** at **11AM** in the Green Building. The grand opening of our regular Food Pantry will be on St. Patrick's Day, **Wed., March 17** at **12PM**.

ENGLISH BIBLE STUDY has resumed on **Tuesdays** and on **Sundays**. Classes will be at **1PM and 7:30PM** on **Tuesdays** and **Sundays** at **11:15AM**. Our study topic will be Jesus in the Bible.

SPANISH PRAYER GROUP every **Mon.** at **7PM** in the church.

ENGLISH PRAYER GROUP every **Sat** at **1PM** in Green Bldg.

CALASANZ MOVEMENT YOUTH GROUP is now meeting virtually every **Friday** at **7PM**.

LEGION OF MARY meets every **Sat.** at **1PM** in Peralta Room.

PARISH CALENDARS are still available in the Rectory.

2021 CARDINAL'S APPEAL-Our parish goal is \$51,500, and we are now at 25% of our goal with \$13,207 pledged from 35 people. Missionary discipleship begins with Catholic Education and is nurtured through a lifetime of formation and gradual conversion. Our Catholic schools are supported by the Cardinal's Appeal. Visit www.cardinalsappeal.org to make a gift.

PARISH BAPTISMS-You must attend a one-hour baptismal class prior to the event. You must come to the rectory and register for the class, which takes place on **Thursday** evenings at **7PM**.

ST. HELENA SELF-TESTING SITE-NYC Test and Trace staff is at St. Helena, **Feb. 22-25** from **9AM-4PM** to assist people ages 4 and up in using self-swab COVID-19 testing kits. These tests are more comfortable, free of charge, and provide results within 48 hours. You must have an email address to get results. We are open President's Day.

FARM SHARE PROGRAM-Would you or your neighbors like to order healthy, locally grown fruit and vegetables directly from the farm and delivered right here to St. Helena? We will hold an informational session on **Sun., Feb. 28** at **11:30AM** in the gym that will outline the program and describe how you can participate.

BLACK-OWNED BUSINESSES are being highlighted in February here in the Bronx. To get your Black-owned business featured, contact: angel@senatorbiaggi.com

HOUSEHOLDS WHO LOST A BREADWINNER OR CAREGIVER TO COVID-19 may be eligible for emergency cash assistance, through Montefiore's Family Resilience Fund supported by the Robin Hood Foundation. Families that are referred will be assessed by a social worker to confirm eligibility. **For questions about the program, please email:** familyresiliencefund@montefiore.org

FREE CATHOLIC COURSES-Receive a free on-line Catholic education in many areas. This is a website you will go back to time and again. <https://www.catholiconline.school>

VIEW ON FORMED-Everyone at St. Helena's has a free parish subscription at www.formed.org. Just click join as a parishioner. Today is the 1st Sunday in Lent. Study: *Into the Desert or A Lent to Remember*. Register to receive Daily Lenten Reflections by Dr. Tim Gray at formed.org/lent. Watch: *Lectio: Salvation* or listen to: *My Beloved Son: Meditations for Lent*. 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*.

MISSALETTES-Lenten bilingual missalettes are now available in the rectory for \$2.

VIRTUAL AL-ANON MEETINGS-meet every **Saturday** at **9AM**. Call in at **712-770-5372**, and the access code is: 178602.

HAIR BRAIDING and hair weaving by Angie, call **347-981-5806**.

CHILD PROTECTION-Anyone who needs to report an alleged incident of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon, religious, or lay person serving in the Archdiocese of New York is asked to contact Sr. Eileen Clifford, O.P. at victimassistance@archny.org or **646-794-2949**. Info can also be found on the archdiocesan website, www.archny.org. In keeping with the archdiocesan policy regarding sexual abuse of minors, this information is provided to ensure that our children remain safe and secure.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

February 14—\$4,584 Peter's Pence—\$1,008

Mass Intentions

February 21 – Sunday – First Sunday of Lent

8:00 +Katherine Callaghan

10:00 S Intentions for Gina Vaccaro's Health and Happiness

12:00 S (Sp) +Carmen Diaz; Damienne Afeli-Birthday Intention; +Jacqueline French; +America Lebron

5:00 +Anna Arcuri

6:30 S (Fr) +Margaret Bongyii and Raphael Mbinkar

February 22 – Monday – The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

6:30* Angelo and David

8:30 S Souls in Purgatory

12:15 +Luis M. Capellan

February 23 – Tuesday – St. Polycarp

6:30* Vincent McDonnell-Intentions

8:30 S In Thanksgiving for Favors Granted to Gina Vaccaro; +Anastacio Olivo

12:15 +Ricardo Falcon

February 24 – Wednesday – St. Praetextatus

6:30* Vincent McDonnell-Intentions

8:30 S Intentions for Gina Vaccaro's Health and Happiness

12:15 +Helen O'Connor

7:00 S (Sp) +Fran Matos; +America Lebron

February 25 – Thursday – St. Walburga

6:30* In Thanksgiving for Favors Granted To Gina Vaccaro

8:30 S +Marc DeLuca

10:00 Funeral Mass- +Miriam Colon

12:15 Mike McCabe-Healing Intention

February 26 – Friday – St. Paula Montel

6:30* Alan Walden Intentions

8:30 S +Marc DeLuca

12:15 Mike McCabe-Healing Intention

February 27 – Saturday – St. Gregory of Narek

6:30* In Thanksgiving for Favors

8:30 S Vincent McDonnell-Intentions

12:15 +Abin Jacob

5:30 +Allen Cueto

February 28 – Sunday – Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 +David Barris

10:00 S +Eduardo Perez

12:00 S (Sp) +Joseph and Lidia Bastone; +A. Marino Mota; +Alejandrina Alicea; +Raymond Gonzalez; +America Lebron; Maria Gomez-Healing Intention

5:00 +Dave Noel-9 Month Anniversary

6:30 S (Fr) +Margaret Bongyii and Raphael Mbinkar

*Names only said in Prayer of the Faithful are in Italics
not a public Mass; +=deceased; S=Mass is live-streamed

Readings for the week of February 21, 2021

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15; **Monday:** 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19; **Tuesday:** Is 55:1-10/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/Mt 6:7-15; **Wednesday:** Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/Lk 11:29-32; **Thursday:** Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [3a]/Mt 7:7-12; **Friday:** Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/Mt 5:20-26; **Saturday:** Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Mt 5:43-48; **Next Sunday:** Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 [9]/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10