

The Piarist Fathers



Pastor

Rev. David Powers Sch.P.

Parochial Vicars

Very Rev. Fernando Negro, Sch.P.

Rev. Jesús Negro, Sch.P.

Rev. Emilio Sotomayor, Sch.P.

Rev. Richard Wyzykiewicz Sch.P.

Parish Staff

Parish Secretary

Mrs. Rosemarie Ortiz

Business Manager

Anne Kathy Rice

Facilities Manager

Karime Vergara

Music Director

Mr. Daniel Ambe

Musicians

Mr. Jim Donaldson

Mr. Alex Henriquez

December 2021

January 2022

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

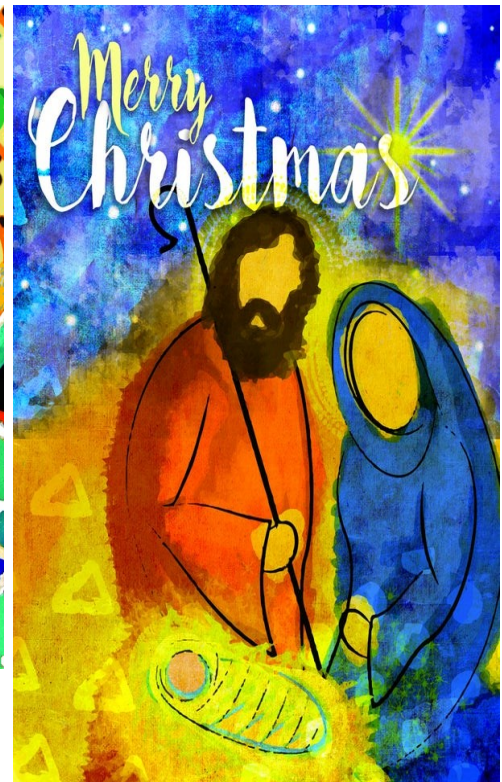
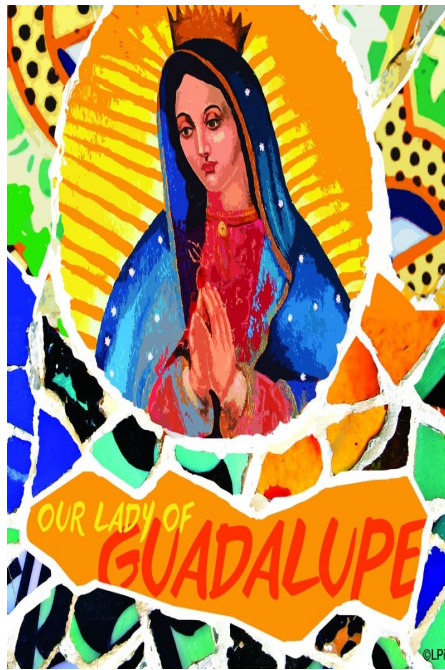
Phone: (718) 892-3232

Fax: (718) 892-7713

www.churchofsthelena.com

Email: sthelenarc@yahoo.com

Alumni: sthelenasalumni@yahoo.com



saint Helena



Mass Schedule (Horario de Misas)

Saturday: 5:30 PM

Sunday: <u>A M</u>	<u>P M</u>
8:00	12:00 (Español)
10:00 (Family)	5:00

Confessions: Saturday — 4 to 5:30

Sick Or Emergency Calls:

Call the Rectory at 718-892-3232

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, 8:00PM

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

Morning Prayer: Daily 8:30AM

Spanish Mass: Sunday, 12:00 Noon

Monday Thru Friday-7:00 PM

French Mass: Sunday, 6:30 PM

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.

Registro Parroquial Todos los católicos que viven dentro de los límites de la parroquia deben llegar una tarjeta de registro en la rectoría



Handicapped Accessible

Christ is the Meaning of Christmas

Christmas is such a beautiful time of year. Our family, friends, and neighbors are welcomed into our homes as we anticipate the birth of Christ. He is the real reason for the season, and we need to be sure that we all celebrate his birth appropriately.

Unfortunately, too many people are only concerned with the material side of Christmas. They get too caught up in the hustle and bustle of decorations, deadlines, and sales, and they forget why this month is so very important.

The children eagerly await Christmas morn, with all its glamour and glitter beneath the tree. Then comes the tearing open of presents along with squeals of delight. These memories are precious and few. But are we doing all we can to celebrate Jesus's birth? Do we teach them that He is why we celebrate this glorious day? It is important to give children daily reminders all during the month of December about why Christmas is special, and what they should actually be focusing on besides their wish lists. Here are a few suggestions:



1. Advent. Have an Advent wreath in the home, and take at least a few minutes each night to pray as a family around it. Teach them how important it is to put prayer and selflessness first. Read from an Advent reflection booklet during the lighting of the candles; and discuss how difficult Mary and Joseph's trip must have been while they sought a place for Mary to safely give birth. Talk about how excited and perhaps nervous Mary may have been that night, and how brave she was to accept such a gift from God.

2. Giving. Not only do children love to receive gifts, but they also really do enjoy the gift of giving. Teach them all to offer charity in some way to those in need, and they will begin to think of others more often. Soon, they will think about helping others before we even mention it. This is a character trait that portrays the image of God, something that concerns everyone. Sing at a nursing home, make handmade ornaments for neighbors, or perhaps help to serve a meal to the needy. These are all ways to give back, and these activities do not require large sums of money. It also helps to think creatively and to engage them in the planning process.

3. Jesus. Christ is the reason for the season. Many times people are caught up in the materialistic side of Christmas. If you think about it, it is quite appalling that Christmas has become such a huge retail holiday. Think of Jesus driving the merchants out of the Temple. It overshadows the joy of Christmas by making people stress out about gifts, parties, and too much food. Some become so agitated that they actually dread Christmas day. The fear of disappointing someone, hurting someone's feelings, or perhaps undercooking the turkey can take away from what God intended us to celebrate: the birth of His Son. Focus your attention on Jesus and not everything else.

If you do encounter one of these scenarios (and you probably will), remember to stop and think about what God wants from us during Christmas. Love, togetherness, and rejoicing are the things He really wants from us. Slow down and take in what is around you. Attend Mass and rediscover the glory of the season. Plan to go to confession during Advent (tomorrow is Reconciliation Monday) and cleanse your soul from the burdens you carry. We cannot please everyone all the time, but we can surely try to please God. Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! And remember Fr. Mac's famous song: *Happy Birthday Jesus*.

WHY ARE THERE THREE DIFFERENT MASSES ON CHRISTMAS DAY?

When we celebrate Christmas, we are commemorating the three nativities of Our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the reason for the three Masses celebrated on this day. The first is the eternal begetting of God the Son from all eternity within the mystery of the Blessed Trinity by the Father, "You are My Son. Today I have begotten You." This first nativity happened before the seven days of Creation

when everything was dark. This is why the first Mass is at midnight to recall the darkness that prevailed during that first eternal birth.

The second nativity, or the birth of the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, is commemorated on Christmas day when Jesus became man, born of the Virgin Mary, in Bethlehem. For the world, the darkness was beginning to be dispelled. This is why the second Mass is celebrated at dawn when the dawn is beginning to dispel the darkness.

The third nativity of Christ is when He is born in our souls, through His in-dwelling, when man, through grace, becomes enlightened. Thus the third Mass is celebrated during the day when the sun is bright. For man is truly enlightened when he has Christ in his soul.

Christmas reminds us of one lesson. Christ was born to die. For us the message is clear. We are born to die to ourselves. And to die to oneself means reaching a point in our lives when we no longer do our own will but the will of the Father in heaven. This is to lose one's life in order to find it. If we have learned the lessons of the first nativity, if we have learned the lesson of the second nativity, our reward is the third nativity, when Christ is born in our souls... indeed our eternal Christmas. This is truly a Merry Christmas.

Christmas Eve at Church

The entire liturgy of Christmas Eve is consecrated to the eager anticipation of the certain and sure arrival of the Savior: "Today you shall know that the Lord shall come and tomorrow you shall see His glory." Throughout Advent we have seen how all of the preparations for Jesus' coming became more and more precise. Isaiah, John the Baptist, and the Virgin Mother, they all appeared throughout the season announcing and foretelling the coming of the King. People learn today that Christ according to His human nature is born at Bethlehem of the House of David of the Virgin Mary and that according to His divine nature He is conceived of the Spirit of holiness, the Son of God, and the Second Person of the Trinity. The certitude of His coming is made clear in two great images. The first is that of the closed gate of paradise. Since our first parents were cast forth from the earthly paradise the gate has been closed and a cherubim stands guard with a flaming sword. The Redeemer alone is able to unlock this door and enter. On Christmas Eve we stand before the gate of paradise. Lift up your gates, O princes, Open wide, eternal gates, That the King of Glory may enter.

Ten Amazing Facts About the Miraculous Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Part 2)

Here are five more amazing facts about the image of Our Lady as seen on St. Juan Diego's tilma that defy scientific explanation.

6. The image is always 98.6°F; the temperature of the human body.

The sixth miraculous feature concerning the image is its temperature. It is a strange but demonstrable fact that no matter what the surrounding temperature, season, or weather, the image remains at an even 36.5°C or 98.6°F, the normal temperature of the human body. A Mexican gynecologist, after carefully examining the tilma and the image on it of the pregnant Madonna concluded that the dimensions of her body were that of an expectant mother at the end of gestation.



7. How the native Indian population interpreted the image of Our Lady.

The indigenous Indian population recognized in the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe specific signs that Christianity was superior to other belief systems, including their own. As recorded by Father Harold Romm, "*The Indians saw something in the image of Our Lady that the Spaniards did not comprehend. In that period, the Indians did their writing in hieroglyphics, so to them, the image was a hieroglyphic letter. The fact that the natives read the image is most important in understanding the purpose of Our Lady's apparitions. To the Indians the image depicted a beautiful lady standing in front of the sun, a sign to them that she was greater*

than the sun god Huitzilopochtli whom they worshiped; the solid crescent or the moon beneath her feet showed that their moon god Tezcatlipoca was less than nothing since she was standing on it; the stars they thought so much of were only a part or portion of her mantle. At her throat was a brooch with a small black cross in the center reminding them that this was the sacred emblem of the Spanish Friars and there was one who was greater than she. The intelligence that constructed the image of Guadalupe conveyed exactly the message that the Indians needed to hear and to see to abandon their false notions of God and their idolatrous practices. It is infinitely insightful, well beyond anything humans could imagine. Reading the image caused millions of Indians to convert to the Roman Catholic faith.

8. A 2007 miracle emphasizes Our Lady as the Patroness of the Unborn.

Among Our Lady of Guadalupe's many designations, she is also venerated as the patroness of the unborn. The image shows Mary as pregnant with Christ. She is an unmistakable witness to the sanctity of life and the protection of the unborn. On April 24, 2007, an unusual luminosity in the famed image of Mary at the Shrine of Guadalupe in Mexico City immediately after that city legalized abortion became visible. According to one account: "At the end of the Mass, which was offered for aborted children... While many of the faithful were taking photographs of the tilma of Tepeyac, which was exposed and venerated in the Basilica... the image of the Virgin began to erase itself, to give place to an intense light which was emanating from her abdomen, constituting a brilliant halo having the form of an embryo which shone from the stomach of the Virgin and was not a reflection; or an artifact." Engineer, Luis Girault, who studied the picture and confirmed the authenticity of the negative, was able to specify that it had not been modified or altered, i.e: by superimposition of another image. He determined that the image does not come from any reflection, but originates from inside Mary. The produced light is very white, pure, and intense, different from any photographic lights produced by any flashes. The light, encircled with a halo, appears to float inside Mary's abdomen. The halo had the form and measurements of an embryo. If we again examine the picture by making it turn in a sagittal plane, we perceive inside the halo some areas of shade that are characteristic of a human embryo in the maternal womb.

9. Our Lady of Guadalupe and the miraculous roses.

The Spanish rulers of the native population were brutal, and war between them seemed inevitable. In 1531, the archbishop of Mexico City, Juan de Zumárraga prayed to Our Lady for peace. As a sign that his petition would be granted, he asked to receive roses native to his home region of Castile, Spain. Our Lady told Juan Diego to present Bishop Zumárraga with her request that a church be built for her on the hill of Tepeyac (now part of Mexico City) where people could receive God's grace. Bishop Zumárraga was skeptical of Diego's account and asked that Our Lady should produce a sign verifying her identity. That afternoon, Mary told Juan Diego to return the next day (December 11th) and she would provide proof. That night, however, Diego's uncle became deathly ill, and Diego never returned. Early the morning of December 12th, Diego journeyed to Tlatelolco to find a priest so his uncle could confess his sins before dying. In doing so, he passed Tepeyac Hill. Afraid Mary would interrupt his errand, he went to the other side of the hill, but Our Lady came to meet him. Mary assured Diego his uncle would recover. She told him to go to the top of the hill and gather the flowers there. Diego then discovered, growing in the frozen earth, a miraculous garden of Castilian roses not native to Mexico. Diego brought them to Mary, who arranged them in his tilma, with the instructions that he take them to the bishop. Before Bishop Zumárraga, Juan Diego opened his cloak. The roses fell to the floor revealing the image of Mary. The Bishop's prayers had been answered.

10. Mary's conversion of millions counteracted Luther's Reformation.

Our Lady's urgent message was one of faith, hope, and comfort to the indigenous population oppressed by their Spanish overseers. In a matter of months, she ended the Aztec culture's cult of death. The old Aztec religion involved human sacrifice on an unthinkable

scale. In the decade following her appearance, ten million Indians converted to Catholicism, creating a vibrant community of faith that persists to the present day. In Europe, the Protestant Revolution raged, dividing the Church and causing many millions to leave the church and turn to Protestantism. At the moment that millions in Europe were being torn from the Church founded by Christ, God was arranging for twice as many in the New World to be brought into it. By divine Providence, Our Lady was creating unity and a wellspring of deep devotion among the faithful in Mexico. Her words to Juan Diego, "My dear child. Am I not here, I, who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms?", made him, and his fellow Indians, in every way the Spaniards equals in dignity.

St. Peter Canisius - December 21

St. Peter Canisius (1521-1597) was born at Nijmegen, Holland, at the very time that Luther began to rebel against the Church and St. Ignatius Loyola was laying the foundations of the Jesuit Order. After studying the arts, civil law and theology, St. Peter joined the Jesuit Order and was ordained a holy priest in 1546. He is noted especially for the following services to the Church: he defended the Catholic faith against the Protestants by preaching, writing, founding colleges and seminaries; he caused Catholic life to flourish; he rendered invaluable services to the ecumenical Council of Trent; he wrote many Catechisms which were later translated into twelve languages in his own lifetime. He died in Fribourg, Switzerland.

St. John of Kanty - December 23

John Cantius was born in the year 1397 in the Polish town of Kanty (whence his surname). He became a professor of theology, then parish priest; soon, however, he returned to the professor's chair at the University of Cracow. On foot, he visited the holy places of Rome and Palestine. One day, after some robbers had deprived him of all his effects, they asked him whether he had anything more. The saint said no but hardly had they gone when he remembered having sewn some gold pieces inside his clothing; immediately he followed and overtook them. The robbers were astonished at the man's sense of truthfulness and refused to accept the money and returned to him the stolen luggage. To guard himself and his household from evil gossip he wrote upon the wall of his room (after the example of St. Augustine): "*Guard against causing trouble and slandering others, for it is difficult to right the evil done.*" His love of neighbor was most edifying. Often he gave away his own clothing and shoes; then, not to appear barefoot, he lowered his cassock so as to have it drag along the ground. Sensing that his death was near at hand, he distributed whatever he still had to the poor and died peacefully in the Lord at an advanced age. He is also honored as one of the principal patrons of Poland.

SECOND COLLECTION taken this weekend is for the Christmas flowers that will beautify our Altar and Sanctuary.

MISSELETTES-You can purchase your own in the rectory for \$2.

NEW RECONCILIATION MONDAY TIMES-This year for Advent Reconciliation Monday, which will be held on **Dec. 20**, it was suggested that it might be effective to offer a daytime option for confession. After consultation, all parishes, including Saint Helena, will make the sacrament available from **11AM to 1PM & 6PM to 8PM**. Advent is a special preparatory & penitential season.

DAILY SPANISH MASSES are celebrated here at St. Helena at **7PM, Monday-Friday**. In addition, the front doors of the church will now be locked at **4:30PM**. However, the side church door will remain open for people to enter and leave.

THE BOOK OF MACCABEES is the title of our new Parish Bible Study, which is held every **Tuesday**, at either **1PM** or **7:30PM** in the Green Building. A session also takes place on **Sundays at 11:30AM**. Everyone is welcome to come.

ENGLISH PRAYER GROUP will meet on **Thursdays at 7PM** and **Saturdays at 1PM** in the Green Bldg and will be either in-person or virtual. You can join virtually by going on your computer to **www.zoom.us**, Meeting ID: **521 709 4814**, Passcode: **333 777**.

LEGION OF MARY meets every **Sat at 1PM** in the Rectory.

CALASANZ MOVEMENT YOUTH GROUP invites all young people ages 13-30 to our meetings scheduled every Friday at 7PM. **ST. HELENA BOY SCOUT TROOP AND CUB SCOUT PACK** meet on **Saturdays** from **9:30-11AM** for Cubs, and the Scouts from **11AM-12:30PM** in the school cafeteria.

THE PARISH RELIGIOUS GOODS ROOM, located off of the narthex, is open from **9AM-1:00PM**. The Piarist Room is located next to the main room, and is also open during that time.

CHRISTMAS NOVENA CARDS are available at the two church entrances. This is a great opportunity to remember your loved ones. Return them to the Rectory this week.

CHRISTMAS FOOD PANTRY will be held on **Wed., Dec. 22** at **12PM** in the parking lot. Santa will be there to give candy and toys to the children and canned food will be distributed.

TWO TOY DRIVES—Once again, the parish is collecting toys for needy children. The first is **TOYS FOR TOTS**. These toys will be given to needy area children on **Dec. 22** from **12-2pm** as well as to children at Jacobi Medical Center. The second is **HOPE FOR US**. Those toys will be distributed to needy children at Poe Park on **Dec. 23** from **2-5PM**. Your toy donations can be either wrapped or unwrapped. Please indicate which group you want to receive your toy donation. Leave it blank if you have no preference, and if the toy is wrapped please indicate the age and sex for the intended recipient.

CHRISTMAS POSADA on **Thurs., Dec. 23** at **7:30PM** in church.

KWANZAA will take place on **Thursday, December 30** from **4-9PM** in the gymnasium. It will be both live and virtual.

PARISH POTLUCK NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION will take place in the gym on **Friday, December 31** from **11PM-1AM**.

WE SHARE is offering a Donor Match promotion for the 2021 holiday season. The promotion will cover the period **November 1** to **December 31, 2021**. We Share will match the first gift from a new recurring donor, up to \$50.00, with a maximum contribution of \$1,000 per parish. To participate please visit the parish website at www.churchofsthehelen.com and look for the We Share banner.

CHRISTMAS CARD PROJECT—You can join us in sending Christmas cards to incarcerated men. You can pick up Christmas cards at the rectory or provide your own cards. Please do not provide any personal information about yourself other than your name. Bring your unsealed cards to the rectory, and we will mail them all as a group. The 22 men this year are: Antonio, Christian, Daniel, Edward, George, George, Gerald, Gregory, Hector, James, Jeremy, Matthew, Michael, Michael, Phil, Raymond, Richard, Richard, Robert, Robert, Ryan, and Steven.

ST. HELENA HOLY LAND TOUR-

Fr. David will lead an 11-day pilgrimage to Israel and Jordan from **October 21-31, 2022**. Renew your wedding vows in Cana, the town of Jesus' first miracle. We will all renew our Baptismal vows at the sacred Jordan River, and of course, we will have daily Mass. We will also visit Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Petra, Mt. Tabor, Mt. Carmel, Qumran, Tiberias, the Dead Sea, the Sea of Galilee, and so much more. We will stay at five different four-star hotels. The cost is \$4,300 per person from JFK. This is the opportunity of a lifetime. A \$500 deposit is required. Call the rectory at **718-892-3232** to reserve your spot.



PILGRIM ROSA MYSTICA STATUE is now available to be brought to your home for nine days for prayer. If you would like the statue to visit your home for nine days, please call Meera Job at **718-924-6657** if you would like to host the statue.

VIEW ON FORMED—Good, solid Catholic Information is so

very important. Everyone here at St. Helena's has a free parish subscription at www.formed.org. Just click the icon and join as a parishioner. Today is the Third Sunday of Advent. Study: YDisciple: Advent, session 3: *Watch and Pray*, or The Bible and the Virgin Mary, Lesson 9, *Full of Grace*. Watch: *Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage*, or listen to: *Come, Lord Jesus- Meditations on the Art of Waiting*, or *The Mystery of Christmas*. For children watch: *Brother Francis: The Days of Advent*. You can also watch: *Guadalupe: The Miracle and Message*, or for children: *Juan Diego: Messenger of Guadalupe*.

CHRISTMAS FLEA MARKET at Holy Family on **Sunday, December 19**. For table rental info, call **718-863-9156**.

ST. BARNABAS HS OPEN HOUSE—**Jan. 8, 2022, 10AM to 1PM**. To schedule a shadow day, contact admissions@stbarnabashigh.com.

LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE SEARCH The search begins for the Longest Married Couple in the Archdiocese of New York! To enter: Couples must be sacramentally married for a minimum of 65 years and reside in the Archdiocese of New York. The longest married couples will receive commemorative certificates signed by His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan. The winning couple will be interviewed and featured in an article in *Catholic New York*. *Winners are determined by how long the couple has been married as of World Marriage Day, February 13th, 2022*. For further information, or to submit an entry, contact Kathleen Crayne at the Family Life Office at kathleen.crayne@archnyc.org (preferred method) or **646-794-3182**. The deadline for entries is **Sunday, January 16, 2022**.

WE INVITE YOU TO PRAY AND FAST for the upcoming Supreme Court case *Dobbs v Jackson* on the 22nd of each month for the next nine months as part of a nationwide prayer campaign. In 2018 Mississippi passed a law protecting unborn children after 15 weeks of gestation. The law was challenged and that case, known as *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization*, is being heard by the Supreme Court. This is truly a landmark case that could potentially overturn the decision of *Roe v Wade*.

AA BIG BOOK meetings at **7PM** both virtually and in-person. every **Saturday** in the Green Building. The Zoom Meeting Code is **84360210329** and the password is **dasolution**.

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

LAS TARJETAS DE LA NOVENA DE NAVIDAD están disponibles en las dos entradas de la iglesia. Esta es una gran oportunidad para recordar a sus seres queridos.

LATIN HOME CARE ofrece servicios de atención domiciliar y formación las 24 horas del día. Llama 718-918-1749 Puedes cobrar por cuidar a un ser querido.

FORTALECER EL VERDADERO SIGNIFICADO DE LA NAVIDAD

Hace unos años, había un anuncio a todo color en EL Diario de The Wall Street con un título que decía: *"Fortalecer el verdadero significado de la Navidad."* Esta es una invitación que merece la pena, especialmente en esta época del año en la que estamos rodeados de un comercialismo tan desenfrenado, que despoja a la Navidad de su significado religioso.

La Navidad conmemora que Dios entró en este mundo en forma humana. Es la celebración del nacimiento del Salvador, un Dios que ha tomado la carne humana. Nunca se había producido algo así. Recordemos que Dios fue muy activo en la creación del mundo y en la formación del hombre y la mujer y que además, estableció una alianza sagrada con Israel en la que prometió estar con ellos y salvarlos. Jesús es el cumplimiento de la promesa de Dios. Él es la Palabra de Dios que salva a toda la humanidad de las trágicas consecuencias del pecado.

En su nacimiento en Belén, el Niño Jesús fue colocado en un

pesebre de madera por su amorosa Madre la Virgen, María, y su esposo, San José. Esa madera sería sustituida al final de su vida por la madera de la Cruz en la que realizó la salvación. Su nacimiento fue el preludio de su resurrección. El verdadero significado de la Navidad es que Dios nos amó tanto a nosotros y al mundo entero que dio a su Hijo unigénito. Dios compartió nuestra condición humana hasta la muerte y esa es la salvación fue realizada por Dios dentro de la dureza de la vida.

Por eso el ángel anunció a los pastores: *"No tengáis miedo, porque os anuncio una buena noticia de gran alegría que será para todo el pueblo. Porque hoy, en la ciudad de David, os ha nacido un Salvador, que es Cristo el Señor. Y esto os servirá de señal: encontraréis un niño envuelto en pañales y acostado en un pesebre"*. Para culminar este anuncio, aparecieron un ejército de ángeles que cantó: *"Gloria a Dios en las alturas y en la tierra paz a los que gozan de su favor"*. Este canto angélico despierta en nosotros un profundo anhelo de experimentar la cercanía de Dios. Este el deseo de vivir en un mundo en paz; la esperanza de acabar con el sufrimiento y el deseo de eliminar los rencores y el odio en nuestras relaciones con nuestras familias, compañeros de trabajo y comunidades.

Esta Navidad tenemos que desenvolver al Salvador, Jesucristo, cuya presencia como Niño de Belén es la Palabra de Dios. Esta es la promesa de Dios que se ha cumplido. *"No temáis"*, y también se las a los pastores. *"No temáis"*. Dios está con vosotros. Escuchemos esta buena noticia y dejemonos que aliente nuestra fe en Dios. Que resuene en nuestros hogares y familias, entre nuestros amigos y compañeros de trabajo. Ha nacido el Salvador, y en EL y solo EL puede quitarnos los miedos y liberarnos del pecado. Nadie más puede hacerlo por ti.

Para algunos, la Navidad evoca recuerdos, especialmente de seres queridos que han muerto. Pensemos en María en los años posteriores a la muerte de Jesús. Ella comprendió su dolor. Cada año, después de su muerte en la Cruz, seguramente recordó el día de su nacimiento, aquella primera Navidad. Hablemos con María sobre quienes echamos de menos esta Navidad. Ella entenderá lo que pasa en tu corazón. Que puedas fortalecernos el VERDADERO SIGNIFICADO DE LA NAVIDAD que es Jesucristo, el Salvador y Señor. Con deseos y oraciones para una feliz Navidad lleno de gozo y un feliz año nuevo.

WEEKLY COLLECTION: December 12 — \$5,628.69
Immaculate Conception—\$1,350.00

Masses Live-Streamed from St. Helena take place **Mon-Sat at 8:30AM** and **Sun at 10AM** both in English at [www.facebook.com St.HelenaBronx](http://www.facebook.com/St.HelenaBronx).

Our Parish YouTube Channel is **St. Helena Film Ministry**.

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



Cartoon by Inherit the Mirth

Mass Intentions

December 19 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 Parishioners of St. Helena
10:00 S +Angelica Javier; *Florence Soumagbo-Birthday Inten*
12:00 (Sp) +Jacqueline French; Por los enfermos de cáncer; +Carlos Enriquez Gómez; Sabina Afi Guasco & Son George-Inten; Altagracia Pujols in Thanksgiving to Jesus and Mother Mary; +Felicitas Morales; +Edward Padilla; +Enriquillo Sanchez; Acción de Gracia Divino Niño, Bárbara y Nelly Mojica
5:00 +Genevieve Cerbone
6:30 (Fr) +Margaret Bongyii and Raphael Mbinkar

December 20 – Monday — St. Dominic of Silos

6:30* Vincent McDonnell-Intentions
8:30 S Jean Claude Anenou-For Protection and God's Graces
12:15 +Luis Vega Sr. and Family
7:00 (Sp) Por la Sanación de Emmanuel Suarez

December 21 – Tuesday – St. Peter Canisius

6:30* Thomas and Denise Gavin's Intentions
8:30 S +Victor Ortiz
12:15 +Fredrick Fernandes
7:00 (Sp) Kimberly Mundo for her Vocation

Dec. 22– Wed. — Sts. Chaeremon, Ischyron & Companions

6:30 +Andrea Harvey and Son, Justin-Intentions
8:30 S Pauline Enyonam-Atsu For Protection and God's Graces
12:15 +Mario Reyes
7:00 (Sp) Thank you Jesus Christ of Nazareth for the Holy Family Angels and Saints

December 23 – Thursday – St. John of Kanty

6:30* In Thanksgiving for Favors Granted for Eyes
8:30 S +Robert Serrano
12:15 +Dianna Schmidt
7:00 (Sp) Por todos los Matrimonios que Dios Padre en Cristo Jesus derramó de su amor perdón y uridad familiar en todos los Matrimonios y en especial el de Alejandro Sr. y Yvette Rodriguez Veriguete de Jesus

December 24 – Friday — Sts. Irmira and Adela

6:30* +Sofia and Francesco Bellizzi
8:30 S +Dorothy Grzesiak, Stephen Wzykiewicz, Helen and Stanley Zglinicki
12:15 +Madeline and Daniel Donovan; +Joaquin Torres
5:00 Christmas Music Program
5:30 Trilingual Vigil (S) Acción de Gracias al Divino Niño Jesus por la familia Niola Quintuna

December 25 – Saturday— The Nativity of the Lord

8:00 +Catherine Carolan; *Christmas Novenas*
10:00 S +Murphy and Warneke Families; *In Thanksgiving for all the Blessings and Special Intentions of the Miranda and Arroyo Family*
12:00 (Sp) +Luis M. Capellan
5:00 Deceased Members of the Cerbone Family; *Deceased Members of the Davila Family*
6:30 NO FRENCH MASS

December 26 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00 +Rosa Ricci; *Christmas Novenas*
10:00 S +Eddie Andrade
12:00 (Sp) +Jacqueline French; +Milagros and All Pacheco Family Members; +Juan Vallejo; +Juanita Sanchez; Agradecimiento de este año de leo Refugio; Anna Catherine and Theodore Afeli-Intentions
5:00 Fr. David Murray-Intentions
6:30 (Fr) +Margaret Bongyii and Raphael Mbinkar

Readings for the week of December 19, 2021

Sun: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45; **Mon:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38; **Tues:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45; **Wed:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abed [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56; **Thurs:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66; **Fri:** Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79; **Sat:** Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25; **Night:** Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14; **Dawn:** Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20; **Day:** Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14; **Next Sun:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52