

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

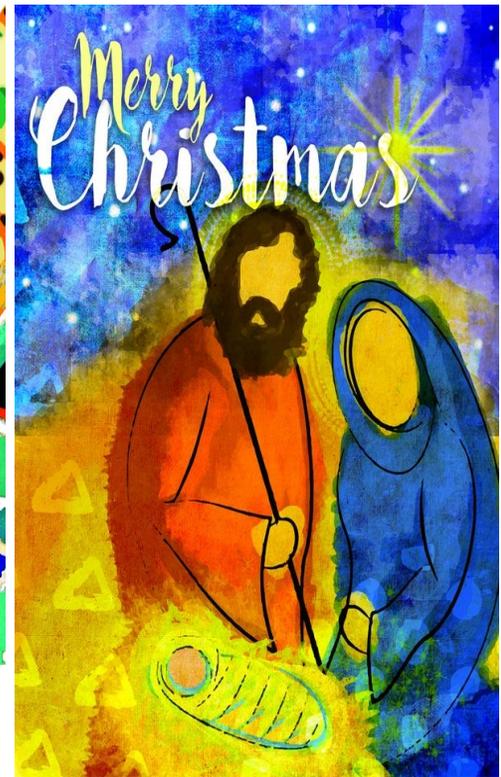
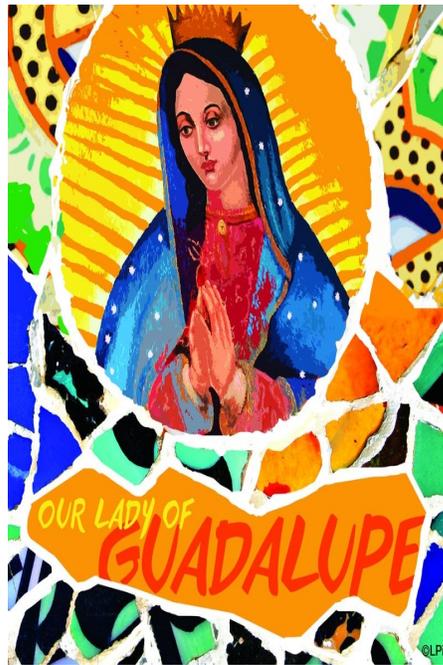
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saint Helena



Mass Schedule (Horario de Misas)

Saturday: 5:30 PM

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

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

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

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

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Today is the feast day of the Holy Family, but also every family's feast day since the Holy Family is the patron and model of all Christian families. Today should be a huge family feast since it is devoted entirely to the Holy Family as a model for the Christian family life. Scripture tells us practically nothing about the first years and the boyhood of the Child Jesus. All we know are the facts of the sojourn in Egypt, the return to Nazareth, and the incidents that occurred when the twelve-year-old boy accompanied his parents to Jerusalem. In her liturgy, the Church hurries over this period of Christ's life with equal brevity. The general breakdown of the family, however, at the end of the past century and at the beginning of our own, prompted the popes, especially the far-sighted Leo XIII, to promote the observance of this feast with the hope that it might instill into Christian families something of the faithful love and the devoted attachment that characterize the holy family of Nazareth. The primary purpose of the Church in instituting and promoting this feast is to present the Holy Family as the model and exemplar of all Christian families.

The devotion to the Holy Family was born in Bethlehem, together with the Baby Jesus. The shepherds went to adore the Child, and, at the same time, they gave honor to His family. Later, in a similar way, the three wise men came from the East to adore and give honor to the newborn King with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh that would be safeguarded by His family.

We can go further to affirm that in a certain sense Christ, Himself, was the first devotee of His family. He showed His devotion to His own mother and foster father by submitting Himself, with infinite humility, to the duty of filial obedience towards them. This is what St Bernard of Clairvaux said in this regard, 'God, to whom angels submit themselves and who principalities and powers obey, was subject to Mary; and not only to Mary but Joseph also for Mary's sake. God obeyed a human creature, and this is humility without precedent. A human creature commands God and it is sublime beyond measure.'

Today's celebration demonstrates Christ's humility and obedience with respect to the fourth commandment, whilst also highlighting the loving care that His parents exercised in His keeping. The servant of God, Pope John Paul II, in 1989, entitled his Apostolic Exhortation, 'Redemptoris Custos' (Guardian of the Redeemer) which was dedicated to the very person and the mission of Saint Joseph in the life of Christ and of the Church. After exactly a century, he resumed the teaching of Pope Leo XIII, for who Saint Joseph '...shines among all mankind by the most august dignity, since by divine will, he was the guardian of the Son of God and reputed as His father among men' (Encyclical Quamquam Pluries [1889] n. 3). Pope Leo XIII continued, '... Joseph became the guardian, the administrator, and the legal defender of the divine house whose chief he was. It is, then, natural and worthy that as the Blessed Joseph ministered to all the needs of the family at Nazareth and girt it about with his protection, he should now cover with the cloak of his heavenly patronage and defend the holy Church of Jesus Christ.' In 1870, blessed Pope Pius IX had proclaimed Saint Joseph, 'Patron of the Catholic Church.'

Almost intuitively, one can recognize that the mysterious, exemplary, guardianship enacted by Joseph was conducted firstly, in a yet more intimate way, by Mary. Consequently, the liturgical feast of the Holy Family speaks to us of the fond and loving care that we must render to the Body of Christ. We can understand this in a mystical sense, as the guardians of the Church, and also in the Eucharistic sense. Mary and Joseph took great care of Jesus' physical body. Following their example, we can and must take great care of His Mystical Body, the Church, and the Eucharist which He has entrusted to us. If Mary was, in some way, 'the first tabernacle in history' (John Paul II Ecclesia de Eucharistia, n. 55) then we are the Tabernacle in which Our Lord chose to reside in person, in His Real Presence; it was also entrusted to us. We can learn from Mary and Joseph! What would they ever have overlooked in the care of Jesus' physical body? Is there something, therefore, that we can withhold for the right and adoring care of His sacred Eucharistic? No amount of attention, no sane act of love and no adoring respect will ever be too much! On the contrary, our very adoration and respect will always be inferior to the great gift that



comes to us in the Holy Eucharist.

Looking at the Holy Family, we see the love, the protection, and the diligent care that they gave to the Redeemer. We can not fail to feel uneasiness, perhaps a shameful thought, for the times in which we have not rendered the appropriate care and attention to the Blessed Eucharist. We can only ask for forgiveness and to do penance for all the sacrilegious acts and the lack of respect that are committed in front of the Blessed Eucharist. We can only ask the Lord, through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, for a greater love for their Son Incarnate, who has decided to remain here on earth with us every day until the end of time.

MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

In the 4th and 5th centuries debates about the nature of Christ raged in the Church. The debate was about the relationship between Christ's divine and human natures. At the center of this debate was a title of Mary. Since at least the 3rd century, many Christians had referred to Mary as theotokos, meaning "God-bearer." The first documented usage of the term is in the writings of Origen of Alexandria in AD 230. Related to theotokos, Mary was called the Mother of God.

Referring to Mary this way was popular in Christian piety, but it was Nestorius, the patriarch of Constantinople from 428-431, who objected. He suggested that Mary was only the mother of Jesus' human nature, but not his divine nature. Nestorius' ideas were condemned at the Council of Ephesus in AD 431, and again at the Council of Chalcedon in AD 451. The Church decided that Christ was fully God and fully human, and these natures were united in one person, Jesus Christ. Thus Mary could be called "mother of God" since she gave birth to Jesus who was fully divine as well as human. Since this time, Mary has been frequently honored as the "mother of God" by Catholics, Orthodox, and many Protestants. The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God falls exactly one week after Christmas, the end of the octave of Christmas, and it is fitting to honor Mary as the Mother of Jesus, following the birth of Christ. When Catholics celebrate the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God we are not only honoring Mary, who was chosen among all women throughout history to bear God incarnate, but we are all also honoring our Lord, who is fully God and fully human. Calling Mary the "Mother of God" is the highest honor we can give Mary. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the "Prince of Peace," so does the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God honor Mary as the "Queen of Peace" This solemnity which falls on New Year's Day, is also designated the World Day of Peace.

The origins of a feast celebrating Mary's divine maternity are obscure, but there is some scant evidence of ancient feasts commemorating Mary's role as the theotokos. Around 500, the Eastern Church celebrated a "Day of the Theotokos" either before or after Christmas. This celebration eventually evolved into a Marian feast on December 26th in the Byzantine calendar and January 16th in the Coptic calendar. In the West, Christmas has generally been celebrated with an octave, an eight-day extension of the feast. The Gregorian and Roman calendars of the seventh century mark the Christmas octave day with a very strong Marian emphasis. However, eventually in the West, the eighth day of the octave of Christmas was celebrated as the Feast of the Circumcision of Jesus. The push for an official feast day celebrating Mary's divine maternity started in Portugal, and in 1751, Pope Benedict XIV allowed Portugal's many churches to celebrate Mary's divine maternity on the first Sunday in May. The feast was eventually extended to other countries, and by 1914 was being celebrated on October 11. The feast of Mary's divine maternity then became a universal feast in 1931. However, following Vatican II, Pope Paul VI decided to change the feast of Jesus' Circumcision to the holy Solemnity of Mary Mother of God to reclaim the ancient Western Marian emphasis at the end of the Octave of Christmas.

Celebrating Mary's divine maternity during the Christmas octave makes complete sense in that the celebration is connected closely to Christ's birth. He also noted the connection to New Year's Day and Mary's role as Queen of Peace. January 1st, the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God is also the observed "World Day of Peace."

St. John - December 27

St. John, the Evangelist, who is called in the Gospels, "the beloved disciple", was a Galilean, the son of Zebedee and Salome, and a brother to St. James the Greater, both of whom were fishermen. The two were called by Jesus to be His disciples as they were mending their nets by the Sea of Galilee. Jesus showed St. John particular instances of kindness and affection above all the rest.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

He had the happiness to be present with Peter and James at the Transfiguration of Christ and was permitted to witness His agony in the Garden. He was allowed to rest on Our Savior's bosom at the Last Supper, and to him, Jesus confided the care of His holy Mother as He hung dying on the Cross. St. John was the only one of the Apostles who did not forsake the Savior in the hour of His Passion and Death.

It seems that St. John remained for a long time in Jerusalem, but certainly his later years were spent at Ephesus, from whence he founded many churches in Asia Minor. St. John wrote his Gospel after the other Evangelists, about sixty-three years after the Ascension of Christ; he also wrote three Epistles, as well as the wonderful and mysterious Book of the Apocalypse or Revelation. He was brought to Rome and, according to tradition, was cast into a cauldron of boiling oil by order of Emperor Domitian. Like the Three Children in the fiery furnace of Babylon, he was miraculously preserved unhurt. He was later exiled to the Island of Patmos, where he wrote the Apocalypse, but afterward returned to Ephesus. In his extreme old age, he continued to visit the churches of Asia. St. Jerome relates that when age and weakness grew upon him so that he was no longer able to preach to the people, he would be carried to the assembly of the faithful by his disciples, with great difficulty; and every time said to his flock only these words: "My dear children, love one another."

St. John died in peace at Ephesus in the third year of Trajan (as seems to be gathered from Eusebius' history of the Saint); that is, the hundredth of the Christian era, or the sixty-sixth from the crucifixion of Christ, St. John then being about ninety-four years old, according to St. Epiphanius. His symbol is the winged eagle.

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS - December 28

The Holy Innocents saved the Child Jesus from death by King Herod by the shedding of their own blood in Bethlehem. The Holy Innocents are the special patrons of small children, who can please the Christ Child by being obedient and helpful to parents, and by sharing their toys and always loving their siblings and playmates.

The feast of the Holy Innocents is an excellent time for parents to inaugurate the custom of blessing their children. From the Ritual comes the form which we use on solemn occasions, such as First Communion. But parents can simply sign a cross on the child's forehead with the right thumb dipped in holy water and say: May God bless you, and may He be the Guardian of your heart and mind—the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

St. Thomas Becket - December 29

Thomas Becket was born in 1118 into a merchant family. He studied in London and Paris, entered the service of Archbishop Theobald of Canterbury, became Lord Chancellor under King Henry II in 1155, and in 1162 Archbishop of Canterbury. Till then a submissive courtier, he now initiated a fearless struggle against the king for the freedom of the Church and the inviolability of ecclesiastical property, occasioning his imprisonment, exile to France for six years, and finally martyrdom on December 29, 1170. Canonization came quickly (1173), and in 1539 King Henry VIII ordered his remains burned. Formerly the Breviary included this summary of the saint's last days: "Calumniators informed the king that the bishop was agitating against him and the peace of the realm, and the king retorted that with one such priest he could not live in peace. Hearing the royal displeasure, several godless courtiers agreed to do their sovereign a favor by assassinating Thomas. Secretly they traveled to Canterbury and fell upon the bishop while he was attending Vespers. His priests rushed to his aid and tried to bar the church door; Thomas opened it himself with these words: The house of God may not be defended like a fortress. I gladly face death for the Church of God. Then to the soldiers: I command it in the Name of God: No harm may be done to any of mine. Thereupon he cast himself on his knees, and he commended his flock and himself to God, to the Blessed Virgin Mary, to St. Denis and other holy patrons of his church, and with the same heroic courage with which he had withstood the king's laws, he then bowed his holy head to the sacrilegious sword on December 29, 1170." With all the strength that is given us for the defense of God's rights, we must resist those who seek to subject the Church to their power, even if they are those to whom on other grounds we owe service. In St. Thomas of Canterbury the Church celebrates one of her great bishops; by applying to him the Gospel of the Good Shepherd she venerates in him the true pastor of Christ's flock who gave his life for his sheep.

St. Sylvester - December 31

St. Sylvester was a native Roman, who was chosen by God to govern His holy Church during the first years of Her temporal prosperity and triumph over Her persecuting enemies. Pope Melchisedes died in January, 314. St. Sylvester was chosen as his successor. He governed the Church for more than twenty-one years, ably organizing the discipline of the Roman Church, and taking part in the negotiations concerning Arianism and the Council of Nicaea. He also sent Legates to the first Ecumenical Council. During his Pontificate were built the great churches founded at Rome by Constantine — the Basilica and baptistry of the Lateran, the Basilica of the Sessorian palace (Santa Croce), the Church of St. Peter in the Vatican, and several cemeterial churches over the graves of martyrs. There is no doubt St. Sylvester helped with the construction of these churches. He was a good friend of Emperor Constantine, confirmed the first General Council of Nicaea (325), and gave the Church a new discipline for the new era of peace. He might be called the first "peace Pope" after centuries of bloody persecution. He also established the Roman school of singing. On the Via Salaria he built a cemeterial church over the Catacomb of St. Priscilla, and it was in this church that he was buried when he died on December 31, 335. Numerous legends dramatize his life and work, e.g., how he freed Constantine from leprosy by baptism; how he killed a ferocious dragon that was contaminating the air with his poisonous breath. Such legends were meant to portray the effects of baptism and Christianity's triumph over idolatry. For a long time, the feast of St. Sylvester was a holy day of obligation. The Divine Office notes: He called the weekdays *feria*, because for the Christian every day is a "free day" (the term is still in use; thus Monday is *feria secunda*).

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

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 at **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.

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.churchofsthelena.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.

PARISH SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM-Month One- Your spiritually adopted baby has been quite active over the past month. Already your baby is 10,000 times bigger than at conception. Your baby has developed the foundations of her brain, spinal cord, and nervous system by the 20th day. Her heart began to beat on the 21st day, pumping blood through its own circulatory system and the blood type can be different from her mother's. Your baby is most vulnerable during the next month of being aborted. Pray that the Lord of Life might move the heart of her mother to give her the most precious gift of all —the gift of life.

SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM



Month 1

Thank you for praying for me. I am one month old now. I have a heart pumping my blood and a backbone. I am Very, Very tiny and I appreciate your prayers.

A Reminder

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.

Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

Please remember to pray daily for your Spiritually Adopted Baby and the baby's mother and father.

During your earthly life this spiritually adopted child of yours will be known only to God but in the world to come it is hoped that you will meet the child whose life was spared by your prayers and spend eternal happiness with them.

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.



Traveling to Jerusalem

THANKSGIVING RAFFLE RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who made this year's Thanksgiving Raffle a big success. I am pleased to report that we sold \$6,665 in tickets, and we look forward to next year's annual tradition. All checks have already been mailed to the lucky winners. And here they are:

\$1,000	#12264	\$100	#01278
\$500	#0287	\$100	07855
\$500	#09260	\$100	#01071
\$100	#2822	\$100	#3346

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 Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and Saturday is the Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God. Study: Beloved: *Mystery and Meaning of Marriage* or *Living Marriage* or Footprints of God-Jesus, the *Word Became Flesh*. Watch: Formed Now!: *The Holy Family, Joseph of Nazareth, Mary of Nazareth, or Marriage- God's Design for Life & Love*. Listen to: *Marriage and Family, Three to Get Married, How to*

Apply Our Faith to our Families, Counting Your Blessings, or Love Conquers All.

EARLIEST CRECHE FIGURES ON DISPLAY AT ST. MARY MAJOR- Some of the earliest known Nativity figures are currently on display in the underground chapel of St. Mary Major basilica. The figures were commissioned by Pope Nicholas IV in 1292— in imitation of the creche built by St. Francis of Assisi in Greccio, Italy, in 1223. Pope Nicholas IV was the first Franciscan to be elected Pontiff.

VATICAN REPEATS SUPPORT FOR VACCINATION- The Vatican press office has issued a new statement reiterating support for Covid vaccination. The December 22 statement notes that one year ago the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued its finding in favor of the vaccines, and repeated that Pope Francis has described vaccination as “an act of love.”

WORLD DAY OF PEACE- Pope Francis called for more investment in education and less in weaponry in his 55th World Peace Day message. The pope said the world had witnessed a “significant reduction” in education funding in recent years, while military spending had soared beyond Cold War levels. “It is high time, then, that governments develop economic policies aimed at inverting the proportion of public funds spent on education and on weaponry.” The World Day of Peace — instituted by St. Paul VI in 1968 — is celebrated each year on January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. The pope provides a holy message for the occasion, which is sent to foreign ministers around the world.

PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS IS MORE INTENSE NOW THAN EVER- “In Nigeria as a whole, at least 60,000 Christians have been killed in the past two decades,” according to the report. “An estimated 3,462 Christians were killed in Nigeria in the first 200 days of 2021, or 17 per day.”

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@archny.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 a domicilio y formación las 24 horas del día. Llamar al **718-918-1749**. Puedes cobrar por cuidar a un ser querido.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

FIESTA DE LA SAGRADA FAMILIA

La Sagrada Familia es el nombre dado a la unidad familiar de Jesús: El Divino Hijo de Dios Jesús, su madre María y su padre adoptivo José. Sabemos muy poco de la vida de la Sagrada Familia a través de las Escrituras. Nos hablan de los primeros años de la Sagrada Familia, incluyendo el nacimiento de Jesús en Belén, la huida a Egipto y el hallazgo de Jesús en el templo.

La devoción a la Sagrada Familia es un hecho reciente, pero que surge naturalmente del amor a Jesús y a su familia. El culto a la Sagrada Familia creció en popularidad en el siglo XVII, y se han fundado varias congregaciones religiosas bajo esta advocación. La Sagrada Familia también se retrató en el arte popular de la época. El 26 de octubre de 1921, la Santa Congregación de Ritos incluyó la fiesta de la Sagrada Familia en el calendario general de rito latino, hasta entonces sólo se celebraba a nivel regional.

El Papa León XIII promovió la fiesta como una forma de contrarrestar la ruptura de la unidad familiar. En la actualidad, la Iglesia celebra la fiesta el domingo entre Navidad y Año Nuevo. La Fiesta de la Sagrada Familia no sólo trata de la Sagrada Familia, sino también de nuestras propias familias. El objetivo principal de la fiesta es presentar a la Sagrada Familia como modelo para todas las familias cristianas y para la vida doméstica en general. Nuestra vida familiar se santifica cuando vivimos la vida de la Iglesia en nuestros hogares. Esto se llama la "Iglesia doméstica" o la "Iglesia en miniatura". San Juan Crisóstomo instó a todos los cristianos a hacer de cada hogar una "Iglesia familiar", y al hacerlo, santificamos la unidad familiar. ¿Cómo se vive la Iglesia en la familia? La mejor manera es hacer que Cristo y su Iglesia sean el centro de la vida familiar e individual. Entre las formas de hacerlo están: leer la Escritura con regularidad, rezar a diario, asistir a Misa al menos los domingos y días de precepto, imitar las acciones de la Sagrada Familia, etc., todo ello realizado en común como unidad familiar.

Además de cultivar las acciones positivas, la Iglesia entiende que varias acciones y comportamientos son contrarios al plan divino de Dios para la familia, y deben ser evitados. Entre ellas se encuentran el aborto, la anticoncepción, el matrimonio entre personas del mismo sexo, la poligamia, la investigación con células madre embrionarias, el divorcio, el abuso conyugal, el abuso de menores y la cohabitación. La enseñanza católica es que un matrimonio debe estar abierto a los niños. Todo lo artificial que lo impida es contrario a la ley divina. Además, la pobreza, la falta de atención sanitaria y otros problemas de justicia social deben ser abordados por los cristianos fieles debido al efecto negativo que estas condiciones tienen en la unidad familiar.

La fiesta de la Sagrada Familia es un buen momento para recordar la unidad familiar y rezar por nuestras familias humanas y espirituales. También podemos aprovechar esta fiesta para reflexionar sobre el valor y la santidad de la unidad familiar, y para evaluar nuestra propia vida familiar.

WEEKLY COLLECTION: December 19 — \$4,824.94
Christmas Flowers—\$1,886.00

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*

Mass Intentions

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

8:00 +Rosa Ricci; *Christmas Novenas*
10:00 S +Eddie Andrade; +Cecile Monteavaro, Margarete Friedberger and Alfred Wallach
12:00 (Sp) +Jacqueline French; +Milagros and All Pacheco Family Members; +Juan Vallejo; +Juanita Sanchez; Agradecimiento de este año de parte de Leo Refugio; Anna Catherine and Theodore Afeli-Intentions; Por la salud de la Familia Gomez Morocho; + Tomasa Montenegro Tello; In Honor of St. Michael
5:00 Fr. David Murray-Intentions
6:30 (Fr) +Margaret Bongyii and Raphael Mbinkar

December 27 – Monday — St. John the Evangelist

6:30* For Brenda and Scott Van de Weghe to Understand the Need to be Reconciled to God and to Practice Their Faith
8:30 S +Balbina Rebllo; *Christmas Novena*
12:15 Deceased Members of the Farley and McKee Families
7:00 (Sp) Adolphe Koffi Amevor-Intentions

December 28 – Tuesday – Feast of the Holy Innocents

6:30* In Thanksgiving for Favors Granted to the Van de Weghes
8:30 S Gloria Della Pizza for Good Health; *Christmas Novena*
10:00 Funeral Mass- +Irene Becerril
12:15 +Samuel Delgado
7:00 (Sp) +Teresa Isidoro Escamilla y Armando Espinoza Placido

December 29– Wednesday — St. Thomas Becket

6:30 Christmas Novena
8:30 S +Jose Davila-Ortiz
12:15 +Esther and Ramona Morales
7:00 (Sp) In Thanksgiving to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit for Niche's Health

December 30 – Thursday – St. Egwin

6:30* Christmas Novena
8:30 S +Mary Falkowska
12:15 +Joan T. Sullivan

December 31 – Friday — St. Sylvester

6:30* Christmas Novena
8:30 S +Dedra O'Connor
12:15 Deceased Members of the Cerbone Family
5:30 Trilingual Vigil (S) +Jose and Remedios Delacruz; Acción de Gracias por año más de Vida de la Familia Galicia Cruz

January 1, 2022 – Saturday— Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

8:00 *NO 8:00 MASS*
10:00 S Deceased Members of the Torrens & Gramlich Families In Thanksgiving for all the Blessings and Special Intentions of the Miranda and Arroyo Families
12:00 (Sp) Para que se un año de bendiciones Familia Galicia Cruz y por el cumpleaños del Padre Vinod
5:30 Vigil Thomas and Denise Gavin Family-Intentions
6:30 *NO FRENCH MASS*

January 2 – Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 +Mabel Schoenthaler
10:00 S David and Sandra Savino's Utmost Capacity to be Welcomed by God at the End of Their Earthly Lives
12:00 (Sp) +Asia Morales; +Blanca, Marina, Martha, Evelio and Jorge Mejia
5:00 +Genevieve Cerbone
6:30 (Fr) +Jean-Guy Bosquet; Margaret Bongyii and Raphael Mbinkar

Readings for the week of December 26, 2021

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; **Mon:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8; **Tues:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18; **Wed:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35; **Thurs:** 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40; **Fri:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18; **Sat:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21; **Next Sun:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12