

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

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

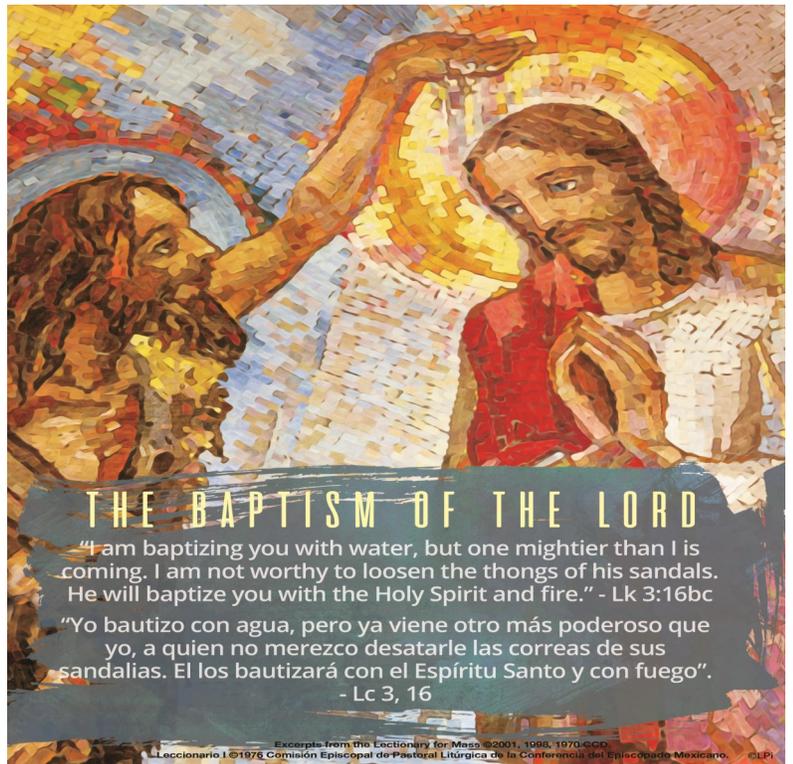
Phone: (718) 892-3232

Fax: (718) 892-7713

www.churchofsthelena.com

Email: sthelenarc@yahoo.com

Alumni: sthelenasalumni@yahoo.com



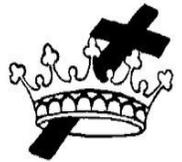
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

"I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." - Lk 3:16bc

"Yo bautizo con agua, pero ya viene otro más poderoso que yo, a quien no merezco desatarle las correas de sus sandalias. El los bautizará con el Espíritu Santo y con fuego".
- Lc 3, 16

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970-CCD
©1978 Comisión Episcopal de Pastoral Litúrgica de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano, C.L.P.

saínt Helena



Mass Schedule (Horario de Misas)

Holy Days: 8:30AM, 12:15 PM, 8:00 PM

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

Saturday: 5:30 PM

Sunday: AM

8:00

PM

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

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

Martin Luther King Jr.

This year, Martin Luther King Jr. Day will be celebrated on **Monday, January 17**. During his speech to Congress, Pope Francis paid special tribute to the contributions of four great Americans – two Catholics, Dorothy Day and Thomas Merton, and two non-Catholics, President Abraham Lincoln and civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. King's fight against discrimination and segregation changed American history and gave hope to millions of a future of equality.

One of the most inspiring moments of King's life was his August 28, 1963, March on Washington, and his "I Have a Dream" speech, where he stated, "I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." Pope Francis noted the importance of King's dream, one that continues to inspire many Americans and people from around the world to this day: "Here too I think of the march which Martin Luther King led from Selma to Montgomery fifty years ago as part of the campaign to fulfill his "dream" of full civil and political rights for African Americans. That dream continues to inspire us all, because America continues to be, for many, a land of "dreams"; dreams which lead to action, to participation, to commitment; dreams which awaken what is often deepest and truest in the life of a people.

Dr. King's call for racial equality is echoed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. "Created in the image of the one God and also equally endowed with rational souls, all men have the same nature and the same origin. Redeemed by the sacrifice of Christ, all are called to participate in the same divine beatitude: all, therefore, enjoy an equal dignity." Pope Francis noted that King's message of equality is rooted in the Gospel passage of the Golden Rule. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you".

As the Holy Father stated: "This Rule points us in a clear direction. Let us treat others with the same passion and compassion with which we want to be treated. Let us seek for others the same possibilities which we seek for ourselves. Let us help others to grow, as we would like to be helped ourselves. In a word, if we want security, let us give security; if we want life, let us give life; if we want opportunities, let us provide opportunities. The yardstick we use for others will be the yardstick which time will use for us. The Golden Rule also reminds us of our responsibility to protect and defend human life at every stage of its development." The struggle for equality often places us in conflict with policies or laws that seem to contradict this Gospel message. Determining how to respond can be a great challenge. In his famous "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," Dr. King eloquently conveyed his approach to resolving this conflict. His answer was rooted in the teaching of St. Augustine that "An unjust law is no law at all," as well as the guidance of St. Thomas Aquinas: "Now, what is the difference between the two? How does one determine when a law is just or unjust? A just law is a man-made code that squares us with the moral law or the law of God. An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law. To put it in the terms of St. Thomas Aquinas, an unjust law is a human law that is not rooted in eternal and natural law. Any law that uplifts human personality is just. Any law that degrades human personality is unjust."

Recent events demonstrate that we still have much work to do to achieve the racial equality of which King dreamed. It is clear that the many wounds and effects of slavery and segregation remain enormous challenges facing our country, its citizens, and all its policymakers. Moreover, other forms of inequality continue to be problems that degrade the dignity of man. As the Catechism states, "There exist also sinful inequalities that affect millions of men and women, such as the excessive economic and social disparity between individuals and peoples of the one human race is a source of scandal and militates against social justice, equity, human dignity, as well as social and international peace." Yet, while the struggle began by Dr. Martin Luther King and others continues, Pope Francis reminds us not to lose hope: "Building a nation calls us to recognize that we must constantly relate to all others, rejecting a mindset of hostility in order to adopt one of reciprocal subsidiarity, in a constant effort to do our best. I am confident that we can do this."

National Day of Service:

On January 17, 2022, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday will mark the 27th anniversary of the national day of service. This day was established to honor the life and legacy of Dr. King and to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their lives and communities. Americans celebrated the first official Martin Luther King Day, which is the only federal holiday commemorating an African-American, on Monday, January 20, 1986. In 1994, Congress designated the holiday as a national day of service, and marked the third Monday in January every year as the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service - a "Day On, Not a Day Off."

St. Anthony of the Desert - January 17

Anthony "the Great", the "Father of Monks" and one of the two founders of Christian Monasticism, ranks with those saints whose life exercised a profound influence upon succeeding generations. He was born in Middle Egypt (about 250) of distinguished parents and spoke Coptic. After both their untimely deaths, he dedicated himself wholly to acts of mortification. One day while in a church, he heard the words of the Gospel: "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have, and give it to the poor." It seemed as if Christ had spoken to him personally, giving a command he must obey. Without delay, he sold his property, gave all the proceeds to the poor, and went into the desert (about 270). When overcome by fatigue, his bed was on the hard ground. He fasted rigorously, ate only bread and salt, and drank only water. Nor would he take food before sundown; at times he passed two days without any proper nourishment. Often, he spent whole nights in deep prayer and fasting. He suffered repeatedly from diabolical attacks, but these merely made him more steadfast in virtue. He would encourage all his disciples in their struggle with the devil with such words as: "Believe me; the devil fears the vigils of all pious souls, and their fastings, their voluntary poverty, their loving compassion, their humility, but most of all their ardent love of Christ our Lord. As soon as he sees the sign of the Cross, he flees in terror." He died in 356 on Mount Kolzin by the Red Sea. He was 105 years old. A year later his dear friend, the fearless bishop and confessor Saint Athanasius wrote his biography, which for centuries became the classic handbook of ascetics. As seen by St. Anthony, the purpose of asceticism is not just to destroy the body but to bring it into subjection, re-establishing man's original harmonious integrity, his true God-given nature. St. Anthony lived in solitude for about twenty years. St. Athanasius wrote, "His was a perfectly purified soul. No pain could annoy him, no pleasure bind him. In him was neither laughter nor sadness. The very sight of the crowd did not trouble him, and the many warm greetings of men did not move him. He was thoroughly immune to the vanities of the world, like a man unswervingly governed by reason, established in inner peace and harmony."

Sts. Fabian and Sebastian - January 17

St. Fabian and St. Sebastian have always been venerated together, and their names were coupled in the ancient martyrologies, as they are still in the Litany of Saints. **St. Fabian** was a noble Roman, who was as energetic as he was admired and respected. He is famous for the miraculous nature of his election, in which, having just come in from the countryside, a dove is said to have descended on his head to mark him as the Holy Spirit's unexpected choice to become the next pope. Fabian was able to accomplish a great deal during his long pontificate. Escaping the persecution of Emperor Maximus Thrax, who had been assassinated, Fabian enjoyed peace in the Church under the reigns of succeeding emperors. One of St. Fabian's first acts was to reorganize the clergy of Rome to better serve the increasing flock. He is also credited with beautifying and enlarging the cemeteries. He ordered paintings to adorn the vaults, and he erected a church above the cemetery of Calixtus. The Church flourished under St. Fabian as a succession of emperors left the Christians to themselves. This peaceful time came to a very abrupt end with the ascension of Emperor Decius. He was a cruel enemy, and he decreed that all Christians were to deny Christ by openly worshipping pagan idols. The Church was to lose many followers, but more stood firm to suffer torture and even death. Certainly, one of the first was Pope Fabian. Arrested, he was then thrown in prison and died at the hands of his brutal captors. He is buried in the cemetery of Calixtus. The name of **Sebastian** is enveloped in a wreath of legends. The oldest historical account of the saint is found in a commentary on the psalms by St. Ambrose; the passage reads: "Allow me to propose to you the example of the holy martyr Sebastian. By

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

birth, he was a Milanese. Legend suggests that he was once a persecutor of Christians who had left Milan and who like St. Paul had a conversion experience. Sebastian believed that here there was no opportunity for combat, or that it had already passed. So he went to Rome, the scene of bitter opposition arising from the Christians' zeal for the faith. There he suffered, there he gained the crown. Diocletian tried by every means to turn Sebastian from the faith of Christ. After all, efforts had proven fruitless, he ordered him tied to a post and pierced with arrows. When everyone thought him dead, a devout woman named Irene arranged for his burial during the night; finding him still alive, she cared for him in her own house. After his recovery, he appeared again before Diocletian and boldly rebuked him for his wickedness. Enraged by the saint's sharp words, the emperor ordered him scourged until he expired. His body was then thrown into a sewer. He was widely venerated during the Middle Ages, particularly as a protector against the plague. Paul the Deacon relates that in 670 a great pestilence at Rome ceased when an altar was dedicated in his honor.

St. Agnes - January 21

Agnes is one of the most glorious saints in the calendar of the Roman Church. While her name should be traced to the Greek *hagne*-- the pure, rather than to the Latin *agna*-- lamb, the Latin derivation prevailed in the early Church. The reason may have been that eight days after her death Agnes appeared to both her parents with a train of virgins, and a lamb at her side. St. Augustine knew both derivations. "Agnes", he writes, "means 'lamb' in Latin, but in Greek, it denotes 'the pure one'". The Latin interpretation occasioned the yearly blessing of the St. Agnes lambs; it takes place on this day in the Church of which she is patron, and the wool is used in weaving the palliums worn by archbishops and, through privilege, by some bishops. In the church that was built by Emperor Constantine over the saint's grave, Pope Gregory the Great preached a number of homilies. One day when Agnes, then thirteen years old, was returning home from school, she happened to meet Symphronius, a son of the local city prefect. At once he became passionately attracted to her, and he tried to win her by many precious gifts. Agnes repelled him. Incensed by her rebuff, Symphronius denounced Agnes to his father, the city prefect. When he threatened her with a commitment to a house of ill fame, Agnes replied: "At my side, I have a protector of my body, a Holy angel of the Lord." When Agnes entered the house of shame, she found an angel of the Lord ready to protect her. A light enveloped her and blinded all who tried to approach her. Then another judge condemned her to the stake because the pagan priests accused her of sorcery. Surrounded by flames she prayed with outstretched arms, and the flames died out. The judge then ordered her to be beheaded. It is believed that her blood, which poured out to the stadium, was soaked up with cloths by many Christians. She died a virgin and martyr at the age of 13 on Jan. 21, 304. She was buried beside the Via Nomentana in Rome. All her bones are conserved beneath the high altar in the church of Saint Agnes, which was built over the catacomb that held her tomb. Her skull is preserved in the church of Saint Agnes in Chains in Rome's Piazza Navona.

THE LOVE OF LIFE

Love is not merely a feeling but is rather the desire for the best possible good for all those whom we love. Through our natural intelligence and through Divine Revelation, we become aware of the value of this most basic of all gifts, which is life. Mere reason leads us to comprehend that it is better to be alive than never have had been in existence. The knowledge of the value of all life that comes through revelation leads us to understand better this gift and to appreciate it. As a result, we worship and love more and more the Giver of this gift. This love is what moves us to protect the life of the unborn or any who might be unjustly treated. We are also led to protect women that might feel tempted or forced to commit abortion, as we know the devastating consequences that abortion will have in their lives. Last but not least we have to love, even if most of them seem to be utterly unlovable, all the many perpetrators of abortion: medical personnel, and pro-abortion activists and politicians. We have to do everything that we can to convince them of their errors so that they repent and change their ways, both for their own benefit and for the benefit of society.

All human beings are created in the image and likeness of God who is the exemplary cause of every human being. In other words, He is the model on which all human beings are created. He looked upon himself and wished those other beings would share in His

own happiness. So if we reflect upon ourselves, we can begin to understand our participation in the greatness of our Creator. This participation in His greatness leads us to comprehend that He has brought us out of nothing with a purpose because knowing His intelligence and His loving nature it is clear that all His actions are always guided by a magnificent purpose. The first intention for which He has created us is that we should enjoy for an eternity His loving company in Heaven. All human persons are called to this eternal and loving company, no one is excluded, save those who, through their own actions, exclude themselves.

This manner of creation brings us all to understand the unique essential dignity of every human being, a dignity that is not lost for any deprivation of the many external perfections that we might expect to find in a human person. A person might be born with a disability or may suffer disability through injury or disease, but these deprivations do not affect his basic dignity. A Christian also has the hope that one day when the doors of Paradise will be opened for those children, all their human imperfections will be healed, and they will enjoy forever the beatific vision that we all long for. We are also created to be collaborators in the salvation of the World. The Lord normally does not intervene directly in the world. He does it through our free collaboration in his plans of salvation. He gives to us the saving truths through Holy Scripture, our natural reason and the mediation of the Church, and we have to manifest them in our daily lives. If we love all those truths we should be impelled to share them with all whom the Lord places in front of us. So when we speak with love and conviction of those truths we cannot be accused of carrying out exaggerated rhetoric when we defend human life from its biological beginning until its natural death. Nobody in his right mind can call it "vitriolic rhetoric" when we denounce that millions upon millions of unborn babies have been killed in the womb in the U.S. and in the rest of the world. It is literally a question of life and death, for the victim, for the mother of the baby, and for all the perpetrators of abortion, assisted suicide, or euthanasia. The victim will have his earthly life terminated; the mother will suffer greatly for her actions, and the perpetrator and the mother will live under the shadow of the great unhappiness of having rejected the loving truths of their Creator and certainly, they will place their eternal salvation in jeopardy. Our main solidarity has to be always with the **victim** of the crime because if the conscience of the nation is not to be moved by this growing injustice, we know that a growing number will be always victimized in the future. Our solidarity is also with the mothers of those babies because often they have been misled or forced into committing this terrible action. Last but not least, we wish and pray that all abortionists will come to understand the terrible and evil consequences of their actions and be converted.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN-At St. Helena, we will hold Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for Life and other devotions on **Saturday, Jan. 22** from **9AM-12PM**. The over 60 million abortions since the 1973 decisions of Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton reflect with heartbreaking magnitude what Pope Francis means by having a "throwaway culture." However, we have a great trust in God's providence. We are reminded time and again in Scripture to seek the Lord's help, and as people of faith, we believe that our prayers are heard. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children": In all the Dioceses of the United States, January 22 shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion. The liturgical celebration may be the "Mass For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life," celebrated with white vestments. Pope St. John Paul II reminds us that "A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and in daily prayer, may a glorious impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from every Christian community, from every group and association, from every family, and from the heart of every believer."

January 16, 2022

SECOND COLLECTION-Today we take up the collection for our Elementary School and next week for our envelope system.

Thank you for your generosity toward last week's collection for the Catholic Communications Campaign (CCC). If anyone missed the collection, visit: www.usccb.org/ccc.

THE SCHOOL AND PARISH CLEANUP is going well. All school classrooms have new hepafilters, and the chapel rooms in the Green Building have new air purifiers. Every family has received a home COVID-19 test kit.

ENGLISH FAMILY SESSION will take place at **11AM** on **January 16** in the rectory meeting room

COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND-Contact the rectory at **718-892-3232** if you would like the Holy Eucharist brought to your home. We are also encouraging family members to bring a pyx to Mass and indicate to the priest how many hosts you need for your loved one. Please call the rectory and do let us know if you intend to bring Communion to your loved one(s).

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

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.

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 own Baptismal vows at the sacred Jordan River, and of course, we will have daily Mass. We will also visit Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and 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** for a brochure and to reserve your spot. Also, invite your friends.

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 Rosa Mystica 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. This week on the 22nd is a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. Watch: *Standing Up for Human Dignity, Protecting the Vulnerable Unborn, The Value of Life, Unplanned-Behind the Scenes, Why I Left Planned Parenthood: From Death to*

Life, or Changing Sides. Listen to: *There is Life in the Womb, The New Conversation: Changing Hearts & Minds on Abortion*, or *Why I Left Planned Parenthood*.

ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY, YONKERS presents "The Historical Jesus"-Lecture with Msgr. John Meier. **Thurs, Feb. 3.** Reception-6:30/Lecture 7:30. Donation \$20. Purchase tickets at www.dunwoodie.edu/125thanniversary or call **914-968-6200 x8201**.



MRNA COVID VACCINES ARE MORALLY ACCEPTABLE
Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Secretary of State, said in a January 9 statement that because the **Pfizer** vaccine was developed using fetal tissues only for testing, while the vaccine itself contains no cell cultures that are derived from any aborted tissue, "it seems that not wanting to undergo COVID-19 Pfizer vaccination with this motivation cannot be justified." On the other hand, other vaccines (Astra Zeneca, Johnson & Johnson) are actually produced from cell cultures that were donated about forty years ago for scientific purposes that do contain products derived from aborted cell tissues."

CATHOLICS NATIONWIDE are preparing to pray **9 Days for Life**, the annual pro-life novena beginning this year on **January 19**. All are invited to sign up for it at 9daysforlife.com.

MARCH FOR LIFE-In 2022, with the Dobbs vs Jackson decision hanging in the balance, it is more important than ever that we March for Life on **Friday, January 21**. If you have not done so already, we invite you to consider joining one of the many day-trip bus pilgrimages being organized within the whole Archdiocese of New York. Please reserve your spot ASAP as deadlines are approaching quickly. Contact Jesusita Rivera at St. Joseph's Parish in Yonkers at 914-562-4195 for more info.

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.

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 must 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**.

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

AA BIG BOOK meetings at **7PM** will only be virtual for the next few weeks. Virtual meetings are on **Saturdays**. The Zoom Meeting Code is **84360210329** and the password is **dasolution**.

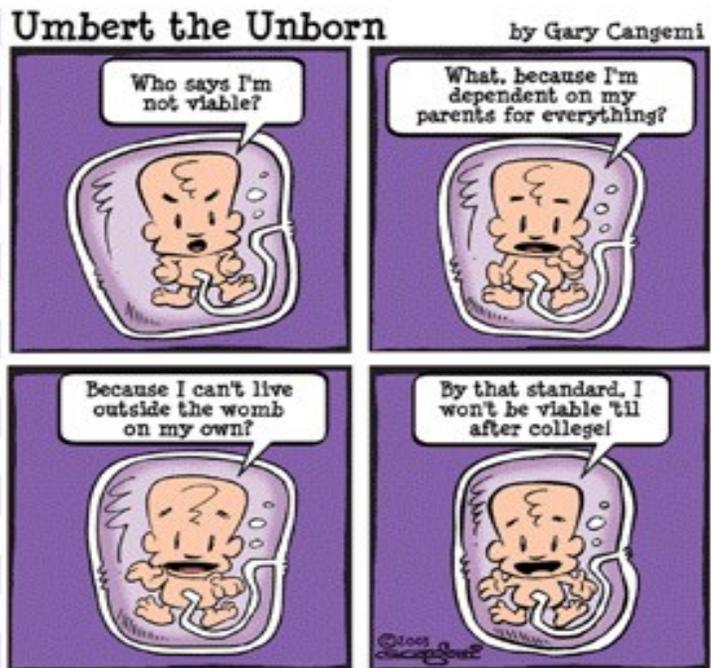
LATIN HOME CARE ofrece servicios de atención a domicilio y formación las 24 horas del día. Llamar al **718-918-1749**.
Puedes cobrar por cuidar a un ser querido.

TODA PERSONA HUMANA TIENE DERECHO A LA VIDA
Hace 49 años, el Tribunal Supremo de Estados Unidos tomó una de sus decisiones más influyentes y controvertidas hasta la fecha, legalizando el aborto en los cincuenta estados. Roe vs. Wade (1973). Fue una decisión histórica en la que el Tribunal dictaminó que la Constitución de Estados Unidos protege la libertad de una mujer embarazada para elegir abortar sin excesivas restricciones gubernamentales. La decisión anuló muchas leyes federales y estatales sobre el aborto y alimentó un debate en curso en Estados Unidos sobre si el aborto debe ser legal y en qué medida, quién debe decidir la legalidad del aborto y cuál debe ser el papel de las opiniones morales y religiosas en la esfera política. También

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

configuró el debate sobre los métodos que se debe utilizar el Tribunal Supremo en la adjudicación constitucional. El debate aún continúa hoy: ¿es usted pro-vida o pro-elección? Como creyentes, nos consideramos pro-vida. Contentarse con el asesinato de vidas que se están formando dentro del vientre materno es inimaginable. Pero estar a favor de la vida es más que estar en contra del aborto. Estar a favor de la vida debe ser una forma de vida. La ética provida no nos permite ver a los vulnerables como cargas, sino que requiere que los veamos como portadores de la imagen de un Dios santo. Ser provida significa defender, celebrar y luchar por la vida. Significa valorar la vida humana, especialmente en los vulnerables que necesitan nuestra protección. Ser provida significa acoger a los refugiados, significa abrir nuestros corazones y nuestros hogares a los huérfanos y a los niños en régimen de acogida. De igual manera significa cuidar y celebrar a los que tienen necesidades especiales y diferencias genéticas, de igual manera protege la vida de los no nacidos y promueve la adopción como alternativa al aborto. El ser pro-vida significa luchar contra la esclavitud humana y el tráfico sexual. El ser provida es mucho más que estar en contra del aborto, significa proteger, defender, cuidar y amar a los vulnerables, significa vivir y amar como Cristo amó. Las personas son vulnerables por muchas razones diferentes, como la edad, la raza, la enfermedad, la discapacidad, el encarcelamiento o la pobreza. Los pro-vida no ven a estas personas como cargas; las vemos como portadoras de la imagen de Dios y, por tanto, valiosas. Cuidemos de ellos, honrando su dignidad inherente. Valoremos a los vulnerables no por lo que pueden hacer, sino por lo que son. Este sábado, los cristianos de todo el mundo llorarán las vidas inocentes perdidas desde que se decidió el caso Roe v. Wade. Es una oportunidad para que actuemos de acuerdo con nuestras creencias en formas nuevas y audaces. Tal vez hayas dicho que estás a favor de la vida, pero nunca has hecho mucho al respecto. Tal vez te hayas preguntado qué piensa realmente Dios de todo este debate, y nunca hayas dedicado tiempo a la oración al respecto. Tal vez has considerado que la vida es simplemente una cuestión de aborto, nada más. Dondequiera que te encuentres en tu camino de fe hoy, te invitamos a pasar tiempo en oración, pidiendo al Señor que te muestre su corazón por su creación y te muestre cómo puedes seguirle fielmente en medio de la cultura actual.

WEEKLY COLLECTION: January 9 — \$3,070.23
Catholic Communications Campaign— \$510.00



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.

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

January 16 – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 In Thanksgiving for Favors Granting Divine Justice in Ethiopia

10:00 S Maria Infante and Family-Intentions

12:00 (Sp) Parishioners of St. Helena; +Jacqueline French; +Zulma Morales, Maria Mata, Marcelino Ramos & Marta Laureano +Segundo Daniel Mayancela, Jose Antonio Lazzo & Segundo Enaucio Mayancela; +Federica Arias and Agustina Mata

5:00 +Tom and Theresa Collins

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

January 17 – Monday — St. Anthony of the Desert and Sts. Fabian and Sebastian

6:30* In Thanksgiving for Favors Granted to Alessandra Savino

8:30 S +Fedencio Robledo, Hilario Robledo, Ceferina Baltazar and Belen Acevedo

12:15 +Dolores Torres

7:00 (Sp) +Flora Guadalupe Ideagues; +Juan Tirado; +Demetina Florita Reyes

January 18 – Tuesday – St. Deicolus

6:30* +Alberto Brinz

8:30 S Vincent McDonnell-Intentions; *Guirline Bosquet-Birthday Intention*

12:15 +Ana Wnek

7:00 (Sp) Telma Anith Intentions

January 19– Wednesday — St. Wulfstan

6:30 Fr. Luis-Intentions

8:30 S +Kathleen Murphy

12:15 +Ralph A. Cerbone, Sr.

7:00 (Sp) +Gary and Brian Karopczyk & Ana and Isabello Arroyo

January 20 – Thursday – St. Euthymius the Great

6:30* In Thanksgiving for Favors Granted to Fr. Luis

8:30 S +Jose Davila, Jr.; *Florine Suphal-Health & Healing Inten*

12:15 +Jose Davila, Jr.

7:00 (Sp) +Ana Francisca Arroyo and Cecilia Garcia, and Isabelo Arroyo and Efrain Soto Rivera

January 21 – Friday — St. Agnes

6:30* To Discover the Cause of the Flooding Underneath the Gym Floor and for the Reparation of the Damage

8:30 S +Ellen Richter

12:15 +Robert Schaefer

January 22 – Saturday— St. Vincent Pallotti

6:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors Regarding the Gym Floor

8:30 +Catherine Carolan

12:15 +Luis M. Capellan

5:30 +Emma Morales and Inés Belén; *Marcelo Ivan Inturias-Healing Intention*

January 23 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 +Matt Ferroni

10:00 S +Eduardo Perez

12:00 (Sp) +Jacqueline French

5:00 +Michael Guido

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

Readings for the week of January 16, 2022

Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11; **Monday:** 1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mk 2:18-22; **Tuesday:** 1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/Mk 2:23-28; **Wednesday:** 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Mk 3:1-6; **Thursday:** 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12; **Friday:** 1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/Mk 3:13-19; **Saturday:** 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/Mk 3:20-21; **Next Sunday:** Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21