

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

May 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

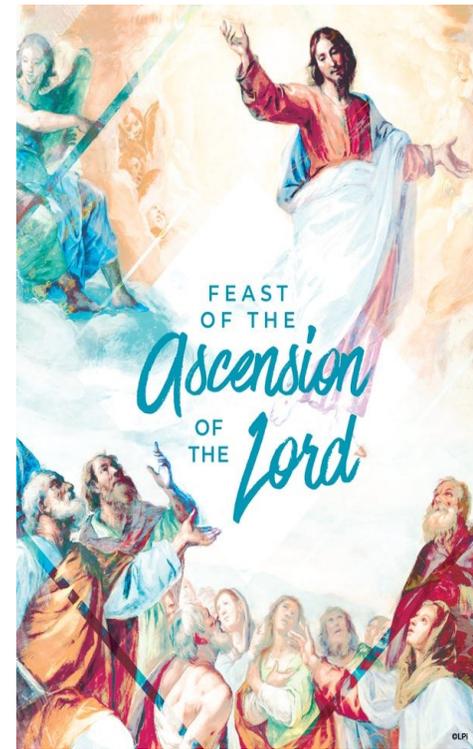
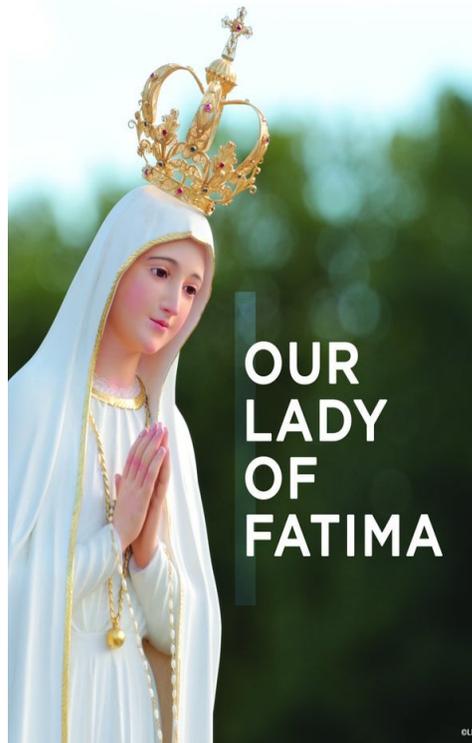
Phone: (718) 892-3232

Fax: (718) 892-7713

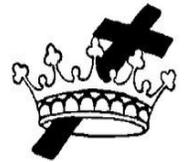
www.churchofsthelena.com

Email: sthelenarc@yahoo.com

Alumni: sthelenasalumni@yahoo.com



saint Helena



Mass Schedule (Horario de Misas)

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

Saturday: 5:30 PM

Sunday: AM

8:00

10:00 (Family)

PM

12:00 (Español)

5:00

6:30 (Français)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS-Fridays during Lent-
1PM-Eng, 6PM French & 7PM Spanish

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

MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day is a holiday honoring motherhood. In the United States, Mother's Day 2022 will occur on Sunday, May 8. Once a major tradition in the United Kingdom and parts of Europe, this celebration originally fell on the fourth Sunday in Lent and was seen as a time when the faithful would return to their "mother church"—the main church in the vicinity of their home—for a special service. Over time the Mothering Sunday tradition shifted into a more secular holiday, and children would present all their mothers with flowers and other tokens of appreciation. This old custom eventually faded in popularity before merging with our American Mother's Day in the 1930s and 1940s. The official U.S. Mother's Day holiday arose in the 1900s as a result of the efforts of Anna Jarvis, daughter of Ann Reeves Jarvis. Following her own mother's 1905 death, Anna Jarvis conceived of Mother's Day as a way of honoring the sacrifices mothers made for their children. After gaining financial backing from a Philadelphia department store owner named John Wanamaker, in May 1908 she organized the first official Mother's Day celebration at a Methodist church in Grafton, West Virginia. That same day also saw thousands of people attend a Mother's Day event at one of Wanamaker's retail stores in Philadelphia. Following the success of her first Mother's Day, Jarvis started a massive letter-writing campaign urging the adoption of a special day honoring motherhood. Her persistence paid off when in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a measure establishing the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

May Crowning

Students who just received First Holy Communion on May 7 will crown our Blessed Mother during today's 10AM and 12PM Masses. May Crowning is a traditional Roman Catholic ritual held during the month of May. It begins with a solemn procession, and at the close of the procession a statue of the Blessed Virgin is crowned with a crown of flowers honoring Mary as "the Queen of May." The queen symbol was attributed to Mary because she is the Mother of the Son of God, who is the messianic King. Mary is the Mother of Christ. The faithful see Mary's attributes in the herbs and flowers growing around them. Many flowers and herbs are symbolically associated with Mary's life and many people create Mary gardens. A Mary garden is a small sacred garden enclosing a statue or a shrine of the Virgin Mary. Some select flowers, shrubs, and trees associated with Mary are planted in the garden. Also, the Church celebrates the Blessed Virgin Mary in her role as "Mother of the Church" every year on the Monday after Pentecost.

Mother of the Pious Schools-On Sunday, May 8 the Piarist Fathers will also honor the Blessed Virgin Mary as the mother of the Pious Schools.

80th Anniversary of the Dedication of St. Helena

Today, we are celebrating the 80th anniversary of the dedication of Saint Helena's, which took place on Sunday, May 3, 1942 by Archbishop Francis Spellman. The celebration has been moved from last Tuesday to this Sunday so more people can participate, and a plenary indulgence is attached to attending Mass here at St. Helena on this day which can be applied to the living or the dead. It was in mid May 1940 that Archbishop Spellman announced the establishment of a new parish in the East Bronx to minister to the anticipated 10,000 Catholics who would live in the new Parkchester apartment development, which was then the largest in the world. It was dedicated to St. Helena in honor of Archbishop Spellman's mother, and Msgr. Arthur J. Scanlan, who had been the president of St. Joseph's Seminary for 10 years and prior to that a faculty member for 20 years, was selected as the founding pastor. The land for the new parish was obtained by buying the old dancehall, tavern, and bowling alleys of Loefflers Picnic Park. They tore down all of the buildings except the tavern, which is now the green building. Msgr. Scanlan had two associates, Fathers Gustave Schultheiss and Henry Vier. On September 11, 1940, sisters of the Order of St. Dominic of Sparkhill came and inaugurated a parochial school for 600 children, and thus the tavern became a combination church and school.

On December 1, 1940, the ground was broken for the new church building, and some workers arrived three days later. The firm of

Eggers and Higgins was selected as the architects. They had just finished designing the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, DC. The George Fuller company was hired as the builders. The building would consist of a church, a school, an auditorium, a convent, and a rectory all skillfully blended as a unit. Above the four eleven-foot oak doors at the entrance to the church is a semi-circular panel of carved limestone depicting St. Helena seated, holding in her left hand the cross, and in her right hand a replica of the Church of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem in Rome. To the right is a kneeling figure of Emperor Constantine, and to the left is a kneeling figure with a broken chain at the wrists symbolizing St. Helena's liberation of the early Christians from the catacombs. The cornerstone was laid on June 8, 1941, and there were speeches by the church's two trustees Police Inspector John Burke and Patrick Byrne. Then, on October 4, 1941, Msgr. Scanlan celebrated in the auditorium of the church the first Mass in the new church. Midnight Mass of 1941 was when the first Mass was celebrated in the main church. On April 14, 1942, the altars were consecrated by Auxiliary Bishop Stephen Donahue. Sealed within the altars were the relics of Sts. Helena, Pia, and Amantius. The church design is a basilican, neo-Romanesque type of church in the style of the great basilicas built in the 4th and 5th centuries. The ceiling is decorated in the style of the Italian Renaissance and inscribed with symbols representing Christ. The pews in the nave accommodate 1,000 people and the choir loft an additional 200. The aisles of the nave are made of Pennsylvania bluestone, and the floor of the sanctuary is laid out in a pattern of Gradorado and Adorado limestone. The windows were made in New York and are designed with circular medallions near the top and bottom and large rectangular panels near the center. The upper medallions depict saints identified with St. Helena and the lower ones depict scenes from the life of St. Helena. The main panels depict the 15 mysteries of the Rosary. The north-side windows also depict the Cardinal and Theological Virtues. The Stations of the Cross are made of solid oak. Behind the altar is a magnificent crucifix, and the reredos on which it is hung is made of American black walnut. There are 18 symbols on the side panels. The date of May 3 was chosen for the dedication because it was Roodmas -- more commonly known as "Holy Cross Day," which was first begun to commemorate the Dedication of the Basilica of the Resurrection, built by St. Helena (Constantine the Great's mother), in Jerusalem in A.D. 355. The true Cross was found shortly thereafter, also by Saint Helena. From the old Gallican calendar, May 3 was the day that celebrated the finding of the True Cross, and this Feast made its way into the Roman calendar, and the two different celebrations were later combined together. It was celebrated on its own liturgically prior to 1962. Then, the May 3 feast focused on the finding of the True Cross, while the Sept. 14 feast focused on the dedication of the Basilica and on the rescuing of the Cross from Persians in 629. Sixty years ago, in the 1962 Missal and following, the May 3 feast was dropped and both of these became combined in the Sept. 14 feast.

Good Shepherd Sunday

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday. Jesus said: "The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." Christ Himself is the Good Shepherd, who knows each one of His sheep, who gives His life for them and snatches them from the jaws of the marauding wolf. He is the true shepherd who fulfills Ezechiel's prophecy foretelling for Israel a shepherd from the end of time who was to deliver his people. Christ's sheepfold is the Church. In the Church He bestows on us His life in all the Sacraments, and His word in the His teaching. Appointed to lead the flock, Peter gave his life for those entrusted to his care, and ever since then the priestly ministry has assured the continuous presence in the Church of Him who remains the true Shepherd of our souls. Christ instituted His Church, and this Church is His representative. There we may approach Him, there He is close to us, there He continues His presence. These, then, are our two greatest treasures, Christ's words and Christ's body. By embracing both we embrace our Savior, the Good Shepherd, whole and entire.

St. Pachomius - May 9

St. Pachomius can justifiably be called the founder of cenobitic monasticism (monks who live in community). Pachomius first started out as a hermit in the desert like many of the other men

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and women in the third and fourth centuries who sought the most radical expression of Christian life, and he developed a very strong bond of friendship with the hermit Palemon. One day he had a vision during prayer in which he was called to build a monastery and was told in the vision that many people who are eager to live an ascetic life in the desert but are not inclined to the solitude of the hermit, will come and join him. His hermit friend Palemon also helped him to build the monastery and Pachomius insisted that his cenobites were to aspire to the austerity of the hermits. However, he knew that his idea was a radical one, in that most of the men who came to live in his monastery had only ever conceived of the eremitic lifestyle. He spent most of his first years as a cenobitic doing all the menial work on his own, knowing that his brother monks needed to be gently inducted into serving their brothers in the same manner. He therefore allowed them to devote all their time to spiritual exercises in those first years. At his death in 346, there were eleven Pachomian monasteries, nine for men and two for women. The rule that Pachomius drew up was said to have been dictated to him by an angel, and it is this rule that both St. Benedict in the west and also St. Basil in the east drew upon to develop their better-known rules of cenobitic life.

SAINTS OF MAY 10

Father Damien de Veuster, formally Joseph de Veuster, SS. CC. and fondly called St. Damien of Molokai (Jan 3, 1840 - Apr 15, 1889), was a missionary of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. At the time of his arrival, the Hawaiian Civil Government decided on a very harsh measure aimed at stopping the spread of "leprosy," the deportation to the neighboring island of Molokai, of all those infected by what was thought to be an incurable disease. The entire mission was concerned about the abandoned "lepers" and the Bishop, Louis Maigret ss.cc., spoke to the priests about the problem. He did not want to send anyone "in the name of obedience," because he knew that such an order meant certain death. Four Brothers volunteered, they would take turns visiting and assisting the "lepers" in their distress. Damien was the first to leave on May 10th, 1873. At his own request and that of the lepers, he remained definitively on Molokai. Having contracted "leprosy" himself in 1885, Fr. Damien died on April 15th, 1889, having served sixteen years among the lepers. He is revered primarily by Hawaii residents and Christians for having dedicated his life in service to the lepers of Molokai in the Kingdom of Hawaii. Father Damien is the spiritual patron of lepers, outcasts, and those with HIV/AIDS, and of the State of Hawaii.

St. John of Avila, was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope St. John Paul II in 2012. He was the Apostle of Andalusia and the spiritual advisor of St. Teresa, St. Francis Borgia, St. John of the Cross, St. Peter of Alcantara, and others. He was born on January 6, 1499, at Almodovar del Campo, Spain. After studying law at the University of Salamanca, he left the university to be a hermit. He then went to Alcala, where he was ordained. St. John drew great crowds with his fiery denunciations of evil and his many sermons. A brief imprisonment by the Inquisition in Seville made him even more popular. His missionary efforts were centered on Andalusia, and his letters and other writings have become Spanish classics. John was canonized in 1970.

Our Lady of Fatima - May 13

The famous apparitions of the Virgin Mary to the children of Fatima took place during the First World War, in the summer of 1917. The inhabitants of this tiny village in the diocese of Leiria (Portugal) were mostly poor people, many of them small farmers who went out by day to tend their fields and animals. Children traditionally were assigned the task of herding the sheep. The three children who received the apparitions had been brought up in an atmosphere of genuine piety: Lucia dos Santos (ten years old) and her two younger cousins, Francisco and Jacinta. Together they tended the sheep and, with Lucy in charge, would often pray the Rosary kneeling in the open. In the summer of 1916, an Angel appeared to them several times and taught them a prayer to the Blessed Trinity.

On Sunday, May 13, 1917, toward noon, a flash of lightning drew the attention of the children, and they saw such a brilliant figure appearing over the trees of the Cova da Iria. The "Lady" asked them to pray for the conversion of sinners and an end to the war, and to come back every month, on the 13th. Further apparitions took place on June 13 and July 13. On August 13, the children were prevented by local authorities from going to the Cova da Iria, but they saw the apparition on the 19th. On September 13,

the Lady requested recitation of the Rosary for an end to the war. Finally, on October 13, the "Lady" identified herself as "Our Lady of the Rosary" and again called for prayer and penitence. On that day a celestial phenomenon also took place: the sun seemed to tumble from the sky and crash toward earth. The children had been forewarned of it as early as May 13, the first apparition. The large crowd (estimated at 30,000 by reporters) that had gathered around the children saw the phenomenon and were astounded.

Official recognition of the "visions" which the children had at the Cova da Iria came on October 13, 1930, when the bishop of Leiria - after long inquiry - authorized the cult of Our Lady of the Rosary at the site. The two younger children had died: Francisco on April 4, 1919, and his sister Jacinta on February 20, 1920. Sister Lucia died on February 13, 2005, at her Carmelite convent in Coimbra, Portugal, after a long illness.

St. Matthias - May 14

Matthias was one of the first to follow our Savior; and he was an eyewitness of all His divine actions up to the very day of Jesus' Ascension. He was one of the seventy-two disciples; but our Lord had not conferred upon him the dignity of being named an apostle. And yet, he was to have this great glory, for it was of him that David spoke, when he prophesied that another should take the bishopric left vacant by the apostasy of Judas the traitor. In the interval between Jesus' Ascension and the descent of the Holy Spirit, the apostolic college had to complete the mystic number fixed by our Lord Himself, so that there might be the twelve on that solemn day. The lot fell on Matthias; he shared with his brother-apostles the persecution in Jerusalem, and, when the time came for the ambassadors of Christ to separate, he set out for the far countries allotted to him, which tradition says were Cappadocia and the provinces bordering on the Caspian Sea.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS-In his message for the 59th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Pope Francis says that the variety of different vocations enriches the Church and shows the breadth of God's plan, "like the tiles of a mosaic." The World Day of Prayer for Vocations is celebrated on **Sunday, May 8**; the theme selected for this year is: "Called to Build the Human Family." Do you know someone with a vocation?

SOLEMN VOWS-Br. Abner Gonzalez Bonilla, Sch.P. of Saint Joseph the Worker and Br. Christian Santiago Torres, Sch.P. of Christ Crucified will profess their Solemn Religious Vows as Piarists on **Friday, May 13 at 6PM** here at St. Helena's. The next day, at **10:30AM** at Annunciation Parish in Manhattan, they will both be ordained to the diaconate by the Most Rev. Felix Lazaro, Sch.P., the Bishop Emeritus of Ponce, Puerto Rico. A reception will follow both events.

BROTHER CHRISTIAN SANTIAGO, SCH. P. was born in Caguas, PR on October 25, 1994. His parents are Victor Santiago and Juana Torres. He studied with the Mercedarian Fathers in Cayey. In 2012, Br. Christian started his studies in the Catholic University. He entered the Piarist Fathers Novitiate in 2014, and in 2015, he first professed his simple vows. Christian studied Philosophy and Pedagogy in History in the Catholic University in Ponce and Theology at Saint Joseph Seminary in Yonkers.

BR. ABNER GONZALEZ, SCH.P. the son of Ricardo Gonzalez and Maria Bonilla was born in Monterey, Mexico on August 27, 1990. In 2002, he immigrated to Dayton, Texas. In July 2010, he attended a workshop on how to conduct a youth group, and it was there he first met the Piarist Fathers. He then entered the Piarist postulancy the following year and the novitiate in 2014. In 2018, he graduated from the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico with a major in Physical Education and a minor in Philosophy. In August 2019, he began his theological studies at St. Joseph's.

CONFIRMATION will be administered here at Saint Helena at **2PM on Sat., May 21** by Bishop Joseph Espallat, the youngest bishop in the United States and the newly appointed auxiliary bishop for the Bronx.

BAPTISM AND FIRST COMMUNION DRESS-The church has a baby's baptism dress and a child's First Communion dress

available to anyone who has need of it. For more information about them, call the rectory.

COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND-Contact the rectory at **718-892-3232** if you would like the Holy Eucharist brought to your home. You may bring a pyx to Mass for it.

RELIGIOUS GOODS ROOM is open every **Sunday** from **9:30AM -1:30PM** in the narthex. Browse our new selections.

BIBLE STUDY takes place every **Tuesday** at **1PM** and **7:30PM** and **Sunday** at **11:15AM** in the Green Building.

ENGLISH PRAYER GROUP will also meet every **Saturday** at **1:30PM** in the Green Bldg either in-person or virtual. You can join virtually on your computer at: www.zoom.us, **Meeting ID: 521 709 4814**, **Passcode: 333 777**.

SPANISH CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP meets on every **Monday** at **7:30PM** in the church following the **7PM** Mass..

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

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET is now prayed in English every **Saturday** at **1:30PM** in the Green Building and every **Monday** in Spanish in the church at **7:30PM**.

THE ROSARY AND A PRAYER FOR PEACE is now being prayed virtually every evening at **7PM**. To join, either phone in at **929-205-6099** or zoom in at www.zoom.us, meeting # **521 709 4814**, password **333777**. The Rosary is prayed in person in both English and Spanish after the daily **12:15PM** Mass.

BABY BOTTLE DRIVE-Take home a baby bottle and make a donation to help expectant mothers and return it by Father's Day.

BRONX CONCERT SINGERS' SPRING CONCERT-Come to St. Helena's Church for the Bronx Concert Singers' **Spring Concert - "Pieces of the World"** on **Sat. May 14** from **2:30 - 4:30 pm**. Celebrate Spring with songs from across the globe! Argentinian, Celtic, American Spirituals, Yiddish, Hebrew, Jamaican, and other ethnic songs. Tickets are \$20/Adults; 2 for \$35; \$15 Seniors (62+) or college students with ID; and \$5 for children through high school. Tickets are available at the back of the church after Masses or at the door the day of the concert, and at St. Helena's rectory; or online at <https://brownpapertickets/events/5418962>. For more concert info, call **917-743-4641** or visit www.bronxconcertsingers.org

ST HELENA SCHOOL has seats open for September 2022 enrollment of Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4. Please go to mySchools.nyc for more info and to sign up. The St. Helena code is **XADQ**.

ROSA MYSTICA PILGRIMAGE to Edmeston, NY on **Saturday, July 16** by roundtrip motor coach. Eucharistic Adoration, also, Confessions, Rosary, and Mass followed by procession, and blessing of items. For more info, call Meera at **718-924-6657**.

ST. HELENA HOLY LAND TOUR-Fr. David will lead an 11-day pilgrimage to Israel and Jordan from **October 21-31, 2022**. Renew your own 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 all your friends because the trip is open to people from outside the parish.



Traveling to Jerusalem

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. Happy Mother's Day. Listen to: *Marriage and*

Family: Love Unveiled, How to Save Your Marriage Before Meeting Your Spouse, Real Womanhood, or Feminine Genius. On the 13th remember Mary, Our Lady of Fatima. Study: *Divine Mercy, Episode 6: Fatima*. Watch: *Finding Fatima, Fatima for Today, The 13th Day, or Fatima- Hope for the World*. For children Watch: *The Day the Sun Danced*.

THE RELICS OF ST. BERNADETTE will be at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 472 West 142nd St., NY from **May 20-24**. For more info, visit www.lourdesnyc.org.

PRAY AND FAST FOR THE REVERSAL OF ROE V. WADE "The leak related to the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* reminds us of the urgent need for prayer and action at this pivotal moment in our country," Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore, the chairman of the US bishops' pro-life committee, said following the Politico report on a draft Supreme Court abortion decision. "As we await the Court's decision, we urge everyone to intensify their prayer and fasting that the final decision of the Court will bring about the reversal of *Roe and Casey*," the prelate added.

HEALING AFTER ABORTION-A "Day of Prayer and Healing" offers the opportunity to experience the love and mercy of God as you begin the journey of healing the wound of abortion. Upcoming date: **May 21**. For more info, call **866-575-0075** or email hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS (NA) meet every **Saturday** at **11AM** in the Calasanz Room. Peer support is so important.

STEPINAC THEATRE presents *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. Show dates are **May 8** at **2PM**. Tickets are \$20. To purchase tickets go to their site at www.stepinac.org/showtickets

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

AA BIG BOOK in-person meetings have resumed at **7PM** in the Green Building on **Saturdays**. The virtual Zoom Meeting Code is **84360210329** and the password is **dasolution**.

EL HERMANO CHRISTIAN SANTIAGO, SCH. P. nació en Caguas, PR el 25 de octubre de 1994. Sus padres son Víctor Santiago y Juana Torres. Estudió con los Padres Mercedarios en Cayey. En 2012, Christian comenzó sus estudios en la Universidad Católica. Ingresó al Noviciado de los Padres Escolapios en 2014, y en 2015 profesó por primera vez sus votos simples. Christian estudió Filosofía y Pedagogía en Historia en la Universidad Católica en Ponce y Teología en el Seminario San José en Yonkers.

EL HNO. ABNER GONZÁLEZ es hijo de Ricardo González y María Bonilla y nació en Monterrey, México, el 27 de agosto de 1990. En 2002, emigró a Dayton, Texas. En julio de 2010, asistió a un taller sobre cómo dirigir un grupo de jóvenes, y fue allí donde conoció a los Escolapios. Entró en el postulante escolapio al año siguiente y en el noviciado en 2014. En 2018, se graduó en la Pontificia Universidad Católica de Puerto Rico con una licenciatura en Educación Física y una especialización en Filosofía. En agosto de 2019, comenzó sus estudios teológicos en el Seminario de San José en Yonkers.

TESTIGO DE SU FE-El Papa Francisco habló recientemente sobre la figura bíblica de Eleazar. Este hombre de 90 años - extremadamente viejo en una época (hacia el año 170 a.C.) en la que la esperanza de vida rondaba los 40 años- recibió el orden del rey Antíoco IV Epifanes de comer carne de cerdo, que estaba prohibida por la ley judía. Los súbditos del rey se ofrecieron a dejar que Eleazar comiera otra carne y fingiera que era de cerdo, salvando así su vida mediante lo que llamaron un gesto sin importancia. Eleazar, sin embargo, se negó a considerar siquiera la posibilidad de quebrantar la ley de Dios y dar escándalo a los jóvenes que lo miraban. Por ello, fue asesinado por desobedecer al rey.

El Papa Francisco puso en valor el honorable testimonio de

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Eleazar como anciano, y habló de la relación entre "la fidelidad de la vejez y el honor de la fe". "El honor de la fe se encuentra a veces bajo la presión -a veces violenta- de la cultura dominante, que busca debilitarla tratándola como un esfuerzo arqueológico, una vieja superstición o una práctica anticuada", dijo. El Papa señaló que Eleazar ofreció un poderoso testimonio de fe en su explicación de por qué se negaba a comer carne sacrificada a los ídolos. "Deshonrar la fe en la vejez, sólo para ganar un puñado de días, es incomparable con la herencia que debemos dejar a los jóvenes, a generaciones enteras aún por venir".

El Papa señaló que el anciano Eleazar defendía la importancia de la coherencia en la fe, incluso en la vejez. La práctica de la fe es demasiado importante como para dejarla de lado cuando se vuelve inconveniente, añadió. "Si un anciano que, debido a su vulnerabilidad, aceptara tratar la práctica de la fe como algo irrelevante, llevaría a los jóvenes a creer que la fe no tiene una relación real con la vida", dijo.

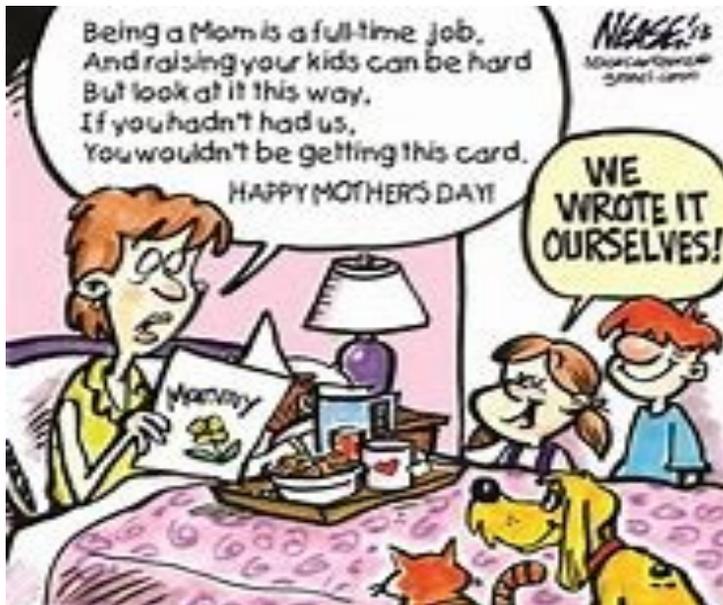
El Papa Francisco pasó a considerar una antigua herejía -el gnosticismo- que todavía ofrece una invitación seductora a los jóvenes de hoy. El gnosticismo, dijo, considera que la fe es sólo una espiritualidad, o una fuerza de la mente, a la que aferrarse, pero que no tiene ninguna conexión real con la vida cotidiana. "Esta mentalidad es extremadamente seductora, porque interpreta -a su manera- una verdad indiscutible: que la fe no puede reducirse a un conjunto de reglas dietéticas o prácticas sociales". Añadió que el gnosticismo convierte la fe cristiana en una creencia efímera y la vacía de verdadero testimonio. Sin embargo, dijo el Papa Francisco, nuestra fe cristiana debe pasar siempre por la Encarnación del Hijo de Dios.

El Papa dijo que las sociedades modernas menosprecian la práctica de la fe a través de la ironía cultural, considerando que la fe es algo que deben practicar los ancianos. Los ancianos, concluyó, tienen la importante misión de "devolver el honor a la fe" porque la fe es un signo de fortaleza y no de debilidad. "La fe merece respeto y honor. Ha cambiado nuestras vidas, ha purificado nuestras mentes y nos ha enseñado a adorar a Dios y a amar al prójimo. La fe es una bendición para todos".

WEEKLY COLLECTION: May 1 — \$5,122.46

Readings for the week of May 1, 2022

Sun: Acts 13:14, 43-52/Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5 [3c]/Rv 7:9, 14b-17/Jn 10:27-30; **Mon:** Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:1-10; **Tues:** Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 10:22-30; **Wed:** Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Jn 12:44-50; **Thurs:** Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27/Jn 13:16-20; **Fri:** Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/Jn 14:1-6; **Sat:** Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Jn 15:9-17; **Next Sun:** Acts 14:21-27/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13/Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35



Masses Live-Streamed from St. Helena take place **Mon-Sat** at **8:30AM** and **Sun** at **10AM** in **English** and **12PM** in **Spanish** www.facebook.com/St.HelenaBronx.

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

Mass Intentions

May 8 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

- 8:00** +Mildred, Constance, Mabel and Catherine Warneke; *Mother's Day Novena*
10:00 S +Altagracia, Manuel, Carmen, Jose and Luis Capellan; +*Angelica Javier*; +*Anselma Cintron*; +*Lydia and Anthony Camachol*; *Gladys Echevarria-Health Inten*
12:00 (Sp) +Alex Santana-3rd Anniversary and Santana Family; +Jacqueline French; +Rafael and Ramona Baez and Victor Castro; +Felicitia Fontanez; +Nilda Rosario; +Esteban, Ajelina, Gloria, Roberto, Petrona & Hortencia
5:00 Deceased Members of the Retutas & Corciaga Families; *The Soul of the Ancestors of Dolores Matos*
6:30 (Fr) +Margaret Bongyii and Raphael Mbinkar

May 9 – Monday—St. Pachomius

- 6:30*** Michael A. Barrios; *Mother's Day Novena*
8:30 S +Walter Schoenthaler
12:15 +Michael Guido

May 10 – Tues—Sts. Fr Damien de Veuster & John of Avila

- 6:30*** Mother's Day Novena
8:30 S In Thanksgiving for Favors Granted to Joanne Savino
12:15 +Indiana Franco

May 11 – Wednesday— St. Francis di Girolamo

- 6:30** Mother's Day Novena
8:30 S For Tricia Briska's Eyesight
11:00 Funeral Mass: +Celina Rodriguez
12:15 +Joel Amendras: +*Dylan Dessasore*

May 12 – Thurs—Sts. Nereus and Achilleus and St. Pancras

- 6:30** In Thanksgiving for Favors Received by Tricia Briska; *Mother's Day Novena*
8:30 July Roa-In Thanksgiving for Recovery
12:15 +Ralph A. Cerbone, Jr.

May 13 – Friday—Our Lady of Fatima

- 6:30** Alessandra Savino's Utmost Facility to Achieve Salvation & for a Close & Loving Relationship with Her Paternal Grandmother; *Mother's Day Novena*
8:30 S Xavier Francis, Meera Job, Staven & Jair Joseph In Thanks; *In Thanksgiving for Ryan and Calvin*
12:15 +Terence Lorino, NYFD
6:00 Solemn Vows-Bros. Christian Santiago & Abner Gonzalez

May 14 – Saturday— St. Matthias

- 6:30** In Thanksgiving for Favors Granted to Alessandra and Joanne Savino; *Mother's Day Novenas*
8:30 S Parkchester 911 First Responders, Survivors and Their Families
12:15 +Jose Acosta, Jr. and Donali Acosta
2:30-5PM Bronx Concert Singers
5:30 +Terence Lorino, NYFD

May 15 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

- 8:00** In Memory of Deceased Members of the Altar Guild: Eileen Larranga, Hazel, Jean Espeta and Marieta Krista; *Mother's Day Novena*
10:00 S Memorial Mass: +Jose Andujar; *Gladys Echevarria-Health Intention*; +*Galita, Jose and Antonio Colan and Wilfredo Rivera*
12:00 (Sp) +Rafael and Ramona Baez and Victor Castro; +Jacqueline French; +Enriqueillo Sanchez; +Juana, Rosa, Griclia, Juzela and Carmen Ramos, Maria and Aguitina Mata; Gloria Bisardi y Sandra Salas Cumpleaños
5:00 +Ana Franco and Cruz Torres
6:30 (Fr) +Margaret Bongyii and Raphael Mbinkar

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

MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA CARDS ARE AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH AND ARE AT BOTH ENTRANCES TO THE CHURCH