

# The Piarist Fathers



## Pastor

Rev. David Powers Sch.P.

## Parochial Vicars

Rev. Jesús Negro, Sch.P.

Rev. Jorge Ramirez, Sch.P.

Rev. Richard Wyzykiewicz Sch.P.

Deacon Christian Santiago, Sch.P.

## Parish Staff

### Parish Secretary

Mrs. Rosemarie Ortiz

### Business Manager

Anne Kathy Rice

### Facilities Manager

Karime Vergara

### Music Director

Ms. Janell Alvarez

### Musicians

Mr. Jim Donaldson

Mr. Alex Henriquez

## August-September 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

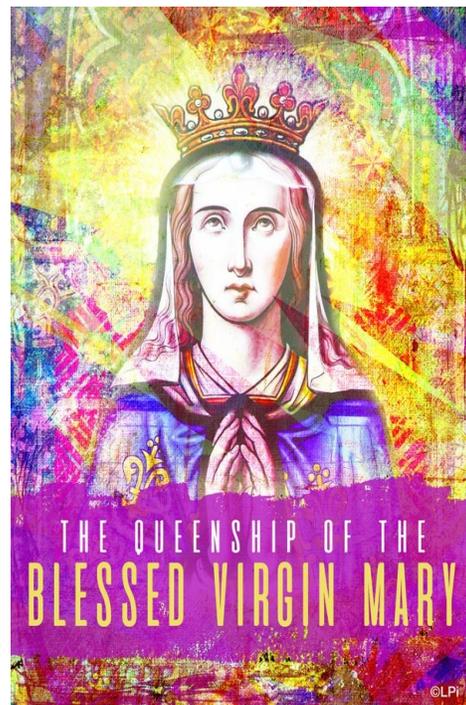
**Phone: (718) 892-3232**

Fax: (718) 892-7713

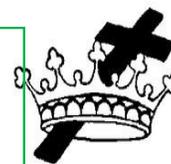
[www.churchofsthelena.com](http://www.churchofsthelena.com)

Email: [sthelenarc@yahoo.com](mailto:sthelenarc@yahoo.com)

Alumni: [sthelenasalumni@yahoo.com](mailto: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 PM  
8:00 12:00 (Español)  
10:00 (Family) 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

## St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta - September 5

The Missionaries of Charity and their friends celebrate the feast day of recently canonized (2016) St. Teresa of Calcutta (1910--1997) who is also affectionally called "Mother Teresa", on September 5, the anniversary of her death. On November 17, 2021, the U.S. bishops voted to inscribe St. Teresa of Kolkata in the Liturgical Calendar of the United States as an optional memorial that is celebrated in the Mass on Sept. 5, the anniversary of St. Teresa's death.



*"By blood, I am Albanian. By citizenship, an Indian. By faith, I am a Catholic nun. As to my calling, I belong to the world. As to my heart, I belong entirely to the Heart of Jesus."* Small of stature, rocklike in faith, Mother Teresa of Calcutta was entrusted with the mission of proclaiming God's thirsting love for humanity, especially for the poorest of the poor. This luminous messenger of God's love was born on August 26, 1910, in Skopje, a city situated at the crossroads of Balkan history. The youngest of the children born to Nikola and Drane Bojaxhiu, she was baptized Agnes Gonxha and received her First Communion at the age of five and a half and was confirmed in November 1916. From the day of her First Holy Communion, a love for souls was within her. Her father's sudden death when Agnes was about eight years old left the family in financial straits. Drane raised her children firmly and lovingly, and this greatly influenced her daughter's character and vocation. Agnes Gonxha's religious formation was further assisted by her living in the vibrant Jesuit parish of the Sacred Heart in which she was much involved.

At the age of eighteen, moved by a desire to become a missionary, Agnes left her home in September 1928 to join the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary known as the holy Sisters of Loreto, in Ireland. There she received the name Sister Mary Teresa after St. Thérèse of Lisieux. In December, she departed for India, arriving in Calcutta on January 6, 1929. After making her First Profession of Vows in May 1931, Sister Teresa was assigned to the simple Loreto Entally community in Calcutta and taught at St. Mary's School for girls. On May 24, 1937, Sister Teresa made her Final Profession of Vows, becoming, as she said, the *"spouse of Jesus"* for *"all eternity,"* and from that time on she was called Mother Teresa. She continued teaching at St. Mary's and in 1944 became the school's principal. A person of profound prayer and deep love for her religious sisters and her students, Mother Teresa's twenty years in Loreto were filled with profound happiness. Noted for her charity, unselfishness and courage, her capacity for hard work and a natural talent for organization, she lived out her consecration to Jesus, in the midst of her companions, with fidelity and joy.

On September 10, 1946, during the train ride from Calcutta to Darjeeling for her annual retreat, St. Mother Teresa received her *"inspiration,"* her *"call within a call."* Over the course of the next weeks and months, by means of interior locutions and of visions, Jesus revealed to her His pain at the neglect of so many poor, His sorrow at their ignorance of Him and His longing for their love. He asked Mother Teresa to establish a brand new religious community, Missionaries of Charity, dedicated to the service of the poorest of the poor. Nearly two years of testing and discernment had passed before Mother Teresa received permission to begin. On August 17, 1948, she dressed for the first time in a white, blue-bordered sari and passed through the gates of her beloved Loreto convent to enter the world of the poor.

Following a short course with the Medical Mission Sisters in Patna, Mother Teresa returned to Calcutta and found temporary lodging with the Little Sisters of the Poor. On December 21, she went for the first time to the slums. She visited families, washed the sores of some children, cared for an old man lying sick on the road and nursed a woman dying of hunger and TB. She started each day in communion with Jesus in the Eucharist and then went out, rosary in her hand, to find and serve Him, and she was later joined, one by one, by her former students. On October 7, 1950, the infant congregation of the Missionaries of Charity was officially established in the Archdiocese of Calcutta. By the early 1960s, Mother Teresa began to send her Sisters to other parts of India. The Decree of Praise granted to the Congregation by Pope Paul VI in February 1965 encouraged her to open a house in Venezuela and, eventually, on every continent. In order to respond better to both the physical and spiritual needs of the poor, St. Mother Teresa also founded the *Missionaries of Charity Brothers* in 1963, in 1976 the *contemplative branch* of the Sisters, in 1979 the *Contemplative Brothers*, and in

1984 the *Missionaries of Charity Fathers*. Yet her inspiration was not limited to those with religious vocations. She formed the *Co-Workers of Mother Teresa* and the *Sick and Suffering Co-Workers*, people of many faiths and nationalities with whom she shared her spirit of prayer, simplicity, sacrifice and her apostolate of humble works of love. This spirit later inspired the *Lay Missionaries of Charity*. In answer to the requests of many priests, in 1981 Mother Teresa also began the *Corpus Christi Movement for Priests* as a *"little way of holiness"* for those who desire to share in her charisma and spirit. Thousands of people dedicated their lives to serving the poor.

During the years of rapid growth, the world began to turn its eyes toward Mother Teresa and the work she had started. Numerous awards, beginning with the Indian Padmashri Award in 1962 and notably the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, honoured her work, while an increasingly interested media began to follow her activities. She received both prizes and attention *"for the glory of God and in the name of the poor."* During the last years of her life, and despite increasingly severe health problems, Mother Teresa continued to govern her Society and respond to the needs of the poor and the Church. By 1997, Mother Teresa's Sisters numbered nearly 4,000 members and were established in 610 foundations in 123 countries of the world. In March 1997, she blessed her newly-elected sister successor as Superior General of the Missionaries of Charity and then made one more trip abroad. After meeting Pope John Paul II for the last time, she returned to Calcutta and spent her final weeks receiving visitors and instructing all her Sisters. On September 5, Mother Teresa's earthly life came to an end. She was given the honour of a state funeral by the Government of India and her body was buried in the Mother House of the Missionaries of Charity. Her tomb quickly became a place of pilgrimage and prayer for people of all faiths, rich and poor alike. Mother Teresa left a testament of unshakable faith, invincible hope and extraordinary charity. Less than two short years after her death, in view of Mother Teresa's widespread reputation of holiness and the favours being reported, Pope John Paul II permitted the early opening of her Cause of Canonization, and on December 20, 2002, he approved the decrees of her heroic virtues and miracles.

## St. Cloud - September 7

St. Cloud (522-560) was a grandson of King Clovis of the Franks and the youngest son of King Clodomir of Orleans. He and his brothers were raised by their grandmother St. Clotilda, Queen of the Franks. Two of his brothers, Theodore and Gunther, were slain at the ages of ten and nine by their uncle Clotaire, king of the Franks from 558-561. Clodoald survived by his being sent to Provence, France. There he became a hermit and a disciple of St. Severinus. He remained at Nogent, near Paris, which became known as Saint-Cloud. He instructed many people in the faith.

## The Birth of Mary - September 8

On Our Lady's birthday, the Church celebrates the first dawning of redemption with the appearance in the world of the Savior's holy mother, Mary. The Blessed Virgin occupies a unique place in the history of salvation, and she has the highest mission that was ever commended to any creature. We rejoice that the Mother of God is our Mother, too. Let us often call upon the Blessed Virgin Mary as "Cause of our joy", one of the most beautiful titles in her litany. The *Roman Martyrology* states Mary was "of the holy lineage of Abraham, born of the tribe of Judah and of the progeny of King David, from whom the Son of God was born, made man by the work of the Holy Spirit, to free all humanity from the ancient bondage of sin."

Mary was born to be the mother of the Savior of the world, the spiritual mother of all men, and the holiest of God's creatures. The earliest known account of Mary's birth is found in the Gospel of James, an apocryphal text from the late second century, with her parents known as Saints Anne and Joachim. Joachim was a wealthy man, and he and his wife St. Anne were deeply grieved by their childlessness. Pious accounts place the birthplace of the Virgin Mary in Sepphoris, Israel where a 5th-century basilica was excavated at the site. Some accounts speak of Nazareth and others say she was born in a house near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem. It is possible that a wealthy man such as Joachim had a home in both Judea and Galilee. The earliest document commemorating Marymas Day comes from a hymn written in the sixth century. The feast may have originated somewhere in Syria or Palestine in the beginning of the sixth century, when after the Council of Ephesus liturgical devotion to the Mother of God was greatly intensified. The first

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liturgical commemoration of it is connected with the sixth-century dedication of the Basilica Sanctae Mariae ubi nata est, now called the Church of St. Anne in Jerusalem. The original church, built in the fifth century, was a Marian basilica erected on the spot known as the Shepherd's Pool and is thought to have been the home of Mary's parents. In the seventh century, the feast was celebrated by the Byzantines as the Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In Rome, the Feast began to be kept toward the end of the 7th century and was brought there by Eastern monks.

Because of her Son's infinite merits, she was conceived and born immaculate and full of grace. Through her, Queen of heaven and of earth, all grace is given to men. Through her, by the will of the Trinity, the unbelieving receive the gift of faith, the afflicted are tendered the works of mercy, and in Mary all human nature is exalted. We rejoice in her birthday, as the Church has done from the earliest times. This is one of the three birthdays in the Church Calendar—the Birth of Jesus (December 25), the Birth of John the Baptist (June 24), and the Birthday of Mary. All three were born without original sin, although Mary and Jesus were conceived without the stain of sin, and St. John was cleansed of original sin while in the womb at the Visitation of Mary.

### **St. Thomas of Villanova - September 8**

St. Thomas (1488-1555) was a great saint of the early Spanish Renaissance and a good friend of Emperor Charles V. St. Thomas was born in Spain in 1488 and inherited a special love toward the poor from his parents; he often gave away his very clothes. After the death of his father and mother, he used his inheritance to sustain poor virgins. He became a lecturer in the higher schools at Alcalá, entered the order of the Hermits of St. Augustine in 1516 at Villanova, and acted as court preacher to Charles V. Against his will he was made archbishop of Valencia (1544), then exercised the office as a zealous shepherd of souls and a great friend of the poor. The bed in which he died was borrowed back from the one to whom he had given it as alms shortly before. During the mid sixteenth century, he was called the "apostle of the Spaniards." While provincial of his order in Castile, he sent the first group of Augustinians to the Americas. Establishing themselves in Mexico, they were integral to the growth of Christianity in the New World.

### **St. Peter Claver - September 9**

Peter Claver (1581-1654) was born of a distinguished family in Catalonia, Spain. He became a Jesuit in 1604, and left for Colombia in 1610, dedicating himself to the service of the black slaves. For thirty-three years he ministered to slaves, caring for the sick and dying, and instructing the slaves through catechists. Through his efforts, three hundred thousand souls entered the Church. He is the Patron of the African Missions, proclaimed in 1896 by Pope Leo XIII. After his death, his room was stripped of all possible relics.

### **St. Nicholas of Tolentino - September 10**

Nicholas (1245-1305) was a native of Sant' Angelo, in the diocese of Fermo, and he was born about the year 1245. As a young man, he was already endowed with a canon's stall. He was one day so greatly affected by a sermon preached by a Hermit of St. Augustine he decided to enter this newly-founded Order. On account of his kind and gentle manner, his superiors entrusted him with the daily feeding of the poor at the monastery gates, but at times he was so free with the friary's provisions that the procurator begged the superior to check his generosity. At first, he lived at the hermitage of Pesaro and then at Tolentino where he died in 1305. His whole life was remarkable for its great austerity which was inspired by his great love of the cross. In 1345, a lay Brother cut off the arms of his body intending to take them to Germany as relics, and the friars then hid his body to prevent further attempts of this kind. It has not been found to this day, but the arms have been preserved. It is recorded that they have bled on several occasions, usually before some calamity that befell the Church or the world.

**THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER** is dedicated to **Our Lady of Sorrows**, whose memorial the Church celebrates on **Sept. 15**.

**LABOR DAY** is a federal holiday celebrated on the first Monday in September in order to honor and recognize the American labor movement and the work and contributions of all laborers to the development and achievements of the United States. Beginning in the late 19th century, as the many trade union and labor movements grew, trade unionists proposed that a day be set aside to celebrate labor. "Labor Day" was promoted by the Central Labor Union and the Knights of Labor which organized the first parade in New

York City. The role of the Catholic Church in the United States is an especially proud one regarding the history of the nation's labor movement. It was Cardinal Gibbons who fought back the efforts of some to condemn the first labor union in America, the Knights of Labor. As well, the fact that Catholics played such a prominent role in the American labor movement meant that the AFL-CIO would be a bulwark against communism. In Europe, many labor movements were as often as not aligned with the communist parties of western Europe. Labor Day is the unofficial end of summer.

**NEXT SUNDAY** is **September 11**. It is Patriot Day, Grandparent's Day, and the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. We will honor grandparents, both living and deceased, at all Masses. We will also honor those St. Helena parishioners and alumni who died as a result of those terrorist attacks, as well as those Saint Helena first responders and citizens who stepped up to serve our nation on and after 9/11.

**FALL ADULT CONFIRMATION PROGRAM**—The new Archdiocesan Adult Confirmation Program is designed for any practicing adult (18+) Catholics seeking the holy sacrament of Confirmation, who have been baptized, have received their first Holy Communion, and have been educated in the Catholic faith through Catholic Schools or religious education programs. You can contact the rectory for more information.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & OCIA REGISTRATION** has started, **September 3-4** through **September 17-18**. You must register your child again with Fr. Richard, even if they were in our Religious Education program last year. You may register at the table in the back of the church or on weekdays you may also register in the rectory. We are also accepting applications from any non-Catholic adult who is interested in learning more about our faith or any adult who is missing sacraments.

**THE RELIGIOUS ARTICLE SHOP** will reopen on **Sunday, September 18** from **9AM** till **1PM**.

**NEW MISSALETES** which began on **August 7** are in and are available for purchase for \$2 in the rectory.

**BIBLE STUDY** on St. Luke is held every **Tuesday** at **1PM** and **7:30PM** and **Sunday** at **11:15AM** in the Green Building. Today, we will study the parable of the Prodigal Son.

**ENGLISH PRAYER GROUP** meets virtually **Sat.** at **1:30PM**.

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

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

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

**CHILD BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASSES** in **English and Spanish** every **Thursday** at **7pm**. You must telephone the rectory for an appointment and bring the necessary documents.

**ST. HELENA FOOD PANTRY** is open every **Wednesday** at **12PM** at the Westchester Ave entrance to the Green Building. Food donations are always welcome. People are in great need.

**BREAST CANCER SCREENING** Mammography Van in front of St. Helena on **Sun., Sept. 25** from **9AM-4:30PM**. Call the rectory now to reserve a slot. Any woman in NYC 49+ can apply.

**ST. HELENA SCHOOL** opens for the new school year on **Wednesday, September 7**. The School Breakfast Program begins on **Monday, September 12**.

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

## SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

**BRONX CONCERT SINGERS** invites interested singers to our Handel's MESSIAH OPEN REHEARSALS **Tuesdays Sept. 6, 13, and 20 at 7:30PM** in St. Helena's Church sanctuary. Call/text Frances at **917-743-4641** to reserve your seat and a score or you can always email **[BCS\\_info@bronxconcertsingers.org](mailto:BCS_info@bronxconcertsingers.org)**. More information at: **[www.bronxconcertsingers.org](http://www.bronxconcertsingers.org)**.

**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, & 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.

**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](http://www.formed.org)**. Just click the icon and join as a parishioner. Tomorrow watch *Mother Teresa, Mother Teresa: Seeing the Face of Jesus*, or *33 Days to Morning Glory*, week 3: *St. Teresa of Calcutta*. Listen to: *Mother Teresa of Calcutta*. The 8<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Study: The Bible and the Virgin Mary, Lesson 9: *Full of Grace*. Watch *Mary of Nazareth*, or Ready Reasons: *Is There Biblical Proof of the Immaculate Conception?* or *Was the Immaculate Conception Necessary?* Listen also to: *The Virgin Mary Revealed Through Scripture* or *The Eternal Woman*.

**MSGR. SCANLAN HIGH SCHOOL** has a new school principal, and he is Eric Mercado. We wish him all the best.

**THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK** takes stewardship of your donations seriously. If you have knowledge of or reason to suspect misconduct, please report your concerns via the internet at **<http://www.reportlineweb.com/ADNY>**, or a toll-free hotline at **877-820-0541** Both are available 24 hours per day."

**WORLD YOUTH DAY** on **Sun, July 30–Monday, August 7, 2023**. Join the Archdiocese of New York for our World Youth Day 2023 9-Day Pilgrimage in Lisbon! Meet Catholic young adults from around the world to pray together, learn together, and celebrate together! Must be 18+ to attend. For more info and to register, visit **[www.petersway.com/9893.html](http://www.petersway.com/9893.html)**. The tour brochure is also available for download at the same link. For questions, email **[Kaitlyn.Colgan@archny.org](mailto:Kaitlyn.Colgan@archny.org)**.

**RETROUVAILLE** is a weekend marriage-saving program, **Sept. 9-11**. It is different, a way to improve your communication, help you reconnect and build a healthy, happier, stronger marriage. To register or for more information, call **800-470-2230**. Remember that St. Helena is the Patron Saint of difficult marriages.

**THE CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY**, fall 2022 session will commence on **Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 6PM**. The Citizen Police Academy is a 7- week program with each class taking place weekly on **Tuesdays at 6 PM**. It will also be hybrid model of in-person training which incorporates real scenarios and force options practice and simulator long with a virtual-based training element, which will take place at the Borough (48 Precinct 450 Cross Bx Expy Bronx, NY). Transportation will be provided to and from the Police Academy for the duration of the training. If you have further question or are interested in attending, please call **718-542-6325**.

**WIDOWER'S BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**- A Widower's bereavement support group will be held at the Saint Kateri Catholic Center (24 Sloan Rd., Newburgh) on consecutive

**Tuesdays: September 13, 20, 27, and Oct 4, and 11 - from 5:30 – 7:30 pm**. Please note that this group is open to all men who have survived the death of a spouse. Space is limited. For more information and to register, please call Vinny DaSilva from the Archdiocesan Family Life Office at **646-794-3168**.

**PARKCHESTER FARMER'S MARKET** at the intersection of White Plains & Westchester Avenue every **Friday, 8AM-4PM**.

**THE BEATIFICATION OF POPE JOHN PAUL I** will take place today, **Sunday, September 4**, the Vatican has announced.

**FREE HEALTHY FOOD** is given out every **Tuesday at 1PM** at 1990 McGraw Ave. Text Essen to 726879 to pre-register.

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

**VIRTUAL AL-ANON MEETINGS**-meet every **Saturday at 9AM**. Call in at **667-770-1448**, 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**.

**LA LEGIÓN DE MARÍA** se reúne todos los sábados a la 1 de la tarde en la sala de reuniones de la rectoría.

**EL GRUPO CARISMÁTICO DE ORACIÓN** en Español no se reunirá este lunes, **5 de septiembre**, debido a la celebración del Día del Trabajo.

**EL BAUTISMO DE NIÑOS SE REALIZA EN ESPAÑOL LOS SÁBADOS**.-Llame a la rectoría con anticipación para establecer una fecha. Debe presentar una copia del certificado de nacimiento del niño y una prueba de la confirmación de los padrinos.

**“LA ARQUIDIÓCESIS DE NUEVA YORK** toma la administración de sus donaciones seriamente. Si usted tiene conocimiento o una razón sospechosa del mal manejo financiero, por favor reporte sus inquietudes a través de la línea gratuita de atención telefónica al **877-820-0541** o en la Internet, en **<http://www.reportlineweb.com/ADNY>**. Ambos están disponibles las 24 horas del día.”

**DEVOCIÓN A MARÍA**-Mucha gente se pregunta por qué decimos que Dios quiso que tuviéramos una relación con la Virgen María. La Biblia nos da la respuesta. En el Evangelio de Juan, encontramos las últimas palabras de Jesús. Tienen una importancia especial porque, como sabemos, nadie desperdiciaría su último aliento diciendo algo superficial. Estas palabras tienen un significado especial, son poderosas. Jesús sabe que no le queda mucho tiempo, pero se esfuerza por decir las de todos modos. Entre estas palabras oímos a Jesús dirigirse directamente a su madre: "Mujer, ahí tienes a tu hijo" y al discípulo amado: "Ahí tienes a tu madre". (Jn 19, 26-27).

El título de "mujer" tiene un significado más profundo en el Evangelio de Juan. Jesús llama "mujer" a su madre porque la llama como a la primera mujer del libro del Génesis: Eva. Juan hace algo parecido a lo largo de su Evangelio. Comienza su Evangelio con las mismas palabras que el Libro del Génesis - "En el principio"- para destacar que, mientras el Génesis cuenta la historia de la Creación, su Evangelio cuenta la historia de la Nueva Creación llevada a cabo por Cristo. En esta Nueva Creación, Jesús es el Nuevo Adán y María es la Nueva Eva. María es la "mujer" cuya semilla (Jesús) aplastaría la cabeza de la serpiente. Por eso, al llamarla "mujer", Jesús está llamando a María la "Nueva Mujer", la madre espiritual de todos los que nacen en la Nueva Creación realizada por Cristo. Ella se convierte en la madre de cada discípulo amado, de cada persona que sigue a Jesús. Dios nos ha hecho un gran regalo: su propia madre como compañera.

Pero, ¿cuál es nuestro papel en el plan de Dios? Esto tiene que ver con la forma en que Dios ha elegido actuar en la historia, en su

## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

plan de redención. Dios eligió actuar a través de "intermediarios" o mediaciones. Si quisiera, no necesitaría que cooperáramos con él en su plan. Podría haberse aparecido a todo el mundo y convencer a todos. Sin embargo, dijo a sus discípulos: "Id, pues, y haced discípulos a todas las naciones". Esto significa que Dios eligió llegar al corazón y a la vida de las personas a través de otras personas, a través de mediaciones. Esto resulta cierto incluso en nuestras propias vidas. ¿Cuántos de nosotros hemos abrazado la fe cristiana por lo que nos enseñaron nuestros padres o alguien importante en nuestra vida, por el ejemplo o la invitación de alguien? ¿Cuántas veces nos ha hablado Dios a través de otros? Cada vez que usamos la palabra "a través de" estamos hablando de una mediación: alguien en medio a través de quien Dios nos habla. Dios actúa a través de otros, utiliza mediaciones.

Sí, Dios actúa a través de mediaciones, pero sólo Jesús es Mediador con mayúsculas, podríamos decir. Es decir, sólo él fue capaz de unir al hombre con Dios, sólo él pudo convertirse en el puente que superó el pecado y nos llevó a la vida nueva. Nadie más es mediador como lo es Jesús. Tenemos al "Mediador", que es Jesús, y a los "mediadores", nosotros los cristianos. Jesús ha querido que participemos en su mediación, pero esto no significa que lo sustituyamos o compitamos con él. Esta mediación es la que nos permite invitar a la gente a conocerle. Él quiso que su plan de salvación se llevara a cabo de esta manera. Por eso, cuando decimos que nosotros o María somos "mediadores", obviamente no estamos diciendo que seamos "mediadores" como Cristo. Simplemente estamos diciendo que él eligió dejarnos participar en su misión llegando a otros a través de nosotros.

**CUANDO LOS CATÓLICOS "REZAN" A MARÍA, NO ESTAMOS REZANDO DE LA MISMA MANERA QUE REZAMOS A DIOS. ESTAMOS PIDIENDO SU INTERCESIÓN, DEL MISMO MODO QUE PEDIMOS ORACIONES A NUESTROS HERMANOS Y HERMANAS. ESO ES LO QUE LE PEDIMOS A ELLA EN EL AVE MARÍA.**

Aquí es donde entra la Virgen María. Ella ocupa un lugar especial entre nosotros, que participamos de la mediación de Jesús, porque Dios eligió venir a nosotros a través de ella y nos la dio como Madre. Su misión consiste en conducirnos siempre hacia Él: "Haced lo que él os diga". Ella, como nosotros, media bajo la mediación de Cristo. Cuando decimos que ella intercede por nosotros, no estamos diciendo que nos olvidemos de Dios. Simplemente significa que nos dirigimos a ella para pedirle oraciones, algo que hacen todos los cristianos cuando piden oraciones a sus hermanos. Así, cuando los católicos "rezan" a María, no estamos rezando de la misma manera que rezamos a Dios. Estamos pidiendo su intercesión, de la misma manera que pedimos oraciones a nuestros hermanos y hermanas. Eso es lo que le pedimos en el Ave María.

En primer lugar, la saludamos con las palabras bíblicas que le dirigieron el ángel e Isabel: "Salve [María] llena de gracia; el Señor está contigo. Bendita eres entre las mujeres y bendito es el fruto de tu vientre [Jesús]". Y terminamos pidiendo sus oraciones: "Santa María, Madre de Dios, ruega por nosotros, pecadores, ahora y en la hora de nuestra muerte". ¡Qué hermosa oración!



Dios nos ha dado el hermoso regalo de una Madre espiritual para ayudarnos a ser uno con Él. ¿No le honraríamos aceptándola?

**WEEKLY COLLECTION: August 28—\$3,546.93**  
**Piarist Seminarians—\$1,049.23**

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](http://www.facebook.com/St.HelenaBronx).

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

## MASS INTENTIONS

### September 4 – Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8:00** +Mani Athikkatt  
**10:00 S** Deceased Members of Retutas and Corciega Families; +Norma Rodriguez-Hernandez  
**12:00 (Sp)** Jose Hernandez-Healing Intention; +Hugo Vivanco, Evelio Mejia Guerrero, Martha Mejia Muñoz, Marina Mejia Muñoz, Blanca Mejia Muñoz, Augusto Rivera, Olga Mejia Guerrero, and Blanca Braun  
**5:00** +Margaret Cotter  
**6:30(Fr)** +Margaret Bongyii & Raphael Mbinkar

### September 5 – Monday — St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

- 6:30\*** A Mother's Intentions for David Savino  
**8:30 S** In Thanksgiving for Favors Received for Parishioners in Nigeria  
**12:15** +Eduardo, Paulina, Rafael, Gladys and Felix Bruno and Fr. Charles and Jeffrey Ortiz; +Catherine Mary Czekaj

### September 6 – Tuesday — St. Bega

- 6:30\*** In Thanksgiving for Favors Granted to David Savino & His Mother  
**8:30 S** +Benigna Guardado de Rivas  
**12:15** Joanne Savino's Intentions for Possibly Donating Bone Marrow

### September 7 – Wednesday— St. Cloud

- 6:30** A Mother's Intentions for David Savino  
**8:30 S** In Thanksgiving for Favors Granted to Joanne Savino  
**12:15** +Jose Cartagena  
**7:00 (Sp)** +Angelica Davila

### September 8 – Thursday — The Birth of Mary

- 6:30** In Thanksgiving for Favors Granted David Savino and His Mother  
**8:30** +Ralph A. Cerbone, Jr.;  
*In Honor of the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
**12:15** Fr. Thomas B. Derivan for Blessings and Intentions and for Father's +Parents and +Aunt Catherine

### September 9 – Friday — St. Peter Claver

- 6:30** A Mother's Intentions for David Savino  
**8:30 S** +Gilbert D. Prince, Jr.-Birthday in Heaven  
**12:15** +Michael Guido  
**7:00 (Sp)** +Bernadette Higgins

### September 10 – Saturday — St. Nicholas of Tolentino

- 6:30** In Thanksgiving for Favors Granted to David Savino and His Mother  
**8:30 S** +Katherine Callaghan  
**12:15** +Indiana Franco  
**5:30** +Altagracia, Carmen, Manuel and Jose Capellan

### September 11 – Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8:00** Victims of the World Trade Center  
**10:00 S** +Job A.M.  
**12:00 (Sp)** +Benigna Guardado de Rivas  
**5:00** +Fortunata Focella  
**6:30(Fr)** +Margaret Bongyii & Raphael Mbinkar

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

### Readings for the week of September 4, 2022

**Sun:** Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33; **Mon:** 1 Cor 5:1-8/Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12/Lk 6:6-11; **Tues:** 1 Cor 6:1-11/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Lk 6:12-19; **Wed:** 1 Cor 7:25-31/Ps 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17/Lk 6:20-26; **Thurs:** Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23; **Fri:** 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6, 12/Lk 6:39-42; **Sat:** 1 Cor 10:14-22/Ps 116:12-13, 17-18/Lk 6:43-49; **Next Sun:** Ex 32:7-11, 13-14/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19/1 Tm 1:12-17/Lk 15:1-32 or 15:1-1