

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

September-October 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

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Alumni: sthelenasalumni@yahoo.com

SERVE

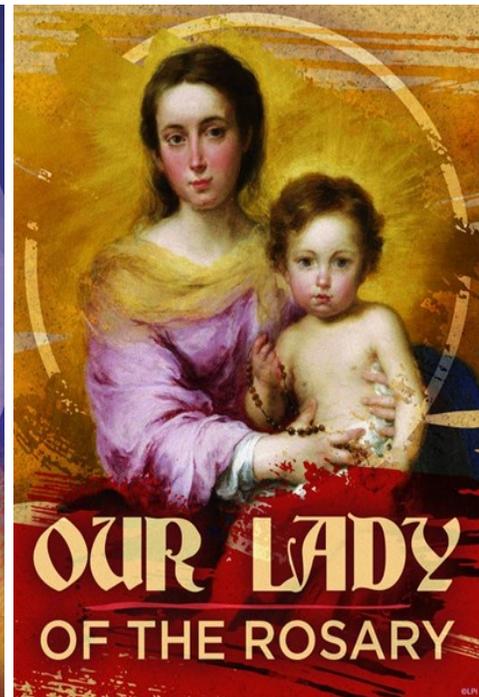
"No servant can
serve two masters."

LUKE 16:13

"No hay criado que pueda
servir a dos amos".

LUCAS 16, 13

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
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saint Helena parish



Bronx, NY

Mass Schedule (Horario de Misas)

Saturday: 5:30 PM

Sunday: AM

8:00

10:00 (Family)

PM

12:00 (Español)

5:00

6:30 (Français)

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 and

Monday thru Friday—7:00PM

French Mass: Sunday, 6:30PM

Confessions: Saturday — 4 to 5:30

Sick Or Emergency Calls:

Call the Rectory at 892-3232

Devotions:

- Circulo De Oracion: lunes, 7 a 9.00PM
- Miraculous Medal Novena
Monday after 12:15 PM Mass
- Exposición del Santisimo 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 Catolicos que viven dentro de los Limites de la parroquia deben llenar una tarjeta de registro en la rectoria.



Handicapped Accessible

Why Recovery Sunday?

Today is Recovery Sunday, which is important. Statistics say that almost every American household is affected by some form of addiction, which is a major health issue in the United States.

Addicts don't have to use drugs and alcohol. Food, work, smoking, gambling, exercise, and porn are all just a short list of what can become an addiction. Addiction doesn't have to be mysterious. Every addiction has a deeper wound that leaves a person very vulnerable. Addiction is a spiritual problem and requires spiritual answers. The healing needed is the same healing all of us need – from Jesus Christ. Often the ones struggling the most feel isolated and alone. They are too ashamed to come forward. Addicts need to know they are accepted and welcome if they are going to ask for help. By talking about addiction and recovery openly, we can remove the stigma for the ones Jesus called least of these. Even with the stigma surrounding addiction, nearly 21 million Americans suffer from a drug or alcohol addiction today. While the population in the United States is around 327 million people, around 6% of people living in our country have a substance use disorder of some kind. The following are some details about addiction in the USA and that it affects 17% of all unemployed and 9% of employed.

- 115 precious souls die from opioid abuse every day.
- 176 deaths occur daily due to addiction.
- Nicotine, the highly addictive substance found in all tobacco products, is the most common addiction in America. More than two-thirds of Americans who tried cigarettes or chewing tobacco report being dependent at some point.
- Nearly 40% of the total population has experienced addiction.
- Heroin takes the number one spot as the most addictive substance on the planet. On Nutt's addiction scale, it ranked a 2.5 out of a maximum score of 3. This potent Opiate has an alarming rate of addiction, with 1 in 4 individuals who tried Heroin becoming addicted. What makes this drug particularly dangerous is that the dose that can cause death is only five times greater than the dose required for a high. Additionally, Heroin addicts have an extremely high risk of death from a relapse. About 5.1 million people in the U.S. use heroin.
- Drug overdose deaths increased more than 11% in the first four months of 2022 compared to last year, according to the government data.
- Suspected overdoses nationally — not all of them fatal — jumped 18% in March 2022 compared to 2021, 29% in April and 42% in May.
- A June 2021 survey from The Addiction Policy Forum has reported a 20% increase in substance abuse with 34% of respondents experiencing a change in their treatment and recovery due to the pandemic.

An estimated 14-20 million people worldwide have used Cocaine, resulting in a billion-dollar industry. In 2020, 10 million people in the US admitted to having used it at least once in their lifetime, and 1 million people admitted to having used it within the past year. Cocaine reacts with the brain's level of dopamine, preventing neurons from turning the "feel good" signal off. This results in an abnormal activation of the brain's reward pathways. An estimated 21% of people who try Cocaine will become addicted at some point in their lifetime.

12.7 percent of the U.S. population, now meets the diagnostic criteria for alcohol use disorder. Addiction to beer, wine, or hard liquor can have a very negative effect on the body and mind that is often irreversible. Studies have shown that alcohol increases the level of dopamine in the brain's reward system by as much as 360%. This legalized substance has a death rate of over 3 million per year. 25% of the population reported binge drinking monthly. Barbiturates are typically used to treat anxiety and induce sleep. Some popular street names for Barbiturates include Blue Bullets, Gorillas, Nembies, Bars, and Pink Ladies. At low doses, these drugs can produce euphoria; at higher doses, an overdose due to suppressed breathing can result. About 452,000 Americans aged 12 and higher reported using barbiturates and 32,000 Americans aged 12 and higher reported misusing barbiturates.

For everyone who struggles with addiction, there are at least a minimum of four people who are negatively impacted. LifeWay Research asked 1,000 pastors about their personal connections to the opioid epidemic, and these are some of the results:

- 66% say a family member of someone in their congregation has been personally affected by opioid abuse.
- 55% say they or someone in their congregation know a local neighbor suffering from opioid abuse.
- HALF OF PASTORS -- 52% -- say someone directly in their church is dealing with opioid addiction.

THE FOUR APPARITIONS OF ST. MICHAEL

In the third century, while a wealthy man named Gargano tended his animals, one of his bulls escaped and wandered off alone. Angered at finding the bull grazing by himself in front of a cave, he shot a poisoned arrow at it. The arrow then turned around and hit him! Gargano was so disturbed that he told the bishop about his experience. The bishop then ordered three days of prayer and fasting. On the final day, St. Michael appeared to the bishop "You have done well to ask God what was hidden from men. A miracle caused the man to be struck with his own arrow so that it is clear that all this happened by my will. I am the Archangel Michael, and I am always in the presence of God. This cave is sacred to me and what will be asked here in prayer will be granted. Go therefore to the mountain and dedicate this cave to Christian worship."

St. Michael appeared again in 492 when the Greeks attacked the Sanctuary of Gargano. The Duke of Benevento Grimoaldo I came to the sanctuary's defense. St. Michael appeared in a vision to the bishop (Lorenzo Maiorano), saying that his prayers have been answered. The Duke of Benevento defeated the Greeks on May 8, and the battle was accompanied by earthquakes, thunderbolts, and lightning. May 8 is now celebrated in the Catholic Church as the feast of the anniversary of the apparitions of St. Michael the Archangel, and the cave is a major place of pilgrimage.

After the victory of Grimoaldo, Bishop Lorenzo decided to dedicate the sanctuary, but St. Michael appeared and said that he would dedicate the sanctuary. The Bishop, seven Apulian bishops, the Sipontino clergy, and the people of the land proceeded to the cave, and while they were on their journey, some eagles, with all their spread wings, sheltered the bishops from the hot rays of the sun. Once at the Grotto, they found a rough altar erected there. It was covered with a vermilion pallium and surmounted by a Cross. Moreover, they found in the rock the footprint of Saint Michael.

In 1656, southern Italy experienced a terrible plague. The Bishop Alfonso Puccinelli resorted to prayers and fasting and asked for St. Michael's intercession. While in prayer, he felt an earthquake as St. Michael appeared to him in dazzling splendor and ordered him to bless the stones of his cave, carving on them the sign of the cross and the letters 'MA' (Michael Archangel). He said, "Anyone who devotedly keeps these stones with him would be immune to the plague." St. Michael then cured the city and anyone who had requested the stones. These stones are now considered Saint Michael's relics and are successfully used for exorcisms. We have one of these stones from the cave here at St. Helena.

Feast of the Archangels - Sept. 29

Today's liturgy celebrates the Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, three of the seven archangels and the ones who are mentioned in the Bible and are highly venerated in the tradition of the Church. The other four are only mentioned in the Jewish apocryphal Book of Enoch.

The name of the archangel **Michael** means, in Hebrew, who is like unto God? and he is also known as "the prince of the heavenly host." He is usually pictured as a strong warrior, dressed in armor and wearing two sandals. His name appears in Scripture four times, twice in the Book of Daniel, and once each in the Epistle of St. Jude and the Book of Revelation. From Revelation, we learn of the battle in heaven, with St. Michael and his angels combatting Lucifer and the



TWENTY-SIXTH SINDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

other fallen angels (or the devils). We invoke St. Michael to help us in our holy fight against Satan; to rescue souls from Satan, especially at the hour of death; to be the champion of all the Jews in the Old Testament and now Christians; and to bring souls to judgment. This day is referred to as "Michaelmas" in many countries and is also one of the harvest feast days. In England, this is one of the "quarter days," which was marked by the hiring of servants, electing magistrates, and beginning legal and university terms. This day also marks the opening of the deer, elk, and many other large game hunting season. In several parts of Europe, especially Germany, Denmark, and Austria, a special red wine called "Saint Michael's Love" (Michelsminne) is drunk on this day. The foods for this day do vary depending on nationality. In the British Isles, for example, the goose is the traditional meal for Michaelmas, eaten for prosperity; France has waffles or Gaufresand; the most hearty traditional fare in Scotland is St. Michael's Bannock, which is a large, scone-like cake; and in Italy, gnocchi is the traditional fare.

St. Gabriel's name means "God is my strength." Biblically Gabriel appears three times as a messenger. He was sent to Daniel to explain a vision concerning the Messiah. He appeared to Zachary when he was offering incense in the Temple, to foretell the birth of his son, Saint John the Baptist. Saint Gabriel is most known as the angel chosen by God to be the messenger of the Annunciation, to announce to mankind the mystery of the Incarnation. The angel's salutation to our Lady, so simple and yet so full of meaning, Hail [Mary], full of grace, has become the constant and familiar prayer of all Christian people. He is often seen carrying a trumpet.

Our knowledge of the Archangel **Raphael** comes to us from the book of Tobit. His mission as a wonderful healer and fellow traveler with the youthful Tobias has caused him to be invoked for journeys and other critical moments in life. Tradition also holds that Raphael is the archangel that stirred the waters at the healing sheep pool in Bethesda. His name means "God has healed."

The fourth archangel common in Christian belief, is **Uriel**, an angel heavily associated with the sun, light, knowledge, and wisdom. Hence, depictions of him carrying a large book or tome, as well as sometimes holding a flaming sword or simply a palm-full of fire. When Ezra asks God a series of questions, Uriel is the angel sent to answer them. When Herod the Great ordered that all of the male children in Bethlehem, two years old or younger, were to be executed, Uriel carried a young John the Baptist and his mother to safety. This is a story captured by Leonardo Da Vinci in his famous painting 'Virgin of the Rocks'. In the apocryphal Book of Enoch, Uriel is the fourth angel to be named and is mentioned in relation to Tartarus. Throughout the Book of Enoch, Uriel often appears to Enoch himself and guides him, explaining and helping him to interpret what his sacred visions meant.

Jophiel is considered the angel of beauty and is the only holy Archangel consistently portrayed as a woman. Jophiel is also associated with wisdom, watching, understanding, and judgment. The name has been interpreted as 'Watchman of God,' which refers to Jophiel as the Guardian of the Torah, and in turn, the Guardian of Wisdom. She is also a guardian of the Torah.

Another archangel, shown with a flaming sword, is **Camael**, the Archangel of courage, strength, and war. Camael is considered an angel who is there to maintain peace and enforce justice by any means necessary. The poet Gustav Davidson includes Camael in his work 'A Dictionary of Angels including fallen Angels'. He goes as far as to say that Camael led the forces that expelled Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden. He is depicted holding a cup.

The last Archangel is **Zadkiel**, the angel of freedom and mercy. Zadkiel, along with Jophiel, are considered the Archangels who command the armies of Michael in his absence and thus follow directly behind Michael in battle. He helps people approach God.

Sts. Cosmas and Damian - Sept. 26

This is one of the most ancient feasts of the Church, and these two martyrs have been honored in so many ways, including the building of churches in their honor in Rome and Constantinople. Along with St. Luke, they are the patron saints of doctors. They are venerated as the "moneyless ones" because they practiced medicine gratis. According to the legend, they were twin brothers, born in Arabia, who studied in Syria and became skilled physicians.

They were supposed to have lived on the Bay of Alexandretta in Cilicia, in what is now Turkey. Since they were both prominent Christians, they were among the first arrested when the great persecution under Diocletian began. Lysias, the governor of Cilicia, ordered their arrest, and they were beheaded. Their bodies were carried to Syria and buried at Cyrrhus. Emperor Justinian was cured by their intercession and paid special honor to the city of Cyrrhus where their relics were enshrined. Their basilica in Rome, adorned with lovely mosaics, was dedicated in the year 530. They are both named in the Roman Martyrology and in the Canon of the Mass, testifying to the antiquity of their feast day. Cosmas and Damian were not only ideal Christians by their practice of medicine without fee, but they also symbolized God's blessing upon the holy art of healing and that one should have respect for every form of the sciences, which is an important part of Christian tradition.

St. Vincent de Paul - Sept. 27

St. Vincent de Paul was a great apostle of charity and brought a great revival of the priesthood in the 17th century. He was born near Dax in 1581 in the Landes (in the old Province of Gascony), France in 1581. As a young priest, he was captured by Moorish pirates who carried him to Africa. He was sold into slavery but freed in 1607 when he converted his owner. Having returned to France, he became successively a parish priest and chaplain to the galley slaves. He founded a religious Congregation under the title of Priests of the Mission or Lazarists (now known as Vincentians), and he bound them by a special way to undertake the apostolic work of charity; he sent them to preach missions, especially to the ignorant peasants of that time, and to establish seminaries. In order to help poor girls, invalids, and the insane, sick, and the unemployed, he and St. Louise de Marillac together founded the Congregation of the Daughters of Charity, now better known as the Sisters of St. Vincent. St. Vincent worked tirelessly to help all those in need: the impoverished, the sick, the enslaved, the poor abandoned, the ignored. He died in 1660 at St. Lazarus's house, Paris, and his motto is: "God sees you." "Let us love God; but at the price of our hands and the sweat of our face."

St. Wenceslaus - Sept. 28

St. Wenceslaus, duke of Bohemia, was born about the year 907 at Prague, Bohemia (now the Czech Republic). His father was killed in battle when he was young, leaving the kingdom to be ruled by his pagan mother. Wenceslaus was educated by his grandmother, St. Ludmilla. She taught him to be a Christian and to be a good king. She was killed by pagan nobles before she saw him king, but she left him with a deep commitment to the holy Christian faith. Throughout his life, he preserved his virginity unblemished. As duke, he was a father to his subjects, generous toward orphans, widows, and the poor. On his own shoulders, he frequently carried wood to the houses of the needy. He often attended the funerals of the poor, ransomed captives, and visited those suffering in the prison. He was filled with a deep reverence toward the clergy; with his own hands, he sowed the wheat for making altar breads and pressed the grapes for the wine used in the Mass. During winter he would visit the churches barefoot through snow and ice, frequently leaving behind bloody footprints. St. Wenceslaus was eighteen years old when he succeeded his father to the throne. Without regard for the opposition, he worked in close cooperation with the Church to convert his pagan country. He also ended the persecution of Christians, built churches, and brought back exiled priests. As king, he gave an example of a devout life and of great Christian charity, with his people calling him the "Good King" of Bohemia. His brother Boleslaus, however, returned to paganism. One day he invited Wenceslaus to his house for a banquet. The next morning, on September 28, 929, as Wenceslaus was on the way to Mass, Boleslaus struck him down at the door of the church. Before he died, Wenceslaus forgave his brother and asked God's mercy for his soul. Although he was killed for political reasons, he is listed as a martyr since the dispute arose over his faith. This king, martyred at the age of twenty-two, is the national hero and patron of the Czech Republic. He is the first Slav to be canonized.

St. Lawrence Ruiz - Sept. 28

Lawrence Ruiz is the first Filipino to be canonized as a saint. He and 15 others were martyred at Nagasaki, Japan in 1637. The group included two consecrated women, two other laymen, two brothers, and nine priests. Lawrence was born in Manila in the Philippines; his father was Chinese and his mother was Filipino. He became associated with the Dominicans and was a member of the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary. These Dominicans taught him

Spanish, and from his parents, he learned Chinese and Tagalog. He became a professional calligrapher, and he transcribed many documents. He married and had three children. In 1636, he fled the Philippines after being accused of murder. Lawrence joined a missionary group headed for Japan, where Catholics were being persecuted. It was soon found out that the members of this group were Catholic, so they were arrested and later taken to Nagasaki. They were tortured for several days, first crushed while hanging upside down for three days, then their bodies were burned, with the holy ashes thrown into the Pacific Ocean on September 30, 1637. Pope St. John Paul II canonized these martyrs on October 18, 1987 in Vatican City.

St. Jerome - September 30

One of the greatest Biblical scholars of Christendom, Saint Jerome was born to Christian parents at Stridon in Dalmatia around the year 345. Educated at the local school, he then studied rhetoric in Rome for eight years, before returning to Aquileia to set up a holy community of ascetics. When that holy community broke up after three years Jerome went to the east. He met an elderly hermit named Malchus, who inspired the saint to live in a bare cell, dress in sackcloth, and study the Scriptures. He learned Hebrew from a rabbi. Then he returned to Antioch and was reluctantly ordained as a priest. Along with his bishop, he visited Constantinople and became friendly with Saints Gregory Nazianzen and Gregory of Nyssa. And then in 382, Jerome went again to Rome, to become the personal secretary of Pope Damasus. Here he met his dearest friends, a wealthy woman called Paula, her daughter Eustochium and another wealthy woman named Marcella. Here too he began his finest work. Commissioned by the pope, he began to revise the Latin version of the psalms and the New Testament, with immense care and scholarship. Jerome eventually translated the whole of the Bible into the Latin version which is known as the Vulgate. But when Pope Damasus died, his enemies forced the saint to leave Rome.

Accompanied by Paula and Eustochium, St. Jerome then went to Bethlehem. There he lived for thirty-four years till his death in 420, building a monastery over which he presided and a convent headed first by Paula and after her death by Eustochium. The saint set up a hospice for the countless pilgrims to that place. His great scholarship, his polemics, his treatises, and his letters often provoked anger and always stimulated those who read them. 'Plato located the soul of man in the head,' he wrote, but 'Christ located it in the heart.' He is the patron saint of librarians.

St. Francis Borgia - September 30

Francis Borgia, viscount of Catalonia and the third general of the Jesuits, was born in 1510. On his father's side, he was a great-grandchild of Pope Alexander VI; on his mother's side, he was the great-grandchild of a son of Ferdinand the Catholic. His holy life atoned for the sins of his ancestors. As viscount and duke at the palace of Emperor Charles V, Francis stood in high honor. The sudden death of the beautiful Empress Isabella (May 1, 1539) and the sight of her disfigured face as her body was taken to Granada made him resolve to leave the world and serve the King of kings alone. After the death of his wife (1546), he entered the Society of Jesus with the holy resolve of leading a hidden life and of also closing the door forever to all earthly honors. His example of holy humility exercised an influence upon Charles V when he considered renouncing the throne. Devoted to labor and severe mortification, Francis held himself in such little esteem that he called himself the "poor sinner." In 1565, he became General of the Order. He died in Rome at the age of 61 during the night.

St. Thérèse - October 1

Today is the Memorial of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face (1873-1897), more popularly known to us as "the Little Flower." Although just an obscure cloistered Carmelite nun, she has had universal appeal since her death in 1897. St. Thérèse is the patroness of all foreign missions and patroness of France and was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope St. John Paul II in 1997. St. Marie Thérèse Martin was born in Alençon, France on January 2, 1873, the youngest of five daughters. Her father, Louis, was a watchmaker, and her mother, Zélie, who died of breast cancer when Thérèse was four, was a lace maker. Thérèse was brought up in a model Christian home. While still a child she felt the attraction of the cloister, and at fifteen obtained permission to enter the Carmel of Lisieux. For the next nine years, she lived a very ordinary religious life. There are no miracles, no exploits, or

australities recorded of her. She attained a very high degree of holiness by carrying out her ordinary daily duties with perfect fidelity, having a childlike confidence in God's providence and merciful love, and being ready to be at the service of others at all times. She also had a great love of the Church and a zeal for the conversion of souls. She prayed especially for priests. She died of consumption on September 30, 1897, at the age of 24, and was canonized in 1925. She has never ceased to fulfill her promise: "I will pass my heaven in doing good on earth." Her interior life is known through her autobiography called *Story of a Soul*. Pope Saint John Paul II declared her a Doctor of the Church in 1997.

What Are Angels?

All angels are pure spirits created by God. The Old Testament theology included the belief in angels: the name applied to certain spiritual beings or intelligences of heavenly residence, employed by God as the ministers of His will.

The English word "angel" comes from the Greek *angelos*, which means 'messenger'. In the Old Testament, with two exceptions, the Hebrew word for "angel" is *malak*, also meaning 'messenger'. The prophet Malachi took his name from this word. He was also himself a messenger, and Malachi prophesied about the coming of "the messenger of the covenant", who was Jesus Christ.

Although the word "angel" in the Bible, meaning a messenger, nearly always applies to heavenly beings, it can occasionally apply to human messengers. Malachi himself said a holy priest was a messenger (*malak*) of the LORD of hosts, and in the Book of Revelation, the elders of the seven churches of Asia were all called angels. But when we meet messengers doing supernatural things, there is no doubt they are heavenly beings - God's holy messengers, working for Him and for the ultimate benefit of all mankind.

THE SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND is for St. Joseph's Seminary, where Deacon Christian is in his final year. Saint Joseph's is the major seminary of the Archdiocese of New York. Its primary mission is to serve the Church by forming men for the Catholic priesthood who will hand on the life and tradition of the Church's faith in the context of the new evangelization of the twenty-first century. Established in 1896 it is called the "West Point" of seminaries and is accredited by the Angelicum in Rome.

FIFTH ANNUAL RECOVERY SUNDAY is today, **Sept. 25**. Recovery Sunday is a movement within the church to celebrate those now in recovery, educate all of us about addiction and the recovery movement, and provide hope and prayer for those in need of recovery and their families and friends. Recovery is part of the healing ministry of Jesus and The Church. At St. Helena, we will have a speaker from Narcotics Anonymous at all Masses and a speaker from Neurotics Anonymous at the Spanish Mass.

FALL ADULT CONFIRMATION PROGRAM-The all new Archdiocesan Adult Confirmation Program is designed for any practicing adult (18+) Catholic seeking the holy sacrament of Confirmation, who has been baptized, has received first Holy Communion, and been educated in the Catholic faith.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND OCIA CLASSES will begin this **Wednesday, September 28** at **3:45PM** in the church.

OUR FIRST PARENTAL FIRST COMMUNION SESSION will take place on **Sunday, October 2** at **11AM** in the school cafeteria. All parents of children who are planning to receive their First Holy Communion in **May 2023** are expected to attend these important monthly sessions with Fr. Richard.

VOLUNTEER PIANISTS NEEDED to play at School Masses. Call the rectory at **718-892-3232** for more information.

THE RELIGIOUS ARTICLE SHOP is now open on every **Sunday** from **9AM** till **1PM**.

LEGION OF MARY meets every **Sat** at **1PM** in the Rectory. They will pray the rosary in front of the church on **Sat. Oct. 15**.

BIBLE STUDY on St. Luke is held every **Tuesday** at **1PM** and **7:30PM** and **Sunday** at **11:15AM** in the Green Building, and today, we will study Chapter 17 of St. Luke's Gospel.

ENGLISH PRAYER GROUP now meets both in-person and virtually every **Saturday at 1:30PM** in the Green Building.

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

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET is also prayed in English every **Saturday at 1:30PM** both live and 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 or a loved one are sick, and you would like the Holy Eucharist brought to your home by a parish Eucharistic Minister.

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, which are a copy of the child's Birth Certificate and a copy of the Godparent's Confirmation Certificate.

SCOUTING MEETINGS for all youth ages 5 through 16 will take place every **Saturday** in the school cafeteria. Cub Scouts will take place from **10AM-12PM**. Boys Scout Troop 65 and Girls Troop 650 will take place from **11:30AM-1PM**.

CALASANZ YOUTH MOVEMENT meets every **Friday at 7PM**. Both the middle school and high school youth groups are open to any student.

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

ORDER A FREE Fatima Our Lady Star of the Sea rosary by calling **888-317-5571**. Promo code FF619b.

CORONA SELF-HELP CENTER will speak at all Masses this weekend, **September 24-25**. They will sell T-shirts after Mass.

BREAST CANCER SCREENING-The Italian American Mobile Mammography Van will be parked in front of St. Helena today, **Sunday, Sept. 25** from **9AM-4:30PM**. Any woman living in NYC 49+ is eligible to receive a free mammogram.

PIARIST ART EXHIBITION AND SALE will be held today, **Sunday, Sept. 25** from **10AM - 3PM** in the gymnasium. Many artworks from Father Fernando, Father Orlando, and Deacon Christian will be on display and available for purchase. There will be a wine and a cheese reception during the exhibit. All proceeds will benefit the Piarist Seminarians, as well as the missions of the Order.

BRONX CONCERT SINGERS invites interested singers to our Handel's MESSIAH OPEN REHEARSAL **Tuesday, Sept. 27 at 7:30PM** in the 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. More information at: www.bronxconcertsingers.org.

CARNIVAL RAFFLE PRIZES can be picked up in the rectory. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way.

ST. HELENA SCHOOL NEWS

- Fr. Jorge is training students in grades 5-8 to be altar servers.
- Our Students are in the midst of taking computerized M.A.P. tests in Math, ELA and Science through the NWEA, a national educational association. Students take this three times a year.
- Monday will begin our "Reading for Education" fundraiser.
- **World's Finest Chocolate** bars are now being sold for \$1 each by our students as a fundraiser for the school. The sale ends **October 6**. Please support our students.

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. Thursday is the Feast of Sts. Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael, Archangels. Watch: *Defeating the Devil, Power and*

Dominions: Angels, Demons and Spiritual Warfare; or Angels by Fulton Sheen. Listen to: *Defeating Satan's Deadly Weapon Against Men, Angels Explained, or Former Satanist Becomes Catholic*. Friday watch: *The Example of St. Jerome*, a Memorial for this Priest and Doctor of the Church. Saturday on her sacred Memorial, Watch: *Therese, Miracle of Saint Therese, or The Secret of Saint Therese*. Listen to: *Therese: The Story of a Soul*.

5TH ANNUAL COLUMBUS DAY MASS at Saint Patrick's Cathedral will take place on **Monday, October 10 at 9:30AM**. Admission is free, but tickets are required to enter the Cathedral until **9:15 AM**. If you would like to reserve your free tickets, go to: www.ADNYCOLUMBUSDAY.eventbrite.com. The last day to request tickets is **Monday, September 26**.

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: Sept. 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**.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN BEGINS-A life-saving prayer campaign will take place throughout the Archdiocese beginning **Wednesday, September 28**. The campaign consists of 40 days of prayer, fasting, peaceful vigils at abortion facilities, and educational outreach, with the goal of protecting mothers and their babies from abortion. For more information, contact Pearl at 40daysforlifebx@gmail.com.

WORLD YOUTH DAY MEET AND GREET-**Thursday, September 29 at 7PM**. at the Church of St. Agnes 143 E 43rd St New York, NY 10174. Join the Office of Young Adult Outreach and Bishop Joseph Espailant for a night of prayer, with the opportunity for questions about World Youth Day Lisbon 2023, as well as fellowship with pizza to meet other possible pilgrims. Those in attendance will be entered into a raffle to win half off their World Youth Day trip - must be present to win! For more information about the World Youth Day 2023 Lisbon pilgrimage and to register for the tour, visit www.petersway.com/9893.html. The tour brochure is also available for download at the same link. For questions, email Kaitlyn.Colgan@archny.org. Must be 18+ to attend.

ST. BENEDICT'S WOMEN'S CORNERSTONE RETREAT is an overnight retreat experience for women over 18 given by women. It begins **Fri., Sept. 30 at 6PM** and ends **Sat., Oct. 1 at 9:30PM**. and will take place in the church hall of St. Benedict's Parish. There is no cost for the retreat, but everyone must take a COVID test 48 hours prior to the start of the retreat. There are no walk-ins allowed. For more info call **917-633-6913** or email sbcornerstoneny@gmail.com

OUR YOUNG ADULTS INVITED TO THE UNDERGROUND a spiritual and musical experience operated by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. We will all meet at Our Lady of Good Counsel, 230 East 90th St (btw 2nd & 3rd), New York, NY 10128 on **Sat., October 1**. Holy Hour starts at **7:30PM**, followed by musical performances at **9PM**.

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."

CIVIC EDUCATION FOR FOOD-Low-income individuals living in the Bronx can attend a weekly 45-minute class every **Sunday at 1:30PM**. After the class, each participant will receive food items for free. The sessions take place in the Green Building. You may email: archerkentbloodcenter@gmail.com or call **347-649-4253** to register.

IMMIGRATION ISSUES? Catholic Charities has created a multi-service office to help all immigrants, especially those who have just arrived in the country. The services included in this office are: housing, medical services, and immigration lawyers. To receive assistance, you must first call and ask for Christina who will help you make an appointment. The place to go once you have your appointment is the Red Cross Immigration Center, located at 520 West 49th Street, NY, NY 10019, where you will meet with immigration specialists.

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

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

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS (NA) meets 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.**

NOS ANGES GARDIENS-Tout d'abord, il est important de dire que les anges ne sont pas au centre du christianisme ; la question centrale est le mystère de Dieu et celui du Christ. Leur existence est néanmoins un fait que l'Écriture et la Tradition de l'Église ont toujours maintenu, approfondi et soutenu. Il ne s'agit donc pas d'une vérité facultative, bien qu'elle ne soit pas essentielle. Certes, dans l'Antiquité, la figure des anges était liée à une certaine cosmologie qui n'est plus la nôtre. Mais l'existence des anges et leur action dans la vie de l'Église, ainsi que dans la vie des êtres humains, a toujours été un élément très présent dans l'Écriture, et l'Église a toujours enseigné cette vérité. Dans le Catéchisme de l'Église catholique, il y a une partie très importante consacrée au monde invisible que nous mentionnons également dans le Credo ("toutes les choses visibles et invisibles").

La doctrine liée aux anges gardiens est intrinsèquement liée à la foi en la Providence divine. C'est probablement la foi en la Providence qui souffre le plus d'une certaine faiblesse de nos jours. Ainsi, la dévotion aux anges gardiens est une manière de rappeler que la Providence a une dimension quotidienne et fait partie des détails de notre vie. Les anges gardiens sont un instrument de la Providence. Ils ne sont pas des exécutants indifférents, car tout ce qu'ils font est le fruit de leur propre charité envers nous. Une chose que nous avons souvent tendance à oublier, c'est que les anges font partie de la Communion des Saints. Au ciel, ils participent à la joie de la vision de Dieu. Ils sont unis à Dieu et, par conséquent, ils veulent ce que Dieu veut : notre salut. Ils veulent que les êtres humains se sanctifient. Ainsi, les anges gardiens sont, par amour, au service des êtres humains pour les guider sur le chemin qui les mène à Dieu.

Cependant, comme chacun peut le savoir, ce chemin est semé d'embûches. Nous avons donc besoin de l'aide de nos anges gardiens, qui peut prendre mille formes différentes. Il peut nous inspirer de bonnes pensées et de bonnes résolutions. J'aime citer le très beau film Les Ailes du désir de Wim Wenders, dans lequel on voit des anges gardiens parcourir la ville de Berlin. Dans une scène se déroulant dans un bus à Berlin, nous voyons un homme totalement désespéré. Il pense avoir gâché sa vie ; il envisage même le suicide. A ce moment-là, on voit un ange gardien apparaître (le personnage ne le voit pas) et passer son bras autour de ses épaules, sans rien dire. On sent qu'il transmet quelque chose. On entend la rumination interne de l'homme s'arrêter soudainement, tandis que, petit à petit, ses pensées prennent une autre direction. Il commence à voir des aspects positifs de sa vie : il se souvient d'un beau geste qu'il a reçu d'un ami, il se souvient des personnes qui se soucient de lui, et il commence enfin à reprendre courage. Cette scène est, à mon avis, une très

belle façon d'expliquer l'action des anges gardiens qui peuvent nous inspirer de bonnes pensées et de bons désirs. Ils peuvent également agir sur les circonstances extérieures de notre vie pour nous protéger dans les moments difficiles, pour éviter les accidents, favoriser les rencontres avec d'autres personnes, etc. Toutes ces actions appartiennent à la Providence, qui se concrétise à travers eux. La fête des Anges gardiens est en réalité une célébration de la Providence divine qui utilise toute créature pour nous guider vers notre Créateur. Ces créatures peuvent, bien sûr, être des anges, nos cousins du ciel, mais aussi nos parents, nos amis ou nos prêtres.

EL GRUPO DE MINISTROS EXTRAORDINARIOS DE LA COMUNIÓN está abriendo sus puertas para nuevos integrantes. Si usted está interesado en formar parte de este grupo, puede comunicarse con Nélsido Y Pastora para más información al **347-607-5398.** También al finalizar la misa ellos estarán anotando a los interesados.

NUESTRA PRIMERA SESIÓN DE PRIMERA COMUNIÓN para padres tendrá lugar el **domingo 2 de octubre** a las **11AM** en la cafetería de la escuela. Se espera que todos los padres de los niños que están planeando recibir su Primera Comunión en **mayo de 2023** asistan a estas importantes sesiones mensuales con el Padre Richard.

EL MOVIMIENTO JUVENIL CALASANZ se reúne todos los **viernes** a las **7PM.** Estudiantes de escuela intermedia y superior están invitados a participar. El Movimiento Calasanz tiene como misión capacitar a los jóvenes para que vivan como discípulos de Cristo a través de una serie organizada de juegos, música, retiros, manualidades, deportes y actividades religiosas. Todavía estamos aceptando nuevos miembros, así que acércate a la rectoría todos los viernes y descubre de qué se trata este singular Movimiento Juvenil Calasanz.

¿Problemas de inmigración? Caridades Católicas ha creado una oficina de servicios múltiples para ayudar a todos los inmigrantes, especialmente aquellos que acaban de llegar al país. Los servicios que incluye esta oficina son: vivienda, servicios médicos y abogados de inmigración. Para recibir ayuda debe primero llamar y preguntar por Christina quien le ayudará a concretar una cita. El lugar donde debe acudir una vez tenga su cita es el Centro de Inmigración de la Cruz Roja, localizado en el 520 West 49th Street, NY, NY 10019, donde se reunirá con los especialistas en inmigración

EL DOMINGO DE LA RECUPERACIÓN es el **25 de septiembre.** Un representante de **Neuróticos Anónimos** hablará en la misa de las 12PM en español y distribuirá información, así como un representante de **Narcóticos Anónimos**, que también venderá sus camisetas después de todas las misas.

EL CENTRO DE AUTOAYUDA de Corona hablará en la misa en español el **25 de septiembre.** Venderán camisetas después de la misa. Su misión es rehabilitar a las personas que sufren las consecuencias de los Trastornos por Consumo de Sustancias, centrándose en sus aspectos físicos, mentales y espirituales, contribuyendo a la reinserción social y familiar del individuo de forma digna y eficaz.

“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.reportineweb.com/ADNY>. Ambos están disponibles las 24 horas del día.”

EDUCACIÓN CÍVICA PARA LA ALIMENTACIÓN-Este es un programa para personas de bajos ingresos que viven en el Bronx. En el marco de este programa, una persona asistirá una clase de 45 minutos to dos los domingos, a las **1:30PM.** Después de la clase, cada participante recibirá alimentos gratis. Las clases son sesiones informativas de educación cívica diseñadas en la

CUNY para aumentar la participación electoral de las personas de bajos ingresos que viven en Nueva York. Para inscribirse en la sesión, que comienza a finales de julio aquí en Santa Elena en el Edificio Verde, llame al **347-649-4253** o envíe un correo electrónico a: archerkentbloodcenter@gmail.com.

TÚ, COMO HOMBRE DE DIOS... con esta frase quiero comenzar la reflexión de este domingo veintiséis del tiempo ordinario. La cual puedes encontrar en la primera carta del apóstol san Pablo a Timoteo. En ella san Pablo nos exhorta: “*Tú, como hombre de Dios.*” Mi pregunta para ti hoy es ¿qué significa ser un hombre de Dios?

Creo que para llegar a la respuesta debemos primero dejar a un lado aquellas cosas que el mundo piensa es un hombre de Dios, esas concepciones erróneas que incluso nosotros tenemos y que no nos dejan llegar a ser realmente ese hombre o mujer. Algunas de esas concepciones comienzan teniendo raíz en el miedo a qué dirán, es que, si soy un hombre de Dios, debo de.... o tengo que dejar de...; querido Hermano y Hermana, ser un hombre de Dios no es renuncia sino ganancia. La sociedad en que vivimos nos quiere hacer creer que ser seguidores de Cristo implica cortar con nuestra libertad y formas egoísta de vivir, pero yo te pregunto, ¿vale la pena perder la vida eterna por los placeres de este mundo? No, no lo vale.

En este domingo, Jesús nos invita a mirar más allá de lo terrenal, nos llama a vivir como aquellos que han sido destinados para la vida eterna. Es triste ver hermanos que siguen viviendo con su mirada sólo fija en este mundo y lo que puede ofrecer, sin percatarse que lo importante será después, la vida eterna. Claro que es importante vivir bien, pero no perder nuestra vida por asegurar riquezas en este mundo.

Por eso San pablo nos lo dice claramente: lleva una vida de rectitud, piedad, fe, amor, paciencia y mansedumbre. Virtudes que ya no vemos, y que estamos llamados a cultivar y que para nada contradicen o coartan nuestro libre albedrío. Querido hermano y hermana, el llamado de Jesús este domingo es simple: lucha en el noble combate de la fe, conquista la vida eterna a la que has sido llamado. Si hoy estas aquí, es porque reconoces que Él te está llamando y te invita a vivir como Hombre de Dios.

Ahora te corresponde a ti responder a ese llamado. ¿quieres vivir como hombre, mujer de Dios? Si respondes afirmativamente, el reto que tienes para esta semana, consiste en ir buscando la manera de vivir esas virtudes que San Pablo nos comenta y pedirle la gracia al Espíritu Santo para que te acompañe en ese proceso de vivirlo.

En Cristo Jesús y Calasanz, Fr. Jorge L. Ramírez, Sch.P.



**WEEKLY COLLECTION: September 18 —\$5,142.80
Utility Fund Boilers—\$1,819.75**

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

September 25 – Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8:00** +Porichu Neyyan
- 10:00 S** +Mercedes Gonzalez and Kathleen Nelson
- 12:00 (Sp)** Brandon Lopez and Juan Domenech-Healing Inten;
In Thanksgiving to the Divine Child from Romero Luna Family
- 5:00** In Thanksgiving for Favors Granted to Alessandra Savino and Her Paternal Grandmother
- 6:30(Fr)** In Honor of St. Jude;
+Margaret Bongyii & Raphael Mbinkar

September 26 – Monday — Sts. Cosmas and Damian

- 6:30*** For Alessandra Savino's Utmost Facility to Achieve Salvation and for a Close and Loving Relationship between Her and Her Paternal Grandmother
- 8:30 S** +Fr. Girard J. Koehler
- 12:15** +Alberto Brinz
- 7:00 (Sp)** +Ignacio Mayancela; +Dolores Rodriguez-1 Month Anniversary

September 27 – Tuesday — St. Vincent de Paul

- 6:30*** In Thanksgiving for Favors Granted to Alessandra and Her Grandmother
- 8:30 S** Alexander Williams Raymor and Baumann Nelson-Birthday Intention
- 12:15** +Lillian Pirozzo, Norma from PR and Emily Adorno

September 28 – Wed. — St. Wenceslaus & St. Lawrence Ruiz

- 6:30** Fr. Richard Wzykiewicz, Sch.P.-Blessings on His Birthday and for His +Parents, Dorothy and Stephen and Family
- 8:30 S** +Paul Knoll, Fred Havelka and Larry Young
- 12:15** +Maria Salud and Hilarion Lazo

September 29 – Thursday — Feast of the Archangels

- 6:30** Brenda and Scott Van de Weghe, that they Understand the Need to be Reconciled to God and to Practice Their Faith
- 8:30** +Luzvina Vega-2nd Anniversary
- 12:15** +Ralph A. Cerbone, Jr. and Sr.
- 7:00 (Sp)** In Honor of San Miguel, Archangel

September 30 – Friday — St. Jerome and St. Francis Borgia

- 6:30** In Thanksgiving for Favors Granted to the Van de Weghes
- 8:30 S** +Antonio Chica; *Wilson and Albert Torres-Intentions*
- 12:15** +Ruth Maria Crespo (Crema's Mass)

October 1 – Saturday — St. Thérèse of the Little Flower

- 6:30** In Honor of St. Jude
- 8:30 S** Deceased Members of the Torrens & Gramlich Families
- 12:15** +Ralph A. Cerbone, Jr.
- 5:30** +Halu and Intentions for Jerusalem Abraham

October 2 – Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8:00** +Ralph A. Cerbone, Jr.
- 10:00 S** Deceased Members of the Retutas & Corciaga Families
- 12:00 (Sp)** +Alina Hernandez
- 3:00 (Fr)** En Action de Grâce pour l'anniversaire de Karl-Henry Smith; +Papa Tomebe Moise
- 5:00** Elijah E. Plaza-Healing Intention
- 6:30(Fr)** **Mass moved to 3PM today**

*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 25, 2022

Sun: Am 6:1a, 4-7/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 [1b]/1 Tm 6:11-16/Lk 16:19-31; **Mon:** Jb 1:6-22/Ps 17:1bcd, 2-3, 6-7/Lk 9:46-50; **Tues:** Jb 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23/Ps 88:2-3, 4-5, 6, 7-8/Lk 9:51-56; **Wed:** Jb 9:1-12, 14-16/Ps 88:10bc-11, 12-13, 14-15/Lk 9:57-62; **Thurs:** Dan 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5/Jn 1:47-51; **Fri:** Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5/Ps 139:1-3, 7-8, 9-10, 13-14ab/Lk 10:13-16; **Sat:** Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17/Ps 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130/Lk 10:17-24; **Next Sun:** Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14/Lk 17:5-10