

The Piarist Fathers



Pastor

Rev. David Powers Sch.P.

Parochial Vicars

Rev. Jesús Negro, Sch.P.

Rev. Jorge Ramirez, Sch.P.

Rev. Richard Wzykiewicz 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

November-December 2022

St. Helena's School (718) 892-3234

<http://www.sthelenaelementary.org>

Early Childhood (Pre-K for All)

Elementary School (Grades K-8)

Principal: Mr. Richard Meller

2050 Benedict Avenue

Bronx, New York 10462

High School:

Monsignor Scanlan H.S. (718) 430-0100

<http://www.scanlanhs.edu/>

Principal: Mr. Kris Keelin

915 Hutchinson River Parkway

Bronx, New York 10465

St. Helena Rectory:

1315 Olmstead Avenue

Bronx, N.Y. 10462

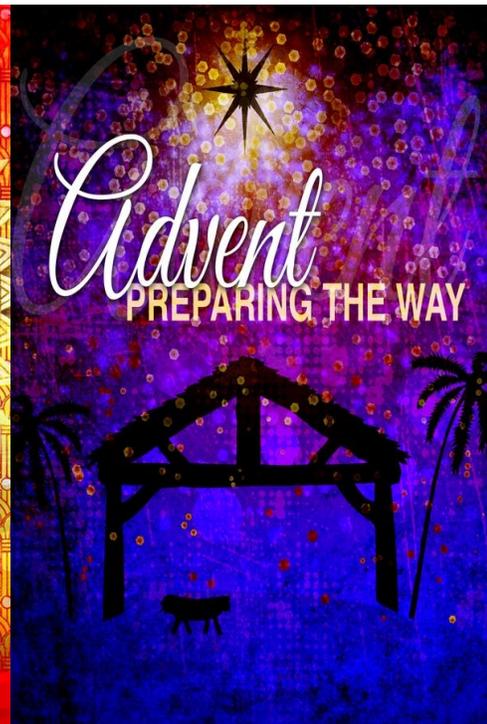
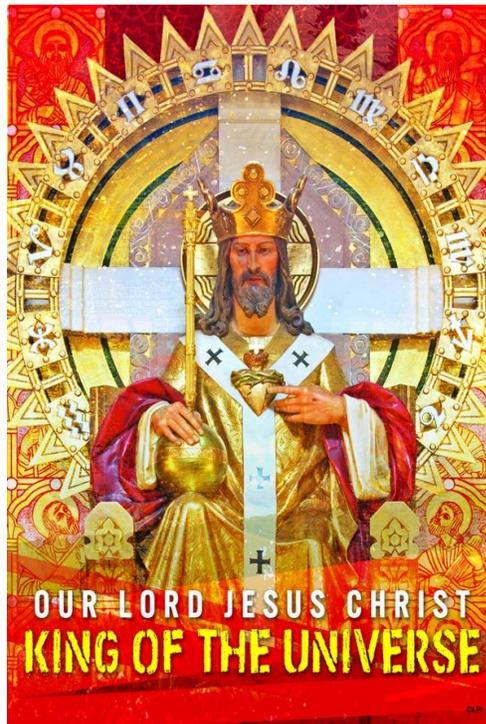
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saint Helena parish



Bronx, NY

Mass Schedule (Horario de Misas)

Saturday: 5:30 PM

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

Sunday: AM

PM

Weekdays & Sat.: 8:30AM, 12:15 PM

8:00

12:00 (Español)

Morning Prayer: Daily 8:30AM

10:00 (Family)

5:00

Spanish Mass: Sunday, 12:00 Noon and

Monday thru Friday—7:00PM

6:30 (Français)

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

ADVENT

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming." This is the Latin form of the Greek word *parousia*. The First Sunday of Advent marks the new Liturgical Year, and the Church shifts into a new Lectionary Cycle for Sundays, with 2022-23 returning to Cycle A, the Gospel of Saint Matthew. In today's Gospel, Jesus invites us to recognize the signs of the last days. This is a reminder that Advent is not just looking back at the first coming of Christ at Christmas, but it is our personal preparation for His Second Coming: "Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come....you also must be prepared, for an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." In this new Liturgical Year, the Church not only wishes to indicate the beginning of a period, but also the beginning of a renewed commitment to the faith by all those who follow Christ, the Lord. This time of prayer and path of penance that is so very powerful, rich, and intense, endeavors to give us all a renewed impetus to truly welcome the message of the One who was then incarnated for us. In fact, the entire Liturgy of the Advent season will spur us into an awakening in our Christian life and will put us in a 'vigilant' disposition, to wait for Our Lord Jesus who is coming.



The Season of Advent is therefore a season of vigilant waiting, that prepares us to welcome the mystery of the Word Incarnate, who will give the 'Light' to the womb of the Virgin Mary, but essentially this time prepares us not only to welcome this great event but to incarnate it in our lives. We could say that the true light enters the world through the immaculate womb of Mary but it does not stay there. On the contrary, this light flows out into our dark, obscure, sinful lives to illuminate them, so that we can become the light that illuminates the world. For this reason, let us live this time of waiting not only to celebrate a historical memory but to repeat this memory in our lives and in the service of others. To wait for the Lord who comes means to wait and to watch so that the Word of Love enters inside us and focuses us every day of our lives.

We must start our journey to ascend to the mountain of the Lord, to be illuminated by His Words of peace and to allow Christ to indicate the path to tread. Moreover, we must change our conduct abandoning the works of darkness and put on the 'armor of light' and so seek only to do God's work and to abandon the deeds of the flesh. Jesus, through the story in today's parable, outlines the Christian lifestyle that must not be distracted and indifferent but must be vigilant and recognize even the smallest sign of the Lord's coming because we don't know the hour in which He will arrive.

THE ADVENT WREATH

The lighting of an Advent wreath is a custom that began in 16th-century Germany. The original purpose of the wreath was to bring focus on Christmas rather than on Advent as a distinct season. In Western Christianity, Advent begins on the Sunday which falls closest to November 30th, and lasts through Christmas Eve, or December 24. Set on the branches of the Advent wreath are four candles: three purple candles and one pink candle. A much more modern tradition is to place a white candle in the center of the wreath. As a whole, these colored advent candles represent the coming of the light of Christ into the world. Each week of Advent on Sunday, a particular Advent candle is lit. On the first Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle is lit. This candle is typically called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ: This first candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

ADVENT CALENDARS

An Advent calendar is used to count the days of Advent in anticipation of Christmas. The Advent calendar was first used by Germans in the 19th and 20th centuries. Since the date of the First Sunday of Advent varies, falling between November 27 (as it does this year) and December 3 inclusive, several Advent calendars made of paper or wood begin on December 1; others start from

the First Sunday of Advent and thus include the last few days of November that begin the liturgical season of Advent. Traditional Advent calendars feature the manger scene, Saint Nicholas, and winter weather, while others range in theme, from sports to new technology. They come in a multitude of forms, from a simple paper calendar with flaps covering each of the days to fabric pockets on a background scene to painted wooden boxes with cubby holes for small items. Many Advent calendars take the form of a large rectangular card with "Doors", one for each day of December leading up to and including Christmas Eve (December 24) or Christmas Day (December 25). Consecutive doors are opened every day leading up to Christmas, beginning on the start of the Advent season for that year, or simply on December 1, as is the case of reusable Advent calendars. Often the doors are distributed across the calendar in no particular order. The calendar doors open to reveal an image, a poem, a portion of a story (such as the story of the Nativity of Jesus, or a small gift, such as a toy or a chocolate item. Often, each door has a Bible verse and a Christian Prayer printed on it, which Christians incorporate as part of their daily Advent Devotions. There are many variations of Advent calendars; some European villages create advent calendars on buildings or even so-called "living" Advent calendars, where different windows are decorated for each day of Advent.

St. James of the Marches - November 28

The small town of Montebandone, on the eastern coast of Italy, called the March of Ancona, gave birth to Saint James in the year 1391. While still young he was sent to the University of Perugia, where his progress in learning soon qualified him to be chosen as preceptor to the children of a young gentleman of Perugia. He went with him to Florence, to aid in the administration of a juridical office the nobleman had obtained there; but realizing that he was about to be engulfed in the whirlpool of worldly excesses in which he found himself, Saint James applied himself to prayer and also recollection, and thought of entering the Carthusian Order. When traveling one day near Assisi, however, he went into the Church of the Portiuncula to pray, and moved by the fervor of the holy men who served God there and by the example of their blessed founder Saint Francis; he determined to petition in that very place for the habit of the Order. He was then twenty-one years of age; he received the habit near Assisi, at the convent of Our Lady of the Angels. He fell ill with a number of different illnesses which for thirty years he endured with such heroic patience, without ever even exempting himself from saying Holy Mass or assisting at the offices in common.

When, through the response of the Mother of Heaven to his pious prayers, he became able to preach, he carried out that ministry with such great fervor and power that he never failed to touch the most hardened hearts and produce truly miraculous conversions. He joined Saint John of Capistrano to preach a crusade against the Turks, who had become masters of Constantinople and were terrorizing Western Europe. At Buda, he effected the miraculous cessation of a furious sedition by simply showing the crucifix to the people; the rebels themselves took him upon their shoulders and carried him through the streets of the city. At Prague, he brought back to God many who had fallen into error, and when a magician wanted to dispute with him, he rendered him mute and thus obliged him to retire in confusion. He traveled through the northern Provinces. If he found no aid or was without lodging, he rejoiced in his union with Lady Poverty, to whom he was joined by his religious profession. When he was called back to Italy to labor against a heresy, he acquired new persecutors who attempted in several evil ways, including ambushes, poison, calumny and the arousing of seditions against him, to do away with him. But God delivered him each time. When chosen as Archbishop of Milan, he fled, and could not be prevailed on to accept the office. He brought about several miracles at Venice and at other places, often by the simple Holy Name of Jesus written on a paper. He raised from dangerous illness the Duke of Calabria and the King of Naples. The Saint died in the Franciscan convent of the Most Holy Trinity near Naples, to which city the Holy Father had sent him at the prayer of its King. The date was November 28, 1476; he was 90 years old, and he had spent 69 of those years in religious life.

St. Catherine Laboure - November 28

Among the most famous and well known of all medals in Catholicism is the Miraculous Medal, which has as its feast November 27. This medal was given to us by the Blessed Mother

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

through her chosen daughter, St. Catherine Labouré. At St. Helena, we pray the Miraculous Medal Novena every Monday after the 12:15 Mass. Catherine was born on May 2, 1806, in the Burgundy region of France. Her parents were Pierre and Madeleine Laboure, and Catherine was their ninth of 11 children. In 1815, when Catherine was nine years old, her mom died. After the funeral, when Catherine was home, she picked up a statue of the Blessed Virgin and, holding it close to her face, said, "Now you will be my mother." Catherine's dad, within a year, gave 10-year-old Catherine the responsibility of caring for the household. Catherine dutifully and lovingly did as she was asked. Soon after, Catherine had a dream in which an old priest motioned her to a room filled with sick people. He told her, "It is a good deed to look after the sick. God has designs on you. Do not forget it."



Some years later, upon visiting a hospital of the Daughters of Charity, she saw a picture of the same priest on the wall. She asked who he was, and she was told that it was their founder, St. Vincent de Paul. She immediately knew she must become a member of St. Vincent's order. In January of 1830, Catherine Laboure entered the novitiate of the Daughters of Charity. Three months later she left for Paris and entered the Mother House of the order. After hearing a homily about St. Vincent de Paul, she prayed to him to ask Our Lady if she might see her. That very night a bright light woke her, and the voice of a child told her to go to the chapel as the Blessed Mother was waiting for her. The date was July 19, 1830. As Catherine neared the chapel door it swung open and the inside was awash in brilliant light. Catherine went up and knelt at the communion rail. Then she heard the rustle of a silk dress. She turned and the Blessed Mother was sitting in the celebrant's chair. The angel then said, "The Blessed Mother wishes to speak to you." Catherine slowly approached the Blessed Mother and knelt beside her. She folded her hands and placed them in Our Lady's lap. The Blessed Virgin told her that she was being given a mission and that she would have all the graces necessary to complete it. Our Lady said, "... You will have the protection of God and St. Vincent. I always will have my eyes upon you. There will be much persecution. The cross will be treated with contempt. It will be hurled to the ground and blood will flow." Then the Virgin faded away. Four months later, as Catherine and the other sisters headed to the chapel for evening prayers, Catherine heard the "swishing" sound of silk, and she immediately recognized it as a signal from the Blessed Mother. Catherine looked to the main altar and saw Our Lady standing on a globe inside an oval frame. Around the margin of the frame appeared the words "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee." She told Catherine: "*Have a medal struck after this model. All who wear it will receive great graces; they should wear it around the neck.*" She also told Catherine to bring her instructions to Father Jean Marie Aladel, telling her, "*He is my servant.*" Catherine did as instructed, and she brought her message to the priest. At first, he did not believe her. Finally, after two years, he brought her story to the Archbishop. The archbishop ordered 2,000 medals to be struck. Catherine Laboure sought no attention and for the next 40 years simply went about the business of caring for the elderly, infirm and disabled. That is why she is known as a patron of elderly people. On New Year's Eve, 1876, Sister Catherine passed to her heavenly reward. Only a few people knew that she had been the one who had received the Miraculous Medal from the Blessed Virgin Mary. After her passing, word of who she was got out and spread like wildfire. Catherine Laboure's body was exhumed in 1933. It was miraculously as fresh as the day she was buried. She was canonized a saint by Pope Pius XII on July 27, 1947. She was, without doubt, not only a remarkable and humble woman, but she was also a personal confidante of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Catherine was and still is counted among the chosen. Her feast day is November 28.

St. Saturninus - November 29

Saturninus went from Rome, by direction of Pope Fabian, about the year 245, to preach the faith in Gaul. He fixed his episcopal see at Toulouse, and thus became the first Christian bishop of that city. There were but few Christians in the place. However, their number grew fast after the coming of the Saint; and his power was felt by the spirits of evil, who received the worship of the heathen. His power was felt the more because he had to pass daily through

the capitol, the high place of the heathen worship, on the way to his own church. One day a great multitude was gathered by an altar, where a bull stood ready for the sacrifice. A man in the crowd pointed out Saturninus, who was passing by, and the people would have forced him to idolatry; but the holy bishop answered: "I know but only God, and to Him I will offer the sacrifice of praise. How can I fear gods who, as you say, are afraid of me?" On this he was fastened to the bull, which was driven down the capitol. The brains of the Saint were scattered on the steps. His mangled body was taken up and buried by two devout women.

St. Andrew the Apostle - November 30

Andrew, Peter's older brother, and John were the first disciples to follow the Lord. With tender delicacy the Gospel describes their first meeting with Jesus. Andrew did not belong to the inner circle of the 12 apostles, Peter, James and John, and the evangelists narrate nothing extraordinary about him; but tradition extols his great love of the Cross and of the Savior; and the Church distinguishes him both in the Mass (his name occurs in the Canon and in the Libera since the time of Pope Saint Gregory I who had a special devotion to him) and in the Breviary. The story of his martyrdom rests on the apocryphal Acts. The pagan judge exhorted him to sacrifice to the gods. Andrew replied: "I sacrifice daily to almighty God, the one and true God. Not the flesh of oxen and the blood of goats do I offer, but the unspotted Lamb upon the altar. All the faithful then partake of His flesh, yet the Lamb remains unharmed and living." Angered by the reply, Aegeas commanded him to be thrown into prison. With little difficulty the people would have freed him, but Andrew personally calmed the mob and earnestly entreated them to desist, as he was hastening toward an ardently desired crown of martyrdom. When Andrew was led to the place of martyrdom, on beholding the cross from a distance he cried out: "O good Cross, so long desired and now set up for my longing soul I confident and rejoicing come to you; exultingly receive me, a disciple of Him who hung on you." Forthwith he was nailed to an X-shaped cross. For two days, he hung there alive, unceasingly proclaiming the doctrine of Christ until he passed on to Him whose likeness in death he had so vehemently desired. He is the patron saint of Scotland and Russia, and he was a disciple of John the Baptist.



St. Charles de Foucauld - December 1

Canonized by Pope Francis last May, Saint Charles de Foucauld was born in Strasbourg, France on September 15, 1858. Orphaned at the age of six, Charles and his sister Marie were raised by their grandfather in whose footsteps he followed by taking up a military career. He lost his faith as an adolescent. His taste for easy living was well known to all and yet he showed that he could be strong-willed and constant in difficult situations. He undertook a risky exploration of Morocco (1883-1884). Seeing the way Muslims expressed their faith perplexed him and he began repeating, "My God, if you exist, let me come to know you." On his return to France, the warm, respectful welcome he received from his deeply Christian family made him continue his search. Under the guidance of Fr. Huvelin, he rediscovered God in October 1886. He was then 28 years old. "As soon as I believed in God, I understood that I could not do otherwise than to live for him alone." A pilgrimage to the Holy Land revealed his vocation to him: to follow Jesus in his life at Nazareth. He spent 7 years as a Trappist, first in France and then at Akbès in Syria. Later Charles began to lead a life of prayer and adoration, alone, near a convent of Poor Clares in Nazareth. Ordained a priest in 1901 at 43, he left for the Sahara, living at first in Beni Abbès and later at Tamanrasset among the Tuaregs of the Hoggar. He wanted to be among those who were, "the furthest removed, the most abandoned." He wanted all who drew close to him to find in him a brother, "a universal brother." In a great respect for the culture and faith of those among whom he lived, his desire was to "shout the Gospel with his life". "I would like to be sufficiently good that people would say, "If such is the servant, what must the Master be like?" On the evening of December 1, 1916, he was killed by a band of marauders who had encircled his house. He had always dreamed of sharing his vocation with others: after having written several rules for religious life, he came to the conclusion that this "life of Nazareth" could be led by all. Today the

"spiritual family of Charles de Foucauld" encompasses several associations of the faithful, religious communities and secular institutes for both lay people and priests.

St. Bibiana - December 2

St. Bibiana was a Roman who was martyred during the time of Julian the Apostate. An old legend states that Bibiana's parents, Flavian and Dafrosa, were devout Christians as well. Dafrosa was quickly beheaded, and Flavian, who was also a former Roman prefect, had his face burned with a hot iron and was exiled. Bibiana and Demetria, her sister, were both forced to remain in their house after all their possessions had been taken from them. For five months the two sisters fasted and prayed. When they appeared in court, Demetria died on the spot, and the judge handed Bibiana over to a woman named Fufina. This woman tried to tempt Bibiana to be unfaithful to Christ, but her efforts were in vain. Bibiana was scourged to death in 363 with whips that were loaded with lead. Her corpse was left out in the open for dogs to eat, but no dogs touched it, and after two days a priest named John took the body at night and buried it. St. Bibiana is one of the three virgin martyrs particularly venerated in Rome, the other two being St. Cecilia and St. Agnes.

Pope St. Silverius - December 2

When news of Agapitus' death reached Rome, King Theodahad, fearing the imminent Eastern invasion, was determined to have a pro-Gothic ally on the throne of Peter. Silverius, the son of the glorified Pope Hormisdas, was his candidate. The Roman clergy reluctantly submitted to the will of their king and elected the then subdeacon, accepting him only for the sake of unity. The destiny of this pope, however, would not follow the same glorious path as that of his father. While Silverius was being consecrated in Rome, the emperor's wife Theodora was making her own vile plans to reinstate the Monophysite bishop, Anthimus, as the patriarch of Constantinople. Striking a bargain with the chosen successor of Boniface II, Vigilius (who had then been serving as nuncio to Constantinople), the empress packed him off to Rome, promising him the papacy in exchange for the heretic's rehabilitation. But by the time Vigilius reached his destination, Silverius, the 58th pope, was already tending to the needs of the Apostolic See.

The emperor's general Belisarius now marched on Rome. As the Eastern army drew near, the Romans looked to their pope for advice. Silverius, realizing that resistance would be fruitless, recommended surrender. In early December of 536, as an eager, triumphant army occupied Rome, Belisarius summoned the pope to his quarters. Theodora had been adamant with the general—the pope must submit to her wishes or face dire consequences. The general's first tactic with Silverius failed. Using forged letters, Belisarius had accused the pope of treason on the grounds that he had allowed the city's gates to be opened for the retaliating Goths, now led by King Witiges. The general ordered Silverius to concede to the empress by reinstating Anthimus as patriarch and giving in to the Monophysite doctrine. Silverius adamantly refused. Belisarius took no chances the second time; he seized the pope and, stripping him of his pallium, deposed the protesting Silverius, now clothed only in a monk's habit. The clergy was then notified by a subdeacon of the pope's terrible treatment and sentence of banishment. When the general ordered the election of a new pope, the ambitious Vigilius was well prepared. Through coercion, Belisarius and Vigilius successfully accomplished the nomination and election of the latter by the clergy. Silverius also had been deported to Patara, a seaport in Lycia. The local bishop was so distressed that he personally went to Constantinople to plead with Justinian, telling him that Silverius had been unjustly accused and, more, unjustly exiled. The emperor believed there might be some merit to this and ordered Silverius back to Rome to face a fair trial. Moreover, he ordered that, if found innocent, Silverius was to be given back his throne. Vigilius panicked, and as soon as Silverius reached Rome, the new pope ordered his removal to Palmaria, an island in the Gulf of Gaeta. It was on this island that Silverius was forced to submit his abdication. After suffering much torture and starvation, Silverius died, a martyr for his Church. Silverius was buried on the same island of his exile, his grave becoming the center of miraculous healings.

St. Francis Xavier - December 3

This saint, one of the Church's most illustrious missionaries, came from a noble Basque family in Spain. He studied at the University of Paris, where he taught philosophy after obtaining his degree of master of arts. There, he met Ignatius of Loyola and was enrolled

as one of the first seven Jesuits. They decided to go to the Holy Land, but the war between the Turks and Venice prevented this, so for a time, Francis labored at Padua, Bologna, and Rome. In 1540, Ignatius chose him as the first missionary to the Portuguese East Indies. Francis sailed from Lisbon armed with four papal briefs making him nuncio with full powers and recommending him to the Eastern princes. He landed at Goa in India and began a vast apostolate lasting over ten years. He instructed the adults, gathered the children by ringing a bell in the streets, catechized them, and also visited the hospitals and prisons. He then turned to the native Indians, teaching the simple folk by versifying all Catholic doctrine and fitting the verses to popular tunes. He then went on to Cape Comorin and began the conversion of the Paravas, some days baptizing so many that at night he could not raise his arm from fatigue. Then to Travancore where Francis founded forty-five churches in various villages. Then to Malacca in Malaya, and for eighteen months from island to island, preaching, instructing, and baptizing.

On his return to Goa, he heard of the vast harvest of many souls awaiting the laborers in Japan, and he set out for this field with several companions, arriving at Kagoshima in 1549. He set himself to learn the language and started to preach and teach with such success that twelve years later his converts were found still there, retaining their first fervor. In 1551 he returned to Malacca to revisit his converts in India. Now a new goal loomed up before his eyes—pagan China, but he was not to reach it. Arriving on the island of Sancian at the mouth of the Canton river, he became ill of a fever and would have died abandoned on the burning sands of the sea shore if a poor man named Alvarez had not taken him to his hut. There Francis lingered for two weeks, praying between spells of delirium, and he finally died, his eyes fixed with great tenderness on his crucifix. He was buried in a shallow grave, and his body was covered with quicklime, but when exhumed three months later it was found fresh and incorrupt. It was taken to Goa where it is still enshrined. St. Francis Xavier was proclaimed patron of foreign missions and of all missionary works by Pope St. Pius X on March 25, 1904. He was canonized in 1622 by Gregory XV.



GIVING TUESDAY—Next Tuesday marks Giving Tuesday, **November 29**. This day is meaningful to all of us, as charitable organizations around the world highlight their good works and ask for contributions to assist in furthering their mission. If you want to honor this day by giving locally to St. Helena, you will impact the lives of many people living in and around Parkchester.

FIRST COMMUNION FAMILY SESSION on **Sun., Dec. 4** at **11AM** in the cafeteria. All parents of those children planning to receive their First Communion in May 2023 must attend.

THANKSGIVING RAFFLE TICKETS have been mailed out, and we also have some tickets in the rectory if you would like to either buy some tickets or get some extra ones to sell to your family members and friends. This year, was the 80th anniversary of the dedication of St. Helena's Church by Archbishop Spellman on May 4, 1942. Instead of the usual eight cash prizes of one \$1,000, two \$500, and five \$100 prizes, we will also have an extra ninth prize, a flatscreen TV. Please support your school and parish, as this is one of our major fundraisers of the year.

THE RELIGIOUS ARTICLE SHOP is open on every **Sunday** from **9AM** till **1PM**. Let us know what articles you may want.

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

BIBLE STUDY is held every **Tuesday** at **1PM** and **7:30PM** and **Sunday** at **11:15AM** in the Green Building, and today, we will begin our two-week study of the Prophet Jonah.

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

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 meet every the 2nd and 4th **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. Come to or call the rectory for Spanish Baptism information and requirements.

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**.

YOU MAY BE AT RISK of a stroke, loss of limb, or even death. Recognize the threat and reduce the risk of getting Peripheral Artery Disease. If you are black, you have three times the risk of contracting this disease. Learn about the signs of PAD, how it is treated, and what you can do to help reduce your health risk of developing this serious illness. A free PAD workshop will be conducted at Saint Helena, 1315 Olmstead Ave., Bronx, NY on **Sunday, December 4** from **11:15AM - 12PM** in the school gymnasium. Refreshments will be served. Sponsored by Healthy Directions. For more info, please call the rectory at **718-892-3232**.

FLOCKNOTE-The archdiocese of New York is holding an archdiocese-wide *Flocknote* Sunday Sign-Up on **December 5**. Take a look at the flyer inserted in this bulletin on how to get started. We are hoping for full participation. If you have any questions or need assistance, contact help@flocknote.com.

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

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

DIAPERS NEEDED-Many asylum seekers and other people who come to our outreach ministry seeking help have babies who are in need of diapers. Any cash or diaper donations can be brought to the rectory. Look for the Black Friday sales.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH-The Bronx Concert Singers invites you to revel in the splendid and beloved music of George F. Handel's *Messiah* on **Saturday, December 17** at **2:30PM** in St. Helena's Church, 1315 Olmstead Ave., Bronx. This LIVE CONCERT will be performed with a chorus, professional soloists, and an orchestra. *Messiah* was Handel's sixth English-language oratorio, consisting of 53 movements in three parts, composed in 1741 and first performed in Dublin on April 13, 1742; it is one of the best-known and most frequently performed choral works in Western Music. General admission for this Parkchester performance is \$20 (2 for \$35), Seniors (62+) and College Students \$15, and Children thru High School \$5. Tickets are available at the church rectory, at the concert door, or through Brown Paper Ticket at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/5589541>. For more concert information, call Frances at 917-743-4641.

VIEW ON FORMED-Good Catholic Information is so very important. Everyone at St. Helena's has a free parish subscription at www.formed.org. Just click the icon and join as a parishioner. Today is the First Sunday of Advent. Watch: *Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage, Formed Daily- Advent Reflections, or Prepare the Way with Bob Rice. Listen to: Prepare the Way of the King, Advent Through the Centuries, or Advent: Rethinking the Season.* For children, Watch: *Brother Francis: The Days of Advent.* To learn more about St. Catherine Laboure, listen to: Truth to Inspire: *Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal.* The 30th is the Feast of Saint Andrew, Apostle. Watch: *St. Andrew: After the Upper Room.*

JUSTICE AND MERCY-We invite you for a special bilingual panel on **Monday, November 28** at **7PM** featuring Fr. Vincent

Druding, Krismely Garcia and Nicole Moore, with remarks from the Sisters of Life. What does the Catholic Church teach about abortion: How can we help pregnant women: How can post-abortive women seek healing: What can we do to build a pro-life future in New York: St. John Chrysostom School Gym-1144 Hoe Ave, Bx. Free and open to the public. Panel organized by the Archdiocese. Please RSVP or email: Alexis.Tracey@archny.org or Hispanic.Ministry@archny.org.

YOUNG ADULT MASS-On **December 8**, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Cardinal Dolan will offer a **7:30PM** Mass in the Cathedral for Young Adults, and celebrate the completion of the diocesan phase of the canonization Cause for Servant of God Dorothy Day and its transmittal to the papal Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome. Dorothy Day was a lay woman, a mother, a journalist, a woman of prayer, and who with Peter Maurin founded the Catholic Worker movement. Dorothy loved the church and strived to live Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, through her practice of non-violence, charity and justice. We give thanks for her life and witness. The Mass will be live-streamed from St. Patrick's Cathedral at: <https://saintpatrickscathedral.org/live>. For more information on both Dorothy Day and the Mass please visit: dorothydayguild.org

NATIONAL NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE will take place in the church on **Thursday, December 8**, beginning with the Immaculate Conception Spanish Mass at **7PM**, followed by Prayer and Adoration until **1AM**. It was on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (then celebrated on December 9th) that Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas and of the unborn, first appeared to St. Juan Diego. The National Night of Prayer for Life bridges these two feasts to honor Our Blessed Mother and to pray for the sanctity of all human life.

THE SISTERS OF ST. DOMINIC welcome youth to Study, Pray, Celebrate and Serve as we prepare to enter into the full meaning of Christmas.

- **PRAY: Wednesdays at 8:30PM (Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21):** Via zoom, pray the Liturgy of the Hours known as Compline.
- **CELEBRATE: Sunday, December 11th at 3PM:** Come to Lessons and Carols at our Motherhouse, Queen of the Rosary Chapel, 555 Albany Ave., Amityville. *Bring a bell.*
- **SERVE:** Bring a supermarket gift card to the Lessons and Carols to be distributed to all those in need, or mail cards to the Associates' Office at 555 Albany Ave., Amityville, New York. To Register, email: belsole1@fordham.edu

SEEKING INDOOR SPACES FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS for 24-96 hours at a time. If you have a liveable area, email Jason Santiago at Jason.Santiago@mail.house.gov or call **917-620-3498**.

FREE IMMIGRATION LAWYER every **Thursday** at City Council Member Amanda Farias' office, 778 Castle Hill Ave.

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 **888-744-7900** and ask for Christina who will help you make an appointment. The place to go once you have made your appointment is the Red Cross Immigration Center, located at 520 West 49th Street, NY, 10019, where you will meet with immigration specialists.

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**.

AVENT

Le temps liturgique de l'Avent marque le temps de préparation spirituelle des fidèles avant Noël. L'Avent commence le dimanche le plus proche de la fête de l'apôtre saint André, le 30 novembre. Il s'étend sur quatre dimanches et quatre semaines de préparation. La célébration de l'Avent a évolué dans la vie spirituelle de l'Église. Il est difficile de déterminer avec précision les origines historiques de l'Avent. Dans sa forme la plus ancienne, à partir de la France, l'Avent était une période de préparation à la fête de l'Épiphanie, un jour où les convertis étaient baptisés ; la préparation de l'Avent était donc très siAmilaire au Carême, avec un accent sur la prière et le jeûne qui durait trois semaines et a ensuite été étendu à 40 jours. En 380, le concile local de Saragosse, en Espagne, a établi un jeûne de trois semaines avant l'Épiphanie. Inspiré par les règles du carême, le conseil local de Macon, en France, a décidé en 581 qu'à partir du 11 novembre (fête de saint Martin de Tours) et jusqu'à Noël, le jeûne serait obligatoire les lundi, mercredi et vendredi. Des pratiques similaires ont fini par se répandre en Angleterre. À Rome, la préparation de l'Avent n'est apparue qu'au VIe siècle, et était considérée comme une préparation à Noël avec une tendance moins pénitentielle.

L'Église a progressivement formalisé la célébration de l'Avent. Le sacramentaire gélasien, traditionnellement attribué au pape saint Gélase Ier (m. 496), a été le premier à proposer des liturgies de l'Avent pour cinq dimanches. Plus tard, le pape saint Grégoire Ier (mort en 604) a enrichi ces liturgies en composant des prières, des antiennes, des lectures et des réponses. Le pape saint Grégoire VII (mort en 1095) a ensuite réduit à quatre le nombre de dimanches de l'Avent. Enfin, vers le IXe siècle, l'Église a désigné le premier dimanche de l'Avent comme le début de l'année ecclésiastique. Le Catéchisme souligne la double signification de cette venue : lorsque l'Église célèbre chaque année la liturgie de l'Avent, elle rend présente cette antique attente du Messie, car en participant à la longue préparation de la première venue du Sauveur, les fidèles renouvellent leur ardent désir de sa seconde venue. En effet, en partageant la longue préparation de la première venue du Sauveur, les fidèles renouvellent leur ardent désir de sa seconde venue. (Le Catéchisme souligne la double signification de cette venue : lorsque l'Église célèbre chaque année la liturgie de l'Avent, elle rend présente cette ancienne attente du Messie, car en participant à la longue préparation de la première venue du Sauveur, les fidèles renouvellent leur ardent désir de sa seconde venue.

Une bonne et pieuse façon de nous aider dans notre préparation de l'Avent a été l'utilisation de la couronne de l'Avent. La couronne est un cercle, qui n'a ni début ni fin : Ainsi, nous nous rappelons comment nos vies, ici et maintenant, participent à l'éternité du plan de salut de Dieu et comment nous espérons partager la vie éternelle dans le Royaume des cieux. La couronne est faite de plantes fraîches, car le Christ est venu nous donner une vie nouvelle par sa passion, sa mort et sa résurrection. Trois cierges sont violets, symbolisant la pénitence, la préparation et le sacrifice ; le cierge rose symbolise la même chose mais souligne le troisième dimanche de l'Avent, le dimanche Gaudete, où nous nous réjouissons parce que notre préparation est maintenant à moitié terminée. La lumière représente le Christ, qui est entré dans ce monde pour disperser les ténèbres du mal et nous montrer le chemin de la justice. La progression de l'allumage des bougies montre que nous sommes de plus en plus prêts à rencontrer notre Seigneur. Chaque famille devrait avoir une couronne de l'Avent, l'allumer à l'heure du dîner et dire les prières spéciales. Cette tradition aidera chaque famille à rester concentrée sur la véritable signification de Noël. En somme, pendant l'Avent, nous nous efforçons d'accomplir la prière d'ouverture de la messe du

premier dimanche de l'Avent : Père céleste, augmente notre désir du Christ notre Sauveur et donne-nous la force de croître dans l'amour, afin que l'aube de sa venue nous trouve réjouis en sa présence et accueillant la lumière de sa vérité.

JUSTICIA Y MISERICORDIA-Le presentaremos un panel especial bilingüe en **Lunes, 28 de Noviembre del @7PM** con Padre Vincent Druding, Krismely Garcia, Nicole Moore con comentarios de las Hermanas por la Vida. Qué enseña la Iglesia Católica sobre el aborto? ¿Cómo podemos ayudar a las mujeres embarazadas? ¿Cómo pueden las mujeres después de un aborto buscar la recuperación? ¿Qué podemos hacer para construir un futuro pro-vida en Nueva York? Gimnasio de la escuela San Juan Crisóstomo, 1144 Hoe Avenue, Bx. Gratuito y abierto al público. Organizado por la Arquidiócesis de Nueva York. Por favor confirmar su asistencia aquí o por correo electrónico: **Hispanic.Ministry@archny.org** o **Alexis.Tracev@archny.org**

UNA MISA PARA JOVENES ADULTOS-El **8 de diciembre**, la Fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción, el Cardenal Dolan ofrecerá una misa a las **7:30 PM** en la Catedral para jóvenes adultos, y celebrará la finalización de la fase diocesana de la canonización Causa para la Sierva de Dios Dorothy Day y su transmisión a la Congregación para las Causas de los Santos en Roma. Dorothy Day fue una mujer laica, una madre, una periodista, una mujer de oración, y que con Peter Maurin fundó el movimiento Obrero Católico. Dorothy amaba a la iglesia y se esforzó por vivir el Sermón del Monte de Jesús, a través de su práctica de la no violencia, la caridad y la justicia. Damos gracias por su vida y testimonio. La Misa será transmitido en vivo por internet desde la Catedral: <https://saintpatrickscathedral.org/live>. Para obtener más información sobre Dorothy Day y la Misa de la Catedral, visite: dorothydayguild.org.

EN BÚSQUEDA DE LA PAREJA CON MÁS TIEMPO DE CASADOS -Día Mundial del Matrimonio, **13 de febrero, 2022**

¡Ha empezado la búsqueda de la pareja con más tiempo de casados en la Arquidiócesis de Nueva York!

Para calificar: La pareja debe de tener un mínimo de 65 años de casados sacramentalmente (por la iglesia) y deben vivir en la Arquidiócesis de Nueva York.

Las parejas con más tiempo de casados recibirán certificados conmemorativos de parte del Cardenal Timothy Dolan. La pareja ganadora será entrevistada y destacada en el periódico *Catholic New York*. Los ganadores están determinados por el tiempo que la pareja ha estado casada desde el Día Mundial del Matrimonio, 13 de febrero de 2022.

Para más información, favor de contactar **Yorleni Tavarez-Sanchez** a la Oficina de Vida Familiar al **646-794-3199**, o Yorleni.Tavarez-Sanchez@archny.org.

La fecha límite para las inscripciones es el domingo, 16 de enero del 2022.

NUESTRO NUEVO MINISTERIO DE ALCANCE, Helena Helps, está abierto en el Edificio Verde en las siguientes horas: Lunes de 3 a 4 de la tarde, martes de 2 a 4 de la tarde, viernes de 1 a 4 de la tarde, cada segundo y cuarto sábado de 1 a 4 de la tarde, y domingo de 1 a 4 de la tarde.

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.

ABOGADO DE INMIGRACIÓN GRATIS todos los **jueves** en la oficina de Amanda Farias, 778 Castle Hill Ave.

¿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 al **888-744-7900** 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

¡FELIZ AÑO NUEVO, LITÚRGICO! Con la llegada del ADVIENTO la Iglesia da comienzo a un nuevo Año el cual comienza con la preparación hacia la Navidad. El Adviento nos ayuda a detenernos en el significado de la llegada de Jesús y por un momento cada domingo nos va llevando para así dejar a un lado lo comercial de esta temporada.

Durante este tiempo de preparación la liturgia nos invita a centrarnos en las Venidas de Cristo. Durante estas primeras dos semanas de adviento, nos estaremos centrando en la segunda venida de Cristo; la parusía. Luego las últimas dos semanas próximas a la Navidad nuestra atención se torna en la primera venida de Cristo y como todas las promesas del Antiguo Testamento apuntaban hacia ese momento trascendental de la historia de la humanidad. Ahora bien, en este primer domingo de Adviento pongamos nuestra atención a la segunda venida de Cristo y lo que esto quiere decir para nosotros.

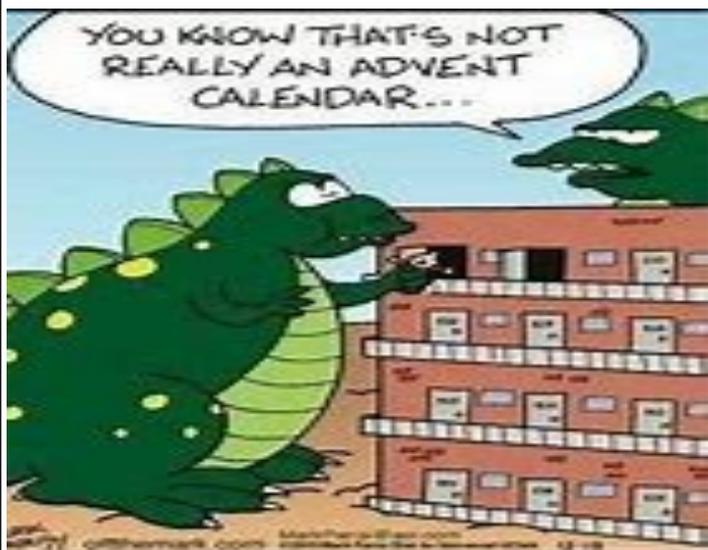
El evangelista Mateo en su evangelio nos dice: *“Velen, pues, y estén preparados, porque no saben qué día va a venir su Señor.”*

Hermanos, este tiempo lo primero que nos enseña es que no debemos creer a los que dicen saber que el fin esta cerca. Hoy por el contrario el evangelio nos los deja muy claro, no sabemos ni el día ni la hora de la segunda venida de Cristo y por consecuente debemos estar alertas y preparados para lo que ocurra.

¿Qué significa velar y estar preparados? Para los cristianos el estar en una actitud constante de vela, implica que estoy siempre intentando estar en sintonía con la voluntad de Dios y que trato de estar en guardia para no decaer. Y como consecuencia me preparo, limpio mi casa interior por medio del sacramento de la confesión; busco retomar o fortalecer mi relación con Dios por medio de la oración y la lectura de su palabra; e intento dar aquello que Dios mismo me da a través de la caridad.

A esto nos llama el Adviento, este tiempo es de revisión, preparación, expectación y luego de fiesta ya que la Promesa, el Verbo se ha hecho carne. Es un tiempo de alegría no de penitencia intensa como la Cuaresma, aunque si nos invita a la penitencia.

Querido hermano y hermana, al comienzo de este año litúrgico y de este hermoso tiempo de espera, te invito a que te detengas por



un momento y dejes espacio para prepararte, ya que a pesar de que si, decoraremos, compraremos y festejemos, este es el tiempo de preparar y hacer espacio para que el día de navidad; Cristo Jesús nazca en nuestros corazones.

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

**WEEKLY COLLECTION: November 20 —\$4,164.86
Campaign for Charity and Justice—\$1,773.00**

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

November 27 – First Sunday of Advent

8:00 +Dorothy and Stephen Wzyzkiewicz and Family-Intentions
10:00 S +Leonard Getzin

12:00 (Sp) +Lorenzo Gil, Juan de Dios Acosta, Juan Manuel Acosta, Carmen Torres, Danilo Escobar, Salomon Martinez, Abraham Mayorga and Josue Guerrero; +Carlos Beltran and Laura Verdugo

5:00 +Isabel Cortez and Antonio Morales

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

November 28 – Monday — St. James of the Marches and St. Catherine Laboure

6:30* Regina and Al Fazio-Intentions

8:30S +Antonio Colon

12:15 +Stephanie Fijalkowski

November 29 – Tuesday — St. Saturninus

6:30* Gina Vaccaro and Genny D’Aiello-Intentions

8:30 S +Trinidad Retutas

12:15 Maloney Family-Intentions

November 30 – Wednesday — St. Andrew the Apostle

6:30 Miguelina Bruno and Family-Intentions

8:30 S +Alicia Pantola

12:15 +Arturo and Andrea Ortiz

7:00 (Sp) +Manuel Basilio Perez Polanco

December 1 – Thursday — St. Charles de Foucauld

6:30 Sr. Maryann Weidner and IHM’s-Intentions

8:30 +Mamie Herman

12:15 +Josephine Schubert

7:00 (Sp) +Nicolasa Valiente and Blanca Aponti

December 2 – First Friday — St. Bibiana

6:30 Jon and MaryAnn Hehardt and Family-Intentions

8:30 S Deceased Members of Retutas & Corciega Families

12:15 +Ronald Guardino

7:00 (Sp) +Nilda Rosario

December 3 – First Saturday — St. Sylvester

6:30 Divine Justice for Any Sequels to the Terrorist Attacks of 9/11 in the Making

8:30 S Deceased Members of the Torrens & Gramlich Fam

12:15 For the Parishioners of St. Helena Parish

5:30 +Maria Carrasquillo

December 4 – Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 +Walter and Mildred Murphy

10:00 S Deceased Members of the Retutas & Corciega Families; +Luis Ramos

12:00 (Sp) +Edel Quinn and Alfonso Lambe (Legion de Maria),

+Reyes Tepale, Fernando Cinto and Virginia Campos;

+Ana Antonia Hernandez Ledesma; +Enrique Sanchez

5:00 +Noemi Cross-Birthday Remembrance

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 November 27, 2022

Sunday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44;

Monday: Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11;

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24;

Wednesday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 4:18-22; **Thursday:** Is

26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27; **Friday:** Is 29:17-

24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31; **Saturday:** Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-

2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8; **Next Sunday:** Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2,

7-8, 12-13, 17/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12