

# The Piarist Fathers



## Pastor

Rev. David Powers Sch.P.

## Parochial Vicars

Rev. Sunil Kumar, Sch.P.

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

## December 2022

## January 2023

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

<http://www.sthelenaelementary.org>

Early Childhood (Pre-K for All)

Elementary School (Grades K-8)

Principal: Mr. Richard Meller

2050 Benedict Avenue

Bronx, New York 10462

### High School:

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

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

Principal: Mr. Kris Keelin

915 Hutchinson River Parkway

Bronx, New York 10465

### St. Helena Rectory:

1315 Olmstead Avenue

Bronx, N.Y. 10462

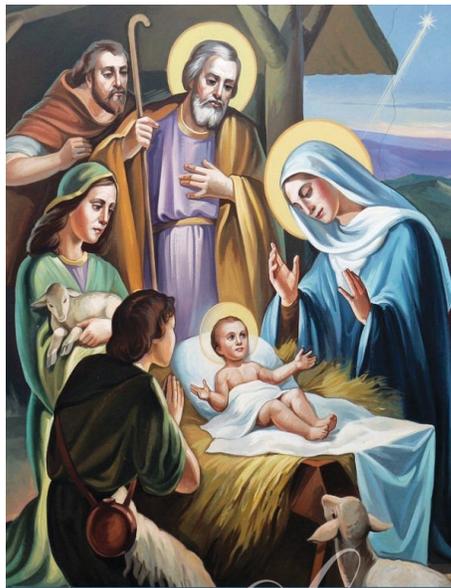
**Phone: (718) 892-3232**

**Fax: (718) 892-7713**

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

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

Alumni: [sthelenasalumni@yahoo.com](mailto:sthelenasalumni@yahoo.com)



The Nativity of the Lord



OUR LADY OF  
**GUADALUPE**

# 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, 12:15PM, 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



## ST. HELENA'S EPIPHANY SCHEDULE

### Sunday, January 1, 2023

English Masses 8AM,  
(live-streamed) 10AM,  
5PM  
Spanish Mass 12PM

### The Epiphany of the Lord Friday, January 6, 2023 (traditional Three Kings)

English (live-streamed) 8:30AM,  
12:15PM  
Spanish Mass 7:00PM

### Saturday, January 7

English Vigil Mass 5:30PM

### Sunday, January 8

English Masses 8AM, 10AM (live-streamed), 5PM  
Spanish Mass 12:00PM  
French Mass 6:30PM

Wise Men  
Seek Him Still



## Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, our Lady's greatest title. This feast is also the Octave Day of Christmas. In the current liturgical Calendar, only Christmas and Easter enjoy the privilege of an octave. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "Mary, the all-holy, ever-virgin Mother of God, is the masterwork of the holy mission of the Son and the Spirit in the fullness of time. For the first time in the plan of salvation and because his Spirit had prepared her, the Father found the dwelling place where his Son and his Spirit could dwell among men. In this sense, the Church's Tradition has often read the most beautiful texts on wisdom in relation to Mary. Mary is acclaimed, and she is represented in the liturgy as the "Seat of Wisdom."

A plenary indulgence may be gained by reciting or singing the hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus* on the first day of the year. This hymn is traditionally sung for the beginnings of things, calling on the Holy Spirit before endeavoring something new.

## Mary, Mother of God

In the early centuries of the Church, once Christmas began to be celebrated as its own holy feast on December 25 (having originally been celebrated with the Feast of the Epiphany, on January 6), the Octave (eighth day) of Christmas, January 1, took on a special meaning. In the East, and throughout much of the West, it became common to celebrate a feast of Mary, the Mother of God, on this day. This feast was never established in the universal calendar of the Church, however, in the 13th or 14th century, January 1st began to be celebrated in Rome, as already in Spain and Gaul, as the feast of the Circumcision of the Lord and the Octave of the Nativity, while still oriented towards Mary and Christmas, with many prayers, antiphons, and responsories glorifying the maternity of Mary. Pope John XXIII's 1960 rubrical and calendar revisions removed the mention of the circumcision of Jesus and it called January 1 simply the Octave of the Nativity. With the 1969 revision of the liturgical calendar at the time of the introduction of the Novus Ordo, the Feast of the Circumcision was set aside, and the ancient practice of dedicating January 1 to the Mother of God was revived—this time, as a universal feast.



In fact, the Church regards the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, as so important that it is a Holy Day of Obligation. On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Christ's Birth was made possible by Mary's fiat: "Be it done unto me according to Thy

word." We celebrate her as the Mother of God, because, in bearing Christ, she bore the fullness of the Godhead within her. As we begin another year, we draw inspiration from the selfless love of the Theotokos, who never hesitated to do the will of God. And we trust in her prayers to God for us, that we might, as the years pass, become more like her. O Mary, the Mother of God, pray for us!

The title "Mother of God" goes back to the third century, but the Greek term Theotokos ("The God-bearer") was officially consecrated as Catholic doctrine at the Council of Ephesus in 431, thus becoming the first Marian dogma. At the end of the Council of Ephesus, crowds of people marched through the streets shouting: "Praised be the Theotokos!" This Catholic doctrine is based on the doctrine of Incarnation, as expressed by St. Paul: "God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law" (Galatians 4:4). In its chapter on Mary's role in the Church, Vatican II's Dogmatic Constitution "Lumen Gentium" ("Light of the People") calls Mary "Mother of God" 12 times.

## 56<sup>TH</sup> WORLD DAY OF PEACE - JANUARY 1, 2023

World Day of Peace, celebrated on January 1 every year, is primarily a Catholic feast day dedicated to universal peace on the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. On this occasion, Popes generally make authoritative declarations on Catholic Social Teachings. The theme of the feast has always been about creating a culture of care. The Pope and the Vatican stress the need to care and share tolerance for each other and to create a society that focuses on good moral values and does not yield to the temptation to disregard others. The benefits of a peaceful society have been the emphasis of every year's World Day of Peace, which began in 1967 when Pope Paul VI announced that the world needs to be sensitized and oriented for peace and for understanding. Inspired by the papal letters "Pacem in Terris" and "Populorum Progressio", the Pope recommended that the church play a greater role in our search for world peace, and so, January 1 was appointed as a holy day to celebrate all our efforts for world peace. The Church and the Pope would focus on working toward achieving peace by developing order in four major areas: The relationship of an individual with other human beings, the strong relationship of an individual with particular states, the relationship of states among states, and the relationship of individuals and states with the worldwide community. The church determined that in order to achieve actual peace, a culture of understanding and tolerance must be developed, beginning from the individual up to the state and then the global level. Though the main theme of World Day of Peace does not change, keeping the main theme around every year's observance of World Day of Peace fixated around the concept of creating a culture of care, the sub-themes changes every year to match the needs and rising issues of that year. For example, the sub-theme for 2020 was 'Hope,' which came as a tribute to the world's suffering from COVID-19. This year's sub-theme is: "No one can be saved alone. Combatting COVID-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace."



## The Word Took Our Nature from Mary

The Apostle John tells us: The Word took to himself the sons of Abraham, and so had to be like his brothers in all things. He had then to take a body like ours. This explains the power of Mary's presence: she is to provide him with a body of his own, to be offered for our sake. Scripture records her giving birth, and says: She wrapped him in swaddling clothes. Her breasts, which fed him, were called blessed. A sacrifice was offered because the child was her firstborn. Gabriel used careful and prudent language when he announced his birth. He did not speak of "what will be born in you" to avoid the impression that a body would be introduced into her womb from outside; he spoke of "what will be born from you" so that we might know by faith that her child originated within her and from her.

## SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

to destroy it completely and then invest it with his own nature, and so prompt the Apostle to say: This corruptible body must put on incorruption; this mortal body must put on immortality. This was not done in an outward show only, as some have imagined. This is not so. Our Savior truly became man, and from this has followed the salvation of man as a whole. Our salvation is in no way fictitious, nor does it apply only to the body. The salvation of the whole man, that is, of soul and of body, has really been achieved in the Word himself. What was born of Mary was therefore human by nature, which was in accordance with the inspired Scriptures, and the body of the Lord was a true body: It was a true body because it was the same as ours. Mary, you see, is our sister, for we are all born from Adam. The words of Saint John: The Word was made flesh, bear the same meaning, as we may see from a similar turn of phrase in Saint Paul: Christ was made a curse for our sake. Man's own body has acquired something great through its communion and union with the Word. From being mortal it has been made immortal; though it was a living body it has become a spiritual one; though it was made from the earth it has passed through the gates of heaven. When the Word takes a body from Mary, the Trinity remains a Trinity, which will neither increase nor decrease. It is forever perfect. In the Trinity, we acknowledge one Godhead, and one God, the Father of the Word, is proclaimed in the Church.

### **Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen January 2**

On January 2, the Church celebrates the Memorial of St. Basil the Great (329-379) and St. Gregory Nazianzen (330-390), who are both bishops and doctors of the Church. This is the also Ninth Day of the Christmas season.

**St. Basil** was a brilliant student born of a pious Christian family in Caesarea, Cappadocia (Turkey). For some years, he followed the monastic way of life. He vigorously fought the Arian heresy. He became Bishop of Caesarea in 370. All the monks of the Eastern Church today still follow the monastic rules which he set down. He was born about 330, the oldest of four sons; three of his brothers became bishops, one of whom was St. Gregory of Nyssa. His pious grandmother Macrina exercised a great influence upon his religious education. Between St. Basil and St. Gregory of Nazianzen an intimate friendship existed from youth to old age. Of Western monasticism, Saint Benedict was its father and founder, while of Eastern monasticism, it was St. Basil. As bishop, Basil was a courageous and heroic champion of the Catholic faith against the Arian heresy. In 372, Emperor Valens sent Modestus, the prefect, to Cappadocia to introduce Arianism as the state religion. Modestus approached the holy bishop, upbraided him for his teaching, and threatened despoliation, exile, martyrdom, and death. To these words of the Byzantine despot, Basil replied with the peace of divine faith: "Is that all? Nothing of what you have mentioned touches me. We possess nothing; we can be robbed of nothing. Exile will be impossible, since everywhere on God's earth I am at home. Torments cannot afflict me, for I have no body, and death is welcome, for it will bring me more quickly to God. To a great extent, I am already dead; for a long time I have been hastening to the grave." Astonished, the prefect remarked: "Till today no one has ever spoken to me so courageously." "Perhaps," rejoined Basil, "you have never before met a bishop." Modestus hastened back to Valens. "Emperor," he said, "we are bested by this leader of the Church. He is too strong for threats, too firm for words, too clever for persuasion." Basil was a strong character, a burning lamp during his time. But as the fire from this lamp has illumined and warmed the world, it consumed itself; as the saint's spiritual stature grew, his body wasted away, and at the early age of forty-nine his appearance was that of an old man. In every phase of ecclesiastical activity, he showed superior talent and zeal. He was a great theologian, a powerful preacher, a gifted writer, the author of two rules for monastic life, and a reformer of the Oriental liturgy. He died in 379, hardly forty-nine years old, yet so emaciated that only skin and bones remained, as though he had stayed alive in soul alone.

**St. Gregory** was also from Cappadocia. A friend of St. Basil, he too followed the monastic way of life for some years. He was ordained as a priest and in 381, he became Bishop of Constantinople. It was during this period when the Arian heresy was at its height. He was

called "The Theologian" because of his great learning and talent for oratory. Gregory, surnamed the "Theologian" by the Greeks, was born at Nazianz in Cappadocia in 339. He was one of the "Three Lights of the Church from Cappadocia." To his mother, St. Nonna, is due the foundation for his saintly life as an adult. He was then educated at the most famous schools of his time - Caesarea, Alexandria, and Athens. At Athens, he formed that storied bond of friendship with St. Basil which was still flaming with all the fervor of youthful enthusiasm when he delivered the funeral oration at the grave of his friend in 381. Gregory was baptized in 360, and for a while he lived the quiet life of a hermit. In 372, Gregory was consecrated bishop by St. Basil. At the urgent wish of Gregory, his father and the bishop of Nazianz assisted him in the care of souls. In 381, he accepted the see of Constantinople, but grieved by the constant controversies retired again to the quiet life he cherished so highly and dedicated himself entirely to contemplation.

During his life span, the pendulum was continually swinging back and forth between contemplation and the active ministry. He longed for solitude, but the exigencies of the times called him often to do pastoral work and to participate in the ecclesiastical movements of the day. He was unquestionably one of the greatest orators of Christian antiquity; his many and were due in great measure to his exceptional eloquence. His writings have merited for him the title of "Doctor of the Church."

### **The Most Holy Name of Jesus - January 3**

On January 3, the Church celebrates the Most Holy Name of Jesus. In the new liturgical revisions of Vatican II, the feast was removed, though a votive Mass to the Holy Name of Jesus had been retained for devotional use. With the release of the revised Roman Missal in March 2002, the feast was restored as an Optional Memorial. The Church reveals to us the wonders of the Incarnate Word by singing the glories of His name. The name of Jesus means Savior; it had been shown in a dream to Joseph together with its meaning and to Our Lady at the annunciation by the Archangel Gabriel. Devotion to the most Holy Name is deeply rooted in the Sacred Scriptures, especially in the Acts of the Apostles. It was promoted in a special manner by St. Bernard, St. Bernardine of Siena, Saint John Capistrano, and by the Franciscan Order. It was extended to the whole Church in 1727 during the pontificate of Innocent XIII. The month of January has traditionally been dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus and people expel evil in the Name of Jesus.

### **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton - January 4**

This wife, mother, and foundress of a religious congregation was born Elizabeth Ann Bayley on August 28, 1774, in New York City, the daughter of an eminent physician and professor at what is now Columbia University. Brought up as an Episcopalian, she received an excellent education, and from her early years, she manifested an unusual concern for the poor. In 1794, Elizabeth married Mt. William Seton, with whom she had five children. The loss of their fortune so affected William's health that in 1803, Elizabeth and William went to stay with Catholic friends in Livorno, Italy. William died six weeks after their arrival, and when Elizabeth returned to New York City some six months later, she was already a convinced Catholic. She met with stern opposition from all her Episcopalian friends, but she was received into full communion with the Catholic Church on March 4, 1805. Abandoned by her friends and relatives, Elizabeth was invited by the superior of the Sulpicians in Baltimore to found a school for girls in that city. The school prospered, and the Sulpician superior, with the approval of Bishop Carroll, gave Elizabeth and her assistants a rule of life. They were also permitted to make religious profession and to wear a religious habit. In 1809, she moved her young community to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she adopted as a rule of life an adaptation of the rule observed by the Sisters of Charity, founded by St. Vincent de Paul. Although she did not neglect the ministry to the poor, and especially to the Negroes, she actually laid the foundation for what has become the American parochial school system. She trained many teachers and prepared textbooks for use in all her schools; she also opened orphanages in Philadelphia and New York City. She later died at Emmitsburg on January 4, 1821, she was beatified by Pope St. John XXIII in 1963 and was canonized by Pope St. Paul VI in 1975.

### **St. John Neumann - January 5**

John Nepomucene Neumann was born on March 28, 1811, the third of six children of a stocking knitter and his wife in the village of Prachatitz in Bohemia. He attended an elementary school run by the Piarist Fathers. From his mother, he acquired the spirit of piety and through her encouragement entered the Seminary at

Budweis. During his seminary years, he yearned to be a foreign missionary in America. He left his native land and was ordained in June 1836 by Bishop John Dubois in New York. He spent four years in Buffalo and the surrounding area building churches and establishing schools. In 1840, he joined the Redemptorists. Eight years later he became a United States citizen. By order of Pope Pius IX in 1852, he was consecrated as the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia. His mastery of eight languages proved extremely helpful in his quest for souls. He was a pioneer promoter of the Parochial School System in America. One of the highlights of Saint John Neumann's life was his participation, in Rome, in the solemn Proclamation of the Dogma of our Blessed Mother's Immaculate Conception. Through his efforts, the Forty Hours Devotion was introduced in the Philadelphia Diocese. He founded the first church in America for Italian-speaking people. He also founded the Glen Riddle group of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis. At 48 years of age, completely exhausted from all his apostolic works, he collapsed in the street on January 5, 1860. He is buried beneath the altar of the lower Church in St. Peter's Church in Philadelphia.

### **St. André Bessette - January 6**

Brother André expressed a saint's faith through a lifelong devotion to Saint Joseph. Sickness and weakness dogged André from birth. He was the eighth of twelve children born to a French Canadian couple near Montreal. Adopted at twelve, when both parents had died, he became a farmhand. Various trades followed: shoemaker, baker, blacksmith-all failures. He was a factory worker in the United States during the boom times of the Civil War. At twenty-five, he applied for entrance into the Congregation of the Holy Cross. After a year's novitiate, he was not admitted because of his weak health. But with an extension and the urging of Bishop Bourget, he was finally received. He was given the humble job of doorkeeper at Notre Dame College in Montreal, with additional duties as sacristan, laundry worker, and messenger. "When I joined this community, the superiors showed me the door, and I remained forty years." In his little room near the door, he spent much of the night on his knees. On his windowsill, facing Mount Royal, was a small statue of Saint Joseph, to whom he had been devoted since childhood. When asked about it he said, "Some day, Saint Joseph is going to be honored in a very special way on Mount Royal!" When he heard someone was ill, he visited to bring cheer and to pray with the sick person. He would rub the sick person lightly with oil taken from a lamp burning in the college chapel. Word of healing powers began to spread. When a bad epidemic broke out at a nearby college, André volunteered to nurse. Not one person died. The trickle of sick people to his door became a flood. His superiors were uneasy; diocesan authorities were suspicious; doctors called him a quack. "I do not cure," he said again and again. "Saint Joseph cures." In the end, he needed four secretaries to handle the eighty thousand letters he received each year. For many years the Holy Cross authorities had tried to buy land on Mount Royal. Brother André and others climbed the steep hill and they planted medals of Saint Joseph. Suddenly, the owners yielded. André collected two hundred dollars to build a small chapel and began receiving visitors there-smiling through long hours of listening and applying Saint Joseph's oil. Some were cured, some not. The pile of crutches, canes, and braces grew. The chapel also grew. By 1931, there were gleaming walls, but money ran out. "Put a statue of Saint Joseph in the middle. If he wants a roof over his head, he'll get it." The magnificent Oratory on Mount Royal took fifty years to build. The sickly boy who could not hold a job died at ninety years of age.

He is buried at the Oratory and was beatified in 1982. Then on December 19, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI promulgated a decree recognizing a second miracle at Brother André's intercession and on October 17, 2010, Pope Benedict XVI formally declared holy sainthood for Brother André.

### **Celebrating Three Kings Day in Puerto Rico and New York City - January 6**

One of the most festive holidays of the year in Puerto Rico is Three Kings' Day, which falls on January 6 every year. On the island, this major holiday is celebrated with even more elaborate pageantry than Christmas. Here at Saint Helena, we will celebrate the traditional Three Kings Mass in Spanish at **7PM on Friday, January 6**. The parish will then celebrate the liturgical celebration of Epiphany on **January 7-8**.

Three Kings' Day, also known as Epiphany or Dia de los Reyes Magos, is a celebration of the three kings who brought gifts to

Jesus when he was born. According to the gospel, the wise men found Jesus by following a star across the desert for 12 days. The wise men travelled by horse and camel in order to give three gifts with different symbology. One of the wise men offered Jesus gold, which was meant to be a symbol of his royal standing. The gift of frankincense told of the divine nature of Jesus and it symbolized that he was not an earthly King, but a son of god. The last gift, myrrh, was a symbol of the mortality of Jesus, and foreshadowed his death. All three symbols were vital for the story of the life of Jesus and the holiday celebration.

For most people in Puerto Rico, preparations for Three Kings Day begins as soon as Christmas ends. Unlike much of the United States, many Puerto Rican families do not exchange their gifts on Christmas Day, but rather wait until Three Kings Day.

Traditionally, the days leading up to Three Kings Day are full of festivity and celebration. Families host parties where people all over the neighborhood come in and out visiting. As the evening progresses, people join each other in caroling (which is known as parrandas) around the neighborhood, stopping from one house to another and gathering more people each time. This caroling differs from the Currier & Ives style, though – it is very lively, and usually involves a variety of instruments, drinks, and food. On the eve of Three Kings Day (known as Vispera de Reyes) children leave out candy and small gifts for the kings, and a box of straw for their camels. In exchange, the children are given gifts by the Three Kings that evening. In the early evening of Vispera de Reyes, most families attend Mass where the story of the Nativity is acted out by local people. Many times, there are costumes available for anyone who shows up and wants to take part in the pageant. Afterward, it is a time of feasting. Traditional foods include roast pork and coquito, an eggnog-like drink that features cream of coconut, coconut milk, and Puerto Rican rum! On the actual Dia de los Reyes Magos, there is much festivity, with parades, pageants, festivals and family gatherings. Old San Juan is also especially lively, the streets filled with people and parades, as they play host to the final stop of the "Three Kings" of Juana Diaz – reenactors who travel the island during the week between Christmas and New Year.

In New York City, El Museo del Barrio will present the 46th Annual Three Kings Day Parade and Celebration on **Friday, January 6, 2023, from 11AM - 2PM** entitled Entre Familia: Mental Health & Wellness of our Communities. Returning once again to the streets of El Barrio (East Harlem), the upcoming in-person celebration gives space and focus on the importance of mental health and wellness, in light of national political and health occurrences these past few years. Join in on this joyous day in celebration of life and culture, featuring live camels, colorful puppets and parrandas, music and dancing.

### **St. Raymond of Peñafort - January 7**

The blessed Raymond was born in Barcelona, to the noble family of Peñafort. Having been imbued with all the rudiments of the Christian faith, the admirable gifts he had received, both of mind and body, were such that even when quite a boy he seemed to promise great things in his later life. While he was still young, he taught humanities in Barcelona. Later on, he went to Bologna, where he applied himself with much diligence to the exercises of a virtuous life, and to the study of canon and civil law. He there received the Doctor's degree, and he interpreted the sacred canons so ably that he was the admiration of his hearers. The holiness of his life becoming known far and wide, Berengarius, the Bishop of Barcelona, when returning to his own diocese from Rome, visited Bologna in order to see him; and after most earnest entreaties, induced Raymond to accompany him to Barcelona. He was shortly after made Canon and Provost of that Church, and he became a model to the clergy and the people by his uprightness, modesty, learning, and meekness. His tender devotion to the Holy Mother of God was extraordinary, and he never neglected an opportunity to zealously promote the devotion and honor which are due to her. When he was about forty-five years of age, he made his solemn profession in the Order of the Friars Preachers. He then, devoted himself to the exercise of every virtue, but above all to charity to the poor, and this mainly to the captives who had been taken by the infidels. It was by his exhortation that Saint Peter Nolasco (who was his penitent) was induced to devote all his riches to this work of the most meritorious charity. The Blessed Virgin appeared to Peter, as also to blessed Raymond and to James the First, King of Aragon, telling them that it would be exceedingly pleasing to herself and her divine Child if an Order of Religious men were instituted whose mission it should be to deliver captives from

the tyranny of infidels. Whereupon, after deliberating together, they founded the Order of our Lady of Mercy for the Ransom of Captives; and blessed Raymond drew up certain rules of life, which were admirably adapted to the spirit and vocation of the said Order. Later, he obtained their approbation from Gregory the IX and made St Peter Nolasco, to whom he gave the habit with his own hands, the first General of the Order. Raymond was called to Rome by the same Pope, who appointed him to be his Chaplain, Penitentiary, and Confessor. It was by Gregory's order that he collected together, in the volume called the *Decretals*, the Decrees of the Roman Pontiffs, which were to be found separately in the various Councils and Letters. He refused the Archbishopric of Tarragona, which the same Pontiff offered to him, and, of his own accord resigned the Generalship of the Dominican Order, which office he had discharged in a most holy manner for the space of two years. He persuaded James the King of Aragon to establish in his dominions the Holy Office of the Inquisition. He worked many miracles; among which is that most celebrated one of his having, when returning to Barcelona from the island of Majorca, spread his cloak upon the sea, and sailed upon it, in the space of six hours, the distance of a 160 miles, and having reached his friary, entered it through the closed doors. At length, when Raymond had almost reached the hundredth year of his age and was full of virtue and merit, he slept in the Lord, in the year of the Incarnation 1275. He was later canonized by Pope Clement the VIII.

**SECOND COLLECTION** next weekend is for the Catholic University of America & the Catholic Communications Campaign.

**FIRST COMMUNION FAMILY SESSION** for the parents of all children expecting to receive First Communion in **May 2023**. The session takes place next **Sun., Jan. 8** in the cafeteria at **11AM**.

**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. Starting **January 10**, we will study the Theology of the Body for eight sessions.

**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 THE 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 own 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**.

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

**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.

**FLEA MARKET**-Starting **January 2023**, we will have a Flea Market every Friday from **1-4PM** and the **second** and **fourth Saturdays** of each month from **1-4PM**. (please enter through the Westchester Ave Door). We are now collecting only good Household items, and you can bring your donations to the rectory. No more Clothes at this time. Thank you for your generosity. Men's belt and work boots are especially needed.

**VIEW ON FORMED**-Good Catholic Information is so very important. Everyone at St. Helena's has a free parish subscription at [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org). Just click the icon and join as a parishioner. Today is the Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God. Watch: The Bible and the Virgin Mary, lesson 7: *The Promised Mother*, or lesson 12: *Always a Mother*; or Footprints of God: *Mary, The Mother of God*; or Symbolon: Knowing the Faith, session 9: *Mary and the Saints*; or *Mary of Nazareth*. Listen to: *Mary: Handmaid of the Lord*, or *Mary: Indispensable Mother of God*. On Wednesday watch: Elizabeth Ann Seton: *Seeker to Saint*, or East Coast Shines: *Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in NYC and Maryland*.

**POPE ASKS PRAYERS FOR A "VERY ILL" BENEDICT XVI**-At the conclusion of his regular weekly audience on Dec. 28, Pope Francis asked for "a special prayer for our Pope-emeritus Benedict," saying that the retired Pontiff is "very ill." A Vatican spokesman later confirmed that Benedict's condition had become more serious: "In the last few hours there has been an aggravation of his health due to kidney failure and advancing age." However, he said that the former Pope's condition was stable.

**MASSACHUSETTS HIGH COURT STATES THERE IS NO CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE**-The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court has ruled that there is no right to assisted suicide in the state constitution. "Given our long-standing opposition to suicide in all its forms, and the absence of modern precedent supporting an affirmative right to medical intervention that causes death, we cannot conclude that physician-assisted suicide ranks among those fundamental state rights protected by the Massachusetts Declaration of Rights," the court ruled.

**SECOND US AMBASSADOR TO VATICAN DIES**-Frank J. Shakespeare, the second US Ambassador to the Holy See (1987-89), died on December 14 at 97. Paul Kengor, author of *The Pope and the President*, recalled the late ambassador's remarks on the relations between St. John Paul II and President Ronald Reagan.

**UKRAINIAN BISHOP SPEAKS OF A HOLY CHRISTMAS MIRACLE** Referring to it as a "miracle of Christmas," Bishop Stanislav Szyrokoradiuk, the Latin-rite bishop of Odessa-Simferopol (Ukraine), spoke of an event that happened at a church in Kherson on December 23. As parishioners, including children, were preparing the church for Christmas, two Russian missiles hit the church. The prelate said, "One fell and broke in two, and the other got stuck in the wall. Neither one exploded. Is this not the grace of God? This means that if we pray, if we trust in God, God controls the rockets."

**FREE DIAPERS** to expecting mothers and to families with children 4 years old and younger and residing in the Bronx. Visit Homebase I, 2155 Blackrock Ave. or call **(718) 414-1050**.

**GROUP DISCUSSIONS ABOUT YOUR COVID-19 TEST** experiences and perspectives. Receive a \$50 gift card for your participation. To be eligible, you must have lived in the South Bronx for two years and be over 18 years old. Focus groups in English, Spanish, and French. For more information, call Valentina at **718-508-0625**.

**LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE SEARCH TO CELEBRATE World Marriage Day, on February 12, 2023**

The search begins for the Longest Married Couple in the entire Archdiocese of New York! Is there someone from St. Helena? To enter: Couples must be sacramentally married for a minimum of 65 years and they must reside in the Archdiocese of New York. For further information about this, contact Kathleen Crayne at [kathleen.crayne@archny.org](mailto:kathleen.crayne@archny.org) or call **646-794-3182**. The **deadline for entries is Sun., Jan. 15, 2023**.

**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](mailto: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. For more information call the New York State New Americans Hotline at **800 566 7636**, Monday-Friday from 9AM-8PM. The hotline provides general information and referrals on immigration-related questions and social services available to immigrants.

**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**.

**LE SAINT NOM DE JÉSUS**—Il n'est pas difficile de méditer sur le Saint Nom, ou d'utiliser le Saint Nom dans la prière. Plus que tout autre nom, peut-être seul parmi tous les noms propres, il convient à Celui qui l'a porté. D'habitude, les noms des hommes sont donnés au hasard ; ils ne signifient rien en eux-mêmes ; un homme qui s'appelle Jean pourrait tout aussi bien s'appeler Thomas ou Guillaume ; le simple nom ne nous dit rien sur lui ; c'est un moyen commode de le distinguer des autres, une étiquette qu'on lui colle et rien de plus ou presque : Adam, Abraham, Josué, Jean le Baptiste ont reçu des noms qui signifiaient les hommes auxquels ils étaient attribués. Mais pour aucun, cela n'est aussi vrai que pour notre Seigneur et Sauveur Jésus-Christ. L'ange l'a imprimé avec soin dans l'esprit de sa mère : "Tu lui donneras le nom de Jésus", dit-il, et la description de sa future grandeur suivit. C'est avec soin qu'elle fut répétée à Joseph : "Tu lui donneras le nom de Jésus, car il sauvera son peuple de ses péchés.

Ce nom est un résumé et une description complète du caractère et de la fonction de notre Seigneur, et c'est sous cet aspect qu'il a été considéré par des milliers de saints, dont les cœurs se sont fondus à son seul son. Pour eux, Jésus est leur Dieu, Jésus est leur Roi, Jésus est leur Rédempteur, Jésus est leur Médiateur, Jésus est leur Sauveur, Jésus est leur grand Prêtre, Jésus est leur Intercesseur, Jésus est le Capitaine sous lequel ils combattent, Jésus est le Chef qu'ils suivent, Jésus est leur Maître, Jésus est le Donneur de leur loi, Jésus est l'Époux et le Berger de leurs âmes, Jésus est leur Lumière, Jésus est leur Vie, Jésus est le Juge devant lequel ils se réjouissent de penser qu'ils devront un jour se présenter, Jésus est leur Récompense finale et éternelle, pour laquelle seulement ils vivent, mais Il est aussi pour eux le miroir de toutes les vertus les plus glorieuses et les plus gagnantes. Il est, et son nom leur dit qu'il est, la Charité sans bornes, la Miséricorde infinie, la Bonté extrême, l'Humilité la plus profonde, la Piété la plus dévouée, la Simplicité transparente, la Pauvreté extrême, la Chasteté sans tache. C'est la prérogative de l'amour de transformer ceux qui aiment à la ressemblance de Celui qu'ils aiment; et comme le simple nom de celui qui est aimé ne peut résonner à l'oreille ou être pensé dans l'esprit sans ajouter à l'amour qui est déjà là, ainsi la pensée du Saint Nom et la mention du Saint Nom ont une sorte de pouvoir sacramentel dans le cœur de Ses saints. Elles semblent transmettre la grâce qui permet aux hommes de penser comme Lui, de parler comme Lui, d'agir comme Lui, de se sacrifier comme Lui, et à Lui, et pour Lui, et avec Lui, de Le faire connaître aux autres, non

seulement par la parole, mais aussi par la reproduction de Lui en eux-mêmes, et de gagner tous les hommes à l'aimer.

Le grand saint du Saint Nom est Saint Bernardin de Sienna. Dans ses expéditions missionnaires, il le portait sur une bannière et l'utilisait continuellement dans ses sermons. Il a écrit un long traité sur le Saint Nom, qui regorge de sujets de prière. Le Saint Nom, dit-il, est d'abord fécond pour les débutants. Pour ceux-ci, pour les pécheurs, " il montre l'immense miséricorde de Dieu, il permet à l'homme pieux de remporter la victoire dans tous les conflits, que ce soit avec le diable, la chair ou le monde, il a le pouvoir de guérir les maladies quand il est utilisé à bon escient, il remplit de joie et d'exultation ceux qui sont dans n'importe quelle adversité. " Il cite saint Pierre, que " par son nom, tous reçoivent la rémission des péchés qui croient en lui " ; saint Jean : " Vos péchés vous sont pardonnés à cause de son nom " ; saint Pierre encore : "Il n'y a sous le ciel aucun autre nom donné aux hommes par lequel nous devons être sauvés".

**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.

**PROGRAMAS DE HORA CATÓLICA** en Univision y Radio WADO Sintonice la radio WADO 1280 AM para Hora Católica con el Padre Ato, director de comunicaciones hispanas y ministerio pastoral, todos los domingos a las 8 a.m.

**TENEMOS UN FLEA MARKET EMPEZANDO LOS VIERNES EN ENERO.** de **1-4PM** y el segundo y cuarto **sábado** de cada mes de **1-4PM**. (por favor, entrar por la puerta de la avenida Westchester). También estamos recolectando artículos del hogar en buen estado. Gracias.

**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.

**EN BÚSQUEDA DE LA PAREJA CON MÁS TIEMPO DE CASADOS -Día Mundial del Matrimonio, 12 de febrero, 2023**  
**¡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, **12 de febrero de 2023**. 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](mailto:Yorleni.Tavarez-Sanchez@archny.org). **La fecha límite para las inscripciones es el domingo, 15 de enero del 2023**

**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. Para más información, llame a la línea directa para nuevos estadounidenses del Estado de Nueva York al **800 566 7636**, de lunes a viernes de 9 de la mañana a 8 de la tarde. La línea ofrece información general y referencias sobre cuestiones relacionadas con la inmigración y los servicios sociales disponibles para los inmigrantes.

**¡FELIZ AÑO NUEVO!**-Estamos a las puertas de un nuevo año, donde muchos de nosotros tomamos el tiempo para detenernos y hacernos nuevas resoluciones y metas para seguir avanzando. Una tradición muy bonita, pero que lamentablemente en muchas ocasiones las hacemos solo por hacer. Yo te invito querido hermano y hermana a ser sincero contigo mismo y a ponerte metas que sabes puedes alcanzar. Como, por ejemplo, tienes problemas con la oración, pues comienza revisando como dispones tu corazón y que herramientas esta utilizando. Luego de discernir, toma un paso a la vez, las metas las alcanzamos cuando nos damos tiempo y con determinación vamos poco a poco avanzando.

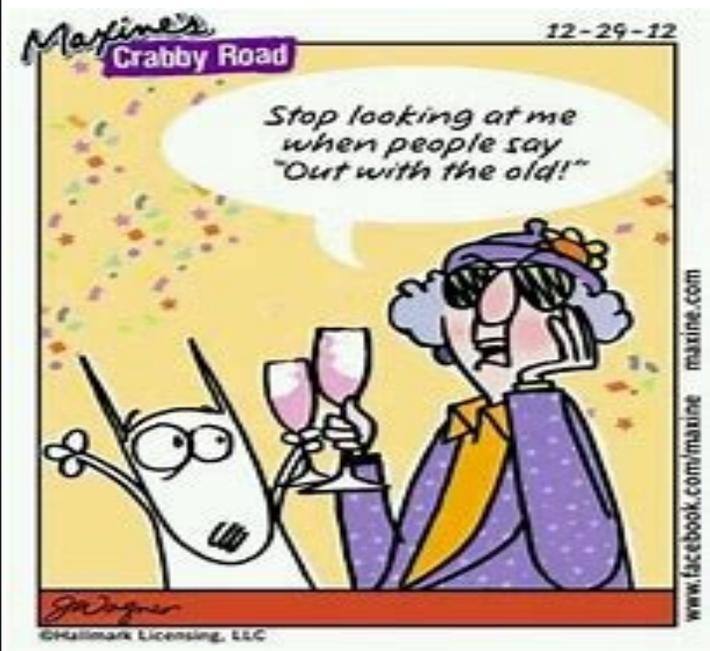
Ahora bien, te has puesto a pensar que, en este día, en el cual todos estamos celebrando un nuevo año, la liturgia nos invita a tornar la mirada a María. Pues sí y a Nuestra Señora bajo un título muy especial: **María Madre de Dios**. Con este hermoso título de Madre, su hijo la engalanó. Ella, mis queridos hermanos, es la Madre de Dios, de toda la persona (humana-divina) no solo de la humanidad de Cristo, pero de todo El por eso la consideramos Madre de Dios.

Y esto, que tiene que ver conmigo y el nuevo año. Pues mis queridos hermanos, tiene que ver mucho. Hoy la Iglesia nos vuelve a recordar que **Dios se hizo hombre** y que lo hizo de *manera natural*, como nosotros vinimos a este mundo, por medio del parto. Esto es un gran regalo para nosotros ya que nos hace capaces de entrar en comunión con El por medio de su humanidad y por medio de su Madre. Esta es la otra ventaja, María es nuestra primera intercesora y al ser Madre ella conoce el corazón de sus hijos y de su Hijo por tal motivo ella siempre intercederá por lo que realmente necesitamos y no por lo que nosotros creemos.

Hermano y hermana, no tengamos miedo de llamar a María en este inicio de año y pedirle a ella su intercesión y guía para que todas esas resoluciones que hagamos sean unas con los pies en la tierra.

**¡María Madre de Dios, Ruega por nosotros!**

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



**WEEKLY COLLECTION: December 25— \$4,070.18  
Christmas—\$12,002.36**

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

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

## MASS INTENTIONS

**January 1, 2023 – SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

- 8:00** Fr. Vinod Angadather George, Sch.P.-38th Birthday Inten;  
*Christmas Novena*
- 10:00 S** For Veterans Suffering from Post Traumatic Syndrome;  
*+Andrew Ciurcina*
- 12:00 (Sp)** Por un año de bendiciones para la familia Galicia Cruz y Cruz Garcia;  
*+Lucrecia Urgiles, Luis Quinteros and Soila Lopes*
- 5:00** *+Alan Seeram; +María and Carlos Torres;*  
*+Dongmo Christophe and In Thanks to God, Claudia Dongmo, Jabari Awoumbeng, Bayiti Awoumbeng and Wise Awoumbeng*
- 6:30(Fr) NO 6:30 MASS TODAY**

**January 2 – Mon — Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen**

- 6:30\*** For Sondra Aritonang's Emotional and Spiritual Welfare;  
*Christmas Novena*
- 8:30 S** *+Genevieve Cerbone*
- 12:15** *+Maureen Dillon*

**January 3 – Tuesday — The Holy Name of Jesus**

- 6:30\*** In thanksgiving for Favors Granted to Sondra Aritonang;  
*Christmas Novena*
- 8:30 S** *+Jean-Guy Bosquet*
- 12:15** *+David Sheehan*

**January 4 – Wednesday — St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**

- 6:30** Divine Justice for the Bombings and Destruction of Life and Livelihood in Ukraine by Putin; *Christmas Novena*
- 8:30 S** Elizabeth Sheehan-Birthday Intention
- 12:15** Eamon and Eileen Kissane and Family Intentions

**January 5 – Thursday — St. John Neumann**

- 6:30** In Thanksgiving for Favors Granted to Ukraine;  
*Christmas Novena*
- 8:30** *+Margaret Cotter*
- 12:15** *+Eduardo Bruno*

**January 6 – First Friday — St. André Bessette**

- 6:30** Deceased Members of the Retutas & Corciega Families;  
*Christmas Novena*
- 8:30 S** *+Francisco Ariel-Chavier*
- 12:15** *+Valentine Wnek*
- 7:00 (Sp)** Feast of the Three Kings

**January 7 – First Saturday — St. Raymond Peñafort**

- 6:30** A Sister's Intention for Brenda and Scott Van de Weghe;  
*Christmas Novena*
- 8:30 S** Deceased Members of the Torrens & Gramlich Fam
- 12:15** *+Clara Casagrande*
- 1:30** Del Niño Viajero
- 5:30** *+Saveria Verlezza*

**January 8 – The Epiphany of Our Lord**

- 8:00** *+Mabel Schoenthaler;*  
*Christmas Novena*
- 10:00 S** *+Katherine Callaghan; +Daniel Cordero-Birthday Remembrance*
- 12:00 (Sp)** Maria's Deceased Mother; *+Jean Nimkin*
- 5:00** *+Terence Lorino*
- 6:30(Fr)** *+Margaret Bongyii and Raphael Mbinkar*

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

**Readings for the week of January 1, 2023**

- Sunday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21;  
**Monday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28; **Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34; **Wednesday:** 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42; **Thursday:** 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51; **Friday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38; **Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a, and 9b/Jn 2:1-11; **Next Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-1