

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

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

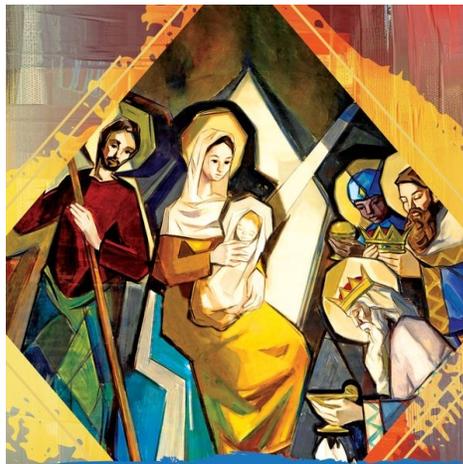
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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." - Mt 2:2

DÍA DE LA EPIFANÍA DEL SEÑOR

"¿Dónde está el rey de los judíos que acaba de nacer? Porque vimos surgir su estrella y hemos venido a adorarlo". - Mt 2, 2



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

A voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." - Mt 3:17

Una voz decía, desde el cielo: "Este es mi Hijo muy amado, en quien tengo mis complacencias". - Mt 3, 17

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 Santísimo y Coronilla de la Divina Misericordia: miércoles, 7PM
- Eucharistic Adoration
Thursday between the 8:30 & 12:15 Masses
First Friday: 1 to 6:30PM
- Sacred Heart Novena: Thursday, Noon
- English Bible Study: Tuesday 1PM & 7:30PM
and Sunday 11:15AM
- Rosary: Wednesday, 1:00PM

Baptisms: Arrangements must be made at the Rectory for Baptismal Class. Bring a copy of the child's Birth Certificate and Godparent documents.

Marriages: Arrangements for weddings should be made as soon as possible at the Rectory.

Parish Registration: All Catholics who live within the parish boundaries should fill out a registration card at the Rectory.

Registro Parroquial: Todos los Catolicos que viven dentro de los Limites de la parroquia deben llenar una tarjeta de registro en la rectoria.



Handicapped Accessible

Epiphany

The Solemnity of the Epiphany is celebrated either on January 6 or, according to the decision of each episcopal conference, on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8. The young Messiah is revealed as the light of the nations. Yet, as the antiphon reminds us, three mysteries are encompassed in this solemnity: the adoration of the Christ Child by the Magi, the Baptism of Christ, and the wedding feast at Cana. Extra candles and/or lamps may be placed around the sanctuary and in other parts of the church to honor Christ revealed as the Light of the Gentiles. It is customary to replace the images of the shepherds at the crib with the three Magi and their gifts. The feast of the Epiphany, which was kept in the East and in certain Western Churches before being observed in Rome, seems to have been originally a feast of the nativity held on January 6. The feast was introduced in Rome in the second half of the sixth century, and it became the complement and, the crown of the Christmas festival.



Epiphany means manifestation. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after His being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem, He is revealed to the Magi, who are priest-astrologers from Persia. They have come from the East to adore Him, bringing gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh, which symbolize his kingship, divinity, and future death. Christian tradition has ever seen in the Magi the first fruits of the Gentiles; they lead in their wake all the peoples of the earth, and thus the Epiphany is an affirmation of universal salvation. St. Leo brings out this point admirably in a sermon, in which he shows in the adoration of the Magi the beginnings of Christian faith, the time when the great mass of the heathen sets off to follow the holy star which summons it to seek its Saviour.

While the Gospels do not state how many magi came to the house in which Jesus was dwelling, there are three traditional names given to them. According to Western church tradition, Balthasar is often represented as a king of Arabia or sometimes even Ethiopia, Melchior as a king of Persia, and Gaspar as a king of India. These names apparently derive from the *Gospel of Thomas* as well as a Greek manuscript probably composed in Alexandria around 500, which has been translated into Latin with the title *Excerpta Latina Barbari*. Another Greek document from the 8th century, of Irish origin and translated into Latin with the title *Collectanea et Flores*, continues the tradition of three kings and their names.

That is the meaning, too, of the wonderful prophecy from Isaiah which the liturgy appoints to be read at the Epistle of today's Mass. This same thought of universal redemption the Church returns to as she sings of the union with Christ typified by the wedding feast at Cana and the baptism of her children foreshadowed by that of Christ in the waters of the Jordan. Formerly the Epiphany was an additional day for solemn baptisms.

Chalking the Doors

Epiphany (also known as Twelfth Night, Theophany, or Three Kings Day) marks the occasion of a time-honored Christian tradition of "chalking the doors." The formula for the ritual — adapted for 2023 — is simple: take blessed chalk of any color and write the following above the entrance of your home: 20 + C + M + B + 23. The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi — Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar — who came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the ancient Latin phrase, *Christus mansionem benedicat*: "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross, and the "20" at the beginning and the "23" at the end mark the year. Taken together, this inscription is performed as a request for Christ to bless those homes so marked and that He stay with those who dwell therein throughout the entire year. The chalking of the doors is a centuries-old practice throughout the world. It is an easy tradition to adopt, and is a great practice whereby we dedicate our year to God from its very outset, asking His blessing on our homes and on all who live, work, or visit them there. The chalking usually takes place after Epiphany Mass and

can be done at any church, home, or dwelling. Traditionally the blessing is done by either a priest or the father of the family. This blessing can be performed simply by just writing the inscription and offering a short prayer. You can use the House Blessings on the insert in this bulletin or some other form. After many Epiphany Masses, blessed chalk is distributed, which can then be brought home and used to perform the ritual. Practicing traditions like the chalking of the doors helps us to live our Faith more concretely and serves as an outward sign of our dedication to Our Lord. Our homes are also the place where many of us will make the greatest strides in our spiritual growth, through observance of daily prayer, spiritual reading, and work offered as an oblation to God.

The chalking of the doors of a home encourages all Christians to dedicate their life at home to God and to others. Seeing the many symbols over our doors can help to remind us while passing in and out on our daily routines, that our homes and all those who dwell there belong to Christ. It also serves as a reminder of welcoming the Magi gave to Jesus. We should strive to be as welcoming to all who come to our homes to visit us!

Baptism of the Lord

The Christmas Season ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord which this year takes place on **Monday, January 9** because when the Solemnity of the Epiphany is transferred to Sunday, if this Sunday occurs on January 7 or 8, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is celebrated by us on the following Monday. Today, the Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.



This feast is called *Theophany* because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance, and it induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the baptism of John. Although He appeared in the "substance of our flesh", and He was recognized "outwardly like unto ourselves", He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world". Many of the incidents which had accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolic of what happened at our own Baptism. At Christ's baptism, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, while at our Baptism the Trinity takes its abode in our soul. At Jesus's baptism, Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father, and at our Baptism, we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism, the heavens were opened, while at our Baptism, heaven became opened to us. At His baptism, Jesus prayed, and after our Baptism, we must pray to avoid actual sin.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI died quietly at 3:34AM on Saturday, December 31. He served as pope from 2005 to 2013 and was best known for his rigid views on Catholicism and topics such as birth control. Pope Benedict XVI grew up under war reparations from World War I, as the Nazi regime was gaining power. Benedict was briefly a member of the Hitler Youth in his early teens after its membership became mandatory in 1941. He turned to theological studies after the war, helping found the influential journal *Communio*. He was elevated to the papacy in 2005 and in February 2013, he shocked the Church by his resigning for health reasons from his position as pope. He was the first to do so in six centuries. He then lived in a monastery on Vatican grounds until his death on December 31, 2022 at the age of 95.

Pope Benedict XVI was born Joseph Ratzinger on April 16, 1927, in Bavaria, Germany, the youngest of three children. His father was a policeman and his mother was a hotel cook (before she married). His family moved frequently among villages in rural Bavaria, and as a defense against the Nazi regime, Ratzinger threw himself into

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the Roman Catholic Church. Ratzinger entered the minor seminary in 1939, but he could not avoid the realities of the day. Ratzinger was briefly a member of the Hitler Youth in his early teens after its membership became mandatory in 1941. In 1943, Ratzinger and fellow seminarians were drafted into the anti-aircraft corps. He has said his unit was attacked by Allied forces that year, but he did not take part in that battle because a finger infection had kept him from learning to shoot.

After about a year in the anti-aircraft unit, Ratzinger was then drafted into the regular military. He was sent home and then called up again before deserting in late April 1945. Joseph was captured by American soldiers and held as a prisoner of war for several months. Ratzinger returned to the seminary at the University of Munich in the fall of 1945 and was ordained a priest in 1951. Two years later, he earned his doctorate at the University of Munich. He earned his teaching licentiate in 1957, and he became a professor at Freising College in 1958, teaching dogma and fundamental theology. Ratzinger became a professor at the University of Bonn in 1959. Later, he moved to the University of Muenster (1963-66) and took a chair in dogmatic theology at the University of Tübingen. He was alienated by the student protests at Tübingen, and he returned to Bavaria, to the University of Regensburg.

At the Second Vatican Council (1962-65), Ratzinger served as a chief theological expert to Cardinal Joseph Frings of Cologne, Germany. He was viewed as a reformer during this time. In 1972, Ratzinger helped found the theological journal *Communio*, which became one of the most important journals of Catholic thought. In March 1977, he was named archbishop of Munich and Freising and, three months later, was named a cardinal by Pope Paul VI. In 1981, Pope John Paul II named Ratzinger prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. In 1998, he became vice dean of the College of Cardinals, and he was elected dean in 2002. Ratzinger defended and reaffirmed Catholic doctrine, including teaching on topics such as birth control, homosexuality, and inter-religious dialogue. Ratzinger was elevated to the papacy on April 19, 2005, upon the death of Pope John Paul II, and he celebrated his Papal Inauguration Mass five days later. Known for his rigid views on Catholicism, he sought a more inclusive image as pope.

In 2008, Benedict made his first visit as pope to the United States, where he spoke out against clerical sexual abuse and delivered an address at the United Nations. That same year, to foster relations and understanding between religions, Benedict addressed the first Catholic-Muslim Forum, a three-day conference of many Catholic theologians and Islamic scholars. In 2010, allegations of sexual and physical abuse by parish priests and in parochial schools — particularly in Germany, Ireland, and the United States — brought Benedict, and his role in the cases in Germany in particular, under close media scrutiny. In a pastoral letter, Benedict rebuked the bishops of the Irish church for a failure of leadership. The Vatican also denounced the charge that, as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Benedict had been responsible for the Vatican's policy of covering up cases of sexual abuse, declaring that his handling of the cases showed "wisdom and firmness."

In February 2013, at the age of 85, Pope Benedict XVI announced that he would be resigning on February 28, 2013 — becoming the first pope in six centuries to step down from his post. According to several media reports, Benedict's decision centered on his old age, and physical and mental weakness. Benedict served his final day as pope on February 28, 2013. Traveling by helicopter, he departed the Vatican for the summer papal residence in Castel Gandolfo, Italy. Benedict stayed there while renovations were made to a convent, Mater Ecclesiae, in the southwest corner of Vatican City, which became his residence. He continued to be known as Benedict XVI in his retirement, and he was given the title of pope emeritus. Though Benedict had no further administrative or official duties and rarely appeared in public, he did join Pope Francis on Dec. 8, 2015, as he pushed open the great bronze doors of Saint Peter's Basilica to launch his Holy Year of Mercy. Benedict walked through the doorway right after Francis, gingerly negotiating the two steps with the help of a cane and his longtime assistant. Benedict died on December 31, 2022, at the age of 95.

Benedict wrote a total of 66 books. Among them is *Introduction to Christianity* (1968); *Called to Communion: Understanding the Church Today* (1996); *The Spirit of the Liturgy* (2000); *Jesus of*



Pope Benedict XVI

Nazareth (2007); *Jesus of Nazareth, Vol. II* (2012); and *Last Testament: In His Own Words* (2016).

St. Paul, the First Hermit - January 10

St. Paul is called "the first hermit" in the Missal and Breviary, a rare distinction, for such titles are seldom appended. Our saint was the standard-bearer of those courageous men who for the love of Christ left the world and entered the wilderness to dedicate themselves wholly to contemplation amid all the privations of desert life. The hermits were the great men of prayer in those difficult times when the Church was locked in a fierce struggle with heresy after heresy. For centuries the example of their lives served as the school of Christian perfection. Their action set the background for the rise of monasticism and religious orders in the Church.

One day St. Anthony, then ninety, was divinely inspired to visit the hermit Paul. Though they had never met previously, each greeted the other correctly by name. While they were conversing at length on spiritual matters, the raven that had always brought Paul half a loaf of bread, came with a whole loaf. As the raven flew away, Paul said: "See, the Lord, who is truly good and merciful, has sent us food. Every day for sixty years I have received half a loaf, but with your arrival, Christ sent His two servants a double ration." Giving thanks, they ate by a spring. After a brief rest, they again gave thanks, as was their custom, and spent the whole night praising God. At daybreak, Paul informed Anthony of his approaching death and asked him to fetch the old cloak he had received from Saint Athanasius so that he might wrap himself in it. Later, as Anthony was returning from his visit, he saw St. Paul's soul ascending to heaven escorted by choirs of angels and surrounded by prophets and apostles. Further information may be found in *The Life of Paul the Hermit*, written by St. Jerome in the year 376.

Pope St. Miltiades - January 10

Two popes had been exiled by Emperor Maxentius, and for nearly two more years the Church in Rome was steeped in turmoil, making it impossible to choose a pope. Finally, Miltiades, an African, was elected. He had served as a priest under Marcellinus during the terrible Diocletian persecution. Now, however, he witnessed the effects of a kinder, more generous Roman government. Indeed, the Church would actually be favored with splendid gifts. By 311, the Holy Church began to enjoy peace resulting from a decree of toleration issued in both the East and the West. Emperor Maxentius ordered the properties of the Church restored. These included the land and buildings that had been confiscated during the reign of Emperor Diocletian. In 312, for the first time since the outbreak of persecution, a pope was able to preside over the celebration of Easter in full possession of the Church's holy assets.

Pope Miltiades worked diligently in a difficult time of transition. His edicts included forbidding the Christians to fast on Thursday and Sunday (the days during which the pagans kept their fasts) and directing that the Eucharist plate blessed by the bishop be carried to the various churches. Constantine, having been proclaimed as emperor in Gaul, now marched on Rome. The sign of the cross had been revealed to him in a vision where he was told that "by this sign shalt thou conquer." Constantine ordered his standards changed, and for the first time in history, the sign of peace was borne by an army. Constantine's legions defeated Maxentius, and the year 312 ushered in a new era, an era of peace; the Christians were truly set free. During the emperor's stay in Rome, the famous Lateran palace was given to Pope Miltiades by Fausta, Constantine's wife. The Lateran served as the papal residence for some four hundred years. Less than a year later, a schism broke out in North Africa. Headed by a rigorist named Donatus, the faction objected to the policies of the bishop of Carthage, Caecilian. Bypassing the pope, they appealed directly to Constantine to intervene, and the emperor, annoyed that he should be called on to settle disputes among the clergy, commissioned Miltiades and three other Gallic bishops to rectify the matter. The pope gathered fifteen additional bishops and held a synod in the great Lateran palace. The decision of this synod was to condemn Donatus and his party and to support the true bishop, Caecilian. The Donatists (as they later became called) appealed again to Constantine, but by the time another council could be called, Pope Miltiades had died.

St. Miltiades was an excellent pontiff who guided the Church wisely during a difficult time of changeover. Pope Miltiades was the last pope to be buried in a catacomb in the cemetery of St. Calixtus. His feast was originally celebrated on December 10 but was moved to January 10 in the calendar revision of 1969.

Pope St. Hyginus - January 11

The crown of the empire belonged to Antonius Pius. Hyginus, as Pope Telesphorus' successor, not only had to endure the emperor's relentless persecutions but also had to cope with the Gnostic heretics who made their way to Rome. Hyginus was a Greek from Athens who, like his contemporary Justin Martyr, was a learned philosopher. Hyginus is said to have done some organizing of the clergy, and it is likely that he addressed the Roman clergy on the subjects of sin in general and of obedience to the Church. The early emergence of Gnosticism is probably the most significant development of Hyginus' pontificate. Cerdo came from Syria and Valentinus from Egypt, and together they taught this system of mystical belief, which was a combination of Greek philosophy and Oriental superstitions that denied the humanity of Christ. For years Cerdo vacillated between teaching error and repenting, returning to the Church, then falling from grace. Valentinus, however, he staunchly defended his cause. Hyginus perceived this as heresy, for it deviated greatly from the true teachings of the Apostles. Hyginus suffered gloriously and was buried on Vatican Hill.

St. Benedict Biscop - January 12

Born in 628 to one of Northumbria's old noble families, Biscop Baducing—Benedict's original name—initially served as a thane (feudal Lord) of the local king, Oswiu. In 653 he left this service and gave up his estate to pursue an interest in the church, traveling to Rome's holy sites. Northern England's Christianity derived from Irish sources and the style of church Benedict found in Rome—which formed Europe's mainstream—was quite different but evidently to his liking because he pledged himself to it. Benedict returned to Northumbria and, with a companion called Wilfrid, he began promoting the Roman form of Christianity, contributing to the declaration of Oswiu in 664 which turned his kingdom from Irish to Roman forms. Benedict returned to Rome in 666 before joining the monastery on Lerins, an island to the south of France; it was here that Biscop Baducing changed his name to Benedict. In 668, he returned to Rome, intending to further study the ways of Roman Christianity and Monasticism. While in Rome Benedict was asked by the Pope to accompany Theodore of Tarsus to England: Theodore was both England's Archbishop and a Greek who'd never been to the island before. On their arrival in 669, Theodore appointed Benedict abbot of the Monastery of St. Peter and St. Paul in Canterbury, a position he held for two years before returning to Rome to learn yet more about Monastic practice and the mainland traditions. After their return to Northumbria in 673, Benedict secured from Oswiu's successor—King Ecgrith—permission to found a monastery in the kingdom and a large endowment to found it on. The monastery of St. Peter was begun in Wearmouth in 674, its very structure reflecting the years of continental tradition Benedict had absorbed. Masons and glaziers were hired from France to build a stone church in a Roman style, a sharp contrast to everything in the region which was built using mainly timber. A Benedictine rule was introduced and Benedict's books, which he had collected in his travels formed the library. In 679, Benedict was back in Rome to equip his monastery with relics, art and quality manuscripts, as well as study vestments and even Rome's head of liturgy. In 681, a second endowment from Ecgrith enabled Benedict to found a twin house dedicated to St. Paul in Jarrow (also in Northumbria), prompting another journey to Rome in 682. This lasted four years and his return again enriched the houses with several important manuscripts and knowledge. However, his health declined and he was bedridden from 686/687; never recovering, Benedict died on January 12, 690 AD. Benedict's role in establishing the Roman church in northern England can't be underestimated. By importing continental ideas into, and creating a considerable library and art collection for his monastery, he transformed it into a focus for brilliant scholarship which enthused the region with new thought. Indeed, one of Benedict's earliest students, Bede, grew up in these rich surroundings to become the period's greatest scholar, sending new ideas from England back into Europe.

St. Hilary of Poitiers - January 13

St. Hilary was one of those great Christian heroes who poured out their lives laboring and suffering in defense of Christ's divinity. Scarcely had the days of bloody persecution ended (313), when there arose, now within the Church, a most dangerous enemy of another sort, Arianism. The heresy of Arianism denied the divinity of Christ; it was, in fact, hardly more than a form of paganism masquerading as the Christian Gospel. The smoldering strife soon

flared into a mighty conflict endangering the whole Church; and its spread was all the more rapid and powerful because emperors, who called themselves Christian, proved its best supporters. Once again countless martyrs sealed in blood their belief in Christ's divinity; and orthodox bishops who voiced opposition were forced into exile amid extreme privations.

Among the foremost defenders of the true faith stood Hilary. He belonged to a distinguished family and had received an excellent education. Though a married man, he was made bishop of Poitiers by reason of his exemplary life. It was not long before his valiant defense of the faith precipitated his exile to Phrygia. Here Hilary composed his great work on the Blessed Trinity (in twelve books). It is a vigorous defense of the faith, which, he said, "triumphs when attacked." Finally, after four years he was permitted to return to his native land. He continued his efforts, and through prudence and mildness succeeded in ridding Gaul of Arianism. Because of his edifying and illustrious writings on behalf of the true religion, the Church honors him as one of her doctors.

St. Felix of Nola - January 14

St. Felix was a priest at Nola, near Naples in Italy. His father, a Romano-Syrian soldier, was a landowner in Nola. Felix suffered persecution under Emperor Decius, but he escaped from prison and rescued his bishop, Saint Maximus of Nola, in miraculous circumstances. Legend says he was freed by an angel so he could help his sick bishop. Felix hid Maximus from soldiers in a vacant building. When the two were safely inside, a spider quickly spun a web over the door, fooling the imperial forces into thinking it was long abandoned, and they left without finding the Christians. The two managed to hide from authorities until the persecution ended with the death of Decius in 251.

Felix was known far and wide for his generosity to the poor, and he refused to go to law to recover an impounded estate. After Bishop St. Maximus' death, Felix was chosen as bishop of Nola, but Felix declined, favoring Quintus, a "senior" priest who had seven days more experience than Felix. Felix worked to farm his remaining land, and he gave most of the proceeds to people even poorer than himself.

He died around 255. Although Felix died of natural causes, he is normally listed as a martyr because of the torture, imprisonment, and privations he experienced during the persecutions. Most of the little information we have on St. Felix came from the letters and poetry of St. Paulinus of Nola. Over a century later St. Paulinus wrote of the crowds that came from all over Italy to the shrine of St. Felix, of the miracles that took place there, and of the great assistance he had himself received from Felix's intercession.

SECOND COLLECTION this weekend is for the Catholic University of America & the Catholic Communications Campaign, which supports evangelization through the internet, television, radio and print publications.

SECOND COLLECTION next weekend, **January 14-15** is for our Elementary School. Fr Jorge blessed all of the classrooms and on **Monday, January 9**, the students and faculty will renew their Baptismal Promises at the **8:30AM** Mass.

FIRST COMMUNION FAMILY SESSION for the parents of all children expecting to receive First Communion in **May 2023**, takes place today, **Sunday, January 8** in the cafeteria at **11AM**.

SPANISH FAMILY SESSION for the parents of students in our religious education program will take place in the cafeteria at **1PM** on **Sunday, January 15**.

ENGLISH FAMILY SESSION for the English-speaking parents of students in our religious education program will take place in the cafeteria at **11AM** on **Sunday, January 22**.

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 Rector's.

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. Thanks you for your generosity. Men's belts 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. Just click the icon and join as a parishioner. Today is the Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord. Watch *The Story of the Nativity*, Formed Now! *The Magi*, Ready Reasons: *Were the Magi at Jesus' Birth?*, or for children *Brother Francis: O Holy Night*. Listen to: *Prepare the Way of the King, God Made Man*, or *The Story of Christmas*. Also Watch: *God's Doorkeeper* about St. Andre Bessette. Tomorrow, we celebrate the Feast of The Baptism of the Lord. Watch: *Reborn* or *Wild Goose*, Segment 10: *The Spirit and the Desert*; **FORMED Now!** *The Baptism of the Lord*; or Ready Reasons: *Is Baptism Necessary for Salvation?* Listen to: *Changed Forever* or *Our Beautiful End*.

"MEN, LET'S TALK" virtually about our mental and sexual well being on **Saturday, January 21** from **10AM-12PM**. For the link, call **917-293-4247**.

The 2023 NEW YORK ENCOUNTER, "*Who am I that you care for me?*", will take place **February 17-19** in person and live-streamed at the Metropolitan Pavilion, 125 West 18th Street in Manhattan. The Encounter is a three-day cultural event organized by members of Communion and Liberation featuring some panel discussions, artistic performances, and unique exhibits.

CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER is a pre-cana marriage prep weekend. For more information, call **845-298-4772**.

FDA CHANGES PLAN B LABEL AND PRESENTS FALSE INFORMATION: The FDA has changed the label associated with the Plan B pills that have been used for years as "emergency contraception" after sex. Otherwise known as a "morning after pill," so-called emergency contraception pills (levonorgestrel, also known as "Plan B," "Plan B One-Step," "Next Choice" and the "morning-after pill") are different from the mifepristone abortion pill commonly used to kill a baby in an abortion. While

the abortion pill always destroys the life of a unique human being weeks or months after conception, Plan B is only sometimes abortifacient. The current language about the Plan B bill notes, "Plan B One-Step is believed to act as an emergency contraceptive principally by preventing ovulation or fertilization (by altering tubal transport of sperm and/or ova). In addition, it may inhibit implantation (by altering the endometrium)." In other words, the drug may prevent a living, developing human embryo from implanting in the womb, thus ending the life of the embryo. That means it can possibly act as an abortion pill killing the baby. Because that information is a key concern for any women with pro-life conscience concerns, it must be presented to allow women fully informed consent in making their medical choices. Yet, instead of providing women accurate information about the nature of the drug, the FDA is hiding its abortifacient nature. And the new information is patently false and contradicts what the agency has said for many years.

"Plan B One-Step will not work if a person is already pregnant, meaning it will not affect an existing pregnancy," the FDA said in a release. "Evidence does not support that the drug affects implantation or maintenance of a pregnancy after implantation, therefore it does not terminate a pregnancy." The FDA now says since Plan B prevents pregnancy by acting on ovulation, "well before implantation," it does not cause abortions. Even the maker of the drug has, for years, informed women of its abortifacient possibility. Plan B's own packaging warns that the drug may destroy a newly conceived human being: "This product works mainly by preventing ovulation (egg release). It may also prevent fertilization of a released egg (joining of sperm and egg) or attachment of a fertilized egg to the uterus (implantation)."

SEEKING HOME ATTENDANTS FOR HIRE-Still seeking Home Health Aides \$18 pr and Up. Immediate Hire. Will provide free training to receive certification if needed. Text your name, age, cell and email to **718 450 5828**. Write in subject line. HHA Job. Interviews are immediate. Only serious should apply. Must be 18 and over.

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. The longest-married couples will receive nice commemorative certificates signed by His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan. The winning couple will be interviewed and featured in an article in *Catholic New York*. Winners are determined by how long the couple has been married as of World Marriage Day, February 12th, 2023. For further information, or to submit an entry, you can contact Kathleen Crayne at the Arch Family Life Office at kathleen.crayne@archny.org (preferred method) 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 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 BAPTÊME DU SEIGNEUR-Le mystère du baptême du Christ dans le Jourdain par saint Jean, le Précurseur, propose la contemplation d'un Jésus déjà adulte. Ce mystère est infiniment lié aux solennités de la naissance du Seigneur et de l'Épiphanie que nous venons de célébrer, car il en reprend et en représente en quelque sorte la signification pour nous. A Noël, nous avons contemplé la naissance humaine du Verbe incarné par la Vierge Marie. Au IV^e siècle, les Pères de l'Église ont approfondi la compréhension de la foi à l'égard du mystère de Noël à la lumière de l'Humanité de Jésus. Ils ont parlé de l'Incarnation du Verbe qui opérait déjà comme la "christification" de cette humanité qu'il avait assumée de sa mère. Ou, en termes plus simples : Jésus est le Christ dès le premier instant de sa conception dans le sein sans tache de Marie parce que c'est Lui-même qui, par sa Puissance divine, a consacré, oint et "christifié" cette nature humaine avec laquelle Il s'est incarné.

Dans le mystère de l'Épiphanie, nous avons ensuite médité sur la manifestation du Christ à toutes les nations, représentée par les Mages venus d'Orient pour adorer l'Enfant. Maintenant, dans le mystère du Baptême du Christ dans le Jourdain, nous rencontrons et représentons à nouveau la vérité de l'incarnation du Seigneur et de sa manifestation en tant que Christ. Le Baptême de Jésus est en effet sa manifestation définitive comme Messie ou Christ pour Israël, et comme Fils du Père pour le monde entier. Nous retrouvons ici la dimension de l'Épiphanie qui était sa manifestation à toutes les nations. La voix du Père venant du ciel montre que Jésus de Nazareth est le Fils éternel et la descente de l'Esprit Saint sous la forme d'une colombe montre la nature trinitaire du Dieu chrétien. Le Dieu véritable et unique, Père, Fils et Saint-Esprit, se manifeste en Christ, par Lui, avec Lui et en Lui.

Le baptême dans le Jourdain renvoie au grand thème de Noël, la "christification", l'onction spirituelle de Jésus de Nazareth, sa présentation comme l'Oint par excellence, le Messie ou l'envoyé du Père pour le salut de l'humanité. L'Esprit qui est descendu sur Jésus montre et scelle de manière incontestable la "christification" de l'humanité de Jésus que le Verbe avait déjà accomplie dès le premier instant de sa conception miraculeuse par Marie. Jésus, dès le début, a toujours été le Christ du Seigneur, il a toujours été Dieu. Mais son unique et véritable humanité, celle qui est parfaite à tous égards, comme le rapporte l'Évangile, a constamment grandi en perfection naturelle et surnaturelle. Et Jésus grandissait en sagesse, en taille et en faveur auprès de Dieu et des hommes" (Lc 2, 52). En Israël, à 30 ans, on atteignait la pleine maturité et on pouvait donc devenir maître. Jésus a atteint sa majorité et

l'Esprit, descendant et demeurant sur lui, a définitivement consacré tout son être comme le Christ. Le même Esprit, qui est descendu sur l'eau du Jourdain, a plané sur les eaux lors de la première création (Gn 1,2). Par conséquent, le baptême dans le Jourdain présente une autre vérité : que Jésus a commencé une nouvelle création.

SESIÓN FAMILIAR DE ESPAÑOL para los padres de los estudiantes en nuestro programa de educación religiosa se llevará a abajo en la cafetería a la **1PM** el **domingo, 15 de enero**.

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).

En este momento podemos empezar a recolectar ropa limpia y nueva para nuestro Mercado de Pulgas. 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 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**. **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.

“HEMOS VISTO SU ESTRELLA EN EL ORIENTE Y HEMOS VENIDO A ADORAR AL SEÑOR.”

Ya casi por terminar el Tiempo de Navidad, la Iglesia nos invita a celebrar la Epifanía del Señor. Para muchos de nosotros que venimos de Latinoamérica estamos acostumbrados a celebrar el día de la Epifanía o mejor conocido como el día de Reyes el 6 de enero, pero aquí en los Estados Unidos se celebra en domingo no importando el día. Pero lo importante queridos hermanos es lo que esta celebración implica.

Epifanía proviene de una *palabra griega* que significa **Manifestación** y en este día celebramos que **Jesús se manifiesta ante los Reyes Magos y la humanidad** como **Verdadero Dios y Hombre**. Este es el motivo por el cual los Reyes al ver la estrella se ponen en marcha, salen presurosos porque saben que esa estrella los guiará hasta alguien importante. Y esta es la invitación que les vengo hacer este día, mis queridos hermanos; que la tradición de celebrar a los Tres Santos Reyes nunca se muera, ya que es hermosa y nos acerca al misterio divino de ir y adorar al Niño que se ha hecho carne para redimirnos. Es por tal motivo que antes de poder reconocer e ir adorar debemos nosotros ser conscientes de que hemos visto la Estrella.

Por eso hoy te pregunto: **¿has visto la estrella?** Una pregunta que debemos contestar con sinceridad y desde el corazón, a lo mejor la viste y en el camino te entretuviste con tantas cosas que dejaste de verla. O a lo mejor nunca la has visto o reconocido. No importando cual sea tu respuesta querido hermano y hermana, hoy te invito a que te detengas una vez más al comienzo de este año y reconozcas la Estrella, esa no es cualquier estrella es la más brillante la que te cuesta aceptar ya que sabes que te desafiara. Mírala y sigue su luz para que cuando llegue el momento podamos juntos decirle **“hemos visto tu estrella y hemos venido a adorarle.”**

Esta es mi invitación, a que hoy al celebrar la Manifestación de Dios a los hombres por medio de Jesús; puedas ser capaz de reconocerle y rendirle adoración, en otras palabras, que puedas decirle Jesús sé que yo no tengo oro, ni incienso, ni mirra y he perdido en muchas ocasiones de vista la estrella por tal motivo, lo único que tengo es mi persona y es lo que hoy te entrego y es lo que te regalo, con mi propia vida e historia te rindo adoración.

Feliz día de la Epifanía del Señor a cada uno de ustedes y que la luz de la estrella brille tan fuerte en sus vidas para que puedan reconocerle y venir a adorar al Señor.

En Cristo Jesús y Calasanz, Fr. Jorge L. Ramírez, Sch.P.
WEEKLY COLLECTION: January 1— \$5,322.62
Solemnity of Mary — \$2,196.00
Christmas—\$7,615.00



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

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; +Aida Melendez; Abelino Cazho Ortega y Maria Presentacion Cazho Ortega; +Florentina Cepeda Maldonado, James Gleen Hernandez, Milton Rivera Bastian and Robert Chikora; +Dionicia Colombia Zambrano
5:00 +Terence Lorino
6:30(Fr) +Margaret Bongyii and Raphael Mbinkar

January 9 – Monday — THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

- 6:30*** Divine Justice for the Bombings and Destruction of Life and Livelihood in Ukraine
8:30 S +J. Russell Davison III
12:15 Timothy Harty-Healing Intention
7:00 (Sp) +Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; +Virginia Quinto
Jan 10 – Tues — St. Paul, the First Hermit & Pope St. Miltiades
6:30* In Thanksgiving for Favors Granted to Ukraine
8:30 S +Mary Samful and Constance Ford
12:15 +Indiana Franco
7:00(SP) +Virginia Quinto

January 11 – Wednesday — Pope St. Hyginus

- 6:30** Divine Justice for the Bombings and Destruction of Life and Livelihood in Ukraine;
8:30 S +Margaret Cleary
12:15 Altigracia, Carmen, Manuel and José Capellán
7:00(Sp) +Virginia Quinto

January 12 – Thursday — St. Benedict Biscop

- 6:30** In Thanksgiving for Favors Granted to Ukraine
8:30 +Pedro Cordero Peña
10:00 Funeral- +Ramona Miranda
12:15 Betty McCabe-Healing Intention
7:00(Sp) +Virginia Quinto
January 13 – Friday — St. Hilary of Poitiers
6:30 Fr. Jesus Negro-77 Birthday Intention
8:30 S Xavier Francis, Meera, Staven & Jair Joseph in Thanks; *Jenson Jency and the Philip Family-Healing Intention*
12:15 +Alberto Brinz
7:00(Sp) +Virginia Quinto

January 14 – Saturday — St. Felix of Nola

- 6:30** A Grandmother's Intentions for Alessandra Savino
8:30 S +Anselmo Retutas
12:15 Deacon Eugene, Margaret & Thomas-Blessings and Intentions and +Fr. Eugene Hamilton
5:30 +Benito and Alipio Rivera and Isabelo Arroyo

January 15, – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8:00** +Robert Benz; +*Clara Chan and Birthday in Thanksgiving for Arvin Roa*
10:00 S +Galita Colon, Jose Anrtonio Colon and Antonio Colon; *Birthday in Thanksgiving for Flo Francisca and Faith Houssou*
12:00 (Sp) +Maria Antonia Javier; +Benita Altamirano; +Aida Melendez; +Virginia Quinto
5:00 +Fred Havelka, Larry Young and Paul Knoll
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 8, 2023

Sun: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12; **Mon:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 (11b)/Mt 3:13-17; **Tues:** Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/ Mk 1:21-28 or Heb 1:1-6 and 2:5-12/Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28; **Wed:** Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9//Mk 1:29-39; **Thurs:** Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11/Mk 1:40-45; **Fri:** Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8/Mk 2:1-12; **Sat:** Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk 2:13-17; **Next Sun:** Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/1 Cor 1:1-3/ Jn 1:29-34