

The Piarist Fathers



Pastor

Rev. David Powers Sch.P.

Parochial Vicars

Rev. Francisco Anaya, Sch.P.
Rev. Evaristus Akem Ndi, Sch.P.
Rev. Jorge Ramirez, Sch.P.
Rev. Richard Wyzykiewicz Sch.P

Parish Staff

Parish Secretary

Mrs. Rosemarie Ortiz

Business Manager

Anne Kathy Rice

Facilities Manager

Karime Vergara
sthelenasevents@gmail.com

Music Director

Ms. Janell Alvarez

Musicians

Mr. Jim Donaldson
Mr. Sylvester Kouadjo

April-May 2024

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. Eric Mercado
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

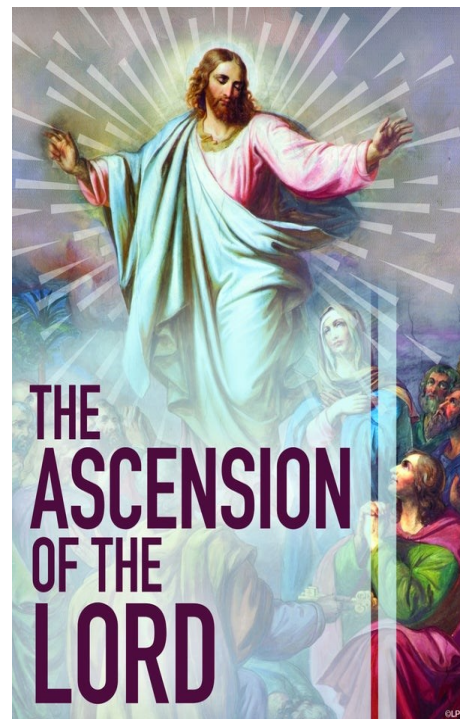
www.churchofsthelena.com

Email: sthelenarc@yahoo.com

Alumni: sthelenasalumni@yahoo.com

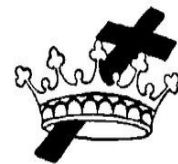


OUR
LADY
OF
FATIMA



THE
ASCENSION
OF THE
LORD

saint Helena



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 (Francais)

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

The Ascension - May 9

The Ascension of Our Lord, which occurred 40 days after Jesus Christ rose from the dead on Easter Sunday morn, is the final act of our redemption that Christ began on Good Friday. On this day, the risen Christ, in the sight of His holy apostles, ascended bodily into Heaven. However, the reality of the Ascension is so important that the creeds (the basic statements of belief) of Christianity all affirm, in the words of the Apostles' Creed, that "He ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead." The denial of the Ascension is as grave a departure from Christian teaching as is denial of Christ's Resurrection.



Christ's bodily Ascension foreshadows our own entrance into Heaven not simply as souls, after our death, but as glorified bodies, after the resurrection of the dead at the Final Judgment. In redeeming mankind, Christ not only offered salvation to our souls but began the restoration of the material world itself to the glory that God intended before Adam's fall. The Feast of the Ascension marks the beginning of the first novena, or nine days of prayer. Before His Ascension, Christ promised to send the Holy Spirit to His apostles. Their prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit, which began on Ascension Thursday, ended with the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday, ten days later.

The observance of this feast is of great antiquity. Although no documentary evidence of it exists prior to the beginning of the fifth century, Saint Augustine says that it is of Apostolic origin, and he speaks of it in a way that shows it was the universal observance of the Church long before his time. Frequent mention of it is made in the writings of Saint John Chrysostom, St. Gregory of Nyssa, and in the Constitution of the Apostles. The Pilgrimage of Sylvia (Peregrinatio Etheriae) speaks of the vigil of this feast and of the feast itself, as they were kept in the church built over the grotto in Bethlehem in which Christ was born. It may be that prior to the fifth century the fact narrated in the Gospels was commemorated in conjunction with the feast of Easter or Pentecost. Some believe that the much-disputed forty-third decree of the Council of Elvira (c. 300) condemning the practice of observing a feast on the fortieth day after Easter and neglecting to keep Pentecost on the fiftieth day, implies that the proper usage of the time was to commemorate the Lord's Ascension along with Pentecost. Representations of the mystery are found in diptychs and frescoes dating as early as the fifth century. The day is meant to celebrate the completion of the work of our salvation, the pledge of our glorification with Christ, and His entry into heaven with our human nature glorified.

St. Peter Nolasco - May 6

One night while Peter Nolasco was praying, the Blessed Virgin appeared (1228) and told him how greatly pleased she and her divine Son would be if a religious order were established in her honor for the express purpose of delivering Christians held in bondage by the infidels. In compliance with her wish, Peter, together with Saint Raymond of Penafort and James I, King of Aragon, founded the Order of Our Lady of Mercy for the ransom of captives. Besides the usual vows, all members were required to take a fourth, one by which they bound themselves to become captives of the pagans, if necessary, to effect the emancipation of Christians. On one occasion, Peter Nolasco ransomed 400 at Valencia and Granada; twice he traveled to Africa as "the Ransomer," not without peril to his own life; and records show that through his personal efforts, a total of 890 Christians regained their liberty. He died with these words from Psalm 110 on his lips: *The Lord has sent redemption to His people.*

St. Rosa Venerini - May 7

Rosa Venerini was born in Viterbo, in 1656. Her father, Goffredo, moved to Viterbo where he practiced medicine. From his marriage to Marzia Zampichetti, four children were born: Domenico, Maria Maddalena, Rosa, and Orazio. Rosa was naturally gifted with intelligence and an uncommon human sensibility. She made a vow

to consecrate her life to God at the age of seven. During the early years of her youth, she lived through a conflict between the attractions of the world and her promise made to God.

In the autumn of 1676, on the advice of her father, Rosa entered the Dominican Monastery of St. Catherine, with the prospect of fulfilling her vow. She remained in the monastery for only a few months because the sudden death of her father forced her to return to her suffering mother. Her brother Domenico died at only twenty-seven years of age, and a few months later her mother died. In the meantime, Maria Maddalena married. There remained at home only Orazio and Rosa, by now twenty-four years old. Challenged by the desire to do something great for God, in May of 1684, she began to gather the girls and women of the area in her own home to recite the rosary. She soon understood that the Lord was calling her to dedicate herself to the instruction and Christian formation of young women, not with sporadic encounters, but with a school understood in the real and true sense of the word. In 1685, with the approval of the Bishop of Viterbo, and the collaboration of two friends, Rosa began her first school, according to an innovative plan. The first objective of the Foundress was to give the girls of the common people a complete Christian formation and prepare them for life in society. Without great pretense, Rosa opened the first "Public School for Girls in Italy". The origins were humble but the significance was prophetic, and it did not take long to receive the recognition of the religious and civil authorities.

The initial stages were not easy. The three Maestre (teachers) had to face the resistance of clergy who considered the teaching of the catechism as their private office. But the harshest suspicion came from conformists who were scandalized by the boldness of these women of the upper middle class of Viterbo who had taken to heart the education of ignorant girls. Following the plan of God, these same pastors soon recognized the moral improvement that the work of education generated among the girls and mothers.

The validity of this initiative was acknowledged, and the Bishop of Montefiascone called the Saint to his diocese. From 1692 to 1694, she opened ten schools in Montefiascone and the villages surrounding Lake Bolsena. A cardinal provided the material means and Rosa made the families aware, trained the teachers, and organized the schools. When she had to return to Viterbo to attend to the strengthening of her first school, Rosa entrusted the schools and the teachers to the direction of a young woman, St. Lucia Filippini, in whom she had seen particular gifts of mind, heart and spirit.

After the openings in Viterbo and Montefiascone, other schools were started in Lazio. Rosa reached Rome in 1706, but the first experience in Rome was a real failure which caused her to wait six long years before regaining the trust of the authorities. On December 8, 1713, Rosa was able to open a school in the center of Rome at the foot of the Campidoglio. On October 24, 1716, she received a visit from Pope Clement XI, accompanied by eight Cardinals, who wanted to attend the lessons. Amazed and pleased, at the end of the morning he addressed these words to the Foundress: "Signora Rosa, you are doing that which we cannot do. We thank you very much because with these schools you will sanctify Rome". From that moment on, Governors and Cardinals asked for schools for their areas.

Rosa Venerini died a saintly death in the community of St. Mark's in Rome on the evening of May 7, 1728. She had opened more than forty schools. Her remains were entombed in the nearby Church of the Gesù, so loved by her. In 1952, on the occasion of her Beatification, they were transferred to the chapel of the Generalate in Rome. She was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on October 15, 2006 at Rome.

St. Acacius - May 8

St. Achatius, is one of the Holy Helpers who, as a Roman soldier, died for Christ. He was a native of Cappadocia and as a youth joined the Roman army during the reign of Emperor Hadrian, attaining the rank of captain. One day, when leading his company against the enemy, he heard a voice saying to him, "Call on the God of Christians!" He obeyed, was instructed, and he received Baptism. Filled with zeal, he henceforth sought to convert also the pagan soldiers of the army. When the emperor heard of this, Achatius was thrown into prison, then placed on the rack, bound to a post and scourged, because he refused to offer sacrifice to

the idols. When all these tortures availed nothing, he was brought before the tribune Bibianus. Asked by him what was his name and country, Achatius replied, "My name is Christian because I am a follower of Christ; some men call me Achatius. My country is Cappadocia. There my parents lived; there I was converted to the Christian faith, and was so inspired by the combats and sufferings of the Christian Martyrs that I am resolved to shed my blood for Christ to attain heaven." Then, Bibianus ordered him to be beaten with leaden clubs, after which he was loaded with chains and returned to the prison. After Achatius had been in prison for seven days, Bibianus was called to Byzantium and ordered all prisoners to be transported there. On the journey Achatius suffered greatly, for his entire body was covered with wounds, his chains were galling, the guards were cruel, and the roads were bad. He thought himself dying. Praying to God, a voice from the clouds answered him, "Achatius, be firm!" The soldiers of the guard were terrified and asked each other, "What is this? How can the clouds have a voice?" Many prisoners were converted. The next day some of the converts saw a number of men in shining armor speaking to Achatius, washing his wounds and healing them, so that not even a scar remained. After he arrived in Byzantium, the Saint was again cast into prison, and after seven days dragged before the judge. When neither promises nor the cruelest torments shook the constancy of the brave confessor of the Faith, the judge sent him to the proconsul, who imprisoned him for five days and meanwhile read the records of his former trials. Then he ordered him to be beheaded. Achatius suffered death for Christ on May 8, 311. He is invoked for headaches.

Apparition of St. Michael the Archangel - May 8

Of all the angels, none is accorded greater veneration than St. Michael; his cult dates to ancient Christian times. He is the protector and patron of the Church on earth, and he leads departed souls into paradise. Traditionally his feast is celebrated on September 29; then, in the sixth century a feast called the Apparition of St. Michael was added. In the year 492 a man named Gargan was pasturing his large herds in the countryside. One day a bull fled to the mountain, where at first it could not be found. When its hiding place in a cave was discovered, an arrow was shot into the cave, but the arrow returned to wound the one who had sent it. Faced with so mysterious an occurrence, the persons concerned decided to consult the bishop of the region. He ordered three days of fasting and prayers. After three days, the Archangel Saint Michael appeared to the bishop and declared that the cavern where the bull had taken refuge was under his protection and that God wanted it to be consecrated under his name and in honor of all the Holy Angels. Accompanied by his clergy and people, the bishop went to that cavern, which he found already designed in the form of a church. The divine mysteries were celebrated there, and there arose in this same place a magnificent temple where the divine Power has wrought great miracles. To thank God's adorable goodness for the protection of the holy Archangel, the effect of His merciful Providence, this feast day was instituted by the Church in his honor. Gargano, was added locally, but soon spread to the universal Church. What actually is commemorated today is the dedication of this church. In 590, Pope Gregory the Great ordered a great penitential procession on the occasion of a plague; to indicate that his prayers were heard, the archangel appeared and replied with his sword in its scabbard.

St. Pachomius - May 9

St. Pachomius can justifiably be called the founder of cenobitic monasticism (monks who live in community). Even though Saint Antony the Great was the first to go into the desert to live a life of seclusion pursuing evangelical perfection, he lived an eremitic life, that is, a primarily solitary life. Pachomius first started out as a hermit in the desert like many of the other men and women in the third and fourth centuries who sought the most radical expression of Christian life, and he developed a very strong bond of friendship with the hermit Palemon. One day, he had a vision during prayer in which he was called to build a monastery, and he was told in the vision that many people who are eager to live an ascetic life in the desert but are not inclined to the solitude of the hermit, will come and join him. His hermit friend Palemon helped him to build the monastery and Pachomius insisted that his cenobites were to aspire to the austerity of the hermits. However, he knew that his idea was a radical one, in that most of the men who came to live in his monastery had only ever

conceived of the eremitic lifestyle; his great accomplishment was to reconcile this desire for austere perfection with an openness to fulfilling the mundane requirements of community life as an expression of Christian love and service. He spent most of his first years as a cenobitic doing all the menial work on his own, knowing that his brother monks needed to be gently inducted into serving their brothers in the same manner. He therefore allowed them to devote all their time to spiritual exercises in those first years. At his death, there were eleven Pachomian monasteries, nine for men and two for women. The rule that Pachomius drew up was said to have been dictated to him by an angel, and it is this rule that both St. Benedict in the west and St. Basil in the east drew upon to develop their better known rules of cenobitic life.

St. Damien of Molokai - May 10

Joseph De Veuster, the future Father Damien, was born at Tremelo in Belgium, in 1840. When his oldest brother entered the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts, his father planned that Joseph should take charge of the family business. Joseph, however, decided to become a religious. At the beginning of 1859, he entered the novitiate at Louvain, in the same house as his brother. There he took the name of Damien. In 1863, his brother who was to leave for the mission in the Hawaiian Islands, became ill. Since preparations for the voyage had already been made, Damien obtained permission from the Superior General to take his brother's place. He arrived in Honolulu on March 19, 1864, where he was ordained to the priesthood the following May 21st. He immediately devoted himself, both body and soul, to the difficult service of a "country missionary" on the island of Hawaii.

At that time, the Hawaiian Government decided on a very harsh measure aimed at stopping the wide spread of "leprosy," the deportation to the neighboring island of Molokai, of all those infected by what was thought to be an incurable disease. The mission was concerned about the abandoned "lepers" and the Bishop spoke to the priests about the problem. He did not want to send anyone "in the name of obedience," because he knew that such an order meant certain death. Four Brothers volunteered, they would take turns visiting and assisting the "lepers" in their distress. Damien was the first to leave in 1873. At his own request and that of the lepers, he remained definitively on Molokai.

He brought hope to this hell of despair. He became a source of consolation and encouragement for the lepers, their pastor, the doctor of their souls and of their bodies, without any distinction of race or religion. He gave a voice to the voiceless, he built a community where the joy of being together and openness to the love of God gave people new reasons for living. After Father Damien contracted the disease in 1885, he was able to identify completely with them: "We lepers." Father Damien was, above all, a witness of the love of God for His people. He got his strength from the Eucharist.

Fr. Damien died on April 15, 1889, having served sixteen years among the lepers. His mortal remains were transferred in 1936 to Belgium where he was interred in the crypt of the church of the Congregation of Sacred Hearts at Louvain. His fame spread to the entire world. In 1938 the process for his beatification was introduced at Malines (Belgium): Pope Paul VI signed the Decree on the "heroicity of his virtues" on July 7, 1977. He was canonized on October 11, 2009.

St. John of Avila - May 10

Saint John of Avila was born in Almodóvar del Campo of a wealthy and pious family of Jewish *converso* descent. At the age of fourteen, he was sent to the University of Salamanca to study law but returned after a year to his father's home, where he spent the next three years in the practice of austere piety. His sanctity impressed a Franciscan journeying through Almodóvar, on whose advice he took up the study of philosophy and theology at Alcalá de Henares, where he was fortunate to have as his teacher the famous Dominican Domingo de Soto. While he was a student, his parents died and after his ordination, he celebrated his first Mass in the church where they were buried, sold the family property, and gave all the proceeds to the poor. He saw in the severing of natural ties a vocation to foreign missionary work and prepared to go to Mexico. In 1527, while he was in Seville his unusually great devotion in celebrating Mass attracted the attention of Hernando de Contreras, a priest of Seville, who mentioned him to the archbishop and the Inquisitor General. The archbishop saw in the

MAY 5, 2024

young missionary a powerful instrument to stir up the faith in Andalusia. His first sermon was preached on July 22, 1529, and immediately established his reputation. During his nine years of missionary work in Andalusia, crowds packed the churches at all his sermons. By special invitation of the court, he was appointed to preach the sermon on the next great feast in the church of San Salvador, in Seville. Like other Spanish mystics of the period, he was suspected several times during his career of belonging to the Alumbrados, deemed a heretical sect.

John of Avila is also remembered as a reformer of clerical life in Spain. He founded several schools where his disciples dedicated themselves to the teaching of youths. Among the disciples attracted by his preaching and saintly reputation were Saint Teresa of Avila, Saint John of God, Saint Francis Borgia and the Venerable Louis of Granada. Of special importance was the University of Baeza established in 1538 by a papal bull of Pope Paul III. Its first rector was Saint John of Avila and became a model for seminaries and for the schools of the Jesuits. St. John of Avila was declared Venerable by Pope Clement XIII on February 8, 1759 and beatified by Pope Leo XIII on November 15, 1893. On May 31, 1970 he was canonized by Pope Paul VI. Pope Benedict XVI named him a Doctor of the Church on October 7, 2012, the Feast of the Holy Rosary.

St. Francis di Girolamo - May 11

Saint Francis di Girolamo was the famous Jesuit pulpit orator of Naples. His descriptions were forcible and graphic while his energy astounded and terrified, "yet there must have been much of the magnetism of the popular orator in his manner for whenever he spoke whether in the streets of Naples or in the church great crowds followed him and not a few of the sudden conversion made by him of hardened sinners sound like the records of some modern "Revivalist" preachers. He was an earnest, untiring, faithful worker to the very last. Born in 1642, at a very early age he became a prefect in the "College of Nobles of the Society of Jesus" and soon after his novitiate was completed took high rank in the society. It was as a preacher and evangelist that he excelled. He died May 11, 1716, and was beatified by Pius VII, on the feast of Saint Joseph in 1806, and he was canonized by Gregory XVI, on Trinity Sunday 1839.

Mary, Queen of the Apostles - May 11

The feast of the Queen of Apostles was established on the first Saturday after Ascension Thursday by the Sacred Congregation of Rites at the request of the Pallottine Fathers. Mary initiated her mission as Queen of Apostles in the Cenacle. She gathered the apostles together, comforted them, and assisted them in prayer. Together with them she hoped, desired, and prayed with them her petitions were heeded and she received the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Because the Blessed Mother occupies a most important position in God's plan of salvation, all humanity should pay homage to her. Whoever spreads devotion to the Queen of Apostles is an apostolic benefactor of the human race. Several religious congregations practice devotion to Mary under the title of Queen of Apostles, including the Pallotines, the Marianists, and the congregations founded by Bl. James Alberione.

National Eucharistic Pilgrimage

The Archdiocese of New York is pleased to invite you to participate in the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Route to the 10th National Eucharistic Congress as part of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage. The NEP is an initiative that stems from the grassroots focus of the National Eucharistic Congress. Each (arch) diocese along the four routes of the NEP has served as a full partner in planning events of the NEP, so if you sign up for events in different dioceses, you are likely to see different approaches, all with the same goal - to encounter the Risen Christ in the Blessed Sacrament and be sent forth on mission to share the Good News. In keeping with this vision, the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will accompany Jesus from city to city, lighting hearts on fire along the way. Then, at the National Eucharistic Congress in **July 2024**, all these flames will blaze together. Our Route begins in New Haven, CT, and the pilgrimage will process through the Archdiocese of New York from **May 22 – 26, 2024**. We invite you to join us along the way, for as little or much as you are able. Our New York journey begins on **Wednesday, May 22** as the pilgrimage arrives from Connecticut, and will end on **Sunday, May 26** as the pilgrims enter Brooklyn.

Day 3 will take place on **Friday, May 24**, and will include

the walk from Yonkers to the Bronx and will feature:

Adoration from **7-10PM** on **May 23** at St. Joseph's Seminary, 201 Seminary Avenue, Yonkers, NY, followed by an **8AM** Mass on **May 24** with Bishop Massa.

Then, there will be Benediction stops at: St. John the Baptist, 670 Yonkers Avenue, Yonkers; St. Paul the Apostle, 602 McLean Avenue, Yonkers; St. Patrick's Home, 66 Van Cortlandt Park South, Bronx; St. Philip Neri, 3025 Grand Concourse, Bronx, which will include **11:45AM-12:45PM** Benediction and a lunch stop. Lunch will not be provided, please bring your own lunch.

After lunch, the stops will be: Christ the King, 141 Marcy Place, Bronx; Yankee Stadium, 1 East 161st Street, Bronx; and concluding with Cardinal Hayes High School, 650 Grand Concourse, Bronx with **7PM-8:30PM** Una Noche con Jesús en Cardinal Hayes High School, Evening adoration event at Cardinal Hayes featuring preaching by Bishop Joseph Espallat, music and testimony by pilgrims, Le invitamos a un evento nocturno en la escuela secundaria Cardinal Hayes en el Bronx con Obispo Joseph Espallat, música y testimonio.

Day 4 will begin with Mass and a short talk from **1:30-3PM** at the St. Frances Cabrini Shrine, 701 Fort Washington Ave., and **Day 5** will begin at St. Patrick's Cathedral with a **10:15AM** Mass with Cardinal Dolan and will conclude that day as the pilgrims cross the Brooklyn Bridge.

For a more detailed listing of all the events, go to: <https://events.blackthorn.io/en/DnDCa1K7/g/seton/seton-route-archdiocese-of-new-york-4a2PDnqpSC/overview>

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION will be administered by Bishop Joseph Espallat to over 100 young people at St. Helena in a special bilingual Mass on **Friday, May 10** at **7PM** in the church. Confirmation deepens our baptismal life that calls us to be missionary witnesses of Jesus Christ in our families, neighborhoods, society, and the world. We receive the message of faith in a deeper and more intensive manner with great emphasis given to the person of Jesus Christ, who asked the Father to give the Holy Spirit to the Church to build up the community in loving service.

CONFIRMATION:

St. Helena Parish School

Xzavier Bueno	Ryu Mcleod
Amanda Camilo	Emily Martinez
Cristian Colon	Eleora Mercedes
Noelia DeJesus	Bradley Nassif
Jerika Dickens	Maria Polanco
Skye Feliciano	Abigail Roca
Aaron Goyens-Watson	Sky Torres

Giovanni Vargas

St. Helena CCD

Ayden Abreu-B-FC-C	Joshua Mangi-C
Hailey Abreu-B-FC-C	Julia Mangi-C
Leah Bruno-C	Gianalee Rivera-C
Jacob Concepcion-C	Isaac Siri-FC-C
Samantha Garcia-C	Kristine Sistrunk-FC-C
Isaac Gomez-FC-C	Jennie Vera-C
Carlos Hernandez-C	Eva Woods-C
Folabi Monle-C; Yabo Monle-C; Samuel Nico Rivera-B-FC-C	

St. Helena RCIA

Rafael Abreu-C	Bridney Hernandez-C
Rosario Sarai Barreto-FC-C	Liss Hernandez-C
Mia Melanie Bastardo-FC-C	Alessandro Herrera-FC-C
Isabella Bosden-C	Alexa Jimenez Cortes-C
Maria Camas-FC-C	Melissa Juarez-C
Juan Carpio-FC-C	Shulia Lema-C
Jennifer Castillo-FC-C	Flor Loja-C
Angelina Cervantes-C	John Loja-FC-C
Jefferson Chima-C	Luz Maria Loja-FC-C

Silvia Choglo-FC-C	Manuel Loja-C
Haidi Cinto-C	Kevin Malan-FC-C
Mario Cinto-FC-C	Brenny Martinez-FC-C
Jayden Concepcion-C	Edgar Mayancela-C
Fabio Diaz-FC-C	Dixon José Namina-C
Fernando Fernandez-C	Amy Pomavilla-FC-C
Cayro Garcia-FC-C	Khyara Portilla-FC-C
Janet Gervacio-C	Lourdes Quizhpi-C
Artemio Gomez-FC-C	Angel Sanchez-C
Darwin Granda-C	Kris Tatis-FC-C
Michael Granda-C	Brian Vasquez-FC-C
Ashley Guzman-C	Marliz Vasquez-FC-C

Amir Gil-B-FC-C

Msgr. Scanlan H.S.

Johnny Barrios-B-FC-C	Mason Lorenzo-FC-C
Ada Bautista-B-FC-C	Madison Medina-B-FC-C
Rochelle Beato-C	Maya Medina-FC-C
Murical Brown-C	Camila Metz-C
Destiny Ciprian-C	Scheccid Nunez-Beato-FC-C
Alexander Contreras-C	Saevian Pahot-FC-C
Janae Delgado-FC-C	Mia Pelletier-FC-C
Ailish Estevez-C	Kiara Peña-FC-C
Justin Evans-B-FC-C	Giannet Peralta-C
Andrea Fernandez-FC-C	Anthony Perez-C
Mia Flores-FC-C	Christian Reid-C
Tristan Frederick-B	Jose Rincon-B-FC-C
Neomi Gonzalez-FC-C	Christopher Robles-C
Bethanni Grijalva-FC-C	Elianna Solano-FC-C
Carolina Guzman-FC-C	Caser Tapia-C
Namina Heskey-B-FC-C	Jayden Villa-B-FC-C
Trinity Jackson-B-FC-C	Matisen Watson-C

Madisyn Zayas-C

THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION will be given to 44 young people on **Sat., May 11** at **10AM** in the church. Students will be dressed in white and will process to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe following the Mass. Students will wear their First Communion attire the following day at either the **10AM** or **12PM Mass**, where they will participate in the May Crowning of Mary. First Holy Communion is the second of the three Sacraments of Initiation (the others being Baptism and Confirmation) which complete an individual's membership in the Catholic Community. The Eucharist Sacrament is commonly called First Holy Communion and celebrates the real presence of Jesus Christ in the bread, wine, and gathered community. Communion/Eucharist is the most important and most repeated Sacrament of one's Catholic life. Each Sunday, we gather in Mass as the Body of Christ to be nourished by the life-giving gift of Jesus' own body and blood. When we leave Mass, we take this loving gift with us into the world, spreading the love of God and the Good News of Jesus to all those around us. Regular participation in Communion/Eucharist is encouraged for all Catholics from age 7 years and older. First Communion typically occurs when a child is in elementary school.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

St. Helena Parish School

Veronica Adames	Sarah Mendez
Aaron Aleman	Kristina Ortega
Heaven Christian	Miamoré Roman
Araleya Delgado	Amina Rose
Delilah Diaz	Skyler Ben Samson
Jayden R. Ferreras	Derrick E. Seabrook
Maggie Flores	Zayla Swinson
Emma Gonzalez	Tamera Zoey Tobon
Olivia Lilman	Amanda Velez-Diaz
Nathalie Linares	Zoe Villavicencio

St. Helena CCD

Amma R. Abreu	Joann Leyva
Lillian M. Alicia	Kendra Jantet Loja
Kaidance Talia Brown	Nelson Loja
Luis Camas	Luis Mendez
Maico Choglo Granda	Samantha Mendez
Kaelynn Olivia Cohn	Crystal Mendoza
Kamila Madison Cohn	Robert Peña
Audrey Marie Diaz	Aylin Quizhpi
Alfredo Fernandez	Yamilet Ramos
Andy Carrillo Garcia	John Joseph Sambou
Luis Carrillo Garcia	Christopher Sumba Loja
Alexa Gonzalez	Kathy Sumba Loja

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLE STUDY continues at St. Helena every **Tuesday** at both **1PM** and **7:30PM** and every **Sunday** at **11:30AM**.

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

ENGLISH PRAYER GROUP is now meeting both in-person and virtually every **Saturday** from **1:30-2:30PM** in the Green Bldg. Phone **646-558-8656** or join the group by zoom at www.zoom.us. Meeting #829 266 9493, ID#444555.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO THE CALASANZ YOUTH MOVEMENT which meets every **Friday** at **7PM** in the gym. It is opened to all middle and high school youth.

NEW CHOIR MEMBERS for the **10AM** Mass are welcome. Rehearsals are on Sunday at **9:30AM**. Only vaccinated singers are allowed and we do maintain social distancing.

CHILD BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASSES are in **English** and meet every the 2nd and 4th **Thursday** at **7PM**. Register at the Rectory. Contact Father Jorge to inquire about Spanish classes. Spanish Baptisms occur only on the third Saturday of the month.

ST. HELENA FOOD PANTRY is open every **Wednesday** at **12PM** at the Westchester Ave entrance to the Green Building. We need many more volunteers to help us unload the food trucks and help us serve the food from **12PM—3PM** that day.

FLEA MARKET FOR (St. Helena Helps) We now have a Flea Market every **Friday** and **Sunday** from **1-4PM** and on the **2nd** and **4th Saturdays** of each month from **1-4PM**. (please enter through the Westchester Ave. door). Your donations are much appreciated, and they help very many people in the Bronx. **Please note: Do not leave any clothes or household items in front of the Rectory when we are closed. We will also only accept items during the week, no weekends. And, thanks to your generosity, we are overwhelmed with clothes. So please no more clothes donations at this time.**

BRONX CONCERT SINGERS PRESENTS 'A SALUTE TO BROADWAY' Spring Concert at St. Helena on **Sat., May 18** at **2:30PM**. Tickets are: Adults \$20 or 2 for \$35; Seniors & College Students \$15; Children through HS \$5. Tickets are available either online at: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/6278277>, or after select Masses, or at the concert door, or from Frances at **917-743-4641** or at the rectory office..

THE TRADITIONAL ROSARY said in English or **El Santo Rosario** in Spanish are both available on www.formed.org. You can find many good free programs on formed.

VIEW ON FORMED-We hope you are enjoying the parish subscription to www.formed.org, which gives parishioners and members of the community free 24/7 access to over 300 quality Catholic on line programs, 99+ movies, 101+ audios, & 98+ E-Books. May 8th is the Anniversary of the Birthday of Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. Watch: *Faith, Hope, and Love; Sheen Gems- The Best of Fulton J. Sheen; or Angels.*

Listen to: *There is Life in the Womb, Three to Get Married*, or the Audiobook: *The Priest Is Not His Own*. On May 10th Listen to: *The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest- A Saint for our Times*.

USED CAR FOR SALE-Toyota Sienna, 7 seats, white, 50,468 miles. Please call the rectory at **718-892-3233** or **646-645-4145**.

AN ELDERLY PARISHIONER needs a ride to the daily **12:15PM** Mass. Call the rectory if you can help.

A PARISHIONER NEEDS HOME HEALTH AID for 96 year-old mother five days a week for six hours a day. Call the rectory for more details on any of these opportunities.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

NATIONAL NURSES DAY and **Holocaust Remembrance Day** is **May 6**

NATIONAL TEACHER DAY is **May 7**.

CASTLE HILL SPRING FESTIVAL on **Saturday, May 11** from **10AM-6PM**, Starling Ave. to Westchester Ave.

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE MASS is for couples celebrating 50 years of marriage during 2024. It will take place on **Sunday, June 2**, at **2:30 PM** at St. Patrick's Cathedral. His Eminence, Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan is the Celebrant. All those who wish to attend need to contact Rosemarie in the rectory to register. Pews will be reserved for Golden Jubilee couples only. Up to four (4) additional family and friends will be accommodated in pews outside of the reserved section in general seating. All Golden Jubilee couples will receive a commemorative certificate. Couples who are unable to attend the Mass can request a certificate through their parish. Registration will close on **Monday, May 13 at 5PM**.

PROM DRESS AND SUIT GIVEAWAY-Friday, **May 24** from **4-7:30PM** at P188X, 730 Concourse Village West. For further information, please email: npalacios@bronxbp.nyc.gov.

FERRY DISCOUNT PROGRAM, \$1.35 for seniors and persons with disabilities. Apply at ferry.nyc/discount.

BECOME A SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELOR in less than 3 months, we will train you. Call **917-265-8090** for more information.

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

FREE BOOK, TRUE DEVOTION TO MARY by St. Louis de Montfort. Call **888-317-5571** to claim your copy.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT FOOD STAMPS? Call Estrella from Catholic Charities at **646-823-3571**.

TO REPORT ROAD HAZARDS—any missing amenities, or to report a criminal incident go to WWW.walkrollmap.org

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

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**.

CALL A CATHOLIC THERAPIST-Allison at **631-385-9311**.

"DIEU EST AMOUR"

"Dieu est amour", tel est le résumé de la bonne nouvelle qui nous est adressée en ce 6ème dimanche de Pâques. Il y a deux semaines, la liturgie nous invitait à être enfants de Dieu. Dimanche dernier, Jésus s'est présenté à nous comme la vraie vigne et nous sommes les sarments. Nous avons été invités à demeurer en Christ comme le sarment sur la vigne. Aujourd'hui, nous sommes invités à approfondir cette relation filiale qui nous

unit au Christ: nous avons à demeurer dans l'amour de Dieu, car Il nous a envoyé son Fils unique dans le monde pour que nous vivions par lui. Et en plus ce n'est pas nous qui avons aimé Dieu, mais c'est lui qui nous a aimés, et il a envoyé son Fils en sacrifice de pardon pour nos péchés.

Puisque Dieu a manifesté son amour pour nous, comment pouvons-nous demeurer dans son amour? Le premier chemin qui vient de la première épître de St Jean (4,7-10) est de s'aimer les uns les autres - « Aimons-nous les uns les autres puisque l'amour vient de Dieu. Tous ceux qui aiment sont enfants de Dieu et ils connaissent Dieu. » Cet appel qui se trouve au cœur de la Loi, de la Torah, est devenu le fondement de la foi chrétienne. Le christianisme est la religion de l'amour, l'alliance avec Dieu qui est amour. C'est l'agape, amour divine, qui dépasse tout entendement humain et chacun de nous est invités à faire l'expérience. C'est la nouveauté chrétienne, comme un don et un projet confié à chacun de nous.

Dans l'Évangile, Jésus se prépare à retourner auprès de son père et il dit à ses disciples et à nous - « Comme le Père m'a aimé, moi aussi je vous ai aimés. Demeurez dans mon amour, comme moi, j'ai gardé les commandements de mon Père, et je demeure dans son amour. Je vous ai dit cela pour que ma joie soit en vous, et que votre joie soit parfaite. Mon commandement, le voici : Aimez-vous les uns les autres comme je vous ai aimés. Il n'y a pas de plus grand amour que de donner sa vie pour ceux qu'on aime. »

Jésus, le fils bien-aimé de Dieu, nous communique l'amour de son père. Il veut nous initier à l'amour parfait du père comme signe de sa présence au milieu de nous. Jésus Christ est la révélation parfaite de l'amour du Père. Frères et sœurs, engageons-nous à transformer le monde comme Jésus nous l'a demandé, en s'aimant les uns les autres. **Fr. Evaristus Ndi Akem, Sch P.**

SPANISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

A NUESTROS ENFERMOS Y ENVEJECIENTES-Querido hermano si usted o algún familiar está enfermo o es anciano y no puede asistir a la Eucaristía Dominical (Misa) y aun desea recibir la comunión, puede comunicarse con el Padre Jorge a la Rectoría o con la Hna. Gerarda Arroyo.

BAUTISMOS-Serán cada tercer Sábado del Mes y la clase pre-bautismal el jueves antes del bautismo.

LAS INTENCIONES DE MISA solo se escribirán durante la Semana, el día domingo solo aceptaremos cumpleaños, aniversarios de boda y bendiciones especiales

LAS CONFESIONES serán de **4-5:30PM los sábados** en la Iglesia y antes o después de la misa de **7PM**.

LA CORONILLA DE LA DIVINA MISERICORDIA se reza en español los **miércoles a las 7:00pm**.

EL MOVIMIENTO CALASANZ ESTÁ DE VUELTA— todos los **Viernes a las 7PM**. En la rectoría.

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).

Nota: No deje ropa ni enseres domésticos delante de la Rectoría cuando estemos cerrados. Sólo aceptaremos artículos durante la semana, no los fines de semana. Y, gracias a su generosidad, estamos desbordados de ropa. Así que por favor no más donaciones de ropa en este momento.

SORTEO DE VESTIDOS Y TRAJES DE GRADUACIÓN-El **viernes 24 de mayo de 4 a 7:30** de la tarde en P188X, 730 Concourse Village West. Para más información, envíe un correo electrónico a: npalacios@bronxbp.nyc.gov.

¿SABÍA que la mayoría de los residentes del Bronx pueden reemplazar su tarjeta del Seguro Social mediante una cita virtual? ¡No necesita visitar el Centro de Tarjetas! Simplemente llame al **888-864-9788** para programar una cita virtual hoy mismo.

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.**

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

ESTO ES LO QUE LES MANDO...

Queridos hermanos, continuamos en este hermoso tiempo Pascual, donde seguimos caminando junto a la primera comunidad cristiana y tratamos de fortalecernos con la palabra y su cuerpo que Cristo nos da en cada Eucaristía. Ya casi estamos concluyendo este tiempo de regocijo con la celebración de Pentecostés a la vuelta de la esquina. Primero en esta próxima semana nos detendremos para celebrar la Ascensión de Jesús a los cielos fiesta que nos recuerda como Cristo se va; pero regresará en Gloria en el último día.

Y nos podemos preguntar, ¿Qué es lo que Cristo nos deja? Una vez se acabe la Pascua, de que debemos vivir, cómo podremos mantener esta alegría de la resurrección. Hermanos, no hay que buscar lejos, Jesús en su discurso de despedida nos lo deja muy claro: *“Esto es lo que les mando: que se amen los unos a los otros.”* Jesús no podría ser más claro con nosotros: Amémonos los unos a los otros. ¿Cómo? Permaneciendo en El, es de esta manera que podremos vencer, que podremos verdaderamente amar; permaneciendo en El.

Mis queridos hermanos, nos complicamos demasiado, cuando Dios nos pide tan poco pero tan profundo. Lo único que Él te pide es que aprendas a amarle y amándole puedas amar a tu prójimo, puedas amar a aquellos que no sean tan cercanos a ti. Y si todavía no sabes cómo hacer esta encomienda, míralo a Él, aprende de su manera de vivir, sumérgete en las escrituras y pídele que te edifique, que te ayude y fortalezca.

Permaneciendo en El, podremos, seremos capaces de verdaderamente Amar, de encontrarnos con aquellos que necesitan ser amados. No tengamos miedo de unir nuestras voces para de tal manera seguir manifestando el gran amor de Cristo, que se hace manifiesto en su resurrección y en nuestro testimonio.

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

WEEKLY COLLECTION: April 28 — \$5,066.15
Church in Central and Eastern Europe—\$1,668.00

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**.

Readings for the week of May 5, 2024

Sunday: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 (see 2b)/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17; **Monday:** Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Jn 15:26—16:4a; **Tuesday:** Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde -3, 7c-8/Jn 16:5-11; **Wednesday:** Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15; **Thursday:** Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 16:16-20; **Ascension:** Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 (6)/ Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20; **Friday:** Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 16:20-23; **Saturday** Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10/Jn 16:23b-28; **Next Sunday: Ascension:** Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 (6)/Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20; **Seventh Sunday of Easter:** Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20 (19a)/1 Jn 4:11-16/Jn 17:11b-19

MASS INTENTIONS

May 5 — Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:00 +Larry Young, Paul Knull and Joseph Longo;
John Flores-Birthday Intention

10:00 +Eduardo Bruno; +*Elvira Ciminn*

12:00(Sp) +Victor Issac; +Isabel Cartagena; +Luis Ernesto, Maria Alicia and Esteban Pujols; +Katherine Laurette Pierre; +Alejandrina Alica; +Virginia Velez; +Dolores Moumin; +Jessica Nazario; +Hector Resto-7th Anniversary; +Eulogio Flores, Ricardo Perez, Juan Sanchez y Celia Miranda

5:00 +Rosa Peña

6:30 +Gabriel Akim and Joanne Fuinkuin

May 6 — Monday — St. Peter Nolasco

6:30* Intentions for Joanne's and Her Sister Brenda's Visual Well-Being

8:30 S +Mary Quinn

12:15 +Khoury Family

7:00 (Sp) Fr. Richard-Healing Intention and in Thanksgiving for the Father and Brothers

May 7—Tuesday — St. Rosa Venerini

6:30* In Thanksgiving for Favors Granted Joanne and Brenda

8:30 S +Walter Schoenthaler

12:15 +Maria Esbri

7:00 (Sp) +Rosa Tolentino; +Armando Prado; +Luis A. Cotto; +Maria del Carmen Villadares Marchetty

May 8 — Wednesday — St. Acacius and The Apparition of St. Michael the Archangel

6:30* Deceased Members of the Retutas & Corciega Families

8:30 S +Robert Benz

12:15 +Altagracia, Carmen, Manuel and Jose Capellan; +*Jose Fagundo*

7:00 (Sp) +Josefina Gonzalez-Birthday; +Carlos Enriquez Gomez, Ramon Antonio Nunez, Carolina Bisoño, Juan Antonio Gil, Addis Enriquez y Lucina Romero

May 9 — Thursday— The Ascension of the Lord

6:30* Divine Justice for the Rapes and Murders by Terrorists "Hamas" in Israel

8:30 S +Henry Warneke

12:15 +Elsa Prado

7:00 (Sp) +Luis A. Cotto and Jose R. Alago-1st Anniversary; +Maria del Carmen Valladares Marchetty; +Felipe Rivas

May 10 — Friday— St. Damien of Molokai and

St. John of Avila

6:30* In Thanksgiving to God for His Divine Justice for Rapes and Murder by Terrorists in Israel.

8:30 S +Lalawmi Zomi Frankcom

12:15 +Charles Balais

7:00 Confirmation Mass

May 11 — Saturday— St. Francis di Girolamo and

Mary, Queen of the Apostles

6:30* St. Helena Prayer Guild

8:30 S +Richard Pilla

10:00 First Holy Communion

12:15 +Juan Manuel

5:30 +Genevieve Cerbone; +*Carol Lipkin*

May 12 — Seventh Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day)

8:00 +Mildred, Constance, Mabel and Catherine Warneke; +*Grace Balais and Dorothy Wyzykiewicz*

10:00 +Catalina Fascio; +*Lino Vautista*; +*Rosa Aguilar*

12:00(Sp) +Angelica Javier; +Leonel Garcia, +Martina Capellan and +Francisco, Eulogio and Pedro Galvez; En accion de gracias por su 1 año de Mia Guadalupe Cruz a San Charbelito; Se ofrece ala Virgen de Guadalupe por los niños no nacidas; +Mercedes Melendez; +Yessenia Almonte Almarante; +Carlos Segura; +Luis E. Pujols; +Olivia Villegas; +Lina Alvarez Castillo; +Catalina Petra Lorenza Flavia; +Emilia Rivas

5:00 +Josefina Gonzalez

6:30 +Gabriel Akim and Joanne Fuinkuin

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