



ST. HELENA ST. PATRICK *E*

WELCOME TO OUR PARISHES!



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." - Lk 1:41-42

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

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LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Did you ever find yourself wishing that God would just step in and fix all that is wrong with the world? After all, how much longer can all of this go on? There is so much inequity in life. Our world's political, economic, and environmental systems do not always serve the best interests of people. We read stories about injustice, disregard for human life, greed, heartache, and people being hurt and deprived every day. People are still starving and there is often little regard for human life. This is not the way God intended it to be. Realizing that we have caused most of these problems ourselves, we look to God for an answer and a way out of the difficulties we have created. Taking responsibility for our actions is not something that comes easily. What we fail to see is that God has already sent the answer in the person of Jesus Christ. God did fix our problem! Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of Justice to come into the world. We need to do the same. It is only by believing in, listening to, and acting upon what God has spoken that true peace will ever come to be, and God's fix be made known.

DEC 18/19 2021

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Holiday Mass Times O Come Let Us Adore Him

Friday 12/24—Christmas Eve, 5:00 pm, St. Patrick

Friday 12/24—Christmas Eve, 9:00 pm, St. Helena

Saturday 12/25—Christmas Day, 8:30 am, St. Helena

Sat-Sun 12/26-27—Holy Family, Regular Sunday Schedule

Friday 12/31—Mary Mother of God, 5:30 pm, St. Helena

Saturday 1/1—Mary Mother of God, 9:00 am, St. Patrick

Sat-Sun 1/1-2—Epiphany of the Lord, Regular Sunday Sch

The Wait: A True Advent Story of Hope

My strawberry-blond, freckled-faced, non-stop mother, Jeannine, was the youngest of four and as such was hopelessly spoiled. Nicknamed “Peaches,” she was a very welcome addition to my grandparents after the loss of two babies beforehand. She was also quite a bit younger than her oldest brother, Dick, who graduated high school the year Mom received her First Communion.

My grandfather was a foreman on the B&O Railroad. The family moved quite a bit around Ohio and Indiana until settling for the longest period of time in the small railroad town of Willard, Ohio. Dick and Bill, the brother who came 14 months after, had been football and basketball stars at the local high school. Mary, who was a teenager by the time Mom was 8, was already working at the local movie theatre. Everyone in town knew who my mom was, as she rode her bike from one end to the other with reckless abandon.

The Film and the World Stop

It was on a Sunday in December, and after 10am Mass, Mom was given her customary dime allowance in order to go see a movie in the afternoon. Even though it was cold, she rode her bike to the Temple Theatre in downtown Willard, where Mary welcomed her with a box of popcorn. Bill was home with Grandma.

Dick had left home for the Navy after graduation in June. He had wanted to join the Army, but Grandpa did not want his son sleeping in a foxhole. At least with the Navy, Grandpa said, you’d have a clean bed out of the dirt. After training at Naval Station Great Lakes near Waukegan, Illinois, Dick was sent to San Francisco, and then Hawaii. The family received frequent postcards of palm trees and hula dancers, and Jeannine (my mom) could not wait to see what he would send for Christmas. She wanted a hula skirt.

Settling in for the 1pm show, Jeannine started to eat her popcorn. Several minutes into the movie, the film stopped and the screen went black. Suddenly the lights went up. “We are sorry, but the film cannot be shown and the theatre is closed for the remainder of the day. Please come to the desk for your refund.” Jeannine went to complain to Mary, but she was already gone.

Hopping on her bike, Jeannine noticed people running up and down the street, and speaking in rushed, hushed tones. Some looked at her with knowing eyes and nodded. “Hurry home,” more than one said.

As she walked up the steps, she could see her mother sitting by the radio attentively, crying. Mary and Bill were sitting next to her, crying and comforting their mother. As Jeannine stood speechless, her mother collected herself and said, “They’ve bombed Pearl Harbor. That’s where Dick is.” Jeannine could not quite understand what it meant, but she knew that it was terrible and frightening. She hugged her mother and began to cry as well.

Shortly thereafter, her father came home. She had never seen him cry before, but he did and kept saying, “Dick was always such a good boy. Dick was always such a good boy.” It was then that her mother said, “As long as we don’t know, we always have hope.”

Wartime Change

The next few weeks were a whirlwind. Their lives and the lives of everyone in that small town changed dramatically. The town’s sons went off to enlist. A scrap drive was

announced, and Jeannine and her friends began to collect scrap metal and rubber in their wagons. Rationing was to be implemented, and Jeannine’s mom knew that food that was readily available, such as sugar and meat, would be prized.

This would be the last Christmas for a long while that they would have more than one dozen Christmas cookies; big Sunday dinners would be a thing of the past. Jeannine did not see her dad for three weeks: as the foreman, he needed to direct the trains taking soldiers to the coast and assist in other cities as well.

The biggest change to their household was the ritual of waiting. Jeannine and her siblings went to school and her mother went to daily Mass. They came home to do homework at the dining room table, as their mother prepared dinner. Sometimes mother would play the piano as she always did, but not as often as in Christmases past. They talked and worked, but all the while the radio stayed on, just in case there might be any announcements. And whenever the telegram boy rode his bicycle by the house, with the brick streets jingling the bell on his handlebars, the entire household would stop.

All other tasks were done mindlessly, because their focus, their only purpose, was to wait to hear something, anything about Dick. As the telegram boy’s bicycle was heard, her mother would say a prayer, “for someone, if not us, who is getting a telegram today — may it be good news.” More than once, their mother would remind them that “as long as there is waiting, there is hope for good news. Thank God, for the waiting.” Every night, she would stay up until the wee hours just to listen to the news on the radio.

An Advent Miracle

It would be December 23, 1941, when they would finally hear the fate of their son and brother. It was not a telegram, but a “V-gram,” a small, one-piece envelope that was opened and read. It came through the slot in the door with the rest of the Christmas cards and letters. Jeannine remembers that her mother saw it, said a prayer, and knelt down right in the hallway to read it.

OK

LOVE DICK

She sobbed over the tiny envelope as the kids circled around to read it for themselves. Bill took a soup pot and spoon from the kitchen and played a percussion celebration on the front porch. Neighbors came out up and down the street and cheered. They knew, just as Jeannine’s family knew about their hopes and fears.

My mom died this year in March — the day before St. Patrick’s Day because, God forbid, anything should ever mar the celebration of that day. This story, one of many, lives on in our family and is still cherished to this day.

How appropriate that in that awful time 76 winters ago, the best gift was being able to wait and hope for good news.

We are all blessed to still be able to celebrate that gift, even more so, now with **Him**.

Happy Advent.

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

- 12/22—Eucharistic Adoration, 5:00-8:00 pm (St. H)
Holiday Mass Times
- 12/24—Christmas Eve, 5:00 pm, St. Patrick
- 12/24—Christmas Eve, 9:00 pm, St. Helena
- 12/25—Christmas Day, 8:30 am, St. Helena
- 12/25-26—Holy Family, Regular Sunday Schedule
- 12/31—Mary Mother of God, 5:30 pm, St. Helena
- 1/1—Mary Mother of God, 9:00 am, St. Patrick
- 1/1-2—Epiphany of the Lord, Regular Sunday Schedule

Christmas Flowers -2021

<u>From</u>	<u>In Memory/Honor of</u>
Ivan Widhalm Anita & Pete Flynn Hildie & Bob Radtke Lori & Paul Wald Carey & Dawn Wald Phyllis Zvorak	Deceased Family Members Deceased Relatives Deceased Relatives Deceased Family Members Deceased Family Members Lauren Zvorak Deceased Parents Sylvester & Marie Radermacher Joan Grueneich Frank & Josephine Boespflug Paul & Cordula Thielges Deceased Relatives Bob & Claire Fulker Deceased Family Members Deceased Family Members Glenn Graves Frances & Sylvester Eberle Deceased Family Members Deceased Family Members Deceased Family Members John & Deceased Family Deceased Family Members Lynne Zuroff Deceased Family Members Paul & Janice Hericks Deceased Family Members Deceased Family Members Earl & Mary Webster Jim Lacina & Leon Seefeld Art & Inga Wall Jerome & Mary Ellen Rosen
Joyce & Russ Grueneich	
Bernie & Mark Thielges	
Carey & Dawn Wald Carol Fulker CarolLee & Wm. Carruth Fr. Patrick Parks Graves Family Eberle Family Michelle/Matt Thorpe Chad & Colleen Durham Richard & Nichole Reis Linda Martinson Sara Kuntz Carly Kuntz Mike & Mary Johnson Sue Boniek Rick & Mary Ulmer Doug & Dina Davis Kevin & Kathy Cantwell Ross & Darcy Seefeld Darell & Marilyn Wall	

Christmas Appreciation Bags:

Individually packaged items for 23 Christmas bags for our elderly parishioners can be brought to the church center by Sunday, Dec. 19 before Mass. Bags will be filled and delivered that day.

Christmas cards for former priests

are in the church entry to be signed by Dec. 19.

Upcoming Parish Events

Jan. 23, 2022- Newcomers potluck after Mass (watch for further details)

YOUTH UPDATES

Operation Andrew Dinners

Bishop John Folda will host four dinners for young men who are open to the priesthood. The dinners serve as an opportunity to visit with Bishop Folda and other priests and to ask questions in a relaxed and inviting setting. If you are interested in attending, please contact your pastor or the vocation director.

p.m. at the Bishop's residence
Thursday, January 27, 2022 ~ 5:30
p.m. at the Bishop's residence

Miryam Dinner

Bishop Folda and Fr. Kyle Metzger, the director of vocations, invite women ages 16-30 who are open to religious life to join them for an evening of prayer, dinner, and fellowship. They will be joined by consecrated religious women sharing their own vocation stories of discernment. It is typical for women to be accompanied by their pastor, a consecrated religious, or a friend. For more information contact the vocation director.

Keep watch...

January 2022 dates to be set

Vianney Discernment Weekend

Young men, ages 16-40 are invited to Maryvale Convent in Valley City, ND for one weekend in February of each year to hear about seminary life and the priesthood. If you feel you are open to God's call but have not done anything to actively discern it, then this weekend is for you.

The weekend is free, but registration fargodiocese.org/vdw is required.

February 11-13, 2022

ST HELENA MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Dec 24/25 (9:00pm) (8:30 am)

Usher	Volunteer	Volunteer
Collection	Dave Eberle	
Lector	Volunteer	Volunteer
EMHC	Volunteer	
Gift Bearers	Volunteer	Volunteer
Altar Servers	Volunteer	Volunteer

St. Helena Breakfast Servers

Dec 5

Dec 19

Dec 25/26 (5:00pm) (10:30 am)

Usher	Volunteer	Ivan Widhalm
Collection		Bob Radtke
Lector	Volunteer	Mary Johnson
EMHC	Volunteer	
Gift Bearers	Volunteer	Rick Ulmer Fam
Altar Servers	Volunteer	Drew, Reily

ST. PATRICK MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Sunday Dec 24th (5:00 pm)

Lector	Gene
Gift Carriers	Gene and Faye
Altar Servers	Alivia, Madie, Porter

For the Month of December

Breakfast Server	Mona and Corrine
Collection Counters	Allen Glynn and Laura
Church Cleaners	Linda, Pat, and Virginia
Altar Society Meeting	Following Mass on Dec 12th

Sunday Dec 26th (8:30 am)

Lector	Mona
Gift Carriers	Steve and Christy
Altar Servers	Owen, Faith

To Contact Angela Mastel:

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 701-349-4291

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Tue. Dec 21

7:00 pm † Ann Fettig

Wed. Dec 22

8:00 am † Dean Zeiska

Thu. Dec 23

8:00am (St. H) † Greta Monette

9:00 am (St. P) † Jeanne Glynn

Fri. Dec 24

5:00pm † Joe Glynn

9:00pm † Roger McNeil

Sat. Dec 25

8:30am Jesse Blake

5:00 pm † Sylvester & Marie Radermacher

Sun. Dec 26

8:30 am (St. P) † Jeanne Glynn

10:30 am (St. H) All Parishoners

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 Ellendale Pharmacy

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Please Pray

...for all who are sick, elderly or alone

Joanne Brokaw, Loretta Dingwall, Linda Siro, Cindy Kelly Heupel, Edna Scherman, Val Hunt, Carla Engelstad, Susan Lacina, Betty Hahne, Jerry Kelsh

If you or someone you know would like to be added to, or removed from this list please call the parish office.

