



32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lately I've been enjoying the deep meaning of Eastern icons. I love how they express a tapestry of meaning in a way that can surpass the written or spoken word. Today's parable of the ten virgins from Jesus is a good example. Try googling "wise and foolish virgins icon" and you'll see an image of how our Christ meets our heart's deepest needs if we attend to him with the proper attitude.

I'm serious. Take a moment to google and look at it. See how it depicts the risen Jesus behind a closed door with the five wise virgins with lighted lamps. He gazes with them toward the five foolish and lamp-less virgins, symbolizing the outward looking of divine love for the lost. Moreover, the wedding feast is no ordinary one. It takes place in a walled city and garden, indicating it's a new Jerusalem and a return to Eden. The table isn't typical, either. It's a Eucharistic feast. Now we see that the door in Jesus' parable is the way into the church, where Christ is the new light burning amidst the dark midnight of this world.

The richness continues. We notice, too, that the foolish virgins look exactly the same as the wise ones in their clothes, hair, and expressions. The only difference is they departed to buy oil and now they are sadly excluded. We often act like consumers in the marketplace to fulfill our need for love and mercy. We'll always end up

disappointed if we shop around. Jesus sums up the moral of the story this way: "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." Watch, remain, don't spiritually shop. It is always better to quietly remain close to the Eucharistic community of the Church, even if we feel like our oil has run out. This week let's consider placing the icon of the wise and foolish virgins on our phone lock screen or computer desktop to help us remember to stay close to him, especially when life feels dark. — Father John Muir

November 12, 2023

CONTACT US | ST. HELENA PARISH

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Mass Schedule

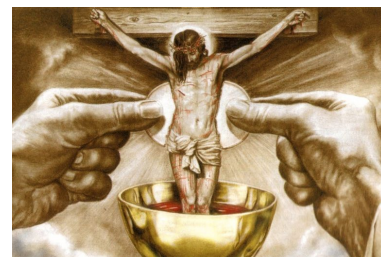
Saturday (vigil) 5pm, St. Helena
Sunday 8:30am (1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays)
10:30am (2nd, 4th Sundays)
Tue 7pm
Wed-Fri 8:00am

Confession Schedule

Saturday 3:30-4:30pm
Sunday Before 8:30 am mass
(1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays)
Tuesday 6:30-6:50pm
Wed-Fri Before 8:00 am daily Mass
Or by appointment, call parish office

Adoration

Wed 5pm-8pm



ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

Mass Schedule

Sunday 10:30am
(1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays)
8:30 am (2nd, 4th Sundays)
Thursday 9:00am

Confession Schedule

Sundays after 10:30 am Mass
By appointment - call parish office

FROM OUR PASTOR :

Our Lady of America

It was on the eve of the feast of the North American martyrs, September 25, 1956, that Our Lady appeared to Sister Mary Ephrem. Beginning in 1938, Sister began to have what seem like mystical spiritual experiences. She thought little of them, presuming all religious have them. As these visits took on the nature of a specific program of devotion to Mary which Sister was asked to propagate, she then turned to Monsignor Paul F. Leibold. Monsignor Leibold, later Archbishop of the Cincinnati, Ohio Archdiocese, would be her spiritual director for many years until 1972, when he suddenly died due to an aneurysm. Archbishop Leibold had become so convinced of the authenticity of this message that he approved Sister's writings and placed his imprimatur on the design of the medal. Our Lady had asked Sister to have struck a medal that would bear the image of Our Lady of America on the front and the symbol of the Christian Family and the Blessed Trinity on the back.

Our Lady promised that greater miracles than those granted at Lourdes and Fatima would be granted here in America, the United States in particular, if we do as she desires. Sister Mary Ephrem stated that Our Lady called herself Our Lady of America in response to the love and desire that reached out for this special title in the hearts of her



children in America. For example, Our Lady repeatedly spoke approvingly about the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C. This new title is a sign of Our Lady's pleasure in the devotion of her children of America towards her and this visit is a response to the longing, conscious or unconscious, in the hearts of her children in America.

On the evening of the feast of the Most Holy Rosary, October 7, 1957, Our Lady again appeared. Her hands were clasped in an attitude of prayer. Her

look was serious, though her countenance retained its usual deep serenity. Hanging from her right hand was a blue rosary of a glass-like quality, I was conscious of the fact that what she was about to say to me was not only very grave but of the utmost importance. Our Lady reiterated in a similar manner her first warnings:



Sister Mary Ephrem

Mass of Remembrance Saturday, November 18, 2023 5:00 PM

Kim Casey, Marv Grueneich, Boston Hagen, LaRaine Houghton,
Robert Lacina, Susan Lacina, Angela Mastel, Mary Jean McDonald,
Mary Ann Mock, Edna Scherman, Linda Siro, Phyllis Zvorak

PARISH EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 11-12 - RCIA class at the church center 6:00—7:30pm
- 11-14 - Adoration after Mass with Divine Mercy Chaplet and Rosary for World Peace
- 11-15 - Adoration 5:00 - 8:00 pm, Simple Supper 5:30 - 6:30 pm
K - 6 CCD - 6:30 -7:30, 7th - 12 grade CCD 6:00 - 7:30 pm
- 11-28/29 - All K of C members of are asked to pray a rosary for Perpetual Rosary for Respect Life

WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Church Collections

Question:

Where does the money go that is collected each week at Church?

Answer:

This is a good question! Every parish has financial obligations, including the basic operation of the buildings, salaries, maintenance, and improvements. In addition, there are schools to support, programs to run, charities to be funded, and operational expenses like hosts and wine for Mass, music books, vestments, and so on. In some cases, cemeteries and other buildings need attention. Finally, there is the diocesan assessment that each parish pays to help run the diocese and the support services provided to each parish.

Most parishes manage to get by with the collection, a few fundraisers and endowments. But contrary to popular opinion, cash flow is also a problem, and many parishes operate in the red. The Finance Committee is responsible for assisting the pastor in fiscal management, and good stewardship is the basis for successful programs. ©LPi

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

God knows that, sooner or later, we all face a night that is long and dark. He has given each of us exactly what we need to make it through. If we keep Him with us, the light will not go out.

Purgatorial Society

The Purgatorial Society is an opportunity for you to have your loved one(s) remembered at the monthly First Friday Mass at 8:00 am, and 5:15 pm at St Patrick's throughout the year and on All Souls Day. A free will offering will be accepted for names enrolled into the Society. The list of those enrolled will be placed on the altar of the Church when the Mass is offered.

Find sheets in the church entry to add your loved ones names to the society list.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading:

Wisdom is presented as a virtue seeking to be found. How might you search for wisdom this week?

Second Reading:

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to be comforted in the belief that believers will be raised from the dead and live eternally with the Lord Jesus. What family members, friends, or co-workers need to hear these words of comfort?

Gospel:

In the parable of the ten virgins, Jesus is teaching about the importance of being prepared for his Second Coming. In what ways is this directive from Jesus a challenge for you?

CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Question: What is an official member of a church community or parish called?

Answer: A parishioner.

ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS

Thanksgiving Collection

St. Helena's will be collecting non-perishable items for Ellendale Community Food Pantry November 1st - 20th. Donations will be used to help fill holiday baskets for community members. Please consider placing a donation in the basket. Monetary donations will also be accepted, please make checks payable to ECFP.

Military Box

Parishioners interested in helping send a care package to Payton Merkel, a collection basket will be in the back of the church November 1st-20th. Items that he appreciates are: GIANT brand sunflower seeds, beef jerky, gum, snack applesauce, personal hygiene products, fruit roll ups. No homemade food items can be sent, only pre-packaged, purchased items. Please consider adding a hand-written note/card.

Christmas Altar Society Social

Next meeting will be a Christmas Social on Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 5:30 PM at the Michele Thorpe home. All women of the church are invited to attend. Please reach out to our retired ladies and plan to give them a ride.

Senior Appreciation:

St. Helena's Altar Society has decided to collect monetary donations for our 75+ population rather than put together Christmas bags to be used towards having special Mass intentions said in their honor. We currently have 25 parishioners. Monetary donations will be collected November 20th-December 10th. Please place your donation in an envelope and label it "75+ Mass Intentions, Attn: Altar Society".

ST HELENA MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Nov 19	5:00 pm	8:30 am
Usher	Volunteer	Richard Reis
Collection		Richard Reis
Lector	Volunteer	Richard Reis
EMHC		Nicole/Richard Reis
Gift Bearers	Volunteer	Reis Family
Altar Servers		Levi

Breakfast servers for October

First one on the list contact the others

Nov 19	Shirlin S, Carrin T, Carol F
Dec 3	Annah T, Kali and Macy N

WEEKLY GIVING

Sunday Nov 5

Adult	838.00
Children	23.00
Plate	75.00
Total	936.00

Thank you for your generosity!

ST. PATRICK MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Sunday Nov 19 (10:30am)

Lector	Gene
Gift Carriers	Kyle Glynn Family
Altar Servers	Porter, Katie

For the Month of November

Collection Counters	Alana and Denny
Church Cleaners	Geri and Kyle Glynn Family
Altar Society Meeting	None this month

God's Gift Appeal 2023
This is MY BODY that is for you

Report as of 10-27-23

St. Helena's: \$8250. 43.42% participation, 43.56% of goal
 St. Patrick's: \$13,115.45 39.29% participation, 198.12% of goal

Thank you for your support!

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Tues. Nov 14

7:00 pm (St. H) +Aloys and Angela Mastel

Wed. Nov 15

8:00 am (St. H) +Sylvester & Marie Radermacher

Thur. Nov 16

8:00 am (St. H) +Jason Thielges

9:00 am (St. P) Fr Matthew Kramer

Fri. Nov 17

8:00am (St H) +Kathy Eberle

Sat. Nov 18 Mass of Remembrance

5:00pm (St H) +Earl and Mary Webster

Sun. Nov 19

8:30am (St. H) +Glenn Graves

10:30am (St P) All Parishioners

**SUPPORT OUR
ADVERTISERS**



Advertiser of the Week

Schwab Audiology

Thank you for supporting our bulletin!

Please pray for Doug and Dina Davis as they travel to the Philippines.

**Please Pray**

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

Joanne Brokaw, Loretta Dingwall, Cindy Kelly Heupel, Val Hunt, Carla Engelstad, Betty Hahne, Ashtyn Hatlewig, Paul Brandenburger, Mickey Thorpe, Ivan Widhalm.

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

