

Sunday, December 17, 2023 Third Sunday of Advent

| St. Helena Ministries | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Dec 23/24 | 5:00 Vigil | 10:00 AM |
| Usher | Mass | Bryson Geffre |
| Collection | In Fullerton | Dave Eberle Jeff Ulmer |
| EMHC | | Lori Wald |
| Lector | | Jeff Ulmer |
| Gift Bearers | | Rick and Mary Ulmer |
| Altar Servers | | Ivan |

Breakfast servers for December

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| First one on the list contact the others | |
| Dec 17 | Paula T, Shannon G, Deneen M |
| Dec. 31 | Knights of Columbus |

Weekly Giving

| Sunday | Dec 10 |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Adult | 1018 |
| Children | 30.00 |
| Plate | 249.00 |
| Total | 1297.00 |
| Thank you for your generosity! | |

St. Patrick Ministries

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|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Sat Dec. 23 (5:00 pm) | | Sun Dec. 24 5:00 pm |
| Lector | Chuck | Gene |
| Gift Carriers | Megan Peterson | Gene and Faye |
| Altar Servers | Allen | Volunteer |

For the Month of December

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| Collection | Denny |
| Counters | Steve |
| Church Cleaners | Corrine, Jim Glynn Family and Faye |
| Altar Society Mtg. | After Mass on 12/10 at Family Way |

Volunteers needed for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses.
If you see a need please volunteer!

Weekly Mass Intentions

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|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Tues. Dec 19 | Fr Parks in Minnesota |
| 7:00 pm (St. H) | +Marvin and Joan Grueneich |
| Wed. Dec 20 | Fr Parks in Minnesota |
| 8:00 am (St. H) | +Jared Gusaas |
| Thur. Dec 21 | |
| 8:00 am (St. H) | +Sylvester and Marie Radermacher |
| 9:00 am (St. P) | +Boston Hagen |
| Fri. Dec 22 | |
| 8:00am (St H) | +Marv Grueneich |
| Sat. Dec 23 | NOTICE LOCATION CHANGE |
| 5:00pm (St P) | +Boston Hagen |
| Sun. Dec 24 | Sunday Mass |
| 10:00 am (St. H) | +Sylvester Eberle |
| Sun. Dec 24 | Christmas Vigil Masses |
| 5:00 pm (St. P) | +Mickey Thorpe |
| 7:00 pm (St. H) | +Lauren and Phyllis Zvorak |
| Mon. Dec 25 | Christmas Day Mass |
| 10:00 am (St. H) | +Frances Eberle |

2024 Calendars have arrived.
Please pick them up in the church entry.

Please send bulletin submissions (by Noon on Thursday) or prayer line request to Fr. Parks or gusaas@drtel.net

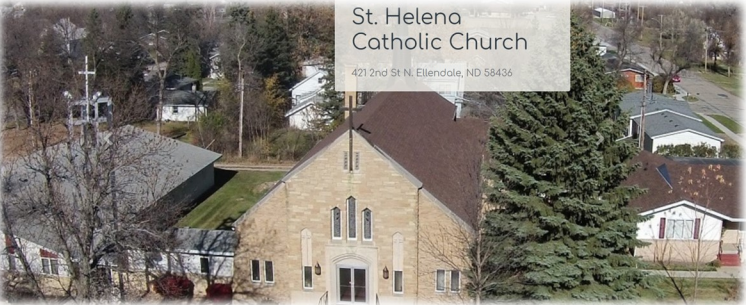
In Our Thoughts & Prayers

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, Ivan Widhalm, Dave Eberle.

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



St. Helena Catholic Church
421 2nd St. N.
Box 796 Ellendale, ND 58436
701-349-3297

St. Helena Mass Schedule
Saturday (vigil) 5pm
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



Fr. Patrick Parks
Cell Phone: 701 261 4816
Patrick.Parks@fargodiocese.org

Adoration
Wednesday 5pm-8pm
St. Helena

St. Patrick Catholic Church
207 Monroe St N.
Fullerton, ND 58441
701-349-3297

St Patrick 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

NOTICE SPECIAL MASS TIMES FOR
THE HOLYDAYS ON PAGE 3

Sunday, December 17, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent

Reflection from Most Reverend John Folda:

“There is one among you whom you do not recognize...” The sole mission of John the Baptist was to point the way to Jesus, the One sent from God who would forgive our sins and lead us to life. But sometimes we leave Jesus in the background, or we fail to recognize him altogether and put other things or people in his place. The world and culture we live in tells us we can do without Jesus, that Jesus gets in the way of our fulfillment and happiness. But this season of Advent reminds us that Jesus is light that overcomes our darkness, he is “the way, the truth,

and the life.” He alone can satisfy the longings of our hearts, and he alone can open the way to eternal life that we all desire. John knew this and pointed him out to all those who were looking for the coming of the Lord, even to the Pharisees who thought they knew better. The gift of the Eucharist is one preeminent way that we recognize the presence of Christ in our midst, *Emmanuel*, “God with us.” Let us open our eyes and our hearts to him this Advent, and recognize him always as our Lord and Savior.

Questions to Ponder:
Where might I be unwilling or unable to recognize the presence of the Lord in my life?
What are some areas and ways that I can keep watch for him today?



From Fr. Parks The True Story of Our Lady of America. Part II

The following story expresses Our Lady’s gratitude to the American Church for this honor and promises her special help and protection for these United States of America. It is the story of a Mother’s love for her children, especially her children in America, and her mandate from heaven that we in America, in particular, help her renew the face of the earth by assisting her in bringing America, and the whole world, back to Faith and Purity. She herself says she comes to America as a last resort.

Continued from last week

July 12-14, 1954: Our Lords words. *Blessed are the homes that honor My Name and the Name of My Father. Blessed are the homes where I am loved, for there the Holy Trinity dwells. Blessed are the parents and children who have made a home for God in their hearts. Little secretary of My Heart, write these instructions for the sanctification of My people. My Father’s house is a house of prayer, and you have made it a den of thieves. My children, every home and every soul is My Father’s house, for He made them and they are His, but many of them are no longer sanctified by His Presence. Thieves have entered in and stolen from Him His temples of prayer. It is you My children, who have let them in. If, My children, you will cleanse your temples, My Father will return and We will come and make our abode with you. Return, My people, for My Heart hungers and thirsts for your love. If you will not return, the just anger of My Father will descend upon you. What would you – My love or My Father’s anger? Choose, and as you choose, so shall it be done. I will not force your free will, for that is yours to use as you desire. The Visions of the Angels Put on all the armor that God gives you, so that you will be able to stand up against the Devil’s evil tricks. For we are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers of this dark age. So put on God’s armor now!... So stand ready, with truth as a belt tight around your waist, with righteousness as your breastplate, and as your shoes the readiness to announce the Good News of peace. At all times carry faith as a shield; for with it you will be able to put out all the burning arrows shot by the Evil One. And accept salvation as a helmet, and the word of God as the sword which the Spirit gives you. Do all this in prayer, asking for God’s help.* (Good News Bible, Ephesians 6:11-18) Fall of 1954: Apparition of St. Michael, Angel of Peace. As a preparation for her mission, Sister is graced with an appearance of St. Michael, the Angel of Peace, who

offered her a sword (to conquer the world, the self and the devil), a palm (for victory) and a cross (for the suffering she would be asked to endure in union with Jesus’ passion), reminding her that our real battle is with the Powers and the Principalities always at war with Jesus. As Sister was suspicious of the offer of a palm of victory, for she could think of no victory of hers deserving of such a reward, St. Michael then asked her, “Will you accept the cross?” She replied, “Yes, I will accept the cross.” To this St. Michael then said: Then you will accept the palm and the sword. With the sword the saints conquered themselves, the world and the devil. I am the Angel of Peace, I come to those whose hearts are attuned to the Voice of God. To such as these I remain a perpetual light through blinding darkness. I was sent by Him who said, “I am the Light of the world.” November 8, 1954: Our Lady’s words on the Family. *It is the wish of my Son that fathers and mothers strive to imitate me and my chaste spouse in our holy life at Nazareth. We practiced the simple virtues of family life, Jesus our Son being the center of all our love and activity. The Holy Trinity dwelt with us in a manner far surpassing anything that can ever be imagined, for ours was the earthly paradise, where once again God walked among men. As in our little home no sin was to be found, so it is the wish of the Heart of my Son and my Immaculate Heart that sin should, as far as possible, be unheard of in the homes of our children. The Divine Trinity will dwell in your midst only if you are faithful in practicing the virtues of our life at Nazareth. Then, you also, my children, will become another paradise. God will then walk among you and you will have peace. I need your help to bring peace into the world. Do not disappoint me.* November 20, 1955: Apparition of St. Gabriel, Angel of Purity. I knelt down and asked him, “Who are you?” He replied, “*I am the Angel Gabriel. I have come to tell you that Our Lord is pleased with your effort to do good. He asks that you go to His Mother and learn great purity of heart.*”

Part 3 next week

PARISH EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENT

- Dec 17

RCIA class at the church center 6:00 -7:30 pm
- Dec 17

4:00 pm Mass @ St. Patrick’s with Program and Dinner following.
- Dec 19

Adoration after Mass with Divine Mercy Chaplet and Rosary for World Peace
- Dec 20

Adoration 5:00 - 8:00pm, Simple Supper 5:30 - 6:30pm
K-6 CCD 6:30 -7:30pm, 7-12 grades CCD 6:00 -7:30pm
- Saturday, Dec 23

Sunday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM St Patrick Christmas Poinsettias due at St. P by 11:00.
- Sunday, Dec 24

Sunday Mass: 10:00 AM St. Helena; Christmas Vigil: 5:00 PM St. Patrick and 7:00 pm St. Helena
- Monday, Dec 25

Christmas Mass: 10:00 AM St. Helena

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| <div><div>St. Helena and St. Patrick Holiday Mass Schedule</div><div>Sunday Dec. 24 Mass Schedule</div><div>Saturday, Dec. 23 Sunday Vigil Mass @ St. Patrick 5:00 PM</div><div>Sunday, Dec. 24 Sunday Mass @ St. Helena 10:00 AM</div><div>Christmas Mass Schedule</div><div>Sunday, Dec. 24 Vigil Mass @ St. Patrick 5:00 PM</div><div>Sunday, Dec. 24 Vigil Mass @ St. Helena 7:00 PM</div><div>Monday, Dec. 25 Christmas Mass @ St. Helena 10:00 AM</div></div> | <div><div>Sat, Dec. 30 and Sun Dec. 31</div><div>Schedule as normal</div><div>Sat. 5:00pm St. Helena</div><div>Sun. 8:30 St. H Sun. 10:30 St. P</div><div>January 1—Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God</div><div>Sun. Dec. 31 Vigil 5:00pm St. Patrick</div><div>Mon. Jan 1 10:00 am St. Helena</div></div> |
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Meditation: Do you know the favor of the Lord? Every 50 years the people of Israel were commanded to celebrate a Year of Jubilee - a year of favor by the Lord (Leviticus 25:10-12). God did not want his people to forget all the blessings and favors he had shown them over the years. Isaiah prophesied in a year of Jubilee that God would send his anointed one to bring his people back from their time of exile (Isaiah 61). The anointed one would bring good news (the same word as "gospel") - news of freedom for those who were oppressed by sin, darkness, despair, and brokenness (Isaiah 61:1-2).

John humbly recognized that his calling came from God and not from man
When John the Baptist announced the imminent coming of God's Anointed One, the Messiah, the religious leaders questioned his authority to speak so boldly in God's name. They asked him bluntly, "Who are you?" and "What do you say about yourself?" They wanted to know if he was really sent by God. Did he

claim to be the Messiah or one of the great prophets who was expected to return and announce the Messiah's arrival (see Malachi 4:5, Deuteronomy 18:15)? John had no doubt and no mistaken identity about his call and mission. In all humility and sincerity he said he was only a voice bidding people to get ready for the arrival of the greatest Ruler of all, God's anointed King and Messiah.

John's identity and our identity is derived from God's Son - Jesus Christ
John the Baptist bridges the Old and New Testaments. He is the last of the Old Testament prophets who points the way to the Messiah. He is the first of the New Testament witnesses and martyrs. He is the herald who prepares the way for Jesus and who announces his mission to the people: *Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!* (John 1:29). John saw from a distance what the Messiah would come to accomplish - our

redemption from slavery to sin and our adoption as sons and daughters of God, our heavenly Father. Do you recognize who you are in Christ? The Lord Jesus has come to restore us to friendship with God and he has made us citizens of heaven - his everlasting kingdom of peace and justice.

Do you point others to Jesus Christ - the one true Lord and Savior of the world?
John was the greatest of the prophets, yet he lived as a humble and faithful servant of God. He pointed others to Jesus, the true Messiah and Savior of the world. The Christian church from the earliest of times has given John many titles which signify his mission: *Witness of the Lord, Trumpet of Heaven, Herald of Christ, Voice of the Word, Precursor of Truth, Friend of the Bridegroom, Crown of the Prophets, Forerunner of the Redeemer, Preparer of Salvation, Light of the Martyrs, and Servant of the Word.* Do you point others to Jesus Christ by the example and witness of your life?

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