

Sunday, December 24, 2023 Fourth Sunday of Advent

St. Helena Ministries

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Dec 30/31 | 5:00 Vigil | 8:30 am |
| Usher | Volunteer | Austin Flynn |
| Collection | | Richard Reis |
| EMHC | | Richard Reis |
| Lector | Volunteer | Mary Johnson |
| Gift Bearers | Volunteer | Steinwand Family |
| Altar Servers | Volunteer | Devin |

Breakfast servers for December

First one on the list contact the others

| | |
|---------|------------------------|
| Dec. 31 | Knights of Columbus |
| Jan 7 | K of C or No Breakfast |

Weekly Giving

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Sunday | Dec 17 |
| Adult | 884. |
| Children | 10. |
| Plate | 7. |
| Total | 901.00 |

Thank you for your generosity!

St. Patrick Ministries

| | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Sun Dec. 31 10:30am | Sun Dec. 31 5:00 pm |
| Lector | Amy | Pat |
| Gift Carriers | Liam and Becket | Alex & Allen L |
| Altar Servers | Owen & Faith | Volunteer |

For the Month of January

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Collection | Steve and Alan G |
| Counters | |
| Church Cleaners | Gerri, Megan & Christy |
| Altar Society Mtg. | None this month |

**Volunteers needed for
Christmas Vigil, Christmas Day,
Holy Mother of God Vigil and Mon Mass
If you see a need please volunteer!**

Weekly Mass Intentions

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Mon. Dec 25 | CHRISTMAS DAY |
| 10:00 am (St. H) | +Frances Eberle |
| Tues. Dec 26 | Fr. Parks in Minnesota |
| 7:00 pm (St. H) | +Aloys and Angela Mastel |
| Wed. Dec 27 | Fr. Parks in Minnesota |
| 8:00 am (St. H) | +Sylvester and Marie Radermacher |
| Thur. Dec 28 | Fr. Parks in Minnesota |
| 8:00 am (St. H) | +Jason Thielges |
| 9:00 am (St. P) | NO MASS |
| Fri. Dec 29 | Fr. Parks in Minnesota |
| 8:00 am (St. H) | +Marvin and Joan Grueneich |
| Sat. Dec 30 | |
| 5:00 pm (St H) | +Lauren and Phyllis Zvorak |
| Sun. Dec 31 | |
| 8:30 am (St. H) | +Nick Bruington |
| 10:30 am (St P) | All Parishioners |
| Sun Dec. 31 | Vigil The Holy Mother of God |
| 5:00 pm (St. P) | +Boston Hagen |
| Mon Jan. 1 | HOLY DAY The Holy Mother of God |
| 10:00 am (St. H) | +Philip Herding |

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

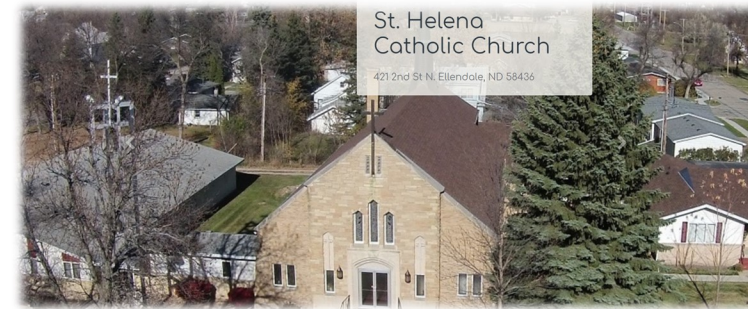
*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*

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



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

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

Adoration
Wednesday 5pm-8pm
St. Helena

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 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reflection from Most Reverend John Folda:

“May it be done to me according to your word.” With these words of assent, Mary received the Son of God into her womb and opened the way for him to come to us once and for all as Savior of the world. We stand at the threshold of Christmas, and Mary is our guide. Her yes to the message of Gabriel unties the knot of disobedience that Adam and Eve fashioned, and ushers in a new era of grace and life into the world. Her openness to God’s will is a model for all who would be followers of her Son, and she shows us the path of true discipleship. Mary wondered how this could be and what all this would mean, and we probably have the same questions about our own life of faith. But she teaches us to place our trust in the Lord, who loves us and will never abandon us. For as the angel says, “Do not be afraid...for nothing will be impossible for God.” When you receive the Eucharist in Holy Communion, remember that you are receiving the same Son of God that Mary received at the Annunciation, the One who comes in our human nature to redeem us.

Questions to Ponder:

How might the Lord be asking me to say “yes” today? How might I imitate and live the example of Mary’s courageous response more in my life?



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

Part III - Victory Over Satan in Rome City, IN 1956: Second assignment to Kneipp Springs, Rome City, Indiana.

In 1956, Sister was stationed in three different locations, Ligonier, Rome City and Collegeville in Indiana. It was in the Fall of 1956 that Sister was sent to Kneipp Springs, Rome City, IN for the second time. She had a terrible foreboding about this assignment and did not wish to go but obeyed. Here she encountered Satan quite vividly, but her obedience was rewarded with the first visits of Our Lady of America, perhaps to comfort her. In an interview with Sister Mary Ephrem, now using her baptismal name of Sister Mildred, E. Michael Jones, editor of Fidelity magazine, writes in the December 1983 issue about the days before the first apparitions occurred there in Rome City:

Sister Mildred had just recently been transferred to the water cure staffed by her order of nuns in Indiana to wait on tables but had not been happy about the move. When she got to her room, she felt, as she said later, “like jumping out of the window.” She left her room that night and went to the chapel, but the feeling did not leave her. “It seemed to me,” she said, “like I was in a ring of evil. I couldn’t get out of it, and it was telling me to get out of there.” One night she awoke with the sense that something was perched on her pillow a little behind her head. Before she could discern just what it was, she felt it grab her face across the eyes and pull down on them. “Like this,” she said, and made a motion which implied that whatever it was had claws. She found no marks on her face afterward though. The next day she went to her superior and asked to be transferred back to Ligonier. She could have gone if she had found someone to wait on tables in her stead, but couldn’t and so didn’t, and as a result had her first encounter with the Blessed Mother instead.

September 25, 1956: Eve of the feast of the North American martyrs, Our Lady appears as Our Lady of Lourdes.

During evening holy hour, Our Lady came as Our Lady of Lourdes, though I felt her presence more than seeing her. She promised that greater miracles than those granted at Lourdes and Fatima would be granted here in America, the United States in particular, if we would do as she desires.” I am pleased, my children, with the love and honor my children in America give to me, especially through my glorious and unique privilege of the Immaculate Conception. I promise to reward their love by working through the power of my Son’s Heart and my Immaculate Heart, miracles of grace among them. I do not promise miracles of the body, but of the soul. For it is

mainly through these miracles of grace that the Holy Trinity is glorified among men and nations. Let America continue and grow in its love for me, and I in return, in union with the Heart of my Son, promise to work wonders in her. My child, I desire that this be known. **Our Lady emphasized her anxious concern about our inner lives.**

September 26, 1956: Our Lady appears twice under the new image of Our Lady of America.

After Mass the next morning, the feast of the North American Martyrs, Our Lady appeared to Sister, enveloped in a soft glow of light. Our Lady said: **“I am Our Lady of America. I desire that my children honor me, especially by the purity of their lives.”** She was very beautiful and her smile held me. Throughout my work of the day, I was conscious of our Lady’s presence in a very special manner, in a way distinctly new to me. That afternoon, during the last half of the Holy Hour, the Immaculate Virgin spoke to me at length in these words: **My child, I entrust YOU with this message that you must make known to my children in America. I wish it to be the country dedicated to my purity. The wonders I will work will be the wonders of the soul. They must have faith and believe firmly in my love for them. I desire that they be the children of my Pure Heart. I desire, through my children of America, to further the cause of faith and purity among peoples and nations. Let them come to me with confidence and simplicity, and I, their Mother, will teach them to become pure like to my Heart that their own hearts may be more pleasing to the Heart of my Son**

September 27, 1956: Our Lady’s apparition holding the world in her hands as She wept over it.

Our Lady again appeared to me while I was at prayer. She held the world in Her hands. From Her eyes tears were flowing upon it, as though she longed to cleanse it from its guilt. It was then that I heard these words filled with sorrow and longing: **Behold, O my children, the tears of your Mother! Shall I weep in vain? Assuage the sorrow of my Heart over the ingratitude of sinful men by the love and chasteness of your lives. Will you do this for me, beloved children, or will you allow your Mother to weep in vain? I come to you, O Children of America, as a last resort. I plead with you to listen to my voice. Cleanse your souls in the Precious Blood of My Son. Live in His Heart and take me in that I may teach you to live in great purity of heart which is so pleasing to God. Be my army of chaste soldiers, ready to fight to the death to preserve the purity of your souls. I am the Immaculate One, Patroness of your land. Be my faithful children as I have been your faithful Mother. These are my words, O my daughter. Make them known to my children. I desire to make the whole of America my shrine by making every heart accessible to the love of my Son.** TO BE CONTINUED

PARISH EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENT

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
Tuesday, Dec 26 Adoration after Mass with Divine Mercy Chaplet and Rosary for World Peace
Saturday, Dec 30 Sunday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM St Helena
Sunday, Dec 31 Sun Mass: 8:30 AM St. H 10:30AM mass St. P; Holy Mother of God Vigil: 5:00 PM St. Patrick
Monday, Jan 1 Holy Mother of God Mass: 10:00 AM St. Helena

St. Helena and St. Patrick Holiday Mass Schedule
Sunday Dec. 24 Mass Schedule

Saturday, Dec. 23 Sunday Vigil Mass @ St. Patrick 5:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 24 Sunday Mass @ St. Helena 10:00 AM

Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, Dec. 24 Vigil Mass @ St. Patrick 5:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 24 Vigil Mass @ St. Helena 7:00 PM
Monday, Dec. 25 Christmas Mass @ St. Helena 10:00 AM

Hail, O Favored One, the Lord Is with You!

Meditation: Does the proclamation of the Gospel message fill you with joy and hope? When the Lord comes to redeem his people he fills us with his Holy Spirit, the source of our joy and hope in the promises of God When God made a covenant with David as King over Israel he made a promise to David and to his descendants that David's dynasty would endure forever through the coming of the Messiah King (2 Samuel 7:16). This King would establish an everlasting kingdom of peace and security for his people. We often think of peace as the absence of trouble. The peace which the Messiah brings cancels the debt of sin and restores our broken relationship with God our heavenly Father.

The new era of salvation begins with the conception and birth of Jesus

We see the fulfillment of God's unfolding plan of redemption in the events leading up to the Incarnation, the birth of the Messiah King. The new era of salvation begins with the miraculous conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary. This child to be born is conceived by the gracious action of the Holy Spirit upon Mary, who finds favor with God (Luke 1:28). This child will be "great" and "Son of the Most High" and "King," and his name shall be called "Jesus" (Luke 1:31-32), which means "the Lord saves." "He will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). The angel repeats to Mary, the daughter of the house of David, the promise made to King David: "The Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end" (2 Samuel 7:12-16, Isaiah 9:6-7, Luke 1:32-33).

Sat, Dec. 30 and Sun Dec. 31
Schedule as normal

Sat. 5:00pm St. Helena
Sun. 8:30 St. H Sun. 10:30 St. P

January 1—Solemnity of Mary,
The Holy Mother of God

Sun. Dec. 31 Vigil 5:00pm St. Patrick
Mon. Jan 1 10:00 am St. Helena

Mary is a true hearer of the Word of God

How does Mary respond to the word of God delivered by the angel Gabriel? She knows she is hearing something beyond human capability. It will surely take a miracle which surpasses all that God has done previously. Her question, "how shall this be, since I have no husband" is not prompted by doubt or skepticism, but by wonderment! She is a true hearer of the Word and she immediately responds with faith and trust.

Mary's prompt response of "yes" to the divine message is a model of faith for all believers. Mary believed God's promises even when they seemed impossible. She was full of grace because she trusted that what God said was true and would be fulfilled. She was willing and eager to do God's will, even if it seemed difficult or costly. Mary is the "mother of God" because God becomes incarnate when he takes on flesh in her womb. When we pray the Nicene Creed we state our confession of faith in this great mystery: "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man".

God gives us the grace to say "yes" to his will and to his transforming work in our lives

What is the key that unlocks the power and grace of God's kingdom in our personal lives? Faith and obedience for sure! God gives us grace and he expects us to respond with the same willing obedience and heartfelt trust as Mary did. When God commands he also gives the help and means to respond. We can either yield to his grace or resist and go our own way. Do you believe in God's promises and do you yield to his grace?

Heavenly Father, you offer us abundant grace, mercy, and forgiveness through your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Help me to live a grace-filled life as Mary did by believing in your promises and by giving you my unqualified 'yes' to your will and plan for my life.

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