

Parish Staff

Pastor

Rev. Richard Villano 729-7344

Director of Pastoral Care

Virginia Tschida 729-7344

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Nancy Stauner 729-7321

Director of Music

David Bartlett 651-239-6914

School Principal

Ellen Rian 729-9301

Parish Secretary

Elaine Bruce 729-7344

Business Manager

Mike Petruconis 729-7322

Sunday Mass

Saturday 4:00 P.M.

Sunday 8:30 and 10:00 A.M.

Daily Mass

Monday through Saturday 8:00 A.M.

Holy Day Mass

Evening Before 5:30 P.M.

Holy Day 8:00 and 10:00 A.M.

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday 3:00–3:30 P.M.

Sacrament of Baptism

A Baptism Preparation Program is required for all registered first-time parents. Please call the Director of Pastoral Care.

Sacrament of Marriage

The bride or groom must be an active registered parishioner for at least six months prior to scheduling a wedding at St. Helena.

Nursery

Services available during the 10:00 A.M. Sunday Mass.

Parish Registration

To register in the parish, please fill out a registration form and return to the Parish Office. Registration forms are available at the entrances of the Church. Return completed form to the Parish Office.

**Visit us on the web at
www.sainthelena.us**

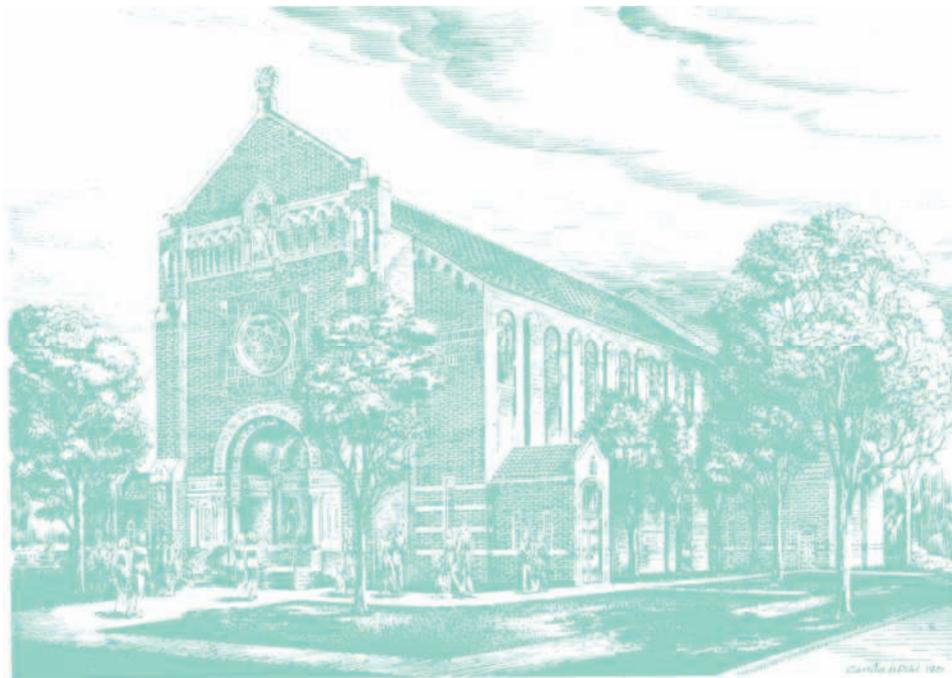
The Church of St. Helena

**Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 8, 2019**

*"Which of you wishing to construct a tower does
not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if
there is enough for its completion?"*

*In the same way, anyone of you who does not
renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple."*

- Lk 14:28, 33



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THE WORD

I remember comic pianist Victor Borge had a huge 80th birthday celebration in which he did a performance of a medley of songs by great composers throughout the centuries. He played an excerpt from Brahms, and all of a sudden you heard the melody of "Happy Birthday to you" being woven into the piece. Then, he played another song, this time by Beethoven, and, all of a sudden, you heard "Happy Birthday to you" being played. Every excerpt had "Happy Birthday" intertwined with a famous composer's style.

Victor certainly relished his birthday!

Today, besides being the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, is the celebration of the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The whole Church especially delights in her birthday, as it should. In fact, we take delight in any child's birthday, not because the child has done anything or accomplished anything, but because the child was born and has an intrinsic worth.

In a sense, birthdays only make sense if we believe in God. Why would anyone want to celebrate an event in which we congratulate a person who has not done anything intentionally? We can celebrate one's existence, but it's more of a recognition of the parents bringing the child into the world (which may be quite an accomplishment with the number of abortions occurring in this day and age) with God's cooperation to produce an immortal soul.

Of course, the key is that we have an immortal soul, and this Sunday's Gospel talks about the formula for being a disciple of our Lord Jesus, Who brings us eternal life for our immortal soul. He teaches, "In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple."

You object, "I need my possessions to live! That's for monks and sisters." No, you can have possessions as a follower of Jesus, but you must have an interior poverty of spirit whereby you are willing to give up your possessions, if need be to avoid sin and to express your love for God and neighbor.

To possess this poverty of spirit, however, requires a dependence upon God that He will provide when we've lost our possessions for His sake. He is the One, Who will give us the material and spiritual tools to avoid evil and love God and neighbor. Of course, to have this poverty of spirit is difficult for a rich person who has every material he needs or wants—that's why our Lord warns about being wealthy.

When we have that childlike confidence and trust in the Lord, Who is the source of life, we can rejoice, just as we can sing "Happy Birthday" knowing full well that it's God, Who is really the source of life.

John Sondag, Director of Religious Education

PASTOR'S REMARKS

1) This is the week for our great parish festival, Sept. 13-14-15. We welcome all our visitors and we pray that the weather will be good, the environment will be safe, and that everyone has a good time. We are very grateful for the time, energy, and talent of all our workers, parish members, and the generosity of so many donors. God bless each and all of you and thank you.

2) Keep in mind that our week-end Masses are at 4:00 P.M. on Sat., and at 8:30 and 10:00 A.M. on Sunday. The people who pray together stay together.

3) If you have not yet registered in the parish, registration forms are available at the entrances of the church.

4) Because of liability insurance, driving practice is not allowed on our church parking lot or school playground. It should also be known that the church grounds and school grounds are not public property to be used for dog walking, etc.

5) We are in the process of organizing a committee for the Synod to be held in our Archdiocese. Parish participation is very important and your interests and concerns are a tribute to our parish and the Church in this Archdiocese.

6) *As generous distributors of God's manifested grace, put your gifts at the service of one another, each in the measure he has received. The one who speaks is to deliver God's message. The one who serves is to do it with strength provid-*

ed by God. Thus in all of you God is to be glorified through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 4:10-11a

SAFE ENVIRONMENT UPDATE—All volunteers who have regular interaction with youth and vulnerable adults need to be certified under the Archdiocesan Safe Environment standards. Together we can work to protect God's children and the most vulnerable among us. Thank you for your shared commitment to the achievement of this goal. In addition, the Archdiocesan Victim Assistance line is 651-291-4475.

"BEHOLD"—AN 8-WEEK SERIES FOR WOMEN AGES 21-29—Thursdays, October 3 – November 21, at Our Lady of Grace, Edina. Young women between the ages of 21-29 are invited to come hear the mission of *Behold*: a mission to help each woman recognize the gift she is, realize the gifts she's been given and give to the world the gifts that only she can give. This series will include time for fellowship with other young adult Catholic women, Eucharistic Adoration, awesome presentations from our Behold speaker team and more. To find out more visit the [event page](#) at archspm.org.

MIRIAM DINNER—Tuesday, October 1, 6:00–8:30 P.M., at Holy Cross, Minneapolis. Women, ages 16–35, who are discerning consecrated life are invited to join us for a Miriam Dinner. For more information, please send an email to: stpaulvocations@10000vocations.org or call the Office of Vocations at 651-962-6890 for more information.

STEWARDSHIP While stewardship is usually thought of in terms of money, we are also asked to give of our 'time' and 'talent' in addition to our 'treasure'. So, take this time as your opportunity to sign up to volunteer for **Autumn Daze Festival** where St Helena has great need of your time and talent. For those comfortable with doing so via computer, please go to www.sainthelena.us, click on the big Festival button, then the 'Volunteer' tab, and sign up for at least 8 hours of time. Or, contact Paul Rivers (612-260-5722 or perivers1@mac.com).

PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN—Parents of public school children in grades one through eight can enroll in the 2019-2020 Wednesday Night Religious Education Program by calling John Sondag at 612-275-0431. You can still register for this program which began this past Wednesday, September 4, and is held in the school at 6:45 P.M.

THE 2019-2020 CONFIRMATION PROGRAM—Children in St. Helena parish in the eighth grade (and high school, if they have not yet been Confirmed) will receive the sacrament of Confirmation next May 19, 2020. If you are not in St. Helena grade school, please enroll now in the 2019-2020 Confirmation Program (which began this past Wednesday, September 4) to prepare for the sacrament by calling John Sondag (612-275-0431). It's not too late.

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?—Please let that individual know that the Church of St. Helena will again offer a program that prepares people to become Catholic. It begins this Fall on Tuesday, September 24, at 7:30 P.M. in the Parish Office Building. To take the program does not mean that you must become a Catholic. Also, if Tuesday evenings are impossible to make, another time can be arranged. For more information, call Fr. Villano or John Sondag at 612-729-7344.

A GOOD BOOK—The book entitled *Outlines of the Catholic Faith* is available in the bulletin racks at the entrance of the Church. We would appreciate a free-will donation of \$2 to cover the cost of the book.

DOUGHNUTS AND COFFEE ON THIS SUNDAY MORNING—CARAMEL ROLLS ON NEXT SUNDAY FOR AUTUMN DAZE —Come to Doughnuts and Coffee on Sunday morning downstairs in Rowan Hall after the 8:30 and 10:00 A.M. Masses. But, next Sunday, we will have Caramel Rolls under the Big Tent for Autumn Daze.

DISCOVERY—Whether you are Catholic, haven't been to Church in a while, are non-Catholic, or want to help others discover the Lord, come check out our new Discovery small-group sessions! We will encounter the love, forgiveness and salvation offered in Jesus Christ and gain a deep and lasting conversion of heart and life while making new friends. Our first of six weekly sessions will begin at 7:30 P.M. on Monday, September 23, in the Parish Offices. Bring your friends, neighbors, and family members! There is no cost and you will receive a participant guide. Donations, however, will be accepted. If you would like to check us out, call Ruth Caron at 763-742-0752 or John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

PARISHIONERS WHO ARE IN NEED OF HELP?—If you are a parishioner who might be out of work, sick and unable to work, or struggling because of financial difficulties or other problems, you can receive help from the parish St. Vincent de Paul Conference which reaches out to individuals and families in the parish who are having difficulties. (If you let the conference know of your need, your name will be kept confidential.) For more information or to give the conference your name and need, please call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

WE HAVE A "CRY ROOM"—Parents with small children and infants are welcome to use of the Cry Room in the front of the church, if you go through the side door by the Baptismal font. After you go through the door, turn left, go up a small series of steps, open a door, and you'll enter a room where you can be close to the altar and that has the prayers miked into it, you can see everything that's happening, and your little ones can cry or talk without disturbing others in the main part of the church.

WE ALSO HAVE A NURSERY SERVICE DURING THE 10:00 SUNDAY MASS—St. Helena Church has a nursery service for small children (up to but not including first grade) during the 10:00 A.M. Mass on Sundays. There is no charge for the service. Parents may bring the children downstairs to the nursery before Mass begins, and an adult will watch your children for you while you attend Mass. If you have any questions, call John Sondag (612-275-0431).

BECOME PART OF THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE—You can assist needy families and individuals by being part of the St. Vincent de Paul Conference in the parish by coming to the next meeting on Thursday, September 19, at 6:30 P.M. in the Parish Office Building. For more information, call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

GIVE A GIFT CARD FOR GROCERIES—When you're grocery shopping, buy a gift card for groceries and give the card to the parish St. Vincent de Paul Conference which can give it to a needy person or family. Place the card in an envelope marked "St. Vincent de Paul Conference" and put the envelope in the collection or bring it to the Parish Offices.

BE A WINNER OF AN EARLY BIRD DRAWING—You are eligible if you bring your two sold books of raffle tickets to the Parish Offices before Monday, September 9, at 9:00 P.M. The winner receives a \$25 certificate from Carbone's Pizza and Pub.

DISCOUNTED QUILT BINGO TICKETS—Buy advance discounted tickets for Quilt Bingo for only \$12 a session of 10 games. The regular price is \$15 for a session on 10 games. Purchase the discounted tickets from the Parish Offices.

**AUTUMN DAZE FESTIVAL
ONE WEEK AWAY—
SEPTEMBER 13, 14, & 15
WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS!
www.sainthelena.us and click on "Autumn Daze"**



SCRIPTURE #1177

**Wis 9:13-18b
Phlm 9-10, 12-17
Lk 14:25-33**

MASS INTENTIONS

8:00 AM

Monday	†	Peter Heinen, Sr.
Tuesday	†	Rocco Villano
Wednesday	†	Heidi Jantschik
Thursday	†	John Monahan
Friday	†	Bob McDonald
Saturday		Tyler Niznick

SACRISTY AIDES—Mary DeLuney and Barb Kaluza, (Linens) Krysta Niznick

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

September 9: Col 1:24--2:3, Lk 6:6-11
September 10: Col 2:6-15, Lk 6:12-19
September 11: Col 3:1-11, Lk 6:20-26
September 12: Col 3:12-17, Lk 6:27-38
September 13: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14, Lk 6:39-42
September 14: Nm 21:4b-9, Phil 2:6-11,
Jn 3:13-17
September 15: Ex 32:7-11, 13-14,
1 Tm 1:12-17, Lk 15:1-32

PARISH CALENDAR

September 9 – September 16

September 9

-Women's Prayer Group, Church, 6:30 pm
-Band Practice, RH, 7:00-8:00 pm

September 10

September 11

-Religious Ed. & Confirmation Classes, School, 6:45 pm

September 12

-Set-Up of Booths for Autumn Daze, 6:00 pm

September 13

-“Autumn Daze Festival”, 5:00-10:00 pm

September 14

-“Autumn Daze ” Parade, 10:00 am
-“Autumn Daze Festival”, 10:30-10:00 pm

September 15

-“Autumn Daze Festival”, 10:30 am-5:00 pm

September 16

-Women's Prayer Group, Church, 6:30 pm

"AUTUMN DAZE" BAND PRACTICES—If you are young or old and can play a band instrument, you are invited to march with the St. Helena Marching Band in the "Autumn Daze" Parade on Saturday morning, September 14. Practice is scheduled for this Monday, September 9, in Rowan Hall from 7:00 to 8:00 P.M. For information, call John Sondag at (612-275-0431).

DO YOU HAVE A PICK-UP TRUCK?—The festival is need of drivers of pick-up trucks to transport prizes, festival items, and stands on this Wednesday afternoon at 1:00 P.M., Thursday evening at 6:00 P.M., Friday afternoon at 1:00 P.M., and Sunday evening at 5:00 P.M. If you can help, please call 612-275-0431.

BUY DISCOUNTED "AUTUMN DAZE" RIDE TICKETS—Discounted festival ride tickets will be sold in the back of church, at school, or from the Parish Offices. Tickets must be purchased by 12:00 Noon on Friday, September 13th.

WANTED: GOODS FOR THE GENERAL STORE BONANZA—The following items for the "Autumn Daze" General Store Bonanza are needed: bottles of merchandise (such as detergent, syrup, and orange juice), canned goods or dry goods. Please bring them to the back of church or the Parish Offices. Items should not have expiration date before October 31st.

BOTTLES OF WINE FOR THE FESTIVAL—Purchase several bottles of wine to give to "Autumn Daze." We can use the wine for the Wine Walk, the Wine Toss, for Baskets, or other prizes. Bring the wine to the Parish Offices.

WANTED: STUFFED ANIMALS AND GOOD, USED TOYS—"Autumn Daze" can use good, used toys and stuffed animals. Please bring them to the Parish Offices.

CROCHETED, EMBROIDERED, OR KNITTED ITEMS—Bring your donated crafted items to the Festival on Friday, September 14 or Saturday, September 15, to the Harvest Gift Shoppe in the basement of the school.

BOOKS, BOOKS, AND MORE BOOKS—Give your used books (fiction or non-fiction) to the "Autumn Daze" Bookstore. No romance novels, please. You can bring them to the Parish Offices, but if you need them picked up, call 612-275-0431.

CANNED VEGETABLES OR HOMEMADE JELLIES—Bring some of your canned summer vegetables and/or your homemade jellies to the "Farmers' Market" at "Autumn Daze" to the school on the days of the festival.

PRAYER CORNER

God of truth, Father of all, you send your Spirit as promised, to bring together in love all whom sin has driven apart. Strengthen us to work for your blessings of unity and peace in the world.



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