

Parish Staff

Pastor

Rev. Richard Villano 729-7344

Director of Pastoral Care

Virginia Tschida 729-7344

Director of Religious Education

John Sondag 729-7321

Religious Education Secretary

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-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 15, 2019**

"Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep."

*I tell you, in just the same way there will be
more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents
than over ninety-nine righteous people
who have no need of repentance."*

- Lk 15:6c-7



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THE WORD

I have great difficulty, at times, reading some of the stories from the Old Testament. Today's reading from the Book of Exodus is a good example. Moses and God are having a big argument about God's anger and wrath against his people and the promise to punish them severely for their sins. I can't imagine God being angry and full of wrath, being resentful and hateful, being vindictive and furious, full of revenge and bitterness, and out to destroy his enemies as punishment for their sins. It may be a people's early perception of God, but it is more human than divine. God doesn't change like people change; there is no hatred or anger or bitterness in God. I find it difficult to think of God being angry and revengeful, both of which can be very sinful, and there is no sin in God! I simply think of it as people's perception of God before the coming of Jesus.

With the coming of Jesus, our perception of God has changed forever. Jesus is the image of the invisible God. The face of Jesus shows us the face of God, and as Jesus loves the sinner, he shows us the love of God for the sinner. The stories in today's gospel reveal to us the great and lasting love of God for sinners. The story of the lost sheep, the story of the lost coin, and the great and beautiful story of the prodigal son, remind all of us of God's great love for the sinner. God not only loves the sinner but almost has a preference for the sinner, because of his love and mercy and forgiveness that lasts forever.

Father Villano

PASTOR'S REMARKS

1) We welcome all of our friends, neighbors, and visitors to our annual parish festival. We hope you enjoy the food, the games, the fun, and the sense of community which bring us together for a wonderful weekend.

2) Our preparation for the up-coming Synod in our Archdiocese is going well. Our parish committee is in place, and I am delighted and grateful for your interest, participation, and readiness to be a part of this historic event for the Church in this Archdiocese. The Parish Ambassadors for St. Helena are: Leader-Virginia Tschida, Francis and Mary DeLuney, Ann Gibney, Wally and Barbara Kaluza, Peter and Peggy Kiron, Lucy Koller, Eloise McDonald, Rachel Petruconis, Barb Ruble, Gary and Shelly Schott, John Sondag.

3) *What we await are new heavens and a new earth where, according to his promise, the justice of God will reside. So, beloved, while waiting for this, make every effort to be found without stain or defilement, and at peace in his sight. Consider that our Lord's patience is directed toward salvation.*

2 Peter 3:13-15

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.

TWIN CITIES MARATHAN—PRE—MARATHON MASS—Running the marathon? Join us for Mass! Sunday, October 6, at 6:00 A.M. at Saint Olaf Church in Minneapolis. Father Joe Taphorn, Rector of the Saint Paul Seminary, and a few seminarians are running the Twin Cities Marathon. Fr. Taphorn will preside at this pre-marathon Mass – just a half mile from the starting line! Runners, volunteers and other race supporters are welcome.

HOLY NAME CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE—Thursday, Sept. 26, is our Preview Sale from 4:00 to 8:00 P.M. Admission is \$1 per person. On Friday, Sept. 27, hours are 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Saturday, Sept. 28, is Bag Day (\$3 per bag) from 9:00 A.M. to Noon. We have books, clothing, furniture, household items, jewelry, toys and more. Check out our Oval Room with nicer items! For more information, call 612-724-5465 or visit our website at www.churchoftheholyname.org. Holy Name Catholic Church is located at 3637 11th Avenue South in Minneapolis.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND—Fall in love all over again and create the marriage of your dreams by registering for the October 12—13 Marriage Encounter! Weekends are held at the beautiful Mount Olivet Conference and Retreat Center in Farmington. Visit www.marriages.org to register and get more information or call 651-454-3238.

ANNUAL WHITE MASS FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS—Please join us on Saturday, October 12, 5:15 p.m., at the Cathedral of Saint Paul, in St. Paul, for a Mass for all Catholic health care workers. The Annual White Mass is sponsored by the Saint Paul and Minneapolis Guild of the Catholic Medical Association and Curatio in cooperation with the Archdiocesan Office of Marriage, Family & Life. A short reception will be held in your honor following the Mass. For more information, please contact Sonya Flomo at (651) 291-4488 or email flomos@archspm.org.

VISITATION SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE—Visitation School, located at 2455 Visitation Drive in Mendota Heights, will host an Open House for prospective Upper School (grades 9–12) families on Thursday, October 3 at 6 p.m. Visitation is an independent Catholic school educating girls in grades six to twelve and boys and girls from Montessori preschool through grade five. We welcome your family to join us for this informational event! For more information, visit our website at www.visitation.net/openhouse or call 651-683-1700.

BRING YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS TO THE RAFFLE BOOTH UNDER THE BIG TENT—During the festival, please bring your raffle tickets to the Raffle Booth under the big tent. Do not drop them in the collection basket or the mail slot at the Parish Offices.

PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN—RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES—It's not too late to sign up for the Wednesday evening Religious Education Classes at 6:45 P.M. in the school. The program began on September 4. Parents of public school children in grades one through seven are encouraged to register them now. To register or to receive more information, please call John Sondag at 612-729-7321.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM FOR EIGHTH GRADERS—You can still register for the Confirmation Classes for public students in eighth grade (and high school, if an individual has not yet been Confirmed). Classes began Wednesday, September 4, at 6:45 P.M. in the school. To enroll, please call John Sondag (612-275-0431).

CARAMEL ROLLS ON THIS SUNDAY FOR AUTUMN DAZE—There are no Doughnuts and Coffee on this Sunday morning downstairs in Rowan Hall after the 8:30 and 10:00 A.M. Masses. But, we are having Caramel Rolls under the Big Tent for Autumn Daze. Big, gooey caramel rolls are \$3.

DISCOVERY OF THE FAITH—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.

DO YOU NEED HELP?—Parishioners who might be out of work, sick and unable to work, or struggling because of financial difficulties or other problems can notify the St. Vincent de Paul Conference in the parish. Individuals (or families) can receive assistance from the conference which reaches out to those people in the parish who are having difficulties. (The names of the needy parishioners will be kept confidential.) For more information or to request help, please call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

GIFT CARD FOR GROCERIES—Purchase 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.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?—The Church of St. Helena offers a program that prepares people to become Catholic which is held on Tuesdays 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 CRY ROOM FOR PARENTS WITH SMALL CHILDREN OR INFANTS—St. Helena Church offers a Cry Room for parents with small children or infants. It's located 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.

A NURSERY SERVICE—St. Helena Church offers 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).

MUSICIANS, YOUNG AND OLD—You can be a part of the St. Helena Music Troop which goes to nursing homes to entertain their residents twice a month during the fall, winter and spring. Musicians can be beginners or professionals, young or old, and do not have to come each time we perform. The people who entertain do not play music as a group but individually play the piano, band or symphonic instruments, or sing. If you are interested in participating, please call John Sondag (612-275-0431).

HELP NEEDY INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES—You can be part of the St. Vincent de Paul Conference in the parish which reaches out to needy individuals or families who need assistance. Conference members visit their homes to assess how they can be of service and in a very personalized and confidential way give them help. Our next meeting is on this Thursday, September 19, at 6:30 P.M. in the Parish Office Building. For more information, call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL—The winner of the Early Bird Drawing for a \$25 gift certificate from Carbone's Pizza and Pub in Minneapolis is Nancy Rivers. Congratulations.

WOMEN OF ST. HELENA—Every Monday night a group of women meet at Church from 6:30-7:30 P.M. for quiet time, and prayer. We pray in silence for a half hour, then voice our prayer requests for family, friends and special intentions, followed with the rosary. If you would like to join us, please call Barb Kaluza at 612-221-2504 or Shirley Balster at 612-722-8847, as we sometimes cancel due to weather. All are welcome and encouraged to come and share the blessings of praying with women of varied ages.



SCRIPTURE #1180

**Ex 32:7-11, 13-14
1 Tm 1:12-17
Lk 15:1-32**

MASS INTENTIONS

8:00 AM

Monday	†	Agnes Pianko
Tuesday	†	Arnold Nelson
Wednesday	†	Margaret St. Aubin
Thursday		For the Benefactors of Our Parish & School
Friday	†	Anthony Pianko
Saturday	†	Esther Gruidl

SACRISTY AIDES—Eloise McDonald and Ann Gibney, (Linens) Krysta Niznick

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

September 16: 1 Tm 2:1-8, Lk 7:1-10
September 17: 1 Tm 3:1-13, Lk 7:11-17
September 18: 1 Tm 3:14-16, Lk 7:31-35
September 19: 1 Tm 4:12-16, Lk 7:36-50
September 20: 1 Tm 6:2c-12, Lk 8:1-3
September 21: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13, Mt 9:9-13
September 22: Am 8:4-7, 1 Tm 2:1-8,
Lk 16:1-13

PARISH CALENDAR

September 16 – September 23

September 16

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

September 17

September 18

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

September 19

-St. Vincent de Paul Mtg., Parish Offices, 6:30 pm

September 20

September 21

September 22

-Donuts & Coffee after the 8:30 & 10:00 Masses, RH

September 23

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

PRAYER CORNER

Lord, we humbly ask for your goodness. May you help us to hope in you, and give us a share with your chosen ones in the land of the living.

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

St. Helena found the true cross upon which Jesus died. This weekend, on Saturday, September 14, the Church celebrated the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The following is the Holy Cross Prayer (taken from *Vatican Site*).

Oh Lord Almighty! You have suffered death at the cross for our sins.

Oh Holy Cross of Jesus! be my true light. Oh Holy Cross of Jesus! fill my soul with good thoughts.

Oh Holy Cross! help me in my salvation.

Oh Holy Cross! safeguard me against unholy thoughts and worldly dangers that I may worship the Holy Cross of Jesus of Nazareth crucified.

Have pity on me. Oh Holy Cross of Jesus! be my hope. Oh Holy Cross have mercy on me forever and ever.

In honor of the Precious Blood of Jesus and His fearful Death and Resurrection and His Glorification which leads to everlasting life.

As true as Jesus is born on Christmas and crucified on Good Friday. As true as St. Joseph and Nicodemus took Jesus down from the cross.

As true as Jesus ascended into heaven. May He preserve me from my enemies both visible and invisible forever and ever.

Lord Almighty, into Your hands I give my soul and my body.

Oh Lord Jesus! grant me strength to bear the cross as Yourself.

Teach me to bear it with great humility that the Blessed Virgin may fill me with the Holy Spirit. Preserve my soul and lead it to life everlasting.

Amen.

BAPTISM—A Baptism Preparation Program is required for all registered first-time parents. To register for the class, please call Virginia, the Director of Pastoral Care, at 612-729-7344.

DO YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER NEED A VISIT?—If you or your loved one will be hospitalized or homebound, and would like to receive Eucharist, let us know. Keep in mind hospitals and healthcare facilities cannot contact us. We need to be contacted by family. Please call the Director of Pastoral Care, Virginia, at 612-729-7344.

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