

Parish Staff

Pastor

Rev. Richard Villano 729-7344

Director of Pastoral Care

Virginia Tschida 729-7344

Director of Religious Education

John Sondag 729-7321

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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-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 6, 2019**

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."

The Lord replied, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree,

'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,'

and it would obey you."

- Lk 17:5-6



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THE WORD

I think it was the late Msgr. Jerome Quinn, a professor of Scripture at The Saint Paul Seminary, who once said that one of the best commentaries on Scripture is Scripture itself. In other words, by reading the Scriptures, we have a better idea what a word means if we read other passages of Scripture where the same word (or phrase or idea) is used. (The Scriptures still need to be officially interpreted, and the Pope and the Bishops have that responsibility.)

An example is the passage from this Sunday's Gospel in which Jesus teaches: "When you have done all you have been commanded, say 'We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.'"

Sounds rather degrading: "unprofitable servants." However, if we read other passages of Scripture where "servant" is used, we may get a better sense of this phrase.

Our Lord says in another passage "but whoever be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10: 43-45) Our Lord gave His life as a ransom when He died on the cross. In another passage (a parable) He says, "Well done good and faithful servant." It is a phrase of the Master whose servant had

invested well the Master's talents. (Matthew 25: 21)

I would suggest that we also look at "charity" to help us understand "servant." Charity is always thinking of the other. (check out I Cor. 13: 4) God has wired us human beings so that we're only going to be happy when we're thinking of others—and that means being of service to others. Look at a selfish man, and you'll see basically one unhappy person. Yes, the media will portray the wealthy, powerful, or successful as glitzy, ebullient, or contented people. And, yet, look beneath the surface—many of these are people who are in third or maybe even fourth marriages, who have drinking or drug problems, and, sadly, who are suicidal.

Now, take a look at the saints: St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, St. Pope John Paul II, St. Gianna Molla, St. Therese of Lisieux, or St. Maximilian Kolbe. Their focus was on the Lord and others.

When a person enters Heaven, he will be focused on God and those who are in Heaven. An "unprofitable servant" does not think of himself. Our Lord is just making sure that we realize that Heaven will not involve selfishness.

John Sondag
Director of Religious Education

PASTOR'S REMARKS

1) Welcome to a new month and a new season! We need these new starts in our lives, if for no other reason than to move away from routine! You will be receiving this month an abbreviated Financial Report for the parish and school. Our fiscal year ended on June 30, and we began the current fiscal year on July 1. The new budget is presented with some reservations. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call our Business Manager, Mike Petruconis (612-729-7322). More about this later!

2) Missing Mass on Sunday without a good reason is one of the big sins of our time for lots and lots of people. It becomes even a greater concern when children don't go to Mass because their parents don't go to Mass, and it becomes an habitual sin. I think one of the problems associated with missing Mass on Sunday is that for lots of people, missing Mass doesn't feel like sin! We feel the outcome of many kinds of sin, but missing Mass doesn't feel like sin. It's the great deception of our time and the devil knows it. It's the great sin against the first commandment, and when the first commandment goes out of our lives, the others will follow! Missing Mass on Sunday is not only a bad habit, it's a serious sin. The blessing of every Mass is Jesus saving us and God having mercy on us.

3) *Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearances but the Lord looks into the heart.*

Samuel 16:7

CHRISTIAN BURIAL—The parish community prays that *Robert Buccina* may rejoice in the gift of everlasting life in the full embrace of God our Father, and that his family and friends and this community may trust more deeply in the promises of Jesus for eternal life.

SENIOR LUNCH—Senior Lunch will start back up on October 16, the third Wednesday of October. Join us at noon for good food followed by bingo in Rowan Hall. The cost is \$5 and no reservations are required.

RETREAT FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS—Are you in healthcare, working long hours taking care of others? Come and enjoy a weekend of renewal with time for quiet reflection, Mass, Confession, personal spiritual direction and inspiring talks by Retreat Master Monsignor Shea at Christ the King Retreat Center on beautiful Lake Buffalo, MN. Two nights lodging and meals included for Nov 15-17, 2019. Register now at www.curatioapostolate.com. For questions call 1-844-CURATIO.

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.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST—THIS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12—The first Women's Breakfast of this season is scheduled for Saturday, October 12, at 8:30 A.M. in Rowan Hall. Catherine Deavel, Ph.D, will speak on "Taking and Giving Fraternal Correction." The cost is \$5 for the breakfast. Participants are invited to come to the Mass at 8:00 A.M. in church before the Breakfast. Registrations should be made before 12:00 Noon on Friday, October 11, by calling 612-729-7321.

MEN'S BREAKFAST—SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26—The first Men's Breakfast of this season will be held on Saturday, October 26, at 8:30 A.M. The cost of the breakfast is \$5. Participants are also invited to attend the 8:00 Mass in church before the Breakfast. Registrations should be made before 12:00 Noon on Friday, October 25, by calling 612-729-7321.

PRE-SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM—If you are parents with rambunctious 3, 4 and 5-year-old children, you can take advantage of the Pre-School Religious Education Program in Rowan Hall on Sunday mornings during the 10:00 A.M. Mass beginning this Sunday, October 6. The tuition for the school year until May is \$50 (although no child will be deprived of religious education because of finances). To register, come downstairs to Rowan Hall before the 10:00 Mass on Sunday, or call John Sondag (612-275-0431).

A GOOD BOOK TO ENRICH YOUR FAITH—The book entitled *Outlines of the Catholic Faith* is available in the book rack in the back of the Church. We would appreciate a free-will donation of \$2 to cover the cost of the book.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT DOUGHNUTS AND COFFEE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS—Come to Doughnuts and Coffee on Sunday morning downstairs in Rowan Hall after the 8:30 and 10:00 A.M. Masses. It's a great way to meet parishioners.

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. The remaining four of six sessions will be held on October 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 7:30 P.M. 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 763-742-0762 or John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

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.

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.

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, October 10, at 6:30 P.M. in the Parish Office Building. For more information, call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

ST JOHN PAUL II CHAMPIONS FOR LIFE—AWARDS LUNCHEON—All are invited to honor those who respect life at our annual St. John Paul II Champions for Life Awards Luncheon on Thursday, October 31, 11:30 A.M.—1:30 P.M., at the Church of St. Peter in Mendota. Register by October 25 at archspm.org/C4L.



SCRIPTURE #1189

**Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4
2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14
Lk 17:5-10**

MASS INTENTIONS

8:00 AM

Monday	†	Dorothy Fleming
Tuesday	†	Al Schipansky
Wednesday	†	Tony Marciniak
Thursday	†	Delores Nelson
Friday	†	Peter & † Dorothy Lardy
Saturday		Donna Schipansky

SACRISTY AIDES—Virginia Tschida; (Linens)
Eloise McDonald

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

October 7: Jon 1:1—2:2, 11, Jon 2:3, 4, 5, 8,
Lk 10:25-37
October 8: Jon 3:1-10, Lk 10:38-42
October 9: Jon 4:1-11, Lk 11:1-4
October 10: Mal 3:13-20b, Lk 11:5-13
October 11: J1 1:13-15; 2:1-2, Lk 11:15-26
October 12: Jl 4:12-21, Lk 11:27-28
October 13: 2 Kgs 5:14-17, 2 Tm 2:8-13,
Lk 17:11-19

PARISH CALENDAR

October 7 – October 14

October 7

-Women's Prayer Group, Church, 6:30 pm
-Evangelization Meeting, Parish Offices, 7:30 pm

October 8

-Catechumenate, Parish Offices, 7:30 pm

October 9

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

October 10

-St. Helena PreK-8th Grade Open House, 1:30-5:30 pm
-St. Vincent de Paul Mtg., Parish Offices, 6:30 pm

October 11

October 12

-Women's Breakfast, RH, 8:30 am

October 13

-Doughnuts & Coffee, RH, after 8:30 & 10:00 Masses
-Pre-School Religious Education, RH, 9:45 am

October 14

-Women's Prayer Group, Church, 6:30 pm
-Evangelization Meeting, Parish Offices, 7:30 pm

ST. HELENA SCHOOL NEWS

Spotlight on Fourth Grade

This school year, students in Fourth Grade are jumping into their studies with enthusiasm. While they write personal narratives, they are also strengthening their vocabulary by using and adding to a thesaurus. Many have also made it a goal this year to read more challenging books. As our daily read-aloud, we have been enjoying a classic: *The Wizard of Oz*.

The other subjects are being explored eagerly, as well. We have a new mystery in Science every week, where students discover the answer to a question through hands-on activities. In Math, geometry skills are being sharpened by daily practice, manipulatives, and math games. Finally, in Religion we are diving into prayer, the New Testament, and the Rosary.

•**St. Helena PreK-8th Grade Open House**—Join us on Thursday, October 10, anytime between 1:30-5:30 p.m. Drop in and see amazing education in action. Meet the principal, teachers, and students while touring our beautiful urban campus. Enter through Door #5, park on the street or in the church lot. Come see what small class sizes and individualized attention can do for a child. All are welcome! Please join us. If you cannot make Open House, call Jane Hileman at 612-859-5976 for a personal tour or the school office at 612-729-9301.

•Current families and parishioners, you are invited to join us for our School Mass on Tuesday, October 15 at 10:00 A.M.

•Save the Date—Turkey Bingo, Saturday, November 16!

•Follow Mrs. Rian on Instagram for all the latest school news: [@principal_rian@instagram.com](https://www.instagram.com/principal_rian).

Prayer for Year of Pre-Synod Prayer & Listening

Come Holy Spirit
Make our ears to hear
Make our eyes to see
Make our mouths to speak
Make our hearts to seek
Make our hands to reach out
And touch the world with your love.
AMEN.

Mary, Mother of the Church,
Pray for us.



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