

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

Joel Swanson 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.

Email: church@sainthelena.us

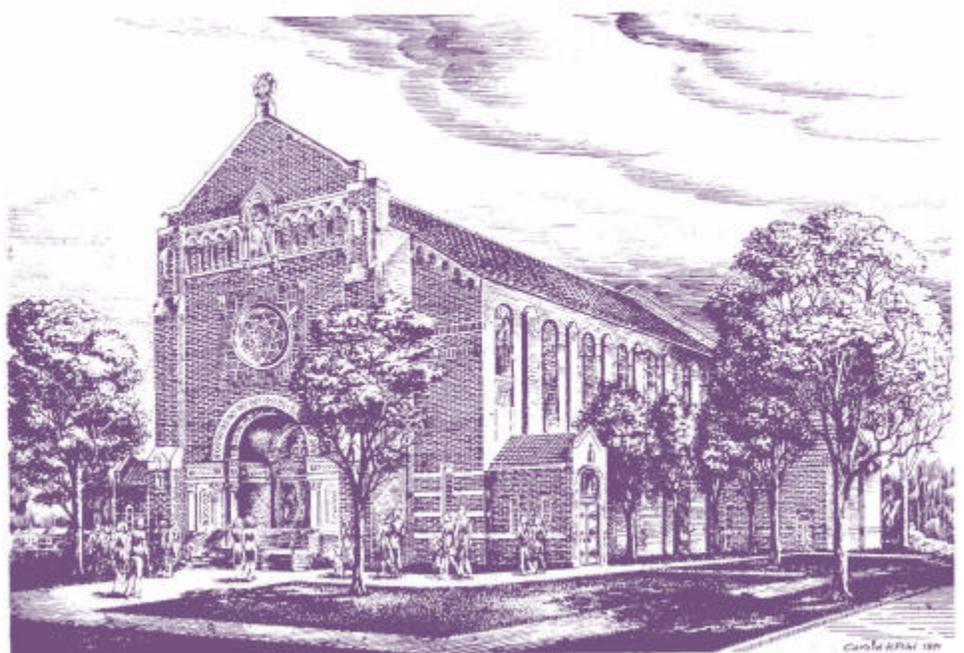
Website: www.sainthelena.us

The Church of St. Helena

Second Sunday of Lent
February 28, 2021

*Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them;
from the cloud came a voice,
“This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.”
Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw
anyone but Jesus alone with them.*

–Mk 9:7-8



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THE WORD

It's interesting to note that early in this time of Lent we are invited to remember the wonderful moment of the transfiguration of Jesus to a chosen few. Jesus allows Peter, James, and John to see himself in a whole new light, an extraordinary vision of his holiness and glory, and a confirmation of their faith, hope, and love for Jesus. It was such a grand moment that the disciples wanted to make it permanent, but Jesus had other plans.

Jesus had been talking with his friends and disciples about what was going to happen to him. They were not pleased. They became angry. They protested loudly. They would do their best to save Jesus. Jesus saw that they needed some reassurance, which may be the reason why Jesus revealed his glory and holiness, and assured them that his life would not end up in death but that he would rise from the dead. You would think that seeing is believing, but just as they could not tolerate his violent death, they were unable to understand what rising from the dead meant until after it happened.

Putting together the cross and the resurrection was no easy message for the followers of Jesus. It was not easy for them and it is not easy for us, and yet within the message of Jesus, it can't be one or the other. We can't think of the cross without the resurrection, and we can't think of the

resurrection without the cross as both unfold in our lives, which may be reason why we remember the transfiguration of Jesus so early in Lent. Without the vision of glory, the vision of the cross is insufferable, and without the cross, the resurrection is vanity.

The language of the Church speaks about the death and resurrection of Jesus as the **Paschal Mystery**, and while it is difficult for us to speak of both at the same time, or even to live both at the same moment, we become one with Jesus in the Paschal Mystery at the time of our baptism. We become one with Jesus in dying to sin (the cross) and with him rise to the new life of holiness and glory (the resurrection). And it is the Paschal Mystery that stays with us at holy Mass, in such a way that we cannot think of holy Mass without thinking of our baptism. It cannot be the one without the other. We are aware, more or less, of the memorial acclamation we make: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until you come again... When we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again... or ... Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free. In the wisdom of Jesus, it cannot be either/or. It is always both/and...

Father Villano

A WORD FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

My name is Pete Kiron, I am the chairman of the finance committee here at St. Helena Parish and executive sponsor of the 2021 Catholic Services Appeal for St Helena. The mission of the Catholic Services Appeal Foundation is to work with each of the parishes of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis to conduct an Annual Appeal to fund 20 Designated Ministries within the Archdiocese that no one parish can support on its own. This is different from when we do our own fundraisers at St. Helena such as the \$100K in 100 Days drive (last spring), or most recently the successful drive for the parish Sound System. The Catholic Services Appeal is specifically focused on helping those in need throughout the Archdiocese. Our goal for 2021 is \$23,036, (if we reach our goal, the parish receives 50% of the amount over the goal for help with our operating expenses). This drive is our annual opportunity to help our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. We all have experienced, and witnessed, the difficulty COVID19 has brought upon our entire community, some more so than others. I hope that you will consider helping us as we strive to exceed our goal of \$23,036. Currently, our parish has donated \$11,335.

May God, the source of all patience and encouragement, enable you to live in perfect harmony with one another according to the spirit of Jesus Christ, so that with one heart and voice you may glorify God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another then, as Christ accepted you, for the glory of God.

(Romans 15:5-7)

CONGRATULATIONS—to former St. Helena student Cecilia Thibault for her great work during her first semester at college. Cecilia made the Dean's List of the College of Arts and Sciences for her first semester at Loyola University Chicago. Paula, her mother, wrote "we are very thankful and know that this is in no small part a direct result of her St. Helena foundation."

SYNOD AT HOME: TIPS AND TOOLS FOR GROWING IN THE FAITH—The Synod at Home series takes helpful videos, tips and tools for growing in faith, and pairs them with family-friendly activities based on four pillars: Prayer and Sacraments, Lifelong Learning, Generosity and Service, and Traditions and Fun. Individuals, couples and families will find their faith and relationships strengthened by Synod at Home.

Find weekly videos and materials at archspm.org/synod, sign up for emails (archspm.org/synod/updates) or access through the Synod app: text APP to 88202, then in the app search for Archdiocesan Synod.

CHURCH HOURS—Beginning Monday, March 1, the handicapped door of the Church will remain open Monday to Friday, 7:30 AM to 12:00 PM. All are welcome to come and spend some time in prayer. We ask that you follow COVID protocol, wear a mask, sit in open pews only, use sanitizer and stay home if you are not feeling well. Food shelf donations may also be dropped off at this time on the church level near the elevator. The new hours will be in effect through Lent unless offices are closed or safety becomes an issue.

IF YOU CANNOT RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION DURING THIS TIME OF THE CORONAVIRUS, YOU CAN MAKE A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

SPIRITUALLY ADOPT A PERSON WHO'S DYING ALONE OR WITHOUT THE SACRAMENTS—

Some people are dying alone from the Coronavirus. Through your prayer, spiritually adopt a person somewhere in the world who may have no family or friends to be with them at the moment of death or perhaps who is unable to have the sacraments of the Church.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS—Come and pray the Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings at 7:00 P.M. in the church during Lent.

LENTEN SERIES: TALKS ABOUT EARLY CHURCH FATHERS—

Register for the continuation of the six-part Lenten Series on Friday evenings: March 5, 12, 19 and 26, from 7:30 to 9:00 P.M. in Rowan Hall after Stations of the Cross in the church. Msgr. Jefferey Steenson, D. Phil., is the guest speaker, and he is talking about “The Early Church Fathers: Privileged Witnesses to Catholic Traditions.” The tuition is \$20.00 for the remainder of the series. Complimentary tuition is available for those who have difficulty in paying. Advanced registration is required and is limited to 55 persons because of social distancing. Participants are asked to wear masks.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?—

The Church of St. Helena offers a program that prepares people to become Catholic. It’s held on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 P.M. in the Parish Offices. If Tuesdays are impossible for any individual, another time can be negotiated. For more information, call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

IF YOU ARE A PARISHIONER WHO NEEDS HELP—

Parishioners who might be out of work, sick and unable to work, or struggling because of financial difficulties or problems can receive help from the St. Vincent de Paul Conference in the parish which reaches out to individuals and families in the parish who are having difficulties. (Your name will be kept confidential.) If you need more information or help, please call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH—

The Church of St. Helena offers a program that helps people to know more about the Catholic Faith and have their questions answered. For more information, call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

BE PART OF THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE—

The St. Vincent de Paul Conference in the parish reaches out to 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. The next meeting is Thursday, March 11, at 6:30 P.M. in the Parish Offices. For more information, call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

BUY A GIFT CARD FOR GROCERIES FOR THE NEEDY—

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 throughout the year. 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.

FOR LENT—ENRICH YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH—

You can enrich your faith by purchasing and listening to some CDs displayed at the handicap entrance to the church. As we continue to have limited social events, this may be a good time to deepen our reflection on Christ, His teachings, and the teachings of the Church.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN—

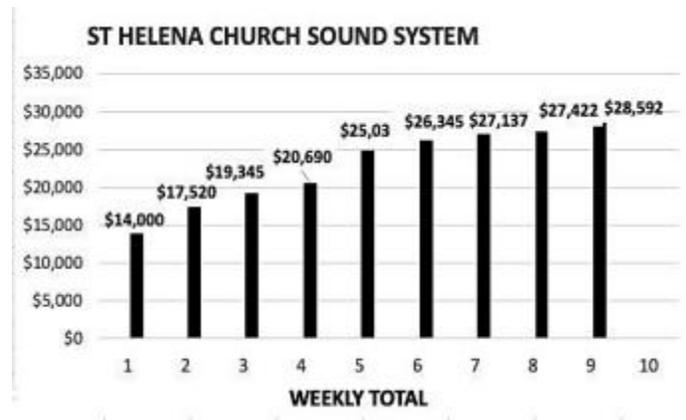
In-person religious education classes for elementary and junior high students continue on Wednesday evenings, at 6:45 P.M. in the downstairs of the church and Parish Office Building. Students wear masks and socially distance themselves. If you would like to enroll your child, please call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

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.

GIVE A SPECIAL GIFT FOR A NEW SOUND SYSTEM FOR THE CHURCH—

We are getting close! As of February 22, the parish has received \$28,592 and only need a little over \$1400 to reach our goal of \$30,000 to adequately fund the new system. We hope we can finish this effort in February. If you have yet to participate in achieving the goal, you can give your special gift by placing it in an envelope marked “Sound System” and mailing or delivering it to the Parish Offices or dropping it in the collection. If we receive more money than we need for the sound system, we will apply it to other operating expenses.





SCRIPTURE #1031

**Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13,
15-18
Rom 8:31b-34
Mk 9:2-10**

MASS INTENTIONS

8:00 AM

Monday	† Dorothy Fleming
Tuesday	† Ellen Carvatt
Wednesday	† Clara Miller
Thursday	† John & † Gertrude Koller
Friday	Sarah Marie Wood
Saturday	Terry Thibeault

SACRISTY LINENS—Adenike Ajaluwa

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

March 1: Dn 9:4b-10, Lk 6:36-38
March 2: Is 1:10, 16-20, Mt 23:1-12
March 3: Jer 18:18-20, Mt 20:17-28
March 4: Jer 17:5-10, Lk 16:19-31
March 5: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a,
Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
March 6: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20, Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
March 7: Ex 20:1-17, 1 Cor 1:22-25,
Jn 2:13-25

PARISH CALENDAR

March 1—March 8

March 1

-Quilters, Parish Offices, 9:00 am

March 2

-Virtual Rosary, 7:00 pm

March 3

-Quilters, Parish Offices, 6:15 pm
-Religious Education Program, Rowan Hall, 6:45 pm
-Confirmation Program, Parish Offices, 6:45 pm

March 4

March 5

-Women's Prayer Group, Church, 8:30 am
-Stations of the Cross, Church, 7:00 pm
-Lenten Series, Rowan Hall, 7:30 pm

March 6

-Confession, Church, 3:00 pm
-Mass, Church, 4:00 pm

March 7

-Mass, Church, 8:30 am & 10:00 am

March 8

-Quilters, Parish Offices, 9:00 am

Daily Mass, Monday-Saturday, Church, 8:00 am

ST. HELENA SCHOOL NEWS

A great big **thank you** to those that bought raffle tickets! We appreciate the support of the school with this new fundraiser. We wish you luck! Also thank you to Mary Folta & John Easley for keeping us supplied with kid-sized masks.

Mrs. Ellen Rian, ED.S
Principal

Spotlight on Middle School Social Studies

We are in full swing in middle school social studies! In 8th grade, we are currently learning about the continent of Europe. Specifically, we are touching on the European Union and all the different nations that are a part of it. In 7th grade, we are starting a brand new unit on the Gilded Age. We are diving into the Transcontinental Railroad and all of the new changes of the post Reconstruction Era. In 6th grade, we just wrapped up the Civil War unit and are just starting learning about the U.S.-Dakota War. Finally, in 5th grade, we've wrapped up our unit on the 13 colonies unit and are now starting the Revolutionary War.

Sam Hyberger
Middle School Social Studies

DISPOSING OF PALMS—Old palms may be left on the table in the Annex, (back entrance of the church) anytime between now and Palm Sunday.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE—If you or a loved one is hospitalized or have moved to an Assisted Living/LTC facility please call the office at 612-729-7344 and ask for Virginia. At this time we are unable to make visits but the Anointing of the Sick can be arranged through the Archdiocese, if it is allowed at the facility. Home visits can be discussed when you call Virginia. Your health, well being and spiritual care are important to us.

REMINDER—WHEN ATTENDING MASS—Please continue to follow all COVID protocol when attending Mass. Stay home if sick. Wash hands and use sanitizer. Wear masks. Do not remove tape that is used on the pews for any reason. Social distance. Respect one another.

WAYS TO WATCH/LISTEN TO MASS—For ways to watch or listen to Mass, visit: archspm.org/live

PRAYER CORNER

Make our lives blameless, Lord. Help us to do what is right and to speak what is true that we may dwell in your tent and find rest on your holy mountain.



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