

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

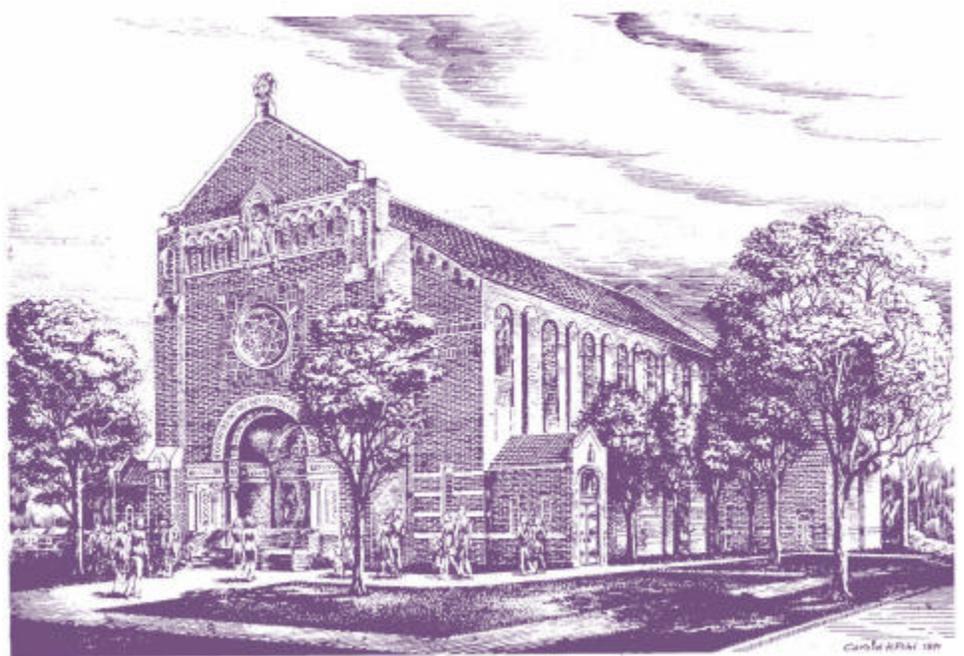
Website: www.sainthelena.us

The Church of St. Helena

Third Sunday of Lent
March 7, 2021

And to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, Zeal for your house will consume me.

-Jn 2:16-17



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THE WORD

When I attended the World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain, with approximately 1.5 to 2 million people in attendance, on the night of the vigil with Pope Benedict, we had Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Now, before this, there was a low hum of voices and noise throughout the field, but when Benediction began, a loud voice came over the public address system that exclaimed, "Silencio!"

And, the whole field of participants was silent. Amazing!

Benediction began, and Our Lord was presented in the Holy Eucharist in a magnificent, nine-foot-high monstrance. Impressive!

Why did they ask the World Youth Day participants to be silent? Probably "focus" and "respect." It was probably the same reasons why Our Lord, in Sunday's Gospel became angry with the money changers in the temple. They had allowed the temple to become a place where the Jews could not focus their attention on the Lord and consequently give Him the respect He deserves as God. Our Lord accuses the money changers of making the temple "a den of thieves."

Focus and respect are something that we Catholics need to be constantly aware of in our churches, which are greater than the temple. Our churches have our Lord Jesus present in the tabernacle, which is something the Jews did not have.

God dwelled in the temple's Holy of Holies in some manner, but in our tabernacles, Jesus, Who is God and man, our Savior, dwells really, truly, and substantially. When we enter a church, we need to focus on that reality. God, the

Creator and Redeemer of the Universe, is truly present in the person of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist reserved in the tabernacle.

Once we all focus on that reality, we should be quiet for our sake of awareness and for the respect of others who are praying in church. When there is noise, we tend to be distracted and not focus on the Lord.

The usual objection that invariably arises is music. Organs play and choirs sing preludes before Mass or postludes after Mass. Isn't this music a distraction. It can be, but it has traditionally been an aid to help worshipers pray and focus on some aspect of Our Lord. Notice that the organist and choirs are not singing just any old music, but they are singing sacred music composed to lift our minds and hearts to God. There's a difference. As the late Msgr. Richard Schuler, director of the Twin Cities Catholic Choral, used to say about such music, "Close your eyes, and let your mind soar to God."

Cardinal Robert Sarah writes in his book, *The Power of Silence*, "Without silence, we are deprived of mystery, reduced to fear, sadness, and solitude. It is time to rediscover silence! The mystery of God, his incomprehensibility, is the source of joy for every Christian." (page 126)

Instead of being "dens of thieves," our churches at times have become "dens of noise." They ought to be "dens of silence, prayer, peace, and joy."

John Sondag, Director of Religious Education

PASTOR'S REMARKS

1) Next weekend, on March 13-14, we will have the annual Global Solidarity Collection which helps our brothers and sisters in Africa, Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe and the Catholic Relief Services, which is world wide. Thank you for your support and generosity. Our primary concern is always parish support. When that is in place, our generosity goes out to others.

2) *Seek the Lord while he may be found, call him while he is near: Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked man his thoughts; Let him turn to the Lord for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving.* *Isiah 55:6-7*

CCW IS MAKING CARAMEL ROLLS!—Instead of our usual Easter Bake Sale, the St. Helena CCW will be making caramel rolls. They will be ordered online and picked up Saturday, March 27, after the retreat. Watch the bulletin for more details.

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.

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

A WORD FROM PETE KIRON, FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN—I want to thank all of you for your continued generosity as our parish is off to a strong start towards our goal of \$23,036 for our 2021 annual Catholic Services Appeal (CSA). We currently stand at \$13,145, with \$9,891 left to go in our 2021 appeal. For me, it's truly heart-warming to witness the generosity in our parish time and time again. Over the last twelve years that I've been a parishioner, I remember as Fr. Villano has reached out to the parishioners for help with items like the school parking lot, church air conditioning system and roof repairs, just to name a few, the parishioners of St. Helena always found a way to help. Now, we are called upon to help those outside of the parish, right here in our own community, through the CSA. The struggles associated with COVID-19 are real, whether they be financial, health, mental health, or just fear of the unknown. God understands this, and listens to all of us as He responds to our prayers and those in need we are trying to assist. For those of you still contemplating how much to give, remember that if we reach our goal, 50% of every dollar, after the goal amount of \$23,036 is reached, comes back to St. Helena to help with operating expenses. I thank you for your generosity and ask that you will consider helping us as we strive to exceed our goal and help others in need and St. Helena as well.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER—FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION DURING THIS TIME OF THE CORONAVIRUS:

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 SOMEONE WHO'S DYING ALONE FROM THE CORONAVIRUS OR WHO'S DYING WITHOUT THE SACRAMENTS

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

LENTEN SERIES—You are still able to register for the continuation of the six-part Lenten Series on Friday evenings: March 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 \$15.00 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.

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

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?—The Church of St. Helena has 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.

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY PARISHIONERS WHO ARE IN NEED OF HELP?—Are you aware of parishioners who might be out of work, sick and unable to work, or struggling because of financial difficulties or other problems? They 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 the needy person or family, your name and the designated families or individuals will be kept confidential.) For more information or to give the conference the names of the needy persons, please call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

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.

FRIDAY NIGHT ROSARY HAS CHANGED TO TUESDAYS DURING LENT—The Parish has a virtual Rosary on Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M. rather than Fridays during Lent, because we have Stations of the Cross in person in the church on Fridays. To log onto the Virtual Rosary, check the weekly parish update or call 612-275-0431.

YOU CAN 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.

GIFT CARDS FOR GROCERIES FOR THE NEEDY—The next time your grocery shopping, 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.

DURING THIS LENT—ENRICH YOUR 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 Lent may be a good time to deepen our reflection on Christ, His teachings, and the teachings of the Church.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES ARE CONTINUING ON WEDNESDAYS IN PERSON FOR PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS—In-person religious education classes for public school elementary and junior high students resumed on January 6, 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.

EASTER MEMORIAL GIFTS

 * If you wish to remember a loved one, we will once again *
 * welcome memorial gifts to be used for Easter flowers and *
 * general sanctuary needs. Please fill out the form below *
 * and drop it in the Sunday collection, or at the Parish Of- *
 * fice by **Noon on Monday, March 22.** *
 * *
 * Name of donor: *
 * _____ *
 * _____ *
 * _____ *
 * In Remembrance of: *
 * _____ *
 * _____ *
 * _____ *
 * Donation: \$35 _____ \$25 _____ Other _____ *
 * *



SCRIPTURE # 1034

**Ex 20:1-17
1 Cor 1:22-25
Jn 2:13-25**

MASS INTENTIONS

8:00 AM

Monday	†	Debi Elwood
Tuesday	†	Jerry Kemp
Wednesday	†	Dick Larson
Thursday		Nancy Thomas
Friday	†	Tom Lessard
Saturday		Mary Ann Sondag

SACRISTY LINENS—Adenike Ajaluwa

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

March 8: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab, Lk 4:24-30
March 9: Dn 3:25, 34-43, Mt 18:21-35
March 10: Dt 4:1, 5-9, Mt 5:17-19
March 11: Jer 7:23-28, Lk 11:14-23
March 12: Hos 14:2-10, Mk 12:28-34
March 13: Hos 6:1-6, Lk 18:9-14
March 14: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23, Eph 2:4-10,
Jn 3:14-21

PARISH CALENDAR

March 8

-Quilters, Parish Offices, 9:00 am

March 9

-Virtual Rosary, 7:00

March 10

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

March 11

-St. Vincent de Paul Mtg., Parish Offices, 6:30 pm
-Mtg. of Parents of First Holy Communicants, Rowan
Hall, 7:00 pm

March 12

-Women's Prayer Group, Church, 8:30 am
-Children's Stations of the Cross, Church, 2:45 pm
-Stations of the Cross, Church, 7:00 pm
-Lenten Series, Rowan Hall, 7:30 pm

March 13

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

March 14

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

March 15

-Quilters, Parish Offices, 9:00 am

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

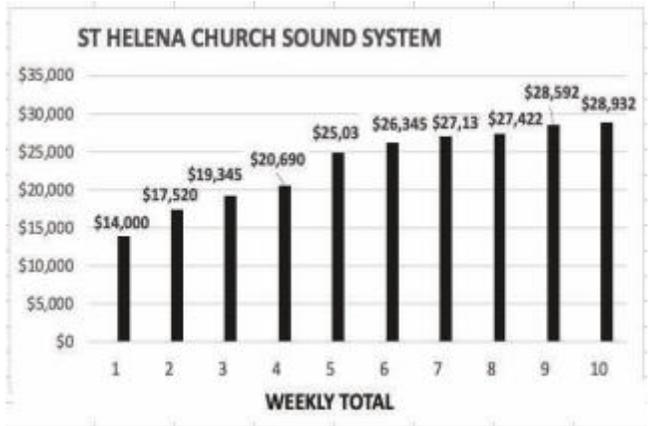
CHURCH HOURS—The handicapped door of the Church will remain open Monday to Friday, 7:30 AM to 12:00 PM. All are welcome to come and spend some time in prayer. We ask that you follow COVID protocol, wear a mask, sit in open pews only, use sanitizer and stay home if you are not feeling well. Food shelf 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.

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.

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.

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—Thank you all for your generosity! As of March 1, the parish has received \$28,932. We have yet to successfully attain the target \$30,000, needing a little more than \$1,000 to our reach our goal to adequately fund the new system. If you have yet to participate in achieving the goal, please consider 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.





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