

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

Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 14, 2021

But whoever lives the truth comes to the light,

so that his works may be clearly seen

as done in God.

-Jn 3:21



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THE WORD

As Jesus nears his time, his hour, he again speaks about his cross in today's gospel. In speaking with Nicodemus, Jesus tells us: Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes might not perish but might have eternal life...

I'm not sure how attractive the cross is for most of us. Certainly the cross of Jesus is without compromise in the story of the gospel. The story of the cross in our own lives is another matter, even as it was for the first disciples of Jesus. One of the interesting details, somewhat evident in today's gospel, is that we have to look up and outside of ourselves to discover the cross. Lifted up on the cross, Jesus tells us that we have to look up and outside of ourselves to discover the truth of the cross, in many ways to discover Jesus himself. At least in church, we have to look up and outside of ourselves to discover the cross.

St. Helena, the patroness of our parish, did not discover the cross of Jesus until she was well into her sixties, and only then did her life change dramatically. Before she went to Jerusalem to dig up the cross of Jesus, she was so impressed by the life-style of the first believers that she herself became one of them in their love for Jesus and the cross. The first believers lived a very difficult life. They were shunned by others who made life very difficult for them, and yet they were loving and helpful to one another, they were extremely poor but unafraid and courageous in their suffering because of Jesus. St Helena was so impressed by seeing how they lived the cross that she spent lots of time among them and became one of them along with her passion to go to Jerusalem to discover the cross of Jesus. She looked up and outside of herself by seeing the cross in others and what it did for them. She discovered the cross in others and it changed her life completely, even at age sixty!

Father Villano

PASTOR'S REMARKS

1) This weekend, March 13-14, is our annual Global Solidarity Collection after Holy Communion 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.

2) *Your thoughts should be wholly directed to all that is true, all that deserves respect, all that is honest, pure, admirable, decent, virtuous, or worthy of praise. Then will the God of peace be with you.*
Philippians 4:8-9

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL UPDATE FROM PETE KIRON, FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Our parish total currently stands at \$21,132.50 with \$1,903.50 left to go. For those of you still contemplating how much to give, remember that when we reach our goal of \$23,036, set by the Archdiocese, 50% of every dollar after that comes back to St Helena to help with operating expenses. As an example, if we were to raise \$33,036, we would get to keep \$5,000 of the \$10,000 above and beyond our goal of \$23,036. Any funds we keep greatly helps the parish. I thank you again 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.

BAPTISM—The parish community rejoices in the recent baptism of *William August Witt*, son of Brent Witt and Shaina Madrid and *Sophia Annette Madrid*, daughter of Pedro and Shaina Madrid. By God's gift through water and the Holy Spirit they have been gifted with everlasting life in Jesus Christ, to celebrate life in the midst of the Church. May they always be faithful members of His body.

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.

ST. HELENA COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN IS MAKING CARAMEL ROLLS!

Order and pay online from March 13—25 and pickup in Rowan Hall, in the lower level of the church, on Sat., March 27 between Noon and 4:00 P.M. Rolls are \$3 each and are packed as singles or four packs. Order at <http://bidpal.net/sainthelencaccwecaramelrolls>

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 phone number for the Archdiocesan Victim Assistance line is 651-291-4475.

 * **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 Office by *
 * **Noon on Monday, March 22.** *
 * Name of donor: *
 * _____ *
 * _____ *
 * In Remembrance of: *
 * _____ *
 * _____ *
 * Donation: \$35 _____ \$25 _____ Other _____ *
 * *****

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—Register for the continuation of the six-part Lenten Series on Friday evenings: March 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 \$10.00 for the remainder of the series. Complimentary tuition is available for those who have difficulty in paying. Participants are asked to wear masks and social distance.

SPECIAL TREAT FOR PALM SUNDAY—Because of the Covid Restrictions we cannot have the parish Bake Sale on Palm Sunday, however, the St. Helena Council of Catholic Women are baking homemade Caramel Rolls. You must order and pay for them online at: <http://bidpal.net/sainthelenaccwecaramelrolls> and they can be picked up on Saturday afternoon, March 27, from 12:00 Noon to 4:00 P.M.

LENTEN RETREAT AND CONFESSIONS—

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 27—The annual Lenten Retreat will be held in Rowan Hall on Saturday morning, March 27, from 9:00-11:30 A.M. Three different half-hour talks will be presented by Fr. John Paul Erickson at 9:00, 10:00, and 11:00. Come to all or part of the retreat. Participants are asked to wear a mask and social distance. Confessions are available for anyone, even non-participants in the retreat from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon in the church.

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?—

Please let that individual know that the Church of St. Helena offers a program that prepares people to become Catholic. It 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 John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

ARE YOU 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 from the Coronavirus 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.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH?—

The Church of St. Helena has 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.

VIRTUAL ROSARY—TUESDAY EVENINGS AT 7:00

P.M.—Pray the Rosary with parishioners on Tuesdays (during Lent) at 7:00 P.M. rather than Friday nights. Call 612-275-0431 to get the Zoom ID and Password.

BE PART OF THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE—

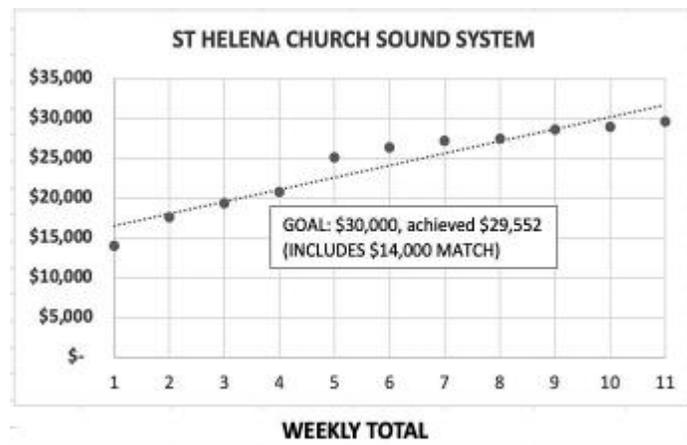
The St. Vincent de Paul Conference in the parish reaches out to individuals or families who need assistance. Conference members visit their homes to assess how they can be of service and in a very personalized and confidential way give them help. The next meeting is Thursday, March 25, 2021, at 6:30 P.M. in the Parish Offices. For more information, call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

PURCHASE A GIFT CARD FOR GROCERIES—

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 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.

FINAL FUNDRAISING: NEW SOUND SYSTEM FOR THE CHURCH—

Thank you, thank you three times thank you! Your generosity is amazing! As of March 8, the Parish has received \$29,552. Just short of the target \$30,000, yes, yet it is a testament to your dedication to fund this effort. As we raise the final \$448, know that your kindness and charity has ushered in planning and work with fixtures and equipment ordered. We will soon have a new, state of the art sound system in church. Before Easter?? God bless you.





SCRIPTURE # 1037

**2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23
Eph 2:4-10
Jn 3:14-21**

MASS INTENTIONS

8:00 AM

Monday † **Agnes Pianko**
Tuesday **For Our Bishops**
Wednesday **Joseph Gauthier**
Thursday † **Michael McGlade**
Friday † **Andrew & † Donna Pukay**
Saturday † **Richard & † Beverly Weiss**

SACRISTY LINENS—Adenike Ajaluwa

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

March 15: Is 65:17-21, Jn 4:43-54
March 16: Ez 47:1-9, 12, Jn 5:1-16
March 17: Is 49:8-15, Jn 5:17-30
March 18: Ex 32:7-14, Jn 5:31-47
March 19: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16, Rom 4:13
16-18, 22, Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a
March 20: Jer 11:18-20, Jn 7:40-53
March 21: Jer 31:31-34, Heb 5:7-9,
Jn 12:20-33

PARISH CALENDAR

March 15—March 22

March 15

-Quilters, Parish Offices, 9:00 am

March 16

March 17

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

March 18

-Mtg. of Parents of First Holy Communicants, Rowan
Hall, 7:00 pm

March 19

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

March 20

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

March 21

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

March 22

-Quilters, Parish Offices, 9:00 am

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

ST. HELENA SCHOOL NEWS

Spotlight on Middle School Science

We have had the privilege of visits from Science from Scientists in 5th Grade, who host an activity with students four times throughout the year. In our most recent visit, students constructed a miniature Rube Goldberg machine. Also in 5th Grade, students recently finished modeling a food web for Minnesota wetlands and tracing the movement of Carbon and Nitrogen in the environment.

In 6th Grade, students have recently finished a chemistry unit, including identifying isotopes, bonding sites, and predicting molecular structures from a chemical formula. We are moving on to Geology with an understanding of the different types of materials and why different materials have different properties.

In 7th Grade, we are finishing up our study of DNA and reproduction. Students recently explored implications of mutation, translated genetic code into a model of protein, and will be moving on to evidence of evolution.

In 8th Grade, we have been studying the theory of plate tectonics and tracing the effect of technology on our understanding. We are currently studying earthquakes and factors influencing their location and severity.

This year with many things being virtual, we had three students that participated in Regionals for Science Fair, and they then advanced to State. Congratulations to Harper Burns, Izzy Carlson, and Liam Murphy.

Rebecca Wratkowski
MS Science Teacher

DEEPEN YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH—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.

WOMEN OF ST. HELENA—Every Friday morning a group of women meet at Church after the 8:00 Mass 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 612-721-2504 or Shirley Balster at 612-722-8847. All are welcome.

PRAYER CORNER Lord God, you love mercy and tenderness; you give life and overcome death. Look upon the many wounds of your church; restore it to health by your risen Son, so that it may sing a new song in your praise



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