

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

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

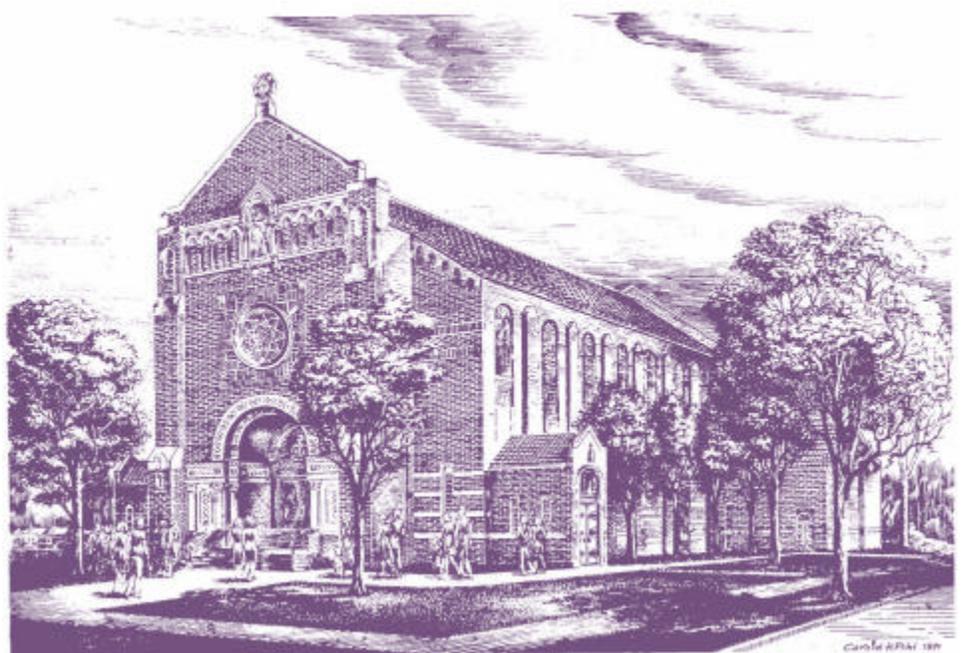
The Church of St. Helena

**Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 21, 2021**

“And when I am lifted up from the earth,

I will draw everyone to myself.”

-Jn 12:32



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THE WORD

When I was in grade school, I used to go door-to-door selling vegetable and flower seeds in the spring of the year to win prizes. Being from a small, rural village, the townsfolk were rather receptive to purchasing the packet of seeds. It was a lucrative enterprise.

In a few weeks, many people in Minnesota will be thinking—notice I didn't say planting—about their gardens and maybe even ordering seeds for their gardens. Our Lord in this Sunday's Gospel for the Fifth Sunday of Lent talks about seeds (grain of wheat) in a way that's quite appropriate for Lent. He says, "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat, but if it dies, it produces much fruit."

Death to self is what our Lord is talking about, and penance during Lent is usually just that—death to self. Now, I'm not opposed to the penances of giving up candy, alcohol, or meat, because they are sacrifices which can be united to the suffering and death of our Lord. And these sacrifices can strengthen our will-power and bring about self-mastery. However, many times, the really challenging sacrifices are giving up the habits of sin which keep us from doing good and developing virtues.

For instance, if I'm habitually dishonest (that's called a vice), I'm not telling the truth. And, to cease lying is a

death to self, because maybe I'm not going to get the attention that I normally get when I'm fabricating stories. But, that death to self will produce a greater good, one of the greatest goods: the truth.

Or, take a person who is greedy. That person is hardly able to love the poor because he is locked-in on himself and constantly worried about possessing more wealth. He needs to develop the virtue of generosity.

Or, the person whose heart is full of lust and unable to control his thoughts, words, desires or actions. That individual again does not treat others as persons with dignity, but as objects of his or her own selfish pleasures. That person needs to work on the virtue of chastity.

Lent is a time to turn these selfish sins and vices around so that we can become a virtuous person. Those virtues will be the rich harvest of happiness for others and one's own self, because virtue is a disposition that enables us to attain and love that which is true, good, and beautiful. That's what can bring us happiness, but the ultimate source of all truth, goodness, and beauty is God, the One Who will provide eternal happiness.

John Sondag

Director of Religious Education

PASTOR'S REMARKS

1) This Saturday, March 27, we will have our parish Lenten Retreat to prepare us for our celebration of Easter. Father John Paul Erickson will speak in Rowan Hall at 9:00, 10:00, and 11:00 A.M. Visiting priests will be available in the church for individual confessions from 9:00 A.M.—Noon. It is the final opportunity for confessions before Easter here at St. Helena. If you haven't been to confession this past year, you should try to take advantage of this opportunity.

2) Looking ahead, Holy Week is the following week. On Holy Thursday, our parish liturgy will be at 7:00 P.M., and the church will be open for private prayer and devotion until midnight. On Good Friday, our parish liturgy is at 3:00 P.M. and Stations of the Cross at 7:00 P.M. And on Holy Saturday, our parish liturgy is at 8:00 P.M., (note time change) for the Easter Vigil. On Easter Sunday our parish Masses are at 8:30 and 10:00 A.M. Please note that there are no morning Masses on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, and that there are no confessions scheduled for Holy Saturday. The Parish Offices will be closed on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

3) *No one makes a fool of God! A man will reap only what he sows. If he sows in the field of the flesh, he will reap a harvest of corruption: but if his seed-ground is the spirit, he will reap everlasting life.*

Galatians 6:7-8

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL UPDATE FROM PETE KIRON, FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN—Our parish currently stands at \$28,252.50 (122.64% of our goal which was \$23,036). For those of you who have yet to finalize your pledge please try and do so this week. As we wrap up the Catholic Services Appeal for this year, I want to thank everyone for their generosity. Your donations will help many in need throughout the diocese and in our parish. With Easter near, and spring knocking on our door, I hope that all of you have a healthy and happy Easter.

HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR CARAMEL ROLLS YET? St. Helena CCW ladies are making caramel rolls to be picked up after the retreat on Sat., March 27. 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 12:00 noon and 4:00 P.M.. Rolls are \$3 each and are packed as singles or four packs. Order at <http://bidpal.net/sainthelenaccwcaramelrolls>

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.

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.

COME AND 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.

LENTEN SERIES—Come to the final lecture of the six-part Lenten Series on Friday, March 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 and how they witness to Mary, the Mother of God and Mother of the Church. The tuition is \$5.00. Complimentary tuition is available for those who have difficulty in paying. Participants are asked to wear masks and social distance.

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, pastor of Transfiguration Church in Oakdale, Minnesota, at 9:00, 10:00, and 11:00. Come to all or part of the retreat. (There is no charge). 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.

NEXT SATURDAY AFTERNOON—PICK UP CARAMEL ROLLS—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/sainthelenaccwcaramelrolls> and they are to be picked up on Saturday afternoon, March 27, from 12:00 Noon to 4:00 P.M.

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 this Thursday, March 25, 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.

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.

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.

WAYS TO WATCH/LISTEN TO MASS—

For ways to watch or listen to Mass, visit: archspm.org/live



SCRIPTURE # 1040

Jer 31:31-34
Heb 5:7-9
Jn 12:20-33

MASS INTENTIONS

8:00 AM

Monday	Grace Gauthier
Tuesday	LaMont Wood
Wednesday	Sister Annuntia Koller
Thursday	† Betty Polunc
Friday	† Rocco Villano
Saturday	† Patricia Stoick

SACRISTY LINENS—Adenike Ajaluwa

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

March 22: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 , Jn 8:1-11
March 23: Nm 21:4-9, Jn 8:21-30
March 24: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95, Jn 8:31-42
March 25: Is 7:10-14; 8:10, Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
March 26: Jer 20:10-13, Jn 10:31-42
March 27: Ez 37:21-28, Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13,
Jn 11:45-56
March 28: Mk 11:1-10 , Phil 2:6-11, Mk 14:1—15:47

PARISH CALENDAR

March 22

-Quilters, Parish Offices, 9:00 am
-Multi-Parish Festival Mtg., Rowan Hall, 7:30 pm

March 23

-Virtual Rosary, 7:00 pm

March 24

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

March 25

-St. Vincent de Paul Mtg., Parish Offices, 6:30 pm
-Autumn Daze Festival Mtg., Parish Offices, 7:30 pm

March 26

-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 27

-Lenten Retreat, RH, 9:00–11:30 am
-Confessions, Church, 9:00–12 Noon
-CCW Caramel Rolls Pick-up, Rowan Hall,
Noon-4:00 pm
-Mass, Church, 4:00 pm

March 28

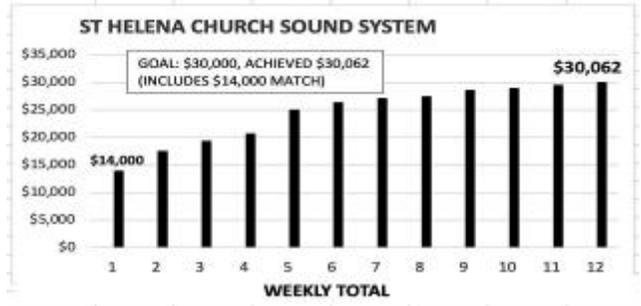
-Mass, Church, 8:30 am & 10:00 am

March 29

-Quilters, Parish Offices, 9:00 am

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

GOAL REACH! NEW SOUND SYSTEM FOR THE CHURCH!—Well, we went and did it. We exceeded the goal of \$30,000! As of March 15th, we are officially at \$30,062, concluding the formal fundraising campaign dedicated to the new sound system. Your kindness and charity is amazing. Look for work on the sound system to commence the week starting Monday, 22 March. If all goes well, we could have a new, state of the art sound system in time for our Easter celebration. St. Helena benefactors are terrific! Thank you, and God bless you.



EASTER GREETINGS TO SENIORS AND HOMEBOUND—The St. Vincent de Paul Conference is looking for people who will make Easter greeting telephone calls to Seniors and Homebound parishioners followed up by a gift delivered to their doorsteps during Holy Week and Easter Week. If you are interested in volunteering, call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

FOOD SHELF—Thank you all for your care and generosity for those in need. It's heart warming to see all the donations coming in weekly. Please continue to bring rice, pasta, oatmeal, canned goods, cereal, peanut butter and jelly. Cake mixes and cans of frosting can be fun items for families wanting to celebrate their loved ones, along with muffin and cookie mixes. *“ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Cor. 9:7*

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 _____



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