

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

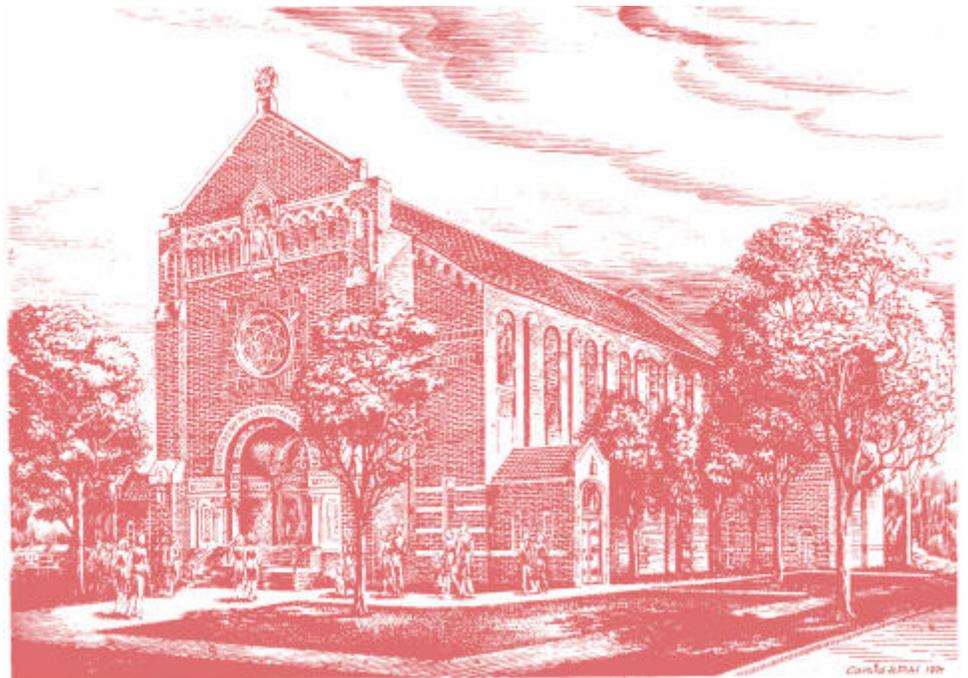
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The Church of St. Helena

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of The Lord
March 28, 2021**

*So they brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over
it. And he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the
road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut
from the fields.*

-Mk 11:7-8



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THE WORD

This Sunday before Holy Week is not an easy Sunday for those of us who go to church. On one hand, it used to be simply called Palm Sunday, celebrating the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem and his being welcomed by the great crowds who looked upon him as the Messiah. People waved palms in jubilation and chanted the hosannas of fulfillment and approval. Palm Sunday became a strong tradition in the church along with the blessing of palms and the distribution of palms for our homes. It still is, in many ways, Palm Sunday to many of us. I don't remember when, but in recent times, the gospel reading of the Lord's passion and death on the cross was incorporated into the Mass and the Sunday became known as Passion Sunday. The outcome is that now we have Passion (Palm) Sunday, and the contrast is not easy to manage; the welcoming of Jesus and the rejection of Jesus, the joy and the sorrow, the hope and the despair, the crowds and the few, the "hosannas" and the crucify him," the jubilation and the violence.

Each of us will probably hear the stories in different ways and keep them in memory, not only for Holy Week but also in our daily living of the gospel life. The thing that makes the difference for us, as it did for the first disciples of Jesus,

is the resurrection of Jesus, the risen Jesus, who transforms death into life, despair into hope, sorrow into joy, rejection into acceptance, violence into peace, condemnation into mercy, hatred into love. We can't get through Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday without a vision of the resurrection of Jesus and the presence of the risen Jesus in our lives.

I don't know if you have even noticed it, but the elements of Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday are present to us whenever we come to Holy Mass. The holy, holy, holy, recalls the welcoming of Jesus on Palm Sunday: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. The cross, the passion, the crucifixion, the sacrifice of Jesus is made present: this is my body... This is the chalice of my blood... We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection, until you come again. And then we have holy communion with the risen Jesus, who transforms our lives as he transformed the lives of those before us: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the lamb.

Father Villano

PASTOR'S REMARKS

1) Our observance for Holy Week: On **Holy Thursday, April 1**, our parish liturgy is at 7:00 P.M. On **Good Friday, April 2**, our liturgy is at 3:00 P.M. For those who are unable to make it, we will have Stations of the Cross and Veneration of the Cross at 7:00 P.M. On **Holy Saturday, April 3, the Easter Vigil will be at 8:00 P.M.** (Note time change). It is the first Mass of our Easter celebration. **There are no morning Masses (8:00 A.M.) on these days, and there is no 4:00 P.M. Mass or Confessions on Holy Saturday.**

2) Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence for people of age and condition. Doing some kind of penance is clearly part of the gospel message and when it is connected with helping others, especially the poor, it is a blessing for oneself and for others.

3) The Parish Offices will be closed on Holy Thursday and remain closed until Monday, April 5. Our parish school will not be in session on Good Friday, and will be on Spring Break beginning April 5, with school resuming on April 12.

4) Our parish Masses on Easter Sunday, April 4, will be at 8:30 and 10:00 A.M. It is the great Holy Day of the year which is the source of Sunday observance. For us, there is no cross without the resurrection, and there is no resurrection without the cross. Happy Easter.

5) *But God is rich in mercy and because of his great love for us he brought us to life with Christ when we were dead in sin. By this favor you were saved. Both with and in Christ Jesus he raised us up and gave us a place in the heavens.*

Ephesians 2:4-6

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL UPDATE—The total amount of gifts and pledges we have received is \$28,692.50 which is 124.56% of our goal, which is \$23,036. Congratulations and thanks much for your generosity. You can still make a pledge or donation for the work of the Archdiocese. Envelopes are still in the pews.

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.

CATHOLICS AT THE CAPITOL: ON MISSION FOR LIFE & DIGNITY—Thursday, April 15, 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. at the Cathedral of Saint Paul, 239 Selby Ave., St. Paul. Join Minnesota Catholics statewide online or in-person on mission to defend life and dignity at the Capitol. Be formed in the faith through Mass. Be informed on the issues by speakers such as internationally renowned champion for life Obianuju Ekeocha, the Archbishop Jose Gomez, USCCB President and Archbishop of Los Angeles. Cost \$20 in-person, \$10 online. Visit: CatholicsAtTheCapitol.org for details & tickets. Registration closes March 31.

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

DISPOSING OF PALMS—Old palms may be left on the table in the Annex, (back entrance of the church).

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.

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, April 8, at 6:30 P.M. in the Parish Offices. For more information, call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

ENRICH YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH—Purchase and listen 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 ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS—

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.

SPREAD THE JOY AT EASTER 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 (already purchased) 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

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.

22ND ANNUAL "LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS"—

Friday, April 2, 10:00 A.M., Church of St. Peter, North St. Paul, and on Friday, April 2, 6:00 P.M. at Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Maplewood. The "Servants of the Cross" group will re-enact the Passion of Jesus Christ on Good Friday. Limited seating and reservations required. If homebound/unable to attend, join us via our YouTube presentation. Free-will offering. For more information or to sign-up go to: servantofthecrossmn.com.

HELP FOR STRUGGLING COUPLES—

April 9–11, Best Western Hotel, Eagan. Marriage Help: Thinking about Separation or Divorce? Hurting? Angry? Feel helpless? Retrouvaille is a lifeline for troubled marriages. Couples learn the tools to rediscover each other and heal their marriage. 100% confidential. \$250 registration fee. helpourmarriage.org

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING (NFP)—

Classes teach couples the Church approved methods on how to achieve or postpone pregnancy while embracing the beauty of God's gift of sexuality. For a complete list of classes offered throughout the Archdiocese, please visit: archspm.org/family or call 651-291-4489.



SCRIPTURE # 1042

Is 50:4-7
Phil 2:6-11
Mk 14:1—15:47

MASS INTENTIONS

8:00 AM

Monday	† Rita Gaertner
Tuesday	† Roger McInerny, Jr.
Wednesday	Jane Lardy-Nelson
Thursday	† <i>Holy Thursday</i>
Friday	† <i>Good Friday</i>
Saturday	† <i>Holy Saturday</i>

SACRISTY LINENS—Adenike Ajaluwa

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mar 29 Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11
Mar 30 Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
Mar 31 Is 50:4-9a; Mt 26:14-25
April 1 Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Cor 11:23-26;
Jn 13:1-15
April 2 Is 52:13–53:12; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9;
Jn 18:1– 9:42
April 3 Ex 14:15–15:1; Rom 6:3–11; Mk 16:1–7
April 4 Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9

PARISH CALENDAR

March 29

-Quilters, Parish Offices, 9:00 am

March 30

-Virtual Rosary, 7:00 pm

March 31

-Religious Education Program, Rowan Hall, 6:45 pm

-Confirmation Program, Parish Offices, 6:45 pm

-Quilters, Parish Offices, 6:15 pm

April 1 - Parish Offices Closed

-Holy Thursday Mass, 7:00 pm

April 2 - Parish Offices Closed

-School Closed

-Good Friday Liturgy, 3:00 pm

-Stations & Veneration of the Cross, Church, 7:00 pm

April 3

-Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass, Church, 8:00 pm

April 4

Easter Sunday Mass, Church, 8:30 am & 10:00 am

April 5

-Quilters, Parish Offices, 9:00 am

-No School—Spring Break

Holy Week: 8:00 am Mass, Church, Monday-Wednesday

COR JESU—Please join us on Friday, April 9, 8:00 P.M., for a virtual event to adore the Lord and be together in prayer, praise and worship at [facebook.com/ASPMVocations](https://www.facebook.com/ASPMVocations). The Saint Paul Seminary Class of 2020 alumnus and recently ordained priest, Father Paul Hedman, will preside. Please send prayer requests to stpaulvocations@10000vocations.org or call the Office of Vocations at 651-962-6890. The Cor Team will pray for your intentions!

BETHANY HOUSE SUMMER PROGRAM—June 12 through August 7, 2021—currently accepting applications! Bethany House is a place, set apart, with an environment of support and encouragement for Catholic women as they intentionally discern consecrated life. The women live in community, pray together, have meals together, host Religious Sisters and participate in a discernment book study during the program. For more information and to request an application, visit: 10000vocations.org

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.

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.

WOMEN OF ST. HELENA—Every Friday morning a group of women meet at Church after the 8:00 Mass for quiet time, and prayer. 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 and encouraged to come and share the blessings of praying with women of varied ages.

DEACON DISCERNMENT DAY—Tuesday, March 30, 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at The Saint Paul Seminary. Please join us for a day set apart for men and their wives, if applicable, to learn more about the permanent diaconate vocation in this archdiocese. The day begins with Liturgy of the Hours Morning Prayer with current candidates in formation followed by four presentations, including lunch, and concludes with a 4:00 P.M. Vigil Mass with the Saint Paul Seminary Rector, Fr. Joseph Taphorn. Registration required (no cost) at semssp.org/idf. If you have questions, please contact Deacon Bob Bisciglia, 651-962-5782 or bobbisciglia@stthomas.edu

PRAYER CORNER

We know that your rulings are just ones, Lord, and so we ask for your mercy; treat us gently, and we will not be put to shame.



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