

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

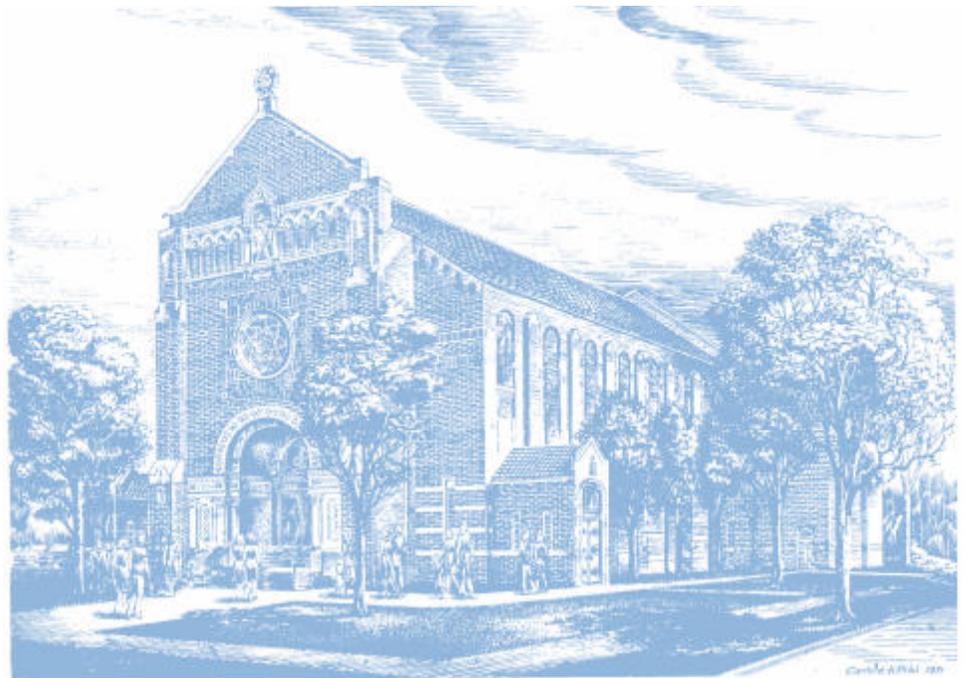
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The Church of St. Helena

**Easter Sunday
of the Resurrection of the Lord
April 4, 2021**

Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

-Jn 20:8-9



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THE WORD

How do we know that the Resurrection account is not just a myth or story that the early Church made up or that it was not a group hallucination of the Apostles? Well, we have the Scripture accounts which are quite reliable, but they, too, could have been made up by the early Church. Isn't there some supporting evidence for the four Gospels and the Epistles?

Actually, there is the witness of the Apostles by their lives after the Resurrection. St. John Chrysostom (lived 347-407) wrote about this: "How could twelve uneducated men, who lived on lakes and rivers and wastelands, conceive the idea for such an immense enterprise [of spreading the Gospel worldwide]? How could men who perhaps had never been in a city or a public square think of setting out to do battle with the whole world? That they were fearful, timid men, the evangelist makes clear; he did not reject the fact or try to hide their weaknesses. Indeed he turned these into a proof of the truth. What did he say of them? That when Christ was arrested, the others fled, despite all the miracles they had seen, while Peter, who was leader of the others denied him.

"How then do we account for the fact that these men, who in Christ's lifetime did not stand up to the attacks by the Jews, set forth to do battle with the whole world once Christ was dead—if, as you claim, Christ did not rise and speak to them and rouse their courage? Did they perhaps say to themselves: 'What is this? He could not save Himself but He will protect us? He did not help Himself when He was alive, but now that He is dead He will extend a helping hand to us? In His lifetime He brought no nation

under His Banner, but by uttering His name we will win over the whole world?' Would it not be wholly irrational even to think such thoughts, much less to act upon them?"

"It is evident, then, that if they had not seen Him risen and had proof of His power, they would not have risked so much." (Hom. 4, 3.4: PG 61, 34-36) In point of fact, it is held that every Apostle, except St. John, was martyred, and he was miraculously spared death even though persecutors tried to boil him in oil.

Of course, the Resurrection takes faith on our part, as it did on the part of the Apostles. That means believing Jesus that He rose from the dead. And, the power or ability to accept the fact that He rose is a grace, a gift from the Lord. We need to get down on our knees and say, "Yes, Lord, I believe. I have these reliable witnesses and reasonable arguments to point my nose in the right direction, but Lord, I believe You and what You said that You rose from the dead. I believe. I believe. I believe."

Now, we can confidently live with a sense of purpose, because we know that our bodies, too, will rise from the dead at the Second Coming and be re-united with our souls. Death has no power over us. Sin and the devil have been conquered. The ultimate meaning of life is presented to the world by the One Who has lovingly died for us, and He waits for our love in return.

We can sound the trumpet and sing our "Alleluias" "This is the day the Lord has made!"

John Sondag, Director of Religious Education

PASTOR'S REMARKS

1) Most of the time when we think of blessings, we think of the persons and things in our lives and in our world. We are grateful for family and friends, home and shelter, food, clothes, work, opportunities, health, good weather, good times, adequate resources, the peace, love, and joy we experience almost on a daily basis. Without minimizing the many gifts – blessings in our lives and in the world. Easter invites us to recognize the real blessing in our lives, the gift of Jesus, who gives us a vision and purpose far beyond the limitations of this world. Because of Jesus we have the forgiveness of our sins and the promise of everlasting life. Because of Jesus we have been made one with God, restored as his children by the gift of the Paraclete, our Advocate, the Holy Spirit. Because of Jesus we have the new life given to each of us in the holy sacraments. Easter can and should change our ideas of blessings, and it begins and ends with the gift of Jesus, who lives for ever. Amen. Happy Easter to all of you.

2) *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.* Eph 2:4-6

ACADEMY OF HOLY ANGELS SUMMER CAMPS—AHA is excited to be hosting our annual Summer Experience Camps again this June for students entering grades 3-9. The camps cost \$90 and each student will receive their own Summer Experience t-shirt. Space is limited so register today. Visit www.ahastars.org to register and view camp descriptions. We can't wait to see you this summer!

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.

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.

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—FRIDAY EVENINGS AT 7:00 P.M.

—Pray the Rosary with parishioners on Fridays at 7:00 P.M. rather than Tuesday 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, April 8, 2021, at 6:30 P.M. in the Parish Offices. For more information, call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

LEARN MORE ABOUT 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.

AUTUMN DAZE FESTIVAL—SEPTEMBER 17, 18, & 19

—We're already planning this year's "Autumn Daze" Festival, and we're planning a full-scale festival with rides, entertainment, food, games, parade, auction, quilt bingo,—the whole grand "shebang." We figure it's easier to scale back at the last minute because of restrictions than to ramp up in a week. So, volunteer, sign-up, and plan to have one of the greatest festivals ever. Can't you just taste those roast beef sandwiches?

WAYS TO WATCH/LISTEN TO MASS

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

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.

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

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.

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.



SCRIPTURE # 1079

**Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Col 3:1-4
Jn 20:1-9**

MASS INTENTIONS

8:00 AM

Monday	† John McGlade
Tuesday	† Ellen Carvatt
Wednesday	† Catherine Bitzan
Thursday	Bobby Lindholm
Friday	† Ralph Douglass
Saturday	† Jerry Kemp

SACRISTY LINENS—Mary DeLuney

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

April 5: Acts 2:14, 22-33, Mt 28:8-15
April 6: Acts 2:36-41, Jn 20:11-18
April 7: Acts 3:1-10, Lk 24:13-35
April 8: Acts 3:11-26, Lk 24:35-48
April 9: Acts 4:1-12, Jn 21:1-14
April 10: Acts 4:13-21, Mk 16:9-15
April 11: Acts 4:32-35, 1 Jn 5:1-6, Jn 20:19-3

PARISH CALENDAR

April 5—April 12

April 5

-Quilters, Parish Offices, 9:00 am

April 6

April 7

--Quilters, Parish Offices, 6:15 pm

April 8

-St. Vincent de Paul Mtg., Parish Offices, 6:30 pm

April 9

-Women's Prayer Group, Church, 8:30 am

-Virtual Rosary, 7:00 pm

April 10

-Confession, Church, 3:00 pm

-Mass, Church, 4:00 pm

April 11

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

April 12

-School Resumes

-Quilters, Parish Offices, 9:00 am

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

LOOKING AHEAD:

- First Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, May 2, at the 10:00 Mass.
- Confirmation will be celebrated on Sunday, May 16, at the 10:00 Mass.
- Mother's Day is Sunday, May 9
- The Ascension of the Lord, May 16
- Pentecost Sunday is May 23
- Memorial Day Observed is May 31

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.

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. 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!

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.

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.

PRAYER CORNER

Lord God, open our mouths to proclaim your glory. Help us to leave sin behind and to rejoice in professing your name.



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