

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

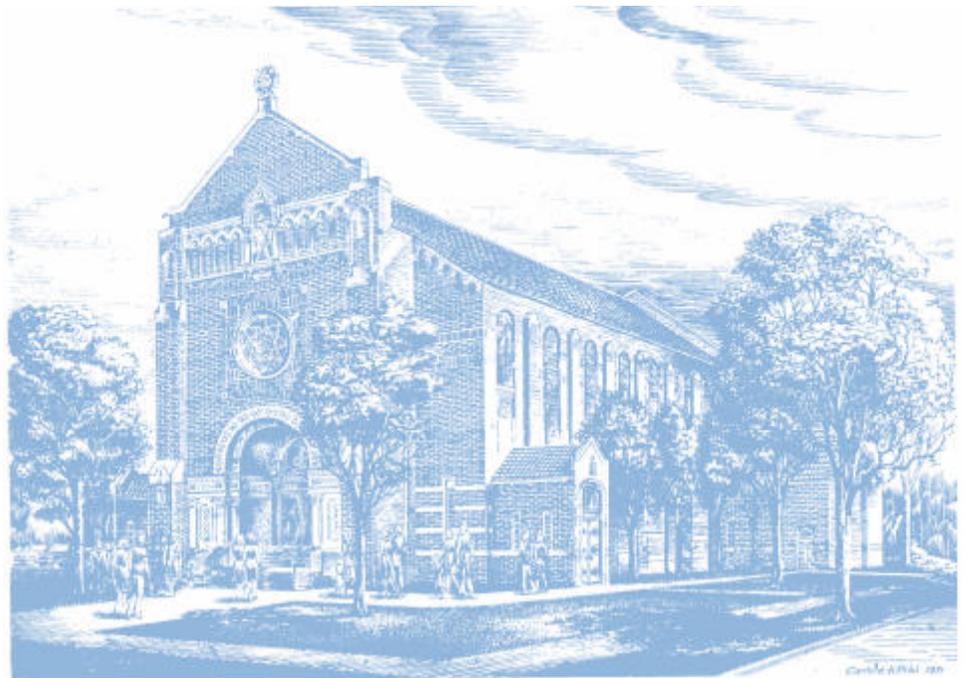
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The Church of St. Helena

The Ascension of the Lord
May 16, 2021

*Jesus said to his disciples, "Go into the whole world
and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever
believes and is baptized will be saved."*

-Mk 16:15-16A



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THE WORD

Our faith in Jesus opens up a whole new world to us. It is not only the source of our hope, but also the foundation of our love for God and for others. We are still within the Easter celebration, the Paschal Mystery, as it is often called, the celebration of the Lord's death and resurrection, which conquers sin and death in our lives, his return to the Father in glory, and the sending of the Holy Spirit. I suspect that most people think of Easter as the celebration the Lord's death and resurrection, but Easter is incomplete without the Ascension of Jesus and the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. We can't think of Easter without the recognition of Pentecost. It has implications for us all.

One of the special things about the Ascension of Jesus is that it opens up a whole new world for us. It brings together earth and heaven. It connects the seen with the unseen. We get a sense of the beyond and the near, the away but here. He is gone but present. He is close to us but far away. He is with us but absent. He makes his dwelling among us but reigns in heaven. The Ascension is the reason for the gift of the Church in our lives, and through the Church, each of the seven holy sacraments. Heaven and earth come together in the Church, and the seen is connected with the

unseen in each of the holy sacraments.

The other interesting thing about the Ascension is that before he leaves, Jesus gives his disciples, those who have placed their faith, hope, and love in him, a job to do: you will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth. Usually when we think of witnesses, we think of someone who testifies to the truth in our courts. That may happen, but the more basic meaning of being a witness is in the way we pray, speak, and serve. It's a matter of taking seriously our baptismal anointing to be like Christ or priest, prophet, and king. We witness to Christ when we worship and pray with Jesus at Holy Mass. We witness to Christ whenever and however we become the mouthpiece of God in our world. And we witness to Christ whenever we open our arms, hands, and heart in the service of others, not unlike Jesus, who stretched out his arms on the cross in sacrifice for all of us.

Easter is not complete without the Ascension and the Ascension finds its completion in Pentecost.

Father Villano

PASTOR'S REMARKS

1) Our congratulations to the young people of our parish who will receive the sacrament of Confirmation this Sunday, May 16, at our 10:00 Mass. They will be sealed, anointed, marked with the gift of the Holy Spirit, to be witnesses and messengers of Jesus to the world and in the Church, each in their own special way. The Holy Spirit is given to complete in us the work of Jesus, and establish us as the children of God, our Father. Our congratulations and best wishes to: *Grace Agort, Damara Arocho, Marcus Bonifas, Mary Jane Bright, Annika Clift, Emilio Diaz, Eduard Held, Diana Hernandez, Ava Herkenhoff, Kristine Herrera Sanchez, Maria Martinson, Joshnel Mendoza, Alexander Meyer, William Murphy, Gerardito Ontiveros Castillo, Jane Reinhardt, Yohany Rocano, Angelina Ruiz Sanchez.*

2) *"Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."* John 15:13

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

UPDATED COVID PROTOCOL—As of Friday, May 28, 2021 there will no longer be any need to maintain six feet of social distancing at all indoor gatherings. Masks are still required at this time. Please wash hands, use sanitizer and

stay home if you are not feeling well. Still remaining for local Catholics, however, is the temporary dispensation of the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday. Please be respectful of one another as we navigate through these changes.

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.

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, as we sometimes cancel due to weather. All are welcome and encouraged to come and share the blessings of praying with women of varied ages.

VOLUNTEER WEEKEND—"AUTUMN DAZE" FESTIVAL—Next weekend, May 22 and 23, is Volunteer Weekend for the "Autumn Daze" Festival scheduled for September 17, 18, and 19. You may sign up for Children's Games, Games of Skill, Games of Chance, Food Booths, Auction, Baskets, Miscellaneous Booths, Bingo, Set-Up and Clean-Up, Decorations, and much more. Even if you are going to be gone on that weekend, we need many volunteers to help with projects for the festival which take place before and after the event. Questions: call 612-275-0431.

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR A FULL-SCALE "AUTUMN DAZE" FESTIVAL—SEPTEMBER 17, 18, & 19—

Mark your calendar for the Autumn Daze Festival on September 17, 18, and 19. We're planning a full-scale festival with rides, entertainment, food, games, parade, auction, quilt bingo,—the whole grand works! 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 caramel rolls or those malted shakes?

ARE YOU ARTISTIC?—You can win prizes in the Button Logo Contest for the 2021 "Autumn Daze." See the contest entrance blank in the bulletin or call 612-275-0431 for a set of rules. Adults and children can enter.

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. 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, May 27, 2021, at 6:30 P.M. in the Parish Offices. For more information, call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

VACATION RELIGION PROGRAM FOR GRADE SCHOOL CHILDREN—JULY 12 TO 16—

Parents of children who are entering kindergarten through eighth grade can register them for the annual Vacation Religion Program in Rowan Hall scheduled for Monday, July 12, to Friday, July 16, from 8:30 to 11:30 A.M. The program will include prayer, instructional time, group activities and projects, Scripture, stories of saints, songs, drama, prizes, and more. There will also be a short recreation period each morning, and there will be refreshments for students each day. The charge is only \$20 per child or \$50 per family, however, no child will be deprived of this program because of finances. The Missionaries of Charity (the Sisters of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta), Mrs. Ruth Caron and Mrs. Mary DeLuney will again be helping us for this program. Covid-19 protocols will be followed. To register or to receive more information, call John Sondag (612-275-0431).

GO SHOPPING AT THE SUMMER FESTIVAL SALE—

Go to www.sainthelena.us and click on Summer Festival Sale to discover many household items, furniture, toys, and more being sold by Autumn Daze.

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 enter the relaxing summer months, this may be a good time to deepen our reflection on Christ, His teachings, and the teachings of the Church.

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, visit archspm.org/family or call 651-291-4489.

ARCHDIOCESAN PENTECOST VIGIL MASS—

Saturday, May 22, 6:00 P.M. at St. Bonaventure Catholic Church in Bloomington. Join Archbishop Hebda, Bishop Cozzens and the charismatic groups of the Archdiocese at this special Mass, which marks the beginning of Year 3 of the Archdiocesan Synod process. Mass will be held outdoors. Please bring your own chair or blanket.

**"AUTUMN DAZE" FESTIVAL
SEPTEMBER 17, 18 & 19, 2021**



SCRIPTURE # 1094

**Acts 1:1-11
Eph 1:17-23
Mk 16:15-20**

MASS INTENTIONS

8:00 AM

Monday	† Duane Stoick
Tuesday	† Patricia Stoick
Wednesday	† Gary Neunsinger
Thursday	† John Garman
Friday	† Dorothy Fleming
Saturday	† Dick Larson

SACRISTY LINENS— Ann Holleschau

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

May 17: *May 18:* Acts 19:1-8, Jn 16:29-33
May 18: Acts 20:17-27, Jn 17:1-11a
May 19: Acts 20:28-38, Jn 17:11b-19
May 20: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11, Jn 17:20-26
May 21: Acts 25:13b-21, Jn 21:15-19
May 22: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31, Jn 21:20-25
May 23: Gn 11:1-9 , Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39

PARISH CALENDAR

May 17—May 24

May 17

-Quilters, Parish Offices, 9:00 am

May 18

May 19

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

May 20

May 21

-Women's Prayer Group, Church, 8:30 am
-Virtual Rosary, 7:00 pm

May 22

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

May 23

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

May 24

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

ST. HELENA SCHOOL NEWS

Spotlight on Second Grade

Second Grade students are continuing to advance in their phonics and reading skills. They are more frequently writing in cursive and are continuing to practice their spelling skills. They have learned to divide words into syllables and read them correctly. They have read and discussed many different genres and continue to learn about their structures in detail. Students are distinguishing between verbs and adverbs and practice with them along with other grammar. In math, students are continuing to practice with addition and subtraction, counting money, telling time, graphs, and solving word problems. They are practicing measurement with centimeters, meters, inches, feet, and yards. We are soon beginning multiplication practice. In science, students have learned about weather, plants, animals, and environments. In Social Studies, students have learned about family trees, cultures, the 50 states, landforms, and countries.

Our highlight of the year was the children's first Confession and Holy Communion. They are so excited to attend Mass every Sunday to continue to receive Jesus. They continue to be enthusiastic to learn more about our beautiful Catholic faith and ask many questions. They are growing in their prayer lives and continue to memorize the Mass prayers and other prayers

Ms. Ruth Caron
Second Grade Teacher

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.

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

PRAYER CORNER

God, our help and deliverer, do not abandon us among the many temptations of life, but deliver us from evil and turn our tears and struggles into joy.



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