

## Parish Staff

*Parochial Administrator*  
Rev. Michael Daly 729-7344

*Director of Pastoral Care*

*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*  
Jane Hileman 729-9301

*Parish Secretaries*  
Elaine Bruce 729-7344  
Polly Millea 729-7344

*Business Manager*  
Lisa MacKenzie 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.

## Sacrament of Penance

*Monday—Saturday* 8:30—9:00 A.M.  
*Saturday* 3:00—3:30 P.M.

## Advent Adoration

*Monday—Friday*  
9:00 A.M.—9:00 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](mailto:church@sainthelena.us)

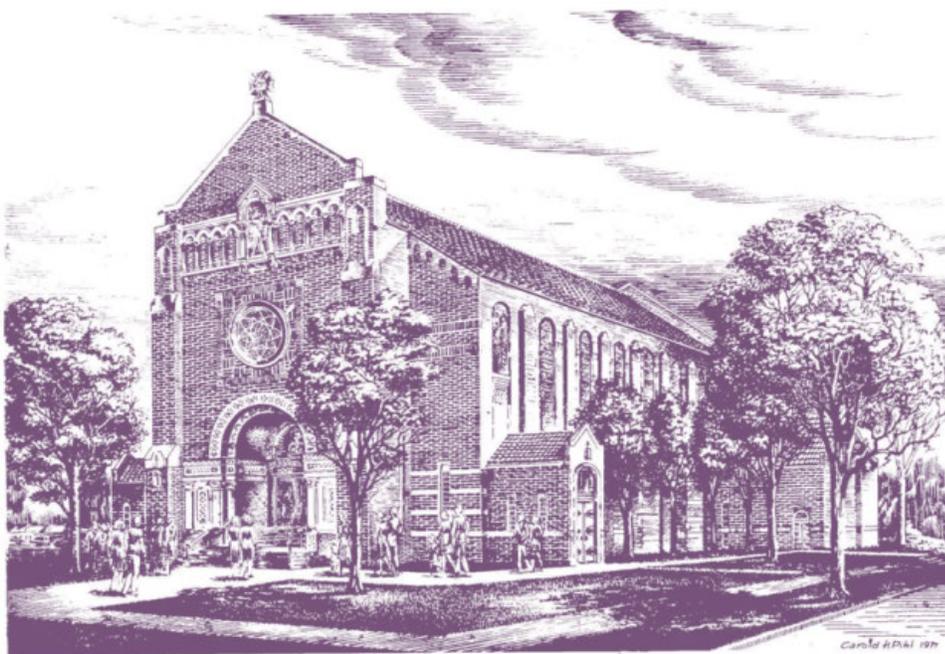
**Website:** [www.sainthelena.us](http://www.sainthelena.us)

# The Church of St. Helena

Second Sunday of Advent  
December 5, 2021

*“Every valley shall be filled and every  
mountain and hill shall be made low. The  
winding roads shall be made straight, and the  
rough ways made smooth, and all the flesh  
shall see the salvation of God.”*

-Lk 3:5-6



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## THE WORD

It doesn't take a chemist to know that oil and water do not mix, just as it doesn't take a theologian to know that sin and holiness do not mix. That's why to be in the presence of God, the Holy One, in Heaven, sin or attachment to sin is not possible.

In fact, to put it another way, St. Thomas Aquinas defines sin as a deprivation of the good, and since God is pure Goodness, it's impossible for sin and goodness to co-exist.

That's why the Church presents St. John the Baptist to us in the Gospel of the Second Sunday of Advent. He preaches repentance of sin while we are preparing for the Coming our Savior at Christmas, for His Coming now in the Church and the sacraments, and for His Coming at the end of the world. The Church wants us to be prepared for His arrival which means that we ought to rid our lives of sin and attachments to sin.

Of course, when purifying our life of sins, we start with the big ones first. These are the ones that cause death to the relationship we have with God. That's why they're called "mortal sins."

To commit a mortal sin three conditions are necessary: 1) grave or serious matter; 2) knowledge that it was seriously wrong when the wrong was committed; and 3) full deliber-

ation. To destroy that relation with the Lord is not something that one stumbles into, but most of us are quite capable of committing such an action.

Venial sins, on the other hand, are also offenses against the Lord, although they do not destroy the relationship we have with God. However, we can't say "we love the Lord with our whole heart, soul and mind" if we are committing venial sins. So, Advent is a good time to rid our lives of some both mortal and venial sins.

But, how do we rid our lives of sin? The sacrament of Confession provides the liberation, because in this sacrament our Lord in the person of the priest forgives our sins and gives us the graces to overcome our sin in the future. That's why people who have committed only venial sins will still go to Confession (even though their relationship with God is not dead).

That sacrament helps us to become virtuous and enables us to love God with all heart, mind, and soul and our neighbor as ourselves. Isn't that holiness? That's a goal we should have, so we can be with the Lord (without sin, of course), whom we proclaim "for You alone are the Holy One."

John Sondag

Director of Religious Education

## FR. DALY BREAD—Thanksgiving for Fr. Villano

My heart overflows with gratitude for the privilege it was to welcome Archbishop Hebda as the main presider for Fr. Villano's funeral Mass and to listen to Fr. John Paul Erickson preach a powerful homily! I was also deeply inspired by many of you who kept vigil Thursday and prayed all-night for the repose of Fr. Villano's soul.

A wonderful aspect of Fr. Villano's priesthood was his fervent example of prayer before the Eucharist. Although Fr. Villano never was able to see the sanctuary restoration come to fruition, it was always his dream to return the tabernacle to the center because Jesus was the center of his life and priesthood. Please join us in prayer and fasting this Advent by adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament for a **holy hour 1/week**. The Bethlehem Adoration Chapel is open Mon-Fri 9AM-9PM during Advent.

There is much to give thanks and praise to God for the gift of Fr. Villano and his priestly ministry. It is fitting that he died Thanksgiving morning because his heart seemed to be full of gratitude for all of you! The priesthood is rich with many different characters and personalities, and God chose Fr. Villano's passion for education to help grow and sustain our Catholic grade school. Please help us honor Fr. Villano's legacy by donating to the **Fr. Villano scholarship fund** for Saint Helena Catholic School!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Michael

P.S. Please remember **Wednesday, December 8** is a holy day of obligation! (Mary's Immaculate Conception)

## Pastor's Remarks:

\**Rorate Coeli* candlelight Mass – Wednesday, December 8 (6:30AM)

Advent Retreat – Saturday morning, December 11

Our Lady of Guadalupe – Sunday, December 12

Bilingual Mass (3:30PM) & Posadas (5:00PM)

Advent Adoration 9:00AM – 9:00PM (Mon – Fri)

Daily Confessions

**CHRISTIAN BURIAL**—The parish community prays that *Reverend Richard Villano* may rejoice in the gift of everlasting life in the full embrace of God our Father, and that family and friends and this community may trust more deeply in the promises of Jesus for eternal life.

**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.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION**—Next weekend after all the Masses we will have the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for the Religious. Thank you for your generosity.

**FOOD SHELF**—Thank-you for the generous donations to our local food shelf. There is always a great need for pasta, rice, oil, tea, coffee, flour, sugar and other baking items, crackers, tuna, hot and cold cereal and paper products.

**ADVENT RETREAT—THIS SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 11**—Plan to attend the annual Advent Retreat on this Saturday, December 11, in Rowan Hall. Three half-hour talks will be given at 9:00, 10:00, and 11:00. Priests will be hearing Confessions from 9:00 until 12:00 Noon. You may come and participate in all or any portion of the retreat.

**DOUGHNUTS AND COFFEE ON THIS SUNDAY MORNING**—Come to Doughnuts and Coffee on Sunday morning downstairs in Rowan Hall after the 8:30 and 10:00 A.M. Masses. Everyone is welcome.

**DO YOU KNOW ANYONE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?**—Please let that individual know that the Church of St. Helena is again offering a program that prepares people to become Catholic. To take the program does not mean that you must become a Catholic. It is held on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm in the Parish Office Building. Also, if Tuesday evenings are impossible to make, another time can be arranged. For more information, call Fr. Daly or John Sondag at 612-729-7344.

**LAS POSADAS - NEXT SUNDAY DECEMBER 12**—St. Helena Church is again celebrating Las Posadas on next Sunday, December 12, at 5:00 P.M. There will also be a bilingual Mass to honor our Lady of Guadalupe at 3:30 P.M. in the Church before the Las Posadas which includes a parade, meal, Santa, and Piñatas.

**MUSICIANS CAN MARCH IN THE LAS POSADAS PARADE**—Young and old band musicians are invited to play and march in the St. Helena Las Posadas Band on next Sunday, December 12, at 5:00 P.M. Practice for the band is on Thursday, December 9, at 6:00 P.M. in the Parish Office Building. If interested, call John Sondag at 612-275- 0431.

**GIVE A CHRISTMAS GIFT TO THE NEEDY**—The St. Vincent de Paul Conference is asking for donations of gift cards which they will give to needy families. They are requesting the gift cards be \$25, \$50, or \$75 from Target or Kohls, food cards from Cub Foods, and gas cards for \$25 from Speedway or Holiday. If you would rather make a financial gift, you may do so and the St. Vincent de Paul Conference will purchase gift cards. Donations and gift cards should be placed in an envelope marked St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Gifts and put in the collection or brought to the Parish offices before this Wednesday, December 8. For questions, call Barb Blomquist (612-518-3150).

**ARE THE STORES OUT OF STOCK?**—Go online and buy many Post Festival items for sale prices. There’s some good Christmas gifts! Go to: <http://bidpal.net/autumndaze2021>

**THIS ADVENT, DEEPEN AND ENRICH YOUR FAITH ON THE INTERNET. GO TO ‘FORMED’**—Exploring the beauty of the Faith has never been easier: at home, on the go, or from any internet connected device. Discover thousands of books, audio talks, movies, documentaries, and studies...there is something for every member of the family to help them grow closer to Christ and His Church. Registering on Formed is easier than ever! Just go to [FORMED.org/signup](http://FORMED.org/signup) Enter our parish zip code or name to select your parish. Enter your name and email.

**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 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.

**BAKE SALE —NEXT WEEKEND DECEMBER 11TH & 12TH**—It’s not too late! You still have all week to prepare your goodies for the CCW Advent Bake Sale. Please bring your treats-cookies, cakes, pies, candy, breads, bars, jams, salsa, any type of savory item, or store bought items-directly to Rowan Hall kitchen, lower level of the Church. You can drop them by anytime on Friday or Saturday, December 10th & 11th, or before the 8:30 AM or 10 AM Masses on Sunday, December 12th. Questions, please text or call 763-439-0572.

**CHRISTMAS SENIOR LUNCHEON**—On Wednesday, Dec 15th the Senior Christmas luncheon will be held in Rowan Hall at Noon. The cost is \$6 and reservations are required. If you signed up at the November luncheon, you do not have to call again. If you would like, you can bring a dozen cookies to share for dessert. Call Elaine or Polly at 612-729-7344 by noon on Dec 13th to make your reservation.

**WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

- December 6: Is 35:1-10, Lk 5:17-26
- December 7: Is 40:1-11, Mt 18:12-14
- December 8: Gn 3:9-15, Lk 1:26-38
- December 9: Is 41:13-20, Mt 11:11-15
- December 10: Is 48:17-19, Mt 11:16-19
- December 11: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11, Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- December 12: Zep 3:14-18a, Phil 4:4-7, Lk 3:10-18

**CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL GIFTS**

If you wish to remember a loved one, we will once again welcome memorial gifts to be used for Christmas 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 Wednesday, December 15.**

Name of donor: \_\_\_\_\_

In Remembrance of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \$35 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_



**SCRIPTURE # 1006**

**Bar 5:1-9  
Phil 1:4-6, 8-11  
Lk 3:1-6**

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday 8:00 † Dorothy Fleming**  
**Tuesday 8:00 † Ellen Carvatt**  
**Wednesday 8:00 The Immaculate Conception**  
**Wednesday 9:30 † Father Richard Villano**  
**Thursday 8:00 Spencer Nelson**  
**Friday 8:00 † Peter Lardy**  
**Saturday 8:00 † Ann Dylla & † Nancy Thomas**

**Saturday 4:00 † Rev. Dennis Dempsey**  
**Sunday 8:30 Virginia Tschida**  
**Sunday 10:00 Nancy Stauner**

**SACRISTY LINENS—Adenike Ajaluwa**

**PARISH CALENDAR**

***December 6***

-Women's Prayer Group, Church, 8:30 am  
-Quilting, Parish Office Building, 9:00-11:30 am

***December 7***

- Catechumenate Reception Program, Parish  
Office Building, 7:30 pm

***December 8***

-Candlelight Mass, Church, 6:30 am  
-Mass, Church, 8:00 am  
-School Mass, Church, 9:30 am  
-Mass, Church, 5:30 pm, Immaculate Conception  
-Quilting, Parish Office Building, 6:15-9:00 pm  
-Rel. Ed. & Conf. Class, Rowan Hall & Parish  
Office Building, 6:45 pm

***December 9***

-Las Posadas Band Practice, Parish Offices, 6:00 pm  
-St. Vincent de Paul Mtg, Parish Office, 6:30 pm

***December 10***

-Adoration, Church, 9:00 am—5:00 pm  
-Virtual Rosary, 7:00 pm

***December 11***

-Advent Retreat, Church, 9:00 am—12:00 pm  
-Confessions, Church, 3:00 pm  
-Mass, Church, 4:00 pm

***December 12***

-Mass, Church, 8:30 am & 10:00 am  
-Doughnuts & Coffee, RH, after 8:30 & 10:00 Masses  
-Mass (Bilingual), Church, 3:30 pm,  
Our Lady of Guadalupe  
-Las Posadas, 5:00 pm, Front of School

***December 13***

-Women's Prayer Group, Church, 8:30 am  
-Quilting, Parish Office Building, 9:00-11:30 am

***Adoration, Monday-Friday, 9:00 am—9:00 pm  
In the Bethlehem Adoration Chapel (Cry Room)***

***Daily Mass, Monday-Saturday, Church, 8:00 am  
Confessions, Mon.-Sat., Church, 8:30 am - 9:00 am***

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## **ST. HELENA SCHOOL NEWS**

### **Second Grade News**

So far this year, second grade students have studied about the Blessed Trinity, Creation, angels, and salvation history. They have learned that God gave each person an eternal, rational soul that will live forever in Heaven or Hell. They are memorizing several prayers, including rosary prayers and mysteries, Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love, St. Michael, Guardian Angel, Act of Contrition, and the Confiteor. They are memorizing the Ten Commandments and have so far memorized the names of 41 books of the Old Testament. They have also learned the three theological virtues, two of the four cardinal virtues, and are currently learning virtues attached to the cardinal virtue of justice. We study one virtue and memorize one Bible verse each week. Students attend Mass each week and Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament exposed on Fridays.

In Language Arts students work on phonemic awareness, the sounds of the language, through a multi-sensory program that uses listening, verbal responses, and kinesthetic motions. They explore realistic fiction, figurative language, synonyms, informational texts, poetry, and infographics. They identify subjects, predicates, nouns, and verbs and work with suffixes, prefixes, and contractions. They also practice many spelling rules and have begun cursive writing instruction.

In Math, students work with number lines and grids, sequence problems, word problems, graphs, time, money, Roman numerals, place value, odd and even numbers, addition and subtraction equations, and inequalities. They played several math games to practice their skills.

In Science, students observe and graph daily weather. They can identify several types of clouds and have learned about the work of meteorologists and atmospheric scientists, explored the properties of air, and identified patterns in nature. They are studying about different climates, the water cycle, migration, hibernation, prairies, different types of gardening, and the parts of plants.

The second graders have studied about urban, suburban, and rural communities in Social Studies. They also learned about producers, consumers and family trees. As you can see, we have been busy learning in second grade.

Ms. Ruth Caron  
Second Grade Teacher

### **Give to the Max Day**

During this season of giving thanks, I ask you to include in your prayers the many benefactors who gave so generously during Give to the Max Day to St. Helena Catholic School. In one day an incredible amount of \$11,558 was raised for our children. Thank you to all of the parishioners who contributed to this wonderful total!

Jane Hileman  
Principal



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