

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.

Adoration

Fridays 9:00 A.M.—5:00 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

Website: www.sainthelena.us

The Church of St. Helena

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
December 26, 2021

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

-Lk 2: 51-52



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FR. DALY BREAD – Glory to God in the Lowest

A shepherd boy, named David, who smelled like sweat, wool, and mud, came up with a name to identify God: *Jehovah Raah*, “The Lord is my shepherd” (Psalm 23). When the angel appeared outside the town of Bethlehem proclaiming the greatest news the world had ever heard, they didn’t deliver their message to the “high and mighty,” but to the simple and lowly — shepherds. And, not just any shepherds, but easily-disregarded “night shepherds.” Little did they know that the promised king, the Messiah from the line of King David, was born that night, right there in Bethlehem, and would grow up to be both the Lamb of God, and the Good Shepherd!

I received THE SHEPHERD for my “Advent Companion” this season and learned how our God is full of surprises! We never would’ve guessed that shepherds themselves would be the first ones to find out that God was here. *And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests”* (Luke 2:13-14). But during the Advent season we do not sing the Christmas song of the angels, *Gloria in excelsis Deo*, #1) to anticipate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and #2) GK Chesterton would say, Glory to God in the highest became “Glory to God in the lowest”, too, as the very Son of God came to the world He created as a tiny baby in a lowly manger! Our Heavenly Father reveals His

all-powerful Love, not by looking down on us, but by looking UP from the crib!

God’s favor rests upon the lowly: the shepherds, a poor carpenter (Joseph), and a humble virgin (Mary), who sings, *For he has looked upon his handmaid’s lowliness...He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly* (Luke 1:48, 52). God lifted up the lowly shepherd boy, David, to become King David. But nine months before Christmas, God lifts up our lowly humanity by descending into the womb of Mary. And like his mother, *[Jesus], though he was in the form of God...emptied himself, coming in human likeness...Because of this, God greatly exalted him* (Phil 2:6-7).

By the “power of the Most High” the Word comes to us this Christmas, looking up to us from the crib, that we might bear him at all times. “O consuming Fire, Spirit of Love,” come upon me, “and create in my soul a kind of incarnation of the Word: that I may be another humanity for him in which he can renew his whole Mystery” (Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity).

As we receive the Eucharist, may Jesus become incarnate again in the center of your soul this Christmas season. May you have a blessed Christmas and a grace-filled new year!

Glory to the Newborn King,
Fr. Michael

FROM THE FAMILY OF FATHER VILLANO—The families of Father Richard Villano thank you for your kindness, support, and comforting words. We gratefully appreciate the cards, memorial donations, your steadfast prayers, and all of the beautiful memories shared with us. Thank you to the parish staff, parishioners, visiting clergy, and friends for your continued love and care you showed our brother and uncle over his tenure at both St. Helena’s and St. Charles. May God continue to bless you all.

JoAnne Vetter and Family
Rosemary Kipka and Family

WOMEN’S BREAKFAST—CHANGE OF DATE—JANUARY 15—The Women’s Breakfast scheduled for Saturday, January 8, has been changed to January 15, at 8:30 A.M. in Rowan Hall with Heidi Geibel, Ph. D., speaking on “Surprising Lessons from Living Saints.” The cost is \$5 for the breakfast or \$20 for the five breakfasts of the season. Complimentary tickets are available for those who have difficulty paying. Participants are invited to come to the Mass at 8:00 A.M. in church before the Breakfast. Registrations should be made before 12:00 Noon on Friday, January 14, by calling 612-729-7321.

BAPTISM—A Baptism Preparation Program is required for all registered first-time parents. To register for the class, please call the parish office, at 612-729-7344.

PRAY THE VIRTUAL ROSARY—FRIDAY EVENINGS AT 7:00 P.M.—You can pray the Rosary with parishioners on Fridays at 7:00 P.M. Call 612-275-0431 to get the Zoom ID and Password.

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.

DOUGHNUTS AND COFFEE ON THIS SUNDAY MORNING—Wish parishioners and friend the joy of Christmas at Doughnuts and Coffee on Sunday morning, December 26, downstairs in Rowan Hall after the 8:30 and 10:00 A.M. Masses. Everyone is welcome.

WOMEN OF ST. HELENA—Every Monday 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.

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.

THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON, 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 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.

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

A Prayer for the Holy Family

Heavenly Father,
 You have given us the model of life
 in the holy family of Nazareth.
 Help us make our family another Nazareth
 where love, peace, and joy reign.
 Teach us to see Jesus
 in the members of our families,
 especially in their distressing disguise.
 May we love one another
 as God loves each of us,
 more and more each day,
 and forgive each other’s faults
 as you forgive our sins.
 Help us take whatever you give
 and give whatever you take
 with a big smile. *Amen*
 -- *Saint Teresa of Calcutta*

CHRISTMAS WISH LIST 2021

Father Villano Scholarship Fund for Saint Helena Catholic School

Bethlehem Adoration Chapel

Altar – <i>by Paul Sirba</i>	\$68,000
* \$45,000 already received	
Altar icon tryptic of Nativity – <i>by Mandy Hain</i>	\$15,000
Statue pedestals (2) – <i>by Paul Sirba</i>	\$5,250 each
Delivery & Installation	\$1,000
Paint Walls	\$2,100
Re-Carpet	\$2,800
Church doors security	\$8,000

Sanctuary items:

Temporary high altar & side altars	\$750
Moving marble tabernacle	\$4,750
Kneelers/Prie-Dieu (12)	\$1,600 each
Cassock & surplice for altar boys (20)	\$100 each
*\$2000 donated anonymously	
Monstrance luna holder	\$300
Lectionaries (vol. 1-4)	\$115 each
*donated by Dan Smieja	
Gold incense stand	\$900
Sanctus Bells	\$300
*donated anonymously	
Sacristy wall bells	\$400
Processional candlesticks (2)	\$600 each
Romanesque candlesticks & crucifix (9)	\$1,200 each
Tabor (monstrance stand)	\$900
Humeral Veil for adoration	\$300
American flag & Vatican flag	\$275 each
Processional cross stand	
*Handcrafted & donated by Erik Wyckoff (School Parent)	

***Please donate online (memo “Special Christmas Gift”) or place your donation in an envelope marked “Special Christmas Gift” indicating the gift or scholarship fund. Please drop it in the collection basket or Parish Office.**

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

December 27:	1 Jn 1:1-4, Jn 20:1a, 2-8
December 28	1 Jn 1:5—2:2, Mt 2:13-18
December 29:	1 Jn 2:3-11, Lk 2:22-35
December 30	1 Jn 2:12-17, Lk 2:36-40
December 31:	1 Jn 2:18-21, Jn 1:1-18
January 1:	Nm 6:22-27, Gal 4:4-7, Lk 2:16-21
January 2:	Is 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6, Mt 2:1-12



SCRIPTURE # 1017

**Sir 3:2-6, 12-14
Col 3:12-21
Lk 2:41-52**

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	8:00	Jake Steel
Tuesday	8:00	† Charles & † Patricia Stoick
Wednesday	8:00	† Robert Boisvert
Thursday	8:00	† Michael Reilly
Friday	8:00	† Joseph Polunc
Saturday	10:00	New Year's Day
Saturday	4:00	New Year's Day
Sunday	8:30	† Rev. Richard Villano
Sunday	10:00	St. Helena Parish

SACRISTY LINENS—Adenike Ajaluwa

PARISH CALENDAR
December 27-January 3

December 27

-Parish Offices Closed

-No School

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

-Quilting, Parish Office Building, 9:00-11:30 am

December 28

-No School

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

December 29

-No School

-Quilting, Parish Office Building, 6:15-9:00 pm

December 30

-No School

December 31 - New Year's Eve

-No School

-Mass, Church, 4:00 pm

-Adoration, Church, 9:00 am—3:00 pm

January 1 - New Year's Day

-Mass, Church, 10:00 a.m.

-Confessions, Church, 3:00 pm

-Mass, Church, 4:00 pm

January 2

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

-Doughnuts & Coffee, RH, after 8:30 & 10:00 Masses

January 3

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

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

Confessions, Mon.-Sat., Church, 8:30 am - 9:00 am

*New Year's Morning - Only one Mass at 10:00 and
no Confessions in the morning*

ST. HELENA SCHOOL NEWS

Middle School Language Arts News

Students are excited as we are wrapping up our first unit and moving into our second in language arts classes. All students ended the first unit by writing a personal narrative that reflected on their essential questions for the unit. Now, as we move into unit two, students will work towards writing either an explanatory or argumentative essay.

Eighth-grade students are beginning their unit on the Holocaust by reading the dramatic adaptation of Anne Frank's Diary. Their goal this quarter is to answer the question of how we can honor the victims of the past. With each story, they will work to analyze how the readings deepen their understanding of history beyond what they learned in Social Studies.

In seventh grade, students are just beginning to dive into their second unit, A Starry Home. In this unit, they will study and research texts that help them answer the question of whether we should explore space, as well as, looking at the benefits and drawbacks of continuing exploration.

In sixth grade, students just began their new unit on Animal Allies. In this unit, students will analyze how humans and animals form symbiotic relationships. They will read a series of texts that show how animals and humans interact and analyze how those relationships benefit both sides.

In fifth grade, students just began a unit titled Observations. In this unit, students are reading multiple informational texts and learning about different informational text features. In addition, students are reviewing verbs and verb tenses this quarter. Overall, all the middle school students are busy starting new explorations in their units and we are looking forward to the new year!

Amanda Kintzi
Middle School Language Arts

Principal Update

This is the time of year when you are to count your blessings. One most unexpected blessing has come from being back at St. Helena working with and being supported by people I love. These St. Helena children bring such joy each day, and I am inspired by how hard all of the teachers have been working to teach our children while keeping them safe during Covid. While retirement has been enjoyable, there is nothing like the hustle and bustle of being at school to make me feel alive and needed. Thank you to the St. Helena community!

Jane Hileman
Principal



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