

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 Epiphany of the Lord
January 2, 2022

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

-Mt 2:10-11



THE WORD

Two of the most prominent Catholic evangelists in recent times have been St. (Mother) Teresa of Calcutta and Mother Angelica of the Eternal Word Television Network. St. Teresa through her works of charity to the poorest of the poor attracted the attention of thousands of people throughout the world. Yes, she spoke about the Lord, but it was her authentic love of the poor that warmed the hearts of many, which in turn enabled them to listen to her words about Jesus and His Church.

Mother Angelica, on the other hand, was a contemplative nun who spoke to the world in her peppery, straightforward, and joyous manner on her weekly TV programs. She deliberately wanted to reach millions through her television network with her messages of hope, and she did just that by building an empire of the world's largest religious media network – without a dime to her name.

This Sunday, we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of our Lord commemorating the Magi coming to Bethlehem and our Lord manifesting Himself to the nations for the first time symbolically through the Magi. The Christ Child was not meant to be the salvation of just the Jewish people but of the entire world. From early on in His life, then, He pointed to that truth.

So, what's that mean for us? Jesus, Who is both God and man, is our salvation, and we are to bring that truth to the nations, that is, to everyone. That's our job! Our Lord has man-

dated that to us, and we cannot escape that fact. In reality, we will only be fulfilled as human beings if we are loving both our Lord and others and the finest way to love anyone is to help them realize that their salvation is found in the Lord and His Church.

The ways and means of accomplishing this task are many and varied. We need to figure out how the Lord is calling us to that task, which will be in both our words and deeds. St. Teresa of Calcutta did this primarily through her deeds, but she also spoke about our Lord, and Mother Angelica accomplished her works of evangelization through her words, but she also did great works.

Think about it. Pray about it. Are there people in your life that you can bring closer to the Lord and His Church? Your spouse? Your children or grandchildren? Friends, neighbors, co-workers? Write down their names.

In 2022, how will you manifest the Lord to those specific people in your words and deeds? What concrete ways will I do that? Prayer? Messages? Specific deeds of kindness, service, mercy? Write it down.

Then, pray for them daily—we need to do that. In fact, the Lord is the One, Who will move their hearts. And, our Lord always answers our prayers—maybe in a different way than we think He should—but He answers our prayers nonetheless. These Magi in our lives are searching for the Lord.

John Sondag, Director of Religious Education

FR. DALY BREAD—Wise men *still* seek Him?

On the feast of the Epiphany, the Church sings, *O wise men from afar, O kings, where are you going in such haste?* These simple words evoke one of the deepest truths about man—that of his incessant search for God. All our restless New Year's resolutions for health, wealth, and happiness seem to be motivated by a search to find wholeness and perfection. Without God, this is impossible for our weak human nature...but, with God, *seek and you shall find.*

Whatever the age, culture, civilization, or nation, **wise men *still* seek God.** We are created out of Love, for Love, and this ache of love drives us on! We seek God because we bear his image within ourselves, so “our hearts are restless until they rest in God,” says St. Augustine. It is *God alone* who makes us whole and completes our body and soul.

And when we find *the one my heart loves*, a liturgical hymn of the Eastern Church explores, “What can we offer you, O Christ, for having been born for us on earth as a Man? Each creature, the work of your hands, offers you a sign of gratitude: the angels, their hymn; the heavens, the star; the Magi, their gifts; the shepherds, their admiration; and the earth, the cave. What can we offer you, O Christ?”

An infant needs everything: our voices must be modulated,



rooms child-proofed, and sleep rescheduled. When a baby is born, he rejects every gift that is not the gift of self because that is the only thing he *can* receive. This New Year's resolution, let us offer him our very selves in true worship and adoration. *O Come, let us adore him* with the wealth of our faith, warmth of our love, and witness to hope. Please prayerfully consider donating to our **Bethlehem Adoration Chapel** to give the gift of an encounter with the Prince of Peace!

O star of wonder, guide us to thy perfect Light,
Fr. Michael

YOU ARE INVITED TO DOUGHNUTS AND COFFEE AFTER THE 8:30 AND 10:00 A.M. MASSES—EVERY SUNDAY—Everyone is welcome to come to “Doughnuts and Coffee” downstairs in Rowan Hall after the 8:30 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. Masses on Sunday mornings. It’s a great time to meet and visit with parishioners.

CHANGE OF DATE—WOMEN’S BREAKFAST—JANUARY 15—Please note that 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. 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.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC? 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 Fr. Daly or John Sondag at 612-729-7344.

IN 2022, RESOLVE TO 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.

MEN’S BREAKFAST—SATURDAY, JANUARY 29—A Men’s Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, January 29, 2022, at 8:30 A.M. The cost of the breakfast is \$5. Participants are also invited to attend the 8:00 Mass in church before Breakfast. The cost of the breakfast is \$5. Participants are also invited to attend the 8:00 Mass in church before the breakfast. Registration should be made before 12:00 Noon on Friday, January 28, by calling 612-729-7321.

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES CONTINUE ON JANUARY 5—In-person religious education classes for elementary and junior high students resume on Wednesday, January 5, at 6:45 P.M. in the downstairs of the church and Parish Office Building. If you would like to enroll your child, please call John Sondag at 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 this Thursday, January 13, at 6:30 P.M. in the Parish Offices. For more information, call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

BAPTISM—The parish community rejoices in the recent baptism of *Ellis Joshua Paulsen*, son of Joshua and Jennifer Paulsen. By God's gift through water and the Holy Spirit he has been gifted with everlasting life in Jesus Christ, to celebrate life in the midst of the Church. May he always be a faithful member of His body.

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.

ROSARY BEFORE DAILY MASS—The Rosary is recited Monday through Saturday before Mass at 7:25 AM. All are welcome to join.

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.

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.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jan. 3: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6, Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Jan. 4: 1 Jn 4:7-10, Mk 6:34-44

Jan. 5: 1 Jn 4:11-18, Mk 6:45-52

Jan. 6: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4, Lk 4:14-22a

Jan. 7: 1 Jn 5:5-13, Lk 5:12-16

Jan. 8: 1 Jn 5:14-21, Jn 3:22-30

Jan. 9: Is 42:1-4, 6-7, Acts 10:34-38,
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or,
Is 40:1-5, 9-11, Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7,
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

PRAYER CORNER

Father, you revealed your Son to the nations by the guidance of a star. Lead us to your glory in heaven by the light of faith.



SCRIPTURE # 1021

**Is 60:1-6
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6
Mt 2:1-12**

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	8:00	† Lorraine Douglass
Tuesday	8:00	† Ellen Carvatt
Wednesday	8:00	Sarah Wood
	9:30	Gary Schott
Thursday	8:00	† Martin & † Mary Mosiniak
Friday	8:00	† Delores Nelson
Saturday	8:00	Adenike Ajaluwa
Saturday	4:00	† Hilda Villano
Sunday	8:30	St. Helena Parish
Sunday	10:00	Freida Bernard

SACRISTY LINENS—Cheryl Griffith

PARISH CALENDAR

January 3—January 10, 2022

January 3

-Parish Office Closed

-School Resumes

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

January 4

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

January 5

-School Mass, Church, 9:30 am

*-Rel. Ed. & Conf. Class, Rowan Hall & Parish
Office Building, 6:45 pm*

January 6

January 7

-Adoration, Church, 9:00 am—9:00 pm

-Virtual Rosary, 7:00 pm

January 8

-Young Family Brunch, Rowan Hall, 9:00 am

-Confessions, Church, 3:00 pm

-Mass, Church, 4:00 pm

January 9

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

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

January 10

-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

*Adoration 9:00 am—9:00 pm on Fridays in the
Bethlehem Adoration Chapel*

ST. HELENA SCHOOL NEWS

Merry Christmas from Middle School Religion!

As we approached Christmas, middle school classes worked on daily Advent activities and learning traditional Catholic prayers. In addition, the following are highlights of current study topics for the middle school.

The fifth graders learned about angels. They can define them, note the types of angels, and their order. Studies included demons, their origins, and mission. They have discussed what it means to be created in God's image, the fall from grace of Adam and Eve, and original sin.

Sixth grade centered on prayer and saints. They studied the types and purpose of prayer while focusing on the Rosary. They can define a saint and the process of becoming one. They have learned how saints can intercede for us and studied the conversion process for many of our great saints. They can identify patron saints and their causes.

The seven graders are studying God's plan of salvation. They have learned about covenants and God's covenant with Abraham, the sacrifice of Isaac, and how it prefigured the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. In addition they looked at how the prophets have played a major role in God's revelation. They studied the story of Moses and how he delivered God's people from slavery and how he received the Ten Commandments.

Lastly, our eighth graders are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Topics that they have covered so far are salvation history, divine revelation, the Church Jesus founded, the power and purpose of the Sacraments, and the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. Remember the eighth graders in your prayers. We are looking forward to new topics when school resumes.

Mr. Mike Langer
Middle School Religion Teacher

Principal Update

Do you know anyone who will have a kindergartner ready for school next year? Or perhaps you have heard from a neighbor that their child has 30 children in their classroom or that they were forced to attend a different public school because of rezoning. If you have, suggest that they check out St. Helena Catholic School where the average class size is 13 students. Give them my cell number 612-859-5976 and tell them to give me a call. I will give them a personal tour and show them all that St. Helena has to offer.(A personal invitation goes a long way! We are still enrolling for this year and opening up our classes for next.)



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