

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

In
LOVING
Memory

This Week's Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2019

8:00AM George & Claire Cox
9:30AM Maria & Giovanni Gagliano (*Loving Daughter Anna*)
11:00AM Peter J. Pulomena (*Loving Wife & Children*)
12:30PM Antoinette Klinger (*M/M Arthur Citarrella*)
5:00PM For The Parishioners

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2019

9:00AM Lisa Gurino (*Loving Mother & Brother*)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2019 *St. Francis Xavier*

9:00AM Alex Miraglia (*Donna & Joe Palagonia*)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2019 *St. John Damascene*

9:00AM Willie Tenaglia (*Michele Carollo*)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2019

9:00AM Joshua Basin (*Loving Mother*)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2019 *St. Nicholas*

9:00AM Theresa Tudda (*Trotta & Malinconico Families*)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019 *St. Ambrose*

9:00AM Mary Capelongo (*Joan DeRiso*)
Vivian Lee Corrigan (*Mary Jo & Will Vendittelli*)
Fidelina LaPaix (*Joan DeRiso & Family*)
Dorothy E. Pizzo (*Loving Family*)
Monica Serna (*Elizabeth Graf*)
5:00PM Leonard Asaro (*McCosker Family*)
Leonard G. Beck (*Ottomanelli Family*)
Carmelo Dispinseri (*AnnMarie & John Dispinseri*)
Anthony Gurino (*M/M Mario Terrana*)
Theresa Vinciguerra (*Frank & Jean LeFavi*)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019

8:00AM Joseph P. Ottomanelli (*Noujaim Family*)
9:30AM Salvatore Fasulo (*Loving Wife, Anna*)
11:00AM Joshua I. Basin (*Loving Mother*)
12:30PM Giovanni Escobar Londono (*Loving Mother*)
5:00PM For The Parishioners

Important Notice: The **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** is normally celebrated on December 8th. However, since it falls on the Second Sunday of Advent this year, the celebration of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is **transferred to Monday, December 9th**, and the **Holy Day of Obligation** is **suspended**.

PLEASE NOTE: The Rectory office hours on **Tuesday, December 3rd** will be from 9:00AM to 2:00PM only, with no evening hours.

New Families: *All are welcome* to St. Helen Parish, and are asked to please register at the Rectory during office hours.

Sacrament of Baptism: Please call the Rectory to register for the baptism of your child. Baptisms will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.

Sacrament of Confession: **Saturdays** 12:30PM to 1:30PM. **Weekdays:** 15 minutes prior to the 9:00AM Mass.

Sacrament of Marriage: Couples should contact the Rectory at least **one year** in advance of the desired date. Please call for an appointment for the initial interview.

Communion Calls: Please call the Rectory to arrange for one of the priests to bring Holy Communion to a sick person who is confined to home due to a serious illness.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick: Anyone who expects to be hospitalized (or in an emergency) and wishes the Anointing of the Sick, should call the Rectory.



Amado Araneta, Joseph Arbitello, William J. Barbiero, Fred Bintas, Barbara Bitetto, Lynn Boutureira, Daniel Campion, Sally Capozziello, Ann Castellano, Shang Cheng, Zena Cipolla, Anthony Corozzo, Marge D'Auria, Patrick Delaney, Domenica DeVito, Virginia DiGangi, Richard H. Dimler, Mary Divers, Frank Emmi, Jennie Federici, Luis Fernando, Jean Fochetta, Clementine Gagliardi, Dennis Giammalvo, Margaret Giampietro, John Joseph Gleeson, John Pierce Gleeson, Joan Grieco, Gertrude Gwardjak, Christine Healy, Maria Hernandez, Elizabeth Isolano, Marilyn Krajcik, Keri & Baby Tristan, Elaine Lazerri, Susan Leone, James Leung, Patricia Lipari, William J. Litt, Tom Mercatante, Barbara Miller, Marilyn Moses, Michael Palermo, Frank Palmenteri, Sebastian Panasci, Santo Pantina, Vivian Doris Pecchillo, Phillip Pecchillo, Nino Pedone, Amelia Pepe, Joseph Questore, Lorraine Rich, Frances Russo, Bill Sangirardi, John Secreti, Patrick Smith, Remington Stafford, Michael Tamburo, Rubie Lynn Torres, Chrissie Tremblay, Paul Tremblay, Paul John Tremblay, Sr., Ana Vastola, Sr. Joanne Walters.

Deceased:

St. Helen's Purgatorial Society Mass

All parishioners have the opportunity to enroll the names of loved ones in the Purgatorial Society. The Purgatorial Society Mass will be held on the **last Friday of each month**. The offering to be enrolled in the Purgatorial Society is \$120 per name (a total of 12 Masses for one year will be said for your loved one). Aside from listing one name, a husband and wife together, or a family name is also acceptable. Having a Purgatorial Society is wonderful way of living out the Scriptures and will be a relief for those who desire to have their loved ones remembered with prayers all year long at God's Altar. Please stop in at the Rectory if you are interested in having a loved one enrolled in the Purgatorial Society. **The next Purgatorial Society Mass will be held Friday, December 27, 2019.**

St. Helen Christmas Giving Tree

FOR NEEDY CHILDREN AND ADULTS

We are asking for your help in answering the requests of the needy in our own parish, several other parishes in Queens, a home for special adults, and other charities.

New To Our Parish Giving Tree:

SEMINARIAN CHRISTMAS GIFT CARD PROGRAM

There will be a limited number of envelopes available on our Christmas Giving Tree which will provide an opportunity to purchase a gift card for a seminarian (a young man studying to be a priest). If you are interested, please take one of the white envelopes labeled “**2019 Seminarian Christmas Gift Card Program**” from the Giving Tree the weekend of Nov. 30/Dec. 1. There is a letter enclosed with the name of a seminarian which explains the program. Please follow the instructions on the letter to ensure your gift is delivered to one of our seminarians.



THIS WEEKEND: NOV. 30/DEC. 1:

Please take a gift tag from the Giving Tree in the lobby.

NEXT WEEKEND, DECEMBER 7/8:

During this weekend, please leave your unwrapped gift with tag attached, near the tree. Place monetary donations or gift cards in the black box in the lobby.



***GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR
GREAT GENEROSITY!***

ST. HELEN PARISH

**SPONSORED BY THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
GROUP**

Can I Have Your Autograph?

After Sunday Mass, many parishioners have noticed both the deacon and the priest stamping the bulletins of the children attending Mass. Very often, parishioners lightly joke about having their bulletins or the their hands stamped in jest. The practice of signing the bulletins, now done by an ink stamp, is in fact, an important attendance tool for the teachers in the Academy and Religious Education Office of the parish. Children who are preparing for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation are monitored on their Mass attendance. Of course, everyone is expected to attend Sunday Mass, as it is a Commandment of God (not just some rule of a school program).

The stamping of the bulletins is a gauge that helps our teachers monitor whether or not our students are taking seriously the necessity of attending Sunday Mass. Bulletins are stamped at the conclusion of Sunday Mass, with an ink stamp, indicating the date and priest or deacon at that particular Mass. Bulletins are not stamped at funerals, weddings or any other Mass other than a Sunday or Saturday Evening Mass, and only children in attendance at that Mass may have their bulletins stamped. Believe it or not, there have been many who "play games" and try to find a loop around having these bulletins signed; for example, having grandma ask the priest to have a bulletin stamped or requesting a stamp at a non Sunday Mass, or having multiple bulletins stamped at once, or even multiple bulletins from different weeks stamped (hence the stamp including the date).

So, to answer the question (for the adults), "Can you stamp my bulletin?" The answer is, "No, this is important for the children." Thanks for your understanding.

GOOD SHEPHERD STATUE



We would like to thank **Lauren Johnson**, who kept the statue this past week. Anyone interested in keeping the statue in their home and praying for vocations for one week should contact the Rectory.

The Rosary for Peace, sponsored by the Saint Helen Secular Franciscan Fraternity, takes place in Church 6:30PM each Wednesday. The group prays for our Blessed Mother's intercession to end violence (both domestic & civil) & the persecution of Christians throughout the world. All parishioners are invited to join us. We welcome anyone willing to lead a decade of the Rosary in a language other than English.



Parents seeking Baptism for their children *who live within the territory of St. Helen Parish* are asked to register as members of the parish before requesting an initial interview for Baptism. registration is easily done at the parish office anytime during business hours.

Parents seeking Baptism for their children *who live outside the territory of St. Helen Parish* are asked to obtain a letter from the parish in which they live authorizing the Baptism to take place at St. Helen.

Initial meetings with parents seeking Baptism for their children who have already been born will normally take place **on the second Wednesday of each month from 7:00–9:00PM and on the fourth Saturday of each month from 10:00AM–12:00PM**. Please call 718-738-1616 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Upcoming Mornings of Preparation (Required Before a Baptism)

(All begin at the 11AM Mass & continue in the Msgr. McGinness Room):

December 8—January 12 & 26

Upcoming Schedule for Baptisms

(All begin at 2:00PM):

December 8—January 12 & 26



Tutoring Heights, Inc. will offer an **SAT Prep**, a comprehensive 7-week course here at St. Helen Catholic Academy to prepare for the **March 2020 SAT**.

- ◆ 28 hours of instruction plus 3 full-length practice tests
- ◆ Rigorous course offered Tuesday & Thursday evenings 7-9PM at St. Helen's
- ◆ Master Math tutor of all levels
- ◆ Fully licensed NYC-DOE English Teacher
- ◆ Teachers have a combined 33 years of experience
- ◆ Our students have won hundreds of thousands of dollars in college scholarships

Classes begin January, 2020. Registration deadline is December 1, 2019. Cost is \$900.00. For further details, and/or to register please call Nancy or Joe at (347) 762-3660.

St. Helen Catholic Academy's 11th Annual Card Party Spectacular

Friday, January 10, 2020—7:00PM

Villa Russo Il Palazzo, So. Richmond Hill, NY

Tickets are \$40.00 per person and include admission, 2 free Bingo games, a chance to win door prizes, hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, soda, cake, coffee & tea.

Check next weekend's Bulletin for further details!

The Academy will be selling raffle tickets after all Masses next weekend, December 7/8.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE FOR ST. HELEN'S ANNUAL

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING



*Saturday,
December 7th,
starting with the
5:00PM Mass,
followed by a*



Live Nativity

*Refreshments
to follow.*

**And Maybe
Even A
Special Visitor
Will Stop By!**



ST. GERARD MAJELLA

Gerard was born on the 6th of April 1726, in Muro, a little town in Southern Italy. He was blessed with a mother, Benedetta, who showed him the overwhelming love of God which knows no bounds. He was happy because he was close to God. Gerard was twelve years old when his father died and he became the family breadwinner. He was apprenticed to a local tailor and was bullied and beaten by the foreman. After four years of apprenticeship, and just when he might set up as a tailor on his own, he announced he was going as a servant to work for the local Bishop of Lacedonia. Gerard was already spending hours with Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament, the sign of his crucified and risen Lord.

He wanted to serve God totally and applied to join the Capuchin friars but was not accepted. At the age of twenty-one, he tried the life of a hermit. Then, in 1749, the Redemptorists came to Muro. Gerard followed every detail of the mission and decided this was the life for him. He applied to join the mission team but the Superior turned him down on account of his health. He so pestered the missionaries that the Superior sent Gerard to the Redemptorist community in Deliceto with a letter that read: "I'm sending you another Brother, who will be useless as far as work is concerned..."

Gerard fell absolutely and totally in love with the way of life Alphonsus, the founder of the Redemptorists, had mapped out. He was thrilled to find the love of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament was central and the love of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was also considered essential. The "useless" tag didn't last long. Gerard was an excellent worker and during the next few years he was at different times, gardener, sacristan, tailor, porter, cook, carpenter, and clerk of works of the new buildings in Caposele. He learned fast — visiting the workshop of a woodcarver he soon became adept at carving crucifixes. He was a treasure in the community, but he had only one ambition — to do the will of God in everything.

True sanctity must always be tested by the cross, and it was in 1754 that Gerard had to undergo a great trial. There are few saints that have had so many wonderful events recorded as St. Gerard. The process of his beatification and canonization reveals that his miracles were of the widest variety and profusion. He frequently fell into ecstasy while meditating on God or his holy will, and at such times his body was seen raised several feet above the ground. There are authentic records to prove that on more than one occasion he was granted the unusual miracle of being seen and spoken to in two places at the same time. He restored life to a boy who had fallen from a high cliff; he blessed the scanty supply of wheat belonging to a poor family and it lasted until the next harvest; several times he multiplied the bread that he was distributing to the poor. One day he walked across the water to lead a boatload of fishermen through stormy waves to the safety of the shore. Many times, Gerard told people of secret sins on their souls which they had been ashamed to confess, and brought them to penance and forgiveness.

His miraculous apostolate for mothers also began during his lifetime. Once, as he was leaving the home of his friends, the Pirofalo family, one of the daughters called after him that he had forgotten his handkerchief. In a moment of prophetic insight, Gerard said: "Keep it. It will be useful to you someday." The handkerchief was treasured as a precious souvenir of Gerard. Years later the girl to whom he had given it was in danger of death in childbirth. She remembered the words of Gerard, and called for the handkerchief. Almost immediately the danger passed and she delivered a healthy child. On another occasion, the prayers of Gerard were asked by a mother when both she and her unborn child were in danger. Both she and the child came through the ordeal safely.

Always frail in health, it was evident that Gerard was not to live long. A little before midnight on October 15, 1755, his innocent soul went back to God. After his death, miracles began to be reported from almost all parts of Italy, attributed to the intercession of Gerard.

Because of the miracles God worked through Gerard's prayers with mothers, the mothers took Gerard to their hearts and made him their patron. At the process of his beatification, one witness testified that he was known as "*il santo dei felice parti*" — the saint of happy childbirth. This devotion has become very popular in North America, both in the United States and Canada. Thousands of mothers have felt the power of St. Gerard. Thousands of children have been named after St. Gerard by parents who are convinced that it was his intercession that helped them to have healthy children. In 1893, Pope Leo XIII beatified him, and on December 11, 1904, Pope Pius X canonized him as a saint.