

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

- 8:00AM Frank LeFavi (*Rachele Sannino*)
- 9:30AM Thomas Vendittelli (*Mary Jo & Will*)
- 11:00AM Josephine Martire (*Joe & Lorraine Trotta*)
- 12:30PM Good Health For Paul Auwarter (*Sec. Fran.*)
 - Louis Arleo (*Loving Family*)
 - Charles Ciccione (*LaVerda & Byrne Family*)
 - Ralph Lisena (*Giovanna & Carmine Pennella*)
 - Good Health for Will Vendittelli (*Sec. Fran.*)
- 5:00PM For The Parishioners

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 *Exaltation of Holy Cross*

- 9:00AM Bitetto-Pepe Families (*Barbara Bitetto*)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 *O.L. of Sorrows*

- 9:00AM Rosa & Salvatore Gambino (*Loving Family*)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 *St. Cornelius*

- 9:00AM Dec'd. Members of St. Helen Support Group

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020 *St. Robert Bellarmine*

- 9:00AM Julia Dimler (*Julie Dimler*)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

- 9:00AM Bruna Romano (*Sister, Nina & Family*)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2020 *St. Januarius*

- 9:00AM Frank Fahy (*Kathleen Fahy*)
- 5:00PM Joseph Berritto (*M/M S. Recupero*)
- Charles Ciccione (*M/M S. Recupero*)
- Carmen Dela Torre (*Furca Family*)
- Maryann Grasman (*Sue MacDonnell*)
- Celeste lafrate (*Michele Carollo*)
- Carmen Julia Mayorga (*Furca Family*)
- Thady Mills (*Margaret Butler*)
- Lena Trimboli (*Loving Family*)
- Gary Vomero (*Michele & Sandy Robbins*)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

- 8:00AM George & Claire Cox
- 9:30AM Josephine & Dominick Calastro (*Family*)
- 11:00AM Antoinette & Charles Palmigiano (*Sister*)
- 12:30PM John J. Barone (*Family*)
- Charles Ciccione (*Lorraine & Joe Trotta*)
- John Hertig (*Wife & Family*)
- Antonio Savoca (*Lorraine & Joe Trotta*)
- 5:00PM For The Parishioners



Rosario Maniaci

Please Note:

The Rectory office has resumed regular office hours: 9:00AM-8:00PM Monday-Thursday, 9:00AM-4:00PM Fridays, and 9:00AM to 12 Noon on Saturday & Sunday.

New Families: All are welcome to St. Helen Parish, and are asked to please register through our website at www.sthelen.org, or 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, Joe Barreca, Anthony Barresi, Stella Barresi, Mary Battista, Barbara Bitetto, Daniel Campion, Sally Capozello, Shang Cheng, Zena Cipolla, Arsenio DaRita, Marge D'Auria, Patrick Delaney, Domenica DeVito, Virginia DiGangi, Richard H. Dimler, Mary Divers, Colin F., Jennie Federici, Jean Fochetta, Clementine Gagliardi, Dennis Giammalvo, Tony Giampietro, John Joseph Gleeson, John Pierce Gleeson, Rosemarie & Joseph Guagenti, Gertrude Gwardjak, Christine Healy, Maria Hernandez, Marilyn Krajcik, Keri & Baby Tristan, Elaine Lazzeri, Susan Leone, James Leung, Patricia Lipari, William J. Litt, Tom Mercatante, Barbara Miller, Angela Ottomanelli-Hubbs, Michael Palermo, Frank Palmenteri, Sebastian Panasci, Santo Pantina, Vivian Doris Pecchillo, Phillip Pecchillo, Nino Pedone, Amelia Pepe, Josephine Profera, Joseph Questore, Frances Russo, John Secreti, Remington Stafford, Rubie Lynn Torres, Chrissie Tremblay, Paul Tremblay, Paul John Tremblay, Sr., Sr. Joanne Walters.

PLEASE NOTE: The Intentions for the next monthly Purgatorial Society Mass will be offered on Friday, September 25th.



Religious Education Registration for 2020 - 2021

We are now registering children for the 2020 - 2021 school year. The registration form may be obtained online at St. Helen's Parish website: www.sthelen.org, or you may email your request to: info@sthelensreled.org.

The program is available to children in grades Kindergarten through 7th grade. We realize that at this time many of you have questions & concerns about the upcoming year; first & foremost we'd like to assure all that the safety of our students, their families and our catechists are our prime concern. We are following all NYS sanitary requirements; the course work will follow the Board of Education & Brooklyn Diocese guidelines for in-class and/or remote learning.

The registration fees are: \$125 for one child and \$150 for two or more children in the same family. If the child was baptized at a Church other than St. Helen, you will need a copy of your child's Baptismal certificate. If you do not have one available, contact the rectory of the Church where your child was baptized; most parishes take a couple of weeks to process a Baptismal certificate. Place your request now so your registration for our program will not be delayed.

The registration form for children currently enrolled in our program was sent home via email on 5/1/2020. Parents wanting to enroll an additional child that was not previously attending the program must fill-out a new student registration form for that child. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact us at 718-916-2319 or email us at: info@sthelensreled.org.



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.**

Upcoming Mornings of Preparation *Required Before a Baptism*

(All begin at the 11:00AM Mass and continue in the Msgr. McGinness Room):
Sept. 27 — Oct. 11 & 25

Upcoming Schedule for Baptisms

(All begin at 2:00PM): **Sept. 27 — Oct. 11 & 25**

Dates for the Morning of Preparation and Baptisms are the same for the convenience of the Celebrant. It is **strongly suggested** you plan on taking the Baptism class **prior** to the date of your child's baptism.

Please call 718-738-1616 for more information and/or to schedule an appointment.

DIOCESAN GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH REOPENING

Weekday Masses: 9:00AM.

Weekend Masses: 5:00PM (Saturday evening Vigil Mass), and Sunday 8:00AM, 9:30AM, 11:00AM, 12:30PM & 5:00PM

The City of New York is permitting houses of worship to open at 25% capacity. The Certificate of Occupancy for the Church is 696, therefore **only 174 individuals will be permitted inside the Church.**

Mass attendance is monitored with a ticket system. Each person entering the Church will take a ticket from a container containing 174 tickets. Once the tickets run out, we will have reached the capacity set forth by the authorities and will not permit others to enter the Church. (Please do not return any tickets.) Please comply with ushers and staff.

Since we are at 25%, and the dispensation for the Sunday Obligation has still not been lifted, we will livestream one Sunday Mass. **This will continue until the Sunday Obligation is required.**

Memorial Masses and Funerals are now permitted (with the same restrictions). If you wish to plan a Memorial Mass, please contact Linda Mastrangelo who will assist you with plans be of great assistance in answering any and all of your questions.

Many parishioners have lost loved ones during this time (Covid- and non-Covid-related) and have not had the chance to have a Mass said for their loved one. Many parishioners still have cremains awaiting burial. We are expediting the Memorial Masses as quickly as possible, including offering a weekday evening as an option for Memorial Masses. Planning a Memorial Mass can be emotional and taxing.

Masks will be required during the celebration of Mass. Social distancing is a must, and appointed seats are located in the Church. Hand sanitizers will be located at the doors. Of course, it goes without saying, anyone feeling ill, or whose health is compromised, should stay home. Please follow the directions of all staff in the Church.



St. Helen's Catholic Academy 200-to-1 Raffle

**has been rescheduled for Friday,
September 25 at 6:00PM!**

This will be a **live** drawing available on the St. Helen Catholic Church Facebook page. Only 200 tickets will be sold for a chance to win **\$10,000**. Mark your calendars for **Friday, September 25th at 6:00PM** and watch our newest winner be drawn for the 200-to-1 Raffle.

Tickets are still available. Please call Maria Ford at 718-344-1998 or Diane Joseph at 718-845-5588 to purchase tickets.

Remember, you need to be in it to win it!

READINGS FOR THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Reading 1 *Sir 27: 30—28:7*

Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight. The vengeful will suffer the LORD's vengeance, for he remembers their sins in detail. Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the LORD? Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, can he seek pardon for his own sins? If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins? Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from sin! Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor; remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults.

Responsorial Psalm

*R. The Lord is kind and merciful,
slow to anger, and rich in compassion.*



Bless the LORD, O my soul;
and all my being, bless his holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits. **R.**

He pardons all your iniquities,
heals all your ills.
He redeems your life from destruction,
crowns you with kindness and compassion. **R.**

He will not always chide,
nor does he keep his wrath forever.
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,
nor does he requite us according to our crimes. **R.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he put our transgressions from us. **R.**

READINGS FOR THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Reading 2 *Rom 14: 7-9*

Brothers and sisters:

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Alleluia

R. *Alleluia, alleluia.*

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord:
love one another as I have loved you. **R.**



Gospel *Mt 18: 21-35*

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.' Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt. Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."



Our Parish COMMUNITY

September 13, 2020

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Sir 27:30–28:7

Rom 14:7–9

Mt 18:21–35

Limitless Forgiveness

What makes seven such an important number? It's the symbolism. It signifies wholeness, completeness, and totality. So, seventy-seven (or seventy times seven in some Bible translations) suggests infinity. Peter was exaggerating when he suggested that he might forgive his brother seven times. He presumed that if he acted in this way, his behavior would demonstrate the immeasurable extent of his personal graciousness. Jesus' response implied that there should be no end to our forgiving another. To underscore the significance of this magnanimity, Jesus offered God (in the guise of the king who forgave a huge debt) as the exemplar of forgiving.

Forgiving another's offense against us could well be one of the most difficult things we are asked to do. To ask for forgiveness does not seem as difficult. After all, when we bump into a perfect stranger in an elevator, we say, "Forgive me." But to forgive someone who has

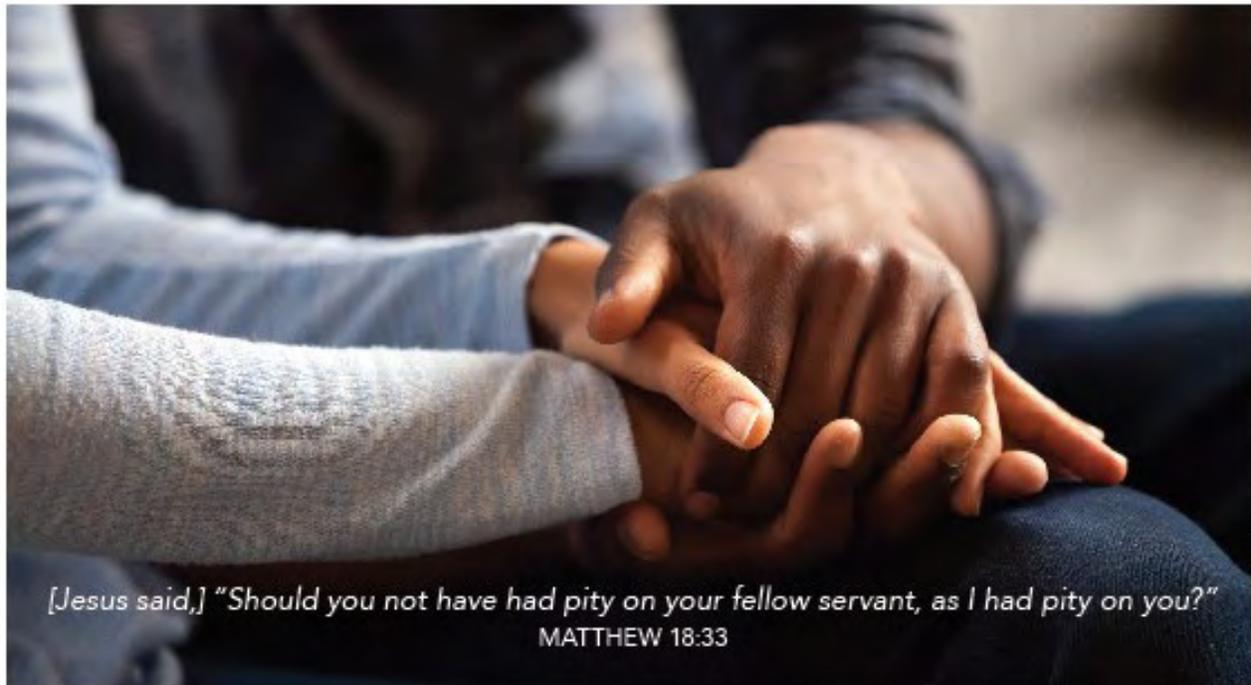
deliberately offended us, who has dishonored our sense of personal dignity, as slight as that offense might be, is neither as easy nor as casual a gesture. And yet, we must.

We all carry debts to others. Both the first reading and the Gospel passage remind us that the debts owed to us by others in no way compare with the debt we owe God, and yet God shows us compassion and forgives us. If we are grateful children of a compassionate God, we will want to be like God and we will forgive others.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ Say the Lord's Prayer slowly, reflecting on "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."
- ★ Do you carry resentment in your heart? Does clinging to it lessen its burden in any way?



[Jesus said,] "Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?"

MATTHEW 18:33