

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

- 8:00AM George & Ann Papandrea
- 9:30AM Frank LeFavi (*Deacon Rick & Maria Elrose*)
- 11:00AM Karl Albrecht (*Loving Family*)
- 12:30PM Mary Elvira Camelo (*Loving Daughter*)
- Vincent DeRuvo (*Thom & Sue DeMario*)
- Joseph D. Digristina (*Deidre McVey*)
- Donald Francis (*Loving Wife*)
- Mary Mele (*Vita & Paul*)
- Dominic Monaco (*Richard & Theresa Maguire*)
- 5:00PM For The Parishioners

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2020—Labor Day

- 9:00AM Mary Mele (*Linda Miranti*)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 *Nativity of the BVM*

- 9:00AM Anthony & Cosimo D'Antonio (*Joy & Sons*)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 *St. Peter Claver*

- 9:00AM Joseph J. Vetrano (*Loving Family*)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

- 9:00AM Bernard Gallitelli (*Loving Wife & Family*)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

- 9:00AM 9/11 Memorial Mass

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2020

- 9:00AM Robert E. Keighron (*Loving Family*)
- 5:00PM Rose Barra (*M/M I. Joseph*)
- Joseph Berritto (*Alberta & Heather Osmanski*)
- Francis Bohan (*Daniel Turner*)
- Angela Carnesi (*Salvatore Giacalone*)
- Charles Ciccione (*Peperone Family*)
- Marietta Gorga (*Karen Nunes*)
- Antoinette Fiorentino (*Barbara Bitetto*)
- Eugene Jackson (*McCormack Family*)
- Kenny Reisig (*Graceann Reisig*)

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



John Cardone—Charles Ciccione
 Frances Esposito—Lucille Jeannetti
 Antonio Savoca



THE ALTAR BREAD, ALTAR WINE, ALTAR CANDLES & SANCTUARY CANDLE for this week are donated in memory of **Phyllis & Rocco Miranti**, requested by their loving family.

Please Note:

The Rectory office will be closed on **Monday, September 7th** in observance of Labor Day, and will reopen on Tuesday at 9:00AM.

The Rectory office will resume the regular office hours starting **Tuesday, September 8th**: 9:00AM-8:00PM Monday-Thursday, 9:00AM-4:00PM Fridays, and 9:00AM to 12 Noon on Saturday & Sunday.

MEMORIALS AVAILABLE

Many times people come to the Rectory inquiring about memorials they can give to a family who has lost a loved one. The following are available: **Altar Bread, Altar Wine, Altar Candles or the Sanctuary Candle** for one week, **Votive Candles** for one year, a permanent **Leaf** on the **Tree of Life**, or a permanent plaque on the **Anniversary Wall**. For further information, you may either call or visit 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.

Dear Parishioners,

As you are no doubt aware, Fr. Lukasz Kubiak's service as a parochial vicar here at St. Helen ended abruptly at the beginning of June. I know that many rumors have been spreading about this situation. The Diocese has directed me to make a statement to shed some light about what has happened and what is happening.

First, I want to state clearly that Fr. Lukasz has not been accused of sexual abuse or sexual impropriety.

However, Fr. Lukasz has been accused of a serious violation of his obligations as a priest. The Diocese of Brooklyn has investigated this accusation and a "canonical process" is ongoing. This means that the accusation is being evaluated and judged by the Church's legal system. This process takes time and Fr. Lukasz will have the opportunity to defend himself.

Some parishioners, in an attempt to defend Fr. Lukasz, have verbally attacked those who have made this accusation. They have been made to feel uncomfortable and even threatened when attending Mass here. Such behavior is unacceptable. First, every Catholic that lives within our parish boundaries has a right to worship God in our Church. Second, anyone who brings a serious allegation of wrongdoing against anyone, especially against a priest, has a right to be heard and to present evidence in the proper forum without being attacked or threatened. All of us have a grave obligation in charity and justice to respect these principles.

The individuals that have made this allegation have done so discretely by bringing their concerns to our Bishop and submitting them to his judgement. Maintaining discretion, they have not posted their accusations on Facebook or Twitter or spoken of them publicly.

Only Fr. Lukasz's supporters have spoken out publicly about this, including the writing of letters. They have unknowingly done him a disservice by making these allegations public. The public conversations, or rumors, about these allegations and subsequent attack against the individuals who have made these allegations, portray a scenario based on limited knowledge of the true situation. Unfortunately, this resulted in Fr. Lukasz's abrupt departure from Saint Helen Parish.

I know that the parishioners of St. Helen love their priests. They want to support us and defend us. However, those who make serious allegations against priests also must be supported and defended. When we love, support, and defend someone, passions can run high. However, as Christians, we must have a passion for the truth above all. If the Church's process is allowed to unfold properly and in due time, the truth of this situation will come to light. Let us all pray for that outcome and always act with charity and justice.

Fr. Colamaria

READINGS FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Reading 1 *Ez 33: 7-9*

Thus says the LORD:

You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel; when you hear me say anything, you shall warn them for me. If I tell the wicked, “O wicked one, you shall surely die, ” and you do not speak out to dissuade the wicked from his way, the wicked shall die for his guilt, but I will hold you responsible for his death. But if you warn the wicked, trying to turn him from his way, and he refuses to turn from his way, he shall die for his guilt, but you shall save yourself.



Responsorial Psalm

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;
let us acclaim the rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us joyfully sing psalms to him. **R.**

Come, let us bow down in worship;
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.
For he is our God,
and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides. **R.**

Oh, that today you would hear his voice:
“Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as in the day of Massah in the desert,
Where your fathers tempted me;
they tested me though they had seen my works.” **R.**

Continued on next page...

READINGS FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Reading 2 *Rom 13: 8-10*

Brothers and sisters:

Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not covet, ” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this saying, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law.

Alleluia



R. *Alleluia, alleluia.*

God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. **R.**

Gospel *Mt 18: 15-20*

Jesus said to his disciples: “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that ‘every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector. Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again, amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”



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!