

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

In
LOVING
Memory

This Week's Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2017

- 8:00AM George & Ann Papandrea
- 9:30AM Karl Albrecht (*Special Friends*)
- 11:00AM Patricia DeVore (*Loving Sister*)
- 12:30PM Mario Fragapane (*Loving Wife & Children*)
- 5:00PM For The Parishioners

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2017

- 9:00AM Martha Metzger (*Formanek Family*)

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2017 *Sts. Perpetua & Felicity*

- 9:00AM Vladimir Formanek (*Loving Family*)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2017 *St. John of God*

- 9:00AM Nancy Camelliri (*Vita & Paul*)

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2017 *St. Frances of Rome*

- 9:00AM Walter Dabrowski (*Annette & Marty Gould*)
- 7:30PM Muriel Rope (*Richard Broadhurst, Sr.*)

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2017

- 9:00AM Charles Sangirardi (*Florence Albrecht*)

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2017

- 9:00AM Ann Bilello (*Vasquez Family*)
- Arthur Censabella (*Intrabartolo Family*)
- Rocco Marro (*Jessica Romano*)
- 5:00PM Michele Bavaro, Anne McDonald, Alice Neargarder, Luigi Tirro, Thomas Voxakis

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2017

- 8:00AM Vincenzo Sannino (*Rachele Sannino*)
- 9:30AM Lucy DeCrescenzo (*Vincent Godino*)
- 11:00AM Antonino Allo (*Luigi Lombardo*)
- 12:30PM Stanley Jasiak, Jr. (*Loving Family*)
- 5:00PM For The Parishioners



Miriam Americo, Lisa B., Baby Alexandra Bachert, Caroline Bachert, Frances Baio, Dolores Barbieri, Al Barton, Catherine Capato, Sally Capozziello, Shang Cheng, Antoinette & Catherine Chiarelli, Marge D'Auria, Emilia Dandola, Mary Ann D'Angelo, Baby Christopher Brian Demmerle, Domenica DeVito, Virginia DiGangi, Mary Divers, Francesca Gaudino, Ian Genovese-Williams, Joseph Gentile, Anthony Giampietro, John Joseph Gleeson, John Pierce Gleeson, Christine Healy, Aurea Hernandez, Maria Hernandez, Rosemary Hogan, Elizabeth Isolano, Jennie Iuggiano, Keri & Baby Tristan, Amelia Kalb, Pam Karwan, Baby T.J. Krieg, Kathleen Krieg, Klavdia Krieg, Anthony Lamantia, James Leung, Valerie Librizzo, Thomas & Patricia Lipari, William J. Litt, Cindy Maione, Maryann Maione, Ralph Maresco, Mary Mastrangelo, Camillo Mazella, Rosemary Menechella, Jordan Miller, John Myers, Salvatore Noto, Angela Ottomanelli-Hubbs, Michael Palermo, Gina Palya, Santo Pantina, Ann Parsell, Anna Petito, Doris, Carlo, Philip & Frank Pecchillo, Vivian Puglissi, Joseph Questore, Mary Romano, Jake Rothman, Louise Ruggiero, Bill Sangirardi, Felice Scimeca, Fred Sepulveda, Rosalia Sindone, Michael Tamburo, Chrissie Tremblay, Paul Tremblay, Paul John Tremblay, Ann Marie Vayda, Sr. Joanne Walters, Elizabeth Weimer.

Deceased: Loretta Connors, Margaret Rosina

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, March 31, 2017!**

While The Church Is Undergoing Renovation...

Visiting the Church under any circumstances is prohibited during the renovation due to safety concerns. Please check the parish Facebook for updates on the work.

In the unexpected event that a funeral should need to take place, the option of use of Fr. Dooley Hall or Our Lady of Grace will be presented to the family. All Funeral Masses at Our Lady of Grace for St. Helen's parishioners will be celebrated by priests from St. Helen. We apologize in advance for the inconvenience construction will present to all of our lives in the next few months.

GOOD SHEPHERD STATUE

We would like to thank **Aurora Martello**, 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.



DON'T FORGET TO SPRING FORWARD!

Daylight Savings Time begins March 12th, so remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before bed next Saturday night!

The Order of Franciscans Secular meet on the 3rd Saturday of every month in St. Helen's Rectory after the 9AM Mass. Come and learn more about the Franciscan way of life.

UPDATE ON CHURCH RENOVATION #9

Another dumpster. I have always found dumpsters quite ugly. I understand they haul garbage and garbage isn't pretty, but a dumpster sits in front of a home or business and just looks ugly! I wonder if anyone has ever thought of decorating them?

Well this week has been quite productive. The terrazzo has been poured throughout the main body of the Church. Again, this is the first step of a multi step process. It looks unsightly until the final procedures of sanding take place, then the true colors shine through.

The wall I spoke of last week was shored up on both sides and now most of the wall has been demolished. As seen on Facebook, the steel beam was delivered and on Monday the welders have welded the spaces necessary for the HVAC unit return and duct work. Inspectors have been on site ensuring all is in order so that the roof does not cave in and that the beam is properly placed. They have approved everything so far, and in fact I heard one of them say, "this is an easy job".

The wall where the ushers' closet once stood has also been fully removed and a steel beam will be permanently set in place to support the roof in that location. That steel beam will then be framed in wood, of the same color as the organ, as the steel beam will be located at the corner of the organ. All of this is according to plan and will help create an "organ space" when the organ is finally placed in its location.

During the week, time was spent touching up and weatherproofing the image of the resurrected Christ. Originally the architects thought it was cast bronze, it's not! In fact, it's cast aluminum painted to look like bronze. **SPOILER ALERT!!!!** The reason for weatherproofing the image of the Resurrection, has to do with its new location. As seen from the plans in the video on Facebook, the Sanctuary will have an image of the crucified Christ at its center. The image of the Resurrection will be placed on the brick wall at the entrance of the Church welcoming all who enter through the main doors of the Church. This, hopefully, will go up this week.

By end of this week, the support beam should be in place and work on the floors will continue. Upon completion of the floors the pews shall return! By the second or third week of Lent a major revelation to the full scope of the renovation will be printed in the bulletin. Keep checking Facebook for all the up to date images of the progress that is taking place inside the Church.

Fr. Colamaria

ST. HELEN CATHOLIC ACADEMY'S 200-TO-1 RAFFLE!

- **Only 200 tickets, at \$100 per raffle ticket, will be available for sale. The Grand Prize of \$10,000 will be awarded to the last ticket drawn at our "Wine & Cheese Drawing."** There will also be an **additional \$1,000** in prize money spread amongst other tickets as they are drawn.
- This special fundraiser will be held on **Friday, April 7, 2017**, beginning at 7:00PM in St. Helen Catholic Academy's cafeteria. **To be successful, we need to sell all 200 tickets! Winners need not be present at the drawing.**
- **200 to 1 Raffle Tickets are now on sale through Friday, March 31st.**
- **Please call Maria Elrose at 917-715-0908 or Diane Joseph at 917- 697-5351 to purchase 200 to 1 Raffle Tickets. Ticket numbers will be given on a first-come first-served basis.**
- **Additional Monetary Prizes Listed As Tickets Are Drawn:**
First Ticket: \$250 50th Ticket: \$150 100th Ticket: \$200 150th Ticket: \$150 190th Ticket: \$250
Deal will be offered for the last remaining 10 Tickets: 191st – 200th: All ticket holders must be present for this deal to be offered. **200th Ticket Drawn: \$10,000 (Grand Prize!)**

For additional information, please call 718-835-4155.

Thank You for Supporting St. Helen Catholic Academy!



POLICIES REGARDING INFANT BAPTISM AT ST. HELEN PARISH

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 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 10:30AM–12:30PM.**

MARCH—MAY 2017

Mornings of Preparation-Required Before a Baptism:

(All begin at the 11:00AM Mass and continue in the Msgr. McGinness Room)

March 12 & 26 — April 23 & 30 — May 7 & 28

Schedule for Baptisms:

(All begin at 2:00PM)

March 12 & 26 — No Baptisms in April — May 21 & 28

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

Please realize that the Church building of Saint Helen is undergoing a renovation thru April 2017. The Church will be closed and Fr. Dooley Hall will be used as a worship space in the interim. Baptisms will still be offered in this time period in the Hall. Some may choose to wait for Baptism until the construction is completed and this is fully understandable. If there are any questions please contact the Deacons who can give more details as to the renovation period.

ST. HELEN SCHOOL ALUMNAE — 50th Anniversary of St. Helen School

Help us make our 50th Anniversary one to remember! St. Helen Catholic Academy is in the process of updating our contact information for all graduates of St. Helen School. If you are a graduate or a family member, we are asking for your help by providing us with your name, email, address, and phone number. Please fill out the form below and return it to the rectory or email your information to mariaford216@gmail.com. Thank you.

ST. HELEN SCHOOL ALUMNAE

Name: _____

Maiden Name if Married: _____

Graduation Year: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

LENTEN SCHEDULE 2017

Stations of the Cross:

Monday afternoons at 12:30PM
 Friday at 7:30PM followed by Benediction

Weekday Masses:

Monday—Saturday: 9:00AM
 Thursdays at 7:30PM

Weekend Masses:

Saturday at 5:00PM
 Sunday: 8AM, 9:30AM, 11AM, 12:30PM & 5PM

Confessions:

Monday—Friday at 8:45AM
 Saturdays 12:30-1:30PM, or by appointment

RECONCILIATION MONDAY: APRIL 10, 2017

Throughout the N.Y. region, this day is set aside for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) in preparation for Easter. Here at St. Helen, the opportunity for the Sacrament will be offered from **3:00PM thru 9:00PM**.

REGULATIONS CONCERNING FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of mandatory fasting and abstinence from meat.
- All Fridays in Lent are days of mandatory abstinence from meat.
- The obligation to fast applies to those aged 18-59.
- The obligation to abstain from meat applies to those aged 14 and older.
- Those fasting may eat only one normal-sized meal. Two smaller meals may be eaten, if needed for strength. These smaller meals together should not equal a normal-sized meal. No food may be eaten between meals.
- The bishops of the United States recommend voluntary fasting on the other weekdays of Lent. It is a praiseworthy tradition to fast on Holy Saturday, until the Easter Vigil.
- It is worth remembering that every Friday of the year is a day of penance, unless a solemnity falls on a Friday. In the United States, on Fridays outside of Lent, one may choose either to abstain from eating meat or to perform some other act of penance.

You're Invited to Participate in CRS Rice Bowl

Encounter Innovation. We encounter a family in India, where a mother and father are using innovative farming techniques to feed their family amidst a flood. How is God inviting us to think outside the box in service to others this Lent? Visit crsricebowl.org for more information.



St. Helen Intramurals Basketball sign-ups will be held in St. Helen cafeteria on **Thursday, March 9th** from 7-9PM. Signups are for grades 3-12. Fee for intramurals is \$125. If more than one family member, there will be a discount. For more information please come to signups or call Anthony at 917-494-9569 or email sthelencyobb@gmail.com.

Robert Hegarty, a parishioner of St. Helen's, is currently a Life Scout in Troop 139 in Howard Beach, NY, as well as Senior Assistant Patrol Leader for the Troop. For his Eagle Scout Project, he has chosen to work with the NYC Feral Cat Initiative with the Mayor's Alliance and the ASPCA, in support of the Trap-Neuter-Release Program. He will also make cat habitats for the feral cat colonies in New York City in order to help them survive the harsh NY winter in insulated shelters. Building these "*Catatais*" will help improve the quality of life for these feral cats, who might otherwise freeze to death.

For his project, Robert will construct the cat habitats using donated material such as coolers, straw, and plant holders for shielded entranceway. With the donations he receives, he is hopeful to make 40-50 cat habitats. **Robert will be collecting for his Eagle Project after all Masses THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 5th**, and will gladly accept whatever monetary or material support that you might be able to offer. Robert can be reached at Troop139futureEagle@gmail.com.

Congratulations to the following young St. Helen parishioners who have achieved academic excellence at their high school for the last marking period:

Archbishop Molloy High School

Lauren Coleman, *Honors*

Cathedral Preparatory Seminary

Anthony Leone, *First Honors*

MarcAnthony Ramos, *Principal's List*

Holy Cross High School

Andrew Baglino, *First Honors*

Vincenzo Colamarino, *First Honors*

Christian Valdez, *Principal's List*

Thomas VonToussaint, Jr., *Second Honors*

St. Francis Prep *Honor Roll Status*

Giuseppe Agola
 Anthony Bak
 Nicholas Biordi
 John Cardone
 Matthew Castillo
 Sabrina Chirafisi
 Daniella Deblasi
 Victoria Deblasi
 Joseph Delgeorge
 Christopher Florio
 Vincent Giuga
 Angela Green
 John Grillo
 Gianna Kosinski
 Marissa Kosinski

St. Francis Prep *(Cont'd.)*

John Langone
 Ninabianca Leone
 Sabrina Leone
 Leanna Madonna
 Nicolette Madonna
 Jody Lynn Mancuso
 Christopher Moschitta
 Dana Napolitano
 Victoria Padavona
 Gabrielle Pelczar
 Salvatore Puleo
 Stephanie Reiter
 Bruno Rinaldi
 Frederick Rufrano



FIRST WEEK OF LENT



Mon., March 6 | Lv 19:1-2,11-18; Mt 25:31-46

Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy. The book of Leviticus is a collection of religious, civil, liturgical and moral laws that the Hebrew people were commanded to observe. Why?

The answer is in the second verse: “Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy.” Of course God is holy, but us? Well, yes. And the instructions for doing this should be quite familiar: do not steal, do not defraud your neighbor, do not insult the deaf or trick the blind, do not stand by when your neighbor’s life is at stake, do not hold grudges. What’s interesting and equally important is that these instructions were given to the community. We are not expected to be holy on our own; we are expected to live out God’s holiness in our relationships with each other. You have chosen us and called us to be holy, O God.

Tues., March 7 | Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. There are probably as many kinds of prayer as there are people. You can pray while kneeling, running, standing or sitting still. You can pray by yourself or with others. You can pray while singing, dancing or walking a labyrinth. Prayers can be silent or spoken. There is centering prayer, meditation, the rosary. Prayers can be memorized or spontaneous. Bottom line: there is no one way to pray. And on those occasions when there are no words, when all we can do is sigh and take a deep breath, even that is a prayer. Lord, hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken.

Wed., March 8 | Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

Set out for the city of Nineveh, and announce to it the message that I will tell you. The short story of Jonah packs a big message. It is much more than a fish tale. It’s even more than the story of a man of faith who spends most of his time running away from God. It’s a story about being called to do things we don’t want to do. And it’s a story about second and third and fourth chances. The story of Jonah also raises important questions: Is there any person or place that is beyond the reach of God’s love? And is there anyone to whom God will not give a second chance? Remind us again, O God, of the width and breadth of your love and care.

Thurs., March 9 | Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Sometimes we read this verse as Jesus’ promise that we will get anything we pray for, but I think it’s a gentle reminder that we do not have to beg God for wisdom or hope or guidance or patience. Whenever we’re facing struggles or temptations, all we have to do is ask — and trust that when we turn to God, our prayers will be heard. We look to you, O God, seeking your sustaining presence.

Fri., March 10 | Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

You have heard it said ... but I say to you ... In today’s reading, Jesus takes a few laws from the Hebrew Scriptures, which are already difficult enough to obey, and makes them even tougher. After all, who among us has not been angry? Who among us is on good terms with everyone? Who has no relationship that needs to be reconciled? Who among us has not lusted? Far from lowering the standards for human behavior, Jesus raises the bar. Is it too high? Is he pushing an unrealistic standard that makes it impossible to be obedient and faithful? Or, does Jesus believe in us more than we believe in ourselves? Are we more capable of faithful discipleship than we think? Help us live up to your intentions for us, Divine Love.

Sat., March 11 | Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48

Love your enemies. Of all the hard teachings of Jesus, this is surely the most difficult. Throughout the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus has set a standard so high that following his commandments may seem impossible: Don’t be angry. Turn the other cheek. Treat others the way you want to be treated. Lend to those who ask. Now we receive an additional charge: Love and pray for your enemies. Jesus calls us to a different life, a life of peace and love, not anger or retaliation or revenge. Jesus calls us to make no distinction between “neighbor” and “enemy” — and in so doing, we build God’s kingdom. God of love, hear our prayers for our neighbors and enemies.

