

# SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



## This Week's Mass Intentions

### SUNDAY, JULY 29, 2018

- 8:00AM Vincenzo Riviuccio (*Rachele Sannino*)
- 9:30AM Linda McSorley (*Zena Basin*)
- 11:00AM Giovanni Ariola (*Frank Salvati*)
- 12:30PM John DeRiso (*Flesche Family*)
- 5:00PM For The Parishioners

### MONDAY, JULY 30, 2018 *St. Peter Chrysologus*

- 9:00AM Walter Schretzman (*John*)

### TUESDAY, JULY 31, 2018 *St. Ignatius of Loyola*

- 9:00AM Bruna Romano (*Comella Family*)

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2018 *St. Alphonsus Liguori*

- 9:00AM Elizabeth Ujzdowski (*Loving Family*)

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 2018 *Sts. Eusebius & Peter Julian*

- 9:00AM Kay Schretzman (*John*)

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2018

- 9:00AM Vincent & Louise Festa (*Annette & Marty Gould*)

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 2018 *St. John Vianney*

- 9:00AM Tillie Amari (*Jean Ragolia*)
- Marion Carbone (*Vita & Paul*)
- Carol Coogan (*Christopher & Nicole Delano*)
- Dorothy Pizzo (*Loving Family*)
- John T. Sharkey (*John & Mary Anne Rainone*)
- 5:00PM Nicolo Chiaramonte (*Loving Mother*)
- Santa Falconieri (*James & Carmela Claro*)
- Vincent Mascia (*Florence Albrecht*)
- Ria Romano (*Angelo & Ann Marie Gurino*)
- Jean Rappo (*Sal Berritto*)

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2018

- 8:00AM Margaret & Vincent Tucci
- 9:30AM Anthony John Ciaccio (*Michele DeRiso*)
- 11:00AM John DeRiso (*Zena Basin*)
- 12:30PM Gorycki & Kowalewski Family (*Helen Repstad*)
- 5:00PM For The Parishioners

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



Debbie Abbene, Ann Ahern, Amado Araneta, Baby Canzoneri, Sally Capozziello, Shang Cheng, Marge D'Auria, Mary Ann D'Angelo, Patrick Delaney, Domenica DeVito, Virginia DiGangi, Richard H. Dimler, Mary Divers, Jean Fochetta, Dennis Giammalvo, John Joseph Gleeson, John Pierce Gleeson, Christine Healy, Maria Hernandez, Elizabeth Isolano, Marilyn Krajcik, Keri & Baby Tristan, James Leung, Thomas & Patricia Lipari, William J. Litt, Cindy Maione, Barbara Miller, Jane Orban, Angela Ottomanelli-Hubbs, Michael Palermo, Sebastian Panasci, Santo Pantina, Joseph Questore, Frances Russo, Bill Sangirardi, John Secreti, Patrick Smith, Remington Stafford, Michael Tamburo, Chrissie Tremblay, Paul Tremblay, Paul John Tremblay, Sr., Sr. Joanne Walters.

**Deceased:** Marianne L. Confessore

### 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, August 31 2018.**



St. Helen will hold a **Blood Drive on Wednesday, August 1st** from 3:00-7:00PM in St. Helen's Academy. For questions concerning medical eligibility call (800) 688-0900, or visit [www.nybc.org](http://www.nybc.org).



### GOOD SHEPHERD STATUE

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

**“Never Answer An Anonymous Letter” — Yogi Berra**

In my last parish, I received a scathing letter that was sent to the Bishop’s office. The content of the letter pertained to something I had said at the pulpit, implying that my political ideologies were affected by the right wing media. The content of the letter was quite amusing, accusing me of political views that, according to the letter, were being “spewed by Fox News and the like.” What was so amusing is the fact I do not own a television and I do not watch Fox News (or any televised News).

The letter was sent to the Bishop’s office and the Bishop’s secretary forwarded it to me as a “heads-up”. When the letter finally arrived to the rectory (with the official stamp of the Bishop), I immediately called the Bishop’s secretary and inquired, “Why was an anonymous letter ever given credibility?” She quickly responded, “But Father, it was signed!” The letter was signed “Nemo Neminen”. I was silent at first, and politely informed the secretary that the Bishop needs to brush up on his Latin; *nemo* is Latin for “nobody” and *neminem* is the accusative tense of the same word! I quickly filed the letter under G (garbage) as did the Bishop’s secretary.

In my years of priesthood, I have received numerous anonymous letters. Some of them were quite amusing, others very misinformed, while others just baffle the imagination. Nonetheless, all anonymous letters I receive are filed under G.

One letter I received from a disgruntled parishioner inquired, “How do you expect to renovate a church in six months if you can’t repair a statue in three?” I think I have answered that one! Nonetheless, the statue in question was irreparable.

There is an old saying, “Never take any notice of anonymous letters, unless you get a few thousand on the same subject.” This has never occurred in my time as a priest, but occasionally, an anonymous letter does give me pause. But, if it is not signed, then its value is diminished to less than the weight of the paper it’s printed on! The signed letters I receive with compliments and complaints are always regarded with thought and action and are appreciated. On the other hand, the anonymous letters keep the blades of my shredder clean!

Signed,  
Father Francis A. Colamaria  
The Pastor



## New Family Religious Education Registration for 2018-2019

*Our program consists of Eight Religious Education grades: Kindergarten through 7<sup>th</sup> Grade*

We are now registering children for the **2018-2019** school year. You may pick up a registration **form** at the Religious Education Office located in the St. Helen's Academy school building. The registration fee is **\$75** for one child and **\$100** for two or more children in the same family **for registrations received up to and including 7/20/2018**. **The registration fee for forms received after 7/20/18 is \$100 for one child and \$125 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, you should contact the rectory of the Church where your child was baptized. It takes a couple of weeks to process a Baptismal Certificate at most parishes. Place your request now so your registration for our program will not be delayed. If you have any concerns or questions please contact us at 718-916-2319. Re-registration for those enrolled in the current year was sent home.

### **Rosary for Peace...New Place, New Time**

The Rosary for Peace, sponsored by the Saint Helen Secular Franciscan Fraternity, takes place in the Church at 6:30PM every Wednesday. The group prays for our Blessed Mother's intercession to end violence (both domestic and civil) and 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.

### **St. Helen's Support Group for the Physically Challenged**

meets the first and third Wednesday of every month at 1:30PM in the Rectory meeting room. All are invited. For further information please call Joan at (718) 848-9173.

**T** 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.



**CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES HOWARD BEACH SENIOR CENTER** is located at 155-55 Cross Bay Blvd., across from Stop N Shop on Cross Bay Blvd. Seniors aged 60 and older are invited to become members. Activities and services are offered Monday-Friday from 9:00AM to 4:00PM. **For further information, contact Rosalie at 718-738-8100.**

|                   |   |  |
|-------------------|---|--|
| <b>Mondays</b>    | 9:30-10:30AM:<br>10:45-11:45AM:                   | <b>Tai Chi</b> with Elaine Fleischman<br><b>Chair Aerobics</b> with Charlie Roemer   |
| <b>Tuesdays</b>   | 9:30-10:30AM:<br>1:00PM:                          | <b>Movement Exercise</b> with Millie<br><b>Dancing to a DJ</b> with Refreshments   |
| <b>Wednesdays</b> | 10:00-11:00AM:<br>10:30-11:30AM:<br>1:00-3:00PM:  | <b>Zumba</b> with Elaine<br><b>Adult Coloring Classes</b><br><b>Karaoke By Fernando</b>  |
| <b>Thursdays</b>  | 9:30-10:30AM:<br>9:30-11:30AM:<br>12:30-2:30PM:   | <b>Movement Exercise</b> with Millie<br><b>Art Classes</b> with a certified teacher<br><b>Art Classes</b> with a certified teacher |
| <b>Fridays</b>    | 9:30-10:30AM:<br>10:00-11:30AM:<br>10:30-11:30AM: | <b>Cardio Exercise</b> with Dwayne<br><b>Introduction to Sign Language</b><br><b>Yoga</b> with Charlie Roemer                      |



## **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.**

### **AUGUST—SEPTEMBER, 2018**

**Mornings of Preparation  
Required Before a Baptism:**  
*(All begin at the 11:00AM Mass and  
continue in the Msgr. McGinness Room)*  
**August 12 & 26 — September 9 & 23**

**Schedule for Baptisms:**  
*(All begin at 2:00PM)*

**August 12 & 26  
September 9 & 23**

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

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018



60 youngsters visited Daniel in Babylon this week. They sang, heard stories, played games, made crafts and met new friends. Thanks to our leaders and counselors. Special thanks to Laurie Heedles, the director, and Peter Pelczar, the set designer!

### 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** in memory of a loved one for one week (\$50.00 each).
- **Votive Candles** for one year (\$100.00).
- A leaf permanently placed on the **Tree of Life** (\$350.00).
- A plaque permanently placed on the **Anniversary Wall** (\$350.00).

For further information, you may either call or visit the Rectory.



*You are invited to  
Pray the Family Rosary*  
**THURSDAY EVENINGS  
IN CHURCH  
7:00-7:30PM**



*Are you new to St. Helen Parish?* If so, please remember to stop in at the Rectory to register your family!

**Holy Child Jesus Teen Drama Group** will be performing **42ND STREET**, August 9th at 7PM, August 10th & 11th at 8PM, and August 12th at 3PM. For tickets and more information, please call (718) 847-1860. Performances will be in the Msgr. Murray Auditorium, located at 111-02 86th Avenue, Richmond Hill, NY.



## SEVENTEENTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

I must  
confess,  
I am of



Homiletic starters and  
scriptural  
reflection points for  
each day of the month

### Monday, July 30, 2018

Jer 13:1-11/Mt 13:31-35

The story we hear of Jeremiah and his buried loincloth is God's way of telling Israel that they have forgotten their beginnings, forgotten all that God has done for them, and have ceased to be grateful and godly. Jesus tells two kingdom parables each illustrating the same point — the small, even unimpressive, beginnings and the extraordinary expansion into

something worthy. We proud people seem to err in one of two ways. Either we forget that we, too, were once (choose all that apply) poor, refugees, immigrants, dependent on the kindness of others. Or we extoll our humble beginnings and act as if all that we have now is due to the virtue of our ancestors or ourselves, perhaps forgetting what we took from others or just our plain, dumb luck. Both ways lead to a lack of gratitude, an eventual failure of compassion, and godlessness. There but for the grace of God ... *Gracious God, remind us of our debt to you and to others and keep us humble that we may be patient and generous with those on our path.*

### Tuesday, July 31, 2018

Jer 14:17-22; Mt 13:36-43

Today we remember Ignatius of Loyola, priest, theologian, spiritual director, founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), and spiritual ancestor of Pope Francis. The Jesuits were my first teachers in the faith, and to them I attribute what ability I have to think and to pray, not that I am any great shakes at either. I cannot read the Scriptures without that Ignatian practice of putting myself in the story, imagining those around me, noticing what role I'm playing, observing my reactions. It's a powerful way to encounter the word and sometimes overwhelming. Today I find myself caught up with Jeremiah as he weeps over his beloved homeland. He sees, he counsels, he warns, but he is ineffective and so he suffers with the people he is trying to save. There are Jeremiahs in our world. Thank God for them. *For the glory of your name, O Lord, deliver us.*

### Wednesday, August 1, 2018

Jer 15:10, 16-21; Mt 13:44-46

One of the books that formed me into the person I am is Judith Viorst's *Necessary Losses*. Its premise is simple, yet life-changing: to gain one must lose. We lose the womb to gain life in this world; the safety of enfolding arms to walk on our own; potential of "anyone" for the companionship of one "someone." And so on. These are real losses, but usually experienced in anticipation of something so much better that the sacrifice may not be noticed. And that, says Jesus, is what the kingdom is like: We sacrifice, but out of joy. What keeps people from enduring the loss in order to receive so much? We see it more and more among young people for whom "adult" has become a verb, as in, "Please don't make me adult today." (Shudder.) Sometimes, we cling to the lesser good we know instead of taking the risk and investing in that field where the treasure is buried. *Please God, help me to choose you and the life you promise.*

### Thursday, August 2, 2018

Jer 18:1-6; Mt 13:47-53

a certain age and much of my ability to pray the Scriptures is due to the music of the 70s. Before you scoff, realize that this music is largely responsible for our sense of intimacy with the Divine and the language we use to address God as we sing "Abba Father," "Here I Am, Lord," and "Only This I Want." It is much like that intimacy known by Jeremiah, who experienced God as close as an unwashed loincloth or in today's first reading, the potter molding and forming the clay. God the Almighty is true, and so is God who lives in our hearts. Jesus at the right hand of the Father is true, and so is brother Jesus who walked among us. I like to think that we needn't choose. *In the words of the song, "Mold us and fashion us into the image of Jesus your Son."*

### Friday, August 3, 2018

Jer 26:1-9; Mt 13:54-58

Both readings today are about love and frustration. Jeremiah is a man of vision, albeit reluctant, who must speak the words God has given him. This act of love, for that is what it is, is greeted with threats of violence. Jesus tries to reach the people he knew best in this world, his family and neighbors, only to be turned away. That he could not heal or touch the hearts of his nearest and dearest is one of the saddest moments in the Gospels and should be reassurance that Jesus understands. He knows the frustration of a preacher whose congregation will not be moved. He sits beside the counselor or teacher or coach when someone in their charge is bent on self-destruction. He's on the hotline with the crisis worker; in the heart of every friend who feels helpless as someone dear follows the wrong path; weeps with parents who cannot reach their children. Jesus understands. *Jesus, friend of the suffering, give us what we need to do what we can for others and, when our efforts seem ineffective, help us to continue to love.*

### Saturday, August 4, 2018

Jer 26:11-16, 24; Mt 14:1-12

"Speaking truth to power" is the focus of both of today's readings. The phrase might be on the edge of becoming a cliché; nevertheless, the act of simply telling the truth to someone who is threatened by that truth is often a dangerous business. A friend told me recently that she didn't put out a yard sign for her candidate because she was afraid of being vandalized. Another said he didn't display bumper-stickers after finding his car "keyed." Some find themselves unwelcome at family gatherings or ostracized in church. But most remain silent because life is easier and I get it. The truth will always offend someone. Perhaps the first task is to find inoffensive ways of telling that truth. Reduce profanity, accusations, exaggeration, and above all, self-righteousness. Calm, reasoned truth-telling is what is needed. *Lord, teach me your ways, guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior.*

