

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021

- 8:00AM George & Claire Cox
- 9:30AM Mary Camelo (*Loving Daughter, Zena*)
- 11:00AM Frank T. Serpico (*Loving Family*)
- 12:30PM Paul Auwarter (*Adele Meehan*)
 - Francis Xavier Clinton (*Wife, Bernadette*)
 - Robert Coleman (*Steve & Diane Coleman*)
 - Marina Coraci—*Special Intention*
 - Anthony Robert Messina (*Grandma, Barbara*)
 - Gelsomina Serrapica (*Janet & Don Balsamo*)
 - Leo & Jennie Vento (*Karen Jasiak*)
- 5:00PM For The Parishioners

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2021 PRESIDENT'S DAY

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021

- 9:00AM Francis Vincent Rand (*Mother, Carmela Maio*)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021

ASH WEDNESDAY

Please see next page for information.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021

- 9:00AM Sarra Family (*Sal & Maria*)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2021

- 9:00AM Fred Spagnuolo (*Loving Wife, Grazia*)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2021

- 9:00AM Angelina Weltick (*Loving Family*)
- 5:00PM Giuseppa Adamo (*Josephine Venezia*)
 - Victor Auber (*Joe Barreca*)
 - Rose Goffredo (*Woloszyn Family*)
 - Vivien Hegarty (*Nena Garcia*)
 - Linda Iacopelli (*Pasquale Guardi*)
 - Charles Kerrigan (*Joseph & Victoria Trancho*)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021

- 8:00AM George & Ann Papandrea
- 9:30AM In Thanksgiving for the Priests, Deacons, Staff & Parishioners (*Vita Monastero*)
- 11:00AM Pasquale (Patty) Ciullo (*Wife, Ann & Family*)
- 12:30PM Marina Coraci—*Special Intention*
 - Antonio DiFiore (*M/M Gandolfo Taravella*)
 - Frank Pagano (*M/M Gandolfo Taravella*)
 - Joseph & Gloria Porto (*Loving Family*)
 - Maria Sannino (*Rachele Sannino*)
- 5:00PM Francesca Gaudino (*Rosalie LoCascio*)



Scott Bucaria

Please Note: The Rectory office will be closed **Monday, February 15th** in observance of President's Day and will reopen on Tuesday at 9:00AM.



Please join us every Tuesday at 1:00PM in Church to pray the special prayers to **The Holy Face of Jesus** in reparation for the crimes of communists, blasphemers, the profaners of his Holy Name and of the Holy Day of Sunday.

Are you new to St. Helen Parish? If so, please stop in at the Rectory to register your family, or for easier and faster service please register through our website at www.sthelen.org



Amado Araneta, Joe Barreca, Anthony Barresi, Stella Barresi, Mary Battista, Barbara Bitetto, Theresia Brech, Daniel Campion, Sally Capozello, Shang Cheng, Zena Cipolla, Marge D'Auria, Patrick Delaney, Domenica DeVito, Toni Ann Diaz, Virginia DiGangi, Tina DiPalo, 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, Henry J. Hinton, Marilyn Krajcik, Keri & Baby Tristan, Elaine Lazzeri, Susan Leone, James Leung, Patricia Lipari, William J. Litt, Tom Mercatante, Barbara Miller, John Myers, Angela Ottomanelli-Hubbs, Michael Palermo, Frank Palmenteri, Sebastian Panasci, Santo Pantina, Doris Pecchillo, Nino Pedone, Amelia Pepe, Josephine Profera, Vivian Puglissi, Joseph Questore, Recupero Family, Frances Russo, John Secreti, Remington Stafford, Rubie Anna Torall, 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, February 26, 2021.**



ASH WEDNESDAY AT ST. HELEN IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

These are unprecedented times, and as the Pastor of a large parish, I have reflected and prayed on how to proceed for Ash Wednesday and for the distribution of ashes.

Under normal circumstances, Ash Wednesday at St. Helen Parish has seven scheduled services and/or Masses, each one reaching capacity, and sometimes spilling over into the vestibule and into the plaza in front of Church. Last Ash Wednesday (pre-pandemic), 3,000 people passed through the doors of St. Helen Church. This year, how many will come is unknown. From the experience of this past Christmas Eve (even with additional Masses), some were either empty—or at others we had to turn people away.

In order to maintain public safety (i.e., reducing crowding), and to permit everyone in the Parish the opportunity to receive ashes, this year Ash Wednesday will look **very different**:

- **There will be no appointed times to receive ashes at St. Helen.**
- **There will be no public Mass, and no services.**
- **Ashes will be distributed all day at any time.**

Beginning at 7:00AM and ending at 8:00PM, ashes will be distributed in Church at any time. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the Altar all day, and I encourage people, after receiving ashes, to say prayers quietly in Church. **To repeat, there will be no scheduled Mass or Service on Ash Wednesday.** Instead you may enter the Church at any time on Ash Wednesday, February 17th, between the hours of 7:00AM and 8:00PM.

I have thought long and prayed hard about this situation and see this exceptional decision as the only plausible way to begin the Lenten Season prayerfully, safely, and conveniently for every member of St. Helen Parish.

As you enter the Church on Ash Wednesday, a Lenten reflection will be made available for you to read in Church or in the quiet of your home. I encourage you to bring your rosary, prayer book or a meditation that you may use before or after receiving ashes. The normal Mass schedule will resume Thursday, February 18th at 9:00AM.

Fr. Colamaria

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.

READINGS FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Reading I

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “If someone has on his skin a scab or pustule or blotch which appears to be the sore of leprosy, he shall be brought to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests among his descendants. If the man is leprous and unclean, the priest shall declare him unclean by reason of the sore on his head. “The one who bears the sore of leprosy shall keep his garments rent and his head bare, and shall muffle his beard; he shall cry out, ‘Unclean, unclean!’ As long as the sore is on him he shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean. He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp.”



Responsorial Psalm

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Blessed is he whose fault is taken away,
whose sin is covered.

Blessed the man to whom the LORD imputes not guilt,
in whose spirit there is no guile. **R.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
my guilt I covered not.

I said, “I confess my faults to the LORD,”
and you took away the guilt of my sin. **R.**

Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you just;
exult, all you upright of heart. **R.**

Continued on next page...

READINGS FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Reading II

1 Cor 10:31—11:1

Brothers and sisters, Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks or the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in every way, not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Alleluia

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A great prophet has arisen in our midst,
God has visited his people. **R.**



Gospel

Mk 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, “If you wish, you can make me clean.” Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, “I do will it. Be made clean.” The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once. He said to him, “See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them.” The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

faith is Back!

LAB

Each Tuesday during Lent we will once again be conducting Faith Lab.

The definition of a Laboratory is: “A room or building equipped for scientific experiments, research, or teaching.” Now, we will not be creating anything like some mad scientists! Faith Lab is an invitation to all parishioners to bring their thoughts, research, and questions to the table in a setting that will be led by one or both of the priests of the parish.

We will not be solving the problems of the world but more like engaging each other with questions like... Why do we do that? or Does the Church teach this? or Father, what’s your opinion? (including some of the more sticky questions). Father Giulietti and I are not theologians, and so you may stump both of us! In fact, we will be open to anonymous questions!

There is no signup and no prerequisites or requirements, just a willingness to explore the Catholic faith in a respectful manner using Scripture, tradition, anecdotes and experiences.

Faith Lab will be held on the following five **Tuesdays during Lent in Church at 7:00PM: February 23, March 2, March 9, March 16, & March 23** (Faith Lab will not be held on the Tuesday of Holy Week).

If you would like to submit questions for Faith Lab, you may place the questions in the collection any weekend Mass prior to Faith Lab, and we will answer them at the meeting. Please place your questions in an envelope marked “Faith Lab”. You may submit a question even if you do not attend.

Come join us to explore and investigate the Catholic Faith!

Fr. Colamaria & Fr. Giulietti



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.

Sponsorship Certificates

If you have been asked to be a godparent for baptism, or sponsor for Confirmation, you will need a Sponsorship Certificate form which can be completed by one of the priests or deacons **in the Church directly after any of the weekday morning or weekend Masses**. Appointments are not made for these at the Rectory. You must come yourself—you cannot send someone else to get the form for you.



St. Helen will share in the profits! For each car, truck or van, running or not, The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will give back to our Church \$50/\$100 per vehicle. Call The Society today if you have a vehicle to donate!



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): **February 28 & March 14**

Upcoming Schedule for Baptisms (All begin at 2:00PM): February 28 & March 14

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.