

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021

- 8:00AM George & Ann Papandrea
- 9:30AM Fr. Fabian N. Grifone (*Galang-Solatorre Family*)
- 11:00AM Angelo Marino (*Loving Family*)
- 12:30PM Francis Xavier Clinton, Jr. (*Loving Family*)
 - Gerard Cocchiola (*Kathleen & Tom Cocchiola*)
 - Margaret Giampietro (*Loving Family*)
 - Anthony Robert Messina (*Grandma, Barbara*)
 - Angelica Miano (*Steven Giusto*)
 - Anthony Montagna (*Natalie, Ron & Connie*)
 - Marie Vario (*Marie Pastore & OLC*)
- 5:00PM For The Parishioners

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2021

- 9:00AM Antoinette Casazza (*Maria Russo*)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2021 *St. Peter Cansius*

- 9:00AM Thomas Albert Grieco (*Joan Grieco*)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2021

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2021 *St. John of Kanty*

- 9:00AM Frank T. Serpico (*Loving Family*)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2021—CHRISTMAS EVE

- 9:00AM Rocco Miranti (*Loving Family*)
- 5:00PM James Fleming (as he discerns a vocation to the priesthood)
- Midnight Dr. Peter Pelczar (as he discerns a vocation to the Diaconate)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2021—CHRISTMAS

- 8:00AM Nicholas & Frances LoPrinzi (*on the occasion of their 70th Wedding Anniversary*)
- 9:30AM Walter & Ann Kreitsch (*on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary*)
- 11:00AM In Memory of Fred Spagnuolo
- 12:30PM James & Joan Bisciello (*on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary*)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021

- 8:00AM Vivien Hegarty (*Vita Monastero*)
- 9:30AM Dr. Ernesto Jocson (*Aida T. Jocson*)
- 11:00AM Christine Ann Salegna (*Loving Mom & Dad*)
- 12:30PM Robert D. Anderson (*Debbie Marra*)
 - Raffaella Digristina (*Santa Catarelli*)
 - Carmen Frallicciardi (*Marie Cazzalino*)
 - Rose Goffredo (*Loving Family*)
 - Linda Karmondy (*Daniella & Nick Trotta*)
 - Fidelina LaPaix (*Patti Stola*)
 - Linda & John Urban—50th Anniversary (*Rochelle Franzese*)
- 5:00PM For The Parishioners



Theresa Krug — Danielle Marrone



THE ALTAR BREAD, WINE, CANDLES AND SANCTUARY CANDLE for this week are donated in memory of **William F. DiPietra**, requested by his loving parents.



NY Governor Kathy Hochul has announced that **effective immediately, face masks will be required to be worn in all indoor public places in New York.** This mandate will be in effect until reevaluation on or about January 15, 2022. **Therefore, all parishioners are asked to please wear masks while in Church!**

PLEASE NOTE: The Intentions for the next monthly Purgatorial Society Mass will be offered **Friday, December 31, 2021.**



Amado Araneta, Joe Barreca, Anthony Barresi, Stella Barresi, Mary Battista, Barbara Bitetto, Mike Cabral, Connie Camelliri, Daniel Campion, Sally Capozziello, Kathleen Cassata, Shang Cheng, Mary Chiarello, Zena Cipolla, Lucille Claps, Rose Curti, Patrick Delaney, Domenica DeVito, Toni Ann Diaz, Virginia DiGangi, Mary Divers, Colin F., Jennie Federici, Clementine Gagliardi, Dennis Giammalvo, Tony Giampietro, John Joseph Gleeson, John Pierce Gleeson, Rosemarie & Joseph Guagenti, Frank Guerra, Gertrude Gwardjak, Christine Healy, Maria Hernandez, Henry J. Hinton, Steven Igllo, 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, Mary Palermo, Frank Palmenteri, Sebastian Panasci, Santo Pantina, Doris Pecchillo, Nino Pedone, Amelia Pepe, Rosemarie Perl, Josephine Profera, Vivian Puglissi, Joseph Questore, Recupero Family, Joseph Russo, John Secreti, Remington Stafford, Rubie Anna Torall, Lynn Torres, Chrissie Tremblay, Paul Tremblay, Paul John Tremblay, Sr., Sr. Joanne Walters.



ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Monday, December 20

11:00AM-1:00PM and 6:00-8:00PM

The priests of St. Helen will be available to hear confessions during these times. This is a wonderful way to prepare your soul for the celebration of Christmas.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Friday, December 24

5:00PM: Vigil Mass *(Satisfies Christmas Mass)*

11:15PM: Carols with St. Helen Choir

12:00AM: Mass at Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY

Saturday, December 25 *(A Holy Day of Obligation)*

Masses at 8:00AM, 9:30AM, 11:00AM, 12:30PM

(No 5:00PM Mass on Christmas Day)

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Solemnity of the

Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

Saturday, January 1, 2022 *(Not a Holy Day of Obligation)*

Masses at 9:00AM &

5:00PM Vigil Mass of the Epiphany of the Lord *(Sunday Mass)*



The Rectory office will be closed Friday & Saturday, December 24 & 25, and will reopen on Sunday, December 26 at 9AM.

The Rectory office will be closed Friday & Saturday, December 31 & January 1, and will reopen on Sunday, January 2 at 9AM.



SUNDAY READINGS FOR THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Reading I

Mi 5:1-4a

Thus says the LORD: You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times. Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, and the rest of his kin+dred shall return to the children of Israel. He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD, in the majestic name of the LORD, his God; and they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace.

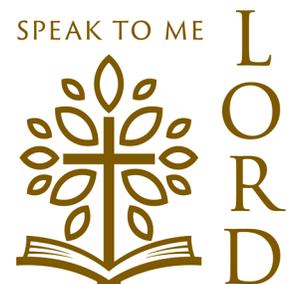
Responsorial Psalm

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken,
 from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth.
 Rouse your power,
 and come to save us. **R.**

Once again, O LORD of hosts,
 look down from heaven, and see;
 take care of this vine,
 and protect what your right hand has planted
 the son of man whom you yourself made strong. **R.**

May your help be with the man of your right hand,
 with the son of man whom you yourself made strong.
 Then we will no more withdraw from you;
 give us new life, and we will call upon your name. **R.**



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SUNDAY READINGS FOR THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Reading II *Heb 10:5-10*

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight. Then I said, ‘As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.’” First he says, “Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in.” These are offered according to the law. Then he says, :Behold, I come to do your will.” He takes away the first to establish the second. By this “will,” we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.



Alleluia

R. *Alleluia, alleluia.*

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.

May it be done to me according to your word. **R.**

Gospel *Lk 1:39-45*

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”



On December 1st, Saint Helen Parish engaged in the Diocesan Synod. The meeting was conducted by Deacon Richard Elrose, and the results were very compelling. In the following months, I will publish in the Bulletin the results of the Synod with some of my own personal comments.

Results from question #1:

Who do we envision the “Church” is, and how do we share our faith in and out of our community?

- We, the people, are the Church of St. Helen, not the building. We are a middle-class community; most of us get up and go to work every day. We are a generous parish made up of many different ethnic groups.
- We are the hands and feet of Jesus and we must step out of the box to share and help our fellow man.
- The use of technology is being utilized by streaming the weekly Mass. An increased use of technology, such as live streaming, Zoom or Face Book Live, is needed for: Daily Mass, Novenas, Society meetings, Advent or Lenten Retreats or any special events. People of all faiths watch our Liturgy and listen intently to our Homilies.
- The Franciscans and Rosarians Zoom the Rosary. All are invited through the use of emails and word of mouth.
- Car magnets were sold, “Keep Christ in Christmas.” Many vehicles display this symbol and it is comparable to wearing sport jerseys. This is advertising our faith. People can see how large and great the Catholic religion is in New York. Bring them back with other signs of our religion. We must enforce the idea that as a Catholic you are not alone.
- One parishioner shared his experiences of the Catholic Community at G.W. Law. There was a chaplain who had great success organizing daily Masses in the evening followed by group interactions and engagements. Focus was to “Give Glory to God.” The validity was questioned by other students; however, they stood strong together. “Give Glory to God” must be introduced, stressed, and taught at young ages.
- Lead by example and be role models for all.
 - a. Catholic Charities is an excellent example of Christianity putting their faith into action by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and caring for the poor. More positive publicity is needed of their unending works.
 - b. Students should have projects for helping our community. They should be out there and visible. There must be communication of the good works done by the Church.
 - c. Go and tell people “God Bless You” when in stores or wherever you go. Allow your faith to show in public.

Father Colamaria's response:

The response about an increase in the use of technology is a great idea. Currently, the parish live streams one Sunday Mass. I believe that an upgrade to the current technology we are using is a priority. Something more in line with a fixed camera in place within the church that can live stream more events with a "flip of the switch" technology and with better sound. Of course, this will be a major investment.

I would be remiss if I did not comment on the first statement made in these results (we, the people, are the Church of Saint Helen). This can only be partially true. Our faith has always taught that there are three parts to our Church: the Church militant (the living), the Church suffering (those in Purgatory) and the Church triumphant (those in Heaven). We pray on a daily basis for our "parishioners beyond the grave", monthly at a Purgatorial Society Mass, yearly at the All Souls' Mass, and practically 2 or 3 times a week at funeral Masses and wakes. Ministry to those who mourn, and prayers for the dead are a constant reality here at the parish and is taken very seriously by the clergy. It is practically one of the most important forms of evangelization and prayer of this parish, as it places the clergy before many non-churchgoers and worshippers alike. Let us not forget those who intercede on our behalf before the throne of God. The "we" of "who" the Church, is much broader than whom we see with our eyes!