

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2022

- 8:00AM Zofia & Bronislaw Bodziony (*Loving Daughters*)
- 9:30AM Rev. Wladyslaw Ciaglo & Jozef Bodziony (*Loving Family*)
- 11:00AM Frank T. Serpico (*Loving Family*)
- 12:30PM Giuseppa Adamo (*Loving Family*)
- Ida Colletti (*Loving Family*)
- Barbara Illari (*Andrew & Samantha*)
- Mary LaVelle (*Douglas Nitzberg*)
- Rosalia Macaluso (*Alba Gutierrez*)
- Felice Pugliese (*Rosetta Liuba*)
- Joseph Schiavone (*Rich*)
- 5:00PM For The Parishioners

MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022 *St. Isidore*

- 9:00AM John Higgins (*Mary Ann Higgins*)

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022 *St. Vincent Ferrer*

- 9:00AM Joseph Berritto, Jr. (*Loving Mother*)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022

- 9:00AM Pedro Juan Espada (*Loving Sister, Luisa*)

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022 *St. John Baptist de la Salle*

- 9:00AM Francesco Storti (*Loving Family*)

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2022

- 9:00AM Vincent DeRuvo (*Loving Family*)

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2022

- 9:00AM Vlad Formanek (*Loving Family*)
- 5:00PM Louis Ammirati (*M/M Frank LaBocchetta*)
- Connie Camelliri (*Patty & Kevin Harold*)
- Pietro Cusumano (*Comella Family*)
- Pedro Juan Espada (*Lucy DaRita*)
- Martin Griffin, Sr. & Jr. (*Debra Cohen*)
- Rosalia Macaluso (*Arango Family*)
- Robert O'Connor (*Sam Albano*)
- Nina Russo (*Romeo Family*)
- Betty Cohen & Joseph Serpico, Jr. (*Debra Cohen*)
- Leonard Wilkinson (*Pantaleo Family*)



APRIL 10, 2022

- 8:00AM George & Ann Papandrea
- 9:30AM Gaetano & Caterina Barone (*Loving Family*)
- 11:00AM Rocco DeVito (*Domenica & Daughters*)
- 1:00PM Louis Ammirati (*DiMaria Family*)
- Margaret Giampietro (*Loving Family*)
- Frank LaBocchetta, Jr. (*Jeanette Brown*)
- Rosalia Macaluso (*Rachele Sannino*)
- Giovanni Prestianni (*Stipanovic Family*)
- 5:00PM For The Parishioners



Diane Apicella—Dominick Castiglia

New Families: All are welcome to St. Helen Parish, and are asked to please register at the Rectory during office hours, or online at www.sthelen.org.

Sacrament of Baptism: Please call the Rectory to register for the baptism of your child. Baptisms will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month (no Baptisms during Lent).

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.

PLEASE NOTE: The Intentions for the next monthly Purgatorial Society Mass will be offered **Friday, April 29, 2022.**

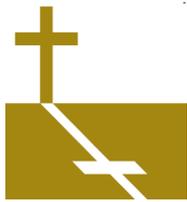


Amado Araneta, Joe Barreca, Anthony Barresi, Stella Barresi, Mary Battista, Barbara Bitetto, Mike Cabral, Daniel Campion, Kathleen Cassata, Shang Cheng, Mary Chiarello, Zena Cipolla, Lucille Claps, Rose Curti, Patrick Delaney, Domenic DellAnno, Domenica DeVito, Toni Ann Diaz, Virginia DiGangi, Mary Divers, 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 Iglio, Keri & Baby Tristan, Elaine Lazzeri, Susan Leone, James Leung, 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, Maria Rivera, Joseph Russo, John Secreti, Remington Stafford, Rubie Anna Torali, Lynn Torres, Chrissie Tremblay, Paul Tremblay, Paul John Tremblay, Sr., Sr. Joanne Walters.



CRS Rice Bowls are being collected at all Masses next weekend. If you forget to bring yours to Mass, you may drop it off at the Rectory during the week.

HOLY WEEK 2022



PALM SUNDAY MASSES—APRIL 9 & 10:

Saturday: 5:00PM

Sunday: 8:00AM, 9:30AM, 11:00AM, 1:00PM & 5:00PM

RECONCILIATION MONDAY, APRIL 11:

Throughout the N.Y. region, today 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 3PM—8PM.



HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 14:

Confessions: 8:45-9:00AM — Solemn Morning Prayer at 9:00AM

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30PM, followed by Adoration

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 15:

Solemn Morning Prayer at 9:00AM — No Confession on Good Friday

The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord at 3:00PM

Stations of the Cross at 7:30PM.

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 16:

Confessions: 8:45-9:00AM — Solemn Morning Prayer at 9:00AM

Blessing of Easter Baskets at 11:00AM

The Church will be closed after the Blessing of the Baskets until the celebration of the Easter Vigil.

There will be no 5:00PM Mass! Easter Vigil at 8:00PM

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 17:

Easter Day Masses: 8:00AM, 9:30AM, 11:00AM & 12:30PM

NO 5:00PM MASS EASTER SUNDAY!

The Rectory Office will be closed Good Friday, April 15, open Holy Saturday from 9AM to 12PM, & closed Easter Sunday and Easter Monday, reopening on Tuesday, April 19 at 9:00AM. The Rectory office Hours April 19-22 will be 9:00AM to 4:00PM. There are no evening hours April 19-22.

READINGS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Reading I

Is 43:16-21

Thus says the LORD, who opens a way in the sea and a path in the mighty waters, who leads out chariots and horsemen, a powerful army, till they lie prostrate together, never to rise, snuffed out and quenched like a wick. Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? In the desert I make a way, in the wasteland, rivers. Wild beasts honor me, jackals and ostriches, for I put water in the desert and rivers in the wasteland for my chosen people to drink, the people whom I formed for myself, that they might announce my praise.

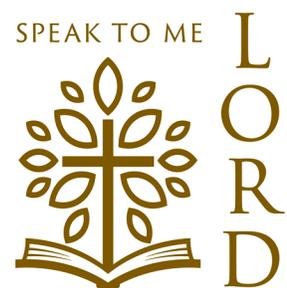
R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion,
we were like men dreaming.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with rejoicing. **R.**

Then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
The LORD has done great things for us;
we are glad indeed. **R.**

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the torrents in the southern desert.
Those that sow in tears
shall reap rejoicing. **R.**

Although they go forth weeping,
carrying the seed to be sown,
They shall come back rejoicing,
carrying their sheaves. **R.**



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READINGS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Reading II

Phil 3:8-14

Brothers and sisters: I consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having any righteousness of my own based on the law but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God, depending on faith to know him and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by being conformed to his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

It is not that I have already taken hold of it or have already attained perfect maturity, but I continue my pursuit in hope that I may possess it, since I have indeed been taken possession of by Christ Jesus. Brothers and sisters, I for my part do not consider myself to have taken possession. Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus.

Verse Before the Gospel

Even now, says the Lord,
return to me with your whole heart;
for I am gracious and merciful.



Gospel *Jn 8:1-11*

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, and all the people started coming to him, and he sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. They said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him. Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more."

THE VEILING OF IMAGES

The Fifth Sunday of Lent is the beginning of what is traditionally known in the Catholic Church as Passiontide. After the fifth Sunday of Lent the most solemn and sacred liturgies of our Church are celebrated. Passiontide includes the 5th Sunday of Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. There is a venerable tradition during Passiontide, to veil or cover all the images of the Saints and Crucifixes in the parish Church. **This year Saint Helen Parish will practice the veiling of all images during Passiontide.**

It may seem counterintuitive to cover images, particularly those that depict our Lord's suffering on the Cross, especially during the time we recall the passion and death of our Savior. But that's the point! The covering or veiling of images stands as a stark reminder that this time (that is Passiontide) is different. There is an ancient homily once delivered on Holy Saturday, that begins with one sentence, "Something strange is happening". Passiontide is meant to heighten our awareness, our senses, our intellect and our emotional awareness, that yes, something strange is happening! Our Lord and Savior is approaching His death; we will listen intently on Palm Sunday and Good Friday to the Passion, the account of our Lord's agony in the garden, His betrayal, His arrest, His trial, and His walk to Calvary. The liturgies we celebrate on these days are meant to draw us into the great mysteries of our redemption. These ancient liturgies draw us into the mystery through word and sacrament.

The veiling of the images is a stark symbol that things are not normal. What we are used to looking at as a means of devotion, we are suddenly deprived of, but only for a short while! And therein lies the whole point: **the veils are not meant to be there forever.** The images need to be unveiled; it is unnatural for them to be covered. Thus we are left with our own imaginations while we listen to the word of God.

This venerable tradition has taken many forms throughout the centuries: in some churches in Europe every statue was covered throughout the forty days of Lent, Altar pieces had doors on hinges that would close, covering paintings and other sacred images, and in Germany during the Middle Ages, the entire Altar was veiled to the point you were unable to see Mass being celebrated. It is jarring, it is not meant to be, to cover that which leads our hearts and minds to the things of heaven; but therein lies another mystery. These images will be once again revealed or unveiled. The unveiling before the Easter Vigil is a great reminder of our own life on earth. We live in a "veiled" world, in exile from our true home. It is only through our own death that the veil is lifted and we are finally able to see the beauty of everything in our lives.

The veiling of images in Church reminds me of the concrete veils seen on monuments in older cemeteries, symbolizing the pall of death. The veiling of images reminds me of sitting shiva with my Jewish neighbors, when they had lost a loved one; for every mirror in the home was veiled to deter one from vanity. The veiling of statues is akin to the burial shroud. The veiling of things familiar to us, also speaks to us: "Something strange is happening!" May these final days of Lent enrich your souls and deepen your love for our Savior; because by His Holy Cross, He has redeemed the world.

Father Colamaria

St. Helen Catholic Academy's 200 TO 1 RAFFLE!

Drawing: Friday, May 20, 2022- 7:00PM
Live Streamed On St. Helen R. C. Church Facebook Page



\$10,000 Grand Prize!

\$100 Per Ticket (Only 200 tickets will be sold)
Tickets will be sold on a first-come first-served basis!

To purchase tickets, or for additional information please call
Maria Ford (718) 344-1998 or Diane Joseph (917) 697-5351.

Women & Girls Communion Breakfast



May 1, 2022
Following the 9:30AM Mass in the School Cafeteria

Breakfast—Raffles—Prizes!
Tickets are \$15
\$10 for 7-12 Yr. Old—6 Yrs. & Under: Free

For tickets and/or more information call
Vanessa at (917) 589-8827 or
Mary Ann at (347) 806-6960.

CYO High School Basketball is Back!



Signups for St. Helen's teams will be held on: **April 4th, 5th & 6th from 7:00-8:00PM.** If you haven't signed up already, please stop by if interested in playing. All questions can be answered at signups. Fee is \$250 & includes home and away shirts, entry fees and referee fees, etc.