

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023

- 8:00AM Gerry LePorin (*Charlie Bonanno*)
- 9:30AM Eugene Greco (*Carlotta Giglio*)
- 11:00AM Adolph & Frances Zangrillo (*Maria Maguire*)
- 12:30PM Antonio Ariola (*Jerry & Rosa Salerno*)
- Gloria Casillo (*Michelle Lauri*)
- Vincenza Cracchiolo (*Jerry & Rosa Salerno*)
- Gina Furno (*Nancy & Sal Murno*)
- Lenny Serafina (*Jerry & Rosa Salerno*)
- Stanley Szczerba (*Rosa Salerno & Family*)
- Erlinda Udell (*Loving Family*)
- 5:00PM For The Parishioners

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023 *St. John Damascene*

- 9:00AM Edwin Espada (*Lucy DaRita*)

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023

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

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023 *St. Nicholas*

- 9:00AM Anna Chirico (*Loving Daughter*)

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023 *St. Ambrose*

- 9:00AM Giacomo Scotti (*Carol & Peter Accardi*)
- 7:00PM Ferdinand Catapano (*Zielinski Family*)

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2023

#### Immaculate Conception of the BVM

- 9:00AM Frank & William DiPietra (*Loving Wife & Mother*)
- 7:00PM Anna Berritto (*Dcn. Andrew & Linda Mastrangelo*)



William F. Briggs — Francine DeCotis

**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](http://www.sthelen.org).

**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 (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, December 29, 2023.**

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023

- 9:00AM Anna Berritto (*Barbara Bitetto*)
- 5:00PM Antonio Ariola (*Anna Stabile*)
- Vincent Asaro (*Steve Giusto*)
- Gloria Casillo (*Rosalie Librizzi*)
- Eugene Colucci (*Vita & Fred*)
- Frank LaBocchetta, Sr. (*Paul & Maria Ciccione*)
- Frank LaBocchetta (*Stango Family*)
- Carlos Maguilon (*Carmen Maguilon*)
- Nicholas Louis Napolitano (*Loving Family*)
- Patricia Tomitz (*Rosemarie Salas*)
- Patricia Tomitz (*Vita & Fred*)

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

- 8:00AM George & Claire Cox
- 9:30AM Nunzio Vitale (*Fanny Vitale & Family*)
- 11:00AM Pasquale Mantone (*Loving Family*)
- 12:30PM Antonio Ariola (*Denise DeRiso*)
- Caroline Benden (*DiMaria Family*)
- Gloria Casillo (*Joanna Esposito*)
- Angelina Leone (*Leone Family*)
- Michael Panico (*Leone Family*)
- Marie Raineri (*Shirley Ruano*)
- Patricia Tomitz (*Jean Bernardo*)



**THE ALTAR BREAD** for this week is donated in memory of **Joseph Taliercio**, requested by **Mr. & Mrs. Rocco Romeo**.

**Please Note:** The Rectory office will be closed on Friday, December 8th in observance of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and will reopen on Saturday at 9:00AM.

**Men's Ministry with Fr. Panicali** for men 18+, meets **Thursdays at 7:00PM** in the Rectory meeting room. *Rosary, fellowship, coffee. Build your masculine Christian spirituality!*

**KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Florence Albrecht, Amado Araneta, Beatrice Arango, Carolyn Barbiero, Joseph Barreca, Anthony Barresi, Stella Barresi, Mary Battista, Barbara Bitetto, Gail Blanc, Helena Brophy, Mary Ann Cambi, Loraine Cammarata, Mary Chiarello, Zena Cipolla, Lucille Claps, Rose Curti, Domenic Dell'Anno, Toni Ann Diaz, Virginia DiGangi, Mark Esposito, Jennie Federici, Adeline Florio, Dawn Franceschetti, Clementine Gagliardi, Tony Giampietro, Florence Hauschild, Rosemarie & Joseph Guagenti, Gertrude Gwardjak, Christine Healy, Maria Hernandez, Henry J. Hinton, Geneviva Ibanez, Steven Iglie, Keri & Baby Tristan, Baby Peyton Krajcik, Dylan Labisi, Susan Leone, James Leung, Tom Mercatante, Barbara Miller, Brenda Myers, John Myers, Angela Ottomanelli-Hubbs, Mary Palermo, Frank Palmenteri, Al Panasci, Sebastian Panasci, Santo Pantina, Doris Pecchillo, Nino Pedone, Rosemarie Perl, Josephine Profera, Vivian Puglissi, Theresa Quagliariello, Joseph Questore, Recupero Family, Maria Rivera, Helen Rourke, Joseph Russo, Antoinette Sciuolo, Remington Stafford, Rubie Anna Torall, Lynn Torres, Chrissie Tremblay, Paul Tremblay, Paul John Tremblay, Sr., Sr. Joanne Walters, Sonia Zeller.

## *Preparing For Advent*

This year, Advent begins on Sunday, December 3, 2023, and will end on Saturday, December 24, 2023. This means the fourth week of Advent will be just a day! Advent will go by even faster than usual so preparation is key to making the most of this time.

Take some time before Advent starts to form a plan that will prepare your heart to enter into the celebration of the birth of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on Christmas day. The season of Advent invites us to step back from the hustle and bustle of the pre-Christmas world, urging us to slow down and reflect on the Mystery of the Incarnation. It marks the beginning of a new liturgical year in the Church, gradually gaining momentum towards the Christmas celebration with each passing week. Like any new beginning, this season aims to revive our joy, hope, faith, and love.

Without intentional efforts during the four weeks of Advent, it will go by too quickly. Now is the time to start thinking about how you will fully live this beautiful, joy-filled season.

### Advent Acts Of Kindness

Engaging in acts of service and kindness during the Advent season can bring the joy of Christ to both the giver and the recipient. Here are some ideas for Advent acts of service:

1. **Donate to a Food Bank:** Collect non-perishable food items and donate them to a local food bank to help those in need during the holiday season.
2. **Write Letters to Service Members:** Show appreciation for the men and women in the military by writing heartfelt letters expressing gratitude for their service. Many organizations can help you send these letters to deployed troops.
3. **Visit a Nursing Home:** Spend time with residents of a nursing home. You can sing Christmas Carols, play games, or simply engage in conversations to bring joy to those who may be lonely during the holidays.
4. **Adopt a Family:** Connect with local charities that facilitate “adopting” a family in need. Provide them with gifts, groceries, and other essentials to make their holiday season brighter.
5. **Create Care Packages for the Homeless:** Assemble care packages containing essentials like socks, toiletries, and non-perishable snacks. Distribute these packages to homeless individuals in your community.
6. **Organize a Toy Drive:** Collect toys and gifts for children in need. Many communities have programs that distribute these gifts to families who may struggle to provide presents for their kids.
7. **Offer Free Services:** If you have a skill or talent, offer it as a free service to others. This could include babysitting, tutoring, pet sitting, or even offering to help with household chores for those who may need assistance.
8. **Bake and Share Treats:** Bake cookies, cakes, or other treats and share them with neighbors, friends, or co-workers. Include a kind note to spread holiday cheer.
9. **Create an Advent Calendar of Kindness:** Instead of a traditional Advent calendar with chocolates or toys, create one focused on daily acts of kindness. Each day, do something nice for someone else, whether it's a compliment, a small gift, or helping with a task.

### Advent Prayer

*All-powerful God,  
increase our strength of will for doing  
good that Christ may find an eager  
welcome at His coming and call us to  
His side in the Kingdom of Heaven,  
where he lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.*





**SAINT HELEN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**  
**Disciple of the Month — October, 2023**

These students regularly attended and actively participated in religion classes seeking knowledge of God. In addition, these students gave witness by treating others with the kindness and compassion of Jesus.

**Kindergarten**

Sariya Lynn Fitzgerald-Toledo

**First Grade**

Gino Conter  
 Emma Caroline Rad

**Second Grade**

Isabella Rose Bershad  
 Joseph Luciano Fiorito  
 Madison Fortunato  
 Kamil Gumieniak  
 William Franco Macaluso

**Third Grade**

Christian Liam Faron  
 Kaia Kolm  
 Antonia Montalbano  
 Anthony Pagano  
 Lucia Puentes

**Fourth Grade**

Lorenzo Domenico Deodato  
 Adriel Morillo  
 Matteo Tocco

**Fifth Grade**

Olivia Lynn Becker  
 Sofia Francesca Franzese  
 Matteo Joseph Gallina  
 Liam James McEneaney

**Sixth Grade**

Adriana Louisa Clagnaz  
 Michael Hernandez  
 Adrianna Marie Sinacori  
 Vito Joseph Stabile

**Seventh Grade**

Analia Diaz  
 Michael LaPollo



**St. Helen Church &  
 The Holy Name Society**



are pleased to present

**A NIGHT OF FELLOWSHIP**

You are invited to join us on  
***Sunday, December 17th at the 5:00PM Mass.***

After Mass, the children will participate in the  
***Christmas Presentation of the Live Nativity.***



It will be followed by a  
***Christmas Carol Sing-Along***  
 with Hot Chocolate and Cookies  
 being served in Fr. Dooley Hall.



***Come one — Come all!***

# St. Helen Christmas Giving Tree

## FOR NEEDY CHILDREN AND ADULTS

*We are asking for your help in answering the requests of the needy in our own parish, several other parishes in Queens, a home for special adults, and other charities.*

### **THIS WEEKEND: DECEMBER 2 & 3:**

*Please take a gift tag from the Giving Tree in the lobby.*

### **NEXT WEEKEND, DECEMBER 9 & 10:**

*During this weekend, please leave your unwrapped gift with tag attached, near the tree. Place monetary donations or gift cards in the Christmas box inside the Church.*



### **SEMINARIAN CHRISTMAS GIFT CARD PROGRAM**

In addition, envelopes are available on our Tree to provide an opportunity to purchase a gift card for a seminarian (a young man studying to be a priest). If you are interested, please take one of the white envelopes labeled "2022 Seminarian Christmas Gift Card Program" from the Tree the weekend of Dec. 3/4. There is a letter enclosed with the name of a seminarian which explains the program. Please follow the instructions on the letter to ensure your gift is delivered to one of our seminarians.

*God bless you for your great generosity!*

**ST. HELEN PARISH**

**SPONSORED BY THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL GROUP**



# AL BARBARINO

will be here at St. Helen

**Monday & Tuesday, December 4 & 5**  
at 7:00PM in Church for the Advent Parish Mission.

Al Barbarino is a Lay Franciscan with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (Fr. Benedict Groeschel's Community), and is a member of the Knights of Columbus. **Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend this wonderful Advent event!**

**St. Helen's Support Group** is open to new members. Twice a month (the 1st & 3rd Wednesday) we provide emotional and social support. We encourage the homebound parishioners to venture out from their home and spend a few hours with us. Please call Joan (718-848-9173) or Rosemary (718-738-4628) for more information.



**Please join us on Thursdays at 3:00PM** in Church to pray the special prayers to **The Devotion of 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.



**For your ongoing clothing donations, a St. Vincent de Paul Van will be here at St. Helen Church the following Sundays from 8:00AM-1:00PM: December 31 & January 28**

If you miss any of these dates you may also call St. Vincent de Paul at (917) 226-8691.

**Please do not leave bags of clothing donations by the Church or the Rectory!**



A Bereavement Group will be held in the Rectory Meeting Room the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month from 4-6PM. Next scheduled meetings are December 12th and January 9th, 2024. This will be a safe place to share your thoughts, feelings and get support through this most difficult time of loss. Coffee/tea and pamphlets will be available. Coordinator, Lorraine Rose.



Are you new to St. Helen Parish? If so, you may register your family through our website at [www.sthelen.org](http://www.sthelen.org).



**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): **Jan. 14 & 28 — Feb. 11 & 25**

**Upcoming Schedule for Baptisms (All begin at 2:00PM): Jan. 14 & 28 — Feb. 11 & 25**

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.**