



St. Helena Church

6161 N. 5th Street
(Fifth Street and Godfrey Avenue)
Philadelphia, PA 19120-1497

St. Helena Church is a Tithing & Evangelizing Parish Mission Statement

We, the Parish of St. Helena, are rooted in Jesus Christ and nourished by Eucharist. We are aware of our present diversity and the changes that enrich us. We strive with all that God has given us to live and to share the Gospel of love by creating a welcoming and united community. We seek to integrate actively people of all ages, races, and cultures into every area of life.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Msgr. Joseph T. Trinh	<i>Pastor</i>
Rev. Edward A. Pelczar	<i>(Retired) In Residence</i>
Rev. Peter J. Welsh	<i>Parochial Vicar</i>
Rev. Albert Gardy Villarsen, OMI	<i>In Residence</i>
Deacon Victor I. Seda	<i>Parish Deacon</i>
Deacon Huan C. Tran	<i>Parish Deacon</i>
Deacon Victor Pomales	<i>Parish Deacon</i>
Sr. Sophie Yondura, ssj., D. Min.	<i>Parish Services, DRE, RCIA</i>
Elena Asencio	<i>Parish Secretary</i>
Tram Ton Nu	<i>Business Manager</i>
Genevieve Black	<i>Music Director</i>
Sr. Maryanne Zakreski, ssj	<i>Outreach Center</i>
Sr. Anna Marie Lesutis, RSM, RN	<i>Health Promotion</i>
Ann Farley, MSN	<i>Health Promotion</i>
Sr. Lan Nguyen, OP	<i>Parish Ministry</i>

Rectory	6161 N. 5th Street	215-424-1300 (1301)
Convent	6127 N. 5th Street	215-924-2770
School	6101 N. 5th Street	215-549-2947
Rectory Fax Number		215-424-9152
Health Promotion Office		215-384-6540
Food Bank		267-900-5935
St. Helena Parish Outreach Center		267-437-4929

Web-site www.sainthelenaparish.net

St. Helena Church Office Hours (closed 12Noon-1:00pm)

Monday-Thursday	9:00am to 8:00pm
Friday	9:00am to 5:00pm
Saturday	9:00am to 2:00pm



St. Helena-Incarnation Independent Mission School

6101 N. 5th Street 215-549-2947

St. Helena Food Bank

Is serving clients in the 19111, 19120 and 19126 zip codes once a month. Bring photo I.D. and a current bill showing your name and zip code. Hours of Service: Tuesday & Thursday from 9:00am-12:30pm. Senior Boxes – 3rd Thursday of each month from 9:00am-12:30pm.



MASSES

Saturday Vigil – 4:30PM Mass in English
 Sunday – 8:00AM Mass in English
 9:30AM Mass in Vietnamese 11:15AM Mass in English
 12:30PM Mass in Spanish
 Monday through Saturday 8:00AM
 Obligatory Holy Days – (except Jan. 1 & Christmas)
 8:00AM, 9:00AM, 7:00PM Tri-lingual
 First Fridays – 8:00AM (and 9:00AM during School Year)

SACRAMENTS

Confession

Saturdays 4:00-4:30PM 15 minutes after Mass



Preparation Class in English is held the 1st Sunday of each month. Please call the rectory to set up an interview with Sr. Sophie Yondura, ssj, D. Min. before planning for the baptism.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. If interested in completing your Sacraments For information, contact Sr. Sophie Yondura, ssj., D. Min. (215-424-1300).



Religion classes for Public School students held every Sunday beginning in September. Classes are at 9:15AM in the School Hall. For information, contact Sr. Sophie Yondura, ssj., D. Min. 215-424-1300).



The Church must be contacted at least 6 months in advance to make arrangements.

DEVOTIONS

Eucharistic Adoration
Daily Rosary
MM Devotion
OLLV Devotion

Every Thursday in Chapel
 8:30AM-5:00PM (Evening Prayer)
 Monday – Friday after 8:00AM Mass
 Saturday – 7:45AM (Lower Church)
 Friday – 8:00PM (Chapel)



Viet. Divine Mercy Grupo
Carismático

Saturday – 8:30AM (Lower Church)
 Sunday – 2:30pm (Lower Church)
 Tenemos circulo de oración en español todos los miercoles a las 6:00PM-9:00PM en la iglesia de abajo. Estan todos invitados

SERVICE MINISTRY

55+ Club
Boys Scouts
Aid for Friends
Outreach Center
Sick Calls

2nd & 4th Thursday 12:00 (Rectory Basement)
 Every Wednesday 7:00PM-9:00PM (Hall)
 Contact Sister Sophie Yondura, ssj, D. Min.
 Sr. Maryanne Zakreski, ssj (267-437-4929)
 Please call the rectory to schedule a home visit for Communion or in the Hospital.

Rehabilitation & Nursing Home

Laurel Square, York, Cheltenham
Contact Father Peter Welsh

Meetings

Parish Council	Alternating 2 nd Tuesday 7:00PM (Rectory)
Finance Committee	Alternating 2 nd Tuesday 7:00PM (Rectory)
Alumni Meeting	Monthly at 10:00am in the Convent

December 1, 2019 1st Sunday of Advent

We Remember in Prayer our Sick

Luke Tynan	Frances Clark	Duong Thi Tham
Carmen Lebron	Michael Novak	Francis Germanovich
Carmen Torres	Peg McBride	Carmen Jimenez
Jeff Boka	Teresa Merrigan	Trisha Kern
Thanh Boka	Nathaniel Lopez	Emilio Rosario
Luis Ortiz	Harry Berge	Beth Ann Sellers
Rosaura Caraballo	Carmen Giamarco	Dan Shead
Francis Hernandez	Isabel Phayre	Louise Liebel
Victoria Marin	Ignacio Ortolaza	Hipolita Delgado
Camille Figueroa	Baby Hermione Marie Berdecia	
William Solomon	Joseph Henson	Monica Peltz Yondura
Emanuel Abiegom	Ryan Cichon	

We Remember in Prayer our Deceased

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into Hell Satan and the other evil spirits who prowl; about the world for the ruin of souls. Amen!

San Miguel Arcángel, defiéndenos en la batalla. Sé nuestro amparo contra la perversidad y asechanzas del demonio. Reprímale Dios, pedimos suplicantes, y tú Príncipe de la Milicia Celestial, arroja al infierno con el divino poder a Satanás y a los otros espíritus malignos que andan dispersos por el mundo para la perdición de las almas. Amén.

Lạy Tổng Lãnh Thiên Thần Micae, xin hãy bênh vực che chở cho chúng con trong chốn chiến trường, cùng nên như thành lũy vững bền cho chúng con trông cậy và chống trả các chước sâu độc ma quỷ. Chúng con sắp mình xuống xin Đức Chúa Trời ngăn cấm thần quỷ ấy. Lạy Tổng Lãnh Thiên Thần Micae là tướng quân cai quản cơ binh trên trời kia Satan và thần dữ đang rảo khắp thiên hạ hòng làm hư loài người chúng con, xin người lấy phép Đức Chúa Trời mà xua đuổi chúng xuống hỏa ngục đời đời. Amen

Scripture Readings for the Week

SUNDAY, December 1, 2019 1st Sunday of Advent		
Is 2: 1-5	Rom 13: 11-14	Mt 24: 37-44
MONDAY (02)	Is 4: 2-6	Mt 8: 5-11
TUESDAY (03)	Is 11: 1-10	Lk 10: 21-24
WEDNESDAY (04)	Is 25: 6-10a	Mt 15: 29-37
THURSDAY (05)	Is 26: 1-6	Mt 7: 21, 24-27
FRIDAY (06)	Is 29: 17-24	Mt 9: 27-31
SATURDAY (07)	Is 30: 19-21, 23-26	Mt 9: 35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Masses for the Week of Dec. 1 to 8, 2019

Happy 1st week of Advent!



SATURDAY, November 30, 2019

4:30PM Julia & Frank Schaller, Sr.

SUNDAY, December 1, 2019 1st Sunday of Advent

8:00AM Guise Trinh Van Hieu

9:30AM Personal Intention

11:15AM Anna Phan Nguyen

12:30PM Miguelina de Jesus, Jimenez & Alicia Rincon

MONDAY, December 2, 2019 St. Catherine of Alexandria

8:00AM Dec. Members of the David Speicer Family

7:00PM St. Helena Parishioners

TUESDAY, December 3, 2019 St. Francis Xavier

8:00AM Maria Nguyen Thi Nhan

WEDNESDAY, December 4, 2019 St. John Damascene

8:00AM Mary T. Schott

THURSDAY, December 5, 2019

8:00AM Guise Vu Van Lap

FRIDAY, December 6, 2019 St. Nicholas

8:00AM All Souls

9:00AM Maria Pham Thi Hong

SATURDAY, December 7, 2019 St. Ambrose

8:00AM Thomas That Nguyen

4:30PM Joan Schaller

SUNDAY, December 8, 2019 2nd Sunday of Advent

8:00AM Juan Valentin, JR.

9:30AM Personal Intention

11:15AM Julia & Frank Schaller, Sr.

12:30PM Alberto Fontanez

100 Years

Celebrating God's Faithfulness

Gracious God we give thanks as we anticipate celebrating the 100th anniversary of St. Helena Church and the journey that started so many years ago, and so many plans ago, and so many dreams ago. We celebrate all the joys that have been birthed in these 95 years. We celebrate all the happy times, all the accomplishments, and all the triumphs. Thank You, Lord, for blessing our parish. We acknowledge that there have been, and will continue to be, struggles and heartaches. Yet we have travelled together under Your protection and love for the past 95 years. Thank You, Lord, for being with us in good times and bad. We give thanks for those who founded our church 95 years ago and for their faith and vision, for their gifts and abilities. We give thanks for all who have been members of this congregation, those who have given freely of their time and money, and for those whose wisdom guided our Church. We give thanks for all who have preached and taught here and for all who today lead in worship, witness, and service in our parish. We ask, Lord, that You would continue to protect us, guide us and sustain us as we anticipate our 100th anniversary celebration in 2024. Amen

**Save the date and Join us
Theme for St. Helena
100th Anniversary 2024**



From many countries and cultures, Saint Helena Parish Family celebrates God's faithfulness by encountering Christ through Scripture, the Sacraments and Community

Committee Members

Chairperson: Norajeon Glenn

Assistant Chairperson: Fred Rosso

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Andrea Santiago | Anita Repsch | Maria Repsch |
| Sharon Smith | Carol Henson | Jean Berry |
| Anne Bercau | Joan Teel | Rich Teel |
| Gloria Jones | Herminio Rosa | Sam Ashie |
| David Nguyen | Suzette Ellison | Jim Pokorny |
| Yomayra Garcia | Maria Schaller | Mary Nguyen |
| Carolyn Onibalusi | Dong Van Nguyen | Kelvin Garcia |
| Sr. Maryanne | Dung Nguyen | Josephine Rodriguez |
| Monica Rodriguez Victoria | Blanca Torres-Kelmedi | |



Join us with our RCIA group for "SYMBOLON" on Thursday evenings from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the Rectory 1st Floor Mtg. Room. Enter by the Rectory's Main Door on 5th Street and ring the bell.

Class Topic for Dec. 5 ~ The Holy Spirit

Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained

"SYMBOLON IS GIVING ME AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH THAT I NEVER GOT GROWING UP."

Thursdays
7:00pm to 8:30pm

**December 6th
Feast of St. Nicholas**



St. Nicholas Day has remained a time when children are given special cookies, candies, and gifts. In many places, children leave letters for Saint Nicholas and carrots or grass for his donkey or horse. In the morning, they find small presents under their pillows or in the shoes, stockings, or plates they have set out for him. Oranges and chocolate coins are common treats that represent St. Nicholas's legendary rescue of three impoverished girls by paying their marriage dowries with gold. Candy canes, which have the shape of a bishop's crosier, are also given.

**Happenings at St. Helena Parish
Week of 12/01 to 12/07**

Sunday Dec. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VN Elder Choir 11:00am to 2:00pm (RB) • VN Catholic Women 11:00am to 12:00Noon (UC) • VN TNTT Group 11:00am to 12:30pm (Hall) • VN Divine Mercy Group 2:30pm to 3:30pm (LC) • Vietnamese PREP 12:30pm to 1:30pm (LS) • Spanish RCIA 10:30am to 12:00Noon (Library) • Spanish Choir 11:00am to 12:15am (UC Mtg Rm) • Spanish Baptism Class 2:00pm (Adoration Chapel) • Vietnamese RCIA 11:00am to 12:00Noon (Rectory) • Spanish Charismatic Assembly 4:00pm to 7:00pm (LC)
Monday Dec. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass 7:00pm (LC) • Spanish Charismatic Choir 7:30pm (LC)
Tuesday Dec. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning Social 9:00am to 11:00am (OC) • Spanish Legion of Mary 9:30am to 11:30am (LC) • English Choir 6:30pm to 8:00pm (LC) • ESL Class 7:00pm to 8:30pm (OC)
Wednesday Dec. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spanish Bible Study 9:30am to 12:00Noon (RB) • Spanish Charismatics 6:00pm to 9:30pm (LC)
Thursday Dec. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESL Class 7:00pm to 8:30pm (OC) • English RCIA 7:00pm to 8:30pm (RMR)
Friday Dec. 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VN Children's Choir 7:00pm to 8:00pm (LC) • First Friday Mass 8:00pm (LC) • OLLV Devotion 8:00pm to 8:30pm (Chapel) • VN Adult Choir 8:30pm to 10:30pm (LC) • VN TNTT Group 7:00pm to 10:00pm (UC)
Saturday Dec. 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM Devotion 7:50am (LC) • OLLV Devotion 8:30am to 9:30am (LC) • Vietnamese Language Class 9:30am to 11:30am (Hall) • Novinyo Habobo 4:00pm to 6:00pm (Hall) • VN TNTT Group 7:00pm to 10:00pm (UC)

New Glory & Praise Hymnal

We have some good news! We are purchasing a new permanent hymnal called **Glory and Praise for the Lower Church**. (The same that we have in the Upper Church) If you wish to make a donation of **\$20.00 per book in memory of a loved one**, fill out the slip below and we will place their name in the front of the book. Make returns to Sr. Sophie.

Name _____

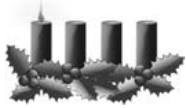
Donation Amount _____ # of books _____

In memory of... _____

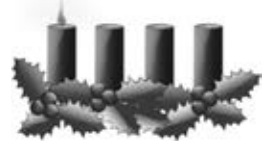
A Message from St. Helena Outreach Center

St. Helena Outreach Center is planning a trip to the Miraculous Medal Shrine on Monday, January 13. Please pick up a form at the doors if you are interested.

The Outreach Center is now taking registrations for the Winter ESL classes. Forms are at the door, or call the Outreach Office.



1st Sunday of Advent Sunday Cycle A



Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.

As we sing "**Come, O Come Emmanuel,**" we remember the Messiah came for all people, of all nations, without qualifications or disclaimers? Let's begin this week with a deeply felt prayer. Even if we don't know exactly what we need or long for, let's try to express our desire for God's help and assistance! The readings invite us to be prepared and to be hopeful. This week let us ask for the grace to grow in anticipation of what the Lord is offering us and to ready our hearts to receive it gratefully.

Lord God, only you can see into our hearts and know that under all the busy-ness of our lives, there is a deep longing to make this Advent one that welcomes you more deeply into our lives. Our heart desires the warmth of your love and our minds searches for your Light in the midst of the darkness. Help us to be a peacemaker this Advent and to give special love to those who disagree with us. Give us the strength and courage to forgive those who have hurt us.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception ~ Dec. 8th

Holy Day of Obligation will be moved to Monday

Patroness of the United States

Masses are 8:00am & 9:00am & 7:00pm Tri-lingual



A patron is like a sponsor, someone who takes responsibility for another, who protects another. Catholics rely on our patron saints not only to inspire our lives by their example but also to pray for us and protect us in our life of grace. A patron looks out for us, sometimes in ways we don't always recognize. Mary Immaculate was officially declared the patroness of the United States in 1847. A year earlier, the U.S. bishops had written to the Catholics of this country: We take this occasion to communicate to you the determination, unanimously adopted by us, to place ourselves and all entrusted to our charge throughout the United States under the special patronage of the holy Mother of God, whose Immaculate Conception is venerated by the piety of the faithful throughout the Catholic Church. By the aid of her prayers, we entertain the confident hope that we will be strengthened to perform the arduous duties of our ministry, and that you will be enabled to practice the sublime virtues, of which her life presents the most perfect example.

St. Helena Parish is a Tithing Parish since Jan. 19, 2003. God has provided for us in wonderful ways and we are committed to "making a return to the Lord for all His goodness to us." All we are and have is due to God's goodness.



Stewardship is a Way of Life Tithing-God's Plan for Giving



Biblically a tithe means 10%. All are asked to consider returning 10% of our income to the Lord (5% to the parish, 5% to God's other charities: e.g. St. Helena Outreach Center, Food Bank) in gratitude. The spiritual practice of tithing disposes us to make God first in every area of our lives! The aim is to secure not the tithe, but the tither, not the gift, but the giver—for God!



**Due to Early Transmission,
the Tithing Report
will be posted in the
December 8th Bulletin.**



Last But Not Least



Today we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent. Happy New Year! Today we begin a new liturgical year with the start of Advent. The season of Advent is a penitential one focused on preparing us for the celebration of the Incarnation (God becoming man) at Christmas and the return of Jesus at the end of time. Take time this week to do an examination of conscience, reflecting on where you have fallen short in serving God. If Jesus were to return today, would you be ready? Would he find His "house" (your life) in shambles or in good order? What do you need to do in order to prepare your heart for Christ's return? As we begin Advent, we light one candle in the midst of all the darkness in our lives and in the world. It symbolizes our longing, our desire, and our hope. Three "advents" or "comings" shape our desire. We want to be renewed in a sense that Jesus came to save us from our sin and death. We want to experience his coming to us now, in our everyday lives, to help us live our lives with meaning and purpose. And we want to prepare for his coming to meet us at the end of our lives on this earth. So, we begin with our longing, our desire and our hope.

Our plans for the **Spiritual Life of our Parish** during this Holy Season of Advent are as follows... **First**, I hope you will participate in our weekly **Advent Wreath** lighting of the candles which will take place each week at the beginning of Mass. The Advent Wreath will be located in the sanctuary. **Second**, I invite you to **"Come Home for Christmas"** by participating in the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** which is offered every Saturday from 4:00pm to 4:30pm in the Lower Church. **Third**, please consider **inviting a friend or neighbor to attend mass with you** and your family during this Holy Season. What better time to **come home to the Lord** than at a time when we commemorate His Blessed Birth.

Finally, this year, December 8th falls on a Sunday. **The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation, will be transferred to Monday. Masses will be at 8:00am and 9:00am in the morning and a tri-lingual Mass at 7:00pm.** Mary is the patroness of the United States. Let us give thanks to her for watching over our great county. Don't forget to invite a Friend to Mass.

Your Brother and Shepherd,
Rev. Msgr. Joseph Trinh

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