



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 Pomaes	<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)
Saturday – 8:30AM (Lower Church)

Viet. Divine Mercy Grupo
Carismático

Sunday – 2:30pm (Lower Church)
Tenemos círculo de oración en español todos los miercoles a las 6:00PM-9:00PM en la iglesia de abajo. Están 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 2nd Tuesday 7:00PM (Rectory)

Finance Committee

Alternating 2nd Tuesday 7:00PM (Rectory)

Alumni Meeting

Monthly at 10:00am in the Convent

December 15, 2019 3rd 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	Lucia Zavala	Ryan Cichon
William Solomon	Joseph Henson	Monica Peltz Yondura
Emanuel Abiegom		

We Remember in Prayer our Deceased

Mary Gable John V. Sweeney, Sr.

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection 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 kìa 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 15, 2019 3rd Sunday of Advent

Is 35: 1-6a, 10 Jas 5: 7-10 Mt 11: 2-11

MONDAY (16) Nm 24: 2-7, 15-17a Mt 21: 23-27

TUESDAY (17) Gn 49: 2, 8-10 Mt 1: 1-17

WEDNESDAY (18) Jer 23: 5-8 Mt 1: 18-25

THURSDAY (19) Jgs 13: 2-7, 24-25a Lk 1: 5-15

FRIDAY (20) Is 7: 10-14 Lk 1: 26-38

SATURDAY (21) Sg 2: 8-14 Lk 1: 39-45

Masses for the Week of Dec. 15 to 22, 2019



SATURDAY, December 14, 2019

4:30PM Joseph Murray

SUNDAY, December 15, 2019 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:00AM Irene Ortiz

9:30AM Personal Intention

11:15AM John, Frances, & Jack McBride

12:30PM Luis Hernan Higuera Valancia

MONDAY, December 16, 2019

8:00AM Maria Pham Thi Hong

7:00PM Father Edward Speitel

TUESDAY, December 17, 2019

8:00AM Maria Mai Lam

WEDNESDAY, December 18, 2019

8:00AM Peter & Teresa Ty Lan

THURSDAY, December 19, 2019

8:00AM Maria Nguyen Thi Nhan

FRIDAY, December 20, 2019

8:00AM Martin Vo Dai Hai

SATURDAY, December 21, 2019 St. Peter Canisius

8:00AM Fr. Paul Belchor

4:30PM Joseph R. Eldred

SUNDAY, December 22, 2019 4th Sunday of Advent

8:00AM Dominic Ngh8a Pham

9:30AM Personal Intention

11:15AM Dec. Members of the Quinn & Smerlick Families

12:30PM Luis Hernan Higuera (3rd Anniversary)



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: Norajean Glenn

Assistant Chairperson: Fred Rosso

Andrea Santiago	Anita Repsch	Maria Repsch
Sharon Smith	Carol Henson	Jean Berry
Anne Bercaw	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	

Next Meeting ~ January 18, 2020 9:00am

Saint Helena **RCIA**
Christian Formation Process

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 December 19th
Mary & The Saints**

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**

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

Sunday Dec. 15	- English PREP 9:00am to 10:30am (Hall) - VN Elder Choir 11:00am to 2:00pm (RB) - Vietnamese RCIA 11:00am to 12:00Noon (Rectory) - VN TNTT Group 11:00am to 12:30pm (UC) - Spanish Choir 11:00am to 12:15am (UC Mtg Rm) - Vietnamese PREP 12:30pm to 1:30pm (LS) - Spanish RCIA 10:30am to 12:00Noon (Library) - VN Divine Mercy Group 2:30pm to 3:30pm (LC)
Monday Dec. 16	- Mass 7:00pm (LC) - Spanish Charismatic Choir 7:30pm (LC)
Tuesday Dec. 17	- 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. 18	- Spanish Bible Study 9:30am to 12:00Noon (RB) - Spanish Charismatics 6:00pm to 9:30pm (LC) - Boys Scouts 7:00pm (Hall) - Confessions 5:00pm-6:00pm & 7:00pm-8:00pm (LC)
Thursday Dec. 19	55+ Club Christmas Luncheon 12:00Noon to 3:00pm (Four Seasons) - ESL Class 7:00pm to 8:30pm (OC) - English RCIA 7:00pm to 8:30pm (RMR)
Friday Dec. 20	- VN Children's Choir 7:00pm to 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. 21	- MM Devotion 7:50am (LC) - OLLV Devotion 8:30am to 9:30am (LC) - Viet Language Class 9:30am to 11:30am (Hall) - Anointing of the Sick Mass 4:30pm (LC) - Spanish Christmas Party 3:00pm to 10:00pm (Hall) - VN TNTT Group 7:00pm to 10:00pm (UC)

**Drop off your letter to Santa
in the Santa Mailbox next to
the Giving Tree
in the Gathering Space.**



Anointing of the Sick Mass Saturday, December 21st

Please return to Sr. Sophie by December 20th



Name _____ **Phone** _____

will attend the 4:30pm Mass on December 21st to receive the Sacrament of Anointing.

A Message from St. Helena Outreach Center

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

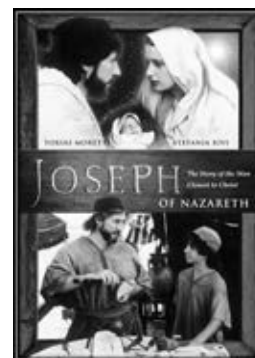


3rd Sunday of Advent Sunday Cycle A

Today, the third Sunday of Advent is called 'Gaudete Sunday' which means 'Joy' or 'Rejoice'. The opening antiphon for today's liturgy asks us to **Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near.** Today, on our Advent Wreath we light our pink candle to mark this day of joy. Like Mary who shared her joy with Elizabeth, today each of us is asked to be a person of joy and we are asked to share that our joy with others. There are many people, some of whom we may even know, who have little reason to be joyful at this time of the year. As Mary did with Elizabeth, may we follow her example and share our joy with all those meet during these last few days and weeks of Advent. May we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

Join us for Joseph of Nazareth This Sunday December 15th 6:00pm Lower Church

The first feature film ever on the story of St. Joseph - carpenter, husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus Christ. Scripture tells us that St. Joseph was a "just man", and that God gave him the most daunting task ever asked of a man - to be the husband of the woman who would give birth to the Messiah, and the father and protector of this Holy Family, the man closest to Christ.



St. Helena Parish Monthly Financial Report November 30, 2019

Sunday Collection	\$24,512.50
Maintenance, Stole Fee, Convent & Others	\$8,813.60
Block Collection for October	\$960.00
Total October Income	\$34,286.10
Operating Expenses	\$29,291.04
Bills from AOP	\$9,876.54
Assessment, Benefits, & Insurance	
Total Operating Expenditures and Assessment bills	\$39,167.58
Total Income or (Loss)	\$(4,881.48)

Miraculous Medal Shrine



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 Hispanic Community Presents
"Fiesta de Navidad"
a celebration for the entire family
on Saturday, December 21st
from 6:00pm to 11:00pm
in the School Hall.
Music-Food-Raffles-Surprises**



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!



Tithing Income December 8, 2019 \$5,989.00

Tithing Income December 9, 2018 \$6,726.95

Tithing Income December 10, 2017 \$5,337.00



Stewardship Report for December 8, 2019

(Regular Collection).....\$ 5,989.00

Mass	Loose	Envelopes	Total	# Envelopes
4:30pm	\$159.00	\$246.00	\$405.00	15
8:00am	\$312.00	\$728.00	\$1,040.00	45
9:30am	\$873.00	\$1,331.00	\$2,204.00	110
11:15am	\$209.00	\$957.00	\$1,166.00	52
12:30pm	\$206.00	\$440.00	\$646.00	26
Drop Off	\$0.00	\$528.00	\$528.00	19

Religious Retirement Collection.....\$1,644.15

Immaculate Conception Collection.....\$246.00



Last But Not Least



Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent. In our Gospel today, we hear a long-distance conversation between Jesus and John. In it, we are reminded that we should also expect to be surprised. The gospels call Jesus' miracles "signs." They point to faith. But they cannot compel it. In telling John to consider the miracles, Jesus was asking his cousin what he asks of us: a free decision based on the evidence of Jesus' words and deeds, but going beyond what this evidence proves in the strict sense. As people of faith we are called to live in this world aware that we are also citizens of another world: the unseen, spiritual but utterly real world of God, the angels, the saints, and of our beloved dead. Being obedient to that call is difficult. It requires patience. We gather this weekend to hear the word of God so that the Lord can renew our patience when it has worn thin and we want to give out.

We will be hearing confessions (in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese in preparation for Christmas) on Wednesday, December 18th from 5:00pm to 6:00pm and from 7:00pm to 8:00pm in the Lower Church.

In preparation for the stripping and waxing of the church floors, on Friday after the 8:00am Mass, we will clean the Lower and Upper Church. If you are available, please join us. I remind you that the St. Joseph the Worker group will be **stripping and waxing the church floors on Saturday, December 21st beginning at 9:00am.**

As we prepare for Christmas by decorating our homes, we will also be decorating our church for Christmas. **Upper Church decorating will take place on Monday, December 23rd at 7:00pm.**

During this season of preparation, please remember the less fortunate who live within our city. I invite you to take a tag from our parish giving tree in the gathering space. Purchase the item on the tag and return the gift unwrapped to the pink basket under the table by December 21st. Remember our Lord's words "It is better to give than to receive". Don't forget to invite a friend to Mass.

Finally, if you did not return your Time and Talent Commitment form, please drop it off in the collection basket.

Your Brother and Shepherd,
Rev. Msgr. Joseph Trinh

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October 26th 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

October 28th 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm

November 9th 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

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