



# St. Helena Church

6161 N. 5<sup>th</sup> 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

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

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

Web-site [www.sainthelenaparish.net](http://www.sainthelenaparish.net)

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

<b>Monday-Thursday</b>	<b>9:00am to 8:00pm</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9:00am to 5:00pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9:00am to 2:00pm</b>



## St. Helena-Incarnation Independent Mission School

6101 N. 5<sup>th</sup> 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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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

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

# December 22, 2019 4th 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*

### **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. Reprimale 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 22, 2019 4th Sunday of Advent**

Is 7: 10-14	Rom 1: 1-7	Mt 1: 18-24
<b>MONDAY (23)</b>	<b>Mal 3: 1-4, 23-24</b>	<b>Lk 1: 57-66</b>
<b>TUESDAY (24)</b>	<b>2 Sm 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16</b>	<b>Lk 1' 67-79</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY (25)</b>	<b>Is 52: 7-10</b>	
	<b>Heb 1: 1-6</b>	<b>Jn 1: 1-18</b>
<b>THURSDAY (26)</b>	<b>Acts 6: 8-10; 7: 54-59</b>	<b>Mt 10: 17-22</b>
<b>FRIDAY (27)</b>	<b>1 Jn 1: 1-4</b>	<b>Jn 20: 1a, 2-8</b>
<b>SATURDAY (28)</b>	<b>1 Jn 1: 5-2:2</b>	<b>Mt 2: 13-18</b>

# Masses for the Week of Dec. 22 to 29, 2019



## **SATURDAY, December 21, 2019**

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)

## **MONDAY, December 23, 2019 St. John of Kanty**

8:00AM Thanksgiving  
7:00PM Father Edward Speitel

## **TUESDAY, December 24, 2019 Christmas Eve**

6:00PM St. Helena Parishioners Mass in English (UC)  
6:15PM St. Helena Parishioners Mass in Spanish (LC)  
8:00PM St. Helena Parishioners Mass in Vietnamese (UC)  
12:00 MID St. Helena Parishioners Mass in English (LC)

## **WEDNESDAY, December 25, 2019 Nativity of Our Lord**

8:00AM St. Helena Parishioners  
9:30AM St. Helena Parishioners  
11:15AM St. Helena Parishioners  
12:30PM St. Helena Parishioners

## **THURSDAY, December 26, 2019 St. Stephen**

8:00AM Dec. Mem. of the Pokorny & Fitzmaurice Families

## **FRIDAY, December 27, 2019 St. John the Apostle**

8:00AM Maria Cuc Truong

## **SATURDAY, December 28, 2019 Holy Innocents**

8:00AM Josep Chiet and All The Souls  
4:30PM Joseph R. Eldred

## **SUNDAY, December 29, 2019 The Holy Family**

8:00AM Mary & Charles Berry  
9:30AM Personal Intention  
11:15AM Beatriz Rivera & Nelly Buitrago  
12:30PM Carlos Humberto Ariza



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 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 |                     |

**Next Meeting ~ January 18, 2020 9:00am**



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

**No Class Topic Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> & Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**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**

**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.

**Happenings at St. Helena Parish  
Week of 12/22 to 12/29**

<b>Sunday Dec. 22</b>	VN Elder Choir 11:00am to 2:00pm (RB) VN TNTT Group 11:00am to 12:30pm (Hall) Vietnamese RCIA 11:00am to 12:00Noon (Rectory) 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) VN TNTT Movie Night 5:00pm to 11:00pm (Hall)
<b>Monday Dec. 23</b>	Mass 7:00pm (LC) Spanish Charismatic Choir 7:30pm (LC) Church Decorating 7:00pm (UC)
<b>Tuesday Dec. 24</b>	6:00pm Mass in English (UC) 6:15pm Mass in Spanish (LC) 8:00pm Mass in Vietnamese (UC) 12:00 Midnight Mass (LC) English
<b>Wednesday Dec. 25</b>	8:00am Mass in English (UC) 9:30am Mass in Vietnamese (UC) 11:15am Mass in English (LC) 12:30pm Mass in Spanish (LC)
<b>Thursday Dec. 26</b>	
<b>Friday Dec. 27</b>	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)
<b>Saturday Dec. 28</b>	MM Devotion 7:50am (LC) OLLV Devotion 8:30am to 9:30am (LC) Vietnamese Language Class 9:30am to 11:30am (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.**



**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.



# 4th Sunday of Advent Sunday Cycle A

Joseph and Mary are our models for family life and for service of God. Even when the circumstances seemed unclear, Joseph trusted God. Healthy family life is built upon trust, trust in God and trust of one another. Spend some time talking as a family about the importance of trust in your family life, including the ways in which the children trust the adults in the family as well as the ways in which the adults trust the children. Then read today's Gospel. Talk about Joseph's trust of God and reflect together on how your family trusts in God. Pray together that your family life will be built on trust, as was the family life of Joseph and Mary. Pray and sing together an Advent song, such as "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

## St. Helena Parish Christmas Schedule 2019

### Christmas Eve

**Tuesday, December 24, 2019**

6:00pm Mass in English (UC)

6:15pm Mass in Spanish (LC)

8:00pm Mass in Vietnamese (UC)

12:00 Midnight Mass (LC) English



### Christmas Day

**Wednesday, December 25, 2019**

8:00am Mass in English (UC)

9:30am Mass in Vietnamese (UC)

11:15am Mass in English (LC)

12:30pm Mass in Spanish (LC)



**Sunday December 29, 2019**

Regular Sunday Schedule



### New Year's Eve

**Tuesday, December 31, 2019**

Vigil Mass 4:30pm (LC)

Welcome New Year's Mass 11:00pm (LC)



### Mary, Mother of God

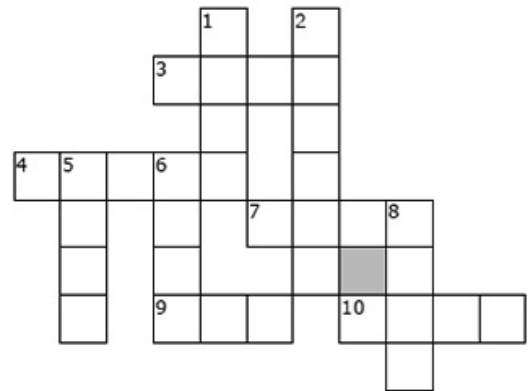
**Wednesday, January 1, 2020**

Regular Sunday Schedule (LC)

**Thank  
You!**

**Suggested Christmas  
Offering \$100.00**

## For the Young of the Parish



#### ACROSS

3. To receive sound using your ears
4. Unable to see
7. Something that is pleasant or enjoyable
9. To be aware of what is around you by using your eyes
10. To move along by putting one foot in front of the other

#### DOWN

1. Not living
2. A place where criminals are forced to live as a punishment
5. Unable to walk correctly because of injury to or weakness in the legs or feet
6. Information or reports about recent events
8. Unable to hear

DEAF	SEE	NEWS	GOOD	WALK
HEAR	DEAD	BLIND	PRISON	LAME

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

**Due to Early Transmission,  
the Tithing Report  
will be posted in the  
December 29th Bulletin.**



**The Sisters of St. Joseph wish to thank you  
for participated in this year's Chance Drive!  
Congratulations to the winners!**

\$10,000 – Scott Cannon, Ventnor, NJ

\$500 – Craig Sabatino

\$500 – Dorothy Laurino, Point Pleasant Beach

\$500 – Linda Baker, York, PA

\$500 – Barbara Jackson, Mays Landing, NJ

\$500 – Anne McGinley, Glenside, PA

\$500 – Lloyd D. Humphrey, Marlton, NJ

\$500 – Anne Downey, Cinnaminson, NJ

\$500 – Jim McNicholas, Scranton, PA

\$500 – GERALYN WRIGHT

\$500 – Kim Tropak



## Last But Not Least



**Today we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent.** St. Joseph has a lot to teach us, if we only watch him. The reason we have to watch him is because in the whole of the Bible, not one word that Saint Joseph ever spoke is recorded. He's not just a man of few words: according to the Gospels, he's a man of no words. We are never told anything that he ever said to the Blessed Virgin Mary, to the Christ Child, or even—in the case of today's gospel passage—to the angel that appeared to him. Consider what today's gospel passage tells us about Saint Joseph. We are told that Joseph was a righteous man, meaning that his life was lived in conformity with the Law of the Old Covenant. He was a man who knew much of the Jewish Scriptures by heart. In the gospel we see Joseph's humble obedience to the will of God. He obediently followed what God has said thru the angel, he brought Mary to his home and took care of her.

Finally, as Christmas approaches, **I want to express my greetings to you and your families and invite you and your family to join us for our Christmas Masses.** I think not only of those who live within our parish but also family members who may be elsewhere and especially those who may be abroad at this special time of year. As Christian believers, we are celebrating that sacred moment in human history when God entered our world, becoming part of every human person and the whole human race. Christmas brings us back to the source of all hope – God has come into the world, his light has shone in our darkness and no darkness can overpower this light. **On behalf of all the priests, deacons, sisters, and staff, I wish you and your families a Blessed Christmas and Peaceful New Year.**

Your Brother and Shepherd,

Rev. Msgr. Joseph Trinh

**Invite a Friend to Mass this Christmas & Every Sunday**



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6:00pm - 8:00pm

**FREE Scholarship & Placement Exam**

October 26<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

October 28<sup>th</sup> 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm

November 9<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

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