



# 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

**Parish Council**  
**Finance Committee**  
**Alumni Meeting**

Alternating 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 7:00PM (Rectory)  
 Alternating 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 7:00PM (Rectory)  
 Monthly at 10:00am in the Convent

# December 29, 2019 Feast of the Holy Family

## 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 Giamarcho	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	Lindsay H.	

## We Remember in Prayer our Deceased

### Names on Our Christmas Flower Envelopes

### 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 ngụy 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 29, 2019 *Feast of the Holy Family*

Sir 3: 2-6, 12-14    Col 3: 12-21    Mt 2: 13-15, 19-23

MONDAY (30)    1 Jn 2: 12-17    Lk 2: 36-40

TUESDAY (31)    1 Jn 2: 18-21    Jn 1: 1-18

WEDNESDAY (01)    Nm 6: 22-27  
Gal 4: 4-7    Lk 2: 16-21

THURSDAY (02)    1 Jn 2: 22-28    Jn 1: 19-28

FRIDAY (03)    1 Jn 2: 29-3:6    Jn 1: 29-34

SATURDAY (04)    1 Jn 3: 7-10    Jn 1: 35-42

# Masses for the Week of Dec. 29 to Jan. 5, 2019



### SATURDAY, December 28, 2019

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

### MONDAY, December 30, 2019

8:00AM    Joseph Xung Vu & Peter Tam Vu

7:00PM    Father Edward Speitel

### TUESDAY, December 31, 2019 *St. Sylvester I*

8:00AM    Fernando & Atanasia Feliciano

4:30PM    St. Helena Parishioners

11:00PM    St. Helena Parishioners

### WEDNESDAY, January 1, 2020 *Mary, Mother of God*

8:00AM    Martina Cynthia Thao Nguyen

9:30AM    Personal Intention

11:15AM    Julia & Frank Schaller

12:30PM    St. Helena Parishioners

### THURSDAY, January 2, 2020 *Sts. Basil the Great*

#### & Gregory Nazianzen

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

### FRIDAY, January 3, 2020 *Holy Name of Jesus*

8:00AM    All Souls in Purgatory

9:00AM    St. Helena Parishioners

### SATURDAY, January 4, 2020 *St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*

8:00AM    Thomas That Nguyen

4:30PM    In Thanksgiving for the Nguyen Family

### SUNDAY, January 5, 2020 *Feast of the Epiphany*

8:00AM    Francis Lordan

9:30AM    Personal Intention

11:15AM    Frankie Bauza, Jr.

12:30PM    Dec. Members of the Nunez Family

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: 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 January 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**

**Happenings at St. Helena Parish  
Week of 12/29 to 1/04**

<b>Sunday Dec. 29</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) Spanish RCIA 10:30am to 12:00Noon (Library) VN Divine Mercy Group 2:30pm to 3:30pm (LC)
<b>Monday Dec. 30</b>	Mass 7:00pm (LC) Spanish Charismatic Choir 7:30pm (LC)
<b>Tuesday Dec. 31</b>	Masses 4:30pm (LC) Mass 11:00pm (LC) <b>Vigil: Mary, Mother of God</b>
<b>Wednesday Jan. 1</b>	<b>Holy Day of Obligation - Mary, Mother of God</b> 8:00AM St. Helena Parishioners 9:30AM St. Helena Parishioners 11:15AM St. Helena Parishioners 12:30PM St. Helena Parishioners
<b>Thursday Jan. 2</b>	ESL Class 7:00pm to 8:30pm (OC)
<b>Friday Jan. 3</b>	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)
<b>Saturday Jan. 4</b>	MM Devotion 7:50am (LC) OLLV Devotion 8:30am to 9:30am (LC) Viet. Language Class 9:30am to 11:30am (Hall) Novinyo Habobo 4:00pm to 6:00pm (Hall)

**St. Helena Parish  
Mass 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)



**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 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



The devotion to the Holy Family was born in Bethlehem, together with the Baby Jesus. The shepherds went to adore the Child and, at the same time, they gave honor to His family. Later, in a similar way, the three wise men came from the East to adore and give honor to the newborn King with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh that would be safeguarded by His family. Today's celebration demonstrates Christ's humility and obedience with respect to the fourth commandment, while also highlighting the loving care that His parents exercised in His keeping. The servant of God, Pope John Paul II, in 1989, entitled his Apostolic Exhortation, '*Redemptoris Custos*' (Guardian of the Redeemer) which was dedicated to the person and the mission of Saint Joseph in the life of Christ and of the Church. Looking at the Holy Family, we see the love, the protection, and the diligent care that they gave to the Redeemer. We can only ask the Lord, through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, for a greater love for their Son Incarnate, who has decided to remain here on earth with us every day until the end of time.

## *Prayer to the Holy Family*

**JESUS**, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

**MARY**, Mother of Jesus and Our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

**JOSEPH**, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.

**HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH**, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.

**Father, help us to live as the Holy Family, united in respect and love.  
Bring us joy and peace that we may witness your love to others.**



**Jesus,  
Mary,  
and Joseph,  
help our family  
to be  
more and more  
like your  
Holy Family.**



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 15, 2019 ..... \$5,790.06**

Tithing Income December 16, 2018 ..... \$6,236.00

Tithing Income December 17, 2017..... \$6,158.00



## Stewardship Report for December 15, 2019

**(Regular Collection).....\$ 5,790.06**

Mass	Loose	Envelopes	Total	# Envelopes
<b>4:30pm</b>	\$139.00	\$377.00	\$516.00	28
<b>8:00am</b>	\$187.00	\$650.00	\$837.00	43
<b>9:30am</b>	\$560.00	\$1,541.00	\$2,171.00	121
<b>11:15am</b>	\$202.00	\$724.00	\$926.00	40
<b>12:30pm</b>	\$144.00	\$370.00	\$514.00	25
<b>Drop Off</b>	\$0.00	\$826.06	\$826.06	13



# Last But Not Least



**Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.** As the opening prayer reminds us, there is no better example for family life than what we receive from them. Joseph struggled in poverty to provide for his family even as he worked to trust in the Lord. Mary changed diapers and went about the routine of caring for her Son and for her husband. Jesus grew in grace and age and wisdom as well as in His awareness of His mission for our salvation. We cannot lose sight of the difficult and challenging reality of the struggle and sacrifice of the Holy Family.

I would like to thank all those who sent Christmas greetings to all of us at the rectory. **Wednesday is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God! Our masses will be Tuesday evening Vigil at 4:30pm and 11:00pm to welcome the New Year. Masses on Wednesday will be our regular Sunday Mass Schedule.**

**I would like to thank Khanh and Vien Nguyen** for the beautiful manger in the Lower Church. Thanks **to the members of the St. Joseph the Worker Group** for the beautiful floors in the Upper and Lower Churches and the colorful lights outside, and to the **all those who came out to help clean and decorate the churches.** What a tribute to the unity and ethnic diversity of our parish!

Finally, the New Year can often bring a mixed bag of emotions and memories for many of us. Some may have just experienced the best year ever and look forward to an even greater one looming ahead. Others may have just trudged through one deep struggle after another. The fresh calendar year 2020 brings desperate hope for things to be better, with an ache for the still-fresh wounds to slowly begin their process of healing. Whether you've just walked through the greatest year of your life, or are incredibly glad to see this one finally over, one truth still rings clear amidst it all. You are not alone. Not ever. Our God is a "with us" God. On the heels of the celebration of the birth of our King, that reminder has the power to carry us right into a fresh, new start. He is Immanuel, God with us. And though things and people around us shift and change, our God never changes. **May the New Year 2020 bring you and your family much peace, joy and good health!** Thanks for reading and have a good week.

Your Brother and Shepherd,  
Rev. Msgr. Joseph Trinh

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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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