



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 8, 2019 2nd 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. 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 ác. 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 8, 2019 2nd Sunday of Advent
Is 11: 1-10 Rom 15: 4-9 Mt 3: 1-12

MONDAY (09)	Gn 3: 9-15	
	Eph 1: 3-6, 11-12	Lk 1: 26-38
TUESDAY (10)	Is 40: 1-11	Mt 18: 12-14
WEDNESDAY (11)	Is 40: 25-31	Mt 11: 28-30
THURSDAY (12)	Is Zec 2: 14-17	Lk 1: 26-38
FRIDAY (13)	Is 48: 17-19	Mt 11: 16-19
SATURDAY (14)	Sir 48: 1-4, 9-11	Mt 17: 9a, 10-13

Masses for the Week of Dec. 8 to 15, 2019



SATURDAY, December 7, 2019
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

MONDAY, December 9, 2019 Immaculate Conception

8:00AM Juan Valentin, JR.
9:00AM Father Edward Speitel
7:00PM Father Edward Speitel

TUESDAY, December 10, 2019

8:00AM Mary Flanagan (10th Anniversary)

WEDNESDAY, December 11, 2019 St. Damasus I

8:00AM Anna Kinh & Peter Ung Le

THURSDAY, December 12, 2019 Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00AM Maria Nguyen Thi Nhan

FRIDAY, December 13, 2019 St. Lucy

8:00AM Peter Tam Vu and Joseph Xung Vu

SATURDAY, December 14, 2019 St. John of the Cross

8:00AM Annatacio Saludez
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 Valencia



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 Dec. 12th
Holy Spirit & Why do I Need a Church?**

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. 8	- 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 (Hall) - 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) - Spanish Baptism Class 2:00pm (Adoration Chapel) - VN Divine Mercy Group 2:30pm to 3:30pm (LC)
Monday Dec. 9	- Masses 8:00am, 9:00am & 7:00pm (LC) - Spanish Charismatic Choir 7:30pm (LC)
Tuesday Dec. 10	- 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) - Staff Meeting 3:30pm (RMR) - Parish Council Meeting 7:00pm (RMR)
Wednesday Dec. 11	- Spanish Bible Study 9:30am to 12:00Noon (RB) - Spanish Charismatics 6:00pm to 9:30pm (LC) - Vietnamese Council 7:00pm (RB)
Thursday Dec. 12	55+ Club Meeting 12:00Noon to 3:00pm (RB) - ESL Class 7:00pm to 8:30pm (OC) - English RCIA 7:00pm to 8:30pm (RMR)
Friday Dec. 13	- VN Children's Choir 7:00pm to 8:00pm (LC) - OLLV Devotion 8:00pm to 8:30pm (Adoration Chapel) - VN Adult Choir 8:30pm to 10:30pm (LC) - VN TNTT Group 7:00pm to 10:00pm (UC)
Saturday Dec. 14	- MM Devotion 7:50am (LC) - OLLV Devotion 8:30am to 9:30am (LC) - Vietnamese Language Class 9:30am to 11:30am (Hall) - Novinyo Habobo 7:00pm to Midnight (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.



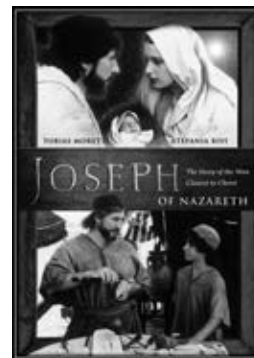
2nd Sunday of Advent Sunday Cycle A

John asks us to *'prepare a way for the Lord and make his paths straight.'* What does mean for us today? When the people heard John speak, *'they were baptized and confessed their sins.'* An important aspect of our Advent journey and preparation is acknowledging that there are parts of our lives that need straightening!

Perhaps one way we could prepare away for the Lord during these weeks of Advent is to consider celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation. As we focus our attention on so many other things during the lead up to Christmas, let us not forget to prepare a place in our hearts to welcome Jesus.

Join us for Joseph of Nazareth 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 Food Bank

Did you know that the Second Sunday of each month is Food Bank Sunday? Great need continues for many people in our own community for assistance in meeting the basic needs of life.

Bring in your donations of non-perishable food items and place them in the baskets in the gathering space. Thank you for your generosity!

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 Miraculous Medal Shrine
www.MiraculousMedal.org



**This 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 November 24, 2019 \$6,640.50

Tithing Income November 25, 2018 \$6,659.50

Tithing Income November 26, 2017 \$6,169.00



Stewardship Report for November 24, 2019

(Regular Collection).....\$ 6,640.50

Mass	Loose	Envelopes	Total	# Envelopes
4:30pm	\$212.00	\$398.00	\$610.00	21
8:00am	\$283.00	\$725.00	\$1,008.00	40
9:30am	\$655.00	\$1,324.00	\$1,979.00	112
11:15am	\$165.00	\$906.00	\$1,071.00	57
12:30pm	\$178.00	\$698.00	\$876.00	39
Drop Off	\$0.00	\$1,096.50	\$1,096.50	17

Thanksgiving Collection.....\$906.00



Tithing Income December 1, 2019 \$6,322.50

Tithing Income December 2, 2018 \$6,285.00

Tithing Income December 3, 2017 \$6,703.00



Stewardship Report for December 1, 2019

(Regular Collection).....\$ 6,322.50

Mass	Loose	Envelopes	Total	# Envelopes
4:30pm	\$161.00	\$622.00	\$783.00	36
8:00am	\$229.00	\$852.50	\$1,081.50	48
9:30am	\$638.00	\$1,368.00	\$2,006.00	117
11:15am	\$167.00	\$1,382.00	\$1,549.00	65
12:30pm	\$145.00	\$506.00	\$651.00	36
Drop Off	\$0.00	\$252.00	\$252.00	18

Maintenance Collection.....\$2,045.00



Last But Not Least



Today we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent. Today we are given the person of St. John the Baptist to ponder. John acknowledged that he was not even worthy to stoop down and untie the sandal of Jesus. John did not point to himself but to Jesus. Do you tend to point to yourself or Jesus? Do you seek the praise of others or do you humbly point all praise and glory to God? Humility is the path that St. John the Baptist took and it's the path we must strive for each and every day.

This year, December 8th falls on a Sunday. **The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception will be transferred to Monday. It is not a Holy Day of Obligation. 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 country. Don't forget to invite a Friend to Mass.

Cleaning Church Floors: Saturday, Dec. 21st
Decorating Church: Monday, Dec. 23rd 7:00pm

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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