



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

January 5, 2020 Feast of the Epiphany

We Remember in Prayer our Sick

Luke Tynan	Frances Clark	Duong Thi Tham
Carmen Lebron	Lindsay H.	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
Emanuel Abiegom	Joseph Henson	Monica Peltz Yondura

We Remember in Prayer our Deceased

**Sisters Margie Gavaghan and Anita Daniel, SSJ
Juana Us-Perez**

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 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 lạy phép Đức Chúa Trời mà xua đuổi chúng xuống hỏa ngục đời đời. Amen

Scripture Readings for the Week

SUNDAY, January 5, 2020 Feast of the Epiphany

Is 60: 1-6 Col 3: 12-21 Mt 2: 13-15, 19-23

MONDAY (06) 1 Jn 3: 22-4:6 Mt 4: 12-17, 23-25

TUESDAY (07) 1 Jn 4: 7-10 Mk 6: 34-44

WEDNESDAY (08) 1 Jn 4: 11-18 Mk 6: 45-52

THURSDAY (09) 1 Jn 4: 19-5:4 Jn 1: 19-28

FRIDAY (10) 1 Jn 5: 5-13 Lk 5: 12-16

SATURDAY (11) 1 Jn 5: 14-21 Jn 3: 22-30

Masses for the Week of January 5 to 12, 2020



SATURDAY, January 4, 2020

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

MONDAY, January 6, 2020 St. André Bessette

8:00AM Carmen E. Asencio

7:00PM St. Helena Parishioners

TUESDAY, January 7, 2020 St. Raymond of Penyafort

8:00AM For Peace

WEDNESDAY, January 8, 2020

8:00AM Peter Cham Le

THURSDAY, January 9,

8:00AM Maria Pham Chi

FRIDAY, January 10, 2020

8:00AM Mary Gable

SATURDAY, January 11, 2020

8:00AM Gerald Loughlin

4:30PM Mary Gable

SUNDAY, January 12, 2020 Baptism of the Lord

8:00AM Isave Tran

9:30AM Personal Intention

11:15AM Yen Van Nguyen

12:30PM Tomas Figueroa

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 Bercauw | 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 1st Floor Mtg. Room. Enter by the Rectory's Main Door on 5th Street and ring the bell.

Class topic for Jan. 9 ~ Why I Need 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 Jan. 05 to Jan. 11**

Sunday Jan. 5	English PREP 9:00am to 10:30am (Hall) VN Catholic Women's Group 11:00am to 12:00Noon (UC) 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 (Chapel) VN Divine Mercy Group 2:30pm to 3:30pm (LC)
Monday Jan. 6	Mass 7:00pm (LC) Spanish Charismatic Choir 7:30pm (LC)
Tuesday Jan. 7	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 Jan. 8	Spanish Bible Study 9:30am to 12:00Noon (RB) Spanish Charismatics 6:00pm to 9:30pm (LC) Boys Scouts 7:30pm to 9:30pm (Hall) Vietnamese Council 7:00pm (RMR)
Thursday Jan. 9	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 Jan. 10	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)
Saturday Jan. 11	MM Devotion 7:50am (LC) OLLV Devotion 8:30am to 9:30am (LC) Viet. Language Class 9:30am to 11:30am (Hall)

2020
HAPPY NEW YEAR

**New Year's
2020 Prayer**

Dear God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate! We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another. As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.

**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.



Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord

(Come to the manger for a gift for the New Year 2020)



Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." ~ Matthew 2: 1-12

Today, Holy Mother Church celebrates the feast of the Holy Family. It is not the celebration of saints in human garments but the triumph of grace and virtue. The members of the Holy family experienced several challenges like we are experiencing today but they did not allow these challenges to distract the peace, love and unity that existed among them. The gospel reading (Luke 2:41-52) presents us with one of such challenges – the difficulty of finding Jesus when he was missing for three days. Others include the misunderstanding between Mary and Joseph when Mary conceived without Joseph's collaboration and the difficulty of finding a place at Bethlehem. This feast is relevant to our present society when most families are on the verge of disintegration. It offers us an opportunity to reflect on the virtues of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and see how we can apply them in our lives to make our individual families holy after their examples.

The family is the domestic Church and is the most important structure in the society. Today's feast challenges us to uphold family values of love, peace and togetherness in the society. That is why the second reading (1 John 3:1-2.21-24) assures us of our participation in the family of God by virtue of Christ's incarnation and participation in the human family. This relationship is concretely seen in the Church which prepares us for our heavenly home. Therefore, what have you done to improve the quality of the human family or the family of God on mission (the Church)? Happy Feast Day!

The story of the astrologers and the star of Bethlehem are unique to Matthew's Gospel. Note that Matthew does not call them kings nor does he give their names nor reports where they came from – in fact, Matthew never even specifies the number of magi (because three gifts are presented to the Child, it has been a tradition since the fifth century to picture "three wise men"). In stripping away the romantic layers that have been added to the story, Matthew's point can be better understood.

Matthew's story also provides a preview of what is to come. First, the reactions of the various parties to the birth of Jesus parallel the effects Jesus' teaching will have on those who hear it. Herod reacts with anger and hostility to the Jesus of the poor who comes to overturn the powerful and rich. The chief priests and scribes greet the news with haughty indifference toward the Jesus who comes to give new life and meaning to the rituals and laws of the scribes. But the magi – non-believers in the eyes of Israel -- possess the humility of faith and the openness of mind and heart to seek and welcome the Jesus who will institute the Second Covenant between God and the New Israel.

Secondly, the gifts of the astrologers indicate the principal dimensions of Jesus' mission:



- ★ **gold** is a gift fitting for a king, a ruler, one with power and authority;
- ★ **frankincense** is a gift fitting for a priest, one who offers sacrifice (frankincense was an aromatic perfume sprinkled on the animals sacrificed in the Temple);
- ★ **myrrh** is a fitting "gift" for someone who is to die (myrrh was used in ancient times for embalming the bodies of the dead before burial).

Epiphany calls us to a new vision of the world that sees beyond the walls and borders we have created and to walk by the light which has dawned for all of humankind, a light by which we are able to recognize all men and women as our brothers and sisters under the loving providence of God, the Father of all. The magi's following of the star is a journey of faith, a constant search for meaning, for purpose, for the things of God that each one of us experiences in the course of our own lives. This year, what will you fix your eyes on...wealth, fame, power, God's justice, peace or compassion?

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 January 12th Bulletin.

I would like to thank the Spanish Community for their donation of \$1,800.00 from the Christmas Party, the Ecuadorian Community for their donation of \$700.00 and from the Guadalupe Mass \$573.00.



St. Helena Parish First Reconciliation Parent Meeting January 12th at 2:00pm in the Lower Church.

Preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (also known as Confession or Penance) for the first time is an exciting time. It is a time for focus on God's mercy, how we forgive among our family, friends, and community, and how we celebrate forgiveness. Children of the parish who attend St. Helena Incarnation, IMS School and are in second grade or up and children in the English and Vietnamese PREP Programs are invited to begin the formal preparation to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In order to register for the formal preparation classes, **parents must attend the information meeting on Sunday, January 12th at 2:00pm in the Lower Church. At this meeting, parents must bring a copy of the child's baptismal certificate.**



Last But Not Least



Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of Our Lord. The word *Epiphany* means to reveal or to make known. This Sunday, these strangers whom we call kings, who were led and drawn by the light of a star to come and do homage to Jesus. They arrive with strange gifts as they bend low and kneel in front of the King of Kings. **GOLD** is the most precious of metals, so therefore a symbol of royalty. A symbol that the Kings acknowledged the newborn Christ as King, a title that would later appear above Christ's head on the cross. **FRANKINCENSE** is associated with prayer and divine worship. The kings professed their faith in Christ's divinity as Son of God, the Word made flesh. **MYRRH** was used to dress wounds and embalm the dead. It symbolized the humanity of Jesus. The kings prophesied that Jesus will suffer for each and everyone of us. These kings from far off lands are humbled in the presence of Jesus. We too, should be humbled in the presence of Jesus. On this great feast of the Epiphany of our Lord, let us pray for ourselves and all people of good will who are searching for God. May we have the light of faith to guide us through the ordinary events of our daily lives.

A special thank you to our **organists and singers** who brought their beautiful music to our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Liturgies. **To those who donated items for the less fortunate** of our parish and to **all of our parishioners** who came out and joined with us to celebrate the Birth of the Lord, my sincere thanks. Let me also say **thank you** for your **most generous donations** to our **Christmas Flower** collection and to our **Christmas Collection**. Thank you for your kindness and generosity to our parish. Let me say thank you to all who dropped off gifts at the rectory for myself and the other priests. I hope that the Lord will shower his blessings upon you and your families and that his peace and joy will fill your hearts this New Year. **May the joy of the Three Kings fill your hearts and your homes now and throughout the 2020!**

Finally, a reminder that there is a First Penance Meeting on January 12th for parents of children who will make First Penance on March 3rd. Thanks for reading and have a good week.

Your Brother and Shepherd,
Rev. Msgr. Joseph Trinh

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