



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)
 Sunday – 2:30pm (Lower Church)



Viet. Divine Mercy Grupo
Carismático

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
Finance Committee
Alumni Meeting

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



December 13, 2020 3rd Sunday of Advent

We Remember in Prayer our Sick

Luke Tynan	Frances Clark	Duong Thi Tham
Rosaura Caraballo	Victoria Marin	Stephen Beach
Lucia Zavala	Ryan Cichon	Monica Yondura Peltz
Carmen Torres	John Sanchez	Carmen Jimenez
Virginia Gilligan	Elena Evogenevna	Biryukova
Thanh Boka	Nathaniel Lopez	Emilio Rosario
Francis Germanovich	Carmen Giamarco	Dan Shead
Francis Hernandez	Isabel Phayre	Awilda Gonzalez
Camille Figueroa	Ignacio Ortolaza	Hipolita Delgado
Samuel Delgado	Samie Rosado	Carmen Delia Cruz
Maria Thanh Doan	Adolfo Castano	Fernando Castano
Belen Delgado	Mercedes Garcia	Gisela Gonzalez

We Remember in Prayer our Deceased

Dolores Cassidy

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 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 13, 2020 3rd Sunday of Advent

Is 61: 1-2a, 10-11 2 Thes 5: 16-24 Jn 1: 6-8, 19-28

MONDAY (14) Nm 24: 2-7, 15-17a Mt 21: 23-27

TUESDAY (15) Zep 3: 1-2, 9-13 Mt 21: 28-32

WEDNESDAY (16) Is 45: 6b-8, 21c-25 Lk 7: 18b-23

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

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

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

Mass Intentions for the December 13 - 20, 2020

SATURDAY, December 12, 2020

4:30pm Mary Gable

SUNDAY, December 13, 2020 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:00am Gloria G. Mays

9:30am Personal Intention (VN Livestream-UC)

11:15am Ana Zayas

12:30pm Nydia Morales (SP Livestream-UC)

MONDAY, December 14, 2020 St. John of the Cross

8:00am Annatacio Saludez **Priest & Dr. of the Church**

7:00pm St. Helena Parishioners

TUESDAY, December 15, 2020

8:00am Peter Tam Vu

WEDNESDAY, December 16, 2020

8:00am Guise Vu Van Lap

THURSDAY, December 17, 2020

8:00am Peter Dong Bui & All the Souls

FRIDAY, December 18, 2020

8:00am Dominic & Anna

SATURDAY, December 19, 2020

8:00am Father Edmond Speitel

4:30pm Bich Ha Martha Tran Hoang

SUNDAY, December 20, 2020 4th Sunday of Advent

8:00am Gloria G. Mays

9:30am Personal Intention (VN Livestream-UC)

11:15am John, Frances & Jack McBride

12:30pm Luis Hernan Higuera (4th Anniv) SP Livestream-UC

Prayer in Anticipation of our 100th 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 96 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 96 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

Welcome to St. Helena Parish in Olney section of Philadelphia! We are pleased to have you share in this celebration of the Eucharist. If you do not have a home parish, we invite you to become part of our parish family and become fully involved in our life of prayer, education, service and community.

Live-streaming Sunday Masses

English Masses: The Mass is celebrated and live-streamed each Sunday at 11:00am from the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul so you can participate in the Eucharist remotely.



St. Helena's Vietnamese Mass is live-streamed every Sunday at 9:30am and St. Helena's Spanish Mass is live-streamed every Sunday at 12:30pm. Go to www.sainthelenaparish.net and click on the time under MASS SCHEDULE for all English and live-streaming Masses, including the Mass at the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul.



St. Helena Church Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry continues to serve those in need. Please bring your donations of pasta, sauce, peanut butter, jelly, mac & cheese, beans, baked beans, rice, to the food pantry on Tuesdays and Thursday or leave in the baskets in the back of Church. Money donations are needed for perishable goods and to buy food at discount from Philabundance. The rectory office mail drop can be used anytime for your donations.

Health Promotion Office News

To prevent infection and to slow transmission of COVID-19, do the following:

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water, or clean them with alcohol-based hand rub.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when in public settings or around others
 - Maintain at least six feet distance.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Stay home if you feel unwell.
- Refrain from smoking and other activities that weaken the lungs.
- Practice physical distancing by avoiding unnecessary travel and staying away from large groups of people.



Laudato Sí ~ Pope Francis' Encyclical on the Environment and Human Ecology



The bishops of Brazil have pointed out that nature as a whole not only manifests God but is also a locus of his presence. The Spirit of life dwells in every living creature and calls us to enter into relationship with him. **(LS #88)**

- What places in nature most help you become aware of and feel God's presence? Go there this week — at least in your imagination — and savor God's presence.

Breaking Open the Word 3rd Sunday of Advent

Responsorial Psalm ~ Lk 1: 46-50, 53-54



Taken from Mary's Magnificat, today's responsorial psalm is full of joy, rejoicing and promise. The Promised One is coming! New life is blazing in his hands! Rejoice and be glad! The Magnificat celebrates God's liberating power in the world. It echoes with memories of the great things God has done across the whole arc of time. The Magnificat has much to teach us today: joyful praise of God, how to remember God's mighty deeds, how to acclaim God as a wonderful healer and liberator. And then there is the context: Mary's act of loving kindness towards her cousin Elizabeth, and Elizabeth's prophetic words. There is much to reflect on here for all of us. **TODAY PRAY...** LORD, we rejoice with Mary and Elizabeth. We raise our songs of praise to your glory. We acclaim you! Mighty are you and glorious, worthy of all praise! We thank you for your wonderful deeds! We thank you for the gift of Jesus! We thank you for the gift of the Spirit! Give us the courage to reach out to those in need at this holy time. Give us the courage to work for justice. Through us, fill the hungry with good things. Warm and wrap all living beings in your streams of loving mercy. Work marvels in our day! Amen.

Christmas Schedule 2020

Confessions for Christmas
Wednesday, December 23, 2020
 5:00pm-6:00pm and 7:00pm-8:00pm

Christmas Eve
Thursday, December 24, 2020
 6:00pm Mass in English (LC)
 6:00pm Mass in Spanish (UC)
 8:00pm Mass in Vietnamese (UC)
 12:00 Midnight Mass (LC) English

Christmas Day
Friday, December 25, 2019
 8:00am Mass in English (LC)
 9:30am Mass in Vietnamese (UC)
 11:15am Mass in English (LC)
 12:30pm Mass in Spanish (UC)



Sunday December 27, 2020
 Regular Sunday Schedule

New Year's Eve
Thursday, December 31, 2020
 Vigil Mass 4:30pm (LC)
 Welcome New Year's Mass 11:00pm (LC)

New Year's Day
Friday, January 1, 2021
 8:00am Mass in English (LC)
 9:30am Mass in Vietnamese (UC)
 11:15am Mass in English (LC)
 12:30pm Mass in Spanish (UC)

*Merry Christmas! ¡Feliz Navidad!
 Mừng Chúa Giáng Sinh!*



St. Helena Church COVID-19 Reminders



1. The faithful of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia continue to be dispensed by the Archbishop from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation until further notice.
2. After each Mass, we will continue to sanitize the pews, church handles/doors and confessionals.
3. Face coverings are to be worn in the body of the Church except for those 2 years of age and younger and those who for health or other reasons cannot do so.
4. For the safety of all, we have placed blue squares in every pew 6 feet apart. We ask that you sit in the pews where the blue square is placed. Please do not sit directly behind someone.

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!

Parish Tithing Report for December 6, 2020



Thank You!

(1st) Weekly.....\$2,993.00 (123 envelopes)
 Drop Off.....\$1,315.00 (12 envelopes)
 E-Giving.....\$340.00 (4 transactions)
Total Collection.....\$4,648.00 (135 envelopes)
Maintenance Collection.....\$1,447.00 (88 envs)
A special Christmas Donation of \$2,000.00 (Thank You)

Mass	Attendance	Loose	Envelopes	Total	# Envelopes
4:30pm	49	\$54.00	\$127.00	\$181.00	11
8:00am	51	\$80.00	\$183.00	\$263.00	16
9:30am	112	\$112.00	\$705.00	\$817.00	46
11:15am	53	\$54.00	\$749.00	\$803.00	29
12:30pm	100	\$79.00	\$850.00	\$929.00	21
Drop off	-----	-----	\$1,315.00	\$1,315.00	12

You make the difference! Thank you for growing in holiness and striving to be a good steward.



Last But Not Least



Today we celebrate the 3rd Sunday of Advent, rejoicing Sunday. In the gospel according to John, the Baptist announces the coming of the promised Messiah. Indeed, although we do not recognize him, he is already in our midst. During his ministry Jesus will clearly announce that the kingdom of God is already here. We do not need to wait for Jesus' second coming. The problem is that often we find it difficult to recognize him. Often, when we think of our meeting with Christ we can be caught up in a sense of fear. As we approach the liturgical celebration of the first coming of Jesus, which also points us towards his final coming, we are invited to rejoice. For those who are faithful, the Lord's coming is a moment of healing and celebration. Isaiah proclaims that the Lord is coming to set prisoners free and to heal those who are sick. If we remain faithful, we will be the ones who will be benefitting from this joyous return on the Lord.

Just a reminder: **when approaching to receive Holy Communion, please remove your mask before you extend your hands for the reception of Holy Communion.** On page 3 of this week's bulletin you will find **St. Helena Church COVID-19 reminders.** We continue to try to protect all our parishioners who join us for the Celebration of the Eucharist. Please follow these reminders when attending Mass.

Finally, **our Christmas schedule is posted on page 3 of this bulletin.** During this Advent Season, it has been my prayer that each of you would find opportunities to reflect on your own faith and relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. Whatever it is that our hearts and souls desire, whether we realize it or not, our ultimate desire is Jesus Himself, for this reason, we are filled with joy, especially today on "Rejoicing Sunday". Thanks for reading, stay healthy, reach out to those close to you and last but not least have a good week.

P.S. The School has an opening for a custodial position within the school. Please call the school if interested.

Your Brother and Shepherd,
 Rev. Msgr. Joseph Trinh

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