



# 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 Pomaes</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)  
 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**

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 20, 2020 4th 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*

**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**

<b>SUNDAY, December 20, 2020 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>		
2 Sm 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Rm 16: 25-27 Lk 1: 16-38		
<b>MONDAY (21)</b>	Sg 2: 8-14	Lk 1: 39-45
<b>TUESDAY (22)</b>	1 Sm 1: 24-28	Lk 1: 46-56
<b>WEDNESDAY (23)</b>	Mal 3: 1-4, 23-24	Lk 1: 57-66
<b>THURSDAY (24)</b>	2 Sm 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16	Lk 1: 67-79
<b>FRIDAY (25)</b>	Is 52: 7-10	Heb. 1: 1-6
	Jn 1: 1-18	
<b>SATURDAY (26)</b>	Acts 6: 8-10; 7: 54-59	Mt 10: 17-22

## Mass Intentions for the December 20- 27, 2020

### SATURDAY, December 19, 2020

4:30pm Bich Ha Martha Tran Hoang

### SUNDAY, December 20, 2020 4<sup>th</sup> 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 (4<sup>th</sup> Anniv) SP Livestream-UC)

### MONDAY, December 21, 2020 St. Peter Canisius, Priest

8:00am Martin Vo Dai Hai

Doctor of the Church

7:00pm St. Helena Parishioners

### TUESDAY, December 22, 2020

8:00am Joseph Xung Vu

### WEDNESDAY, December 23, 2020 St. John of Kanty, Priest

8:00am Martina Cynthia Thao Nguyen

Confessions 5:00 to 6:00pm and 7:00 to 8:00pm

### THURSDAY, December 24, 2020

8:00am St. Helena Parishioners

6:00pm Mass in English (LC) St. Helena Parishioners

6:00pm Mass in Spanish (UC) St. Helena Parishioners

8:00pm Mass in Vietnamese (UC) St. Helena Parishioners

12:00 Midnight Mass (LC) English St. Helena Parishioners

### FRIDAY, December 25, 2020 The Nativity of Our Lord

8:00am Mass in English (LC) St. Helena Parishioners

9:30am Mass in Vietnamese (UC) St. Helena Parishioners

11:15am Mass in English (LC) St. Helena Parishioners

12:30pm Mass in Spanish (UC) St. Helena Parishioners

### SATURDAY, December 26, 2020 St. Stephen, 1<sup>st</sup> Martyr

8:00am Maria Pham Thi Hong

4:30pm Julia & Frank Schaller

### SUNDAY, December 27, 2020 The Feast of the Holy Family

8:00am St. Helena Parishioners

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

11:15am Jorge Colon

12:30pm Ventura DeJesus Cumpleanos (SP Livestream-UC)

### Prayer in Anticipation of our 100th Anniversary

Gracious God we give thanks as we anticipate celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> 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 100<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.** 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



God has written a precious book, "whose letters are the multitude of created things present in the universe". The Canadian bishops rightly pointed out that no creature is excluded from this manifestation of God: "From panoramic vistas to the tiniest living form, nature is a constant source of wonder and awe. It is also a continuing revelation of the divine".

**(LS #85)**

- Just sit with this excerpt until it moves you to experience awe and wonder at the manifold ways God is ever present. Do this every day this week as we anticipate celebrating the feast of the Incarnation.

# Breaking Open the Word

## 4th Sunday of Advent ~ Lk 1: 26-38



How wonderful it is to read the Annunciation story today and see the promise made in our first reading come to fulfillment. There is something amazing and challenging at work here. Not only is the history of Jesus utterly different to any other history, the line of history itself is broken in him and we are confronted by the reality of his divine origins. There lies the challenge. Can I handle the divine forces at work in the story of Mary's annunciation? Can I handle the divine forces at work in the story of her Son and his conception? Or do I seek to reduce them to the banal and the fanciful? Am I ready to embrace the deep meaning of Christmas? Am I ready for the implications of believing that in Mary's yes God has come among us? **TODAY PRAY...** Lord Jesus, we rejoice in the story of your mother and the angel. We exult that Mary said her earth shattering yes to God! We are glad that the Spirit came upon her! We rejoice in your conception, the miraculous way you took root in the world! We delight in the fulfillment of the Old Testament promises! Thank you, Jesus, for taking root in Mary's womb. Thank you, Mary, for unconditionally opening your heart and life to him! Mary, teach us how to be open as you were! Teach us how to say yes to God for the sake of all creation! Teach us to welcome the Spirit and open our hearts to his love and his way. 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,**  
 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!



## Due to Early Transmission the Parish Tithing Report for December 13, 2020 will be posted in the December 27th Bulletin

# Thank You!



## Last But Not Least



**Today we celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent.** In today's Gospel we have the angel Gabriel announcing to the Blessed Virgin Mary that she will be the mother of the Son of God. We celebrate today the solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. This is a very important day because it marks the fulfillment of the promise of God for a Messiah. This is also called the Feast of the Incarnation of Christ. Now, the Second Person of the Trinity will become flesh in Jesus Christ. The mystery of the Annunciation is a test of wills. It was a test of will for Mary and Joseph and everyone close to them. How can they accept the birth of one when Mary and Joseph were still to be married? But with God, nothing is impossible. His will should be enough assurance of His presence and guidance. Both passed the test. Aware of the consequences, Mary and Joseph abided with the will of God. Later, the very Son who will be born also would show this attitude. Jesus obeyed His Father even unto death. This feast is a reminder to us of the importance of following God's will. It is His will which should prevail more than anyone's will. God knows the best for us. Just like Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, following of God's will even when we think otherwise, should prevail.

Just a reminder: **that when approach 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.

With deep joy and gratitude, I extend to you my prayerful best wishes for a holy and blessed Christmas. Christmas has a way of bringing to Church individuals and families. I extend to all of you an open, grateful heart of welcome. Together, may we grow in strength and grace to know and celebrate together God's presence in our lives and His dominion over all things of this world! May our Lord Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, bless you, your families and loved ones at this blessed time of hope and grace! May Mary, the Mother of the Child Jesus and our Mother, watch over you and our beloved St. Helena Parish always!

Finally, **on behalf of all the priests, deacons, sisters, and staff, I wish you and your families a Blessed Christmas and Peaceful New Year.** 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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**What's My Name?**

The #WHATSMYNAME Movement asks everyone to simply ask drivers "What's my name?" before entering their vehicle to make sure it is the car they are supposed to enter.

**#WHATSMYNAME**

In Remembrance of Samantha Josephson



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