



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 27, 2020 Feast of the Holy Family

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 Chai Duong & Brandy Vaughn

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 nguy 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 27, 2020 <i>Feast of the Holy Family</i>		
Gn 15: 1-6; 21: 1-3 Heb 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19 Lk 2: 22-40		
MONDAY (28)	1 Jn 1: 5-2:2	Mt 2: 13-18
TUESDAY (29)	1 Jn 2: 3-11	Lk 2: 22-35
WEDNESDAY (30)	1 Jn 2: 12-17	Lk 2: 36-40
THURSDAY (31)	1 Jn 2: 18-21	Jn 1: 1-18
FRIDAY (01)	Nm 6: 22-27	
	Gal 4: 4-7	Lk 2: 16-21
SATURDAY (02)	1 Jn 2: 22-28	Jn 1: 19-28

Mass Intentions for the Dec. 27 - Jan. 3, 2020

SATURDAY, December 26, 2020

4:30pm Julia & Frank Schaller

SUNDAY, December 27, 2020 *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)

MONDAY, December 28, 2020 *Feast of the Holy Innocents,*

8:00am Joseph Chiet & All the Souls **Martyrs**

7:00pm St. Helena Parishioners

TUESDAY, December 29, 2020 *St. Thomas Becket,*

8:00am Nam Van Truong **Bishop & Martyr**

WEDNESDAY, December 30, 2020

8:00am In Thanksgiving

THURSDAY, December 31, 2020 *St. Sylvester I, Pope*

8:00am Fernando & Atanasia Feliciano

4:30pm Julia & Frank Schaller

11:00pm St. Helena Parishioners

FRIDAY, January 1, 2021 *Mary, Mother of God*

8:00am Maria & Dominic

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

11:15am In Thanksgiving for the Nguyen Family

12:30pm St. Helena Parishioners (SP Livestream-UC)

SATURDAY, January 2, 2021 *St. Basil the Great &*

8:00am Thomas That Nguyen **Gregory Nazianzen,**

4:30pm Brandy Vaughn **Bishops & Dr. of Church**

SUNDAY, January 3, 2021 *Feast of the Epiphany*

8:00am Dolores Cassidy

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

11:15am Healing for Bastien Vaughn

12:30pm Nydia Morales (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. 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



A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings. Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society. **(LS #91)**

- How do you develop the qualities of tenderness, compassion and concern? How have these qualities enriched your life and the lives of others?

Breaking Open the Word

Feast of the Holy Family ~ Lk 2: 22-40



Apart from the stories about Simeon and Anna and their impact on Mary and Joseph, today's gospel focusses attention on the growth of the Christ-child to maturity and wisdom in the warmth of his family. As a fully human child, Jesus, like all of us, had to grow physically, mentally and spiritually. And the best way to do that is as a cherished person in a loving family. That is how we understand the perfection of Jesus who reveals the wholeness appropriate to each stage of human development. Look at your family with appreciation today and pray for all children to be nurtured and cherished, surrounded by peace, warmth, love, tenderness and care. Then pray blessings on your own children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and all the other members of your own family, and those of your neighbors and friends. Touch them with blessing. **TODAY PRAY...** Lord Jesus, may the bonds of love be strong in all our homes and families! May our families be places where children blossom and grow into wholeness and integrity as you did! Help families live together from the springs of kindness and mutual understanding. May the prayers of Mary and Joseph inspire us with resilience and wisdom, with courage and perseverance as we face the trials and tribulations of life in worlds tinged by darkness! May the prayers of Mary and Joseph help us bear the soul-piercing swords of injustice and inequity as they did! Lord, send helpers to families driven into exile! Bless families trapped by war. Bless families touched by tragedy! Send helpers to families caught in the traps of poverty. Bless sick children everywhere. Help homeless families find homes. Amen.

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)

Year of St. Joseph ~ December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021



In a new Apostolic Letter entitled **Patris Corde** ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows. Pope Francis announced a special year dedicated to St. Joseph starting from December 8, 2020 until December 8, 2021, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church, as well as the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady. The Apostolic Penitentiary also issued a decree granting special indulgences for the duration of the special year to celebrate the anniversary and "to perpetuate the entrustment of the whole Church to the powerful patronage of the Custodian of Jesus." During this period, the faithful will have the opportunity to commit themselves "with prayer and good works, to obtain, with the help of St. Joseph, head of the heavenly Family of Nazareth, comfort and relief from the serious human and social tribulations that besiege the contemporary world today."

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 13, 2020

Thank You!



(1st) Weekly.....\$2,320.00 (116 envelopes)
 Drop Off.....\$466.00 (47 envelopes)
 E-Giving.....\$340.00 (4 transactions)
Total Collection.....\$3,126.00 (163 envelopes)
 (2nd) Religious Retirement Collection.....\$1,511.00 (104 envs)
 Immaculate Conception Collection.....\$969.00 (46 envs)
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass.....\$563.00

Mass	Attendance	Loose	Envelopes	Total	# Envelopes
4:30pm	51	\$149.00	\$301.00	\$450.00	17
8:00am	42	\$103.00	\$155.00	\$258.00	14
9:30am	139	\$210.00	\$595.00	\$805.00	44
11:15am	48	\$68.00	\$518.00	\$586.00	24
12:30pm	94	\$64.00	\$157.00	\$221.00	17
Drop off	-----	-----	\$466.00	\$466.00	47

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 Solemnity of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

Today's gospel ends with the image of the child Jesus growing and becoming strong as he is brought up by Mary and Joseph in Nazareth. Within their daily lives from the time Jesus' conception until the beginning of his public ministry, Mary and Joseph physically attended to his needs, teaching him and learning from him. While the Holy Family is often considered a unit unto itself, throughout their earthly lives, Mary, Joseph, and Jesus encountered many people and doubtless looked to some for support and guidance. At the temple, Anna and Simeon join Mary and Joseph in rejoicing at the child's birth, and also in anticipating the trajectory of his life and his role within the history of salvation as a "light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." As parts of the Body of Christ, we are also members of the Holy Family of God. At times our role might be to tend the young, the sick, or the elderly in our own biological family units. At other times, we might be privileged to offer support to a young or struggling family. This week, let us be mindful of the many people who enter our lives and the gifts they bring to us. Let us also remember those who are less fortunate and who may need our prayers.

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.** 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.

Pope Francis announced a special year dedicated to St. Joseph starting from December 8, 2020 until December 8, 2021, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church. **St. Joseph, husband of Mary, foster-father of Jesus, patron of the Universal Church, pray for us.**

Finally, on behalf of all the priests, deacons, sisters, and staff, I wish you and your families a Healthy & Peaceful New Year. Thanks for reading, stay healthy, reach out to those close to you and last but not least have a good week

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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