

# THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*In*  
**LOVING**  
*Memory*

## This Week's Mass Intentions

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2018**

- 8:00AM Amato & Sannino Families (*Rachele Sannino*)  
9:30AM Joan & Richard Orban (*Jane Orban*)  
11:00AM John DeRiso (*Rachele Sannino*)  
12:30PM James Lynch & Family (*D'Amelio Family*)  
5:00PM For The Parishioners

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2018**

- 9:00AM Concetta & Pasquale DeSantis (*Linda DeSantis*)

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2018**

- 9:00AM Dina LaPreziosa (*Boutureira Family*)

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2018**

- 9:00AM Richard Russo (*Ferri Family*)

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2018**

- 9:00AM Bella Moran (*Michele DeRiso*)

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2018** *Dedication of the Lateran Basilica*

- 9:00AM Rose Lapelusa (*Loving Family*)

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2018** *St. Leo the Great*

- 9:00AM George Cevasco (*Deidre McVey*)  
Rose Cimino (*M/M Bill Persky*)  
Josephine Ferrante (*Carmela Lapelusa*)  
For Good Health (*Loving Sister*)  
Theresa Maldarelli (*Cesario Family*)  
5:00PM Robert R. Keighron (*Vita & Paul*)  
Joseph J. Leccese (*Jo-Ann & Phyllis Leccese*)  
Joseph Leccese (*Vita & Paul*)  
Theresa Maldarelli (*Andrew & Linda Mastrangelo*)  
JoAnn Mustacchio (*Terrana Family*)

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2018**—**VETERAN'S DAY**

- 8:00AM George & Claire Cox  
9:30AM Tillie Amari (*Rachele Sannino*)  
11:00AM John DeRiso (*St. Helen's Holy Name Society*)  
12:30PM Nicholas Louis Napolitano (*Loving Family*)  
5:00PM For The Parishioners

**THE ALTAR BREAD** for this week is donated in memory of **Dorothy Pizzo**, requested by **The Maidhof Family**.



### **GOOD SHEPHERD STATUE**



We would like to thank **Elaine Lazzari**, who kept the statue this past week. Anyone interested in keeping the statue in their home and praying for vocations for one week should contact the Rectory.

**New Families:** *All are welcome* to St. Helen Parish, and are asked to please register at the Rectory during office hours.

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Please call the Rectory to register for the baptism of your child. Baptisms will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month.

**Sacrament of Confession:** *Saturdays* 12:30PM to 1:30PM. *Weekdays:* 15 minutes prior to the 9:00AM Mass.

**Sacrament of Marriage:** Couples should contact the Rectory at least **one year** in advance of the desired date. Please call for an appointment for the initial interview.

**Communion Calls:** Please call the Rectory to arrange for one of the priests to bring Holy Communion to a sick person who is confined to home due to a serious illness.

**Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick:** Anyone who expects to be hospitalized (or in an emergency) and wishes the Anointing of the Sick, should call the Rectory.



Debbie Abbene, Ann Ahern, Amado Araneta, Daniel Campion, Baby Canzoneri, Sally Capozello, Shang Cheng, Marge D'Auria, Mary Ann D'Angelo, Patrick Delaney, Domenica DeVito, Virginia DiGangi, Richard H. Dimler, Mary Divers, Jean Fochetta, Dennis Giammalvo, John Joseph Gleeson, John Pierce Gleeson, Christine Healy, Maria Hernandez, Elizabeth Isolano, Marilyn Krajcik, Keri & Baby Tristan, James Leung, Thomas & Patricia Lipari, William J. Litt, Cindy Maione, Barbara Miller, Angela Ottomanelli-Hubbs, Michael Palermo, Sebastian Panasci, Santo Pantina, Joseph Questore, Frances Russo, Bill Sangirardi, John Secreti, Patrick Smith, Remington Stafford, Michael Tamburo, Rubie Lynn Torres, Chrissie Tremblay, Paul Tremblay, Paul John Tremblay, Sr., Sr. Joanne Walters.

**Deceased:** Antoinette DeVita, Fred Spagnuolo

### **St. Helen's Purgatorial Society Mass**

All parishioners have the opportunity to enroll the names of loved ones in the Purgatorial Society. The Purgatorial Society Mass will be held on the **last Friday of each month**. The offering to be enrolled in the Purgatorial Society is \$120 per name (a total of 12 Masses for one year will be said for your loved one). Aside from listing one name, a husband and wife together, or a family name is also acceptable. Having a Purgatorial Society is wonderful way of living out the Scriptures and will be a relief for those who desire to have their loved ones remembered with prayers all year long at God's Altar. Please stop in at the Rectory if you are interested in having a loved one enrolled in the Purgatorial Society. **The next Purgatorial Society Mass will be held Friday, November 30, 2018.**

**The Order of Franciscans Secular** meet on the 3rd Saturday of every month in St. Helen's Rectory after the 9AM Mass. Come and learn more about the Franciscan way of life.

## “Who’s on First? What’s on Second? I Don’t Know...Third Base”

I recently had a conversation with a regular Mass attendee. This individual stated: “Father, I go the 5:00PM Mass every Saturday, and there are not many children at that Mass.” I responded, “I know, but have you ever been to 9:30AM Mass on Sunday? Did you know the children’s choir has more than 30 members?” The response was “There’s a children’s choir?” Another frequent flier once asked me, “I know Mr. Giusto (the organist) plays the organ at the 12:30 Mass, but who plays at the other Masses?” I thought the individual was joking.

Catholics tend to be very parochial. I would go a step further and say parishioners tend to be myopic (I do not mean this in a negative sense). Some parishioners always go to one Mass, “my Mass” whilst others are floaters, going whenever they can “make” it. For instance, in my last parish, an individual commented: “Father, I never see you at the Spanish Mass.” My response was “There are 3 other priests who speak Spanish in this parish and 5 English Masses, take a guess where you will “see” me”! Or, I have had parishioners say to me “Father, I never see you at Mass!” Recognizing they do go to Mass, I asked “Which Mass do you attend?” They responded “I go at different times”; and I responded “Same here!”

There are six Sunday Masses celebrated every week at Saint Helen, beginning Saturday evening at 5:00. The Sunday Mass schedule is 8:00, 9:30, 11:00, 12:30 and 5:00 Sunday evening. Each Mass is unique in its demographic. The 9:30AM Mass has a children’s choir and 11:00AM Mass has an adult choir. Mr. Giusto plays the organ at all the Masses and has an alternate fill in at the 5:00PM Mass on Sunday for at least half the Sundays in a month. The priest’s schedule rotates every weekend, or at least I try to rotate the schedule.

I find more children attend the 9:30AM Mass on Sunday and more seniors at the 5:00PM Mass on Saturday. The Sunday evening Mass seems empty minutes before Mass, and then the pews suddenly fill up seconds before Mass. Interestingly, I find that more people leave after communion on Saturday evening (which is a terrible habit! Judas left early!) while this habit is virtually non-existent at the 5:00PM on Sunday which, by the way, is a younger crowd. Then, there are the hearty regulars at the 8:00AM Mass, a Mass that Msgr. Pfeiffer had requested to say every Sunday. There are some people at that Mass I barely recognize! To no fault of their own, or my own, but as to the fact that Msgr. Pfeiffer has been celebrating that Mass regularly for years. Now that Msgr. Pfeiffer has moved on to assisted living, I will see them more often.

I once had an individual say to me, “The Deacon always preaches at your Mass.” My response was, “The deacons preach only once a month, how often do you go?”

All in all, I can not complain, in fact I rejoice, as Saint Helen parish has more people attending Mass than almost any of the 11 local parishes in the area! That being said, you never know **who** is going to show up or **what’s** going to happen, albeit the Sacred Mysteries. The reality is, when it comes to demographics... **I don’t know.**

**Fr. Colamaria**



Parents seeking Baptism for their children *who live within the territory of St. Helen Parish* are asked to register as members of the parish before requesting an initial interview for Baptism. Registration is easily done at the parish office anytime during business hours.

Parents seeking Baptism for their children *who live outside the territory of St. Helen Parish* are asked to obtain a letter from the parish in which they live authorizing the Baptism to take place at St. Helen.

Initial meetings with parents seeking Baptism for their children who have already been born will normally take place **on the second Wednesday of each month from 7:00–9:00PM and on the fourth Saturday of each month from 10:00AM–12:00PM.**

**Upcoming Mornings of Preparation Required Before a Baptism** (*All begin at the 11:00AM Mass and continue in the Msgr. McGinness Room*): **November 11 & 25—December 9.**

**Upcoming Schedule for Baptisms** (*All begin at 2:00PM*): **November 11 & 25—December 9.**

Please call 718-738-1616 for more information and/or to schedule an appointment.

**St. Helen's Support Group for the Physically Challenged** meets the first and third Wednesday of every month at 1:30PM in the Rectory meeting room. All are invited. For further information please call Joan at (718) 848-9173.

## THE NATIVITY SCENE



Each year, the parish decorates the Sanctuary with an exquisite Nativity Scene. The entire scene is handmade by parishioners who dedicate a tremendous amount of time and treasure creating a Nativity that rivals a museum display!

This year, three additional angels will be added to the Nativity. These angels are about nine inches in height and will surround the crib area. Each one may be dedicated by any family who is interested and their names will be included in a plaque displayed in front

of the crib.

The three angels are handmade in the Black Forest in Bavaria and are meticulously detailed. One Cherub carries a harp, another carries a bugle/trumpet and another, a lute. Each one is handmade, carved of wood, finished with gold leaf; truly a treasure and beautiful addition to the Nativity scene in the Church.

If you are interested in dedicating one with inclusion on a new plaque, the cost is \$350 per angel. Please contact the rectory if you are interested.



## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

St. Helen Parish would like to begin a new ministry which will benefit our elderly and homebound parishioners. This ministry is known as **WITNESSES OF MERCY**, a program developed by Catholic Charities.

Our goal is to create a group of trained volunteers who will have close personal contact with parishioners who are unable to leave their homes due to illness or age. This will be done by visits or by telephone. We will be the link between the parish and the parishioners so that all needed information can be shared by both. This will let the affected parishioners know they have not been left on their own and will have someone on which to rely.

We are looking for volunteers who are willing to put this kind of compassion and dedication into their efforts. If you are interested in learning more about this new group, and all about the program, please contact **Patricia Rizzo McCabe at (917) 312-7072**, or email her at [goodrecords1@verizon.net](mailto:goodrecords1@verizon.net).



**THANKSGIVING 2018 FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE NEEDY**

**THIS WEEKEND: NOVEMBER 3RD & 4TH!**

**ITEMS REQUESTED:**



- *Breakfast Cereal, Instant Oatmeal*
- *Crackers and Cookies in Boxes*
- *Fruits & Vegetables (canned or plastic)*
- *Coffee, Tea, Hot Cocoa*
- *Fruit Juices (Boxes, Plastic Bottles or Cans)*
- *Granola Bars*
- *Pasta in Boxes*
- *Pasta Sauce in Cans or Plastic Jars*
- *Peanut Butter & Jelly in Plastic Jars*
- *Powdered Milk*
- *Rice (White, Rice-A-Roni)*
- *Rice Cakes*
- *Soups of Any Kind*
- *Tuna, Ham, Chicken (Canned)*
- *Gift Cards from local Supermarkets*
- *Cash & Checks*



**Thanksgiving  
for All**

**Envelopes will be provided at the d  
of the Church for monetary donati**

***Thank you for your generosity!***

**SPONSORED BY:**

**ST. HELEN'S ST. VINCENT DE PAUL GROUP**



## THIRTY-FIRST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Phil 3:3  
-8a; Lk  
15:1-10



### Monday, November 5, 2018

Phil 2:1-4; Lk 14:12-14

You may not be throwing any banquets in the near future, but I am guessing you might find yourself at your congregation's coffee and doughnuts or a community soup night or fish fry or festival. I've been to dozens and at every single event there is always at least one person sitting alone. Sometimes, I ask if I might sit with them and invite others to join us and it works out okay. I have met some really delightful people by doing that. Also a few odd ones, but at least they were interesting. But here's the thing ... I don't always do it and it haunts me later. Why didn't I greet that lonely looking person or that obviously homeless person? What was so important that I would let someone sit alone and not welcome them? *Jesus, Lord and brother, remind me to look for your face in each person I meet this day.*

### Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Phil 2:5-11; Lk 14:15-24

The Philippian's Christ hymn is among my favorite Bible passages. My friend Peter set it to music, building to the last line, "Jesus Christ is Lord!" We sing it every Palm Sunday as the second reading, allowing that repeated phrase, which grows and grows in harmony and volume, to serve as the Gospel acclamation before the Passion is read. This hymn celebrates the irony that is Jesus — the crucified Lord. We worship one who eschewed the trappings of someone who is worshipped. And because we like trappings — I love trappings! — we gave them to him anyway. The trappings acknowledge the Lord part, the "seated-at-the-right-hand-of-God" part. But amidst the trappings, we must remember feet — his dusty ones as he walked along with his disciples and the feet he washed as he commanded us to do. Crucified and Lord. Human and divine. It's our calling, too. *My crucified Lord, give me the grace to believe what I sing and live what I believe.*

### Wednesday, November 7, 2018

Phil 2:12-18; Lk 14:25-33

In our local nursing home, on the door of each resident, are photos from their lives — perhaps a wedding picture, family portrait or travel photos of when they were young and beautiful. These photos remind the attendants and visitors that there is a whole life within each one of these now-frail people. Each one had hopes and dreams and desires to be remembered for something. Even St. Paul is concerned about leaving a legacy. We don't want to devote our lives to something or someone and find out, in the end, that our efforts bore no fruit. We all hope to be remembered. We all hope to be acknowledged for everything we were and are. We all hope to be in the company of someone who loves us when it is our time to leave this Earth. *Jesus, blessed One, give us the grace to choose wisely and love always as we make our way through this life.*

### Thursday, November 8, 2018

The Pharisees are so annoying! They pick at everything Jesus does. But Jesus does not compromise; his theme is love as far as the eye can see. Two parables today — the lost sheep found by a man, the lost coin found by a woman — are the run-up to the greatest of all the parables, the prodigal son. And so, tiny events stir glory in the heavens, with joy and celebration when "one sinner repents." I would love my vision to be so sharp as to spot the lost lamb on the farthest hill, the lost coin in the darkest corner of the house. Right now, there are families un-planning their Thanksgiving dinner because they will not eat with "sinners." Our response? Go ahead and stick by your principles. Who cares if the heavens cry? *Our hearts rejoice who search for you, O Lord!*

### Friday, November 9, 2018

Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17; Jn 2:13-22

Today's feast is a big deal! The Basilica of St. John Lateran — the bishop of Rome's own church — is celebrated with three big readings, and as solemnly as any Sunday. We never tire of saying, "The church is not the building. It is the people." Absolutely! But Jesus loves the Temple enough to whip out the people who treated it with disrespect. Where I live I love to climb the hill to our church in my little town in Honduras. There, I place a candle on the tile and pray a while, begging mercy for myself and blessings for my benefactors. There is the Santissimo, the Blessed Sacrament, a presence overflowing with love like Ezekiel's vision of the waters, lighting us up with the Spirit that St. Paul sees within each of us. Other folks visit, too — their silent devotion carrying my heart to ever deeper peace. *God, you are in our midst, our refuge and our strength!*

### Saturday, November 10, 2018

Phil 4:10-19; Lk 16:9-15

Jesus is not politically correct. "Make friends for yourselves with dishonest wealth." What kind of advice is this! It is even worse in the original: The translators' lame attempt to keep Jesus within bounds should be "with unrighteous mammon," which suggests a sacrilege, since mammon is a pagan god! But it is not the dirt, it is the handler that determines who is clean. I may put myself in some "safe place," where I don't have to deal with any offense. Jesus throws us into the fray: "If you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth?" If I don't get my hands dirty, if I don't love the enemy, I can't serve God. My conditional "friending" is an abomination to God. *O Lord, you keep the just one in everlasting remembrance!*

