

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In
LOVING
Memory

This Week's Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2019

- 8:00AM George & Claire Cox
9:30AM Dorothy Pizzo (*Loving Family*)
11:00AM Stella & Henry Gorycki (*Loving Daughter*)
12:30PM Antoinette Pepe (*Friends & Family*)
5:00PM For The Parishioners

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2019 *Our Lady of Lourdes*

- 9:00AM Christine Ann Salegna (*Aunt Marilyn*)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019

- 9:00AM Ernesto J. Jocson (*Dr. Aida Jocson*)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2019

- 9:00AM Rae & Louis Calvo (*Loving Daughter*)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2019 *Sts. Cyril & Methodius*

- 9:00AM Frank T. Serpico (*Loving Family*)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2019

- 9:00AM Rosa & Salvatore Gambino (*Loving Family*)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2019

- 9:00AM Leslie & John Cummins (*Cathleen Cummins*)
Bob Durkin (*Cathleen Cummins*)
Joseph P. Ottomanelli (*Jerry & Jennifer Ottomanelli & Family*)
Angela Dangelo Tocco (*Loving Sons & Family*)
Michael Werner (*Paul & Maria Brigandi*)
5:00PM Elizabeth Fadel (*O'Grady Family*)
Elizabeth Ferrara (*Lorraine, Mike & Janet*)
Ann Klinger (*Julie Dimler*)
Joseph P. Ottomanelli (*Barbara Bitetto*)
Josephine Toto (*Richard McManus*)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2019

- 8:00AM Rosaria Raneri (*Rosanna Raneri*)
9:30AM Joseph P. Ottomanelli (*Kevin & Patty Harold*)
11:00AM Mary Camelo (*Zena Basin*)
12:30PM Thomas Blankley (*Dr. Aida Jocson*)
5:00PM For The Parishioners

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 2nd and 4th 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, Rosa Anselmo, Amado Araneta, Daniel Campion, Sally Capozziello, Shang Cheng, Marge D'Auria, Mary Ann D'Angelo, Patrick Delaney, Domenica DeVito, Virginia DiGangi, Richard H. Dimler, Mary Divers, Jean Fochetta, Clementine Gagliardi, Dennis Giammalvo, John Joseph Gleeson, John Pierce Gleeson, Christine Healy, Maria Hernandez, Elizabeth Isolano, Marilyn Krajcik, Keri & Baby Tristan, Susan Leone, James Leung, Thomas & Patricia Lipari, William J. Litt, Tom Mercatante, Barbara Miller, Angela Ottomanelli-Hubbs, Michael Palermo, Sebastian Panasci, Santo Pantina, Vivian Doris Pecchillo, Phillip Pecchillo, Azucena Poblete, Puglissi, Joseph Questore, Mary Ann Quinn, Frances Russo, Bill Sangirardi, John Secreti, Patrick Smith, Remington Stafford, Michael Tamburo, Rubie Lynn Torres, Chrissie Tremblay, Paul Tremblay, Paul John Tremblay, Sr., Ana Vastola, Sr. Joanne Walters.

Deceased:

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, February 22, 2019.**

You are invited to
Pray the Family Rosary
THURSDAY EVENINGS IN CHURCH
7:00-7:30PM



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.



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): **February 24 — March 10 & 24.**

Upcoming Schedule for Baptisms (All begin at 2:00PM): **February 24 — March 10 & 24.**

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

THE WITNESSES OF MERCY



The Witnesses of Mercy program is comprised of a group of trained volunteers who can provide personal contact with parishioners of St. Helen’s Church who are unable to leave their homes due to illness or age related issues. They can offer home visits or be in contact with you by telephone. These dedicated volunteers will

be your link to the Parish so that you can keep up to date on information, events and news.

If you are sick, homebound or unable to visit the church and would like to have a Witnesses of Mercy volunteer from Saint Helen’s parish visit or be in contact with you, please contact Patricia Rizzo at (917) 312-7072, or you may also email her at: goodrecords1@verizon.net.

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.

GOOD SHEPHERD STATUE



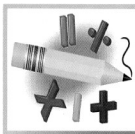
We would like to thank **Mary Ruane**, who kept the statue this past week. Anyone interested in keeping the statue in their home and praying for vocations for one week should contact the Rectory.

Rosary for Peace...New Place, New Time

The Rosary for Peace, sponsored by the Saint Helen Secular Franciscan Fraternity, takes place in the Church at 6:30PM every Wednesday. The group prays for our Blessed Mother’s intercession to end violence (both domestic and civil) and the persecution of Christians throughout the world. All parishioners are invited to join us. We welcome anyone willing to lead a decade of the Rosary in a language other than English.



The Kiwanis Club of Howard Beach will present a **Valentine’s Night Dinner Dance on Thursday, February 14th** from 7-11PM at Roma View (16005 Crossbay Blvd.). Cost is \$55PP and includes a sit-down dinner, dancing and sing-along Karaoke. All seats must be reserved and paid in full. For tickets or more information call Tommy at (718) 551-4836.



Tutoring Heights, Inc. will offer an **SAT Prep**, a comprehensive course here at St. Helen Catholic Academy to prepare for the **May 2019 SAT.**

- ◆ 28 hours of instruction plus 3 full-length practice tests.
- ◆ Rigorous course offered Tuesday & Thursday evenings.
- ◆ Master Math tutor of all levels.
- ◆ Fully licensed NYC-DOE English Teacher.
- ◆ Teachers have a combined 33 years of experience.
- ◆ Our students have won hundreds of thousands of dollars in college scholarships.

Classes begin March 9, 2019. Registration deadline is February 25, 2019. Cost is \$900.00. For further details, and/or to register please call Nancy or Joe at (347) 762-3660.

In Loving Memory

MEMORI-

ALS

AVAILABLE

Many times people come to the Rectory inquiring about memorials they can give to a family who has lost a loved one. The following are available:

- **Altar Bread, Altar Wine, Altar Candles or the Sanctuary Candle** in memory of a loved one for one week (\$50.00 each).
- **Votive Candles** for one year (\$100.00).
- A leaf permanently placed on the **Tree of Life** (\$350.00).
- A plaque permanently placed on the **Anniversary Wall** (\$350.00).

For further information, call or visit the Rectory.

“THE LAYMAN’S LENS”

A collection of thoughts and perspective through the eyes of an everyday parishioner.

II. The Spot

Like many of you who attend church regularly, I have a “spot”. This “spot” is in reference to where I normally sit during our weekly mass and celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday or on a weekday morning when my schedule permits. I choose this spot because it’s familiar, centralized, and a place where I feel connected to the celebration that takes place on the altar. I know that most of you also have spots because I normally see the same faces in the same areas and assume, like myself, this is where you feel you have the best experience.

Just the other day, I was caught behind one of the garbage trucks completing its route and arrived later to mass than normal. When I finally arrived, my spot was unfortunately taken. Although I was disappointed, I was hopeful that maybe that person sitting there, who I have not seen before, would connect with the altar the same way I do when I sit in that spot. Nonetheless, I had to find a seat somewhere else, actually the complete opposite of where I normally sit. And I’m glad it happened; this turned out to be one the most enlightening experiences I’ve ever had.

The mass appeared very different. This new angle afforded me the ability to connect differently with the altar, the words, the readings, and the actions of the presiding priest connecting us to God. It was nothing short of an awakening. Like in life, the angle in which we see things can change the perception of what it is we are experiencing. And, though some of the prayers and actions of the celebration were ritualistically familiar, the delivery and the reflection became splendidly unique.

While I normally will be sitting in my spot, I’ll be welcoming the ability to see the mass differently, connect differently, and as a servant of God, allow someone else to make their own connection with the celebration. Hopefully, that person will have the same convictions and same passion as I’ve felt in that very location.

Next time you are at mass, give it a try. Venture off into another pew. Sit on the other side, the back or the corner. Do this regularly or every so often and who knows, after it’s said and done maybe you might just have a new spot to celebrate our sacred mysteries.

May the Peace of the risen Lord be with you all and may God bless you all in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES HOWARD BEACH SENIOR CENTER



The Center is located at 155-55 Cross Bay Blvd., across from Stop N Shop on Cross Bay Blvd. Seniors aged 60 and older are invited to become members. Activities and services are offered Monday-Friday from 9:00AM to 4:00PM. Every day delicious and nutritious full, hot lunches are catered by Russo's on the Bay (\$2 donation requested).

Special February Events:

- Monday, February 11:** 10AM-12N: Brown Bag Medication Review with St. John's University
- Tuesday, February 12:** 1:00PM: Valentine's Day Dancercise Party with DJ Ray
- Thursday, February 14:** 10:30AM: Paratransit Access-A-Ride: Questions & Comments with the MTA
- Friday, February 15:** Celebrate Mardi Gras! 10:30AM: Make your own mask (if you don't have one)
1:00PM: Mardi Gras Dancercise Party
- Saturday, February 23:** 9AM-4PM: AARP Class. You must pre-register by bringing a check or money order (no cash please!) to the Center Monday-Friday from 9:30-11:30AM, or 1:15-2:30PM. Cost is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 if you are not an AARP member.

For further information on the Center please call 718-738-8100.

ST. HELEN CATHOLIC ACADEMY

200 TO 1 RAFFLE

\$10,000 Grand Prize

\$100.00 per ticket

Friday, April 12, 2019
7:00PM in Father Dooley Hall
"Wine & Cheese Drawing"



On Saturday, March 2nd, from 9:00AM to 12:00PM, tickets can be purchased at St. Helen Catholic Academy.

On Saturday, March 9th before and after the 5PM Mass and all morning Masses on Sunday, March 10th, tickets can be purchased at St. Helen Church.

After March 10th, please call Maria Ford 718-344-1998 or Diane Joseph 917-697-5351 to purchase tickets or for additional information.

Only 200 tickets will be sold!

— Winners Need Not Be Present To Win —



FIFTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME



Monday, February 11, 2019

Gn 1:1-19; Mk 6:53-56

Water. Our bodies are made up of water. Our bodies need water, and if we do not or cannot drink, we will die. Drought — a severe lack of water — damages both land and human beings. Water can be dangerous and chaotic. (Who can forget the devastation caused by Hurricane Florence last fall!) In the Bible, water also brings both

life and death. There's the Great Flood and God's promise never to flood the earth again. There's the Exodus, when the Red Sea parted and the Hebrew people were able to leave slavery behind and travel toward the promised land. Jesus was baptized by John, changed water into wine at a wedding, and washed the feet of the disciples. In the beginning, there was water. At the end, there will also be water — and God. *For your steadfast presence in both calm and chaos, O God, we give thanks.*

Tuesday, February 12, 2019

Gn 1:20—2:4a; Mk 7:1-13

Almost every human culture has myths about the Earth and its origins. Many ancient cultures saw the Earth as a mother, the fertile source of life. Creation therefore was holy and sacred; human beings were part of creation and lived in harmony with creation. Most Westerners, however, tend to see creation as raw material to use, manipulate and control for our benefit. After all, as it says in Scripture, God told us to subdue the earth. God gave us dominion. Unfortunately, “dominion” came to be understood as a God-given invitation to use the resources of creation however we wanted. We forgot that human beings were created to live in harmony with each other and with the rest of creation. And human beings were given a special responsibility to care for the Earth. So instead of being caretakers and stewards, we act like owners. We exploit, pollute, consume and waste while foolishly thinking that the Earth will survive. *May our lives reflect our calling to be stewards of your creation, holy Creator.*

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17; Mk 7:14-23

One of my joys over the past year and a half has been transforming a very blank, boring front yard into a flower garden. A church member helped till and remove the grass, and last May I planted all kinds of native perennials. By August, I was amazed at how much the plants had grown, even though we had a terribly hot and dry summer. Butterflies and hummingbirds enjoyed the butterfly bush, loosestrife and Black eyed Susans. Before long, I will be planning the flowers and plants to add this coming spring. Although it's a lot of work, cultivating my little garden is also meditation, prayer and what I call “dirt therapy”. There's something very satisfying about planting, watering and weeding — and then getting out of the way to watch things grow. *Creator God, thank you for the opportunity to cultivate and care for your earth.*

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Gn 2:18-25; Mk 7:24-30

In the garden, God does not want the first human to be alone.

So God creates all kinds

of animals and birds, and the man names them. But for all their marvelous diversity, not one is a “suitable” partner for the man. So God creates another human being, a woman — different, yet equal. Both are created in God's image, and both are created to live in relationship with God and with each other. This second creation story makes it clear that we are all God's children and we were all created equal. And yet, women and girls around the world are still considered second-class human beings. They are denied education, vilified when they speak up about abuse or assault, paid less, and sold into slavery. As disciples of Jesus, who challenged the norms of his day especially in regards to women, we too are called to protect women's fundamental human rights. *Even as we give thanks for our identity as God's children, we pray for the day when all people will be treated as equals.*

Friday, February 15, 2019

Gn 3:1-8; Mk 7:31-37

After the two different creation stories, we now have an account of the first sin and its punishment. I imagine the Hebrew writer looking around at the world and wondering how to reconcile the selfish, rebellious actions of the human creatures with the goodness and shalom of God. The Hebrew writer created a story, a myth, about how the first humans fell from the grace of paradise because of their disobedience. Then, thanks in large part to Augustine, early Christian theology began teaching that we too are infected with “original sin.” For Augustine, we sin because we are sinners; it's in our DNA. But “fall” and “original sin” aren't in the story, are they? In fact, the Bible told us — as we heard just a few verses earlier — that we were created in God's image, as part of a good creation. We turn away from God by making bad choices — not because we are carriers of sin, but because of ego, fear or insecurity. *For the wisdom and grace to choose your way, we pray.*

Saturday, February 16, 2019

Gn 3:9-24; Mk 8:1-10

Do you remember the “Family Circus” cartoon? Mom or Dad would ask their children who did this-and-such, and every one of them would say, “Not me.” Running through the cartoon was a little ghost-like figure who was the infamous “Not me.” Those cartoons remind me of this story, where both Adam and Eve say, “Not me!” In the end, they are punished and banished from the garden. There are legends about what happened to Adam and Eve that never made it into the Bible. According to one of them, God gave them a cave to live in just east of Eden. Desperate, they begged God to let them return. God said no, but God compassionately tried to rouse them from their despair. Nothing worked. Finally, as the legend goes, Adam and Eve let God teach them how to make clothes. It was a big step. They picked up the pieces and decided to live. *Forgive our excuses, merciful God. Set us free from a past we cannot change.* ◆