

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In
LOVING
Memory

This Week's Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2019

- 8:00AM George & Ann Papandrea
9:30AM Mary J. Corrigan (*Mary Jo & Will Vendittelli*)
11:00AM Thomas E. Blankley (*St. Helen's Support Group*)
12:30PM Grace Ladone (*Nancy & Pete Militello*)
5:00PM For The Parishioners

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2019

- 9:00AM Benito Gambino (*Campanella Family*)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019

- 9:00AM Lee Fiore (*Rosalie Furman*)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2019

- 9:00AM Stephen Petroglia (*Loving Wife & Children*)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2019

- 9:00AM Robert Brady (*Patricia McGinley*)

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2019

- 9:00AM Clara & Anthony DeVitto (*Linda DeSantis*)

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2019

- 9:00AM John Kopp (*M/M J. Trancho*)
Alexander Lucas (*Donovan Family*)
Dolores Pullara (*Joan DeRiso & Family*)
Mary Rothwell (*Ann Roberto*)
Theresa Tudda (*Isabel Aqualino*)
5:00PM Isadoro Calo (*Intrabartolo Family*)
Linda Cruz (*Michele Carollo*)
Vincent Mascolo (*John & Belinda Pantino*)
Joseph P. Ottomanelli (*Vita & Paul*)
Pedro Uriola (*Jenny Cruz*)

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2019

- 8:00AM Joseph P. Ottomanelli (*M/M Milton Brackenbury*)
9:30AM Dominick Vendittelli (*Mary Jo & Will Vendittelli*)
11:00AM DeVore Family (*Loving Daughter*)
12:30PM John Dallal (*DiPietra Family*)
5:00PM For The Parishioners

*You are invited to
Pray the Family Rosary*

**THURSDAY EVENINGS
IN CHURCH
7:00-7:30PM**



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.



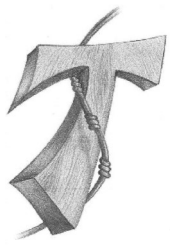
Debbie Abbene, Ann Ahern, Rosa Anselmo, Amado Araneta, Daniel Campion, Sally Capozziello, Shang Cheng, Marge D'Auria, Mary Ann D'Angelo, Patrick Delaney, Domenica DeVito, Virginia DiGangi, Richard H. Dimler, Mary Divers, Jennie Federici, Jean Fochetta, Clementine Gagliardi, Dennis Giammalvo, John Joseph 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: Joanna Vincelli

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, March 29, 2019.**

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.



A statue of St. Francis of Assisi is more than a bird feeder, and neither is he only a Saint for animals. He is a Saint of ecology, peace and all good. Following in the footsteps of St. Francis is more than living a good Christian life. It is going from Gospel to life, and from life to Gospel.

If you have a desire to learn more about Franciscan charism, you are most welcome to join us on the **third Saturday of the month** after the 9:00AM Mass in the Rectory Meeting Room for our gathering. We look forward to seeing you there. Light refreshments will be offered. God bless you!

GOOD SHEPHERD STATUE



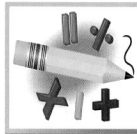
We would like to thank **Mary Ruane**, who kept the statue this past week. Anyone interested in keeping the statue in their home and praying for vocations for one week should contact the Rectory.

The Holy Name Society will hold their next meeting in Fr. Dooley Hall on **Sunday, March 3rd**, after the 8AM Mass. All men of the parish are invited.



Are you new to St. Helen Parish?

If so, please remember to stop in at the Rectory to register your family!



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.

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.

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.

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 at 917-697-5351 to purchase tickets or for additional information.

Only 200 tickets will be sold!

— Winners Need Not Be Present To Win —

DRIVE FOR THE TROOPS SPONSORED BY THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL GROUP

Each year, we collect donations for our Troops which are then shipped to soldiers overseas and in military hospitals. This program is being recreated and we are requesting only **military EXCHANGE gift cards or monetary donations**. This is a more efficient way of donating and will save the cost of overseas shipping. The EXCHANGE gift cards can be used only by military personnel at all EXCHANGE shopping facilities worldwide and online.

We are asking parishioners to **buy the cards online** and then bring them to Church. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, the parish will use all money collected to purchase EXCHANGE gift cards. The cards will then be forwarded to Troops stationed overseas as well as to Bethesda Military Hospital.

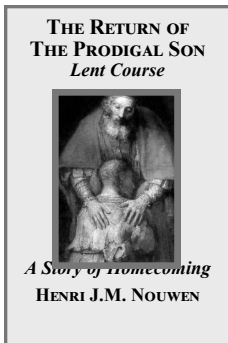
EXCHANGE gift cards can be purchased at www.shopmyexchange.com/exchange-gift-card/6756653. From this page, you can scroll down and learn more about the EXCHANGE service by clicking on EXCHANGE QUICK FACTS.

Please bring your EXCHANGE gift card or monetary donation to Church during the Troops Drive on March 2nd & 3rd.



Special “Drive For The Troops” envelopes will be available at the doors. You may also drop off your envelope at the Rectory or put it in the collection basket at any time.

Thank you in advance for your endless generosity!



What Are You Doing For Lent? Join Us As We Journey Home

When Henri Nouwen stumbled across a poster of Rembrandt's *Return of the Prodigal Son*, he began a spiritual journey that would help him understand the biblical parable as well as the story of his own life. Take this opportunity to join Father Nouwen as he leads the wayward prodigal and judgmental sibling who resides within each of us towards the open-handed, overwhelming compassion and eternal love of the Father.

As Catholics, we are called to continual conversion. Join us for a five week group discussion of a spiritual classic that is sure to enrich your interior life and draw you closer to our risen Lord.

**Where: St. Helen Parish When: Wednesdays from 7:00-8:45PM
Dates: March 13 & 27, April 3, 10 & 17**

Cost is \$20.00

For further questions

email Joe Canzoneri at:

Deadline to register is Monday, March 4th.

Joe.Canzoneri68@gmail.com

THE RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SON

Please tear off and return this portion to St. Helen's Rectory along with your \$20 payment for the book.

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

“THE LAYMAN’S LENS”

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

III. A Fan of Christ

For many of you, myself included, sports and entertainment are a big part of our lives. Whether television shows, favorite teams or athletes, singers or dancers, we all have teams and individuals we admire because of their accomplishments and talent that exceed the norm. Entertainers and athletes captivate us in a way where we seek knowledge of them. How they started, where were they born and raised, are they married and have children, etc. What we become is a follower of that individual’s accomplishments or put more simply, a fan.

Generally, when people are fans, they may have pictures of that person, merchandise, memorabilia, maybe even an autograph. We hold on to things that make that celebrity what they mean to you. Some of us can answer trivia about their favorite actor, ball player, or singer to the tune of what is their favorite color, their favorite meal, and other references that are outside the realm of just enjoying their talent. The more we know about that person we are a fan of, the closer we become to them.

Though I have my favorites in each sport, or choice in music or acting, I am a fan of one person above all else and that is Jesus Christ. As any true fan would do, the way I get closer to my favorite celebrity is through studying him through scripture and understanding the impact He has made to other “fans” through their testimony. I seek knowledge of Him. I want to know what it was like to live in His time, to wake up in Nazareth, to break bread with Him and watch Him love those around Him, despite not being loved in return. God sent Christ as a way for us to know Him better; through God becoming flesh, He became a vehicle for us to know and feel the spirit of God in our hearts and souls. The more I know about Christ, the stronger my relationship grows.

Do you support Christ’s team? The Angels, Saints, Martyrs, those who have served him and continue to serve him? This is, in fact, another way we can know Christ. This constant yearning for knowledge has deepened my faith in leaps and bounds, and brought me closer to Christ. I’ll find myself studying a map of Galilee or researching the daily life of a citizen of Judea. Even with limited time, technology has allowed us to have information that we can use to achieve these studies that can enrich our understanding of Christ, God made man.

My relationship with Christ has grown infinitely through these studies, and allows me to understand what it was like to walk beside Christ. Much like we do when we meet our favorite athlete or celebrity, I welcome the day when I can say to Christ “I am your biggest fan”.

Continue to be a fan of Christ. Know Christ as he knows us.

May the Lord God bless us today and everyday. Amen.

SEVENTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Sir 5:1-8; Mk 9:41-50



Monday, February 25, 2019

Sir 1:1-10; Mk 9:14-29

Sirach is a nice enough book. It's not Ben Sira's fault that, by the time he is writing, Job has gotten long in the tooth, and the fire of the prophets has been reduced to embers. It's the end of an age, Greek in the ascendancy, on the threshold of the New Testament. The best thing is the portrait of Wisdom, the Greek fem-

inine "Sophia," who is waiting for her Christian interpretation. The gender is not a problem! There's more than one icon of Jesus as womanly Wisdom, including a stunning version by modern iconographer William Hart McNichols. (See Christ All Merciful.) Eternal, all-knowing, all-flowing, "It is the LORD; he created her through the Holy Spirit, has seen her and taken note of her. He has poured her forth upon all his works" *Your throne stands firm from of old; from everlasting you are, O Lord!*

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Sir 2:1-11; Mk 9:30-37

A friend of mine just took up knitting and is already taking orders for sweaters, afghans and scarves on Facebook. The Book of Sirach is not much different, a warm and roomy comforter. "You who fear the Lord, love him, and your hearts will be enlightened." Don't worry, be happy. Everything's gonna be alright. "Wait on God, with patience, cling to him, forsake him not; thus will you be wise in all your ways." It's nice to know the Bible can be so user-friendly. Even humiliation does not sound so bad. Lent will begin in about a week, and we will get daily challenges to everything we hold dear. Meanwhile, we get this: "Has anyone hoped in the Lord and been disappointed?" *We take delight in you, O Lord, who grant all our heart's requests!*

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Sir 4:11-19; Mk 9:38-40

For Ben Sira, if Wisdom is a woman, so she is a mother! "Wisdom breathes life into her children." Here in Honduras, where I live, and perhaps where you live as well, the wisdom of women is even physical. At a gathering of, say, the Legion of Mary, a big woman sits down, and her lap becomes a sofa where a kid or even two nestle like newborns. Her words, in prayer or comment, "reveal her secrets" to us. There's no greater secret than the love God has for us. A mother may "discipline" us for a time, but "then she comes back to bring us happiness." It is a full measure! "She will heap upon us treasures of knowledge and an understanding of justice." Let us bask in the glow! *My lips pour forth your praise, O Lord, because you teach me your ways!*

Thursday, February 28, 2019

Now Ben Sira is hitting close to home! I do not deny my sinfulness, or my sins, but I do seem to put God's forgiveness in the "plus" column rather quickly. Not so fast, says Ben Sira: "Of forgiveness be not overconfident, adding sin upon sin." Because "God's name is mercy," as Pope Francis says, I might forget that my name is mud as long as I treat God like a sugar daddy. Maybe the best way to appreciate forgiveness is to practice it myself, not with conditions like "I forgive, but I don't forget," or "I'll forgive, but they have to be sorry first." As Ben Sira says, "Say not, 'I have the power.'" He warns us not to be "deceitful." Indeed, the one we deceive most often is ourselves. *Blessed are we, O Lord, to meditate on your law, day and night.*

Friday, March 1, 2019

Sir 6:5-17; Mk 10:1-12

We Daily Bread writers prepare our slices about four months in advance so as I write I am inundated with campaign chatter in anticipation of the U.S. mid-term elections. Sadly, these are not lessons in civility. Our political life reminds me more and more of a passage from The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver. The teacher, Anatole, explains why the Congolese find odd the concept of "majority wins." "If one man gets fifty votes and the other gets forty-nine ... that means almost half the people will be unhappy." We may not be able to do much about having winners and losers, but if civility were the practice, perhaps the bitterness of a lost election would be less, a bitterness that now infects church congregations, neighborhoods and even families. Trickle-down bitterness is a high price to pay, and for what? *Jesus, Prince of Peace, grant me the grace to be a peace-maker, beginning with how I greet each person you place on my path today.*

Saturday, March 2, 2019

Sir 17:1-15; Mk 10:13-16

In God's image we were created and this passage from Sirach, or the Wisdom of Ben Sira, describes what it means to be human, created in the divine image. If all humans are imbued with these characteristics — counsel, creativity, understanding, wisdom, the knowledge of the difference between good and evil — then why aren't we living in Utopia? One explanation is that God also gave us free will so that we might choose the divine ... or not. And it's true, some do seem to purposefully and consciously choose evil. But isn't it more common not to make any choice at all? We seem not to have the will — free or otherwise — to choose what is best for us. Access to knowledge has never been so available, yet we skim over the top, preferring sound bites and memes rather than diving deep. Ours has become a culture of distraction rather than engagement, and it is only when we are engaged that we lose ourselves and experience the divine. *God of my heart, live in me and calm my mind that I may choose what is good.* ♦