

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



This Week's Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2019

- 8:00AM Josephine Tonacchio (*Patty & Kevin Harold*)
- 9:30AM Maria & Giuseppe Morreale (*Arline Rabito & Diane Sama*)
- 11:00AM DiSanto-LeFavi Family (*Frank & Jean LeFavi*)
- 12:30PM Leonard Gorycki (*Helen Repstad*)
- 5:00PM For The Parishioners

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019 *St. Cyril of Jerusalem*

- 9:00AM Edward Sinisgalli (*Loving Family*)
- 7:30PM *Latin Mass:* Michael & Mary Leccese (*JoAnn & Phyllis Leccese*)

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2019 *St. Joseph*

- 9:00AM Alberto Polvorosa (*Loving Family*)
- 7:30PM Dominick & Angelina Librizzi (*Rosalie Librizzi*)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2019

- 9:00AM Lillian Monastero (*Vita & Paul*)

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2019

- 9:00AM Hernando Camelo (*Zena Basin*)

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2019

- 9:00AM Joseph Mullalley (*Loving Family*)

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019 *St. Turibius of Mogrovejo*

- 9:00AM Pia Casquarelli (*Loving Family*)
- Kenneth Dean (*Joe & Victoria Trancho*)
- Angela Marie Petillo (*Brenda Lynch*)
- Liberio Torregiano (*Wednesday Rosary Group*)
- Theresa Tudda (*Cipolla Family*)
- 5:00PM Rosemary Abruzzino (*Christopher & Nicole Delano*)
- Giuseppa DiStefano (*M/M Angelo DiStefano*)
- Philip Kaiser (*Vita & Paul*)
- Liberio Torregiano (*Vita & Paul*)
- Theresa Tudda (*Frank & Lia Macaluso*)

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2019

- 8:00AM George & Ann Papandrea
- 9:30AM Loretta Marino (*Joe & Lorraine Trotta*)
- 11:00AM Theresa Montelbano (*Loving Family*)
- 12:30PM Joshua Basin (*Loving Mother*)
- 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, Zena Cipolla, 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, Nino Pedone, 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: Elena Siano, Natale Trovato

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.**

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 ALTAR BREAD

for this week is donated in memory of **Joseph Ottomanelli**, requested by the **Cordeiro & D'Aría Family**.

Treasures
OF THE CHURCH

**A TEACHING AND EXPOSITION OF
SACRED RELICS OF THE SAINTS**



Wednesday, March 20, 2019
In The Church

For St. Helen Catholic Academy Students at 1:00PM *(Parents Welcome)*

For St. Helen Religious Education Students at 3:30PM *(Parents Welcome)*

For the Parish at 7:00PM

Please refer to your Lenten Booklet for further information.

The 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal

supports the daily work of our Church throughout Brooklyn & Queens, in ways no one parish can accomplish alone, by supporting the following ministries:

Catholic Charities; Hospital, College and Prison Chaplains; Diocesan Vocations Office; Catholic Migration Services; Parish Assistance Program; Office of Faith Formation; Bishop Mugavero Residence for Infirm Clergy; Futures in Education Scholarship Foundation.

Please remain assured that your gift to *The Annual Catholic Appeal* **cannot be used in the settlement of abuse claims, or for anything other than the above listed intended purposes.**

**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

Please call Maria Ford 718-344-1998 or Diane Joseph at 917-697-5351 to purchase tickets or for more information.

Only 200 tickets will be sold! — Winners Need Not Be Present To Win.

Congratulations to the following students from St. Helen Parish who have been admitted to the **Honor Roll** for the present academic semester at Cathedral Preparatory School & Seminary:

**MarcAnthony Ramos, Principal's List
Anthony Leone, First Honors**



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).

Computer Classes:

Basics (for anyone who has never used a computer) **Mondays & Wednesdays 1:00-2:15PM.**

Beyond Basics (for those who have an email address & some understanding of the internet) **Mondays & Wednesdays 2:30-3:45PM.**

Number of participants is limited! Pre-registration is required and you must be a member of the Center (you may become a member—no fee required).

Jewelry-Making Class: 2 separate classes, either Tuesday at 9:30AM or Friday at 1:15PM.

The Center is located at 155-55 Cross Bay Blvd., across from Stop N Shop on Cross Bay Blvd.
For further information please call 718-738-8100.

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 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.

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.



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): **March 24—April 7.**

Upcoming Schedule for Baptisms (All begin at 2:00PM): **March 24—April 7.**

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

St. Helen's Rosary Ministry invites you to join us for a trip to
The Cloisters and The Shrine of Mother Cabrini



Two

Sites in a

One-Day Trip!

Thursday, June 27, 2019

Bus leaves St. Helen at 8:30AM—Return around 4:00PM

Members: \$45.00 — Non-Members: \$55.00

Includes comfortable coach bus, guided tour of the Cloisters, visit to Mother Cabrini Shrine, and all gratuities. Café on premises, or bring your own lunch.

For more information or to reserve a seat, call Agnes Cummings at (917) 716-5898.



The Holy Name Society will present the film, **“Risen,”** on **Saturday, March 30th** in Fr. Dooley Hall following the 5:00PM Mass. Everyone is invited!



St. Helen's Catholic Academy will hold a **Paint Night** on **Friday, March 29th** in Fr. Dooley Hall (doors open at 7PM—painting will start at 8:00PM sharp). Cost is \$45PP. Seating is limited—only 100 tickets will be sold! For more information and/or tickets please call Maria Ford at (718) 344-1998 or Diane Joseph at (917) 697-5351.

Congratulations to the following students from St. Helen Parish who have merited recognition for academic performance during the second quarter at St. Francis Preparatory School:

Gianna Abatemarco
 Nicholas Biordi
 Sabrina Chirafisi
 James Defillippo
 Joseph Delgeorge
 Maria Fontana
 Johnanthony Grillo
 Peter Ingargiola
 Daniel Jocson
 Gianna Kosinski
 Antonio Leone
 Ninabianca Leone
 Sabrina Leone
 Jody Mancuso

Robert Padavona
 Victoria Padavona
 Francesca Puleo
 John Rodriguez
 Frederick Rufrano
 Paul Shala
 Alexa Siavichay
 Ashley Zaromatidis
 Taylor Zaromatidis

Great job!

Saint Helen Parish Welcomes a New Edition to Howard Beach!



On the Feast of Saint Joseph, the former Rag-time, on Crossbay Blvd. will open as **Fresco Gourmet Market**. The grand opening of Fresco will take place on **Tuesday, March 19, 2019**. New owner, Catherine Angelise, is a Saint Helen Catholic Academy school mom, has one child in the school and another enrolled for next year. The convenient store/Delicatessen will also feature Italian specialties. We congratulate the Angelise Family on this endeavor, and encourage you, if you happen to stop by, to say hello to Catherine!



SECOND WEEK OF LENT

Experi-
ence,
they



*Homiletic starters and
scriptural
reflection points for
each day of the month*

Monday, March 18, 2019

Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38

For many years I viewed this reading from a rather selfish perspective because I understood, simply put, that if I was nice to others they would respond to me in kind. Lived experience soon teaches, however, that being generous to others doesn't guarantee a generous response in turn. What I have come to

understand is that when we commit to seeing life through a lens of generosity and mercy, we are much more able to recognize the grace and gifts life has to offer and we are more inclined to view our fellow humanity with less judgement and more compassion. In the words of Richard Rohr, "How you love anything is how you love everything." *Light of Christ, remove the veil of cynicism so that we may see the world with your joy and compassion.*

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Saint Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
A lively discussion always ensues in our adult faith group when we pose the question, "When did Jesus fully know that he was the Messiah?" It triggers an exploration of Jesus' identity as completely divine and completely human. No Scripture story illustrates this concept more than the story of Mary and Joseph losing Jesus in Jerusalem. In a modern comparison, I cannot imagine the parental nightmare we'd be living if we had to search for our 12-year-old child in New York City! Jesus may have been a brilliant theologian at 12 years old, but his empathy and people skills still needed work! I suspect that the hugs and scolding he received from his parents all the way home were a humbling and learning experience for the precocious pre-teen. *Jesus, you grew into the Christ you always were. Help us also to grow into the person you created us to be.*

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28

At a recent wedding, I was reminded of the promises many of us had vowed on our wedding day with no idea what those promises might someday entail. Like the disciples so sure they were prepared "to drink the chalice" of discipleship, most of us were convinced we could handle the challenges of marriage. After all, we had love! Adopting Jesus' attitude of servant/slave may have helped during the rough times; not in the sense of a doormat to be abused or belittled, but in knowing there'd be times when our personal agenda had to be abandoned for the well-being of the relationship. Discipleship isn't easy. It asks us to give up our own ego for "our Master" and the greater good of others. We are given the opportunity to rethink and renew our baptismal promises when we say "I do" each Easter. *O God, grant us the strength to answer "I do" to your call to serve.*

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31

say, is the best teacher and having taught teenagers for years, for some it is the only way they absorb advice. Warning them about the addictive nature of smoking only sinks in when they try to quit years later. Dangers of drug or alcohol abuse only hit home when someone they know is killed or injured by it. The devastating effect of bullying only becomes real when a peer commits suicide. Like the rich man who dies and goes to the "netherworld," we can sometimes be lulled into thinking that there are no consequences to our actions or that the struggles of others are "Not my problem." Today's parable teaches, however, that if we're not part of the solution, we're part of the problem. *Blessed are those who listen and heed your call, O Lord.*

Friday, March 22, 2019

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

I cannot help but compare today's parable to our stewardship of our "vineyard," the Earth. Despite repeated warnings issued by scientists and environmentalists, we are still slow to change our wasteful habits. After experiencing many extreme weather disasters, many still refuse to see that climate change is a problem to which we have all contributed. God, our landowner, has given us a vineyard that provides all we need to thrive, asking only that we live as worthy stewards of this abundance. Do we ignore or criticize those who have called us to live more responsibly? Have we used the vineyard as if it were ours to abuse? Will the vineyard be taken away from us, or will we finally give the landlord's gift the respect it deserves? *Creator God, teach us to become worthy stewards of your beautiful vineyard.*

Saturday, March 23, 2019

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

As a child, I would wait in joyful anticipation for my portion of dessert to be served. My enjoyment would be diminished, however, if I noticed that a sibling's portion was slightly bigger than mine. The treat hadn't changed, only my perception of it. From the child who whines, "Her piece is bigger than mine!" to the parent who insists their child be "first," to the athletes who demand a salary higher than the next player, envy creates an endless competition of unhappiness. Joy doesn't usually come from getting what we want but usually comes from appreciating what we already have. Only a grateful heart recognizes the truth of the father's words to his older son, "You are here with me always; everything I have is yours." *May we celebrate your generosity, God of love, even when we see it lavished on others.*

