

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



This Week's Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2019

- 8:00AM Irene Murray (*Patty Harold*)
- 9:30AM Ricardo Perez (*Phyllis Putorti & Family*)
- 11:00AM Marie Blankley (*St. Helen's Support Group*)
- 12:30PM Michele DiVitto (*Anthony & Anne Marie Leone*)
- 5:00PM For The Parishioners

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2019

- 9:00AM Theresa DiLorenzo (*Angela Popolizio*)
- 7:30PM Latin Mass: Michael & Mary Leccese (*JoAnn & Phyllis Leccese*)

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2019 *St. Francis of Paola*

- 9:00AM Mary Porrello (*JoAnn Doody*)
- 7:30PM For The Parishioners

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019 *St. Isidore*

- 9:00AM Christopher Maniscalco (*Loving Daughter & Children*)

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2019 *St. Vincent Ferrer*

- 9:00AM Agnes Courtney (*Loving Family*)

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2019

- 9:00AM Salvatore Cucchiara (*Gambino Family*)
- Kenneth Dean (*M/M Lacerra*)
- Joseph Pecorella (*M/M Casalino*)
- Theresa Tudda (*Gambino Family*)
- Valerie Vero (*JoAnn & Phyllis Leccese*)
- 5:00PM Giuseppe Anzaldi (*Cynthia Ottomanelli*)
- Serafina Bonasia (*Maddalena Cucchiara*)
- Antonia Bonventre (*A St. Helen Parishioner*)
- Louie Font (*Loving Family*)
- Thomas Paciga (*M/M Dario Cupido*)

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2019

- 8:00AM George & Claire Cox
- 9:30AM Carmela Esposito (*Loving Family*)
- 11:00AM Carl Vigliarolo (*Anne Vigliarolo*)
- 12:30PM Francesco Storti (*Angelina Storti & Family*)
- 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, Lynn Boutureira, Daniel Campion, Sally Capozziello, Shang Cheng, Zena Cipolla, Marge D'Auria, 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, Elaine Lazzari, Susan Leone, James Leung, Thomas & Patricia Lipari, William J. Litt, Tom Mercatante, Barbara Miller, Angela Ottomanelli-Hubbs, Michael Palermo, Frank Palmenteri, Sebastian Panasci, Santo Pantina, Vivian Doris Pecchillo, Phillip Pecchillo, Nino Pedone, 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: Mary Bisciello, Aurora Hidrobo

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, April 26, 2019.**

GOOD SHEPHERD STATUE

We would like to thank **Jeri Formanek**, 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 meeting next **Sunday, April 7th**, after the 8AM Mass in Fr. Dooley Hall. All men of the parish are welcome!

“THE LAYMAN’S LENS”

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

V. Holding Doors

How many of us, when we walk into a store, restaurant, school, gym, or even our beautiful Church, hold doors for the people behind us? Why do we do it? Is it because we are keeping Christ’s commandment to love our neighbor as we love ourselves? Is it because we would like to have a door held for us? How many of us upon holding the door become agitated when that person does not say “thanks” or even worse, without a grin, without a smile, or not even acknowledgement of our existence? This, many times, prompts us to say sarcastically, “Thank You!!!”; as if to say, where are your manners or are you not gracious?

We need to keep in mind Christ did not want praise on earth for his good deeds, a thank you, no return on his investment of love. He did it out of love, because his Father, Our Father commanded it. He wanted to teach without esteem or being exalted. He often did and said the opposite, imploring all those who had seen his works to not tell others. I think it’s important to know why we do good deeds and acts. As it is said in Matthew 5:16, “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven”. These kind acts can pass the joys of the Holy Spirit on to others. Not only is it “the right thing to do” but it is our responsibility as Christians to honor God and to love others, care for others, even if it’s not reciprocated.

We need to keep in mind Christ loved the world and people around him so much He was willing to die for them, and they didn’t love Him back. Yet, upon resurrection, He was exalted and seated at the right hand of the Father. Though holding a door can never equate to martyrdom, these little gestures are examples of how we can love others, complete strangers, to nurture not our egos, but our spirit and soul that will be judged by Christ upon His return. As is written in James 2:26, “Faith without works is dead.” Holding a door for someone, without caring about an endearing response, is a perfect example of how we can live the Word of God as Christ himself exemplified.

May God bless us in the name Our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. May your Lenten journey continue to be one of beauty and enlightenment through sacrifice and self-reflection.

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.



St. Helen’s Rosary Ministry

cordially invites all women, mothers, daughters, aunts, nieces, cousins to join us for their

Annual Communion Breakfast & May Crowning Sunday, May 5, 2019

***The celebration begins with 9:30AM Mass,
followed by the Crowning of the Blessed Mother***

***Breakfast will be served in the School Cafeteria after the Crowning.
Tickets: \$17.00 & \$8.50 for Girls (Children under 7: FREE)***

Call Agnes Cummings at 917-716-5898 for tickets or more information.

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.

Saint Helen Religious Education Program — Christian of the Month January 2019

These students regularly attended and actively participated in religion classes seeking knowledge of God. In addition, these students gave witness by treating others with the kindness and compassion of Jesus.

Kindergarten

Andrew Naranjo

First Grade

Peter Amato
 Adriana Marie Catalano
 Ariana Gonzalez
 Grace Ognibene
 Patrick Sassone
 Ava Zaccarelli



Second Grade

Rosa Auriemma
 Kevin Daly
 Victoria Fuccillo
 Juneau McMilleon
 Kason Rodriguez

Third Grade

Claudia De Pascale
 Vanessa Henry
 Sophie Naranjo
 Louis Felix Sartori

Fourth Grade
 Zabella Clerigo

Ava Leo
 Gia Piccirillo
 Adrian Tecpanecatl

Fifth Grade

Alberto Baret
 Meaghan Murphy
 Kenneth Reisig
 Alyssa Saputo

Sixth Grade

Anabel Diaz
 Olivia Molina

Chayanne Peña

Seventh Grade

Alexus Belziti
 Isabelle Freeburg
 Greta Shala
 Giulia Verga

RCIC

Alisha Adames
 Angel Mensah

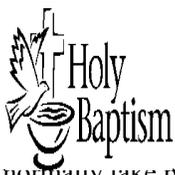
ST. HELEN CATHOLIC ACADEMY 200 TO 1 RAFFLE!
\$10,000 Grand Prize! (\$100.00 Per Ticket)



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

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.



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): **April 7 — May 5 & 26.**

Upcoming Schedule for Baptisms (All begin at 2:00PM): **April 7 — May 5 & 26.**

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

Congratulations to the following St. Helen Catholic Academy students on the Principal's List for the second marking period. To achieve this honor a student must attain an overall average of 95%:

Grade 7

Jovanna Donaruma
Enza Perna
Melanie Snyder
Leandro Trovato

Joseph Caracciolo-Vitale
Jahna Crasto
Alyssa Longo
Sienna Martorella
Vanessa Parrales
Olivia Pudlowski
Kaitlyn Rodriguez
Tehya Ross
Jayden Sturge

Grade 6

Michael Frank Casillo
Gerardo DiBenedetto
Julianna Troia

Grade 5

The St. John's University Speech & Hearing Center (152-11 Union Tpke., Flushing, NY) will be offering **free Hearing Aid Help** thru May 6th. This service is available for anyone who may be experiencing difficulty with their hearing aid. You may call (718) 990-6480 to schedule an appointment.



**SOUTH OZONE PARK
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
L.I. COUNCIL #197**
94-04 Linden Blvd., Ozone Park, NY
(718) 843-9188

**Easter Family Movie Night
Saturday, April 13, 2019!**

7:00-10:00PM

Pizza, Soda, Beer, Coffee & Cookies included.
DONATION: \$20.00 Adults — \$15.00 Seniors
1 entry ticket for 50/50 (with every admission)
\$10.00 children (under 12—No 50/50 entry)

For information call Joe Kasper at 917-912-3492, Jonathan McCool at 347-551-4803 or Mike Kasper at 718-496-8701
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Thinking about joining?

*Join us and help make a difference in our community!
Call us to find out more information.*

We also have **hall rental** available (up to 55 people). 10% of our referrals will be donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Group of St. Helen Church. Call us for an appointment to see our hall!

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.**



FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

before
him. He
didn't



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

Monday, April 1, 2019

Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54

Do we fully trust Jesus? Do we accept his many miracles as enough evidence of his power, divinity and desire to enter into relationship with us? Or do we ask him to prove himself again and again? When Jesus rebukes the official from Capernaum, he implies that the people in general do not have enough faith.

They've already heard of his miracles.

They, however, don't seek to encounter Jesus as their savior; they want to see what he can do for them. They test him repeatedly and seek to use him. We do the same when we only call on the Lord to fix a problem or to take away our pain, rather than regularly praying for grace and guidance. Just as in his healing of the official's son, the Lord wants to give us what we need. There's no need to doubt or test him. *Help me to trust in your mercy and might, Lord, without question or expectation.*

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16

People in Jesus' time believed that the first person to enter the pool of Bethesda after it was stirred received its healing powers. Many sought its relief for their ailments, jockeying to be the recipient of its miraculous benefits. The paralytic, afflicted for 38 years, cannot get into the water quickly enough. He has no one to help him and lacks the ability to do it on his own. Then, Jesus addresses him specifically. He asks an odd question: "Do you want to be well?" If the man regularly comes to the pool, surely he must want healing. Yet we all know people, maybe even ourselves, who don't have the courage or strength to change. We get used to our hopelessness. Nothing will change until we, like the afflicted man, personally encounter the Lord and accept the gifts of forgiveness and healing. *Christ our healer, call to us to rise, to walk away from whatever keeps us from being well.*

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30

All that Jesus does comes through the Father who sent him. In recognizing the Son, we truly see the Father. In Jesus, both human and divine, we come to experience the power and glory of the Almighty. While we're not equal with the Father or Son, we have a similar call and relationship. Our words, actions and very lives should reflect the Creator, who sends us and who is at work within us. We model the Son who showed us how to be the hands and the voice of the Father in this world. We're to be obedient and humble, acknowledging that we can do nothing without God. It's our duty to lovingly and faithfully follow the will of the one who sent us. In this way, we honor both the Son and the Father, invite them to work through us and participate in their great mission. *Almighty and loving Father, thank you for the gift of your Son who shows us your will and guides us to eternal life with you.*

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47

Jesus wasn't flashy or a flatterer. He wasn't powerful, nor did he have the endorsement of some prominent teacher

have an earthly kingdom of wealth to lavish on his followers, nor did he yield military might to deliver the oppressed from their bonds. He simply had the truth, and his humility and meekness were unappealing to those blinded by the pomp of pretenders. We may reject Christ and embrace erroneous ideals because they're sleek and promise fast rewards and personal interests and honor. We may prefer frauds who don't propose sacrifice, self denial or transformation; we may gravitate toward impostors because confronting our own deception demands serious self- and social-reflection and change that could hurt our egos or alter our bottom lines. Who or what are the false messiahs that we accept today? *God of truth, open our eyes to the blindness, deception and false promises that hinder our faith in the one true Christ.*

Friday, April 5, 2019

Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Do we prefer to blame the messenger? Is it easier to mock the faithful than to confront our own wickedness? Do we dismiss our own shortcomings and call another's righteousness naive or annoying in order to avoid examining our own lives? Do we seek to torment and punish the just so we don't have to acknowledge our own failure? Adhering to Christian ideals is difficult and we are bound to stumble at times. Recognizing our flaws demands a response, but change is hard and consistently doing the right thing is even harder. Acting like we don't care or laughing at those who diligently follow the Lord is a simple way to mask our despair or hopelessness. Perhaps we are afraid to risk exposing our stubbornness, messiness or weakness. Can we ask ourselves if it is simpler to drag others down, rather than lift ourselves up? *Make us uncomfortable, just and holy, Lord. Shake and disturb us and force us out of our complacency.*

Saturday, April 6, 2019

Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53

Little has changed since Jesus' time. We're a divided people. We take sides on issues of government, church, culture, health and safety. There's no common ground. We split over political party, gender, race, economics and more. Christians of varying conviction use religion to justify their positions and to change others' viewpoints. We hold conflicting opinions about who Jesus is, what he would do, and whose side he would be on, even quoting Scripture to support our own issues. We claim Jesus for our team and use Christianity as a weapon against opposing philosophies, adding disparaging labels of conservative or liberal to others who share our church but not our mindset. There are certainly laws, policies and practices that are unchristian and shouldn't be supported; however, as long as we are at odds with those who worship alongside us, none of us will truly know or unite with the Lord. *Lord of wisdom and truth, give me the knowledge and grace to see you amid the conflict and chaos of personal agendas.* ♦