

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



This Week's Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, JULY 22, 2018

- 8:00AM Luciano Sannino (*Rachele Sannino*)
- 9:30AM Americo, Sasso & Weldon Families (*Family*)
- 11:00AM Marie Calvacca (*Carmel Cutugno*)
- 12:30PM Donald Francis (*Loving Wife, Serafina*)
- 5:00PM For The Parishioners

MONDAY, JULY 23, 2018 *St. Bridget*

- 9:00AM Frank Severio (*Tullo Family*)

TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2018 *St. Sharbel Makhlūf*

- 9:00AM Andrew Walcott (*Loving Family*)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 2018 *St. James*

- 9:00AM Rosina Gangi Dino (*Maria & Felice Pugliese*)

THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2018 *Sts. Joachim & Anne*

- 9:00AM In Thanksgiving For Msgr. Joseph Pfeiffer
(9AM Mass Parishioners)

FRIDAY, JULY 27, 2018

- 9:00AM Purgatorial Society Mass

SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2018

- 9:00AM Yolanda Joseph Ametrano (*Loving Family*)
- Azea Braganza (*Vita & Paul*)
- Josephine DiMarie (*Janet Valenzuela*)
- John Michael Ench (*Loving Family*)
- Renate Schatz (*Tretter Family*)
- 5:00PM Minnie Bussaline (*Rita English & Family*)
- Lucy Deninno (*Cohen Family*)
- Margaret Dulisse (*Antal Family*)
- Vincent Mascia (*Paul & Marie Ciccione*)
- Francesco Storti (*Vallely Family*)

SUNDAY, JULY 29, 2018

- 8:00AM Vincenzo Riveccio (*Rachele Sannino*)
- 9:30AM Linda McSorley (*Zena Basin*)
- 11:00AM Giovanni Ariola (*Frank Salvati*)
- 12:30PM John DeRiso (*Flesche 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, Amado Araneta, Baby Canzoneri, Sally Capozziello, 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 Panaschi, Santo Pantina, Joseph Questore, Ronald J. Reid, Frances Russo, Bill Sangirardi, John Secreti, Patrick Smith, Remington Stafford, Michael Tamburo, Chrissie Tremblay, Paul Tremblay, Paul John Tremblay, Sr., Sr. Joanne Walters.

Deceased: Rosemarie Borg & Maria DiPasquale

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, July 27, 2018.**



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



St. Helen will hold a **Blood Drive on Wednesday, August 1st** from 3:00-7:00PM in St. Helen's Academy. For questions concerning medical eligibility call (800) 688-0900, or visit www.nybc.org.

The Last Rites

A Reflection

On any given day, a phone call is received at the Rectory. “My relative is dying...can a priest come to the house?” These phone calls are taken very seriously and are expedited by Rectory staff, and the priest who is available makes his way over to the house.

In my 17 years of priesthood, I find these very privileged moments. A spouse or child who has been caring for their loved one steps aside, permitting me to administer the “Last Rites” of the Church. For a few moments I stand close to the bedside of the dying, surrounded by family members, offering prayers, sacraments, and comfort. These moments are awe-inspiring and at times heart-wrenching, as the “end” is usually very near.

No longer are these Sacraments called “The Last Rites.” In many ways, they are the last Sacramental rites a believer will receive this side of the grave. There are many rites contained within these “Last Rites”: Confession (if the person is conscious), Viaticum (the last Communion if the person is able to consume), the Anointing, the Apostolic Pardon, and if the moment is at hand...the recommendation for a departing Soul. These Rites are very fluid as the individual may or may not be conscious, or time is of the essence and the situation may require an immediate anointing.

More often than not, time is of the essence when the call to the Rectory is made, and as I mentioned in the first paragraph...“the priest who is available” will make his way over to the house. But availability is a concept that really is a two-way street. **Too often** the call is to the Rectory moments before a person is about to die. This is **not** a good approach to such important matters! How often I have entered a home and the wonderful soul I am about to approach with Sacraments is literally experiencing the death rattle (a quasi-medical term to describe a terminal respiratory symptom, usually within the last 24 hours of life). The call to the Rectory is made literally as the individual is about to expire! Yet, when I politely ask how long has he/she been ill, the answer I receive is, “Oh a year or so.”

This is where availability is a two-way street. The days of 4 priests in St. Helen Rectory are long gone, and the availability of any one priest is being stretched thin! How often a phone call is made to the Rectory about the dying, and the secretary informs me about the situation...but I am unavailable. I am about to step out onto the Altar to celebrate the sixth funeral in a week, and Fr. Lukasz is in a meeting at another parish. This situation is becoming more and more a reality!

When our relatives are experiencing illness, I encourage a phone call be made to the Rectory early on in the illness so that all of the “Last Rites” can be experienced. Perhaps the first visit an anointing, communion and confession on occasion or throughout the illness, and as the end draws near the other Rites, where applicable. When our loved ones are experiencing a prolonged illness, the worst thing we can do is wait to the very last moment, expecting a priest to be available at that very moment.

Yes, emergencies do occur, and in those moments a priest will drop everything because it is an emergency. But this reflection behooves the question: Is it an emergency when someone has been dying for a year or six months? The answer to that question is no, death is the inevitable consequence of a terminal illness! It’s not an emergency; tragic yes, life-altering, even a matter of life and death, and your priests do want to accompany any family experiencing this. But an emergency is just that—an emergency! Emergencies occur without notice. They are sudden, they are tragic, unexpected and accidental, and they come without any warning or doctor’s prognosis, and that is why there is an emergency phone number and emergency rites.

In my own life, I have personally experienced this. My mother went into a diabetic coma on Easter Sunday 1993. She was never diagnosed with diabetes! After the ambulance drove off from the house, my family contacted the parish priest (imagine trying to find a priest on Easter Sunday afternoon!). The first thing the good priest of our home parish asked...“Why didn’t you call us sooner if you knew your mom was sick?” I said that we had no idea she was sick and the EMTs said she is now in a coma. **THAT’S an EMERGENCY!** That good priest accompanied us during her sudden illness and her ultimate recovery. As both a federal police Chaplain and an MTA Chaplain, I am often called to the emergencies of members of those respective services. Emergencies are something I take seriously and personally!

What I am saying is that when you or a family member is faced with terminal illness or a prolonged illness, the Church and her priests desire to accompany that person in their journey. We want to bring comfort to the family, the sick, the aged, and the dying. But, please remember there are less of us (priests) and many of you (parishioners).

Never hesitate to call upon us, whatever the case may be, but do realize a priest is only human and can only be in one place at one time!

Father Colamaria



New Family Religious Education Registration for 2018-2019

Our program consists of Eight Religious Education grades: Kindergarten through 7th Grade

We are now registering children for the **2018-2019** school year. You may pick up a registration **form** at the Religious Education Office located in the St. Helen's Academy school building. The registration fee is **\$75** for one child and **\$100** for two or more children in the same family **for registrations received up to and including 7/20/2018**. **The registration fee for forms received after 7/20/18 is \$100 for one child and \$125 for two or more children in the same family.** If the child was baptized at a Church other than St. Helen, you will need a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate. If you do not have one available, you should contact the rectory of the Church where your child was baptized. It takes a couple of weeks to process a Baptismal Certificate at most parishes. Place your request now so your registration for our program will not be delayed. If you have any concerns or questions please contact us at 718-916-2319. Re-registration for those enrolled in the current year was sent home.

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.



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.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES HOWARD BEACH SENIOR 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. **For further information, contact Rosalie at 718-738-8100.**

Mondays	9:30-10:30AM: 10:45-11:45AM:	Tai Chi with Elaine Fleischman Chair Aerobics with Charlie Roemer
Tuesdays	9:30-10:30AM: 1:00PM:	Movement Exercise with Millie Dancing to a DJ with Refreshments
Wednesdays	10:00-11:00AM: 10:30-11:30AM: 1:00-3:00PM:	Zumba with Elaine Adult Coloring Classes Karaoke By Fernando
Thursdays	9:30-10:30AM: 9:30-11:30AM: 12:30-2:30PM:	Movement Exercise with Millie Art Classes with a certified teacher Art Classes with a certified teacher
Fridays	9:30-10:30AM: 10:00-11:30AM: 10:30-11:30AM:	Cardio Exercise with Dwayne Introduction to Sign Language Yoga with Charlie Roemer



POLICIES REGARDING INFANT BAPTISM AT ST. HELEN PARISH

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 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 10:30AM-12:30PM.**

AUGUST—SEPTEMBER, 2018

**Mornings of Preparation
Required Before a Baptism:**
*(All begin at the 11:00AM Mass and
continue in the Msgr. McGinness Room)*
August 12 & 26 — September 9 & 23

Schedule for Baptisms:
(All begin at 2:00PM)

**August 12 & 26
September 9 & 23**

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

ST. HELEN PARISH PURGATORIAL SOCIETY MASS INTENTIONS FOR FRIDAY, JULY 27, 2018

Karl Albrecht (*Florence Albrecht*)
All Souls in Purgatory (*Kathleen Cocchiola*)
Amato & Sannino Family (*Rachele Sannino*)
Charles & Angela Barreca (*Loving Son & Daughter*)
Thomas A. Barreca (*Loving Brother & Sister*)
Mario & Angelina Barrella (*Loving Family*)
Adriano & Lorenza Bello (*Bello Family*)
Gina Bender (*Loving Aunt & Uncle*)
Frank W. Bitetto (*Barbara Bitetto*)
Paul Anthony Bono (*Bono Family*)
Gregory Bonura (*Anne M. Vigliarolo*)
Azea Braganza (*Rachele Sannino*)
Gerald Braganza (*Loving Wife*)
Mary & Jim Cabral (*Cabral Family*)
Nancy & Emanuel Camelliri (*Constance & Joseph Camelliri*)
Camelo & Basin Family (*Zena Basin*)
Zeny Caparas (*Loving Family*)
Giuseppe & Maria Caputo (*Loving Son, Rosario*)
Julianne Caputo (*Loving Dad*)
Antoinette & Silvio Casazza (*Maria Russo*)
C. Joseph & Laura Chiarello (*Lois Chiarello*)
Jerry Codispoti (*Loving Family*)
Claire Louise Colamaria (*Fr. Colamaria*)
Corrigan-Vendittelli Family (*Loving Family*)
Emilia Cuttone (*Loving Sister & Niece*)
Vincent J. D'Amato (*D'Amato Family*)
Deceased Brothers of Council #197 (*Knights of Columbus*)
Frank DeRico (*St. Helen's Support Group*)
John DeRiso (*St. Helen's Lectors*)
Concetta & Pasquale DeSantis (*Linda DeSantis*)
William F. DiPietra (*Helen & Frank DiPietra*)
Zygfryd Dubicki (*Sophia Gadinis*)
John & Anna Falco (*Loving Family*)
Louise & Vincent Festa (*Annette & Martin Gould*)
William & Rose Fioto (*Amelia Pepe*)
Frank Fogliano (*Loving Family*)
Father Gaughan, C.M. (*Deidre McVey*)
Gidaro-Izzo Family (*Loving Family*)
Giunta-Bernardo Family (*Jean Bernardo*)
Anna Gonzalez (*Will Espada*)
Gorycki Family (*Helen Repstad*)
Gwardjak & Kosinski Family (*Daughter*)
Thomas Healy (*St. Helen's Lectors*)
Carole Hinchcliffe (*Paul Hinchcliffe*)
Eddie Juba (*Barbara Dorme*)
Michael & Mary Leccese (*Jo-Ann & Phyllis Leccese*)
Dominick & Angelina Librizzi (*Rosalie Librizzi*)
Catherine & Joseph Lumetta (*Pauline Mantineo*)
Macaluso Family (*Loving Family*)
Justine Nigra Maguire (*Constance Chwalek*)
Vincent & Vita Maltese (*Loving Family*)
Jennie Maniscalco (*Loving Children*)
Michael Mannarino (*Loving Granddaughter*)
John Mendolia (*Loving Family*)
Rocco & Phyllis Miranti (*Loving Family*)

Lillian & Charles Monastero (*Vita Monastero*)
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Mullalley (*Jane Orban*)
Maggie O'Dee (*Loving Friend*)
Richard Orban (*Jane Orban*)
Joan Mary Orban-Jones (*Orban Family*)
Antonio Paa (*Loving Family*)
Dominick Pepe (*Amelia Pepe*)
Joseph Pepe (*Amelia Pepe*)
Pepe-Bitetto Family (*Barbara Bitetto*)
Stephen Petroglia (*Loving Wife & Children*)
Christine Piotrowski (*Loving Family*)
Marie & Annie Putorti (*Loving Friend*)
Joseph Quagliariello (*Quagliariello Family*)
Questore Family (*Joseph Questore*)
Kathleen Rammelkamp (*Charles Rammelkamp*)
Anthony Rango (*St. Helen Support Group*)
Joanne Rebecchi (*Cynthia Ottomanelli*)
Maria & Luciano Sannino (*Rachele Sannino*)
Benito & Leonila Santiago (*Loving Family*)
Linda & James Scagnelli (*Heedles Family*)
Kay & Walter Schretzman (*John Schretzman*)
Helen Sentome (*Serpico Family*)
Frank T. Serpico (*Serpico Family*)
Sica Family (*Irene DeStefano*)
Teodoro & Carmela Sordillo (*Loving Son Enzo & Family*)
Margaret Ann Stillman (*Heedles Family*)
Zenon & Rozalia Szczesny (*Daughter & Family*)
Scafata Taddeo (*Jane Orban*)
Frank & Ann Tomitz (*Patricia*)
Maryann E. Tomitz (*Patricia*)
Turrigiano Family (*Antoinette Turrigiano*)
Walter & Elizabeth Ujazdowski (*Quagliariello Family*)
Ruben & Ana Vega (*Gloria Martinez*)
Albert F. Valenzuela (*Loving Family*)
Carl Vigliarolo (*Anne M. Vigliarolo*)
Frank J. Vigliarolo (*Anne M. Vigliarolo*)
Phyllis Zanghi (*Loving Friends*)
Mary Zurick (*Sophia Gadinis*)



SIXTEENTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

It's easy to get frustrated



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

Monday, July 23, 2018

Mi 6:1-4, 6-8; Mt 12:38-42

Israel's problem with sin and injustice is illuminated through a conversation with the Lord. Israel repeatedly barter the conditions of paying for their sins — on their terms. When God calls for a change of heart, Israel substitutes dramatic rites and sacrifices. When that doesn't work, Israel offers even more elaborate oblations. They hear the Lord's message, but attempt external offerings, even lavish gifts or gestures, to avoid internal transformation. The Lord stands firm, however. No ritual or offering is an appropriate stand in for justice, mercy and humility. God doesn't seek a grand show but asks us to enter into authentic relationships with him and others. That's one reason this verse is often used to promote social justice. We serve God and neighbor best when our actions are genuine, modest and loving. *God of justice and mercy, change our hearts.*

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Mt 12:46-50

We often hear images in the Hebrew Scripture of a wrath-filled God. While this portrait is legitimate and often warranted, it's not how God truly desires to enter into relationship with us. Isaiah and his contemporary Micah tend to play good cop/bad cop with this concept. Isaiah often highlights the destruction of Israel and Judah for ignoring God's precepts while Micah, here, emphasizes the gentle shepherd who performs wonderful acts for our deliverance, fervently desiring to remove our guilt. He encourages us to be confident of God's compassion. The ancient promises are as relevant to us as they were to our ancestors. Our prayers have and continue to be answered. Both prophets have valid points; we often deserve to be chastised, but we can nevertheless delight that our merciful God would rather pardon our sins. *Gentle Father, thank you for your incomparable patience and forgiveness.*

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

2 Cor 4:7-15; Mt 20:20-28

Whether ornate or functional, intended for display or everyday use, all clay jars have some similarities. They're the intentional creation and design of a potter who deliberately takes raw clay and molds it for a specific purpose. Glazed and painted exteriors can veil what's housed inside — often in ancient times valuable documents or rolled up scrolls. Our own physical being, formed from clay, is delicate and fleeting, and likewise houses a great treasure. We're simple, functional vessels crafted for the potter's use. Our shape and design, despite the pressure to conform to certain images of beauty, aren't that significant, yet God considers each of us a valuable, one-of-a-kind masterpiece. And when others take the time to look inside, we earthen vessels have no greater purpose than to pour out the Master's greatness. *Heavenly Creator, mold me into whatever design is most pleasing to you.*

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Mt 13:10-17

ed when we believe we've clearly explained something and others just don't understand. When something that seems obvious to us eludes others, we cannot fathom the disconnection. Restating the point is fruitless; it remains incomprehensible. Differing perceptions or judgments and varying levels of sympathetic awareness or tolerance affect how or if we make the desired connection. People choose to block certain messages or messengers for valid or stubborn reasons. When we make conscious choices not to see or hear because something challenges our preferences or biases, we resist opportunities for growth and truth. This doesn't allow us to be fickle or to believe everything we hear. Rather, it's a reminder to be alert. The Lord speaks uniquely to us. Look and listen! *All knowing Lord, free me from distraction and help me to focus on what you want me to see, hear and do in this moment.*

Friday, July 27, 2018

Jer 3:14-17; Mt 13:18-23

In the parable of the sower, we often reflect on the ground conditions in which the seed tries to take root and grow. It's a familiar and effective image — good growing conditions produce good fruit. But we cannot overlook another significant factor — the presence and influence of evil in our lives, both individually and collectively. Jesus specifically cautions about the evil one who comes to steal what's sown in the heart. Earthly temptations and apathy certainly affect how we nurture the word of God and affect the fertility of the ground in our hearts. In today's world it is strikingly evident that a particularly great evil lurks in the growing hopelessness that many feel in society's response to violence, discrimination, abuses of power and disregard for human rights and dignity. We must recognize the stealthy role of evil in such attitudes and work to sow and cultivate God's love. *Creator God, help me to root out the attitudes and influences that keep me from growth.*

Saturday, July 28, 2018

Jer 7:1-11; Mt 13:24-30

Jeremiah warns of putting our trust in false prophets and deceitful words. The people feel secure simply going through the motions of devotion without seeking true holiness. They believe their pious gestures of temple service provide protection from harm, but they put their trust merely in the material fortress that the building can provide. No sacred space, object or action, however, has any real value or lasting protection when we're not in right relationship with the Lord. If our heart is divided, then even his dwelling place offers little refuge. If we think we can ignore the Lord's pleas to change our ways, it doesn't matter where we seek sanctuary. We proceed at the risk of our own loss; we build a shelter on a faulty foundation that's destined to topple at the first sign of trouble. *Help me, all knowing Lord, to live in a way that invites you to remain in me always.* ◆