

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*In*  
**LOVING**  
*Memory*

## This Week's Mass Intentions

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018

- 8:00AM George & Ann Papandrea
- 9:30AM Frances LaMarca (*Loving Family*)
- 11:00AM Angelo Marino (*Diane & Steve Coleman*)
- 12:30PM Bruna Romano (*Loving Sister Nina & Family*)
- 5:00PM For The Parishioners

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2018

- 9:00AM Jacquelyn Boutureira (*Loving Family*)

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2018

- 9:00AM Leccese-Salierno Fam. (*Jo-Ann & Phyllis Leccese*)

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2018

- 9:00AM John DeRiso (*Santa Catarelli*)

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2018

- 9:00AM Attanasio DiLorenzo (*Angela Popolizio*)

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2018 *St. Peter Canisius*

- 9:00AM Grieco-McCarthy Families (*Joan Grieco*)

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2018

- 9:00AM Liz & Joe Byrne (*Rita & Joseph*)  
Anthony Cucchiara (*Joe Barreca*)  
Robert R. Keighron (*Michele Carollo*)  
Martin A. Valentino (*Loving Wife*)  
Andrew Walcott (*Loving Family*)
- 5:00PM Mary Fermo (*Frances Codispoti*)  
Eileen Grech (*Janice & Gerry Quinn*)  
Robert R. Keighron (*Phyllis Digristina*)  
Nicolo' Ciro Vertucci (*Michele Carollo*)  
Michael Zwosta (*Santa Catarelli*)

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2018

- 8:00AM Charles Amari (*Rachele Sannino*)
- 9:30AM Ralph Mazzio (*Nunziata & Malave Families*)
- 11:00AM Camelo & Basin Family (*Zena Basin*)
- 12:30PM William F. DiPietra (*Loving Parents*)
- 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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, Amado Araneta, Daniel Campion, 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, Tom Mercatante, Barbara Miller, Angela Ottomanelli-Hubbs, Michael Palermo, Sebastian Panasci, Santo Pantina, 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., Sr. Joanne Walters.

**Deceased:** James Coppola, Stephen Fiorucci, Anthony Lamantia

### 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, December 28, 2018.**



#### THE ALTAR BREAD

for this week is donated in memory of  
**Frances LaMarca**  
requested by her loving mother.

#### THE ALTAR CANDLES & SANCTUARY CANDLE

for this week are donated in memory of  
**Giovanni Escobar-Londono,**  
requested by his loving mother.

**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.

## **CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

### ***Christmas Reconciliation Monday***

On **Monday, December 17th**, all parishes in the five Boros will be **hearing confessions** between the hours of **4:00-8:00PM**. Reconciliation Monday, as it has been called during Lent, will be a convenient opportunity for you and your family to spiritually prepare oneself for the celebration of Christmas. Again, all parishes in the Diocese of Brooklyn and the Archdiocese of New York (even Staten Island!) will be hearing confessions between the hours of **4:00-8:00PM**.

### **Monday, December 24, 2018—Christmas Eve**

Mass at 9:00AM

5:00PM: Vigil Mass For Christmas

11:15PM: Carols — Followed by Mass at Midnight

### **Tuesday, December 25, 2018—Christmas Day**

8:00AM, 9:30AM, 11:00AM & 12:30PM

No 5:00PM Mass

### **Monday, December 31, 2018—New Year's Eve**

Mass at 9:00AM

### **Tuesday, January 1, 2019—New Year's Day**

*Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Holy Mother of God*

9:00AM, 11:00AM & 5:00PM

### **The Rectory Office will be closed:**

**Monday, December 24th**, Christmas Eve

**Tuesday, December 25th**, Christmas Day

**Monday, December 31st**, New Year's Eve

and **Tuesday, January 1, 2019**,

New Year's Day.

**ST. HELEN CATHOLIC ACADEMY**

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

**Grade 5**

Alyssa Longo  
Kaitlyn Rodriguez  
Jayden Sturge  
Joseph Caracciolo-Vitale

**Grade 6**

Gerardo DiBenedetto

**Grade 7**

Jovanna Donaruma  
Enza Perna

ACADEMIC



**Christmas Dinner**

will be offered at Ozone Park Senior Center (103-02 101 Ave., Ozone Park) on Tuesday, **December 25th** from 10AM-2PM. There will be music and dancing. Everyone is welcome and why not bring a friend and make



*Society of St. Vincent de Paul*



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*St. Helen will share in the profits! For each car, truck or van, running or not, The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will give back to our Church \$50/\$100 per vehicle. Call The Society today if you have a vehicle to donate!*



**Christmas With  
The Connolly Sisters**

*Featuring a live performance  
of your favorite holiday music*

**Saturday, December 22, 2018 — 1:00 to 4:00PM**

**Vetro Restaurant & Lounge (16449 Crossbay Blvd.)**

\$75 Per Person (plus tax) Includes Brunch Buffet  
Reserve your table today: 718-843-8387



**In cooperation with Pioneer Safety Solutions, St. Helen's Church will once again offer The American Red Cross Approved Adult and Pediatric First-Aid, CPR and AED Course on Saturday January 12, 2019 from 10AM – 4PM in the Rectory Meeting Room.**

The Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED course incorporates the latest science and teaches students to recognize and care for a variety of first aid emergencies such as burns, cuts, scrapes, sudden illnesses, head, neck, back injuries, heat and cold emergencies and how to respond to breathing and cardiac emergencies to help victims of any age - adults (about 12 years and older) and pediatric (infants and children up to 12 years of age). Students who successfully complete this course will receive an American Red Cross certificate for Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED valid for two years.

**Class is open to anyone 16 years of age or older.** The fee for the Full Course is \$115 (class includes instruction videos and breaks). The Adult & Pediatric CPR/AED Course runs from 10AM–1:30PM. The fee is \$75. To reserve a seat for the Class please complete the form at the bottom and bring it to the Rectory office to register and pre-pay (checks should be made payable to Pioneer Safety Solutions). Please arrive by 9:45AM on date of class.

**\*\*PIONEER SAFETY IS A LICENSED TRAINING PROVIDER WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS\*\***

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED Course  
Saturday January 12, 2019 10AM – 4PM in St. Helen Rectory Meeting Room**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip Code

Tel/Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Important:** Students should not actively participate in training sessions if they have dermatologic lesions on the hands or in oral or circumoral areas; are known to be hepatitis B carriers; have upper-respiratory-traction infections or AIDS (or evidence of HTLV III/LAV infection); or the student has reason to believe that he or she has been exposed to, or is in the active stage of, any infectious process.

## WITNESSES OF MERCY UPDATE



**Good News!** Our new parish program, Witnesses of Mercy, is off to a good start. Our first meeting had 10 volunteers who are willing to spend some quality time with our homebound or elderly parishioners. We are now compiling a list of friends or neighbors who are either homebound or looking for someone to visit them.

If you know of any person or yourself who is sick or homebound and would like to have a Witnesses of Mercy volunteer from our parish visit with them, please contact Patricia Rizzo McCabe at (917) 312-7072, or email her at [goodrecords1@verizon.net](mailto:goodrecords1@verizon.net).

The Witness of Mercy program is a group of trained volunteers who will have close personal contact with parishioners who are unable to leave their homes due to illness or age. This will be done by visits or by telephone. We will be the link between the parish and the parishioners so that all needed information can be shared by both. This will let the affected parishioners know they have not been left on their own and will have someone on which to rely.

### 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).

**Mondays 9:30-10:30AM: Tai Chi**

**Mondays 10:45-11:45AM: Chair Aerobics**

**Tuesdays 9:30-10:30AM: Movement Exercise**

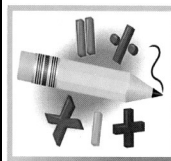
**Wednesdays 10:00-11:00AM: Zumba**

**Thursdays 9:30-10:30AM: Movement Exercise**

**Fridays 9:30-10:30AM: Cardio Exercise**

**Fridays 10:30-11:30AM: Yoga**

For further information,  
contact Rosalie at 718-738-8100.



**Tutoring Heights, Inc.** will offer an **SAT Prep**, a comprehensive 7-week course here at St. Helen Catholic Academy to prepare for the **March 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 January 15, 2019. Registration deadline is December 17, 2018.** Cost is \$900.00. For further details, and/or to register please call Nancy or Joe at (347) 762-3660.

**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): **January 13 & 27—February 10 & 24.**

**Upcoming Schedule for Baptisms (All begin at 2:00PM): January 13 & 27—February 10 & 24.**

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

## THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38



### Monday, December 17, 2018

Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

The countdown begins, nine days until Christmas. Not “shopping days,” no! but a steady unfolding of the mystery on the grand stage of salvation history. Today, Matthew opens “the book of the genealogy [literally, ‘genesis’] of Jesus Christ,” to a parade of global ancestors, Jews and even a Gentile or two, parsed

in prophetic precision of three sets of 14 generations, from Abraham to the one acclaimed “O Wisdom” in today’s Mass. Each day, Jesus will inherit another title from the Scriptures in the “O Antiphons,” which frankly, demand to be sung! So trim the tree, but remember the tree that became the cross. Wrap those gifts, remembering the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes. Hang more lights than Snoopy, but remember when just one star lit up the whole world. *O Wisdom of our God most high, guiding creation with power and love: Come to teach us the path of knowledge.*

### Tuesday, December 18, 2018

Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

For most of Advent, Isaiah sets the pace, and the Gospel readings just have to keep up. Now the balance has shifted; as Christmas nears, we get every angle on the story. Today, it is Joseph’s turn. Yet Joseph never says a word. But I guess we think we can read his mind when Mary “was found with child.” Matthew, ever the accountant, adds the crucial rider: “. . .with child through the Holy Spirit.” From there, the angel does all the talking, and the “righteous man” gets his just deserts: a virgin bride and a son of God. A bold move heard in the special antiphon applied to Jesus, “O Adonai!” the Hebrew name for God. *O Leader of the house of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: Come rescue us with your mighty power!*

### Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

Like a blockbuster movie or a big TV series, today we get “Jesus: The Prequel.” We spend the longest Gospel of the week on the back story of Zechariah and the angel. Luke is a genius. As leisurely as the narrative is, we are on pins and needles, because we know where it is going! First, John the Baptist, then Jesus, who is not even mentioned, unless Zechariah could have guessed that his son John preparing a people fit for “the Lord” referred to his future nephew (technically, I am informed, his second cousin twice removed). Zechariah just barely believed in his own son; how was he supposed to imagine the Son of God climbing the family tree? *O Root of Jesse’s stem, sign of God’s love for all people: Come save us without delay.*

### Thursday, December 20, 2018

If I ever visit the Holy Land, the first place I want to go is Nazareth, just because no one knows where it was! But maybe you can just sense it, like some lingering GPS marker from that glorious “summit” of young girl and Gabriel, ground zero, as it were, of our salvation. It is the “Big Bang” in total silence, creating a whole new universe, (even multiverses, as Stephen Hawking’s research might be able to confirm now). God, often called “the Ancient of Days,” seems suddenly as playful as a child, ready for a game. It is as if everything is starting over: Heaven is not up, it’s down, it’s in Mary’s womb! *O Key of David, opening the gates of God’s eternal kingdom: Come and free the prisoners of darkness.*

### Friday, December 21, 2018

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45

Thomas Jefferson, who scrubbed every reference to Jesus’ divinity from his Bible, would not be happy today! Elizabeth welcomes Mary as “the mother of my Lord,” thus trumping Jefferson’s enlightenment, which reduced any mystery to superstition. But let’s not diminish Elizabeth’s role as maybe the first female theologian, since it would be awhile before we get another woman to be a “doctor of the church.” Recent popes cite the saints as worthy teachers of the faith, just by their lives. That would put Joan of Arc in the inner circle, and her faith would have burned up Jefferson’s toy Bible! So blessed are those women who boldly go where no man has gone before! *O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: Come save us, Lord our God.*

### Saturday, December 22, 2018

1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

This prayer is called “The Magnificat,” from the Latin, because Mary “magnifies” the Lord. But can anyone doubt that, with this glorious hymn, Mary herself is growing into her role as the mother of our salvation? Last spring, Pope Francis dedicated the Monday after Pentecost as “Mary, Mother of the Church.” With excitement like this in the Holy Family, no wonder the 12-year-old Jesus would try to launch his prophetic career right there in the Temple in Jerusalem. It is hard not to jump ahead. But let us take this one step at time. Bethlehem, here we come! *O King of all nations and keystone of the church: Come and save us, who you formed from the dust.*

