

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In
LOVING
Memory

This Week's Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2019

- 8:00AM Rosaria Raneri (*Rosanna Raneri*)
9:30AM Joseph P. Ottomanelli (*Kevin & Patty Harold*)
11:00AM Mary Camelo (*Zena Basin*)
12:30PM Thomas Blankley (*Dr. Aida Jocson*)
5:00PM For The Parishioners

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2019 — PRESIDENTS' DAY

- 9:00AM Roseanne DiBuono (*M/M Randy Christ*)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019

- 9:00AM Big & Little Grandmas (*Connie Camelliri*)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2019

- 9:00AM Angelina Weltick (*Loving Daughter & Family*)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2019 *St. Peter Damian*

- 9:00AM Christine Piotrowski (*Abigail & Grace Piotrowski*)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2019 *Chair of St. Peter the Apostle*

- 9:00AM Purgatorial Society Mass

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2019 *St. Polycarp*

- 9:00AM Jose Castro (*Donovan Family*)
Josephine Clemente (*Richard McManus*)
Thomas DeRita (*M/M J. Galiano*)
Rocco John Morabito (*Campanella Family*)
Villano Family (*Michele Carollo*)
5:00PM Al Antino (*Loving Family*)
Josephine Clemente (*M/M H. Roth*)
Maria Ferriggi (*Joanie Vayda & Family*)
Ann Klinger (*Donna & Joe Palagonia*)
Joseph P. Ottomanelli (*Loving Family*)

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



THE ALTAR BREAD

for this week is donated in memory of
Mary Porrello, requested by
her loving daughter, **Joanne Doody**.

Please Note: The Rectory office will be closed on **Monday, February 18th** in observance of Presidents' Day, and will reopen on Tuesday at 9:00AM.

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, 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: **Maria Deza**

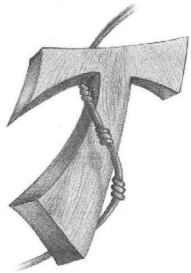
St. Helen's Purgatorial Society Mass

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, February 22, 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.

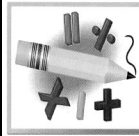
**CATHOLIC CHARITIES
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES
HOWARD BEACH SENIOR CENTER**

The Center is located at 155-55 Cross Bay Blvd., across from Stop N Shop on Cross Bay Blvd., will hold an **AARP Class** on **Saturday, February 23** from 9AM-4PM the Center. You must pre-register by bringing a check or money order (no cash please!) to the Center Monday-Friday from 9:30-11:30AM, or 1:15-2:30PM. Cost is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 if you are not an AARP member. **For further information please call 718-738-8100.**



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.



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.



SAINT HELEN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM Christian of the Month — December 2018

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
Bree Ann Grant

First Grade
Isabella Buccellato
Adriana Clagnaz
Olivia Del Cielo
Jennie Hubbs
Brandon Joscher
Sabrina Rose Zollo

Emma Brennan
Antonino Coppola
Christian DeMaso
Gavin Hoffman

Third Grade
Marco Carlino
Vincent D'Andrea
Madison Sassone
Emma Sivillo
Benjamin Spitzer

Carolena Lamendola
Michael Masullo
Michael Minkoff
Mia Traina

Fifth Grade
Sebastian Flores
Alicia Jara
Caiden Peña
Madison Rao

Antonio Gallina
Salvatore Lamendola

Seventh Grade
Michael Celiberti
Thomas DePascale
Kayla Miller
Marco Sabbatino

RCIC
Angelina Liz-Caceres
Emily Ramnarace

Second Grade

Fourth Grade
Ryan Fuggetta

Sixth Grade
Valentina Brennan
Julia Cejnog

**THE RETURN OF
THE PRODIGAL SON
Lent Course**



A Story of Homecoming
HENRI J.M. NOUWEN

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: _____

ST. HELEN PARISH PURGATORIAL SOCIETY MASS INTENTIONS FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2019

<p> Karl Albrecht (<i>Florence Albrecht</i>) All Souls in Purgatory (<i>Kathleen Cocchiola</i>) Amato & Sannino Family (<i>Rachele Sannino</i>) John Ardito (<i>Monica & Frank Ottomanelli</i>) Loretta Barnes (<i>Vita, Paul, Lily & Tommy</i>) Charles & Angela Barreca (<i>Loving Son & Daughter</i>) Thomas A. Barreca (<i>Loving Brother & Sister</i>) Mario & Angelina Barrella (<i>Loving Family</i>) Mary Camelo & Joshua Basin (<i>Daughter/Mother, Zena</i>) Adriano & Lorenza Bello (<i>Bello Family</i>) Gina Bender (<i>Loving Aunt & Uncle</i>) Frank W. Bitetto (<i>Barbara Bitetto</i>) Marie Blankley (<i>Rachele Sannino</i>) Thomas E. Blankley (<i>Rachele Sannino</i>) Paul Anthony Bono (<i>Bono Family</i>) Gregory Bonura (<i>Anne M. Vigliarolo</i>) Azea Braganza (<i>Rachele Sannino</i>) Nancy & Emanuel Camelliri (<i>Constance & Joseph Camelliri</i>) Zeny Caparas (<i>Loving Family</i>) Giuseppe & Maria Caputo (<i>Loving Son, Rosario</i>) Julianne Caputo (<i>Loving Dad</i>) Antoinette & Silvio Casazza (<i>Maria Russo</i>) Casillo Family (<i>Loving Family</i>) C. Joseph & Laura Chiarello (<i>Lois Chiarello</i>) Vi & Joseph Cimo (<i>Loving Niece</i>) Jerry Codispoti (<i>Loving Family</i>) Claire Louise Colamaria (<i>Fr. Colamaria</i>) Corrigan-Vendittelli Family (<i>Loving Family</i>) Emilia Cuttone (<i>Loving Sister & Niece</i>) Vincent J. D'Amato (<i>D'Amato Family</i>) Deceased Brothers of Council #197 (<i>Knights of Columbus</i>) Frank DeRico (<i>St. Helen's Support Group</i>) John DeRiso (<i>St. Helen's Lectors</i>) Concetta & Pasquale DeSantis (<i>Linda DeSantis</i>) Joseph Digristina (<i>Loving Wife & Daughter</i>) William F. DiPietra (<i>Helen & Frank DiPietra</i>) Giovanni Escobar Londono (<i>Loving Mother</i>) John & Anna Falco (<i>Loving Family</i>) Louise & Vincent Festa (<i>Annette & Martin Gould</i>) Giustina & Ralph Fiore (<i>Loving Daughter & Granddaughter</i>) William & Rose Fioto (<i>Amelia Pepe</i>) Frank Fogliano (<i>Loving Family</i>) John T. Gallagher (<i>Loving Family</i>) Gidaro-Izzo Family (<i>Loving Family</i>) Giunta-Bernardo Family (<i>Jean Bernardo</i>) Theresa Giusto (<i>Linda DeSantis</i>) Anna Gonzalez (<i>Will Espada</i>) Gorycki Family (<i>Helen Repstad</i>) Elizabeth & George Gould (<i>Annette & Marty Gould</i>) Gwardjak & Kosinski Family (<i>Daughter</i>) Carole Hinchcliffe (<i>Paul Hinchcliffe</i>) Pasquale Izzo (<i>Loving Family</i>) Jaskot & Wolynski Families (<i>Joan Szatkowski</i>) Eddie Juba (<i>Barbara Dorme</i>) Giovanna LaPuma (<i>Salvatore & Nancy Chiaramonte</i>) Michael & Mary Leccese (<i>Jo-Ann & Phyllis Leccese</i>) Dominick & Angelina Librizzi (<i>Rosalie Librizzi</i>) Catherine & Joseph Lumetta (<i>Pauline Mantineo</i>) Macaluso Family (<i>Loving Family</i>) Justine Nigra Maguire (<i>Deidre McVey</i>) Vincent & Vita Maltese (<i>Loving Family</i>) </p>	<p> Jennie Maniscalco (<i>Loving Children</i>) Michael Mannarino (<i>Loving Granddaughter</i>) Joanna Mazurek (<i>A Friend</i>) John Mendolia (<i>Loving Family</i>) Arthur T. Minor, Jr. (<i>St. Helen's Lectors</i>) Rocco & Phyllis Miranti (<i>Loving Family</i>) Lillian & Charles Monastero (<i>Vita Monastero</i>) Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Mullalley (<i>Jane Orban</i>) Father John B. Murray, C.M. (<i>Deidre McVey</i>) Maggie O'Dee (<i>Loving Friend</i>) Richard Orban (<i>Jane Orban</i>) Joan Mary Orban-Jones (<i>Orban Family</i>) Joseph P. Ottomanelli (<i>Frank & Monica Ottomanelli</i>) Dominick Pepe (<i>Amelia Pepe</i>) Joseph Pepe (<i>Amelia Pepe</i>) Pepe-Bitetto Family (<i>Barbara Bitetto</i>) Stephen Petroglia (<i>Loving Wife & Children</i>) Margaret Pietronigro (<i>Dana & Elaine Scuderi</i>) Marie & Annie Putorti (<i>Loving Friend</i>) Joseph Quagliariello (<i>Quagliariello Family</i>) Questore Family (<i>Joseph Questore</i>) Kathleen Rammelkamp (<i>Charles Rammelkamp</i>) Anthony & Josephine Razza (<i>Connie Chwalek</i>) Joanne Rebecchi (<i>Cynthia Ottomanelli</i>) Felicita Reyes (<i>Loving Family</i>) Belinda Rocco (<i>The Card Girls</i>) Paul Russo (<i>Anne M. Vigliarolo</i>) Maria & Luciano Sannino (<i>Rachele Sannino</i>) Benito & Leonila Santiago (<i>Loving Family</i>) Linda & James Scagnelli (<i>Heedles Family</i>) Dorothy Schmitt (<i>Loving Friend</i>) Kay & Walter Schretzman (<i>John Schretzman</i>) Helen Sentome (<i>Serpico Family</i>) Frank T. Serpico (<i>Serpico Family</i>) Sica Family (<i>Irene DeStefano</i>) Anna Steiman (<i>The Krala Family</i>) Casimir Szatkowski (<i>Loving Family</i>) Zenon & Rozalia Szczesny (<i>Daughter & Family</i>) Scafata Taddeo (<i>Jane Orban</i>) Frank & Ann Tomitz (<i>Patricia</i>) Maryann E. Tomitz (<i>Patricia</i>) Margaret Tucci (<i>Loving Sister & Niece</i>) Turrigiano Family (<i>Antoinette Turrigiano</i>) Walter & Elizabeth Ujazdowski (<i>Quagliariello Family</i>) Albert F. Valenzuela (<i>Loving Family</i>) Carl Vigliarolo (<i>Anne M. Vigliarolo</i>) Frank J. Vigliarolo (<i>Anne M. Vigliarolo</i>) Phyllis Jean Zanghi (<i>Mom, Dad & Joe B.</i>) Mary Zurick (<i>Sophia Gadinis</i>) </p>
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SIXTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Gn 9:1-13; Mk 8:27-33



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

Monday, February 18, 2019

Gn 4:1-15, 25; Mk 8:11-13

The manner of Abel's death and the conflicts Jesus must constantly battle with the Pharisees bring to mind a passage from the Letter of James: "For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice." Cain murders his brother because he is jealous of God's preference

of Abel's gift over his own. Jealousy of Jesus' ability to draw crowds leads the Pharisees to plot against him, even for his death. To be envious of another's good fortune once in a while is human nature but when it leads us to justify attitudes and behaviors that compromise the dignity of others, it becomes a slippery slope. The best antidote for jealousy is to nurture a habit of gratitude every day. *Help us Lord, to appreciate daily what we have and those who enrich our lives.*

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Mk 8:14-21

It is not hard to picture Jesus shaking his head at the shallow concerns of his disciples. While he is trying to teach them about God's salvation and to warn them of the perils they will face as disciples, their minds are on their stomachs! How often are my choices based on quick comfort without any concern of the deeper consequences of those choices? I have been guilty of choosing convenience over environmental responsibility when buying products. I have overlooked the ethical labor practices of companies that manufacture products I desire. I have gossiped and indulged in activities that have impacted the dignity of others. Has Jesus ever sighed in exasperation at my thoughtless choices and shallow concerns? I dread to think how often. *Forgive me Lord, when I choose convenience over conscience.*

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

Gn 8:6-13, 20-22; Mk 8:22-26

Our environmentalist daughter has been telling us for years of the hazards created by our cultures obsession with cheap, plastic packaging. Yet my own environmental conscience was only awakened one summer when I saw many beautiful shorebirds washed ashore because they had suffocated or starved to death after becoming entangled in plastic debris floating in the ocean. My purchasing and disposal habits were forever changed. Like the healed blind man in today's Gospel, insights are sometimes gained slowly, but once acquired we cannot in good conscience return to old beliefs and habits. Insights into God and our faith can change dramatically our perspective of ourselves and the world around us. *Renew our sight, God of light, that we may always be open to grow in faith and understanding.*

Thursday, February 21, 2019

The way Jesus rebukes Peter has always sounded rather harsh to me. The sense behind the rebuke became clearer to me when I read Fr. Roger Karban's reflection on this reading and who paraphrased these lines; "Stop being an obstacle to my ministry, Peter! Get your unbelieving face out from in front of me and go behind me; be a disciple! Do what I do, not what you would like me to do." Like Peter, most of us would prefer that our discipleship not involve suffering, but to follow the teachings of Jesus often places us on a path of uncomfortable choices and difficult consequences. The cross that Jesus asks us to bear is the willingness to risk suffering, as he did, for his message and his mission. *You are the Christ! Give me the courage to be your disciple.*

Friday, February 22, 2019

1 Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19

Peter is one of my favorite people in Scripture. He is a man with a generous heart, but is sometimes oblivious to the needs of others. He doesn't always think before he blurts out his opinion, but he is remorseful when he screws up. He has great courage, but on at least one occasion, he panicked, disowned a friend in need and ran. He is acutely aware of his weaknesses and humbly acknowledges that he needs God to become a better person. He is made of the stuff of our own humanity, and this is probably why Jesus chose him to lead the disciples after his time on earth. He is a role model not only for leaders, but for every person who strives to follow Jesus in their imperfect humanity. *St. Peter, pray for us and for all of God's beloved humanity.*

Saturday, February 23, 2019

Heb 11:1-7; Mk 9:2-13

For many, faith is like passing an exam. If you pray hard enough and follow the right formula you can reach the passing grade. God will then be pleased and grant your wish. Yet Jesus describes faith in more relational terms. Like any good relationship, it is dynamic and built on a desire to understand the other more deeply; growing together in new directions. It is never "achieved" but is a constantly evolving transformation. Sometimes, like Peter, we would like to stay in a state of awe and fascination, but life demands that we move from those mountains. We need to stay connected to God through the valleys of struggles and doubts. We are always rewarded when we seek to know God better in all circumstances. *May our love for each other carry us through the joys and sorrows of life, O God.*

