

# EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*In*  
**LOVING**  
*Memory*

## This Week's Mass Intentions

### SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2019

- 8:00AM Joseph P. Ottomanelli (*M/M Milton Brackenbury*)
- 9:30AM Dominick Vendittelli (*Mary Jo & Will Vendittelli*)
- 11:00AM DeVore Family (*Loving Daughter*)
- 12:30PM John Dallal (*DiPietra Family*)
- 5:00PM For The Parishioners

### MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2019 *St. Casimir*

- 9:00AM Tomaselli Family (*Pulomena Family*)

### TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019

- 9:00AM Frank Bitetto (*Barbara Bitetto*)

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019—ASH WEDNESDAY

- 7:00AM For The Parishioners
- 9:00AM Martha Metzger (*Formanek Family*)
- 11:00AM For The Parishioners
- 3:00PM Parish Prayer Service
- 5:00PM Parish Prayer Service
- 7:30PM Christine Piotrowski (*Loving Family*)

### THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019 *Sts. Perpetua & Felicity*

- 9:00AM Vladimir Formanek (*Loving Family*)

### FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2019 *St. John of God*

- 9:00AM John DeRiso (*Loving Family*)

### SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2019 *St. Frances of Rome*

- 9:00AM Leonard Brattoli (*Loving Wife & Daughter*)
- Kenneth Dean (*Trancho Family*)
- Joseph P. Ottomanelli (*Rosalie Librizzi*)
- Maria Sannino (*Loving Daughter*)
- Theresa Tudda (*M/M Vinny Campanella*)
- 5:00PM Aniello DeSarno (*Vincent & ToniAnn Soriente*)
- Patricia Hawkins (*Michele Carollo*)
- Dolores Pullara (*Jack Raia*)
- Joan Quartiere (*Maritza Scilla*)
- Theresa Tudda (*Casillo Family*)

### SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2019

- 8:00AM George & Claire Cox
- 9:30AM Joseph Meshak (*Longo Family*)
- 11:00AM Joseph P. Ottomanelli (*Louise Ardito*)
- 12:30PM Stanley Jasiak, Jr. (*Loving 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 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, 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, 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, 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:** Michele Limitone, Joseph Pecorella

### 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.**



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



**Daylight Savings Time Begins**  
Next Sunday March 10th!  
*Remember to set your clocks*  
**ahead one hour before bedtime**  
*next Saturday evening!*

**ASH WEDNESDAY  
MARCH 6, 2019**



**Masses: 7:00AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM**  
**Liturgies of the Word: 3:00PM & 5:00PM**  
**Evening Masses: 7:30PM**

Ashes will be distributed **only** during the Masses and Prayer Services. Anyone planning to receive ashes should arrive for the beginning of whichever ceremony they plan to attend and should remain for the entirety of that ceremony.

**REGULATIONS CONCERNING  
FASTING AND ABSTINENCE**

- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of mandatory fasting and abstinence from meat.
- All Fridays in Lent are days of mandatory abstinence from meat.
- The obligation to fast applies to those aged 18-59.
- The obligation to abstain from meat applies to those aged 14 and older.
- Those fasting may eat only one normal-sized meal. Two smaller meals may be eaten, if needed for strength. These smaller meals together should not equal a normal-sized meal. No food may be eaten between meals.
- The bishops of the United States recommend voluntary fasting on the other weekdays of Lent. It is a praiseworthy tradition to fast on Holy Saturday, until the Easter Vigil.
- It is worth remembering that every Friday of the year is a day of penance, unless a solemnity falls on a Friday. In the United States, on Fridays outside of Lent, one may choose either to abstain from eating meat or to perform some other act of penance.

**LENTEN SCHEDULE 2019**

**Stations of the Cross: Every Monday in Lent at 12:30PM (with School children)**  
**With Benediction Every Friday evening at 7:30PM**

**Weekday Masses: Monday—Saturday: 9:00AM Tuesdays at 7:30PM**

**Weekend Masses: Saturday at 5:00PM**  
**Sunday: 8:00AM, 9:30AM, 11:00AM, 12:30PM & 5:00PM**

**Confessions: Monday—Friday at 8:45AM**  
**Saturdays 12:30-1:30PM, or by appointment (please call Rectory)**

**RECONCILIATION MONDAY: APRIL 15, 2019**

Throughout the N.Y. region, this day is set aside for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) in preparation for Easter. Here at St. Helen, the opportunity for the Sacrament will be offered from **3:00PM thru 8:00PM.**

**You're Invited to Participate in CRS Rice Bowl!**

Join our faith community—and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's Lenten packet from Church this weekend. During the 40 days of Lent, as companions on the journey, we will encounter our neighbor.



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.**



**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 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.



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. God bless you!



**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 9<sup>th</sup>** before and after the 5PM Mass and all morning Masses on **Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**, tickets can be purchased at St. Helen Church.
- ◆ **After March 10<sup>th</sup>**, 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.

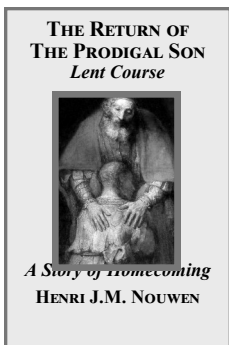
We are asking parishioners to **buy the cards online** and then bring them to Church. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, the parish will use all money collected to purchase EXCHANGE gift cards. The cards will then be forwarded to Troops stationed overseas as well as to Bethesda Military Hospital.

EXCHANGE gift cards can be purchased at [www.shopmyexchange.com/exchange-gift-card/6756653](http://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 This Weekend.**

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!**



### **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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

**EIGHTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

God  
endows  
humans



**Monday, March 4, 2019**

Sir 17:20-24; Mk 10:17-27

In baptism all sin is forgiven; it's our first conversion when we begin our life in Christ. The reality for most people, however, is that we continue to sin. When we may struggle with sin, it weakens our relationship with God, but doesn't have to end it. We can seek God's loving grace. God in his infinite love and wisdom understands our human weakness.

He sent his Son in human form to save us from our sins. His public ministry is marked by forgiveness of sinners, the Father's loving mercy, and bestowing the power of forgiveness of sins to the apostles and their successors exercised in the name of the Holy Spirit. The sacrament of reconciliation is "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace" (CCC #1446). In this sacrament, God shows us the way back. *Gentle and forgiving God, help us to develop a spirit of repentance and humility.*

**Tuesday, March 5, 2019**

Sir 35:1-12; Mk 10:28-31

Do our children see us give with a spirit of joy? As a Catholic school teacher, I struggle to navigate the fine line between requiring service hours and guiding students to embrace works of mercy as a fundamental expression of our faith. I try to differentiate between helping out and serving others. Helping is a good and necessary thing, but it profoundly differs from serving with a self-sacrificial love like Christ. For some, service becomes just another hurdle to clear before graduation, rather than an invitation to express God's love. The students compile the hours, but, sadly, some take little meaning from the experience and don't continue beyond the minimum expectations. The only answer I have to guide them to see offering charity, alms and sacrifice with a "cheerful countenance" is to regularly invite them to give and to offer models of those who give as generously as God the most high has given to them. Will you be one of them? *Create in me a giving heart, generous Lord.*

**Wednesday, March 6, 2019—ASH WEDNESDAY**

Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20—6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

The Hebrew customs of putting on sackcloth, sprinkling ashes and rending garments were outward expressions of great sorrow and repentance. Biblical examples abound. Reuben rent his garments upon returning to the pit too late to rescue Joseph. Job did the same upon hearing that his children perished. In Christian Scripture, rending garments also indicated indignation as when Paul and Barnabas reacted to people of Lystra worshipping them by rending their garments, and Caiphas rent his garments after he accused Jesus of blasphemy for saying he was the Christ. While a dramatic sign indeed, as God told Joel, it's a meaningless act unless it's paired with heartfelt contrition. Today we don ashes as a visible symbol of penance, but we are called to turn that reflection inward during this holy season. Lent challenges us to pair outward gestures of prayer, fasting and almsgiving with lasting interior conversion. *Christ our redeemer, give me a spirit of humility to return to you with my whole heart.*

**Thursday, March 7, 2019**

Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25

with free will. Allowing us the freedom to choose opens us to the possibility of making harmful or self-defeating choices. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states "the education of conscience is a lifelong task" (CCC #1784). We continually form and guide our conscience to know what is just and right. This often involves critically assessing our choices and the impact they have on our lives and relationships. Moses encourages us today to "choose life" — to love God, heed his voice, and hold fast to him. How we enter into this holy season must be a conscious choice. Otherwise it will slip away before we realize. Take the time today to choose how to spiritually prepare for the celebration of Easter. Choose to embrace Lent as a special time of prayer, penance, sacrifice and good works. *Help me, generous Father, to give myself fully to this season of grace.*

**Friday, March 8, 2019**

Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15

St. Peter Chrysologus wrote, "Fasting bears no fruit unless it is watered by mercy." Isaiah challenges the sincerity of religious actions performed without conversion. The hunger we experience from fasting should heighten our awareness of the poor and unite us to what others experience every day. It helps us to gain insight and prompts us to take action to make a lasting difference. Fasting increases our commitment to emptying ourselves of destructive attitudes or behaviors so that God can fill us with a longing for justice. We rid ourselves of needless distractions in order to be more attentive to the struggles of others. Pope Francis calls true fasting helping our neighbor. When we fast from food or activities, the money or time saved allows for greater almsgiving and more time for prayer and service. Only then do we experience the change of heart of Isaiah's prophecy. *I hunger for justice, merciful Lord. Fill me with love and charity.*

**Saturday, March 9, 2019**

Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32

Lent can be somewhat stark and barren. Some churches adorn the altars with cacti, rocks or sand. We even empty the holy water fonts on the days of the Sacred Triduum. However, the word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon words lenc-ten, meaning "Spring," and lenc-tentid, meaning both "Springtide" and "March." Just like springtime promises growth and new life with its frequent showers, Lent is a season of renewal. We ask the Lord to flood our dry spirits. We need his gentle care to tenderly nurture us so that we become fruitful once more. Through the waters of baptism, we died to sin and entered into new life in Christ. We once again look to the Lord to renew and restore us through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The Lord longs to pour out his love and refresh us with living water so that we blossom this Lent. *Revive my parched spirit, Lord of life.*

