

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

In
LOVING
Memory

This Week's Mass Intentions

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

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2019

- 9:00AM Lee Fiore (*Ann Petroglia*)
- 7:30PM *Latin Mass: Liborio Torregiano*
(*Rachele Sannino*)

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019

- 9:00AM Bernardo & Maria Scagnelli (*Heedles Family*)
- 7:30PM Leonardo Ognibene (*Christine Ognibene*)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019

- 9:00AM Grace Ladone (*Joseph Barreca*)

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2019

- 9:00AM Thomas E. Blankley (*Phyllis Digristina*)

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2019

- 9:00AM Nilda Solano (*Susan Polvorosa*)

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2019

- 9:00AM Marie Blankley (*Rosalie Librizzi*)
- Luis Cruz (*Jason & Patricia Grimes*)
- Anthony Ferraro (*Pavrides Family*)
- Michael Frusciante (*Al Fina & Sal Araemo*)
- Dolores Pullara (*Mary Ann Kellen*)
- 5:00PM Nick Camporeale (*Emily DePalo*)
- Vincent Mascolo (*M/M John Calcagnile*)
- Liborio Torregiano (*Joe Barreca*)
- Theresa Tudda (*M/M John Oliva*)
- Carmela Zinerco (*Rosario Macaluso & Family*)

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2019

- 8:00AM Josephine Tonacchio (*Patty & Kevin Harold*)
- 9:30AM Maria & Giuseppe Morreale (*Arline Rabito & Diane Sama*)
- 11:00AM DiSanto-LeFavi Family (*Frank & Jean LeFavi*)
- 12:30PM Leonard Gorycki (*Helen Repstad*)
- 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, Daniel Campion, Sally Capozziello, Shang Cheng, Zena Cipolla, 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 Giamalvo, 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, Nino Pedone, 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: John R. Anello, Clara Citarrella, Robert Miele, Joseph Scorcia

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.**

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.



You are invited to
Pray the Family Rosary

THURSDAY EVENINGS IN CHURCH
7:00-7:30PM

Treasures OF THE CHURCH

A TEACHING AND EXPOSITION OF SACRED RELICS OF THE SAINTS



Wednesday March 20, 2019
In The Church

For St. Helen Catholic Academy Students at 1:00PM *(Parents Welcome)*

For St. Helen Religious Education Students at 3:30PM *(Parents Welcome)*

For the Parish at 7:00PM

Please refer to your Lenten Booklet for further information.



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.

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.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES HOWARD BEACH SENIOR CENTER



Free Theatre Workshops for Seniors: Mondays 1:30-3:30PM & Wednesdays 9:30-11:30AM **beginning March 11th.** The program culminates with performances at the Center and at the Queens Theatre. You must be a member of the Center (you may become a member—no fee required). For more information call the Center at (718) 738-8100 or (718) 971-5839.

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.



Are you new to St. Helen Parish?

If so, please remember to stop in at the Rectory to register your family!



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!

**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"**



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.

“THE LAYMAN’S LENS”

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

IV. “What Are You Giving Up?”

On Ash Wednesday, the Church began the season of Lent and the theme to keep in mind during this season is sacrifice. What are you going to give up? This question might be asked by ourselves or by family members. “So what are you going to give up?” As we pick and choose and reflect on something we will attempt to live without, I think we should explore the foundation of the Lenten fast.

Well, the roots of “giving something up”, abstaining or fasting, are seeded in the concept of sacrifice. The celebration of Lent is our opportunity to become closer to Christ through our own sacrifices as He did for us. To understand the meaning of sacrifice, even on such a simple scale, comes to have us know Christ and His love for us. As you may know, “Lent” is commemorating the period of 40 days in which Christ Himself went into the desert prior to His death and resurrection. During those 40 days, Jesus did not eat or drink and, as if that wasn’t difficult enough, was tempted by Satan on numerous occasions. Many of us can’t fathom not eating or drinking for 40 days and nights and couldn’t survive. But again, the perfection of Jesus comes in the form of the ultimate template: the alpha and omega of humanity, of who we are to be as much as possible, to satisfy our God and obtain eternal peace and happiness in heaven. So, where does this leave us as practicing and devout Catholics? Often times tempted.

I remember that while growing up, one of my challenges in giving something up was food. Growing up in an Italian family where weekends and family gatherings are predicated around the dinner table, this seemed to me equal to being in a desert for 40 days. I remember being tempted to give in many times from friends or family. “Just have a taste” they’d say, or “It’s ok to cheat on Sundays”. Hopefully, you can hear my laughter through my writing. This temptation, though without malice, signifies the tests that we as Catholics have in keeping our promise with Christ through our sacraments. These tests are healthy. Fasting is healthy. It reaffirms our faith and in doing so brings us closer to understanding sacrifice to ultimately be exalted as Christ Himself stated in the new covenant that we will celebrate on Holy Thursday. This fast, this sacrifice, this abstinence, is a conscious effort to love Christ and then celebrate with Him on Easter Sunday the sweet victory over evil and the earthly temptations that can get in the way of our salvation.

Upon reading this and attending this week’s celebration of the Eucharist, let us reflect on what we will “give up” and realize that Lent is a perfect time to renew our relationship with Christ through understanding and taking part in His sacrifice. May we hold hands with Him through this journey in the desert as He will with us throughout our short time here on earth.

Matthew 6:16

“Moreover when you fast, don’t be like the hypocrites, with sad faces.
For they disfigure their faces, that they may be seen by men to be
fasting. Most certainly I tell you, they have received their reward.

Smile; come Easter Sunday, our reward will be greater than the taste of anything that could be cooked.

May God bless you always in the name of our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

FIRST WEEK OF LENT

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Scrip-
tures,



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

Monday, March 11, 2019

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46

Lent. It's probably not our favorite season of the church year, mostly because it expects us to take a long, hard look at our lives. Have we been selfish or generous? Have we greeted others with compassion or judgment? Have we sought to live our faith? The season of Lent is a reminder that someday

we will be called to account for the way we have lived. And so we are challenged not only to feed the hungry — but also to ask why so many people do not have access to food. And we are called to reach out to the neglected and excluded — but also to work to change the systems that neglect and exclude. Faith is a verb, so we must put it into action. Jesus never said, "Go and believe." He said, "Go and do." *Trusting in your mercy, Holy One, guide us as we follow in the way of Jesus.*

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

Jesus comes down pretty hard on those who babble, and in other places he criticizes the Pharisees for praying loudly in public where everyone can hear them and see how pious they are. In contrast, Jesus teaches his disciples a very simple, short prayer — less than 100 words — that covers almost every important theological topic: God's nature and providence; God's kingdom; our human needs; sin, forgiveness, temptation and evil. Jesus reminds us that prayer is an important piece of being disciples (and not only during Lent). God knows the concerns we speak — as well as the needs we cannot put into words. *God, in your mercy, hear our prayers.*

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

When I was in seminary, one of the ongoing jokes was that none of us really wanted to answer God's call. One friend said he came to seminary kicking and screaming, with God nipping at his heels. Clearly, this is not a new story — all you have to do is read the story of Jonah. Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh, a city of the hated Assyrian empire. The Assyrians were Israel's enemies; Jonah certainly didn't want to see them saved, rescued or redeemed. But God has other ideas, which Jonah doesn't understand. Heaven forbid that that God should be loving and merciful to them! This funny story makes me wonder: What are the Ninevehs of today? Who are the Ninevites that we think are beyond the realm of God's love and grace? How do we put limits on God's love? *God of all nations and all people, forgive us when we think your love is for us alone.*

Thursday, March 14, 2019

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12

This verse, this command, is found not only in the Chris-

but also in the sacred writings of most of the world's major religions. Jesus, Buddha, Mohammed and other great spiritual teachers all taught a similar message: Treat one another the way you would like to be treated. Do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you. What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. Treat not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful. Not one of you truly believes until you wish for others what you wish for yourself. Clearly, living our faith is not limited to the people in our particular church community or our circle of friends and family. Treating others — all the others — with respect, compassion and love is the standard we are expected to live by. *Teach us again, O Lord, how to love our neighbors and ourselves.*

Friday, March 15, 2019

Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

The Gospel reading today is another excerpt from what we call the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus begins with a series of blessings, the Beatitudes. Then he announces to the crowd that they are salt and light, exhorting them to let their light shine before others. Now, with a series of contrasts that are framed with "You have heard it said ... but I say to you," Jesus makes it clear that he does not seek to abolish the law and the prophets. He has not come to relax the demands of the Law; instead, he is raising the bar with new demands and greater expectations. Yesterday's golden rule is now applied to a variety of relationships, which reminds us that gestures of devotion and obedience to God mean nothing when we are angry or hold a grudge against someone. We cannot make up for a broken relationship by bringing an offering to God. *Teach us, divine Love, that the way we treat others reveals our love for you.*

Saturday, March 16, 2019

Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48

This chapter of the Sermon on the Mount comes to an end with a series of Jesus' hard sayings. Turn the other cheek. Give your cloak. Go the extra mile. Give to those who ask. Lend. And last, but certainly not least, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. During this Lenten season, perhaps we could remember the verbs in this chapter (and others from earlier lessons this week): Be the light of the world. Do. Go. Give. Forgive. Keep your word. Be reconciled. Pray. Love. For Jesus, the priority is love: love of God, love of neighbor, love of self. And loving our family and friends is just the beginning, because Jesus makes no distinction between "friends" and "enemies." *Grant us wisdom and compassion in all our relationships, O God.*

