

Parish Staff

Pastor

Rev. Richard Villano 729-7344

Director of Pastoral Care

Virginia Tschida 729-7344

Director of Religious Education

John Sondag 729-7321

Religious Education Secretary

Nancy Stauner 729-7321

Director of Music

David Bartlett 651-239-6914

School Principal

Ellen Rian 729-9301

Parish Secretary

Elaine Bruce 729-7344

Business Manager

Mike Petruconis 729-7322

Sunday Mass

Saturday 4:00 P.M.

Sunday 8:30 and 10:00 A.M.

Daily Mass

Monday through Saturday 8:00 A.M.

Holy Day Mass

Evening Before 5:30 P.M.

Holy Day 8:00 and 10:00 A.M.

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday 3:00–3:30 P.M.

Sacrament of Baptism

A Baptism Preparation Program is required for all registered first-time parents. Please call the Director of Pastoral Care.

Sacrament of Marriage

The bride or groom must be an active registered parishioner for at least six months prior to scheduling a wedding at St. Helena.

Nursery

Services available during the 10:00 A.M. Sunday Mass.

Parish Registration

To register in the parish, please fill out a registration form and return to the Parish Office. Registration forms are available at the entrances of the Church. Return completed form to the Parish Office.

**Visit us on the web at
www.sainthelena.us**

The Church of St. Helena

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 9, 2020**

“You are the light of the world.

A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.”

-Mt 5:14



3204 E 43rd St • Minneapolis, MN 55406-3858 • (612) 729-7344

THE WORD

Pope St. Paul VI issued a famous and controversial encyclical in 1968 on marriage and marital love, entitled *Humanae Vitae* (On Human Life). In that letter, he taught the dignity of marriage and said that artificial contraceptives are an intrinsic evil because they suppress the procreative meaning of sex. However, the Pope predicted (correctly) that if society succumbed to using contraceptives, the following ramifications would take place:

- 1) It would become easy (for many) “to justify behavior leading to marital infidelity or to a gradual weakening in the discipline of morals”;
- 2) Husbands would “lose respect for their wives...” using them “as instruments for serving their own desires”; and
- 3) Public authorities would use “power of interfering in the most exclusive and intimate mission of spouses.”

In Sunday's Gospel, we hear our Lord say, “You are the light of the world.” From where do we receive that light, that is, the truth?

The teachings of our Lord are the truth. How could they be anything but the truth? He is God, Who is pure Truth, Who can neither lie nor be lied to. Now, God, Who created everything, is also the same God Who reveals. Because He is

one and the same God, He cannot contradict Himself in creation and revelation.

That's why the teaching of St. Pope Paul VI in *Humanae Vitae* is able to show the evil repercussions in the natural order. It's the truth—it's light to the world. God's order is being tampered with, so not only is using contraception an intrinsic evil, which seriously offends God (as Creator), but in that natural order the using of contraceptives goes against the linkage between life and marital love.

Pope St. Paul VI could make the prediction he did, because he could see the connection between conjugal love and the procreation of life. He was a light to the world, and he had a duty (as Pope) to proclaim the truth which made him a light.

We, as followers of Christ, have the truth, so long as it's consistent with the official teachings of the Pope and the Bishops united with the Pope. And, we must live according to the truth. Then, as our Lord teaches in this Sunday's Gospel, “Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”

John Sondag
Director of Religious Education

PASTOR'S REMARKS

1) We are well into a new month, and looking ahead, we anticipate the celebration of Valentine's Day on Feb. 14, the Presidential Holiday on Feb. 17, and Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, on Feb. 26, and of course, the end of the winter months! There are opportunities for each of us to recognize the blessings in our lives rather than dwelling on the problems and difficulties which are not unknown. God loves the work of his hands, our world and the people of every nation.

2) Thank you for your dedication, support, and presence here at the Church of St. Helena. Your generosity and love for the Church is on-going and a tribute to your faith, hope, and charity. We are not out of the woods, and in fact, we are faced with a major deficit in the months ahead. The school budget is a major factor. How we will overcome the deficit, which is over a hundred thousand dollars, is a major concern, but I am confident that together we can and will meet the challenge. Thank you and God bless all of us!

3) *What does the Lord, your God, ask of you but to fear the Lord, your God, and follow his ways exactly, to love and serve the Lord, your God, with all your heart and all your soul?*
Deuteronomy 10:12

SENIOR LUNCH—The next Senior Luncheon will be held on February 19, the third Wednesday of February. Join us at noon for good food followed by bingo in Rowan Hall. The cost is \$5 and no reservations are required.

REMINDER—PARISH-WIDE SURVEY—AS PART OF THE ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD—Please help us by participating in the survey online, from February 1—March 1, at www.disciplemakerindex.com. All responses will be confidential and the parish will only receive information about the community as a whole. We will receive the results this spring, at which time we will share what we have learned. Hard copies are available by calling the parish office only if you are not able to take the survey online. Questions, please call Virginia at 612-729-7344 or visit the Archdiocesan website.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT UPDATE—All volunteers who have regular interaction with youth and vulnerable adults need to be certified under the Archdiocesan Safe Environment standards. Together we can work to protect God's children and the most vulnerable among us. Thank you for your shared commitment to the achievement of this goal. In addition, the Archdiocesan Victim Assistance line is 651-291-4475.

THE ENCYCLICALS & FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP: An exploration of catholic teachings as related to political promotions—February 29, March 7, 14, 21, 5:30 P.M., at the Church of St. Peter, Richfield. St. Peter's is hosting a series of speakers explaining how Catholic teaching relates to political promotions. There is no cost to attend. A free will offering will be taken for dinner. Registration is required in order to prepare enough food. For more information please visit: www.stpetersrichfield.org/faith-formation/adults.

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO SEW?—The Quilting group here at St. Helena is in need of some people who can sew quilt tops for us. We have lots of fabric and quilting books plus a sewing machine you can use. You can join us at one of our quilting sessions: Monday mornings or Wednesday evening, or call Lucy Koller at 612-729-9445 if you have questions.

MEN'S BREAKFAST—FEBRUARY 22—Attend the next Men's Breakfast scheduled for Saturday, February 22, at 8:30 A.M. in Rowan Hall. The speaker is Msgr. Martin Schlag, J.D. S.T.D., who will talk on "How Our Work Is a Part of God's Plan." The cost of the breakfast is \$5. Participants are also invited to attend the 8:00 Mass in the church before the breakfast. Registrations should be made before 12:00 Noon on Friday, February 21, by calling 612-729-7321.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST—SATURDAY, MARCH 14—The next Women's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 14, at 8:30 A.M. in Rowan Hall. Kristin Towle, Ph.D., will be the guest speaker. The cost is \$5 for the breakfast. Participants are invited to come to the Mass at 8:00 A.M. in the church before the Breakfast. Registrations should be made before 12:00 Noon on Friday, March 13, by calling 612-729-7321.

DOUGHNUTS AND COFFEE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS—Enjoy Doughnuts and Coffee in Rowan Hall every Sunday after the 8:30 and 10:00 Masses. There's a free-will offering, but if you forgot your wallet or purse (or can't afford to make an offering), just come and enjoy the doughnuts, coffee, and/or juice. It's a great way to meet and visit with parishioners.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?—Please let that person know the Church of St. Helena has a program that prepares people to become Catholic. For more information, call Fr. Villano or John Sondag at 612-729-7344.

DO YOU KNOW A PARISHIONER IN NEED OF HELP?—If you know a parishioner who might be out of work, sick and unable to work, or struggling because of financial difficulties or other problems, please notify the St. Vincent de Paul Conference in the parish. Individuals (or families) can receive assistance from the conference which reaches out to people in the parish who are having difficulties. (Your name and the name of the needy person will be kept confidential.) For more information or to give your name to the conference, call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

GOING GROCERY SHOPPING?—Buy a gift card for groceries and give the card to the parish St. Vincent de Paul Conference which can give it to a needy person or family. Place the card in an envelope marked "St. Vincent de Paul Conference" and put the envelope in the collection or bring it to the Parish Offices.

SENIOR MARDI GRAS—Catered lunch and entertainment at St. Richard's Church, 7540 Penn Avenue S., Richfield, on Tuesday, February 25. For more information, call 612-869-2426, or visit www.strichards.com/seniors.

PARENTS WITH SMALL CHILDREN OR INFANTS—Take advantage of the Cry Room for parents with small children or infants. It's located in the front of the church, if you go through the side door by the Baptismal font. After you go through the door, turn left, go up a small series of steps, open a door, and you'll enter a room where you can be close to the altar and that has the prayers miked into it, you can see everything that's happening, and your little ones can cry or talk without disturbing others in the main part of the church.

A NURSERY SERVICE DURING THE 10:00 MASS—St. Helena Church has a nursery service for small children (up to but not including first grade) during the 10:00 A.M. Mass on Sundays. There is no charge for the service. Parents may bring the children downstairs to the nursery before Mass begins, and adults will watch your children for you while you attend Mass. If you have any questions, call John Sondag (612-275-0431).

YOU CAN BE PART OF THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE—The St. Vincent de Paul Conference in the parish reaches out to needy individuals or families who need assistance. Conference members visit their homes to assess how they can be of service and in a very personalized and confidential way give them help. Our next meeting is on Thursday, February 13, at 6:30 P.M. in the Parish Office Building. For more information, call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

ST HELENA MUSIC TROOP—You can be a part of the St. Helena Music Troop which goes to nursing homes to entertain their residents twice a month during the fall, winter and spring. Musicians can be beginners or professionals, young or old, and do not have to come each time we perform. The people who entertain do not play music as a group but individually play the piano, band or symphonic instruments, or sing. If you are interested in participating, please call John Sondag (612-275-0431). We entertain Saturday afternoon, February 22, at Providence Place in Minneapolis.

SOME GREAT SPEAKERS OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH—Check out some new CDs in the stand located near the elevator door in the back of the church.

BAPTISM—A Baptism Preparation Program is required for all registered first-time parents. To register for the class, please call Virginia, the Director of Pastoral Care, at 612-729-7344.

DO YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER NEED A VISIT? If you or your loved one will be hospitalized or homebound, and would like to receive Eucharist, let us know. Keep in mind hospitals and healthcare facilities cannot contact us. We need to be contacted by family. Please call the Director of Pastoral Care, Virginia, at 612-729-7344.

**2020 "AUTUMN DAZE" FESTIVAL:
SEPTEMBER 18, 19, & 20, 2020**



SCRIPTURE #1121

**Is 58:7-10
1 Cor 2:1-5
Mt 5:13-16**

**MASS INTENTIONS
8:00 AM**

Monday		Richard Bruce
Tuesday	†	Richard Larson
Wednesday	†	Fr. James Stromberg
Thursday	†	Richard Mosiniak
Friday	†	For the Parish Benefactors
Saturday	†	Msgr. William Baumgaertner

SACRISTY AIDES—Sandy Martin and Elaine Bruce, (Linens) Krysta Niznick

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Feb 10:* 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13, Mk 6:53-56
- Feb 11:* 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30, Mk 7:1-13
- Feb 12:* 1 Kgs 10:1-10, Mk 7:14-23
- Feb 13:* 1 Kgs 11:4-13, Mk 7:24-30
- Feb 14:* 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19, Mk 7:31-37
- Feb 15:* 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34, Mk 8:1-10
- Feb 16:* Sir 15:15-20, 1 Cor 2:6-10, Mt 5:17-37

PARISH CALENDAR

February 10—February 17

- February 10**
-Quilters, Parish Offices, 9:00 am
- February 11**
-Catechumenate & Reception Program, Parish Offices, 7:30 pm
- February 12**
-Religious Ed. & Confirmation Classes, School, 6:45 pm
-Sacramental Preparation for Parents of First Communicants, Parish Offices, 6:45 pm
- February 13**
-St. Vincent de Paul Mtg., Parish Offices, 6:30 pm
- February 14**
-Women's Prayer Group, Church, 8:30 am
- February 15**
- February 16**
-Doughnuts & Coffee, RH, after 8:30 & 10:00 Masses
-Pre-School Religious Education, RH, 9:45 am
- February 17**
-Quilters, Parish Offices, 9:00 am

ST. HELENA SCHOOL NEWS

Spotlight on Middle School Language Arts

Welcome to the third quarter! Quarters one and two introduced us to poetry, Old Dan and Little Ann, The Raven, The Birchbark House and much more. We are now embarking on uncharted territory with our Battle of the Books!! We will begin training for the epic Battle of the Books competition. Battle of the Books is a team sport where teams train and exercise their collective brains by reading 30 books over two quarters and culminates in a final battle for middle school dominance. We will be exploring award-winning novels by Jack London, Richard Peck, Gary Paulsen, Laurence Yep, and Jane Yolen, as well as many others! We will be arduously training and stretching our collective brains to experience life as a sled dog, life living on Alcatraz, and winning the Kentucky Derby on the back of the legendary Secretariat. We will explore the genres of science fiction and fantasy, realistic fiction, historical fiction, and many non-fiction texts as well including the life of Abraham Lincoln. Be sure to stay tuned to see which middle school team survives training and excels at our final battle in May!!

Congratulations to the St. Helena Science Fair winners:

6th grade

Third place: Diego Andrade Patino & Zach Lawyer.
Second Place: Joseph Encalada & Luc Thibault.
First Place: Liya Elias. *Principal's Award:* Bryan Lopez Ortega.

7th grade

Third place: Eden Belai & Diana Hernandez.
Second Place: Anna Garcia.
First Place: Annika Clift, Marcus Bonifas, Eddie Held, & Liam Murphy. *Principal's Award:* Bella Wong.

8th grade

Third place: Skylar Dahl, Olivia Harlan & Madeline Korogi.
Second Place: Monserrat Dominguez, Ava Riley & Lenny Rodriguez.
First Place: Liam Clift, Sara Cooney, Nathaly Dominguez, Selene Herrera Sanchez, Abel Mekonnen & Edward Ortiz. *Principal's Award:* Kendall Barnes.

Alumni News: Congratulations to Connor Niznick, junior, for earning Scholar of Distinction and Tyler Niznick, freshman, for achieving High Honors at the Academy of Holy Angels during the first trimester.

PRAYER CORNER

You live for ever, Lord and King. All things of the earth justly sing your glory and honor. Strengthen your people against evil that we may rejoice in your peace and trust in our eternal promise.