

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

Joel Swanson 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.

Email: church@sainthelena.us

Website: www.sainthelena.us

The Church of St. Helena

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 17, 2021

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus.

Jn 1:35-37



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

THE WORD

One year, on the Sunday for First Holy Communion, I was lining up the little second-graders for their procession into church. We had just had our pictures taken as a group, and, now, I was calling off each student's name to line up for their solemn march into church.

As I was finished, a little boy came up to me and he was crying. He also was nervously shoving his necktie into his mouth while he was trying to tell me that he couldn't make his First Holy Communion. I thought perhaps he was sick, but I just could not understand what the little fellow was saying. I called his teacher to the spot and asked her to interpret his tearful words while I re-joined the students who were lining up.

A few minutes later the teacher brought the consoled child to the rest of his classmates. As I wondered what had been the problem, the teacher turned aside from the child and whispered to me, "You forgot to call off his name." Oops!

That's not the case in this Sunday's first or third readings. Our Lord calls Samuel by name, plus He calls St. Peter by name. And, guess what? Today, He calls each of us by name, and He doesn't miss anyone like I forgot the little boy.

That means we have a "vocation" which comes from the Latin word *vocare* (to call), so each of us has a calling. It is important for us to follow that vocation, because certain graces in that vocation are given to a person from God to live what God has asked.

So, what's the point? We need to listen for God's call and encourage our youngsters to be attuned to figuring out their vocations (not how they can make the most money or be successful in the eyes of the world). But, even if we know what our vocation is, we need to be listening for the smaller calls (His promptings, so to speak) in our daily living, like should I help this family member or visit this sick friend or volunteer for a particular parish project.

This discernment of God's vocation and promptings, however, takes time to be attentive to the Lord, particularly in prayer, Who will enlighten our minds. And, oh, it goes so much slower than e-mail or cell phone calls or texting. We must slow down to spend time in prayer and listen.

But, this discernment of God's calls also takes a detachment from sin, because we will be unwilling to answer His calls or even hear them, if we are mired in the selfishness of sin, especially mortal sin. That means, the Sacrament of Penance is a useful tool in preparing our lives to hear God's calls and promptings.

The Lord calls—by name—He forgets no one, because each of us is important to His plan and to His friendship with Him for eternity.

John Sondag
Director of Religious Education

The grace of God has appeared, offering salvation to all men. It trains us to reject godless ways and worldly desires, and live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age.

Titus 2:11-12

THE PARISH OFFICE—Will be closed Monday, January 18, Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.

REMINDER—WHEN ATTENDING MASS—Please continue to follow all COVID protocol when attending Mass. Stay home if sick. Wash hands and use sanitizer. Wear masks. Do not remove tape that is used on the pews for any reason. Social distance. Respect one another.

FOOD SHELF—Each week our local food shelf picks up non-perishable food items as well as personal items (shampoo, toothpaste, baby supplies, etc.) for those in need. All items may be dropped off by the elevator on the Church level. If the Church is locked please drop them off at the Parish Center during office hours. Thank you for your generosity.

"Holiness grows fast where there is kindness."

St. Mother Teresa

SCHOOL RAFFLE—WIN A CAR OR \$20,000—Please contact the school office to purchase tickets.

WOMEN OF ST. HELENA—Every Friday morning, a group of women meet at Church after the 8:00 Mass for quiet time and prayer. We pray in silence for a half hour, then voice our prayer requests for family, friends, and special intentions, followed with the rosary. If you would like to join us, please call Barb Kaluza at 612-721-2504 or Shirley Balster at 612-722-8847, as we sometimes cancel due to weather. All are welcome and encouraged to come and share the blessings of praying with women of varied ages.

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.

BETHANY HOUSE SUMMER PROGRAM—Bethany House is a place, set apart, with an environment of support and encouragement for Catholic women as they intentionally discern consecrated life. The women live in community, pray together, have meals together, host Religious Sisters and participate in a discernment book study during the program. For more information and to request an application, see 1000vocations.org.

IF YOU CANNOT RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION DURING THIS TIME OF THE CORONAVIRUS, YOU CAN MAKE A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

SPIRITUALLY ADOPT A PERSON WHO'S DYING ALONE OR WITHOUT THE SACRAMENTS

Some people are dying alone from the Coronavirus. Through your prayer, spiritually adopt a person somewhere in the world who may have no family or friends to be with them at the moment of death or perhaps who is unable to have the sacraments of the Church.

VIRTUAL DOUGHNUTS AND COFFEE—NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 24—Join us for Virtual Doughnuts and Coffee next Sunday, January 24, at 11:30 A.M. Greet one another and let us know how your getting along plus what is happening for the new year. Check the weekly parish Update for the Zoom password I.D.

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?—Please let that individual know that the Church of St. Helena offers a program that prepares people to become Catholic. It is held on Tuesdays at 7:30 P.M., in the Parish Office Building. To take the program does not mean that you must become a Catholic. Also, if Tuesday evenings are impossible to make, another time can be arranged. For more information, call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

ARE YOU A PARISHIONER WHO NEEDS HELP?—Parishioners who might be out of work, sick and unable to work, or struggling because of financial difficulties or problems can receive help from the St. Vincent de Paul Conference in the parish which reaches out to individuals and families in the parish who are having difficulties. (Your name will be kept confidential.) If you need more information or help, please call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH?—The Church of St. Helena has a program that helps people to know more about the Catholic Faith and have your questions answered. For more information, call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

BE PART OF THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE—The St. Vincent de Paul Conference in the parish reaches out to 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. The next meeting is Thursday, January 28, at 6:30 P.M. in the Parish Offices. For more information, call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

WAYS TO WATCH/LISTEN TO MASS—For ways to watch or listen to Mass, visit: archspm.org/live.

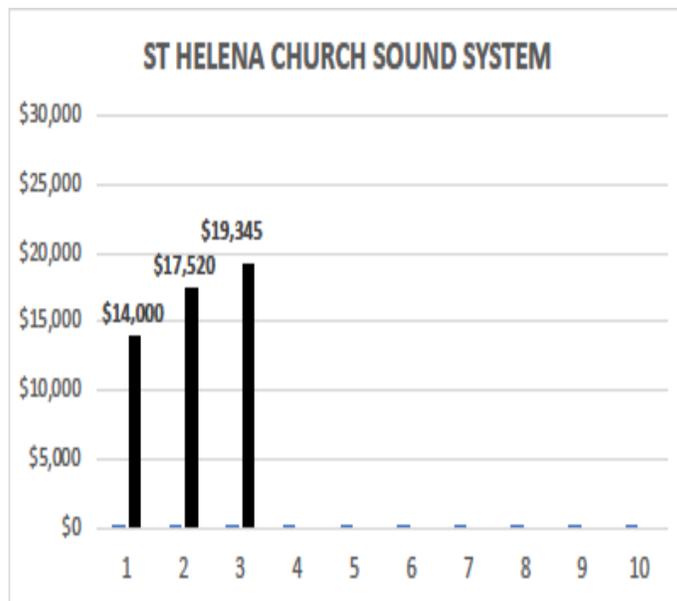
PURCHASE A GIFT CARD FOR GROCERIES—Buy a gift card for groceries and give the card to the parish St. Vincent de Paul Conference which can give it to a needy person or family throughout the year. Place the card in an envelope marked “St. Vincent de Paul Conference” and put the envelope in the collection or bring it to the Parish Offices.

ENRICH YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH—You can enrich your faith by listening to some CDs displayed at the handicap entrance to the church. As we continue to have limited social events, this may be a good time to deepen our reflection on Christ, His teachings, and the teachings of the Church.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN—In-person religious education classes for elementary and junior high students continue on Wednesday evenings, at 6:45 P.M. in the downstairs of the church and Parish Office Building. Students wear masks and socially distance themselves. If you would like to enroll your child, please call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE A SPECIAL GIFT FOR A NEW SOUND SYSTEM FOR THE CHURCH

The parish has a goal of \$30,000 for a new sound system in the church. As of January 11, we have \$19,345 (including the \$14,000 matching gift). You can give your special gift by placing it in an envelope marked “Sound System” and mailing or delivering it to the Parish Offices or dropping it in the collection. If we receive more money than we need for the sound system, we will apply it to other operating expenses.



COR JESU—Will be held virtually on Friday, February 5, at 8:00 P.M., on the Vocations Office Facebook page. Join us virtually at www.facebook.com/ASPMVocations/ to adore the Lord and be together in prayer, praise, and worship. Archbishop Bernard Hebda will preside. Call the Office of Vocations at 651-962-6890, and the Cor Team will pray for your intentions, or you may send prayer requests to: stpaulvocations@10000vocations.org



SCRIPTURE # 1113

1 Sm 3:3b-10 19
1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20
Jn 1:35-42

MASS INTENTIONS
8:00 AM

Monday † **Frank Agort**
Tuesday † **Joan Marchessault**
Wednesday † **Ray Olson**
Thursday † **Marchessault Family**
Friday † **Joseph Polunc**
Saturday † **Dick Lang**

SACRISTY LINENS—Cheryl Griffith

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jan 18: Heb 5:1-10, Mk 2:18-22
Jan 19: Heb 6:10-20, Mk 2:23-28
Jan 20: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17, Mk 3:1-6
Jan 21: Heb 7:25—8:6, Mk 3:7-12
Jan 22: Heb 8:6-13, Mk 3:13-19
Jan 23: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14, Mk 3:20-21
Jan 24: Jon 3:1-5, 10, 1 Cor 7:29-31,
Mk 1:14-20

PARISH CALENDAR
January 18 — January 25

January 18 *Martin Luther King Day*
-Parish Offices Closed
-School Closed
-Quilters, Parish Offices, 9:00 am
January 19
-Catechumenate & Reception Program, Parish Offices,
7:30 pm
January 20
-Quilters, Parish Offices, 6:15 pm
-Religious Education Program, Rowan Hall, 6:45 pm
-Confirmation Program, Parish Offices, 6:45 pm
January 21
January 22
-Women's Prayer Group, Church, 8:30 am
-Virtual Rosary, 7:00 pm
January 23
-Confession, Church, 3:00 pm
-Mass, Church, 4:00 pm
January 24
-Mass, Church, 8:30 am & 10:00 am
-Virtual Doughnuts & Coffee, 11:30 am
January 25
-Quilters, Parish Offices, 9:00 am
Daily Mass, Monday-Saturday, Church, 8:00 am

TV RESOURCES FOR MASS:

Diocese of St. Cloud: Sundays, 11 a.m. on KSTC-TV/45

Our Lady of Grace, Edina: Sunday, Noon on Fox 9+ (Dish/Direct 29, Comcast 10/807; Over Air 9.2)

St. Olaf, Minneapolis: MCN Cable Channel 6, Sundays at 8 p.m. and Mondays at 10 a.m.

St. Michael Broadcasting: Channel 14, antenna based (not cable) Catholic television airing several Masses per day

EWTN: *Check local cable/satellite schedule*

RADIO RESOURCES FOR MASS:

Relevant Radio 1330am: Weekdays and Sundays at noon, and Sundays at 9 a.m.

EWTN: *ewtn.com/radio/listen-live*

ONLINE / LIVE STREAM RESOURCES FOR MASS:

Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis

Mass live streamed on [Facebook](#), Weekdays at noon and Sunday at 9:30 a.m.; also posted on [website](#)

Cathedral of Saint Paul, St. Paul

Mass live streamed on [Facebook](#), Weekdays at 7:30 a.m. and Saturday at 5:15 p.m.; also posted on [website](#)

Our Lady of Peace, Minneapolis

Mass posted on [YouTube](#) most weekdays and Sunday; Rosary and Evening Prayer are posted on [Facebook](#)

Our Lady of Grace, Edina

Mass live streamed on [website](#), Wednesday at 9 a.m. and Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Paul

Mass live streamed on [YouTube](#), Sunday at 9 a.m. (English) and 11 a.m. (Spanish)

St. Stephen, Minneapolis

Mass online in English and Spanish on [website](#).

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.

PRAYER CORNER

Father, you revealed your Son to the nations by the guidance of a star. Lead us to your glory in heaven by the light of faith.