

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.

Email: church@sainthelena.us

Website: www.sainthelena.us

The Church of St. Helena

**Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 11, 2020**

“The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son...’Tell those invited: ‘Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast.’”

-Mt 22:2, 4bc



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THE WORD

The parable of the wedding feast in today's gospel is charming in many ways, but also difficult to understand as the details unfold. Like the parables in recent weeks, it is directed at the Chief Priests and Elders of the people, who refuse to recognize Jesus as the Son of God, our Messiah, and clearly reject him as savior and redeemer. They refuse the invitation of God to become one with the many who are invited to a wedding feast, the marriage of God with his people through Jesus who is the Son of God. The story is not so much about the wedding celebration, which is clearly celebrated in the gift of Jesus to the world, but about how and when we receive the invitation to be part of this marriage between God and us, the new and eternal covenant of God with us, a covenant established in our baptism.

The invitation goes out, not once, not twice, but three times, which gives the story an unusual twist. Usually when we receive an invitation, our response is either yes or no, and the host doesn't bother to send out a second invitation. Perhaps Jesus is trying to tell us that God invites us more than once to the wedding feast. It is not a once and for all time invitation. God calls us many times in our life time. There are those times when we say yes, and there are those times when we say no, but God doesn't give up on us. The invitation is on-going and God wants a full house.

What I find disturbing about the story is that it's more about the refusals than about the acceptance of the invitation. It is one thing to send in our regrets, but it's quite another thing to refuse to come, to ignore the invitation, and worst of all, to harm others because of the invitation. Perhaps Jesus does this so that we can see ourselves in the excuses we make and invites us to think twice about our refusals and the consequences of our choice.

I think of all the excuses, explanations, I hear about not going to Holy Mass on Sunday, the precursor of the wedding feast in heaven. There are sincere regrets, almost painful for some who are unable to get to Holy Mass for one reason or another. But for the most part, the excuses or explanations are simply a refusal to come or a total ignoring of the invitation to come, or worse, I'm not interested and don't pressure me.

I must admit that I have never understood the final word of Jesus with this story: many are called, but few are chosen. My interpretation is that all of us are invited to become the children of God, good and bad, but the choice is up to us.

Father Villano

In your relations with one another, clothe yourselves with humility, because God "is stern with the arrogant but to the humble he shows kindness." Bow humbly under God's right hand so that in due time he may lift you high. Cast all your cares on him because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5: 5-7)

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE—If you or a loved one is hospitalized or have moved to an Assisted Living/LTC facility please call the office at 612-729-7344 and ask for Virginia. At this time we are unable to make visits but the Anointing of the Sick can be arranged through the Archdiocese if it is allowed at the facility. Home visits, however, are now allowed with restrictions and can be discussed when you call. Your health, well being and spiritual care are important to us.

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.

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.

PRAY THE ROSARY WITH PARISHIONERS ON FRIDAY EVENINGS—Each Friday at 7:00 P.M., the Rosary is prayed on-line with parishioners. If you will need on-line info, call 612-275-0431.

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—

There are some people who 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.

DOUGHNUTS AND COFFEE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS—CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM BEGAN THIS PAST WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7—

It's not too late for parents of public school children in grades one through eight to enroll their children in the 2020-2021 Wednesday Night Religious Education Program by calling John Sondag at 612-275-0431. This program which began this past Wednesday, October 7, is held in Rowan Hall at 6:45 P.M.

"CRY ROOM"—The Cry Room will be closed during all Masses until further notice because of the Coronavirus.

THE 2020-2021 CONFIRMATION PROGRAM BEGAN THIS PAST WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7—Children in St. Helena parish in the eighth grade (and high school, if they have not yet been Confirmed) will receive the sacrament of Confirmation next May 18, 2021. If you are not in St. Helena grade school, please enroll now in the 2020-2021 Confirmation Program to prepare for the sacrament by calling John Sondag (612-275-0431). It's not too late to enroll. The program began this past Wednesday, October 7, in the Parish Office Building at 6:45 P.M.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?—The Church of St. Helena has a program that prepares people to become Catholic. It began on Tuesday, September 29, at 7:30 P.M. in the Parish Offices, but it's not too late to register. If Tuesdays are impossible for any individual, another time can be negotiated. For more information, call Fr. Villano or John Sondag at 612-729-7344.

DOUGLAS BUSHMAN WILL TALK ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, IN ROWAN HALL—Douglas Bushman, S.T.L., professor of theology at the Augustine Institute in Denver, will give a lecture on “In Times of Crisis, the Basics Get You Through,” at 7:30 P.M. on Tuesday, November 10, in Rowan Hall. All attendees will wear masks and social distance themselves. The tuition is \$5.00, however complimentary tickets are available (for those who have a difficulty paying) by calling 612-729-7321.

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 from the Coronavirus and civil unrest 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.

BUY A GIFT CARD FOR GROCERIES FOR NEEDY PERSONS—Purchase 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.

YOU CAN 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, October 22, at 6:30 P.M. in the Parish Offices. For more information, call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

GO ONLINE TO AUTUMNDAZE.ORG FOR SOME DEALS—You can get some great deals from the Attic Treasures and Silent Auction, if you go to autumndaze.org. The Silent Auction prices are set at the opening bid.

WE STILL ARE SELLING SOME OF THE LEFT-OVER FOOD FROM THE FESTIVAL—As of last Sunday, we have some frozen French fries, Chicken fingers, fish, pop, water, and bags of ice. Come downstairs after Masses this weekend to purchase some food.

FREE FOOD AND RESOURCES—The Hiawatha YMCA, 4100 28th Ave. S., has free food and resources for anyone in need! It has baby supplies, soap, and other hygiene items. Supplies are limited, but new items come in throughout the week. Please spread the word! Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00 Noon to 3:00 P.M. For questions call Matt at 612-547-9467.

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 Sundays, as well as the Rosary

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](#)



**SCRIPTURE # 1190
FOR OCT. 11TH**

**Is 25:6-10a
Phil 4:12-14 19-20
Mt 22:1-14 or 22:1-10**

**MASS INTENTIONS
8:00 AM**

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| Monday | † Julie Elwood |
| Tuesday | † Donna Schipansky |
| Wednesday | † Tom Lessard |
| Thursday | † Kathryn O'Neill |
| Friday | † John & † Gertrude Koller |
| Saturday | † Sylvia Kadriik |

SACRISTY AIDES—
(Linens) Eloise McDonald

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

October 12: Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31—5:1,
Lk 11:29-32

October 13: Gal 5:1-6, Lk 11:37-41

October 14: Gal 5:18-25, Lk 11:42-46

October 15: Eph 1:1-10, Lk 11:47-54

October 16: Eph 1:11-14, Lk 12:1-7

October 17: Eph 1:15-23, Lk 12:8-12

October 18: Is 45:1, 4-6, 1 Thes 1:1-5b,
Mt 22:15-21

**PARISH CALENDAR
October 12 — October 19**

October 12

October 13
-Catechumenate & Reception Program, Parish Offices,
7:30 pm

October 14
Religious Education Program, Rowan Hall, 6:45 pm
-Confirmation Program, Parish Offices, 6:45 pm

October 15

October 16
-Women's Prayer Group, Church, 8:30 am

October 17
-Confession, Church, 3:00 pm
-Mass, Church, 4:00 pm

October 18
-Mass, Church, 8:30 am & 10:00 am

October 19

Daily Mass, Monday-Saturday, Church, 8:00 am

ST. HELENA SCHOOL NEWS

As we prepared this summer to welcome students back in person, our protocols required more space in some classrooms than we were used to, even to the point of removing the teacher's desks. We are so grateful to Mrs. Stone who spent many summer Saturdays transforming our lesser-used spaces into spaces we could use, and spaces that had been frequently used, transformed into new, wonderful, usable spaces! Thank you, Mrs. Stone! You are our rock. All the teachers are enjoying the "Ruble Faculty Room."

Another beautiful remodel occurred in our Faculty Lounge this summer. Mrs. Bema Harvell & Mrs. Una Hachmann pulled up the old carpet, scrubbed off the glue, and sanded & refinished the wooden floors. Add in the new curtains, flowers, and the warm atmosphere is a welcome retreat for our teachers.

We have many friends and families for whom we are thankful for their help and assistance this summer. It is a tribute to our St. Helena community that it only takes an email or a phone call for quick assistance.

Thank you to those of you who helped in:

- Desk cleaning and dismantling of old furniture: Tenley Hughes, Una Hachmann, Julie Parker, Candace Linares, and Dennis Kieffer
- Book moving and moving of festival donations: Bema Harvell, Una Hachmann, Julie Parker, Candace Linares, Dennis Kieffer, and Tenley Hughes
- School Donations: Mary Folta & John Easley, Banyan Community Center, and Jean Bushey
- Setting up used school uniforms for our Back To School Meet & Greet: Tenley Hughes & Emma Helland
- Book Donations: Lisa Berg and Hoolahan family
- Student Volunteer (DeLaSalle): Jobe Monroe
- Kindergarten Family Coffee & Doughnuts: Julie Parker and Cody & Amy Johnson

Thank you to all who gave us a helping hand! St. Helena, pray for us.

Together in Christ,

Ellen Rian, Ed.S
Principal

PRAYER CORNER

Listen with compassion to our prayers, Lord. The forgiveness of sins is yours. Do not hang on the wrong we have done, but grant us your merciful kindness.