

## 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](mailto:church@sainthelena.us)

**Website:** [www.sainthelena.us](http://www.sainthelena.us)

# The Church of St. Helena

Fifth Sunday of Easter  
May 2, 2021

*"I am the vine, you are the branches.*

*Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear  
much fruit, because without me you can do nothing."*

-Jn 15:5



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

**THE WORD**

Remaining close to Jesus, staying connected with Jesus, being a friend and companion of Jesus, thinking about Jesus and loving Jesus, making Jesus known to others, loving others as Jesus has loved us, are just some of the ways that we remain with Jesus and Jesus remains with us. It becomes a way of life for us, not unknown to us personally and not unseen by others. Jesus tells us in today's gospel: Remain in me, as I remain in you . . . Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me . . . I am the vine, you are the branches.

How do we know that we remain with Jesus and Jesus with us? It's a big question with many answers from lots of people. In spite of what others say and do, the indicators from the gospel are rather simple and direct. The first indicator that we remain close to Jesus and Jesus to us is that we keep the commandments of God, the word that Jesus has spoken and remains forever. Keeping the commandments, all of them, not just some of them, is the primary sign of our connection with God and God's connection with us, revealed in Jesus Christ. We remain with God, and God remains with us. To keep his commandments and to do what pleases God is the way we remain in God and God in us. To the degree that we distance ourselves from the commandments, the

word of God, to that degree do we distance ourselves from God and Jesus.

A second indicator of our connection with Jesus is the law of charity, the love of God and the love of neighbor. How do we show our love for God and our love for neighbor? It can't be one or the other. It wasn't for Jesus and it can't be for us. How do we show or express our love for God on a daily basis, and how do we show or express our love for our neighbor on a daily basis? It is a way of life, without which we become self-centered, isolated, and disconnected from loved ones and those around us; and from Jesus.

The great indicator of Jesus remaining with us and us remaining with Jesus, in the words of Jesus himself, is Holy Communion. In John's gospel (chapter 6) Jesus tells us that he is the living bread of life: I myself am the living bread come from heaven; if anyone eats this bread he shall live forever; the bread I will give is my flesh, for the life of the world...the person who feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. Holy Communion is the way Jesus remains with us and we remain with him. It doesn't get any better.

Happy Easter.

Father Villano

**PASTOR'S REMARKS**

1) We welcome in a special way the children of our parish who will be making their First Communion at the 10:00 Mass this Sunday. It is a special day for them, for their families, and for the parish. Please welcome to the table of the Lord:

*Allison Cordova Hernandez, Camila Cordova Mendoza, Lydia Fischer, Madelyn Garrison, Willa Henry, Anthony Leonsaco, Olivia McKay, Aubrey Miller, Anna Murphy, Carlos Perez, John Quinde, Juniper Ratliff, Marie Reinhardt, May Sandkamp, Madeline Schmidt, Helen Tuma.*

1) *Work with anxious concern to achieve your salvation. It is God who, in his good will toward you, begets in you any measure of desire or achievement. In everything you do, act without grumbling or arguing; prove yourselves innocent and straight forward, children of God beyond reproach.*

Philippians 2.12b –15a

**THANK YOU**—On behalf of our local food shelf we appreciate your generous donation of 255 pounds of food for the month of March. It is only through the generosity of people such as you that the food shelf can continue to provide services to those who are in need. Your donation will greatly benefit those we serve throughout the community. The summer months are upon us and children will be out of school and dependent upon meals in their homes, so let us all continue to give and take care of those in most need. *"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."* Proverbs 11:25

**ARCHBISHOP FLYNN CATECHETICAL INSTITUTE**

—Applications Available for Class of St. Joseph on Mondays, 7:00-9:00 P.M. at Transfiguration, Oakdale and other satellite sites. Ever wonder what God has planned for your life? This fall, the Archbishop Flynn Catechetical Institute will offer the two-year Pillars Program in person at Transfiguration Catholic Church in Oakdale and at various Catechetical Institute (CI) Satellite Sites, where students will participate in the small group dynamic and gather together to watch the lectures via live stream. Taught by some of the best instructors in the Twin Cities, such as Bishop Andrew Cozzens, Jeff Cavins, Deacon Joe Michalak, Deacon Dan Gannon, Fr. John Klockeman, Dr. Todd Flanders, Christina Smith, Liz Kelly, and more, the CI: Pillars Program follows the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and will make sense of all things Catholic, deepen your faith, and layout the roadmap to Heaven. Applications are now being accepted for the Class of St. Joseph. For more information, CI: Satellite Sites locations, and an application, visit [semssp/ci](http://semssp/ci) or call (651) 962-5072.

**DISCERNING PRIESTHOOD?**—Those discerning priesthood who would like to discuss next steps are invited to contact Vocations Director Father David Blume. Father Blume is currently meeting with men applying to be considered for acceptance as Archdiocesan seminarians for fall 2021. Father Blume can be reached at 651-962-6890 or at [fr:blume@stthomas.edu](mailto:fr:blume@stthomas.edu).

**DAILY CHURCH HOURS**—The handicapped door will be open Monday through Friday until Noon.

**SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER—FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION DURING THIS TIME OF THE CORONAVIRUS:**

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 SOMEONE WHO'S DYING ALONE FROM THE CORONAVIRUS OR WHO'S DYING WITHOUT THE SACRAMENTS—**

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

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?—**

The Church of St. Helena offers a program that prepares people to become Catholic. It's held on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 P.M. in the Parish Offices. If Tuesdays are impossible for any individual, another time can be negotiated. For more information, call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

**PLAN AHEAD: "AUTUMN DAZE" FESTIVAL—**

**SEPTEMBER 17, 18, & 19**—Mark your calendar for the Autumn Daze Festival on September 17, 18, and 19. We're planning a full-scale festival with rides, entertainment, food, games, parade, auction, quilt bingo,—the whole grand "shebang." We figure it's easier to scale back at the last minute because of restrictions than to ramp up in a week. So, volunteer, sign-up, and plan to have one of the greatest festivals ever. We've already made 45 of the 50 quilts for prizes!

**BUTTON LOGO CONTEST**—You can win prizes in the Button Logo Contest for the 2021 "Autumn Daze." See the contest entrance blank in the bulletin or call 612-275-0431 for a set of rules. Adults and children can enter.

**IF YOU ARE 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 assistance 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.

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH—**

The Church of St. Helena offers a program that helps people to know more about the Catholic Faith and have their questions answered. For more information, call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

**HELP THE NEEDY THROUGH 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, May 13, at 6:30 P.M. in the Parish Offices. For more information, call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

**ENRICH YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH**—You can bolster and enliven your faith by purchasing and listening to some CDs displayed at the handicap entrance to the church. As we continue to have limited in-person 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 ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS—**

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.

**PRAY THE VIRTUAL ROSARY—FRIDAY EVENINGS AT 7:00 P.M.—**

You can pray the Rosary with parishioners on Fridays at 7:00 P.M. Call 612-275-0431 to get the Zoom ID and Password.

**SUMMER FESTIVAL SALE—**

Go to [www.sainthelena.us](http://www.sainthelena.us) and click on Summer Festival Sale to discover many household items, furniture, toys, and more being sold by Autumn Daze.

**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.

**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 can be discussed when you call Virginia. Your health, well being and spiritual care are important to us.

**FOOD SHELF—**

Thank you all for your care and generosity for those in need. It's heart warming to see all the donations coming in weekly. Please continue to bring rice, pasta, oatmeal, canned goods, cereal, peanut butter and jelly. Cake mixes and cans of frosting can be fun items for families wanting to celebrate their loved ones, along with muffin and cookie mixes. *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, for God loves a cheerful giver."* 2 Cor. 9:7

**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.



**SCRIPTURE # 1089**

**Acts 9:26-31  
1 Jn 3:18-24  
Jn 15:1-8**

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**8:00 AM**

<b>Monday</b>	† <b>Frances Heinen</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	† <b>Ellen Carvatt</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>For Our Bishops</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	† <b>Kevin Gibbs</b>
<b>Friday</b>	† <b>Geraldine Ryan</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	† <b>Ronald Balster</b>

**SACRISTY LINENS—Ann Holleschau**

**WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*May 3:* 1 Cor 15:1-8, Jn 14:6-14  
*May 4:* Acts 14:19-28, Jn 14:27-31a  
*May 5:* Acts 15:1-6, Jn 15:1-8  
*May 6:* Acts 15:7-21, Jn 15:9-11  
*May 7:* Acts 15:22-31, Jn 15:12-17  
*May 8:* Acts 16:1-10, Jn 15:18-21  
*May 9:* Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48,  
 1 Jn 4:7-10, Jn 15:9-17

**PARISH CALENDAR**

*May 3—May 10*

**May 3**  
-Quilters, Parish Offices, 9:00 am

**May 4**

**May 5**  
-Religious Education Program, Rowan Hall, 6:45 pm  
-Confirmation Program, Parish Offices, 6:45 pm  
-Quilters, Parish Offices, 6:15 pm

**May 6**

**May 7**  
-Women's Prayer Group, Church, 8:30 am  
-Virtual Rosary, 7:00 pm

**May 8**  
-Confession, Church, 3:00 pm  
-Mass, Church, 4:00 pm

**May 9**  
-Mother's Day  
-Mass, Church, 8:30 am & 10:00 am

**May 10**  
-Quilters, Parish Offices, 9:00 am

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

**ST. HELENA SCHOOL NEWS**

***Spotlight on Kindergarten***

This month in Kindergarten we adopted some caterpillars. In honor of our new friends each student got to pick a caterpillar that they will observe inside the kinder classroom. The students each gave their caterpillar a name. Some of these names included Jack, Elsa, Mighty, Sunny, and Lisa. In science we are learning about the life cycle of a butterfly. At the end of the school year we will have a butterfly release into the wild celebration. Be on the lookout for butterflies in your area.

I am beyond impressed with the leaps and bounds that the students have made in Kindergarten. Each student is working diligently with the Believe and Read curriculum. Students are able to recognize beginning, middle and end sounds in words. They have been sounding out words on their own and spelling words as well. Some have been reading books on their own. It has been such a treat to watch the kindergarteners grow and learn this year.

In math we are currently working on 3-Dimensional shapes and their characteristics (vertices, edges, and faces). We have been using our math vocabulary to describe everyday objects. Kindergarten has also been working with the subtraction symbol and solving subtraction problems within ten. In their spare time they have been making math scrolls.

On top of all of the fun shenanigans we have planned in Kindergarten, we are also preparing for our ABC count-down. During this time we will have fun events planned and we will be preparing for our end of the year Kindergarten graduation.

I am so thankful for the wonderful community that has been built within our kindergarten classroom and I am excited for all of the adventures my kinder students will go on throughout their years in elementary school.

Mrs. Shannon Skibba  
Kindergarten Teacher

**WAYS TO WATCH/LISTEN TO MASS—**For ways to watch or listen to Mass, visit: [archspm.org/live](http://archspm.org/live).

**PRAYER CORNER**

Lord Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, you declared that whoever receives a little child in your name receives you, and you promised your kingdom to those who are like the children. Never let pride reign in our hearts, but may the Father's compassion reward and embrace all who willingly bear your gentle yoke.