

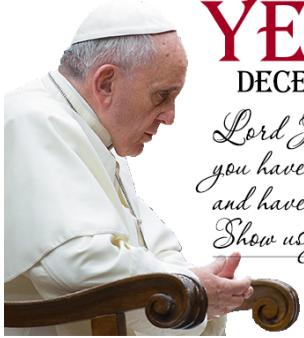
Saint Helena

One Family, One Heart, One Faith

Parish Resource Booklet 2016

YEAR OF MERCY

DECEMBER 8TH, 2015 - NOVEMBER 20TH, 2016



*Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.
Show us your face and we will be saved.*

Parish Mission Statement

One Family

United as members of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, we are committed, as ONE FAMILY, to be messengers of God's love and presence in the world, and to welcome and invite others to become part of this family and this mission.

One Heart

Called by our Baptism to a life of service in the Lord, we are committed, with ONE HEART, to live in charity, practice the works of mercy, and work for peace and justice.

One Faith

Strengthened by God's Word and nourished by His Sacraments, we are committed, in ONE FAITH, to promote lives of learning, living, and proclaiming the Gospel message, as we continue to grow in the knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of all that embodies these awe-inspiring truths.

SAINT HELENA CHURCH

1489 DeKalb Pike, Blue Bell, Pennsylvania 19422
Phone: 610-275-7711 Fax: 610-275-7610
Parish Email: parish@sainthelenachurch.org
Church Web Site: www.sainthelena-centersquare.net
School Phone: 610-279-3345 Fax: 610-279-3272
School Web Site: www.sainthelenaschool.org
PREP Phone: 610-279-3870
PREP Web Site: www.sainthelenaprep.org
Archdiocese Web Site: www.archphila.org
Vatican Web Site: www.vatican.va

 <http://www.facebook.com/SaintHelenaBBPA>

 <http://www.twitter.com/SaintHelenaBBPA>

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Friday:
9AM-12PM and 1PM-5PM

PARISH STAFF

Parish Priest: Rev. Msgr. Joseph J. Nicolo
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Tadeusz Gorka
Weekend Ministry: Rev. Scott Brentwood, O. de M.
Parish Deacon: Deacon A. Kenneth Belanger
Business Manager: Cathy Neugebauer
Parish Secretaries: Gina Malony & Stephanie Donley
Facilities Director: Vince Thompson

School Principal: Sr. Cathe Shoulberg, RSM
School Secretary: Phyllis Cissone
Dir. of Religious Education: Madeleine Fitzgerald
Director of Music: Cheryl Platco
Director of Youth/Young Adults/Adults: Kurt Zampier

CHAPEL HOURS: The St. Theresa Chapel is open Monday through Friday from 6:15 AM to 9:00 PM; Saturday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM; and Sunday from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM. All are welcome to spend time with our Lord during these hours.

Thank you all for your faithful stewardship to our parish!

"Your care, concern, and commitment to Saint Helena Parish are evident and greatly appreciated. Thank you all for your continuing generosity to our Parish Family."

Msgr. Nicolo

Mass Schedule:

Saturday: Anticipated Mass 5:00 PM

Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Weekdays: Mon. - Sat. 9:00 AM in the St. Theresa Chapel

Holy Day: Anticipated Mass 7:00 PM

Holy Day: 7:00, 9:00 AM & 12:15 PM



Confessions:

Saturdays - 4:00-4:30 PM in the Church or
call the Parish Office for an appointment.

A PRAYER FOR THE YEAR OF MERCY

Lord Jesus Christ, You have taught us
to be merciful like our Heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees You sees God.
Show us Your Face and we will be saved.
You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
the God Who manifests His power
above all by forgiveness and mercy:
let Your Church be Your visible face in the world.
Send Your Spirit and consecrate
every one of us with His anointing,
so that the Jubilee of Mercy
may be a year of grace from the Lord,
and Your Church, with renewed enthusiasm,
may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.

Pope Francis

HISTORY OF SAINT HELENA PARISH



We all know that our history shapes our present and our future, and the history of St. Helena Parish has been a rich foundation indeed. We take great pride in looking back, sharing and savoring our unfolding story, a tribute to the faith, trust, love and sacrifice of those who have gone before us.

Our story began with the vision of Dennis Cardinal Dougherty. On October 3, 1919, Cardinal Dougherty informed a young priest, Father Francis Higgins, that he was to become the pastor and founding father of a new parish in Montgomery County, the first parish formed east of Norristown, west of Ambler and north of Chestnut Hill. The parish would be known as St. Helena, Centre Square. Father Higgins was fascinated with the rich history of the area and learned of a farmhouse where Washington's Continental forces sought respite from the British. This farmhouse was owned by Mrs. James McClosky, the mother of a friend of his, who offered it to him as a temporary residence. Father celebrated his first parish Mass there, and many subsequent Masses, for some twenty-five to thirty Catholic families over a fifty-square-mile area. While Father was searching for a place to set up a temporary Church, and a more suitable residence, he met up with one of his parishioners, Ellen Duddy, who owned a very large farmhouse nearby.

Father Higgins asked Miss Duddy for permission to say Mass there and she was so delighted she not only said yes, but also gave Father two acres of her land for the building of his Church. In 1922, Ellen Duddy died, leaving the remaining acreage, farm house and livestock to Father Higgins, who had captured the imagination of his parishioners with his deep devotion, hard work and dedication to his mission.



Fr. Higgins

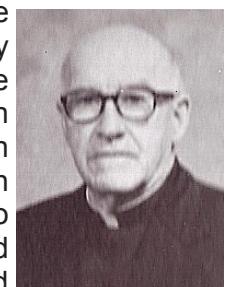


Using the Duddy farmhouse as the Rectory, Fr. Higgins built our first Church—a small rustic chapel with leaded glass windows and a marble altar. Father had such a deep devotion to St. Therese, the Little Flower, that he planted roses on the sprawling grounds in her memory and initiated Sunday afternoon novena devotions in her honor. Word spread throughout the area about Father Higgins, the eloquent pastor with the down-to-earth sermons, the weekly novena devotions and the beautiful rural setting at St. Helena in Centre Square.

Pilgrims came by the hundreds by car, train and trolley to that first little Church which became known as the Shrine of the Little Flower. It is in keeping with this lovely tradition that Father Nicolo decided to name the new chapel the St. Therese Chapel and to re-instate weekly novena devotions in her honor. The St. Therese Chapel displays proudly the original statue from the earlier Shrine and is adorned with a magnificent ceiling mural of Jesus, Mary and our beloved Therese. What a lovely continuation of our long and very devout history with the Little Flower!



In 1946, Father Higgins became very ill and needed help taking care of his parish. Father Thomas P. Kelly was sent as Administrator to serve the needs of the two hundred and seventeen parish families. In April 1948, Father Higgins died after twenty-nine years of service to God and the people of St. Helena; Father Thomas P. Kelly was named Pastor. In this new role, he recognized and moved forward with his mission to provide a Catholic education for the children entrusted to his care. He set out to accomplish this goal by selling some of the parish land to fund the building of a new school, and he elicited the help of the Sisters of Mercy to teach and catechize our young. St. Helena School opened



Fr. Kelly

in the convent, a farmhouse, in 1949. A beautiful new school was completed in 1950, followed by our second Church in 1952. Even in 1952, as this new structure was being built, the parishioners realized that what was designed to be used as their Church was in fact only temporary. Eventually, the space would be integrated into the floor plan of the school itself as is evidenced by the strategic centralized location.



Fr. Kearney



Fr. Coates



Fr. Vadino

This was a time of tremendous growth both in the parish and in the area. Eventually, St. Helena became the seed from which five new parishes grew. What a long way we have come from the dreams of Father Higgins and his beloved shrine on our rural rolling farmland! Through the years, our vision continued to grow and take shape under the dedicated leadership and pastoral care of Fathers James J. Kearney, John T. Coates, and Joseph A. Vadino.

Father Coates, led our parish with his own unique style of warmth and grace for more than twenty years as we grew and transitioned from a small rural parish to the burgeoning suburban parish we see today.



In January, 2002, our present Pastor, Father Joseph J. Nicolo, shared with us his vision for our emerging needs to build a beautiful Church and to expand our parish facilities in two phases. The first of three buildings in Phase I, the Social and Recreation Center, was dedicated in February, 2004.

Our magnificent new Church was dedicated by Justin Cardinal Rigali on October 31, 2004. The Daily Mass Chapel, which has been dedicated to St. Theresa of the Little Flower, was blessed by Father Nicolo on November 22, 2004. Even after the dedication of the Church, and the



blessing of the St. Theresa Chapel, work continued with the addition of exquisite stained glass windows, lovely frescos, garden shrines, and magnificent murals of the Annunciation and Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. A new parking lot adjacent to the Church was completed in the Fall of 2005 and our beloved statues of St. Theresa and St. Joseph found a wonderful new home outdoors adding a welcoming and inspirational touch to our overall look.

The vision continued to take shape and the old Church was converted into two fourth grade classrooms, two fifth grade classrooms, an Honors Math Room, and a Science Lab. An elevator was installed in the connection (“the Link”) between the former Church and the Social and Recreation Center making the entire campus handicap accessible. This conversion brought to fruition the plans for our temporary Church envisioned back in 1952, enhancing our vision and our purpose not only for today, but for our many tomorrows.



By the grace of God and the generosity of our people, we were able to move forward into Phase II of the Building Campaign. In September of 2006, another dream was realized when we extended our educational mission to include a Pre-K Program for three- and four-year-olds. The two fifth grade classrooms in the convent were converted into two beautiful pre-school classrooms, two new mini-sized bathrooms, faculty room, and adult bathroom on the ground floor and yet another classroom for three-year-olds on the first floor. This necessitated moving the Music Room to a modular unit that also accommodates the Musical Instruments Room and Spanish Room. This project also included the creation of a wonderful outdoor space complete with a state-of-the-art playground and new driveway.

A beautiful new rectory roof designed to match the Church and Chapel added a wonderfully coordinated dimension to the magnifycent campus look. The Stations of the Cross and the Bavarian Wayside Shrine were added along the internal roadways of the parish grounds.



In 2007, the Empress Room was built in the church basement, the Sacred Heart and Blessed Mother Statues were added, and lovely improvements were made to the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto.

In 2008, the long awaited vision became a wonderful reality with the completion of Phase II of our Capital Building Campaign. The old Church entrance was expanded into a beautiful and functional space complete with a Reception Area, Library, Technology Center, Art Room, Principal's Office, PREP Office, Faculty Room, Parish Room and Secretary's Office, nestled under a majestic new roofline which continues our beautiful campus silhouette.

The transformational completion of Phases I and II of our building campaign, and the magnificent expansion of our parish facility, has generated an enormous increase in parish activity seven days a week and a corresponding need to assess and update our traffic and safety concerns.



In 2012, an artfully designed roadway and beautifully landscaped berm were added to the upper level parking lot to redirect traffic away from the Education Center. The berm will, in addition, maximize our protection from potential hazards which may result from the anticipated widening of the adjoining highway. The entire parking lot was resurfaced, new lighting was installed, and additional parking was added to the Empress Room area, all funded largely by our proceeds from the "Heritage of Faith~Vision" Campaign.

In 2013, thanks to generous donations by parishioners, four magnificent murals were completed in our main Church. "No Room in the Inn" and "Flight into Egypt" now beautifully enhance the Nativity stained glass widow while "The Ascension" and

"The Descent of the Holy Spirit" impressively frame the Resurrection.

In 2014, we celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the Dedication of our Church and the 95th Anniversary of the Founding of our Parish. On October 26th, Monsignor Nicolo, Father Szparagowski and Father Gorka concelebrated the beautiful Mass on the Anniversary of the Dedication of a Church, accompanied by the majestic contributions of a nine piece orchestra and our own Children's Chime Choir and Adult Choir. A lovely Reception followed in the Empress Room where the entire Parish was invited to enjoy a sumptuous, complimentary Buffet Brunch in the company of a very grateful Parish Family!

In 2015, our beautiful landscape was enhanced once again with the creation of the idyllic St. Francis Garden. In anticipation of the 100th Anniversary of the Founding of our Parish in 2019, we actively geared up our Beautification, Restoration and Enhancement efforts with the installation of a new Audio/Sound System in the Church.

We continued these efforts in 2016 with the addition of a lovely Rosary Garden and the redesign and expansion of all of our Gardens and Shrines. Through the generosity of one of our parish families, the following magnificent murals now adorn the Chapel of St Theresa, the Little Flower: Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes, Sermon on the Mount, Finding Jesus in the Temple, Wedding Feast of Cana, Forgiveness/ Woman Caught in Adultery, and The Transfiguration.

We are so blessed to build an incredible place to further God's kingdom right here at St. Helena and to continue the wonderful legacy of those who have gone before us. How blessed we are to have journeyed here at St. Helena, Centre Square, and to have had this rich mantle handed down to us!



It is with a deep sense of awe that each of us will imprint it with our own story and unfurl it proudly for all those generations yet to come.



ON BEING A PARISHIONER

In joining any parish, we become part of a family that depends on the support of its members through the stewardship of time, talent and treasure. A family's ongoing strength and effectiveness is truly a group effort, maintained by the loving, caring actions of each member and by the ability to manifest sustained financial stability. At St. Helena Parish, we are blessed by a wonderful sacramental life, incredible educational programs, and a wealth of extended ministries, all of which enable us to experience the ordinary events of our lives as graced and extraordinary as we continue to grow in grace.



The Eucharist is the heart of the mission of the parish, and a faith community can only grow and become effective when the Celebration of the Eucharist, the Mass, is at its center and the basis of its mission.

A commitment to the mission of the parish establishes our relationships with each other in faith. For members of the Church, it is expected and hoped that those seeking the Sacraments are practicing Catholics in good standing. The same is true when parents present their children for the Sacraments. There must be a well-founded hope that the children will be raised in the Catholic faith.

We welcome all who come to register to be a part of our parish family, and we want you to know that we are enhanced by your presence among us. We are proud to be there for you and to do all that we can to fulfill your expectations of us to meet your spiritual and temporal needs. We remind you that, together, we are called to meet each other's needs; and so, we humbly ask in return that you be there - for us and with us - as a fully participating member of the Saint Helena parish family.

Those seeking the Sacraments, and parents seeking Sacraments for their children, are asked to provide acknowledgements of being active participants in the parish's life and mission. Guidelines and expectations for active membership in Saint Helena Parish would include:

- † becoming a registered member of the Parish,
- † participating in Liturgy on Sundays *and* Holy Days of Obligation,
- † your sacrificial giving which reflects your prayerful and thoughtful response of gratitude to God. God calls us to be equal in our sacrifice.

We also need your help and active participation in one or more of the many ministries we offer which truly enrich not only the mission of Saint Helena Parish, but your own experience as a member of our parish family.



Ever-conscious of God's blessing towards us, may we continually strive to love and serve Him in a spirit of gratitude. May the words of the Psalmist be in our hearts and forever on our lips, "What can I offer the Lord for all His goodness to me?" (Ps 116:12)

LIVING YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Do you participate at Mass, or is it too much of a bother?

Despite our very complex and busy lives, we must strive to keep the Lord's Day holy. Our first priority is to worship God publicly by participating at holy Mass. Since the days of the Apostles, the Church community has gathered together on Sunday. The Code of Canon Law states, "On Sundays and other Holy Days of Obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass" (No. 1247). This obligation makes perfect sense. We have a moral obligation to give visible, public and regular worship to the God Who created all things, including ourselves; Who has blessed us in many ways; and Who saved us from sin. Just as we attend to our material and physical concerns, we must attend to the well-being of our souls through prayer and public worship.

While this is a precept of our Church, we should consider it a privilege to participate at Mass. We gather as the Body of Christ sharing a common unity of faith and baptism. At Mass, we are nourished through the Word of God proclaimed in Sacred Scripture. We are then plunged into the mystery of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection, and nourished again through a sharing in His Sacred Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist. When "Mass has ended" and we have given thanks, we then go on to our regular routine in our busy world, but we take Jesus with us. The ending really marks a beginning. The Mass becomes the launching pad for the rest of the week.



Have you lost interest in the Church?

Are you dissatisfied with the way you were treated by someone in the Church, or separated from the Church for some other reason? If you would like to come back, please contact one of the priests at 610-275-7711 or Jo-Ann Belanger at 610-239-9750.

Is participation at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation Enough?

While participation at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation will satisfy one particular precept of the Church, there are many other opportunities to worship and serve Our Lord. We encourage you to participate in special devotions such as Forty Hours, visit the Blessed Sacrament, and lend your talents to one of the many ministries of our Church. The more you participate in the liturgical and temporal life of our Parish, the more you will feel at home.

Are you Homebound?

Our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion bring the Blessed Sacrament to our homebound parishioners. Contact the Parish Office at 610-275-7711 if you cannot get to Mass and would like an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to visit you at home—even if it's only for a week or two. You can also view our weekend Masses from our website at www.sainthelenacenter-square.net and clicking on the "Live Mass Broadcasts" link. If you do not have internet, Mass can be viewed on Channel 6 Sundays at 5:30 AM.

RETURNING CATHOLICS / LANDINGS

If you are...

feeling lost or away from your faith;
angry, hurt or confused about the Church;
needing a *safe* place to talk about your faith;
feeling like you want to come back, but don't know where to begin, then...



...WELCOME HOME !

Whatever the reason and for however long it has been, **we miss you**. You are wanted and needed more than you know. Please come home. The door is always open. We welcome Catholics who, for whatever reason, feel hurt, excluded, ignored, or whatever the case may be, and have not been regularly active members of our parish family. We would like to meet with you and listen to your story (if that is your desire or need).

Would you like to investigate returning to the Sacraments? ...returning to the Table of the Lord? After a short visit with the pastor or chosen representative, you may want to join a "**Landings**" group for a few weeks to learn more about returning and the changes that have taken place in the Church since you've been away. "**Landings**" is a safe harbor, or landing place, for returning Catholics to explore their faith and their future with the Church. For more information, please contact Jo-Ann Belanger at (H) 610-279-8042; (W) 610-239 9750, or at jo-ann@belangerandcompany.com or call the Parish Office at 610-275-7711.

Do you have a question you would like to have answered?

You can personally speak to one of the priests or a staff member by calling the Rectory at 610-275-7711.

Have you been away from the Church and are considering coming back?

For whatever the reason and for however long it has been, God's grace is sufficient and we miss you! Please refer to "Returning Catholics / Landings" below.

Are you married "outside of the Church"?

If you would like to see if your marriage can be convalidated ("blessed" in the Church), please refer to our segment on Marriage and contact one of our Priests at 610-275-7711.

Would you like to become a member of the Catholic Church?

Please refer to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) on page 14. Feel free to contact the priests or Deacon Ken Belanger to discuss any questions you might have. (Parish Office. 610-275-7711)



AN INVITATION TO BECOME CATHOLIC

RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA is a process of instruction, prayer, and faith sharing; a journey towards full communion with the Catholic Church. Participants may be unbaptized, baptized in another Christian faith, or a baptized Catholic whose faith journey has been interrupted. The RCIA process is designed to assist these individuals in moving toward full membership.

If you or someone you know expresses a desire to experience the faith, or a closeness to Jesus in His Word, His Sacraments, and His Mystical Body the Church, now might be a good time to suggest that they call Msgr. Nicolo, Fr. Gorka, or Deacon Ken Belanger at the Parish Office (610-275-7711). We will follow up individually with each request.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

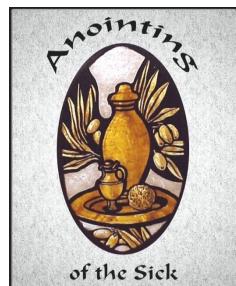
Baptisms are celebrated the second Sunday of each month after the 11:00 AM Mass. Please stop by the Parish Office for information on scheduling Baptism for your child. Pre-Jordan classes are required for parents, and optional for godparents, and are *usually* offered the first Monday of the month at 7:30 PM in the Education Center. Call to register for class.



THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE



Arrangements must be made with a priest at least six months *prior* to your desired wedding date. The Arch-diocese requires that all couples attend Pre-Cana class. St. Helena offers a Pre-Cana Day which fulfills the Arch-diocesan requirements. The topics for the day will consist of Communications, Life Adjustments, Sexuality, and Spirituality. You'll begin the day at 9:00 AM with coffee and donuts, enjoy a catered lunch, and end the day with 5:00 PM Mass and a special blessing. Please contact Rob & Lena Gelenberg at Robgel@comcast.net or 610-292-8359 for class information and registration.



ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Arrangements can be made for a priest to come either to your home, hospital or nursing home to anoint you when you are sick. Parishioners or family members can make arrangements by calling the Parish Office at 610-275-7711.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

"Be perfect, just as your Heavenly Father is perfect." (*Mt 5:48*) This is a mandate of the Gospel and this is our life's call. Because of Adam's sin, we have a fallen human nature. Because of Christ's Suffering, Death, and Resurrection, we have been redeemed. Fortunately for us, Our Savior gave us a wondrous Sacrament to forgive sin and to be a positive source of grace to strengthen us on our journey through life. This Sacrament is known by various names: Confession, Penance, and Reconciliation. Each name captures a facet of this wondrous healing sacrament. Reception of the Sacrament is needed when there is grave sin. Going to Confession frequently is encouraged since it is a positive source of God's grace. All that is needed for a good confession is true sorrow for our sins and the amendment to sin no more.

A GUIDE FOR CONFESSION

Before Confession:

Be truly sorry for your sins. The essential act of Penance on the part of the penitent is contrition, a rejection of sins committed, and a firm amendment not to commit them again. God's grace will give you the strength you need to resist and overcome temptation in the future. Refer to the guide below as you prepare for your confession and reflect on the state of your relationship with God and your neighbor.



As you enter the confessional, you have a choice of maintaining anonymity by kneeling behind the traditional confessional screen or by sitting and speaking face-to-face with the priest who sits "*in persona Christi*."

During Confession:

Begin by making the *Sign of the Cross* and greeting the priest: "BLESS ME FATHER, FOR I HAVE SINNED." You may continue with the time since your last confession: "MY LAST GOOD CONFESSION WAS... (how long ago)."

SAY the sins that **you remember**. Start with the one that is most difficult to say; after that it will be easier to mention the rest. Conclude with "I AM SORRY FOR THESE AND ALL THE SINS OF MY PAST LIFE." The priest will assign you some penance and give you some advice to help you to be a better Catholic. Listen to the words of absolution. At the end, answer: "Amen." This penance will diminish the temporal punishment due to sins already forgiven.

Act of Contrition:

Oh my God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You, whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In His name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

After Confession:

Give thanks to God for forgiving you. If you recall some serious sin you forgot to tell, rest assured that it has been forgiven with the others, but be sure to confess it in your next Confession. Perform your penance before you leave Church.

SAINT HELENA SCHOOL

St. Helena School provides educational programs in Pre-K 3 through eighth grade to children with various intellectual abilities. The Pre-K Program includes two four-year-old full day classes and one three-year-old full-day class. Our school is deeply rooted in the legacy of Mother Catherine McAuley, founder of the Sisters of Mercy. In the Mercy tradition, we proclaim our mission to be Beacons of Light and Hope through Service. We affirm the Gospel values through our commitment to the teachings of Jesus and provide our students with the knowledge and tools to make just choices in life. Our tradition of academic excellence is due to the work of a dedicated faculty and administration, as well as an involved parent group. All work together to form a nurturing community for our students. Strong in our belief in God's message as revealed by Jesus Christ, we are led by the Spirit to live a life of faith in action. In the Mercy tradition, we proclaim our message of hope in our task of building the City of God on earth. This calling is evidenced in our daily response of making a commitment towards a conversion of the heart. Our chosen path is distinct; it calls each of us to be the best that we can be so that each person will be able to walk confidently with a strong faith, a vision of hope, and a love for one another. Our faith community continues to make a significant difference in bringing about the Reign of God on earth.



Principal: Sister Cathe Shoulberg, RSM

Faculty: 27 full-time; 8 part-time teachers

Areas in which our children have excelled:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Science Fair | 6. Band/Jazz Band |
| 2. Mathletes | 7. Archdiocesan Art Competitions |
| 3. Math and Science Bowls | 8. Johns Hopkins Talent Search |
| 4. Forensic Competition | 9. Temple University Earth Fest |
| 5. Choral Competition | 10. Dinner Theatre Production |

Sacramental Preparation:

Grade 2 - Reconciliation and First Eucharist;

Grade 6 - Confirmation

Foreign Language: Spanish presently taught to grades 5 through 8

Computers: State of the Art Technology for all grades, K through 8

Dance: Ballet, Jazz, Hip Hop, Tap

Liturgical Involvement

- | | | |
|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| 1. Cantor | 2. Chorus – Choirs | 3. Lector |
|-----------|--------------------|-----------|

Parental Involvement

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Art Express | 5. Lunch/Recess Volunteer |
| 2. Teacher Aide | 6. Home Room Parent |
| 3. Home and School Board | 7. Traffic Monitor |
| 4. Art Goes to School | 8. Receptionist |

For information on St. Helena School, call Sister Cathe at 610-279-3345 or visit our website at www.sainthelenaschool.org

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM – P R E P

St. Helena Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) provides religious education for parish children who do not attend St. Helena School or a private Catholic school. The program runs from September to May every Tuesday evening from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. This program offers everyone the opportunity for faith and spiritual enrichment. As catechists, parents, and students at PREP, we celebrate, learn and share one faith in God. Retreats, special projects, and socials add an exciting and practical experience for our students. Through PREP, children in the second grade receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Penance) and Holy Communion. The sixth grade children receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Working together, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we witness to the Gospel and its command to “*Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel.*” (Mark 16:15)

Goals of Religious Education:

- To support, complement and reinforce the family as the primary community in which faith is developed.
- To promote catechesis and faith enrichment through parent sacrament preparation classes.
- To provide opportunities for on-going faith development for children and youth.
- To provide a well-balanced curriculum that involves both content and experience.
- To offer experiences of prayer, in many different forms, inside and outside the classroom setting.
- To offer retreats and other experiences of intensive prayer and fellowship in a group setting.
- To offer outreach to the community in the form of class service projects.
- To assist in creating parish liturgies that inspire, teach and lead children and youth to meaningful worship.
- To improve the competence of the catechetical faculty and staff.
- To provide opportunities for faculty and staff for catechetical education and enrichment.

Service to our youth:

We provide young people the encouragement and opportunity to follow the teachings of the Catholic Church through community and social actions. This will include participating in events, which encapsulate the Catholic faith such as helping the poor, feeding the hungry, and other social justice programs. It may also include spreading good example by being involved in religious education of younger students, and helping our pastor, Msgr. Nicolo, with special events. Our junior youth (seventh and eighth grade) are offered an opportunity to gather for education, social activities, and service projects.

(Cont'd on next page)

PREP Activities throughout the academic year are:

September	Collection for Bingo Baskets
October	Costume Family Bingo
November	Family Food Drive
December	Christmas Tableau
January	Vitamin Drive
February	Confirmation Retreat
March	Lent Awareness
May	Closing Ceremony and May Crowning; Eighth Grade Awards, Perfect Attendance Awards for grades one through eight; First Grade Well-Done Awards.

For information on Saint Helena PREP, call Madeleine Fitzgerald, Director, at 610-279-3870. Watch for "Madeleine's Message" in the Sunday bulletin.



10/30

DEVOTIONS:

The following devotions are held in the St. Theresa Chapel following daily Mass:

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament:

Mon. through Fri. after 9:00 Mass; concluding at 7:30 PM.

Most Holy Rosary: Mon. through Sat. 8:25 AM

Divine Mercy Chaplet: Mon. 3:00 PM

St. Peregrine Novena: Mon. Following daily Mass

Religious Vocations: Tue. Following daily Mass

Family & Parish: Wed. Following daily Mass

Most Precious Blood: Thu. Following daily Mass

Sacred Heart of Jesus: Fri. Following daily Mass

St. Theresa: Sat. Following daily Mass



NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is an umbrella term for certain methods used to achieve and postpone pregnancy. Approved by the Catholic Church, these methods are based on observation of the naturally occurring signs and symptoms of the fertile and infertile phases of a woman's menstrual cycle. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has an excellent publication dealing with this subject on its website. The publication is "An Introduction to Natural Family Planning", developed by the Diocesan Development Program for Natural Family Planning, written by Richard Fehring, DNSc, RN Stella Kitchen, and Mary Shivanandan, STD.

Website: <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/nfp/intronfp.htm>

WORLD-WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

The emphasis of Worldwide Marriage Encounter, a marriage enrichment program, is on communication between husband and wife, who spend a weekend together away from the distractions and the tensions of everyday life, to concentrate on each other. It's not a retreat, nor a marriage clinic, nor group sensitivity. It's a unique approach aimed at revitalizing Christian Marriage. This is a time for you and your spouse to be alone together. To rediscover each other and together focus on your relationship for an entire weekend. Every marriage deserves that kind of attention!

- * Rediscover the spark that was there on your wedding day!
- * Rediscover the best friend you had when you were first married!

Join the millions of couples worldwide who have learned how to keep their marriage vibrant and alive!

Website: <http://www.wwme.org/about-wwme.html>

RETRouveille

Help for Troubled Marriages

Some married couples experience rough spots in their marriages. There is a Catholic program for couples who want to work through their problems rather than give up. *Retrouveille* is a live-in weekend and post-weekend program for married couples. During the weekend, a series of in-depth presentations is given to you and other couples like yourselves. Each presentation, given by one of three married couples and a priest, focuses on a specific area of a marriage relationship. After each presentation, you will have a chance to reflect on it by yourself, and then discuss it with your spouse in complete privacy. The weekend is not a spiritual retreat, not a sensitivity group, not a seminar, nor is it a social gathering. It is a way to put the past behind you and start 'rediscovering' one another again. The weekend is not a "miracle cure"; therefore, post-weekend sessions have been designed to continue the marriage renewal begun on the weekend. These follow-ups review earlier concepts in greater depth, present new ones and help you apply these concepts to your own marriage.

PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT—Fiscal Year 2016 / 2017

Upon the advice of our Parish Council, we established a fund to help ensure our future parish viability. Now, as well as in previous years, many parishes had treasuries to ensure their futures against extraordinary expenses or unseen events. Historically, parishes maintained trust funds so that they could have adequate funding for emergencies. With the restructuring of so many parishes and schools in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, parishes cannot rely upon Archdiocesan funds as their reserve. We are committed to maintaining this fund to protect the future of St. Helena Parish.

St. Helena has experienced great success for a number of reasons. YOU are the main reason. At the present time, our school enrollment is at an all-time high. Recognizing that future enrollments are always fluid, we have an opportunity now to prepare for the times when funding requirements to support Catholic education and our many ministries may need to be increased. Every parish faces demographic changes, and St. Helena is no exception. Keeping this in mind, we must act as good stewards of the many gifts parishioners have bestowed upon us. Both the Pastoral and Finance Councils support our commitments, and recognize that the needs of tomorrow can, and should, be addressed today.

We look to the future, understanding that there will be capital expenditures that will occur over the next 4 years. Five years ago, we replaced one of the boilers in the Education Center. There are three remaining boilers that we know have a limited lifetime and we have been advised that the roof in one section of the Education Center has already exceeded its lifespan, along with the fire protection system in the Rectory. The fire suppression system in the Chapel is supposed to have a 15-year-life time before requiring replacement. We have had air leaks already, and we anticipate replacing the piping in the next several years.

In 2016, we replaced the sound system in the Church, the fire protection system in the Convent, maintenance equipment and reconditioned all existing equipment. We added handicap-accessible walkways from the Church and Rectory to the parking areas, and added more lighting and benches to our grounds so you can visit our many gardens.

Over the past 18 months we added three new enhancements to our landscape: the St. Francis Garden, vision of Alex Hughes and the Rosary Garden, vision of Derrick Kuklinski, both Eagle Scouts. The Guardian Angel Pond, vision of Fr. Gorka, is currently under construction. We also added six murals to the Chapel. All of this was possible due to YOUR generosity.



St Helena 2015-2016 Year End Report

Operating Income	2014—15	2015-16
Religious Ed. & School Tuition & Fees	\$2,027,235	\$2,023,69*
Collection, Donations, Fundraising	\$1,677,244	\$1,819,438
Other Income: Rental, Interest, Dividends, Misc.	<u>\$88,380</u>	<u>\$58,8871</u>
<i>Total Operating Income:</i>	\$3,792,859	\$3,902,008
Operating Expenses	2014-15	2015-16
Wages, Honoraria, Taxes & Benefits	\$2,235,691	\$2,288,817
Administration & Operating Costs	\$311,113	\$455,054
Maintenance Costs	\$243,998	\$266,550
Utilities	\$168,546	\$147,478
Archdiocesan Assessments and Insurances	<u>\$234,509</u>	<u>\$237,334</u>
<i>Total Capital Expenditures:</i>	\$3,193,857	\$3,395,233

- * In 2016, the Archdiocese implemented a change to modified accrual accounting. In spring of 2016 we received \$143,000 related to school registration for the 2016-2017 school year; this amount was not included.

We're glad you're here! We invite you to become part of our active community.

Would you be willing to participate in one or more of our ministries or organizations? Do you have an idea for a new organization? We welcome your input! If you would like to join an existing group, feel free to contact the person associated with that ministry directly. If you have an idea for a new organization, please call the Parish Office to discuss your ideas with Msgr. Nicolo. Thank you. We look forward to working with you!

St. Helena wouldn't be the thriving community it is without you!
Thank you!

ST. HELENA MINISTRIES and ORGANIZATIONS

We are called by our Baptism to be “Missionaries” and to spread the Good News. Our parish offers a wide variety of ministries and apostolates that provide opportunities for you to minister as a “Missionary of the Good News.”

Adoration: Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament begins immediately following the 9:00 AM daily Mass Monday through Friday and continues until 7:30 PM in the St. Theresa Chapel. There will be no adoration on civil holidays or when school is closed or dismissed early due to inclement weather. (Agnes Ferrara 215-699-6128)

Adult Choir: The Adult Choir is made up of men and women in the parish who lift their voices in Sacred Choral Music as they enhance our liturgies on Sundays and at Christmas, Holy Week, Forty Hours and other special occasions. (Cheryl Platco 610-505-3038)

Adult Men’s Book Study: This year we will study two books that call us to a deeper and more adult relationship with God. The book for the fall of 2016 will be “Falling Upward” by Richard Rohr looks at the spirituality of the two halves of life and gives us checkpoints to see where our spirituality might need growth and some very practical ways to grow toward a more mature and more effective spirituality. Please join us on the third Tuesday of the month in the Parish Meeting Room. (Bob Jensen 610-277-4833)

Aid for Friends: Meals for shut-ins can be contributed weekly through the *Aid for Friends program (during all Mass times).* Information and supplies for meal contributions are located in the supply cabinet next to the freezer in the Bell Tower. Meals are greatly appreciated and accepted year ‘round. For additional information or questions, please send a note to stH.SOC@gmail.com (Micki Burns 267-240-3264)

Altar Servers: The Altar Servers are students in grades six through twelve, who are members of the parish. The girls and boys volunteer with their parents’ permission to assist at regular weekend Masses and at special liturgical services. Please encourage your children to participate in this wonderful spiritual experience and to respond positively when Father asks for new Altar Server candidates. (Becky Bushner 484-684-6118)

Art and Environment Committee: This committee plans and maintains the Church and environs for major feasts throughout the year. (Theresa Smith 215- 646-7636)

Bell Choir: This is a beautiful way for our young adults and adults to make a joyful sound unto the Lord using hand bells. (Cheryl Platco 610-505-3038)



Basketball - Adult/Young Adult: These groups meet on Tuesday evenings in the Social and Recreation Center for a few hours of fun and fellowship. Please contact appropriate group. (Adult—Mike O’Brien 610-247-3570 or Young Adult—John Oberlies 215-756-7194)

Bereavement Ministry: This ministry serves parish members who have suffered a death in the family. Members of the team assist families in planning the funeral liturgy and will revisit the family several weeks later. We welcome anyone who wishes to volunteer their time by writing sympathy cards, visiting, or making baked goods. (Michele Gerstemeier 610-584-0862)

Cantors: The cantors lead our congregation in song at weekend Masses and at many special liturgies. They meet as required. (Jim Siewert 610-277-6265)

Chapel Reposers: Volunteers repose the Blessed Sacrament to the Tabernacle when Adoration is completed. (Jack Greenleaf 610-292-9606)

Children's Chime Choir: These children add their own joyful sound unto the Lord using hand chimes. (Natalie Perez 610-639-3932)

Children's Liturgy of the Word: This is a beautiful way to make the Liturgy of the Word meaningful for our young children. At the 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Masses from September through May, children from pre-school through grade 2 are called forth to listen to God's Word, reflect on its message, and respond to what it means in their lives. (Kurt Zampier 610-930-0349)

Collection Counters: This group of parishioners counts and sorts the weekly collection after each Sunday Mass. (Denise Janick 610-733-1968 or Karen Wurtenberg 610-322-5951)

Communion and Liberation (CL): CL is an international Catholic movement. We are a community striving towards a fuller and more mature experience of faith, in unity with the experience of Jesus through His Church. Together, we try to confront the dramatic and essential questions of life, and understand how the message of Christ answers our deepest human needs. To help us do this, we meet weekly to discuss our lives in relation to brief readings. (Rebecca Cherico 484-231-8807)

Contemporary Music Ensemble: This group of parishioners enhances Sunday Mass and special/seasonal liturgies with their singing and playing of music using keyboard, guitars, and other instruments. (Dick Lentz 215-822-6751)

Cross Talk: This parish newsletter is published twice a year as one more way of spreading the good news of St. Helena Parish to all parishioners. (Dorothy Barry 610-275-3689)

CYO—Catholic Youth Organization: The ministry includes athletic, social, cultural, service, and spiritual activities. It is a great program whose success is based largely on the help and dedication of our adult volunteers in each of these areas.

Community Service Corp: This is a parish-based youth service program involving students in grades five through eight. Saint Helena school-age parishioners perform service projects such as raking leaves and preparing food for the needy in our community. This is a great way for our young people to practice the works of mercy. (Susan Hughes 610-279-5564)

Sports: This is a parish-based youth sports program involving students in grades 2 through 12. Saint Helena school-age parishioners are involved in sports throughout the year such as soccer, field hockey, volleyball, basketball, track and field, baseball, and softball at both the varsity and junior varsity levels. (Ryan Major 215-872-7115)

Divine Mercy Chaplet: Say this chaplet and you will receive great mercy at the hour of death. The chaplet is recited every Monday at 3:00 PM in the Chapel. All are welcome. (Vince Thompson 215-646-3437)

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are appointed by the Archbishop to assist the priests and deacons in distributing Holy Communion during Mass and in bringing Holy Communion to the sick at home, Blue Bell Place, and Suburban Hospital. (Msgr. Nicolo at 610-275-7711)



Finance Council: This committee meets several times a year to discuss finances, tuition, and the implementation of capital improvements. (Msgr. Nicolo 610-275-7711)

Garden Club: Maintains Church, Shrines, School and Rectory gardens as well as flowers and plants around the grounds. (Theresa Smith 215-646-7636)

Greeters: Are you outgoing? Do you enjoy meeting new people? Would you like to make people feel at home when they arrive for Mass? If so, then this ministry is for you! You only need to bring a friendly face and greeting to Mass. We also ask that you come to Mass fifteen minutes early and stay for ten minutes after Mass. We are always looking for a welcoming smile. (Herb Mace 610-275-2297)



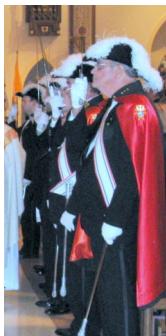
High School Youth Group: Our High School ministry is focused on helping empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today through social gatherings, service projects, and spiritual formation. Meetings are held twice a month, typically on the 2nd/4th Sundays of the month. This program is year round. Become a "fan" of our St. Helena Youth Group page at <http://www.facebook.com/STHYG>. (Kurt Zampier 610-930-0349)

Home and School Association: St. Helena Home and School Association is dedicated to serving our faculty, administration, school children, and community. The Association's goals focus on spiritual, educational, community service, and financial strength. The Home and School Association is comprised of all school parents and the principal, Sr. Cathe. This Association is a volunteer organization. Board members serve a two-year term. Being actively involved in our Home and School Association is a wonderful way to make new friends, help the children, and be a real and active member of our school family. (Jennifer Lynch 610-292-8403)

Ignatian Spirituality for Men : We will meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month to study the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. The focus of the September And October classes will be to recognize God's unconditional love and to come to terms with the times we fail to respond generously to that love. The focus of the November and December classes will be to reflect on the person and life of Christ so that we may freely choose to love Him and follow

Him more closely and faithfully. The focus of the January and February classes will be the Passion and Death of Jesus so as to share in and identify more closely with His suffering and to deepen our commitment to Him. The focus of the March and April classes will be to grow in desire for Jesus to reveal the joy of His Ressurrection and to embrace this joy as the foundation of our call to share in Christ's mission. (Bob Jensen 610-277-4833)

Knights of Columbus: This is an organization of Catholic gentlemen based on the principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternalism. Our Council meets on the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 PM in the Faculty Room in the Education Center. (Tony Gallagher 215-970-6878)



Ladies of Helena: This group provides spiritual, social, and service activities for ladies of all ages. (Theresa Smith 215-646-7636)

Lectors: Proclaiming the Word of the Lord during Mass and other liturgical or para-liturgical celebrations is a very important ministry to the worshiping community. (Pat Lorenzo 215-653-0987)



Youth Lectors: Youth in grade 6 and higher who wish to proclaim the Word of God will be instructed on proclamation, posture, pronunciation, pace, and practice. Following instruction, Youth Lectors are assigned to participate in the Liturgy on the third or fourth Sunday of the month from Sept. through June. (Angela Walker 215-628-2797)

Lenten Small Group Scripture Sharing: Faith-sharing groups come together during Lent to read the Scriptures for the coming week so that in hearing the call of the Gospel, they can allow it to transform their own lives and share it, so that the lives of others may be transformed. (Jo-Ann Belanger 610-279-8042)

(Parish) Lending Library: Spiritual reading available for the purpose of increasing your faith and knowledge of God and His Church. Visit the Information Room (off the Narthex) during Mass times to view materials about Spirituality and Church Doctrine, Sacred Scripture, the Saints, the Blessed Mother, and Sacred Art & History. There are also a number of books for children. A sign-out sheet is posted. (Anne Marie Arena 610-275-7711)

Men's Fellowship Group Men coming together to raise awareness among men of the parish to re-experience the spiritual awakening they originally received at their baptism; to strengthen their faith through the working of the Holy Spirit so that, both, single and married men can better accept and realize their God-given roles as individuals in families, marriages, and the Church. Sharing our faith journey and encouraging men to remain steadfast to the truth in a society that is becoming increasingly secular. In a nutshell, helping men to renew their minds and transform their hearts and lives by becoming daily followers of Christ. (Joe Bushner 484-684-6118)



New Beginnings II: This group is for widows and widowers who share a common bond to come together in community for the purpose of friendship and social outings. It is open to widows and widowers of all faiths to join together monthly for fun and enjoyment. (Rita Kurek 610-279-5897)

(Parish) Nurse Program: These Registered Nurses in the parish recognize the connection between body, mind, and spirit as they work to educate, guide and support our parishioners on health care issues that will enhance wellness as well as running Red Cross Blood Drives semi-annually. (Terry Shomberg, RN 215-699-5024)

(Parish) Pastoral Council: The council is comprised of members of St. Helena Parish, they assist the pastor in areas of practical concern including worship, evangelization, stewardship, and leadership. (Msgr. Nicolo 610-275-7711)

Photography Club: These photographers take photos of special liturgies, parish events, as well as seasonal photos of the entire campus. (Theresa Smith 215-646-7636)



Prayer Shawl Ministry: Shawls and blankets are knitted or crocheted by parishioners of St. Helena and others out of love and care for the recipients (the Baptized and Bereaved). Join us on the First Monday of the month from 12:00 to 2:30 PM in the Parish Meeting Room. (Sr. Francis Reinhardt 610-279-1804)

Pre-Cana (Marriage Preparation): Pre-Cana is a marriage preparation program that is led by married couples and designed to help engaged couples enhance their communication, grow in their knowledge of themselves and each other, deepen their faith, and strengthen and affirm their commitment to the sacramental bonds of Matrimony. Attendance is *required* for all who are planning to be married. (Lena & Rob Gelenberg 610-292-8359)

Pre-Jordan (Baptismal Preparation): Our Pre-Jordan program offers help to parents and godparents in gaining a fuller understanding of the holy Sacrament of Baptism and affirms their own faith and responsibilities as their "child's first and best teacher." Classes are held on the first Monday of the month in the Education Center. Attendance is *required* for all parents before a child can be baptized. Godparents and new babies are also welcome. Contact the Parish Office at 610-275-7711 for scheduling. (Classes run by Kathy Petz.)

PREP (Parish Religious Education Program): The Saint Helena PREP provides religious education and faith formation for all students from grades one through eight who do not attend Saint Helena School or a private Catholic school. Classes are held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8 PM September through May. Please refer to the PREP segment on page 17 for more information. (Madeleine Fitzgerald 610-277-3573)

RCIA - (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) RCIA is a process of instruction, prayer, and faith sharing; a journey towards full communion with the Catholic Church. Participants may be unbaptized, baptized in another Christian faith, or a baptized Catholic whose faith journey has been interrupted. To learn more about how to begin this process of discernment or to embark on this journey of faith. (Deacon Ken Belanger at 610-279-8042)

Read, Reflect and Share – A Book Club for Women: A spiritual book can encourage us to explore and deepen our relationship with God, ourselves and others. The books are selected to provide an invitation to more frequent prayer, content to stimulate thoughts about God in our daily life, and opportunities for reflection and journaling. Women gather each month to share personal insights gleaned from the book and from times of individual prayer and to provide encouragement and companionship to each other on our spiritual journeys. Please join us on the third Wednesday of each month in the teacher's lounge at 7 PM. (Carol Jensen 610-277-4833 or cjesen@spiritualdirectors.net)



Respect Life Activities: Representatives keep parishioners informed of developments concerning life issues, encourage contact with legislators on issues under consideration, and help raise funds for Respect Activities in our area. (Bill Bogle 610-272-1106)

Saint Anne Sewing Club: This group helps with repairs and sewing projects needed for various liturgies. (Theresa Smith 215-646-7636)

Saint Helena School Choir and Chorus: The children of St. Helena school have many opportunities open to them beginning in first grade and continuing through eighth grade may participate in Chorus, Boys Chorus, and Honors Chorus. The choir and chorus perform in weekly class liturgies, as well as special liturgies, concerts, and a Dinner Theatre. (Jennifer Lau 610-279-3345)

Saint Martha Cleaners: These volunteers make sure the "little things" in the Sanctuaries and the Church and Chapel are sparkling for the Lord. Will you spare 2 hours a month on a Friday morning to keep God's House beautiful and maintain an inviting atmosphere for all? (Marlene Jefferys at 610-804-2840)

Scouting: Scouting will inspire your child with a sense of self-worth and ethics, and empower them to achieve a sense of responsibility in the community.

Brownies/Girl Scouts: The Brownies/Girl Scouts are open to all girls in kindergarten or older and involve a range of troop, group and individual experiences facilitated by qualified adults and community support. Troop level meetings vary according to the age group. (Susan Hughes 610-279-5564)



Cub/Boy Scouts: Since 1910, Scouting has helped mold future leaders by combining educational activities and lifelong values with fun. The Cub Scouts are comprised of first through fifth grade boys from St. Helena and local elementary schools. Den meetings take place once a month with boys of the same grade. Pack meetings occur monthly and include all dens. Please visit www.scoutpack6.com for more details. (Shawn Connaghan 215-643-3365, cub-



Scripture Study: It is never too late to learn about the Word of God. The Scriptures are examined in an adult study group, which meets seasonally. (Deacon Ken Belanger 610-279-8042)

Senior Citizens Club: Meetings are the First Friday of each month in the Social and Recreation Center from 10:00 AM to 12 Noon. Men and women over 55 are welcome to join in the fun and fellowship. (John Waldspurger 484-485-7739)

Spiritual Direction: Spiritual Direction is an ongoing conversation between two or more people that is grounded in the expectation that God is present and participating in the dialogue. In spiritual direction we seek to understand how God is actively communicating with us individually to bless our lives and our efforts. People seek a spiritual companion to help them become more aware of God, to deepen their prayer lives and to make better decisions. Spiritual directors are men and women who have been trained over a period of years to accompany others on their spiritual journeys. Spiritual direction is available for individuals, couples and small groups. (Carol or Bob Jensen 610-277-4833)

Spirituality Adult Men: Contemplatives in Action: Each month we will spend one evening, possibly 2-3 hours, working in a soup kitchen, homeless shelter, or directly with people who need help in a fundamental way. We will try to provide assistance directly to other human beings who have a very basic need and we will do so in the spirit of love. (Bob Jensen 610-277-4833)

Spirituality for Women: Do you have a desire to feel closer to God? Have you wondered when and how God is present in your days? Are you aware of God's guidance as you work, love and play? Do you recognize God's longing for your full flourishing in your human desires? Are you able to make daily decisions with profound inner freedom? We gather for prayer, reflection and exploration of the writings of Catholic spiritual teachers and mentors who have shared their insights and experiences of deep union with God. Carol Jensen, an experienced spiritual director in the Ignition tradition, leads this group for women on the second Thursday of each month in the teacher's lounge at 7 PM. All women are welcome to come and to bring a friend. (Carol Jensen 610-277-4833)

Stephen Ministries: The Stephen Ministries Program involves trained lay persons acting as "Care-givers" to those in need—"Care-receivers," and who reach out with Christ's love to hurting people who have no church home. If you feel the call to lead or minister to those in need, or if you know of someone who is hurting, please contact. (Deacon Ken Belanger 610-279-8042)



Time and Talent Coordinators: This aspect of Stewardship is directed in encouraging people to bless others by contributing their time and talent to the many ministries sponsored by the Parish. Besides our material bounty, our Lord has given us gifts of time and talent. The coordinators are responsible for outreach and encouraging participation in Parish ministries. (Joe Walker 215-628-2797)

Tithing Coordinators: Our material bounty is a gift given to us by the Lord. Holy Scripture tells us that we are to give our first fruits back to the Lord. The coordinators help all of us to look at our lives in this light. (Elaine & Vince Thompson 610-277-5814)

Ushers: Our ushers serve at each weekend and holy day Mass by finding seating, helping the disabled and the elderly, taking up the collections, and generally being of assistance wherever needed. (Herb Mace 610-275-2297)

Vacation Bible School: This one week, half-day program is offered over the summer (typically in August) and is an opportunity for children going into Kindergarten – 5th Grade to grow in knowledge of their Catholic Religion and put their faith into action. It's also an opportunity for children in 6th-8th Grade, High School, College and Adults to volunteer and help lead the program as mentors and instructors. (Kurt Zampier, 610-930-0349)

Wedding Rehearsal Coordinators: Do you love weddings? Are you willing to assist couples with their wedding rehearsal? If so, then please consider becoming a Wedding Rehearsal Coordinator. (Cindy Lejman 215-699-9063)



Young Adult Group: A newly-formed ministry for men and women, single and married, ages 18 to 40. This group is for those who want to grow in faith through evenings of reflection, adoration, service, food/fellowship and more. All ideas for events and meetings are planned by you. Newcomers are always welcome and encouraged to bring a friend(s). (Kurt Zampier 610-930-0349)



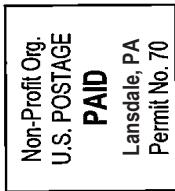
PARISH CALENDAR 2016/2017

September	11	Knights of Columbus Blue Mass—7 PM
October	2,3 &4	Forth Hours Services—7 PM
	9	Anointing Mass—9 AM
	12	Parent Meeting for First Reconciliation - 7 PM
	28	Halloween Family BINGO – 6:00 PM
November	1	All Saints Day Mass—9 AM in the Church
	2	Memorial Mass for Departed Souls—7 PM
	6	Knights of Columbus Communion Breakfast—12:30 AM
	21	Mass & Simple Supper - 6 PM
	24	Thanksgiving Day Mass—9 AM
		Sundays In Advent Vespers & Benediction – 7 PM
December	5	First Reconciliation - 7 PM
	7	Vigil Mass—7 PM
	8	Immaculate Conception —7 AM, 9 AM & 12:15 PM
	13	Advent Penance Service - 1:15 & 6:45 PM
	14/15	SHS Christmas Play - 7:30 PM
	18	Parish Christmas Concert - 4 PM
	20	PREP Tableau – 6:30 PM
	24	Christmas Eve Masses - 4, 6 (children's Mass), & 8 PM
	25	Christmas Day Masses -7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 AM
January	11	Parent Mtg. For Confirmation —7 PM
	29	Opening of Catholic Schools Week - 11 AM
February	4/5	Blessing of the Throat (St. Blaise, Feb. 3) After Masses
	4	Home & School Spaghetti Dinner – 6 PM
	11/12	Renewal of Wedding Vows (St. Valentine, Feb. 14)
March	1	Ash Wednesday - Mass: 7 AM, 9 AM, 7 PM; - Services: 12:15 PM, 4 PM
	1	Parent Meeting First Eucharist - 7 PM
	28	Lenten Penance Service - 1:15 & 6:45 PM
	30	Confirmation—4 PM
		Thursdays in Lent Stations of the Cross - 11:30 AM & 7 PM
April	8/9	Palm Sunday—7:30 AM, 9 AM & 11 AM
	13	Holy Thursday—7 PM
	14	Good Friday—1 PM
	15	Holy Saturday—7 PM
	16	Easter Sunday—7:30 AM, 9 AM & 11 AM
	29	First Holy Communion—10:30 AM

PARISH CALENDAR 2016/2017

May	1	May Procession (School) - 7 PM
	2	PREP May Procession/Closing—6:45 PM
	13/14	Mothers' Blessing (Father's Day)
	21	Anointing Mass—11 AM
	24	Vigil Mass—7 PM
	25	Ascension Thursday—7 AM, 9 AM & 12:15 PM
	29	Memorial Mass—9 AM
June	13	Eighth Grade Graduation – 6 PM
	17/18	Fathers' Blessing (Father's Day)
July	4	Independence Day Mass - 9 AM





Saint Helena

One Family, One Heart, One Faith

1489 Dekalb Pike,

Blue Bell, Pennsylvania 19422

www.sainthelena-centersquare.net