

DECEMBER 25, 2011- THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



**SUNDAY December 25, 2011 -
The Nativity of The Lord**

8:00 AM Parishioners of St. Helena
10:30 AM Parishioners of St. Helena
12 Noon Parishioners of St. Helena

MONDAY - December 26, 2011 - St. Stephen

8:30 AM Dan & Grace Lombardi r/o Children & Grandchildren

TUESDAY - December 27, 2011 - St. John

8:30 AM Vincent DeSario r/o Gracemarie Stanko & Donna

WEDNESDAY - December 28, 2011 - The Holy Innocents

8:30 AM John Anello r/o Michael J. White

THURSDAY - December 29, 2011 - St. Thomas Becket

8:30 AM Dr. Ed Ortiz r/o The Quintong Family

FRIDAY - December 30, 2011 -

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:30 AM Barry Crelin r/o Michael J. White

SATURDAY - December 31, 2011

**8:30 AM FOR THE MEMBERS OF ST. HELENA
PURGATORIAL SOCIETY**

December 2011- December 2012

John Sabine r/o Family

John & Rose Bacha r/o Family

Michael & Anthony DiAntonio

Joan Duffy r/o Family

Chester Wolenski r/o The Williamson Family

Matthew Wang r/o The Ambrosio & The Mier Families

Anna Aloe r/o Vito S. DeGironimo, Jr.

Thomas & Catherine Adamski r/o Daughter, Mary Adamski

Louise Blonna r/o Gloria Kowalski

Eva Keller r/o Fr. Anthony M. Sirianni

Robert Malinconico r/o Pudgy & Judy

5:00 PM Parishioners of St. Helena

SUNDAY - January 1, 2012 -

The Octave Day of

The Nativity of The Lord,

Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God

8:00 AM Dr. Emanuel Kopidakis r/o Family
10:30 AM Melquiades Valerio r/o The Fernandez Family
12 Noon Martin Guerra r/o The Panaligan & Reno Families
5:00 PM Anthony Catino r/o The O'Brien Family

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Dec. 31	5:00 PM	Rodrigo, George, Campagna
Jan. 1	8:00 AM	Hobler, Wu, Joseph, Iarrapino
	10:30- AM	Lacko, Mendonca, Gaskins
	12 Noon	Whitaker, Penevolpe, Penevolpe
	5:00 PM	Casem, Miller, Glennon

READER SCHEDULE

Dec. 31	5:00 PM	L. Blanco
Jan. 1	8:00 AM	M. Salerno
	10:30- AM	J. Thomas
	12 Noon	C. Lopez
	5:00 PM	M. White

EM's - EUCHARIST

Dec. 31	5:00 PM	R. Yunker, T. Clark, K. Healey
Jan. 1	8:00 AM	*R. Manahan, A. D'Amico, T. Cerami
	10:30- AM	*C. White, M. Bolos
	12 Noon	*F. Perlin, T. Chan
	5:00 PM	*E. Schmidt, C.Y. Fan, M. Mistretta

EM's - PRECIOUS BLOOD

Dec. 31	5:00 PM	*J. Maldony, M. Maldony, F. Milek, E. Yunker
Jan. 1	8:00 AM	*F. Klinga, C. Bustria
	10:30- AM	*P. Gosselin, P. Yorke
	12 Noon	*M. Garcia, J. Korsu
	5:00 PM	* J. DiBella, L. Brandi

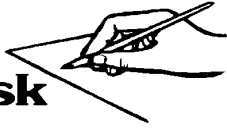
TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON AND A TIME FOR EVERY PURPOSE UNDER HEAVEN" ...A TIME TO BE HEALED"

PRAY FOR THE SICK DAILY Edith Dellapietro, Cheryl Pandolfo, Anita Mitchell, Michael Giovanniello, Guy Gebler, Sal Medina, George Cote, Jack Ford, Jeremy Osmo, Kathleen Grasso, Eddie & Erica Breitenfelder, Dorothy Purzynski, Rose Pepe, Terry Shanahan, Baby Peyton, Michael Pugliese, Jean Hillyer, Alan Patrushevich, Siobhan McGovern, Shannon McGovern, Pauline Gillick, Karen Staggard, Barbara Menge, Catherine Yascur, Kathleen Grasso, Laurie Battison, Hubert Scheuers, Trevor Calise, Matthew McGrath, Peter Lukawski, Bill Hillyer, Joanna O'Connor, Raymond Lynch, Cathy Gaynor, Pauline Lechner, Virginia Comito, Star Adams, Frank Viglianti, Rita Montalto, Sister Clare Greco, Lisa Olsen, Jaimie Falstrault, Leticia Klatt, Ceil Cieckiewicz, John Capellupo, Dorothy Loeschorn, Marcia Crum

All powerful and ever living God, the lasting health of all who believe in you, hear us as we ask your loving help for the sick; restore their health that they may again offer joyful thanks in your church. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns in you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

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From the Pastor's Desk



Dear Parishioners,

"Today is born a Savior, Christ the Lord." This Sunday we celebrate Christmas, the birthday of our Savior, Jesus, the Prince of Peace. For so many of us, including me, the last four weeks have been a frenzy of activity, shopping for the perfect gift, writing cards, decorating the tree, baking Christmas goodies, etc. How often do we yearn for a simpler time when things were less hectic!

Let us take a moment and reflect on the simplicity of that first Christmas. We see the bustle of all the travelers in Bethlehem as they register according to the law. We see Joseph traveling to Bethlehem with Mary, about to deliver her first child, alone, away from family and friends. We see Joseph trying to find a place for the child to be born and helping Mary into the only lodging available, a stable. Although we welcome Christmas with the beautiful hymn Silent Night, the manger must have been anything but silent. Mary was probably scared, as was Joseph her husband. As the night progresses we see Mary looking with awe and love on her newborn son as she cuddles him close to her to keep him warm. We hear the various sounds of the animals in the stable, the donkey, cows, sheep, and lambs. We see the brilliant star over the stable and hear the glorious sound of the angels. And, there in the distance, we see the shepherds making their way to the stable to see the newborn child. The scene is so simple and yet so incredibly beautiful and peaceful. Christmas is a time for miracles and a time for giving. We all have something to give. The greatest gift we can offer is a simple prayer perhaps for someone who needs it the most. Jesus, who was born on that glorious night, is once again reborn in our hearts this day.

On behalf of Fr. Antony, Fr. Gavin, Sr. Charles, Deacon Danny, Deacon Candidate Bob and members of the parish and school staffs I want to wish you and your families a Blessed and Merry Christmas. As we sing sweet carols to welcome the Prince of Peace into our hearts and homes during this blessed Christmas season I pray that the peace and love of the Christ child fill your hearts this day and every day.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

THANK YOU I want to thank all the parishioners who have decided to make tithing a part of their lives. Being someone who tithes myself, I understand the sacrifices you are making. I am truly blessed to be a part of St. Helena Parish and to be a part of your lives. God Bless you and your families.

2011 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

In Faith, With Hope

Thank you to the parish families who made a pledge to the 2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal. Your gift expanded God's work and enriched the lives of our communities and our Catholic faithful. To date, the Development Department has received pledges totaling \$95,514.61 and payments totaling \$79,818.93 from 358 parishioners. This represents 109.4% of your \$87,300.00 goal. Thank you for your efforts the Diocese of Metuchen. Please consider making a gift today.

Giving

*You are being enriched in every way
for all generosity,
which through us
will produce thanksgiving to God
(2 cor 9:11)*

It was a bone-chilling day; the soup line moved slowly. The young woman blew on her fingers and stamped her feet as the line shuffled along. Finally, she was inside the door. Warmth and the wonderful smell of good soup and fresh bread lifted her spirits. As her gaze swept the room, her eyes fell on a small hand-written sign: "You are welcome, you are the guest of Christ." She bowed her head and gave thanks to this unknown one called Christ. Give so that others may give thanks to the One from whom all gifts flow.

- from Sixty-Second Stewardship Sermons by Charles Cloughen, Jr.

**I AM TRULY HUMBLLED
BY YOUR GENEROSITY**



CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALIZATION

The Christmas Flower Offering donated in Memory of your loved ones will be printed in the January 8th bulletin. Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas.

TITHING

12/18/11 Collection:		12/19/10 Collection:
Regular	\$11,894	\$12,537
R&R	\$ 4,569	\$ 4,534
Campaign	\$ 696	\$ 1,324

PLEASE NOTE: The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, December 26th and Monday, January 2nd. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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ST. HELENA HOLIDAYS

CHALLENGE FOR SELF - CHARITY FOR OTHERS

What a busy first half of the year!

These are just some of the happenings since September.

There have been two assemblies for the student body this year. Students in Grades Pre-K through Eight saw the African Dance and Drum Corp for a lively, interactive program. The Pushcart Players from Paper Mill Playhouse presented "The Very Last Butterfly". The story of the student writings from a secret school in Terezin, a concentration camp, was presented to students in Grades Four through Eight.

The Edison Fire Department visited the school to demonstrate their trucks and equipment to students in Pre-Kindergarten through Second Grade. Their demonstration included a simulation in their portable make shift room of how rapidly a fire can spread.

The Pre-Kindergarten students had an opportunity to go to the "pumpkin patch" behind the rectory. Each student got to pick their own pumpkin for Halloween.

In November, students from Grades 5, 6, and 7 participated in the 13th Annual Bishop Ahr Grammar School Competition. Seventeen students participated in the categories of Jeopardy, Athletics, Problem Solving, Drama, and a Spelling Bee.

This year, under the supervision of Mrs. Linda Martin, a Robotics squad was formed. Students from Grades 6, 7, and 8 - calling themselves "The Food Ninjas" - built their Lego Model and practiced for weeks. They participated in a competition at St. Joseph's H.S. in Metuchen and had a great learning experience. Mrs. Martin won the "Mentor of the Year" award.

Basketball season is in full swing. On the weekend of December 11, the teams had their first home game.

The spring production of the Drama Department is set. Students have begun auditioning for the production of "Willy Wonka Junior". Look for more information as the Spring Show date is announced.

There are exciting events planned for the beginning of 2012 - starting with our plans for **Catholic School Week. Keep watching your school mail and our website.**

OPEN HOUSES
SUNDAY,
JANUARY 29TH -
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

&

TUESDAY,
JANUARY 31ST -
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Dear Friends,

I want to wish each of you a Happy and Blessed Christmas filled with Joy, Peace and Love". I remember all of you and pray to the Child Jesus to bless you and fill your hearts with Love, Peace and Joy. Some of you wanted to know my address in India, it is as follows:

Rev. Joseph Lukose,
SANJEEVANI,
Calvarymount P.O. ,
Idukky DT. , Kerala. India -685515.



BLESSING OF HOMES - Lord God of heaven and earth, You revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it.

Fill them with the light of Christ, that their concern for others may reflect your love. Amen

Eucharistic Adoration -

Tuesday - 9 AM- 5 PM

Rosary of Our Blessed Mother at
4:00 PM

for the Intention of Respect for Life
JESUS is waiting for YOU! Come
Tuesday to visit Him. He longs to see you
and embrace you with His love.



ST. HELENA SCHOOL PRESENTS...

Pilgrimage to Fatima & Lourdes with Barcelona with Optional 2 Night Lisbon Pre Tour Extension September 23 - October 2, 2012. There is still room left - for further information please call the Parish Office at 732-494-3399. Book by March 23, 2012: Double \$2,899; Single \$3,299; Triple \$2,869. If booked after March 23, 2012: Double \$2, 999; Single 3, 399; Triple \$2,969 Rates are Per Person*. Included in Price: Round Trip Air from Newark Intl Airport, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges of \$150 (subject to increase until paid in full), Hotel Transfers. Not included In Price: Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$175 per person.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Why not give your spouse something special this Christmas that will last long after the Christmas decorations have been put away? A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held January 27-29, 2012. Early registration is advisable as space is limited. Phone 1-888-827-NJME for registration and information. visit us at www.wmcentralnj.org for more information

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ST. HELENA RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Women and men facing unplanned pregnancies need help – and **Life Choices Resource Center** is there for them. **St. Helena's Respect Life Group** is partnering with **Life Choices** to give parishioners the opportunity to play a part, **no matter how large or small**, in this life-saving ministry. Life Choices is a pro-life pregnancy help center founded on the Catholic principles that human life is sacred from the moment of conception. **All are invited to help; men, women and teens! Will you take a moment to reflect on how you can lend a hand in protecting God's unborn children? Volunteering is not a commitment; it's simply an openness to become involved.** There are no time commitments; you can volunteer once a month or once a year in any capacity; either office work or hands-on as a counselor. The Lord calls us all if you can answer, we'd love to have you. Please consider joining our team. **The more people involved, the more lives we can save and the more hearts we can change. Here are some ways you can help:** Offer Your Private Prayers For Babies & Clients, Join Us In Prayer At The Office (Rosary Tuesdays & Thursdays), Filing, Scanning Records, Community Liaison, Annual Banquet, Annual Walk, Accounting, Processing Baby Bottles, Spanish Interpreter, Light Cleaning, Community Events/Local Fairs, Bulk Mailings (*Folding, Stuffing, Labeling*), College Liaison, Counselor, Post Abortion Counselor, Help With Baby Shower, Knitting Or Crocheting Hats, Blankets, Booties & Pray Shawls, Licensed RN, Marketing/Communications, Ultrasound Technician, **As you can see, the need is great, so please feel free to help whenever or however you can.** Men and Women of All Ages **ARE INVITED TO HELP!** Will you please take a minute to reflect on how you can lend a hand in protecting God's unborn children? Volunteering is not a commitment; it's simply an openness to become involved at your convenience. AND, Yes, **Community Service Hours are Given!** If you are able to help please fill out the tear out below and return to Father Anthony at the rectory or place in the collection basket. Thank you.

TEAR OFF-----

PLEASE PRINT: I CAN HELP BY (please specify): _____
Name _____ Phone Number _____
Email: _____

Please call, visit or email us: Life Choices Resource Center, 503 Main St. Metuchen, NJ,(732)-516-0911 lifecoices@optonline.net
"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace..." Peter 4:10