

August 20, 2017
Feast of Saint Helena

ST. HELENA'S EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Isn't it amazing to think of St. Helena who lived between the years 250 to 330AD. In 312, when she was about 60, she came to believe in Jesus. It was a time when it was dangerous to be a Christian. At any moment, the Roman Empire might begin another violent persecution, putting Christians to death in horrible ways. Helena had been cast aside by her husband Constantius, because he was ambitious to become the Emperor of Rome. Fortunately her son, Constantine, was faithful to her. Helena must have shared her faith in Jesus and the mystery of His Cross with Constantine.

Thank you ELC! For the past 28 years, St. Helena's has operated the Early Learning Center at the A. I. Dupont Nemours Children's Hospital for the benefit of hospital employees. It is with great sadness we announce the ELC will close at the end of August due to internal hospital decisions. We would like to thank Pam Kreuer, our ELC Director and all the ELC staff for their service and years of dedication. We are grateful!

In the same year Helena became a Christian, Constantine made his move and won the Battle at the Milvian Bridge, defeating his rival and becoming the new Roman Emperor. Before the battle, Constantine claimed to have seen the vision of the Cross and heard: "By this sign you will conquer." Constantine did not become baptized until he was on his deathbed many years later. But the son of St. Helena is considered the first Christian Emperor and ended the persecution of Christians. In 324 when he had defeated his rivals in the eastern part of the Empire, Helena was able to go to the Holy Land to find and honor the holy places where Jesus lived and especially where He died and rose. Tradition says she and her aides were able to find the Holy Cross of Jesus. She died soon after. St. Helena drew the strength of her faith from the same Holy Eucharist you and I have. She found in the celebration of the Mass the love of Jesus that changed her life. She loved the Holy Cross as the way to real life and peace.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Youth Group meets TONIGHT, Sunday, August 20th at 7pm.

LOOK WHAT'S COMING IN SEPTEMBER:

Please mark your calendars for SUNDAY, September 24th, for our annual Parish Picnic. More information will follow. The Picnic will be held from Noon until 3pm (rain or shine!). Come and mingle with old friends and make new ones! If you would like to help at the Picnic, please call Hummy at 762-4280 or email her at: hpennell@sainthelenas.org.

Religious Ed Program: Registration Forms for returning students have been emailed out to those families. For new students, your registration will be arriving in the mail. If you have questions, call Hummy, 762-4280 or email: hpennell@sainthelenas.org

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS!

Do you love to sing and/or play an instrument? We have a Youth Choir for grades 3-8, an Adult Choir for grades 9-infinity and a contemporary band. The Youth Choir meets on Mondays from 5:45-6:30pm prior to CCD classes, followed by the band from 6:45pm-8:00pm. The Adult Choir meets on Thursdays from 7:30pm-9:00pm. If you are interested in becoming involved in these ministries, you may contact Joe, the Music Director, at jlouden@ursuline.org for info.

CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PETER: Our Second Collection this weekend is for the maintenance and preservation of the Cathedral. Please be as generous as you can. For more info about the Cathedral, please visit the website: www.cathedralofsaintpeter.com.

BINGO

Are you looking for a way to volunteer at St. Helena's?? We need people to serve food, sell Bingo materials and monitor games. Or...try your hand at playing Bingo! Don't know anything about Bingo? That's ok. There are lots of friendly folks to show you how.

So consider trying something new and fun. To volunteer or for more information, please call 764-0325. To try playing Bingo, just show up (you must be 18 years or older). Doors open to Masci Hall on Thursdays at 5:30pm for food and social time. Games begin at 7pm. We look forward to seeing you soon!

PARISH GIVING PROGRAM

Here's a surprising fact! Fifty percent of the 60 parishioners who use online giving are 60 years of age or older. We applaud all our tech savvy, forward thinking online givers; especially those who did not come of age in the digital world. We'd like to challenge our "younger" parishioners, who haven't joined our online giving program, to take the lead in our friendly competition. Visit St. Helena's website for a link to "Parish Giving" to sign up. Call 764-0325 Ext. 100 with your questions!

THE SECOND SUNDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET WILL BE ON SEPTEMBER 10th Masci Hall, Sam to 1pm



Our Breakfast Buffet features all your breakfast favorites! Meet with family and friends and enjoy the all you care to eat buffet! If you are in need of reservations please call Nancy Cobb: 302-598-8685.

**Pricing: \$8.50 Adults/children over 12
\$4 Children under 12**

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, August 19

5:00pm(SR) Jenny Turcol

Sunday, August 20

7:00am(SR) The People of the Parish

9:00am(WK)Justina Masters

11:00am(SR)Betty F. Russo

Monday, August 21

7:00am(WR)

9:00am(SR) Anthony Luzzo

Tuesday, August 22

7:00am(WR)Paul O. Knight

9:00am(SR)

Wednesday, August 23

7:00am(WR)

9:00am(SR) John Fedena

51st Anniversary

Thursday, August 24

7:00am(SR)

9:00am(WK)

Friday, August 25

7:00am(Cap)

9:00am(SR) The Deceased Members of the
Russell and Sullivan Families

Saturday, August 26

9:00am(SR)

5:00pm(SR) William Schmidt

Sunday, August 27

7:00am(WR)Thomas "Smitty" Smith

9:00am(SR) The People of the Parish

11:00am(KN)Carrie Konitzer

Please Pray For Our Sick Parishioners

Anne Ambagis, Rita Biddle, Dorothy Blaschke, Ruth Bower, David Boyle, Jean Capodanno, Debbie Cole, Patricia Darmanin, Jayne Davenport, Bob Davis, Julia Davis, Richard Devogel, Gerri Episcopo, Sara Garrison, Ella Kirksey, James Lafferty, Sue McLaughlin, Edward Mebs, Gay Meriggi, Dan Moley, Alfred Moyer, Dora Pacitti, Patricia Patton, Fr. Roy Pollard, Terri Reed, Dorothy Rich, Helen Rupnicki, Joseph Sacher, Kathleen Schaubert, Irma Shock, Frank Sullivan, George Theiss, Catherine Thomson, Dolores Tunn, Edith Weddle, James Whisker, Ann Wilson, Cindy Zych.

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

O, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF: In January, 2015, His Excellency, the Most Reverend Edward K Braxton, PhD, STD, Bishop of Belleville, IL, **published a Pastoral Letter and Study Guide** on *“The Racial Divide In The United States: A Reflection for the World Day of Peace 2015”*, and in 2016, a **Pastoral Letter** on the *“Black Lives Matter Movement.”* The Parish Social Ministry Committee began a study and discussion of these Letters. We wanted to educate ourselves with discussions that help us to face some difficult bumps in the road during our journeys as followers of Jesus Christ. We are called to go from the committee to share the teachings of Jesus Christ and His Church. The committee is learning so much that we pledged ourselves to share with others. We will publish excerpts monthly and invite you to also share with your family members and help make a positive impact on our relationship with each other and with others in our neighborhoods and communities. **If you want a copy of these Pastoral Letters**, send or bring your request to Dorothy Medeiros at the Rectory. With your email address we can download it! The title of our bulletin articles is taken from the Scripture reference used by Bishop Braxton.

Lazarus Ministry needs greeters at Funeral Masses at St. Helena’s. Call Dorothy or Kathleen, 764-0325 Ext. 104. Thank you!

Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888

We thank all who have volunteered at the Emmanuel Dining Room. May you be blessed abundantly!

The Food Closet is in need of: canned meats, pancake mix, syrup, spaghetti sauce, small jelly, cereal. Thank you!

LOST AND FOUND

LOST AND FOUND: The Lost and Found Box is located near the Handicapped Restroom in the Front Vestibule of Church.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 26

5:00pm – Server Needed

Sunday, August 27

7:00am – Joyce

9:00am – Nate, Grace

11:00am – Margaret, Will

The Offertory Collection for the weekend of 8/6 was \$6,553; the On-line Collection was \$2,532.50 for a total collection of \$9,085.50. Thank you for your sacrifice!

Where does it go? In the past fiscal year, we paid \$73,000 as our Diocesan Assessment and \$55,889.33 for supplies (postage, candles, flowers, books and cleaning supplies).

BULLETIN DEADLINES

If you would like to include information in an upcoming Bulletin, please be aware of the following deadlines:

For the 8/27 bulletin, the deadline is 8/21

If you have any questions, please email/call:
kquinn@sainthelenas.org /764-0325 Ext. 106.

SAVE THE DATE!!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2017

Oktoberfest Party

Sponsored by: The Knights of Columbus,

Christopher Council #3182

Saturday, October 21, 2017

6pm–11pm ~ Masci Hall ~ \$30/pp

German/Alpine music

Costumed Oktoberfest Dancers

German Themed Buffet Dinner

Oktoberfest Beer, Schnapps Bar

Basket Auctions ~ Lots of Fun!

Contact Raymond:

raymondcobb3182@gmail.com

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, August 20

2nd Collection: Cathedral of Saint Peter

Thursday, August 24

5:30pm Bingo-Masci Hall

Reflection

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

By Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

The late comedian Don Rickles specialized in insults. Displayed often on the old “Dean Martin Roasts” (now available on YouTube) he targeted his “victims”—usually celebrities—with mean one-liners that were usually funny. I recall him addressing George Burns, by then an octogenarian, by simply saying, “George, it’s over!” But always at the end of his spiel, Rickles would explain that it was all done in fun, and that love for others was a part of life we should always practice.

Jesus taught us how to react to insults. We remember His injunction to “turn the other cheek if slapped on one.” Yet today we find Him at first seemingly ignoring a poor woman’s plea for help for her daughter. He calls her “a dog.” It may be that He believed for a while that His mission was only to the Jews. In that light He couldn’t give the children’s bread to dogs.

Now here is where we have to admire this unnamed woman’s reaction. Remember that she already had “two strikes” against her. First, she was a woman, apparently alone, living in a man’s world. Second, she was a despised Gentile, a Canaanite, calling out in a crowd of Jews. Instead of a nasty response to Jesus, or issuing the threat of a feminist revenge lawsuit such as we might expect today, or running away in tears of disappointment, she humbly retorts with a clever remark that incorporated Jesus’ characterization of her as a dog. “Even the dogs get to eat the scraps!” I admire her for that courage.

That sparks in Jesus an admiration of His own. He cites her great faith. In so doing, He acknowledges an expansion of His views about His mission. By granting the woman’s request, He includes all people as welcome in God’s family, and having a dwelling place in God’s house.

Now comes the gospel imperative for this twenty-first century. In a figurative lineup of all the so-called “marginalized” people of our time, often so labelled by prejudice, we would find their numbers staggering. Think of war refugees eking out a living in makeshift camps. Immigrants from countries with cruel regimes; then of addicts of all kinds, or those with different sexual attraction, or the physically and mentally disabled, and believers in unpopular religions. Dare we call them “dogs?” Dare we engage in insults to these our neighbors in the way Jesus described a neighbor?

Here is where we must remain ever grateful for the Holy Eucharist. It feeds our good side with strength against the “beast” in all of us. Along with the ever relentless Word of Scripture speaking the whole truth and nothing but to our ears, we are doubly equipped to accept God’s perspective and His judgment, no matter what the current popular opinion proffers.

To close with a salute to that Canaanite woman’s perseverance, and to all who struggle to live by Jesus’ opinions, I quote an old adage easily remembered: “By perseverance the snail reached the ark.”



First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

A new tone emerges here; one of reconciliation and unity, along with a clear invitation to Gentiles to enter the house of the Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

In God’s plan, mercy is to be shown to all, including the Jews. Gentile Christians have no monopoly on how to view human history.

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

The Canaanite woman had two things against her in this encounter with Jesus: she was a woman alone in a man’s world and a Gentile, therefore “unclean.” Jesus explains His rather strange initial silence toward her plea. Page 4 - 311