

December 10, 2017
Second Sunday of Advent



"Comfort, give comfort to my people..."

So the Lord spoke to His people in exile. Their time of punishment was coming to an end. The Lord Himself would be with them leading them home. *"In the desert prepare the way of the Lord..."*

John the Baptist in the beginning of St. Mark's Gospel picks up that theme as he calls us to prepare the way of Jesus the Messiah.

You are making many "Preparations" for the holidays. Don't forget the most important: Prepare your soul for the coming of the Lord.

ADVENT PENANCE CELEBRATIONS



Our Parish Advent Celebration is this
Wednesday, December 13th at 7:30pm

Four Priests will be available for Confessions

*If you are unable to attend
our Penance Celebration, you are invited
to attend one of the following parishes
at their Penance Celebration*

Church of the Holy Child

Monday, December 11th from 6-7pm
Sunday, December 17th ~9:30-10:30am

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

Tuesday, December 19th at 7pm

St. Joseph on the Brandywine

Wed., Thurs., Fri., Dec. 20-21-22 - 11:30-Noon
And after the 12:05pm Mass each day

St. Mary Magdalen

Call the Parish Office, 652-6800 for more info

*Thank
You*

*We thank all who are helping to distribute our
invitations to folks in our community to come
and celebrate Christmas with us.*

Christmas Tree Sale



Lion's Club Christmas Tree Sale!
Claymont Fire Company Substation
Located on the corner
of Marsh and Naaman's Roads

Sale begins 11/24
and continues until sold out!
All proceeds benefit the Community!

BULLETIN DEADLINES

12/17 Bulletin is due 12/11

12/24 Bulletin is due 12/15

12/31 Bulletin is due 12/20

If you have any questions or concerns please
email: kquinn@sainthelenas.org or phone: 764-
0325 Ext. 106. Thank you!

PLEASE REMEMBER: NEVER leave your
pocketbook or anything valuable in sight in
your car. Recently thieves have hit our parish
as well as the Methodist and Episcopal
Churches.

Since someone even stole some items
donated to help the children of Puerto Rico,
we will begin to lock the door of our Rectory
porch.

Items donated for the poor can be left in
church or the porch during regular Mass
times or rectory office hours.



Saturday, December 9

5:00 pm(SR) Battista Turcol

Sunday, December 10

7:00 am(WR) Thomas and Therese Lawless

9:00 am(SR) Catherine Kozak

11:00 am(KN)People of the Parish

Monday, December 11

7:00 am(WR)Mary Ann and Leonard Kelleher

9:00 am(SR) Rosario Gracias

Tuesday, December 12

7:00 am(WR)Mass of Thanksgiving

9:00 am(SR) Eva Vickers

Wednesday, December 13

7:00am (WR)

9:00 am(SR) Paul O. Knight

Thursday, December 14

7:00am(SR) Bart and Natalie Meriggi

9:00 am(WK)Katherine and John Sullivan

Friday, December 15

7:00am(Cap)William and Eloise Hart

9:00 am(SR)Frederick J. Konitzer

Saturday, December 16

9:00 am(SR) Eva Zielonka

5:00 pm(SR) John A. Krupa, 14th Anniversary

Sunday, December 17

7:00 am(SR) People of the Parish

9:00 am(WK) Lorraine Osmick

11:00 am(KN)Linda Fedena

Please Pray For Our Sick Parishioners

Anne Ambagis, Rita Biddle, Ruth Bower, Joseph Campanella, Jean Capodanno, Debbie Cole, Tony Cutrona, Patricia Darmanin, Jayne Davenport, Bob Davis, Julia Davis, Gerri Episcopo, Sara Garrison, Levi & Ellie Jernigan, Ella Kirksey, James Lafferty, Sue McLaughlin, Tony Medeiros, Edward Mebs, Gay Meriggi, Dan Moley, Dora Pacitti, Fr. Roy Pollard, Terri Reed, Dorothy Rich, Helen Rupnicki, Joseph Sacher, Kathleen Schaubert, Charlie Sheyog, Caitlin Shimer, Irma Shock, Frank Sullivan, George Theiss, William Thomas, Catherine Thomson, James Whisker, Ann Wilson, Cindy Zych

BINGO

Are you looking for a way to become more involved 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. To volunteer or for more information, please call 764-0325. To play Bingo, just show up (18 or older). Doors open to Masci Hall on Thursdays at 5:30pm for food and social time. Games begin at 7pm. All are invited to join the fun!



THANK YOU, BINGO BUNCH!

Did you know we have a Bingo Bunch?

The Bingo Bunch are a group of dedicated folks who make Bingo happen every Thursday night! They have made a commitment of time and energy for the financial benefit of our parish. Our Bingo Bunch: Paul Penna, Joe Newdeck, Hummy, Doug and Sue Garrett, Trishia Julian, Lou Masci, Bob Lennon, Mike and Barb Chlada, Gerry and Louise Moyer, Kathy Nemeth, Dennis and Janice Westman and Mary Ann Sedivec. We also have folks who support bingo, but like to remain behind the scenes. This is NOT an exclusive club—our Bunch welcomes more members if you are interested in joining!! Just call the Rectory!

Our Offertory Collection for the weekend of 11/26 was \$5,566; the on-line collection was \$1,484.50 for a total collection amount of \$7,050.50. Thank you for your support!



PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

O Love Your Neighbor As Yourself...

Excerpts from two Pastoral Letters on the *Racial Divide in the US* and on *The Catholic Church and Black Lives Matter*, by His Excellency, Most Rev. Edward K. Braxton, Bishop of Belleville, IL, published in 2015 and 2016.

Excerpt: “*The Racial Divide...*” Part IV, What We Have Seen and Heard, #52, 53. A number of Catholic priests and sisters were active in the Civil Rights Movement working and marching for racial integration in the north and south. Catholic schools in urban areas have made important educational contributions to the intellectual and moral formation of African-American youths, many of whom were not Catholic. The Church has also been at the forefront of programs that confront the sources of poverty which is a fact of life for many African-American families. In 1958, the American Bishops published “Discrimination and Christian Conscience” and, in 1968, they published “National Race Crisis.” But most honest students of history would acknowledge that these documents, though we intended, were not widely disseminated or implemented. Catholic parishes and schools, north and south, remained largely segregated. And many Church practices that reinforced racial bias remained largely unchanged. Eleven years later in 1979 and then in 1984 two landmark pastoral letters of seminal importance appeared. The first was the USCCB document, “Brothers and Sisters to Us,” which bluntly condemned racism as a sin and heresy present in the Church. The second was “What We Have Seen and Heard,” the 1984 pastoral statement of the then 10 African-American Catholic Auxiliary Bishops. These pivotal texts made a significant impact in certain parts of the country. However, there are parishes and dioceses where they were all but ignored. Many American Catholics do not know these documents exist. Both Bishop Malooly and Msgr. Russell recently made pertinent statements?

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

Parish Social Ministry: Funeral Greeters, an opportunity to reach out with care and compassion to parishioners in their time of grief. Please consider volunteering to be a Greeter at a Funeral Mass. Please call Dorothy Medeiros at 764-0325 Ext. 104 from 8:30am to 2:00pm Monday through Friday. You may leave a message. Thank you for your kindness.



On December 25th we commemorate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. As we wait in anticipation of this day we should also be preparing for His arrival. This preparation goes beyond decorating the tree and purchasing presents. We should prepare our hearts. How are you preparing your heart for Jesus? We can become so focused on what we need we overlook the needs of others. Opening your heart to others helps prepare a place in our heart of Christ. Through the Advent season prepare a place for Christ in your heart by providing what you can for those in need.

RETRouvaille

Does the distance between you seem wide? Are you already separated? *Retrouvaille* can help and offers hope for a better relationship. *Retrouvaille* is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you to learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. *Retrouvaille* is Christian based but welcomes all faith as well as non-religious couples. The next program begins on the weekend of 2/16 at the Family Life Center in Malvern. Call 1-800-470-2230. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

YOUNG AT HEART

Heartfelt thanks to Monsignor Russell for the extraordinary presentation and video of his trip to Budapest and Amsterdam at our November general meeting. All were fascinated and delighted by the travelogue of his experiences!

In addition, our congratulation to our Pastor upon his elevation on becoming Monsignor, an honor granted by Pope Francis through the effort of Bishop Malooly. It is a most deserved honor!

Also at this November meeting, Monsignor Russell was presented with a check for \$400.00 from Young at Hearts' fundraising Bake/Craft Sale on October 14th & 15th. This offering is for winter maintenance of the Church grounds.

On December 4th, Young at Heart had their gala Christmas luncheon at the Crown Plaza. It was a great way to close out the 2017 year!

There will be NO General Meeting in December. Our NEXT meeting will be held on Monday, January 15, 2018!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

No meetings are scheduled during December. Please continue to pray the rosary daily for our world peace, our country, our brave servicemen and women and our families.

Our meetings will resume in January, 2018 on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 7-9pm in the Convent.

There will be NO CRAFT meetings in December 2017. Meetings will resume every Monday evening in January 2019 from 7-9pm in the Convent.

Merry
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY *New Year*

-From all the members of Young at Heart

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TOMORROW, MONDAY our Religious Education students in 3rd through 8th grades will be attending our Advent Prayer Service with Confession. Please bring the children to MASCI HALL by 6:30pm so we can get over to Church quickly. Parents, please pick up your children at 7:45pm as usual. Thank you for your cooperation!

YOUTH GROUP will meet TONIGHT, SUNDAY, December 10th, at 7pm in the Religious Ed office.

WEEKLY CALENDAR



Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 10

2nd Collection: Maintenance & Repair
8:00am 2nd Sunday Breakfast-Masci
11:00am Children's Liturgy of the Word

Monday, December 11

5:30pm Youth Choir-Church
6:30pm Religious Ed Classes-School
6:40pm Religious Ed Penance-Church
6:30pm Adult Scripture Study-Rel. Ed. Office

Tuesday, December 12

7:00pm Book Club-Convent

Wednesday, December 13

7:30pm Parish Penance-Church

Thursday, December 14

5:30pm Bingo-Masci Hall
7:30pm Adult Choir-Church

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum every Sunday morning at 10:05am or WDEL 101.7 FM, 1150 AM and www.wdel.com. Next Sunday, December 17th, author, Thomas Craughwell will talk about his latest book, "101 Places to Pray Before You Die". For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, podcasts and more. "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at www.facebook.com/catholicforum. Page 4 - 311