

December 24, 2017
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

5:00pm, 7:30pm & Midnight

Christmas Day

7:00am, 9:00am, & 11:00am



The Youth Choir will sing at the 5:00pm Mass

A Christmas Prelude Concert will be given at
7:00pm and 11:30pm

The Adult Choir with Orchestra
will sing at the 7:30 Mass

*Christmas Blessings and Best Wishes
from Father Russell,
and the whole parish staff!
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*



2018 PARISH CALENDARS
*will be available NEXT weekend
at all the exits of church.*

We ask one calendar per family. Thank you!

Schedule of Masses for New Year's Day

*Sunday, December 31st at 5:00pm
Monday, January 1, 2018 at 9:00 & 11:00am*

**What better way to end a year and
begin a new one,** than to be with the Lord?
Thank the Lord for His blessings in the past
and to ask Him to bless you and your loved
ones in the New Year!

INCENSE AND THE CHURCH: Since ancient times, the church has used incense as part of its sacred rituals. Sometimes the church uses incense to remind us that 'our prayers rise like incense' before the Lord. Sometimes the church uses incense to honor the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament or to honor the altar upon which we celebrate the Eucharist or to honor a sacred image such as a statue of the Blessed Mother or to honor the human body (the temple of the Holy Spirit) at a funeral. A few of our parishioners have mentioned that incense presents certain difficulties for them because of asthma, allergies, etc. We now use a non-allergenic type of incense. Incense will be used all the Masses of Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and the Epiphany.

HELP!! When we developed our parish budget for this year, we recognized we would probably have a **deficit of around \$30,000** even if we have a successful Carnival.

We decided we had to install a back-up generator for part of the Rectory. We have had many power failures along Philadelphia Pike. Each time it happens, we have lost a good deal of food (Outreach and Rectory food) and been virtually paralyzed : we do not know if someone is ringing the doorbell or trying to reach us by phone. **The cost of the installation of the generator: \$14,645.**

We also found we had to replace the heating unit for the Church. **The cost of new boilers: \$19,859.**

We have had to replace an air conditioning compressor in Masci Hall. **Cost: \$8,879.**

And some major repairs had to be made to the School Building boiler. **Cost: \$3,626.**

That is a total of \$47,009 to be added to the expected deficit!

Your extra sacrifice in our Christmas Collection would be sincerely appreciated.

Our Offertory Collection for the weekend of 12/10 was \$4,613; the on-line collection was \$2,304.50 for a total collection amount of \$6,917.50. Thank you for your support!



PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

*To all of our Parishioners and Parish Staff:
May all that is meaningful, beautiful and gives
you joy be yours now and throughout the
coming year!*

A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

*“When the song of the angels is stilled, when
the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and
princes are home, when the shepherds are back
with their flock, the work of Christmas begins:
to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to
rebuild nations, to bring peace among all, to
make music in the heart. ~Howard Thurman*

*Thank
You*

A big “THANK YOU” to all of our parishioners neighboring churches and organizations and Food Lion Stores! Our Food Closet is bursting its seams with food BUT we still could use toilet paper. Because of your generosity, families in need will have a place to come for assistance. May God bless you in a very special way this Christmas Season!

Saturday, December 23

5:00 pm(SR) William and Eloise Hart

Sunday, December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:00 am(WR) People of the Parish

9:00 am(WK) Albert Minuti, Sr.

11:00 am(SR) Ewa Zielonka

Sunday, December 24-Christmas Eve

5:00pm(SR) People of the Parish

7:30pm(SR) People of the Parish

Midnight(SR)People of the Parish

Monday, December 25-Christmas Day

7:00 am(WR)People of the Parish

9:00 am(WK)People of the Parish

11:00am(SR) People of the Parish

Tuesday, December 26

7:00am(WR) Souls in Purgatory

9:00am(SR) Mamie Connolly

Wednesday, December 27

7:00am(WR) Lisa Waterfield

9:00am(SR) Janet Prosceno

Thursday, December 28

7:00am(SR) Charles F. Seitz

9:00 am(WK)Louis Calvarese

Friday, December 29

7:00am(Cap)

9:00 am(SR) Frank Owsiany

Saturday, December 30

9:00 am(SR) Edward Rich, Sr.

20th Anniversary

5:00 pm(SR) Joseph Vari

Sunday, December 31

Feast of the Holy Family

7:00 am(WR) People of the Parish

9:00 am(SR) James Kelleher

11:00 am(SR) Mark Bader

Sunday, December 31-New Year’s Eve

Vigil Mass for Mary, Mother of God

5:00pm(SR)People of the Parish

Monday, January 1, 2018

9:00am(SR) People of the Parish

11:00am(SR)People of the Parish

BINGO

B	I	N	G	O
7	25	44	57	62
15	22	40	50	70
11	30	FREE	46	74
2	28	37	55	68
10	27	39	59	75

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!

YOUNG AT HEART

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

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 Schauber, Charlie Sheyog, Caitlin Shimer, Irma Shock, Frank Sullivan, George Theiss, William Thomas, Catherine Thomson, James Whisker, Ann Wilson, Cindy Zych

BULLETIN DEADLINES

1/7/2018 bulletin info is due 1/2/2018

1/14 bulletin info is due 1/8

1/21 bulletin info is due 1/15

1/28 bulletin info is due 1/22

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR



Sunday, December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

There is one collection today...

11:00am Children's Liturgy of the Word

Sunday, December 24-Christmas Eve

Masses: 5pm, 7:30pm, Midnight

Monday, December 25-Merry Christmas!

Christmas Collection at all Masses

Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am

Tuesday, December 26

Rectory is Closed today

Wednesday, December 27

Rectory re-opens

Thursday, December 28

5:30pm Bingo-Masci Hall

TO ALL PARISHIONERS: No one is authorized to adjust, turn on/off any fans or mechanical systems in the Church or any of our other buildings. Maintenance has these set as they are for a purpose. Turning off or adjusting improperly may lead to damages and expensive repair. If you have a concern please contact the parish office. Maintenance are the only ones authorized to access our systems. Thank you for your cooperation!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

NO RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES THE NEXT 2 MONDAYS (12/25 & 1/1/18). Please enjoy this time off with your families!

Many THANKS for all the mittens/gloves, etc. that decorated our Mitten Tree last Monday night. These wonderful gifts will be given to the needy through our Social Ministry Office. You will all be rewarded for your kindness and generosity! Thanks to Laura Hullinger and The Family, Faith and Fun team for leading our families in caroling!

M - For the **MAGIC** we all feel this time of year

E - For the **EFFORT** we put into making Christmas special for our families

R - For the **RUNNING** around picking up last minute goodies for everyone

R - For the **ROMANCE** that seems to come back to life in marriages this time of year

Y - For **YAHWEH** who made this all happen and continue through the years

C - For the **CRIB** where baby Jesus first laid His head

H - For the **HUMBLE** beginnings that brought us a Faith that has endured for over 2,000 years

R - For **RESPECTING** that Jesus is the Reason for the Season

I - For the **INVITATION** we all give with open arms to welcome people back to the Church

S - For the **STAR** that brought the Shepherds and Wise Men to Bethlehem

T - For the extra **TIME** we have to spend with those we love

M - For **MARY** who said YES

A - For **ADVENT** that gave us all time to reflect and prepare our hearts for the Christ Child

S - For **SALVATION** that was made possible by Jesus' birth, suffering, death and Resurrection

Merry Christmas to All Religious Education Families and All of St. Helena's Parishioners! May all your Christmas wishes come true!

~Ms. Hummy and Sue

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

MARCH FOR LIFE

St. Thomas the Apostle Knights of Columbus has chartered a bus for people of all ages, weather permitting for the March for Life held on Friday, January 19, 2018. There will be a stop at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for those unable to make the March. Seats are first come, first served. The only cost is the tip for the driver. Contact Theresa, 302-322-2929 or 12374Columbiettes@gmail.com.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE



Sunday, December 24-Christmas Eve

5:00pm - Molly, Maria, Margaret

7:30pm - Cullen

Midnight - Chris, Alex Fischer, Alex Fella

Monday, December 25-Christmas Day

7:00am - Joyce

9:00am - Server Needed

11:00am - Noah, Daniella, John Paul

Saturday, December 30-Feast of Holy Family

5:00pm - Chernekoff, Anna

Sunday, December 31

7:00am - Joyce

9:00am - Server Needed

11:00am - Maria, Dylan

Sunday, December 31

Vigil: Mary, Mother of God

5:00pm - Grace, Nate

Monday, January 1, 2018

Mary, Mother of God

9:00am - Cullen, Alex

11:00am - Seamus, Molly, Anna