

December 31, 2017

*The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

*Schedule of Masses
For New Year's Day*



Sunday, December 31st at 5:00pm

*Monday, January 1, 2018 at
7:00am, 9:00am and 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!



*May God look after our families
throughout 2018 and give them the
peace that only He can bring!*

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

*We ask one calendar per family.
Thank you!*

HELP IS NEEDED!! On January 7, 2018 the decorations will be removed from the church and stored away for another year. The more people who help out, the faster this job may be completed. Come to the church at 12:30 and bring a friend! We thank you in advance for any help you may be able to give.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF LAY TRUSTEES

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018 there will be the annual election of Lay Trustees after the 9:00am Mass in the Church. This election is required by the laws of the State of Delaware. All adult members of the parish are eligible to participate.

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; to honor the altar upon which we celebrate the Eucharist; to honor a sacred image such as a statue of the Blessed Mother and 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! Any extra sacrifice would be very much appreciated.**



PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

*May the Peace of Jesus
Touch every student in St. Helena's
Religious Education Program for their
generous donations of food and an abundance
of mittens, gloves, scarves and hats!
~Parish Social Ministry*

*The next Parish Social Ministry meeting
will be on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 from
10:00am-3:00pm at Kathleen DiCamilla's
home.*

Saturday, December 30

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)

Monday, January 1, 2018

7:00am(WR)

9:00am(SR) Mary Sue Whisker

11:00am(SR) People of the Parish

Tuesday, January 2

7:00am(WR)

9:00am(SR)

Wednesday, January 3

7:00am(SR)

9:00am(WK)

Thursday, January 4

7:00am(SR)

9:00 am(WK) Velma Corey and Irene Shaffer

Friday, January 5-First Friday

7:00am(Cap)

9:00 am(SR) Anne Frances Dunn

Saturday, January 6

9:00 am(SR)

5:00 pm(SR) Mary Ann and Leonard Kelleher

Sunday, January 7-Epiphany of the Lord

7:00 am(SR) Joe Swarter

9:00 am(SR) Helen Tancredi

11:00 am(KN) Florence Pluta

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 6

5:00pm - Bella, Connor

Sunday, January 7

7:00am - Star

9:00am - Nate, Grace, Dylan

11:00am - William, Margaret, Anna

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!

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

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

Craft meetings will resume every Monday evening in January 2018 from 7-9pm in the Convent.

The Offertory Collection for 12/17 was \$4,853 and the on-line collection was \$1,949.50 for a total of \$6,802.50. Thank you for your sacrifice!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

NO RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES NEXT MONDAY, 1/1/18. Please enjoy this time off with your families! Classes will resume on Monday, January 8, 2018 at 6:30pm.

*Happy New Year!
From Hummy and Sue!*



Please Pray For Our Sick Parishioners

Anne Ambagis, Rita Biddle, Ruth Bower, Joan Callaghan, 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

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!



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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 31

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

There is one collection today...

Sunday, December 31

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Mass is celebrated at 5:00pm

Monday, January 1, 2018

Holy Day Collection at all Masses

Mass is celebrated at 7am, 9am & 11am

Thursday, January 4

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. The Maintenance Crew are the only ones authorized to access our systems. Thank you for your cooperation!

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.

Reflection

The Holy Family of Jesus,

Mary and Joseph

Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Overheard on the gossip line: "Father X said "Go to hell' from the altar last Sunday." Many of the hearers of this juicy tidbit mix shock with dismay as this so-called "news" reaches them. What the original caller and others never mentioned, however, was the all-important context of the words. It turns out that the pastor was referring to almighty God's verdict on the disobedient angels who forfeited heaven by their decision. Context makes all the difference.

In his tender telling of the presentation of the Child Jesus at the Temple of Jerusalem, St. Luke provides the context of this Jewish ceremonial event. By law, every male baby was to be consecrated to the Lord. Obviously a divine child had no such obligation. But Mary and Joseph as the humble parents they were, obey the law. Consequently, we learn about their virtues and their respect for religious rules. We also learn of Simeon's and Anna's senior fidelity and patience with God's timetable.

Above all, we are reminded that when God chose to visit us in person, He chose to do so in the context of a family. The possibilities are as limitless as God's divine imagination as to some other way He could have come among us. But His beautiful decision to come as a member of a family, indeed a holy family, made that institution itself holy. As a parish family, we come to the Eucharist to be fed with the strength to make us one as He was with Mary and Joseph and thus to be a holy people.

It doesn't do us much good to itemize the assaults on the family prevalent in our culture today. We all could name them. We may sadly know of some from personal experience. There is even a TV commercial around to remind us of the damage our cell phone usage can do to the importance of a family dinner. What we have to remember are those building blocks we call virtues that we read of in this weekend's selection of Paul's letter to the Colossians. The family gatherings at this holiday time make for a real proving ground of how well we're doing in the various virtues that make family life possible. It's an unusual amount of "togetherness" that's not around most of the year. Here's a case that could happen anytime.

This tale of "togetherness" appeared in the Chicago Daily News. It was written by a woman who was struggling with her own special "me and my shadow" problem. She wrote:

I've heard of the problems newly retired men and their wives face when confronted by too much togetherness, and I was always amused at the way they so often get on each other's nerves. I never thought I'd face such a problem, but it's been two months now, and matters around here are pretty bad.

I ran out of patience that first Monday. There we were, the two of us. Dave busied himself by following me around, inquiring into my household routines. I tried to be pleasant, but my surly nature surfaced when he asked, "Why don't you vacuum all the way under the bed?" I've tried to interest him in any number of activities, with little success. I've even shouted the merits of daytime TV. "What you really need is a job," I told him, knowing he'd never be able to find one at his age.

Yesterday was typical. Dave and I spent the morning together, as always now. He sat looking out the window for a while, sighing intermittently. Then he came into the kitchen, "When are we having lunch?" he wanted to know. This at 8:30! We went, lockstep, to the bedrooms, where he watched me make the beds. To his query, "What should we do now?" I snarled, "How about a duel with sabers?" A lengthy discussion followed of my system of sorting wash. I don't like to sort wash—much less talk about it!

The situation is getting to me. You'd think that someone with so much intelligence, someone I truly love, would not be so totally annoying when faced with a change in routine. Ah, well, my problem won't last forever. Next fall, Dave will be in kindergarten.



First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

True religion always involves one's duties to honor one's parents. This is the cornerstone of biblical ethics.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

These virtues comprise a popular household of the time among the Hellenistic peoples. St. Paul adds a Christian ethical perspective.

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40, or 2:22, 39-40

The story of the presentation of the baby Jesus includes Simeon's canticle of praise, now included in the official Night Prayer of the Church. He also makes his pronouncement of the meaning of the child for all of Israel.