The Piarist Fathers
Pastor
Rev. David Powers Sch.P.
Parochial Vicars
Rev. Andrew Berinyuy, Sch.P.
Very Rev. Fernando Negro, Sch.P.
Rev. Jesús Negro, Sch.P.
Rev. Richard Wyzykiewicz Sch.P.

Parish Staff
Parish Secretary
Mrs. Rosemarie Ortiz
Business Manager
Anne Kathy Rice
Facilities Manager
Lillian Nazario
Music Director
Mr. Daniel Ambe
Musicians
Mr. Jim Donaldson
Mr. Alex Henriquez

November-December 2020

St. Helena’s School (718) 892-3234
http://www.sthelenaelementary.org
Early Childhood (Pre-K for All)
Elementary School (Grades K-8)
Principal: Mr. Richard Meller
2050 Benedict Avenue
Bronx, New York 10462

High School:
Monsignor Scanlan H.S. (718) 430-0100
http://www.scanlanhs.edu/
Principal: Mr. Kris Keelin
915 Hutchinson River Parkway
Bronx, New York 10465

St. Helena Rectory:
1315 Olmstead Avenue
Bronx, N.Y. 10462
Phone: (718) 892-3232
Fax: (718) 892-7713
www.churchofsthelena.com
Email: sthelenarc@yahoo.com
Alumni: sthelenasalumni@yahoo.com

Our Lord Jesus Christ
King Of The Universe

Hay Que Estar Preparados

Mass Schedule (Horario de Misas)
Saturday: 5:30 PM
Sunday: AM PM
8:00 12:00 (Español)
10:00 (Family) 5:00
6:30 (Français)

Confessions: Saturday — 4 to 5:30
Sick Or Emergency Calls:
Call the Rectory at 892-3232

Devotions:
• Circulo De Oracion: lunes, 7 a 9.00PM
• Miraculous Medal Novena
  Monday after 12:15 PM Mass
• Exposición del Santisimo y Coronilla de la Divina Misericordia: miércoles, 7PM
• Eucharistic Adoration
  Thursday between the 8:30 & 12:15 Masses
• First Friday: 1 to 6:30PM
• Sacred Heart Novena: Thursday, Noon
• English Bible Study: Tuesday, 1PM & 7:30PM
  and Sunday 11:30AM
• Rosary: Wednesday, 1PM

Holy Days: 8:30AM, 12:15PM, 7:30PM
Weekdays & Sat.: 8:30AM, 12:15 PM
Morning Prayer: Daily 8:30AM
Spanish Mass: Sunday, 12:00 Noon
Holy Days—Evenings Before—7:00PM
Wednesday — 7:00PM (Español)
Monday 7:00PM (every first Monday of the month in
Español) Primeros lunes de mes

Baptisms: Arrangements must be made at the Rectory for Baptismal
Class. Bring a copy of the child’s Birth Certificate and Godparent documents.

Marriages: Arrangements for weddings should be made as soon as possible at the Rectory.

Parish Registration: All Catholics who live within the parish boundaries should fill out a registration card at the Rectory.
St. Nicholas - Patron Saint of New York City - December 6

Following the American Revolution, interest in the Dutch colonial history of New York surged, and Saint Nicholas became a favorite anti-British symbol of New York Historical Society founder, John Pintard. Pintard held a strong interest in Saint Nicholas and promoted him as the patron saint of both the Society and the city as a whole. Both the Eastern and Western Churches honor him, and it is claimed that after the Blessed Virgin, he is the saint most pictured by Christian artists. And yet historically, we can verify only that Nicholas was the fourth bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor. He was born March 15, 270 and died December 6, 343. As with many of the saints, we are able to capture the relationship which Nicholas had with God through the admiration which Christians have had for him—an admiration expressed in the colorful stories which have been told and retold through the centuries. Perhaps the best-known story about Nicholas concerns his charity toward a poor man who was unable to provide dowries for his three daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced into prostitution, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man’s window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint’s feast. In the English-speaking countries, Saint Nicholas became, by a twist of the tongue, Santa Claus—further expanding the example of generosity portrayed by this holy bishop.

The Immaculate Conception - Dec. 8

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception falls on December 8 and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mary is the Patron Saint of the United States under the title of The Immaculate Conception, which means that Mary, whose conception was brought about the normal way, was conceived without original sin or its stain—that’s what “immaculate” means: without stain. The essence of original sin consists in the deprivation of sanctifying grace, and its stain is a corrupt nature. Mary was preserved from these defects by God’s grace; from the first instant of her existence, she was in the state of sanctifying grace and was free from the corrupt nature original sin brings. When discussing the Immaculate Conception, an implicit reference may be found in the angel’s greeting to Mary.

The angel Gabriel said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you (Luke 1:28). The phrase “full of grace” is a translation of the Greek word kecharitomene. It, therefore, expresses a wonderful characteristic quality of Mary. She was in a state of sanctifying grace from the first moment of her existence.

The dogma of the Immaculate Conception was officially defined by Pope Pius IX in 1854. Some people ask why this happened so late in time. Actually, dogmas are defined only when there is a controversy that needs to be cleared up or when the Church in time.

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, the patron saint of the United States, and a Holy Day of Obligation, will be on Tuesday, December 8. Masses will be Monday, December 7, 7:30PM, (Spanish Vigil Mass), and on Tuesday at 8:30AM, 12:15PM and 7:30PM in English.

FIRST COMMUNION FAMILY SESSION takes place today, Sunday, December 6 at 11AM in the cafeteria. All must attend.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS second collection next weekend. Your gift helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

CALASANZ MOVEMENT YOUTH GROUP meets every Friday at 7PM.

ENGLISH CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP - We meet both live in the Green Building and virtually every Saturday at 1PM by way of ZOOM. To join virtually, go to www.zoom.us and enter meeting #: 82992694953 and Password: 444555.

SPANISH CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP meets every Monday at 7PM in the church.

LEGION OF MARY meets every Saturday at 1PM in Peralta Room.

PARISH BAPTISMS-You must attend a one-hour baptismal class prior to the event. If you have not yet taken the class in either English or Spanish, you must come to the rectory and register for the class, which takes place on Thursday evenings at 7PM. The Spanish classes are held the 1st and 3rd Thursdays and the English classes on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. You must register to attend by calling 718-892-3232.

PARISH CALENDARS - We are in need of a corporate or personal sponsor for our Parish Calendar this year. If you are able to help, call the rectory at 718-892-3232.

MISSALETTES FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS Missalettes for Advent and Christmas have arrived. Anyone wishing a missalette can purchase their own in the rectory for $2.
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ST. HELENA IS A COVID SELF-TESTING SITE until Dec. 12 between the hours of 10AM-4PM. NYC Test and Trace staff will be onsite and will assist you in using self-swab testing kits. These tests are less invasive and more comfortable, and self-swab tests provide results within 48 hours. The tests are provided free of charge through the city and are a great resource for St. Helena students, parishioners, parents as well as Parkchester residents. They are located in the Green Building and will be present after every Mass on December 6.

CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS-The English and Spanish Prayer Groups are sponsoring an end-of-the-year, bilingual, Healing Mass & Anointing with Fr. Shane Johnson on Saturday, December 19 at NOON. His topic will be: "Do not be afraid, because your prayer has been heard." (No temas, porque tu súplica ha sido escuchada.)

NATIONAL NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE: It was on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in 1531, then celebrated on December 9th, that Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas and the Unborn, first appeared to St. Juan Diego. The National Night of Prayer for Life bridges these feasts. All nations of the world are invited to participate, as we ask Our Blessed Mother to protect Life and the Family, to renew the Church, and to return our country and our world to God. During the HOUR OF UNITY, 12 Midnight to 1 AM EST., we will be united with churches across the country and the world in prayer to end abortion and restore God’s blessings. The National Night of Prayer for Life includes adoration of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the night. Each hour will begin with specific prayers, song, and the Rosary followed by personal silent prayer. DATE AND TIME: Tues, Dec 8th, 1:00PM until Wed, Dec 9th, 1:00AM Come for an hour or more. Parts of the night will be live-streamed.

TOYS FOR TOTS-We are collecting toys and candy for the children at Jacobi Hospital as well as for our own children. Toys can be either wrapped (put age and sex of intended child) or unwrapped and may be brought to the rectory or placed under the tree in the narthex. Toys are due by December 20.

VIRTUAL AL-Anon MEETINGS-meet virtually every Saturday at 9AM. You can call in at 712-770-5372, and the access code is: 178602.

VIEW ON FORMED -We hope you are enjoying the free parish subscription to www.formed.org which gives you 24/7 access to over 300 quality Catholic on line programs, 101+ audios, & 98+ E-Books. Today is the Second Sunday of Advent. Study YDisciple: Advent, session 2: Trust in God. On Tuesday, The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, study: Lectio Mary, study: Lectio Mary, Friends of God. Session 3: Mary or Watch: Ready Reasons: Was the Immaculate Conception Necessary?, or Is there Biblical Proof of the Immaculate Conception?, or Blessed Duns Scotus - Defender of the Immaculate Conception. Saturday Watch: Guadalupe: The Miracle and Message, or for children: Juan Diego: Messenger of Guadalupe, or listen to: Our Lady of Guadalupe.

THANKSGIVING RAFFLE TICKETS-This is our last weekend. The drawing is Monday, December 7. Due to COVID, this is our largest parish fundraiser of 2020. There are eight cash prizes. $1,000 grand prize, two $500 prizes and five $100 prizes. Tickets are available for $3 each, for $2, for $5, for $10, and for $20.

Readings for the week of December 6, 2020

WEEKLY COLLECTION
November 29—$3,798.75
Thanksgiving Day—$1,513.00
50/50—The November winner is $186 @ $117

Mass Intentions
December 6 — Second Sunday of Advent, 8:00 +Mildred and Walter Murphy; 10:00 S +Stephanie Fijalkowski; +Carlos de Jesus & Intentions for Julio Diaz; +Jean Ninimkin-2ndAnniv
12:00 S (Sp) +Catalina Carrera, Petra Feliciano, Lorenza Morales y los difuntos del Mundo Parte de Leobardia Refugio; +Joseph and Lidia Bastone; Ana Maribel Alley, Maria Valladares and Maribel Alley For a Safe Trip to and From Their Destination; +Gustavo Rosales; +Victor Castro, Rafael Baez, Ramona Baez Herrera and Ana Hilda Ramirez; +Edwin Rivera; +Teresa Guiro Darna; Jacqueline French and Nancy Rosado-Healing Intention
5:00 +Katherine Callaghan
6:30 S (Fr) +Margaret Bongyi and Raphael Mbinkar

December 7 — Monday — St. Ambrose
6:30* +Andrew Pugliese
8:30 S Alessandra Mia Savino’s Utmost Facility to Achieve Salvation & for a Close and Loving Relationship with Her Paternal Grandmother
12:15 +Carmen Serrano-Birthdday Intention; +Carlos de Jesus and Intentions for Julio Diaz
7:00 +Luis Quinteros, Soila Lopes and Agusto Barros; +Elena Rivas, Guillermo Reinoso and Dolores Calle
December 8 — Tuesday — Feast of the Immaculate Conception
6:30* In Thanksgiving for Favors
8:30 S +Madeline and Daniel Donovan & Terence Lorino, NYFD
7:30 +Ralph A. Cerbone, Jr.; +Olga DeLo Santos
December 9 — Wednesday — St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
6:30* +Alberto Brinz
8:30 S For God’s Blessings on Fr. Luis in Puerto Rico
12:15 +Mary E. Churchill;
7:00 5 (Sp) +Jesus Malverde, Epifanio Policarpio, Paulino Gonzalez Bautista
December 10 — Thursday — St. Gregory III
6:30* +Elizabeth D’Aiello
8:30 S +Elizabeth D’Aiello
12:15 Maria Mondelli-Intentions and +Joe and Mario Mondelli
December 11 — Friday — St. Damasus I
6:30* In Thanksgiving for Favors
8:30 S +Elizabeth D’Aiello and Intentions for Maria Mondelli
12:15 Souls in Purgatory
December 12 — Saturday — Our Lady of Guadalupe
6:00 (SP) +Alaina Hernandez
6:30* Divine Justice for the Kidnapping & Crimes Committed Against 50,000 Young Women in India who were later sold to Burdels
8:30 S +Elizabeth D’Aiello
12:15 In Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe
3:00 (SP) +For the Sick of St. Helena’s Parish
5:30 +Elizabeth D’Aiello and Intentions for Maria Mondelli
7:00 (SP) +Veronica Tavarez
December 13 — Third Sunday of Advent
8:00 +Catherine Carolan
10:00 S Xavier Francis, Meera Job, Staven and Jair Joseph in Thanksgiving
12:00 S (Sp) Rafael Jr. Hernandez-acccion de gracias birthday; +Victor Castro, Rafael Baez, Ramona Baez Herrera & Ana Hilda Ramirez; Jacqueline French and Nancy Rosado-Healing Inten
5:00 +Balbina Rebello
6:30 S (Fr) +Margaret Bongyi and Raphael Mbinkar

Names only said in Prayer of the Faithful are in Italics *not a public Mass; +=deceased; S=Mass is live-streamed