



ST. HELENA ST. PATRICK *E*

WELCOME TO OUR PARISHES!



17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”
- Mt 13:44

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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JULY 26, 2020

CONTACT US | LIVE THE LITURGY

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Rev. Jason Asselin, J.C.L.

sthelenascatholicparish.org



StHelenaND

When a merchant finally finds a priceless, perfect pearl, he sells all he has and buys it. He does this because that pearl matters to him. It has significance and brings a depth of joy like none other. What matters and is of importance to you? When what matters to us has something to do with the kingdom of God, God is delighted. His exuberant happiness is hard to contain because He knows that we are happy stumbling upon this beautiful wisdom. Ask God to help you discover this pearl of great price. There are many things competing for our attention every day. But not all of these things are important. We focus too much energy on the unimportant, superficial stuff and neglect paying attention to the things that really make a difference and have the greatest impact. Things all too easily become more significant than people, and our agendas become more essential than God's. We do not have to empty our bank accounts and totally detach from everything we have in order to serve God. But, we are asked to prioritize our lives and make what matters to God what matters most to us. In doing so, when we rise each day, we will be able to see what really needs our attention and embrace it with great joy!



ST. HELENA PARISH

Mass Schedule

Saturday (vigil) 5pm
Sunday 8:30am (1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays)
 10:30am (2nd, 4th Sundays)
Tue–Fri 8:00am

Confession Schedule

Saturday 3:30–4:30pm
Sunday Before 8:30 am mass (1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays)
Tuesday 7:00–8:00pm
Tues–Fri Before 8:00 am daily
 Mass | By appointment, call parish office



ST. PATRICK PARISH

Mass Schedule

Sunday 10:30am (1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays)
 8:30 am (2nd, 4th Sundays)
Thursday 9:00am

Confession Schedule

Sundays after 10:30 am Mass
 By appointment - call parish office

FROM OUR PASTOR

Dreams & Discernment

Dear friends in Christ,

Dream big is a common motivational phrase. Dreaming big can be helpful when graduating or beginning a new stage in life. But we know that every dream, big or small, does not come true. Occasionally our dreams are vivid; we wake up with that unshakable feeling: “did that really happen!” If you were asked to dream big, what would you request?

In today’s first reading, God appears to Solomon in dream. His request is granted, and the Lord is impressed at his selfless desire (1Kg 3:11). You will have to read beyond today’s passage to see Solomon’s wisdom in action (see 1Kg 3:15–28). Does Solomon remain faithful to his request? Fast-forward to the eleventh chapter of first Kings and we learn the downfall of Solomon. Even with the best of intentions, even the most talented and gifted person will face temptation and is prone to failure.

Our Savior continues to paint a picture of his kingdom in the Gospel reading. We have heard the parable of the sower, the weeds, the leaven, and the mustard seed. Today Jesus takes a step back from his canvas. He washes his paintbrush and dips it into a new color. Imagine the first set of parables as the sky and the horizon; today’s stories turn to the green and brown hues of the landscape and the earth.

The treasure, the pearl, and fish. What do you think when you hear these words? An old saying comes to mind, “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.” One more, “A pearl is a woman’s best friend.” Ok... maybe I have that wrong. What about the fish? Well, did I ever tell you how big that walleye was that I almost caught!!

In his commentary on Matthew’s Gospel *Fire of Mercy*, Erasmo Leiva-Merikakis describes two traits of the parables: quality and hiddenness. These stories

display the importance of discerning the quality of God’s kingdom and its hiddenness. Hunting for agates was a favorite activity of mine. My brother and I would scour any gravel alleyway for these hidden gems. Rarely would we find the treasure without crouching down low to the ground. The fisherman might have an easier job today with the invention of fish-finders, but the skill to catch what you want is still required. Species and size matter.

What is the application of these parables to my life today, in 2020? That question should enter our minds each time we reflect upon the Scriptures. First, our dreams might not be what God wants for us. Second, our talents and abilities are limited. Third, take an active role to discover the quality of God’s kingdom. Learning to discover the kingdom of God in our daily lives takes time, energy, practice, determination and, last of all, God himself. Consider the wisdom of Solomon and how easily he fell from grace. Our present culture is devoid of God. We have fallen into the trap of thinking we can do almost anything without Christ; without his grace; and without recognizing our limits and brokenness. So, this week, begin to discover God’s kingdom; stop and take the time look at the blue hues, the green and earthen hues. Ultimately, make time to gaze into the eyes and the heart of the artist himself, Jesus Christ.

Fr. Asselin



Altar Society Meeting Wednesday, July 29, 7:00 pm
 Parish Picnic and Fall Dinner will be finalized.
 Please plan to attend. More information on page 3.

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR |

COVID Updates

Here are some details from the latest letter from Bishop Folda

- Masks are not required, you may wear them at your discretion. They are recommended.
- Holy Communion can be received on the tongue if desired.
- No congregational singing at this time.
- Sunday morning breakfasts are canceled until school begins.
- Although the obligation to attend Mass remains suspended at this time, Bishop Folda states, "it is appropriate to encourage the faithful who are not at higher risk to return to Mass."
- Confessions are now being held in the Confessional.



Food Pantry Volunteers

St. Helena's Parish is scheduled to help with the Ellendale Community Food Pantry distribution on Saturday, August 8 and August 22. 10am-noon. Please consider helping if you can.

Youth: March for Life

Youth in grades 9-12 are invited to a pilgrimage to the annual March for Life in Washington D.C. The trip will begin in Fargo on Jan. 25 and return Jan. 31. Fr. Greg Haman will be the spiritual director. In addition to participating in the March for Life and Mass for Life at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, youth will also see the sights in D.C., Emmitsburg, MD, and Gettysburg. The cost for the 7-day pilgrimage is \$800 and includes air and ground transportation, lodging, meals, and tour fees.

Register today! Registration forms at: www.fargodiocese.org/march-for-life

Fall Dinner and Raffle

A suggestion Box is located in the church entry concerning the Fall Dinner. Please place your suggestions as to if or how the dinner could be held this fall. The decision will be made at the Altar Society meeting (Wednesday, July 29, 7:00 pm) as to how the dinner will look for 2020. We need everyone's input as this involves the entire parish. Attendance at this meeting is encourage. St. Helena will be having a raffle this fall. Prizes need to be listed to get the permit and get tickets printed. If you wish to donate a prize or cash please contact Michele T or Kathy M.

Summer Dress for Mass

Now that warm weather is here it's time to consider what is



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appropriate for Mass in the summer. Our attire in church should reflect three things: Our respect for God's house, our respect for Jesus's Real Presence in the Eucharist, and our respect for our brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ. When in doubt about what to wear, choose in favor of modesty.

Connect with us on FLOCKNOTE

We use Flocknote to communicate important information about parish events. Receive text messages or emails, join the groups you want. You can Text to Join. Text the word: Helena to: 84576 or visit: flocknote.com/sthena1



Follow us on Facebook:
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ST HELENA MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Sunday August 2 (8:30 am)

Usher	Richard Reis
Collection	Dave Eberle
Lector	Michele Thorpe
EMHC	Darell Wall
Gift Bearers	Bob Smith Family
Altar Servers	Isaiah C, Nickolas S, Samuel R

St. Helena Breakfast Servers

August 2	Amanda T, Amber M, Denise O, Pam H (TBD)
August 16	Paula T, Deneen M, Shannon G, Brandy M (TBD)

WEEKLY GIVING

July 19 \$1217.

Thank you for your generosity!

ST. PATRICK MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Sunday August 2 (10:30 am)

Lector	Mona
Gift Carriers	Amy and Judy
Altar Servers	Boston, Lennon

For the Month of August

Breakfast Server	Linda and Ruby
Collection Counters	Laura and Brian
Church Cleaners	Linda and Judy
Altar Society Meeting	None this month

God's Gift Appeal 2020

Seek First the Kingdom of God

Report as of 7/17/2020

St. Helena's: \$13656: 81% of goal 39% participation
St. Patrick's: \$10583: 184% of goal 48% participation
Please consider making a donation if you have not already done so. Thank you.

Advertiser of the Week

Carlsen Funeral Home

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WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Tue. July 28

8:00 am No Mass

Wed. July 29

8:00 am No Mass

Thu. July 30

8:00 am (St. H) †Valentine & †Helen Mastel

9:00 am (St. P) †Anthony Buhl

Fri. July 31

8:00 am †Deceased Volk Relatives

Sat. Aug 1

5:00 pm †George & †Elsie Burgad

Sun. Aug 2

8:30 am (St. H) †Dianne Schlichtmann

10:30 am (St. P) For the Parishioners

Holy Father's Prayer Intention for July Our Families

We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.

Mass intentions needed:

The greatest prayer this side of heaven is the Mass. Remembering our deceased family members and friends at the altar during the celebration of Mass is a wonderful blessing. The usual offering for a Mass is \$10. Please use the envelopes in the back of the church to request a Mass for your loved ones.



Please Pray

...for all who are sick, elderly or alone

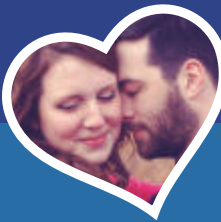
Joanne Brokaw, Loretta Dingwall, Linda Siro, Cindy Kelly Heupel, Edna Scherman, Deacon James & Val Hunt, Carla Engelstad, Susan Lacina, Richard Rodlund.

If you or someone you know would like to be added to, or removed from this list please call the parish office.



Participate in Weekly Mass or the Rosary on the radio
Real Presence Radio
 AM 1280/Fargo or AM 1370/Grand Forks
 Sunday Mass 7am
 Daily Rosary 8:30pm Lamb Radio
 FM 88.9/Aberdeen - Sunday Mass (Sacred Heart Parish, Aberdeen) 9:30am
 Morning Prayers including Rosary 6am

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