



**Nativity of Our Lord  
December 25, 2011**

***Welcome to St. Helena Church***

*Our Church is a center for spiritual growth, where positive attitudes are developed, where good people become better, where hurts are healed, where lessons are learned, where friendships are developed, where marriages restless find peace, where love is alive, where God is understood, where the Holy Spirit leads, and where Jesus Christ is Lord. Together, let us spread the message of the Gospel to our neighbors.*

**Masses for the Week December 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>**

**SATURDAY, Dec. 24, 2011**

6:00pm St. Helena Parishioners  
7:15pm St. Helena Parishioners  
9:00pm St. Helena Parishioners

**SUNDAY, Dec. 25, 2011 *Nativity of Our Lord***

8:00AM St. Helena Parishioners  
9:30AM Personal Intention  
11:00AM St. Helena Parishioners  
12:30PM St. Helena Parishioners

**MONDAY, Dec. 26, 2011 *St. Stephen***

7:00AM Father Bower  
8:00AM Fitzmaurice & Pokorny Families

**TUESDAY, Dec. 27, 2011 *St. John the Evangelist***

7:00AM Father Gaynard  
8:00AM Marta Pham Thi Ninh

**WEDNESDAY, Dec. 28, 2011 *Holy Innocents***

7:00AM Joseph & Marie Lain  
8:00AM Patrick McKee

**THURSDAY, Dec. 29, 2011 *St. Thomas Becket***

7:00AM Dina Rojas  
8:00AM John Adair

**FRIDAY, Dec. 30, 2011 *The Holy Family***

7:00AM Peter Buu  
8:00AM Julia & Frank Schaller

**SATURDAY, Dec. 31, 2011 *St. Sylvester I***

8:00am Joseph Chiet & Rosa  
4:30pm Thomas Minner (11<sup>th</sup> Anniv)  
11:00pm St. Helena Parishioners

**SUNDAY, Jan. 1, 2012 *Mary, Mother of God***

8:00AM Thanksgiving for the Nguyen Family  
9:30AM Personal Intention  
11:00AM Michael Rojas  
12:30PM Ismael deJesus

***Please remember in your prayers the deceased of St. Helena Church, especially Dave Kelley.***

**We Remember in Prayer...Our sick**

Winnie McGinty	Patricia Komly	Jim Butterly
Theresa Palmer	Taryn & Jack	Betty Masi
Judy Kovesecek	Bernie Black	Rita Voros
Carmen Isley	Donald Panaro	Priscilla Nguyen
Geraldo Acevedo	Charles T. Benner	Charles Ball
Joseph Voros	Rosa Di Nicola	Roberta Pohl
Sharon Doneker	Joan Taft	Noreen Blyweiss
Andre Clarke	Leonard Fitzmaurice	Ellen Moffa
Fressia Moya	Eleanor Garin	Patricia Sobel
David Spieser	William Ten Hagen	Ray Tiegs
Bill Christie	Tam Tri Nguyen	
Baby McClintock		

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**SUNDAY, Dec. 25, 2011 *Birth of Our Lord***

Is 52: 7-10      Heb 1: 1-6      Jn 1: 1-18

**MONDAY (26)**      Acts 6: 8-10; 7: 54-59

Mt 10: 17-22

**TUESDAY (27)**      1 Jn 1: 1-4      Jn 20: 1a, 2-8

**WEDNESDAY (28)**      1 Jn 1: 5-2:2      Mt 2: 13-18

**THURSDAY (29)**      1 Jn 2: 3-11      Lk 2: 22-35

**FRIDAY (30)**      Gn 15: 1-6; 21: 1-3      Lk 2: 22-40

**SATURDAY (31)**      1 Jn 2: 18-21      Jn 1: 1-18

**Birth of Our Lord Dec. 25, 2011 (B)  
Readings: John 1: 1-18**

Christmas tells us that the God who seemed so far removed from the world is in fact closer than we could imagine. Heaven is no longer beyond human comprehension, but is among humans in the body of Mary's Son. The invisible God has become visible in the Incarnation of God's Son. This is why ancient Christians did not believe they were committing idolatry for having images of Christ, or crosses with the body of Jesus on them: for Christ himself is the image of the invisible God. To see Jesus is to see the Father. "We have seen His glory, the glory of the only-begotten God, full of grace and truth."

Without the incarnation of the Son of God, God remains forever aloof, removed from the world, a mere impersonal force. His mind remains a mystery to us. He might love us, but then again, he might hate us too. There is no real way of knowing what his attitude is towards us. He could tell us that He loves us, but there would be no real concrete proof of that. At Christmas God ceases to be aloof and inaccessible to the human. No longer is He a God who merely "sits in the heavens and laughs," but by joining our nature to His, He has come within reach. Scripture teaches us that this was His will all along. This was not something foreign to God's nature.



# Catholic Social Teaching



## *The Principle of the Common Good*

"The principle of the common good is understood as the social conditions that allow people to reach their full human potential and to realize their human dignity." Jesus came that "All may have life and have it more abundantly." Consider this: Jesus has no body now but yours. If those who are suffering this Christmas are to have a greater abundance of food, water, education, shelter, healthcare or whatever else they need to realize their full human dignity it will be because you truly did something to *change the systems* that keep people poor – and that you did it in memory of Jesus whose life was spent so that all may have life to the fullest. (*Compliments of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Philadelphia: [www.ssphil.org](http://www.ssphil.org)*)



# The Legend of the Christmas Rose

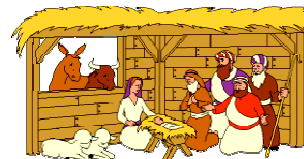
Part of the color in celebration of the season is the blooming of Christmas roses. While a variety of plants over time have come to be called "Christmas Rose", they all are steeped in a legend that dates back centuries. The Legend of the Christmas Rose speaks of a young girl named Madelon who wanted to come worship the Christ Child. Seeing the gold, frankincense and myrrh brought by others who were drawn to the humble birthplace, she despaired that she had no gift to bring, for Madelon was poor indeed. In vain she searched the countryside for a flower that she might bring, but the winter had been cold and harsh – and there were no Christmas flowers to be found. Saddened, the girl began to weep. An angel passing over her stopped to provide comfort and smote the ground that was wet from her tears. There did spring a beautiful bush that bloomed of white roses. "Nor myrrh, nor frankincense, nor gold," said the angel, "is offering more meet for the Christ Child than these pure Christmas Roses." And thus young Madelon went her way and worshipped the Prince of Peace, bearing the gift of her heart and tears.

The Legend of the Christmas Rose also has some foundation in this 15th Century poem:

*A Rose has sprung from a tender root,  
From Jesus, as those of old have sung,  
And it bore a flower, in the middle of a cold winter,  
When half spent was the night.  
Isaiah foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;  
Is Mary the pure, the little flower has brought us.  
From God's eternal wisdom, she bore a child, and remained pure.  
The Flower, so small, whose sweet fragrance fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;  
True man and truer God, helps us out of all sorrows,  
Saves from sin and death.*

*Oh Jesus, until we leave this misery, Let your help guide us into joy,  
In Your Father's Kingdom, where we eternally praise You. Oh God, allow us this.*

# St. Helena Church



## Christmas Schedule 2011

### Vigil of Christmas – Saturday, December 24, 2011

6:00pm Mass in English  
7:15pm Mass in Spanish  
9:00pm Mass in Vietnamese

### Christmas Day – Sunday, December 25, 2011

8:00am Mass in English  
9:30am Mass in Vietnamese  
11:00am Mass in English  
12:30pm Mass in Spanish



### New Year's Eve – Saturday, December 31, 2011

4:30pm Vigil Mass in English for New Year's Day  
11:00pm Vigil Mass to Welcome the New Year

### New Year's Day – Sunday, January 1, 2012

8:00am Mass in English  
9:30am Mass in Vietnamese  
11:15am Mass in English  
12:30pm Mass in Spanish



*Suggested Christmas Offering \$100.00*

**Please note: beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>,  
the 11:00am Mass moves to 11:15am.**



**Let us welcome the newborn Jesus  
as king and ruler of our lives,  
knowing that in him we have everything  
to gain and nothing to lose.**

**St. Helena Parish is a Tithing Parish since Jan. 19, 2003. God has provided for us in wonderful ways and we are committed to "making a return to the Lord for all His goodness to us." All we are and have is due to God's goodness.**



## **Stewardship Report**



12/07/09.....\$5876.00  
 12/05/10.....\$6065.00  
**12/11/11.....\$6003.00**

Number of Envelopes from Mass	267	Loose Collection from Mass	\$1394.00
Envelope Collection from Mass	\$4055.00	Drop Off Collection	\$873.00

Religious Retirement Collection.....\$1281.00

Immaculate Conception Collection.....1330.00

Maintenance Collection.....\$1582.00

Christmas Flowers.....\$2169.00



## **Last But Not Least**



Today we celebrate the birth of the Messenger from heaven. As we read in today's gospel, **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us"** (John 1:1, 14). Let us today listen to the Message that the Child Jesus brings us, let us commit ourselves into his service without looking back, even when we do not know where the journey will lead us, knowing one thing for sure: that the grace of God will supply the strength we need for the long journey of faith ahead. **"For to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God"**

**Merry Christmas**...on behalf of myself, Father Pelczar, Father Navas, Sister Sophie, Deacon Seda, Deacon Isley, Deacon Huan, the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Staff of St. Helena Church and School, I hope you all have a **Blessed and peaceful Christmas**. My Christmas Wish for all is that His Blessed Birth will fill your hearts with peace, joy and love.... may the feelings of Peace on Earth and Goodwill toward all remain with us throughout the New Year.

I would also like to thank all who gave **their time and talents to decorate our upper and lower church for Christmas**. Your efforts, once again, have given us beautiful manger scenes and altars to enhance our liturgies. I know the Lord will be pleased by your efforts. I would also like to thank all those who contributed to the **Christmas Flower Collection**.

Lastly, don't forget that next Sunday, January 1, 2012, our 11:00am Mass moves to 11:15am. Join us and celebrate Mary, the Mother of God and the beginning of a new year. Once again, **MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL** and thanks for reading. **Have good week and a Blessed Christmas!**

Your Brother & Shepherd,  
 Rev. Msgr. Joseph Trinh