

Baptism of Our Lord January 9, 2011



Welcome to St. Helena Church



St. Helena Church is a Tithing & Evangelizing Parish Mission Statement

We, the Parish of St. Helena, are rooted in Jesus Christ and nourished by Eucharist. We are aware of our present diversity and the changes that enrich us. We strive with all that God has given us to live and to share the Gospel of love by creating a welcoming and united community. We seek to integrate actively people of all ages, races, and cultures into every area of life.

Masses for the Week Jan. 9th to 16th

SATURDAY, Jan. 8, 2011

4:30PM Stephen Yhost

SUNDAY, Jan. 9, 2011 *Baptism of the Lord*

8:00AM John Cuong & Maria Binh Nguyen
(7th Wedding Anniversary)

9:30AM Personal Intention

11:00AM William B. Miller

12:30PM St. Helena Parishioners

MONDAY, Jan. 10, 2011

6:30AM Dominic Quoc The Khoi

8:00AM James W. Boyle

TUESDAY, Jan. 11, 2011

6:30AM John L. Tetley

8:00AM Walter Fischuk

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 12, 2011

6:30AM St. Helena Parishioners

8:00AM Doan Nguyen Family - Thanksgiving

THURSDAY, Jan. 13, 2011 *St. Hilary*

6:30AM Fr. John Donahie

8:00AM Charles Petrovich

FRIDAY, Jan. 14, 2011

6:30AM Joeph Chiet & Rosa

8:00AM Karl Wicher

SATURDAY, Jan. 15, 2011

8:00AM Gloria McCasker

4:30PM Stephen Kopiec

SUNDAY, Jan. 16, 2011 *2nd Sunday in OT*

8:00AM Peter & Anna Ky Nguyen

9:30AM Personal Intention

11:00AM Joseph & Rosann Kanakaraj (25th Anniv)

12:30PM St. Helena Parishioners

***Please remember in your prayers the
deceased members of our parish,
families, and friends, especially those
mentioned on our Christmas Flower
Envelopes and Kathleen Gruss***

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.

We Remember in Prayer...Our sick

Theresa Palmer	Patricia Komly	Tina Hosgood
Judy Kovescek	Taryn & Jack	Betty Masi
Rita Klienknecht	Bernie Black	Rita Voras
Grace Sweeney	Donald Panaro	Priscilla Nguyen
Joseph Voras	Charles T. Benner	Charles Ball
	Rosa Di Nicola	Roberta Pohl

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, Jan. 9, 2011 *Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord*
Is 42: 1-4, 6-7 Acts 10: 34-38 Mt 3: 13-17

MONDAY (10) Heb 1: 1-6 Mk 1: 14-20

TUESDAY (11) Heb 2: 5-12 Mk 1: 21-28

WEDNESDAY (12) Heb 2: 14-18 Mk 1: 29-39

THURSDAY (13) Heb 3: 7-14 Mk 1: 40-45

FRIDAY (14) Heb 4: 1-5, 11 Mk 2: 1-12

SATURDAY (15) Heb 4: 12-16 Mk 2: 13-17

Baptism of Our Lord (A) January 9, 2011

Matthew 3:13 - 17

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him . . . After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water.

Reflection: (Reflection by Jude Siciliano, OP, used with permission)

Just as Jesus entered the Jordan to be baptized along with the repentant, so he enters our scene of darkness and confinement today. He comes to those hidden places that keep us locked up. He goes to the imprisoned areas of our lives and our restricted ways of behaving which we sometimes excuse by saying, "That's just the way I am." Rather than be a cheerleader on the sidelines, Jesus comes down into the waters and into the dark places where we are. He helps us face the shadows and hidden places and leads us out. We may not always feel it, but our baptismal faith assures us that we are God's children and that God loves us and takes delight in us. We don't have to work our way up to intimacy with God. Through our Baptism we already live in relationship with God. We were named "beloved" children of God, graced to live a new life which God has shared with us through Jesus Christ. We also became disciples, a name that means "learner". As we live out our faith, we learn from the master teacher. His mission is now our mission, to preach good news to the poor, proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind. Anointed by the Spirit we are empowered and responsible to live it out daily.

Action response:

- Blessing yourself as you enter Church as a reminder of your baptism. Do it slowly and reverently thanking God for the gift of baptism.



Vocation Awareness Week-Jan. 9-15

January 9-15, 2011, is National Vocation Awareness Week. It begins with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord – “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power” (Acts 10:38). We believe that each of us receives the gift of the Holy Spirit at our baptism, and we are called to live this out according to His plan for each of us. Let us remember to pray for men and women in our diocese who are discerning their vocation and encourage them to pursue God’s personal call. As a family or an individual you may want to consider sending a card to a priest or consecrated person this week, thanking them for the gift of themselves given to Christ and to His body, the Church, or invite them to your home for dinner. Pray for more vocations to priesthood and consecrated life – and consider a vocation to priesthood or consecrated life!

Prayer for Discernment

Lord I know that You love me and that You have great plans for me. But sometimes I am overwhelmed by the thought of my future. Show me how to walk forward one day at a time. As I explore the various options which lie before me, help me to listen openly to others, and to pay attention to what is in the depth of my own heart. In this way, may I hear Your call to a way of life which will allow me to love as only I can, and allow me to serve others with the special gifts You have given me. Amen.

Call to Conversion and Holiness



Cardinal Cardinal Rigali has written a Pastoral Letter to the Faithful of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. In this Pastoral, entitled *Called to Conversion and Holiness*, Cardinal Rigali shares the pastoral initiatives currently in process in the Archdiocese. His Eminence reminds us that the life of holiness is the core of both our individual lives and the history of the Archdiocese. Throughout the history of the Church in Philadelphia, we behold the faith of past generations as a rich heritage which encourages us to recommit ourselves to the faith and recognize our place in that history.

As Archbishop, Cardinal Rigali calls us to join him in recognizing the challenges our generation faces as the Church of Philadelphia. Some of these challenges are perennial, while others are particular to our own time. However, we face the living of our faith in the peace and strength of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. You are invited to read Cardinal Rigali’s Pastoral Letter that can be found on the home page of the Archdiocese – www.archphila.org.



SSJ Mission Corps

If you or someone you know is interested in making a difference in the lives of others by giving a year of service, you might want to know about the **SSJ Mission Corps**. This volunteer program, sponsored by the Sisters of Saint Joseph, provides an opportunity for young women between the ages of 21-35 to work with those who are materially poor in the Philadelphia area. The young women who join the Mission Corps live together in a community which is grounded in the values of justice, spirituality, community, and simple living. The women partner with the Sisters of Saint Joseph in furthering the gospel mission of active inclusive love of God and neighbor without distinction. We are now accepting inquiries and applications for the 2011-2012 volunteer year beginning in August 2011. For more information call Sister Rose Andrea at 215-248-7239 or email her at rloughery@ssjphila.org.

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Dear Parents of Students in Bishop McDevitt High School,

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family enjoyed the holidays and are looking forward to a prosperous 2011. We are still in need of families to host our visitors from China in February. My goal is to have all 23 Chinese students be able to stay together and have them all come to McDevitt. We need about 8-10 more families. Would you be able to help us? The students will arrive on February 6th and are here in school from February 7th through 11th. They can travel to and from school with your son/daughter. I just need a place for them to go home to at night! These students are so excited to come over here and I am hoping that I don't have to turn anyone away. What a great way for students overseas to see first-hand what a welcoming school community we have here at McDevitt! If you or anyone you know would be willing to host a student(s), or if you have any questions, please contact me as soon as possible. My phone number is 215-887-5575, ext. 257, and my email address is cseifert@mcdevitths.org. Thank you so much for your time and consideration. Best wishes for a great year!

Sincerely, *Chris Seifert* (Director of Admissions for Bishop McDevitt Catholic High School)

Saint Helena School News



- No School Friday January 14th, Teacher Professional Development Day
- No School Monday January 17th, Martin Luther King's Birthday
- Catholic Schools Week, January 30th - February 4th

- Congratulations to the following students who competed in St. Helena's Spelling Bee...Tracy T., Helena T., Georgia P., Shawn B., Emily L., Emily V., Jordan W.

- Congratulations to the following students who are candidates for this years Neumann Scholars Program Scholarship...Hoang P., Willy T., Kevin C., Minh V., Thomas V., Cuong T.

Congratulations to our High School Students



- ☆ Christian Cooper '11 from Father Judge HS achieved second honors.
- ☆ Paul H. Armstrong IV '11 and Javier Antonio Vazquez '11 from Archbishop Ryan HS achieved first honors.
- ☆ Eliza Thillet '13 from Little Flower HS achieved first honors.
- ☆ Degan D. Duke '14 from Hallahan HS for Girls achieved first honors.
- ☆ Maylyn G. Jamil '11, Larry Nguyen '11 Tamika Pierre-Louis '11, Mary Grace Estampa '12, Allan Jamil Terciano '12, and Camille Ericka deRamos '13 from Bishop McDevitt HS achieved first honors.
- ☆ Elizabeth Tong '13, Michelle S. Joseph '14, and Aurora Maria Pomales '14 from Bishop McDevitt HS achieved second honors.

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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



	12/21/08.....	\$5926	
	12/22/09..... (SNOWSTORM).....	\$2606.00	
	12/19/10.....	\$7110.00	
Number of Envelopes from Mass	322	Loose Collection from Mass	\$1370.00
Envelope Collection from Mass	\$512800	Drop Off Collection	\$605.00
	12/28/08.....	\$6342.00	
	12/29/09.....	\$6148.00	
	12/26/10.....	\$5151.00	
Number of Envelopes from Mass	225	Loose Collection from Mass	\$1335.00
Envelope Collection from Mass	\$3352.00	Drop Off Collection	\$459.00
	1/4/09.....	\$6812.00	
	1/3/10.....	\$6358.00	
	1/2/11.....	\$6003.00	
Number of Envelopes from Mass	322	Loose Collection from Mass	\$1000.00
Envelope Collection from Mass	\$3663.00	Drop Off Collection	\$1335.00



Last But Not Least

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord. This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord and the beginning of National Vocation Awareness Week. The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks Jesus' initiation into public ministry. At his baptism Jesus is named the Beloved Son of God. With this celebration we recommit ourselves to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Initiated through our baptism we too are *favored by God*, commissioned to proclaim Good News with our lives. The observance of *National Vocation Awareness Week (NVAW)* began in 1976 when the National Conference of Catholic Bishops designated the 28th Sunday of the year as the beginning of *NVAW*. In 1997 this celebration was moved to coincide with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

As we celebrate the *Baptism of our Lord Jesus* let us remember our own Baptismal Vows and ponder how we are living those vows today. I ask you to *pray for all of our school students, members of our RCIA Program and for our newborns* as they prepare to receive the Lord in the *Sacrament of Baptism*. May the waters of Baptism strengthen them and keep them on the path to the Lord.

As members of our parish prepare to take down the Christmas Decorations, I would like to take this opportunity to *thank all who participated* in any way with our *Liturgies* during the *Christmas Season*. Your comments on this years decorations and Liturgies would be most welcome. I would also like to thank all of you for your *generous donations* to our parish. *Our Christmas Collection to date is \$13,990.00. Our New Year's Collection was \$1483.59.* May the peace and joy of the Christ Child continue to fill your hearts and homes throughout 2011. Thanks for reading and have a great week!

Your Brother and Shepherd,
Msgr. Joseph T. M. Trinh

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