



# St. Helena Church

FIFTH STREET AND GODFREY AVENUE  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19120-1497



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*Catholic Social Services*

**SR. ANNA MARIE LESUTIS, RN, RSM**

*Parish Nurse Facilitator*

**Ann Farley**

*Parish Nurse Liaison*

**Rectory:** 6161 N. Fifth St.

Phone: 215-424-1300

215-424-1301

Fax: 215-424-9152

**Convent:** 6127 N. Fifth St.

Phone: 215-924-2770

**Jackpot Lottery:** 215-424-2418

**Web-site:** www.sainthelenaparish.net

**School:** 6101 N. Fifth St.

Phone: 215-549-2947

**Parish Nurse:** 215-329-0110

## CHURCH OFFICE

The church office in the rectory is open Monday thru Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, except for the 12:00 to 1:00 lunch hour.

## MASSES

Saturday Vigil - 4:30PM Mass in English

Sunday - 8:00 AM Mass in English

9:30 AM Mass in Vietnamese

11:00 AM Mass in English

12:30 PM Mass in Spanish

Weekdays - 6:30, 8:00 AM

Saturdays 8:00 AM

Obligatory Holy Days - (except Jan. 1 & Christmas)

6:30, 8:00, 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM

First Fridays - 6:30, 8:00,

(also 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR)



## SACRAMENTS

### Confession

Saturdays 4:00-4:30 PM; 15 minutes after Mass (5:30 - 5:45)

### Baptisms

Baptismal Preparation Classes the 1st Sunday of each month at 3:00pm in Room E. Please call the rectory to set up an interview with one of the priest before you begin planning for the baptism. Spanish Baptisms - 3rd Sunday of each month. English Baptisms - 4th Sunday of each month. Baptisms take place in the chapel at 2:00 pm

### Christian Initiation of Adults

Sundays 11:00 AM Mass followed by session until 1:30 PM in Room E

### Sick Calls

Priests & Eucharistic Ministers regularly visit shut-ins. Please phone the rectory if you are confined to the house or enter-

### Parish Religious Education Classes

Sunday 9:15 AM - 10:30 AM

## DEVOTIONS

**Eucharistic Adoration** - Every Thursday in Chapel 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM followed by Evening Prayer.

**Daily Rosary** - Monday through Friday after the 8 AM Mass

**Miraculous Medal** - Saturdays 7:45 AM

**Our Lady of La Vang Devotions** - Saturday 8:30 AM

**Grupo Carismático** - Tenemos circulo de oración en español todos los miercoles a las 7:00 pm en la iglesia de abajo. Estan todos invitados.

## ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS

**Senior Citizens** - 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month, 12 Noon Room 4 of the upper school.

**Parent School Committee** - meets monthly

**Pastoral Council** - meets six times a year

**Finance Council** - meets four times a year

**Cub Scouts** - Tuesdays, 7-8 PM - School Hall

**Boy Scouts** - Wednesdays, 7-9 PM - School Hall

**Evangelization Committee** - 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 PM in Rectory Meeting Room.

**Liturgy Committe** - 4th Tuesday of the month, 7:00 PM in the Rectory Meeting Room

## SERVICE MINISTRY

**(Community Neighborhood Organizing)** - Meets Monthly

**Aid for Friends** - an organization providing the elderly with food and friendship

**Parish Nurse Facilitator**- Sr. Anna Marie Lesutis, RSM, 215-329-0110

**WE WELCOME NEWCOMERS! PLEASE PHONE 215-424-1300 TO MEET WITH A PRIEST.**

# September 7, 2008

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

## 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.

*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 are strengthened, where families are bonded, where the 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 of Sept 7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>

#### **SATURDAY, Sept. 6, 2008**

4:30PM Tim Mather, Sr.

#### **SUNDAY, Sept. 7, 2008 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ord. Time**

8:00AM (E) Phyllis Swanson  
9:30AM (V) Personal Intention  
11:00AM (E) Fr. Albert DiGicaobbe  
12:30PM (S) Jovita Rodriguez

#### **MONDAY, Sept. 8, 2008 Nativity of the BVM**

6:30AM John L. Tetley  
8:00AM Florence Sowinski

#### **TUESDAY, Sept. 9, 2008 Peter Claver**

6:30AM Mass of Thanksgiving  
8:00AM Vam Hoang

#### **WEDNESDAY, Sept. 10, 2008**

6:30AM Harmony in the Family  
8:00AM Mary Rohrbacher

#### **THURSDAY, Sept. 11, 2008**

6:30AM John L. Tetley  
8:00AM Michael & Kevin O'Malley

#### **FRIDAY, Sept. 12, 2008 Holy Name of Mary**

6:30AM Margaret Nally  
8:00AM Tu & Phuoc Nguyen

#### **SATURDAY, Sept. 13, 2008 John Chrysostom**

8:00AM Joseph Owens  
4:30PM Anna & Charles Petrovich

#### **SUNDAY, Sept. 13, 2008 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ord. Time**

8:00AM (E) Mildred & John Batto  
9:30AM (V) Personal Intention  
11:00AM (E) Tony Bordoni  
12:30PM (S) St. Helena Parishioners

**Jackpot Lottery Drawing for  
September 11, 2008 will be for  
\$60,000.00 if no winner on  
September 4, 2008**

### We Remember in Prayer

#### *Our sick and those who care for them*

Margaret Barr	Patricia Komly
Veronica Hellwig	Charles Ball
Martha Skinner	Cindy Halleck
Judy Kovescsek	Marie Halleck
Chiet Doan	John Adair
Jim Kennedy	Helen Robinson
Noel Lopez	John Quinn
Rita Klienknecht	Bob Moffatt
Joan A. Lowery	Marie Riehl
Lawrence Arockiaswamy	Bill Sadler
Emma Vockenhuber	Alton Fenstermaker

### We Remember in Prayer

*Those who have died, especially Bernardo Ferrer, Jr.*

### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

#### **SUNDAY, Sept. 7, 2008 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Ez 33: 7-9                      Rom 13: 8-10                      Mt 18: 15-20

<b>MONDAY (08)</b>	Mi 5: 1-4a	Mt 1: 1-16, 18-23
<b>TUESDAY (09)</b>	1 Cor 6: 1-11	Lk 6: 12-19
<b>WEDNESDAY (10)</b>	1 Cor 7: 25-31	Lk 6: 20-26
<b>THURSDAY (11)</b>	1 Cor 8: 1b-7, 11-13	Lk 6: 27-38
<b>FRIDAY (12)</b>	1 Cor 9: 16-19, 22b-27	Lk 6: 39-42
<b>SATURDAY (13)</b>	1 Cor 10: 14-22	Lk 6: 43-49

## Building Bridges



Once upon a time, there were two brothers. Their father had a large farm and when he became too old to work, he called his sons to him. "I am too old to work anymore," he said. "I will divide my farm in half and give each of you one half.

I know that you will always work together and will be good friends. "When the brothers first started farming on their adjoining farms, they were the best of friends and would share everything together. Then, one day there was an argument between the two brothers and they stopped speaking to one another. For many years, not a word was spoken between them. Sometimes you and I have a disagreement with our brothers and sisters in Christ. When that happens, we often build a fence between ourselves and them. We stop talking to them. We don't want to see them. We don't want to be around them. That isn't what Jesus wants us to do. Instead of fences, he wants us to build a bridge of love between us.

048 St. Helena – Rt. P

## St. Helena English Choir

St. Helena Parish Adult and Children's Choir will resume on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> with practice at 10:30am followed by the 11:00am Mass. Children in Grades 2 and up, teens and adults are most welcome. Please just attend first practice and Mass. For more information, call Melanie Capoferri at 215-635-1681. We can also use instrumentalists who feel that they would like to share their talents in our liturgies.



### Laughter of the Week...A

little girl asked her mother for ten cents to give to an old lady in the park. Her mother was touched by the child's kindness and gave her the required sum. "There you are, my dear," said the mother. "But, tell me, isn't the lady able to work any more?" "Oh yes," came the reply. She sells candy."

### Attention Men and Women 55 and over...



St. Helena Seniors will meet on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup> in Room 4 of the Upper School at 12:00Noon. All are welcome to attend for some refreshments and bingo.

**Support our Parish Youth/CYO** by purchasing an Eagles Football Pool Ticket. Tickets are \$5.00 and good for 10 games during the season. Winner/s will share in 50% of the total proceeds. See Fr. Steve for a ticket or information.



**Last Call for Religious Education classes for children** in grades 1 to 8<sup>th</sup> grade who are attending non-Catholic schools. **Last Call for Faith Formation Classes for adults** interested in the Catholic Faith, those baptized in another faith tradition and wish to become Catholic, or for any Catholic adult who wishes to complete his or her Sacraments of Initiation (Eucharist & Confirmation). If interested, contact Sister Sophie at 215-424-1300. **Classes begin on September 14<sup>th</sup>** – no application accepted after classes begin.

## St. Helena Parish Annual Forty Hours and Parish Feast of the Triumph of the Holy Cross



**Please join us on Sept. 12, 13, 14, 2008  
Celebrate Jesus, in the Blessed Sacrament**

**Friday, Sept. 12, 2008**

Exposition after 8:00am Mass until Evening Prayer at 5:00pm

**Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008**

Exposition after 8:00am Mass until Benediction at 4:00pm

**Sunday, Sept. 14, 2008**

Exposition/Liturgy of the Word & Litany of the Blessed Sacrament at 3:00pm in Church with Guest Celebrant and Homilist will be **Fr. Rayford Emmons** followed by Outside Eucharistic Procession with the Cross of Christ, Blessing of St. Joseph Statue, Prayer for our Nation, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament



048 St. Helena – Rt. P



## 40 Hours with Jesus



The Forty Hours Devotion is a special forty-hour period of continuous prayer made before the Blessed Sacrament in solemn exposition. Of course, the focus of this devotion is on the Holy Eucharist. As Catholics, the words of our Lord burn in our hearts: "I myself am the living bread come down from Heaven. If anyone eats this bread, He shall live forever; the bread I will give is my flesh for the life of the world" (John 6:51). Affirming our belief in the real presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, the Vatican Council II taught that the Holy Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life" (Lumen Gentium, #11). While the Mass is the central act of worship for us Catholics, an act which participates in the eternal reality of our Lord's passion, death, and resurrection, Vatican Council II upheld and encouraged the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament outside of Mass. Of course such devotion derives from the sacrifice of the Mass and moves the faithful to both sacramental and spiritual communion with our Lord (Eucharisticum Mysterium, #50). As Pope Pius XII taught in *Mediator Dei*, "This practice of adoration has a valid and firm foundation." Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II has repeatedly "highly recommended" public and private devotion of the Blessed Sacrament, including processions on the Feast of Corpus Christi and the 40 Hours Devotion (cf. *Dominicae Caece*, #3, and *Inaestimabile Donum*, #20-22). Second, the number forty has always signified a sacred period of time: the rains during the time of Noah lasted 40 days and nights; the Jews wandered through the desert for 40 years, our Lord fasted and prayed for 40 days before beginning His public ministry.

The 40 Hours Devotion remembers that traditional "forty-hour period" from our Lord's burial until the resurrection. Actually in the Middle Ages, the Blessed Sacrament was transferred to the repository, "the Easter Sepulcher," for this period of time to signify our Lord's time in the tomb. The Forty Hours Devotion begins with a Solemn Mass of Exposition, which concludes with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and a procession. The Blessed Sacrament remains on the altar in a monstrance. During the next 40 hours, the faithful gather for personal or public prayer in adoration of our Lord. The Blessed Sacrament is reposed in the tabernacle for the daily Mass, and then returned for exposition after Mass. At the end of the devotions, the Mass of Deposition is offered, again concluding with a procession, benediction and final reposition of the Blessed Sacrament. While the forty-hour period should be continuous, some Churches break-up the time, reposing the Blessed Sacrament at night because of security reasons. The Forty Hours Devotion can be seen almost like a parish mini-retreat or mission. A guest priest may be invited to give a series of homilies. Confessions should be offered and encouraged. Consequently, an appropriate time to schedule Forty Hours is either Advent or Lent. While the Forty Hours Devotion nurtures the love of the faithful for our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, three special dimensions have also surrounded this devotion: the protection from evil and temptation; reparation for our own sins and for the Poor Souls in Purgatory; and deliverance from political, material, or spiritual calamities. Here the faithful implore our Lord to pour forth His abundant graces not only for themselves, but their neighbors, not only for their own personal needs, but for those of the world. Such practices are evidenced in the history of this devotion, which we shall explore next week.

Having explored the spiritual dimension of the Forty Hours Devotion, a greater appreciation for this spiritual exercise is found through knowing its history. The practice of Forty Hours Devotion originated in Milan about the year 1530. Granted, prior to this time, the Church did have exposition and benediction, Eucharistic processions, and devotions to the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle. In 1539, Pope Paul III responded to a petition from the Archdiocese of Milan asking for an indulgence for the practice: "Since our beloved son the Vicar General of the Archbishop of Milan, at the prayer of the inhabitants of the said city, in order to appease the anger of God provoked by the offenses of Christians, and in order to bring to nought the efforts and machinations of the Turks who are pressing forward to the destruction of Christendom, amongst other pious practices, has established a round of prayers and supplications to be offered by day and night by all the faithful of Christ, before our Lord's Most Sacred Body, in all the churches of the said city, in such a manner that these prayers and supplication are made by the faithful themselves relieving each other in relays for forty hours continuously in each church in succession, according to the order determined by the Vicar... We approving in our Lord so pious an institution, grant and remit." While this pronouncement seems to be the earliest official approval by the Church of this devotion, the Forty Hours Devotion spread rapidly.

By 1550, both St. Philip Neri and St. Ignatius Loyola had also instituted this practice, especially for the reparation of sin. Recognizing the tremendous graces offered through this devotion as well as the dangers threatening the Church, Pope Clement VIII in his letter *Graves et diuturnae* (November 25, 1592) proclaimed, "We have determined to establish publicly in this Mother City of Rome an uninterrupted course of prayer in such ways that in the different churches, on appointed days, there be observed the pious and salutary devotion of the Forty Hours, with such an arrangement of churches and times that, at every hour of the day and night, the whole year round the incense of prayer shall ascend without intermission before the face of the Lord." He also issued regulations for the devotions, which were later collected and promulgated by Pope Clement XI in 1705, and known as the *Instructio Clementina*.

In our own country, St. John Neumann (1811-60), the fourth bishop of Philadelphia, was a strong promoter of the Forty Hours Devotion. While the practice had already existed in individual churches throughout the city (as well as in other places in the country), no organized, cohesive diocesan schedule for it had ever before been attempted. St. John had an tremendous devotion to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, and desired to foster such a spiritual life in his people. Unfortunately at this time, a strong anti-Catholic sentiment plagued Philadelphia. During the Know Nothing riots of 1844, two churches were burned and another was saved simply by the threat of gunfire. Some priests, therefore, advised St. John that the introduction of 40 Hours Devotion would only flame the hatred against the Catholics and expose the Blessed Sacrament to desecration. St. John was left in a quandary.

## 40 Hours with Jesus (con't)

A strange incident occurred which helped St. John decide. One night, he was working very late at his desk and fell asleep in his chair. The candle on the desk burnt down and charred some of the papers, but they were still readable. He awoke, surprised and thankful that a fire had not ignited. He fell on his knees to give thanks to God for protection, and heard His voice saying, "As the flames are burning here without consuming or injuring the writing, so shall I pour out my grace in the Blessed Sacrament without prejudice to My honor. Fear no profanation, therefore; hesitate no longer to carry out your design for my glory."

He introduced the practice of 40 Hours Devotion at the first diocesan synod in April, 1853, and the first devotions began at St. Philip Neri Parish, an appropriate place since that saint had initiated the devotion in the city of Rome. St. John himself, spent most of the three days in the Church praying. No trouble ensued. St. John then introduced the program for the whole diocese, so that each parish would have Forty Hours Devotion during the course of the year. He composed a special booklet for the devotions and obtained special indulgences for the faithful attending them. The Forty Hours Devotion was so successful it spread to other dioceses. At the Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1866, the Forty Hours Devotion was approved for all Dioceses of the United States. The Forty Hours Devotion provides a wonderful opportunity for the spiritual growth of each person and the parish as a whole. In a world where temptation and evil abound, where devotion to the Mass and our Lord in the Holy Eucharist have declined, where the practice of penance and confession have been forgotten, we need the Forty Hours Devotion more than ever.

*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



9/03/06 .....\$6015.00  
 9/02/07 .....\$6173.00  
**08/31/08.....\$6156.00**

*Number of Envelopes from Mass*    333  
*Envelope Collection from Mass*    \$4689.00

*Loose Collection from Mass*    \$1008.00  
*Drop Off Collection*    \$442.00

## Last But Not Least

**WELCOME BACK!!** To our **350 students**, our **teachers and staff**, welcome to the 2008-2009 school year...last week you were here for half days...this week the real work begins...may the Lord bless you all with a year filled with success spiritually, academically and socially.... to all of our parents, may the Lord watch over you and guide you through this school year and give you the wisdom and knowledge to continue to guide your children.... we are happy to welcome all of our students, those who are returning and those who are new....work hard and you will achieve your goals.

Please excuse the mess as we **replace the curbs and broken sidewalk blocks along Fifth Street and Godfrey Avenue**...this project has been on hold for the last two years as Bill Ivers, one of our parishioners who works in City Council, has been trying to get some funding from the City for the repairs.... unfortunately, we were unable to secure funds from the City so we will be **using funds** from our **Maintenance Account** to get the job done...thanks to Bill for trying his best for us and thanks to all who give faithfully each month to our Maintenance Collection....may the Lord bless you for your generosity.

Our **Parish Pastoral Council** will meet this **Tuesday, September 9, 2008 at 7:00 pm in the rectory meeting room**...all members who currently serve on this Council should have received reminder letters by now...**anyone else who wishes to serve is cordially invited to attend this meeting**...please be on time as we have much work to do concerning parish business.... thanks to all for your dedication to our parish.

Lastly, our parish will celebrate **Forty Hours** on **September 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>**.... information on times of services is available in the church and also in this bulletin.... our celebration will end with a **procession on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm**.... I hope you will plan to join us and spend some quiet time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Thanks for reading.... have a great week!

Your Brother & Shepherd,  
 Rev. Msgr. Joseph Trinh

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 OF THE LORD  
 BE UPON  
 YOU

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