Parish Staff

Pastor
Rev. Richard Villano 729-7344

Director of Pastoral Care
Virginia Tschida 729-7344

Director of Religious Education
John Sondag 729-7321

Religious Education Secretary
Nancy Stauner 729-7321

Director of Music
David Bartlett 651-239-6914

School Principal
Ellen Rian 729-9301

Parish Secretary
Elaine Bruce 729-7344

Business Manager
Mike Petruconis 729-7322

Sunday Mass

Saturday 4:00 P.M.
Sunday 8:30 and 10:00 A.M.

Daily Mass

Monday through Saturday 8:00 A.M.

Holy Day Mass

Evening Before 5:30 P.M.
Holy Day 8:00 and 10:00 A.M.

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday 3:00–3:30 P.M.

Sacrament of Baptism

A Baptism Preparation Program is required for all registered first-time parents. Please call the Director of Pastoral Care.

Sacrament of Marriage

The bride or groom must be an active registered parishioner for at least six months prior to scheduling a wedding at St. Helena.

Nursery

Services available during the 10:00 A.M. Sunday Mass.

Parish Registration

To register in the parish, please fill out a registration form and return to the Parish Office. Registration forms are available at the entrances of the Church. Return completed form to the Parish Office.

Email: church@sainthelena.us
Website: www.sainthelena.us

The Church of St. Helena

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 9, 2020

Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus.

-Mt 14:28-29

3204 E 43rd St • Minneapolis, MN 55406-3858 • (612) 729-7344

THE WORD

I was fascinated, maybe the word is "intrigued," by the Missionaries of Charity, the religious order of sisters established by St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta. These religious sisters live by Divine Providence. That means that they take no salary from their work in the dioceses, but live by donations and trust in God that He will provide.

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear about St. Peter walking on water, but then sinking when he starts doubting our Lord. After St. Peter gets into the boat, our Lord says to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

In a sense the Missionaries of Charity "walk on water" by their trust that He will provide for their needs. But, does our Lord ever ask us to walk on water and trust in Him, so that we don't drown?

Could it be that Our Lord invites a person to walk on water by following His commandments when it takes a great risk to one's life or financial well-being. For instance, a person has a job where his employer asks him to sign a deal with another company, and the contract is full of lies. If he doesn't cooperate, he may lose his job or he may not get that promotion or salary increase.

He doesn't sign, and he loses his job. He's walking on water. At that point, total trust in the Lord is demanded, because he doesn't know what will happen to him. He may be unemployed for months, but he knows that our Lord will be with him.

A married couple is financially strapped and has three children. The wife becomes pregnant, and the couple asks themselves, "How will we ever by able to survive with another child? Maybe we should abort the child." They are being asked by our Lord to walk on water and trust in Him as they bring this child into the world.

Or, the need or good of a friend, family member, or parish can be met by one's charity and/or generosity, like providing a child with a Catholic education or being in charge of a committee (or festival booth), but he's fearful that the tuition will stretch his economic resources to the limit, or he won't have the time to help his friend or parish.

Or, maybe our Lord is calling a person to walk on water to Himself by spending regular time in mental prayer, attending daily Mass, or saying the Rosary every day. The individual objects, "But, I'm too busy." He's arguing with the Lord Who miraculously fed five thousand people, raised people from the dead, healed the sick, and had St. Peter walk on water. And, he's afraid to give Him some extra time. Hmmm.

The Gospel message is: Focus on the Lord. Don't look at the turbulent water. And, don't be afraid!

John Sondag
Director of Religious Education

PASTOR'S REMARKS

1) You have probably noticed that Mass attendance is considerably less than normal even during the summer months, when Mass attendance changes because of vacations, etc. What you have probably not noticed is that when Mass attendance is down, so is the weekly collection, which can become a major problem. We are living in very difficult times and, to a point, I understand the problems and I am hoping that we don't fall into "bad habits." I can remember times when the nation was in serious trouble and people flocked to church to pray for deliverance. I hope we don't forget the need to pray for deliverance.

2) Parish Raffle tickets are now available and we all hope that our efforts this year will make up for the loss of revenue from our Parish Festival. I am impressed and encouraged by the optimism and dedication of so many of our people. Please join us in trying to sell an extra book of tickets in the weeks ahead.

3) Because the Assumption of Mary (Aug. 15) falls on a Saturday this year, the obligation to attend Mass of the Assumption has been dispensed. The 4:00 Mass on Saturday is a Mass for the weekend, our Sunday obligation.

4) Enjoy the summer months, and be thankful for our many blessings.

5) There are special prayer cards available in the Church with a special prayer to St. Rocco, the patron Saint against pandemics and disease, They are for the taking and praying! Join us in our prayer to St. Rocco.

6) Count it pure joy when you are involved in every sort of trial. Realize that when your faith is tested, this makes for endurance. Let endurance come to its perfection so that you may be fully mature and lacking in nothing. (James 1:2-4)

RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION—Please remember to form a single line for Holy Communion rather than two lines, even if there are two ministers distributing. Also remember to keep six foot spacing while in line. Thank you!

"CRY ROOM"—The Cry Room will be closed during all Masses until further notice because of the Coronavirus.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT UPDATE—All volunteers who have regular interaction with youth and vulnerable adults need to be certified under the Archdiocesan Safe Environment standards. Together we can work to protect God's children and the most vulnerable among us. Thank you for your shared commitment to the achievement of this goal. In addition, the Archdiocesan Victim Assistance line is 651-291-4475.

$100,000 in 100 Days

Good news! Principal Ellen Rian has had tremendous success with enrollment for the Fall. The school has now achieved maximum enrollment for the St Helena 2020-2021 Kindergarten class with a waiting list. Further, enrollment in other classes has improved, and things are looking bright for the start of school this Fall. Also good is the response to the $100,000 in 100 Days Campaign goal in support of St Helena School. Below is the latest response to date. You may still participate and are encouraged to consider a generous donation as we come to the end of the Campaign. Donations will still be accepted this month, adding to the 203 persons who have participated organically with donations and pledges totaling $83,945. With the Schulze Family Foundation match of $20,000 now achieved, the grand total is almost $104,000! God bless you.

IF YOU CANNOT RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION DURING THIS TIME OF THE CORONAVIRUS, YOU CAN MAKE A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION—

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

SPIRITUALLY ADOPT A PERSON WHO'S DYING ALONE OR WITHOUT THE SACRAMENTS—There are some people who are dying alone from the Coronavirus. Through your prayer, spiritually adopt a person somewhere in the world who may have no family or friends to be with them at the moment of death or perhaps who is unable to have the sacraments of the Church.

DOUGHNUTS AND COFFEE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS—CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

ARE YOU A PARISHIONER WHO NEEDS HELP?— Parishioners who might be out of work, sick and unable to work, or struggling because of financial difficulties or other problems from the Coronavirus and civil unrest can receive help from the St. Vincent de Paul Conference in the parish which reaches out to individuals and families in the parish who are having difficulties. (Your name will be kept confidential.) If you need more information or help, please call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?—The Church of St. Helena has a program that prepares people to become Catholic. For more information, call Fr. Villano or John Sondag at 612-729-7344.

YOU ARE ASKED TO PLEASE PICK UP YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS IN THE BACK OF THE CHURCH— Please pick up your raffle tickets in the back of the church on this weekend, August 8 and 9. Save some volunteer the time of having to deliver them to your home. Every envelope-holding parishioner has an envelope with raffle tickets. Sell your tickets or purchase them yourself, and you may be the winner of a great prize.

GOOD, USED FURNITURE AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS—When your cleaning your homes, donate good, used furniture and household items to the "Autumn Daze" Festival for the Auction and Attic Treasures. Bring the items to the Parish Offices or call 612-275-0431 to have them picked up. (No clothes, stoves, electronic musical organs, refrigerators, exercise equipment, or couches, please.)

WINE FOR "AUTUMN DAZE"—The next time you're at a liquor store, buy several bottles of wine to donate to the Autumn Daze" Festival. They can be used for the baskets. Bring the bottles to the Parish Offices.

WE NEED CASES OF POP FOR "AUTUMN DAZE"—Please donate cases of cans of pop, (Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Mountain Dew, and Sierra Mist). If a store has a sale on pop, pick up some cases for the "Autumn Daze" Festival. Bring the pop to the Parish Office for "Autumn Daze."

WANTED: GOOD, USED TOYS—We need good, used toys for "Autumn Daze." You can bring them to the Parish Offices.

VIRTUAL ON-LINE "AUTUMN DAZE": Here's some of the items that can be donated by individuals, corporations, or groups of people for the Auction: housecleaning services; sporting goods; vacation homes; cabin stays; fishing boats; kayaks; hotel packages; snow blowing and shoveling; lawn services; home services—carpentry, electrical, plumbing, and masonry; gift cards; fishing excursions; hunting trips; and used automobiles, motorcycles, and trucks. If you have any questions, call 612-275-0431. Bring items, tickets, or certificates for the services to the Parish Offices.

BUY A GIFT CARD FOR GROCERIES FOR NEEDY PERSONS—Purchase a gift card for groceries and give the card to the parish St. Vincent de Paul Conference which can give it to a needy person or family throughout the year. Place the card in an envelope marked "St. Vincent de Paul Conference" and put the envelope in the collection or bring it to the Parish Offices.

YOU CAN BE PART OF THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE—The St. Vincent de Paul Conference in the parish reaches out to individuals or families who need assistance. Conference members visit their homes to assess how they can be of service and in a very personalized and confidential way give them help. The next meeting is Thursday, August 13, at 6:30 P.M. in the Parish Offices. For more information, call John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

FREE FOOD AND RESOURCES—The Hiawatha YMCA, 4100 28th Ave. S., has free food and resources for anyone in need! It has baby supplies, soap, and other hygiene items. Supplies are limited, but new items come in throughout the week. Please spread the word! Hours: Monday—Friday, 12:00 Noon to 3:00 P.M. For questions call Matt at 612-547-9467.

2020 "AUTUMN DAZE" FESTIVAL: SEPTEMBER 18, 19, & 20, 2020

SCRIPTURE # 1163

1 Kgs 19:9a,11-13a
Rom 9:1-5
Mt 14:22-33

MASS INTENTIONS
8:00 AM

Monday	**†**	**Fr. Richard Duffy**
Tuesday	**†**	**Rose Fondell**
Wednesday	**†**	**Kathryn O'Neill**
Thursday	**†**	**Thomas Lessard**
Friday		**Mary Ann Kuharski**
Saturday	**†**	**Pat Hendricks**

SACRISTY AIDES—
(Linens) Cheryl Griffith

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

August 10: 2 Cor 9:6-10, Jn 12:24-26
August 11: Ez 2:8—3:4, Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14
August 12: Ez 9:1-7; 10:18-22, Mt 18:15-20
August 13: Ez 12:1-12, Mt 18:21—19:1
August 14: Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63, Mt 19:3-12
August 15: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab, 1 Cor 15:20-27, Lk 1:39-56
August 16: Is 56:1, 6-7, Rom 11:13-15, 29-32, Mt 15:21-28

PARISH CALENDAR
August 10 — August 17

August 10

August 11

August 12

August 13
-St. Vincent de Paul Mtg., Parish Offices, 6:30 pm

August 14
-Women's Prayer Group, Church, 8:30 am

August 15
-Confession, Church, 3:00 pm
-Mass, Church, 4:00 pm

August 16
-Mass, Church, 8:30 am & 10:00 am

August 17

Daily Mass, Monday-Saturday, Church, 8:00 am

PRAYER CORNER
Show us your mercy, Lord; our misery is known to us. May no evil desire prevail over us, for your glory and love dwell in our hearts. Amen.

ST. HELENA SCHOOL NEWS

Dear St. Helena Friends & Families:

One of the more sensitive issues around returning to school in-person is children wearing masks while in school. On July 22, 2020, the Walz Administration, through Executive Order 20-81, has now required that all K-12 students, including Catholic school students, wear face coverings inside the school building. In our desire to work collaboratively with public officials in the spirit of public health and the common good, we have developed new policies that meet the requirements of the Executive Order. In our preparations for the start of a safe and healthy school year, our Reopening Committee developed a reasonable and thoughtful approach to wearing face coverings in school.

The Archdiocese is working with the Walz Administration to give schools greater flexibility to ensure educational quality and the health and wellbeing of their students and community. It is also our expectation that our Catholic school students will be able to share equitably in the *services and funding* the Governor has made available to all Minnesota students, which includes access to both cloth and re-usable face coverings.

This is not exactly the way many of us had planned to start the school year, but I'm hopeful we can embrace the sacrificial spirit of mask-wearing as protecting others while we endure some mild discomfort. We are grateful for your continued patience and flexibility as we work to keep our students, teachers, and community healthy and safe as we prepare for in-person learning. St. Helena, pray for us.

Together in Christ,

Ellen Rian, Ed.S
Principal

Important School Dates - September
2 - Back to School Night
7 - Labor Day - No School
8 - First Day of School Grades 1-8
9 - Kindergarten Visiting Day 9:10 - 10:30
10 - First Day of School for Kindergarten
14 - Volunteer Network Meeting

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE-If you or a loved one is hospitalized or have moved to an Assisted Living/LTC facility please call the office at 612-729-7344 and ask for Virginia. At this time we are unable to make visits but the Anointing of the Sick can be arranged through the Archdiocese if it is allowed at the facility. Home visits, however, are now allowed with restrictions and can be discussed when you call. Your health, well being and spiritual care are important to us.