

From Our Pastor

Believing in the magic of Christmas!

Christmas held so much magic when we were children. As we grow older we need to focus and work a little harder to maintain that magic. The movie, “Polar Express” truly helps to capture the magic of Christmas. It drives home the point of how important it is to believe.

This classic story tells what happens one Christmas Eve when a young boy experiences a dream where he boards the Polar Express with other children to visit the North Pole. When they arrive, Santa chooses the boy to receive the first gift of Christmas. The boy chooses a single silver bell from Santa’s sleigh.

On Christmas morning when the boy shows his parents, they can’t hear the bell ring. Only the boy and his sister hear the beautiful sound. Only those who believe in Santa can hear the sleigh bell. The narrator says at the end of the story, “Through I’ve grown old, the bell still rings for me as it does for all that truly believe.”

Believing in the miracle of Christmas!

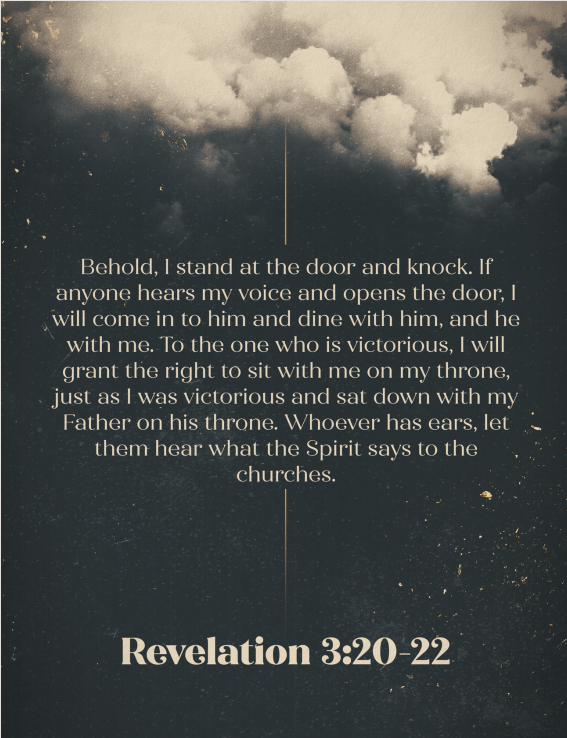
Christmas celebrates Emmanuel, the miracle of “God with us”. The miracle of God incarnate: one with us, one like us, who rescues us in every way we need to be rescued...from sin, from death from anything that holds us down. That miracle comes to us as a baby, wrapped

in swaddling clothes and laying in a manger. It is for this reason that Christmas is a time of joy, a time of love and a time to remember that we are all connected to the Lord and to each other. Christmas embraces us with the love, mercy and forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ. Let the Christ Child bring you not only the joy and love but peace.

Immerse yourself in the magic...in the miracle.

Merry Christmas to you and your families.

God Bless You,
Msgr. Tom



Parish Community of Saint Helen

Thanks for joining us today!



Weekday Mass Schedule

Monday - Saturday | 9am

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday | 5pm

Sunday 8am | 10am* | 12pm | 6pm

*Livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook

Reconciliation Saturday 4pm

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 Parish Community of Saint Helen

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New? Welcome!

We're so glad you are visiting us today! Text CONNECT to 908-860-8444 to get a virtual connect card and learn more about our parish community!

Have Kids?

We have amazing programs for kids at Saint Helen during our 10am Sunday Mass most weekends! Check out Kids Corner in Meaney Hall across the parking lot for ages 2 through Kindergarten. For Grades 1-4, we have Children's Liturgy of the Word at our 10am Sunday Mass most weekends.

Next Steps

Want to learn more? Visit sainthelen.org/more to learn more about our events and programs!

What's Happening

CFC Family Ministry

Friday, Jan 12, 2024 5:30PM - 7:00pm

Sandwich Making! Join other CFC parents and their families for Family Night Out and dinner!

We will be making sandwiches for those less fortunate than ourselves. Please bring a loaf of bread, one pound deli meat and one pound of cheese. Our food for thought topic will be raising children in a digital world.

Discover Christ in 2024

Ponder the meaning of life, happiness, and your purpose. Join us for open and honest conversations over six Tuesdays, starting January 16th. Not sure if it's for you? Commit to just two weeks and see - you're free to leave anytime, no questions asked. Ready to dive deeper? Learn more and sign up at sainthelen.org/discover

Elementary Families Together

Fri, Jan 5, 2024 6:00pm in the Gym

Epiphany Family Evening! Families of children grades 1-4, please join us for dinner, fun and faith as we follow the God's star into the new year! Registration opens on Friday, Dec. 8 Register at sainthelen.org/eft

Discover God's Call

This three part journey begins with a one day workshop on Saturday, January 6th: 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. For more details and to register go to sainthelen.org/called

The Journey To Wholeness

This supportive, free virtual seminar is for anyone experiencing loss. It runs Sundays, January 21 to March 3, 2024, from 6:15 PM to 8:00 PM. Open to all, regardless of faith, it offers a comforting space for those grieving. Register at westside.org/adults/grief-support/

Youth Ministry Summer Service

Join us this summer for our service trips:

- Archdiocese of Newark, Service Week
- Catholic Heart Work Camp
- Sister Pat's Kids Camp

Learn more at sainthelen.org/youth

Mass Intentions

Weekend of December 23/24

5:00pm - People of the Parish

8:00am - Terence Stephen Hegarty

10:00am - Rose & Robert Perro

Christmas Eve

4:00pm - People of the Parish

6:00pm - People of the Parish

9:00pm - People of the Parish

12:00am - People of the Parish

Christmas Day

10:00am - People of the Parish

12:00pm - People of the Parish

Daily Mass Intentions

Dec 26 - Robert Oxner

Dec 27 - Terry Vinanskie

Dec 28 - Gerard H. Coffey

Dec 29 - Carmela Leone

Dec 30 - John F. Egan

Weekly Mass Association:

Eileen Reidy

Annabella Giacobbe

Lila Corley

Rose Muller

Richard Kelly

Mary Hech

Elizabeth Ann Bradbury

Sanctuary Candle:

Deceased Members of McGovern Family

Growing In Faith

This lively interactive 8-part series aims to bring each participant to a new understanding of Jesus and His Church. Begins Saturday, January 6th at 9:45 AM and runs for 8 Saturdays. Learn more and register at sainthelen.org/grow

Christmas Welcome

Welcome to Saint Helen, a community where Christmas isn't just a day, but a season of heartfelt joy and spiritual renewal. Whether you're a familiar face or joining us for the first time, we're delighted to have you with us as we celebrate the birth of Christ and the wonders of His love.

Christmas is more than a tradition; it's a time to connect, reflect, and embrace the hope that comes with the season. Here at Saint Helen, we invite you to immerse yourself in the spirit of Christmas through our array of enriching programs, each designed to deepen your faith and enrich your family's experience.

Are you seeking a fresh perspective on life and faith? Discovering Christ is an inviting program that explores the essence of Christianity and the profound love of Jesus. It's a place for honest conversations and meaningful exploration. For those longing for a deeper spiritual connection and personal growth, our Cornerstone retreats offer a sanctuary for reflection and renewal amidst the busyness of life.

Families with children, we have a special place for you too! Kids Corner and Children's Liturgy of the Word provide engaging, faith-based activities that fill young hearts with the joy and message of Christmas. These programs are a wonderful way for your little ones to understand and celebrate the reason for the season.

As you celebrate with us, know that you are part of a family that cherishes your presence. Our community is a tapestry of stories and journeys, and your story adds to its richness. We invite you to continue this journey with us beyond Christmas, to explore, engage, and grow in faith together.

May your time at Saint Helen this Christmas fill you with peace, joy, and a sense of belonging. Merry Christmas, and may the blessings of this holy season be with you and your loved ones throughout the year.



Stay Connected

Text the keyword to 908-860-8444 :

- CONNECT - Connect card for guests
- FAMILY - CFC Family Ministry updates
- HELEN - General parish updates
- KIDS - Kids corner updates
- SERIES - Message series updates
- GIVE - Give to Saint Helen
- YASH - Young Adult event updates

Ways To Give

- Online at sainthelen.org/give
- Text GIVE to 908-860-8444
- Mail your contribution to:
1600 Rahway Avenue
Westfield, NJ 07090

