### **From Our Pastor**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Happy Easter! It is a remarkable and even miraculous day that gathers so many here at Saint Helen and the Church Universal to celebrate the salvation won for us by Jesus' passion and resurrection. We welcome all of you and are so very happy that we can celebrate this great victory the Lord won for us together.

Easter is also a day that brings together many family members for celebration. When I was very young, before anything else, our family went to Mass and then we returned to the house to see what the Easter Bunny had brought us. Later in the afternoon, all our extended family, who all lived locally gathered at my parent's house in Glen Rock for a wonderful dinner. Ham. Always ham!

Later, when I was in high school, my Parish's Youth Group at Saint Catharine played such an important role in my Lenten experience. And the church was always packed for Holy Thursday and Good Friday, Now, as your Pastor, it brings me such great joy to see our church so similarly filled on Palm Sunday and during the Triduum. Thank you for being here at St. Helen, whether you joined us in person or on-line. You are family to me and having you here truly fills my heart with great joy!

Lent is a time of sacrifice and renewal, a time when we reflect on the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ and strive to draw closer to him. We are

given 40 days to sacrifice and prepare for Easter. What we do not speak as often is that the Easter Season is fifty days, and one where we focus on the renewal and the transformation the Resurrection gives. Easter actually begins at sundown on Holy Saturday, beginning with the Easter Vigil in the Night, and ends with Pentecost, when we the transformed also bear witness to the Lord.

During this Easter Season let us be open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit in new ways. In each of us is the presence and grace of the Risen Christ.

Whether you are with large group of people or enjoying a quiet day at home, let us celebrate our faith and continue to build our home away from home.

Know that Saint Helen is always a place for you to come, your home, on Easter Sunday and every day throughout the year!

God Bless You All. Happy Easter!!! 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

#### Follow Us On Social

/sthelenwestfield

@sainthelenni

Parish Community of Saint Helen

@sainthelennj

@sainthelennj

#### 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!



Msgr. Tom Nydegger, Pastor March 31, 2024

## **What's Happening**

#### **Vacation Bible School**

Join us this summer for Vacation Bible School! Children entering grades K-5th will have a "splash"-making new friends, participating in service, doing crafts, playing games, and eating yummy snacks! VBS runs from 9am-12pm on June 24th-28th. Come join in on the fun! Email Tracey Sowa at tsowa@sainthelen.org with questions.

#### **Kids Corner**

Kids Corner Preschool and Kindergarten Ministry invites all of our little parishioners ages 2-5 years old to join us in Meaney Hall during the 10am Mass for playtime, faith learning, music and crafts! Visit <a href="mailto:sainthelen.org/kids-corner">sainthelen.org/kids-corner</a> to register and more info!

### **Divine Mercy**

Explore the profound gift of Jesus's Divine Mercy in Lent's final weeks. Discover the Devotion, Chaplet, Divine Mercy Sunday, and Novena. Pamphlets are available outside the chapel. Learn more at sainthelen.org/divinemercy.

# Sister Pat's Pickleball Tourney Saturday, May 18, 2024 | 9:00am

Gear up for a day of pickleball with a purpose at Tamaques Park in Westfield, NJ. With all proceeds going to Sister Pat's Kids camp. Learn more and sign up at sainthelen.org/pickleball

### **Garden Ministry**

Help Needed We are in need of volunteers to help plant vegetables, maintain the garden, and harvest vegetables. The vegetables will go to local food pantries and soup kitchens for our neighboors in need. Contact Jean Maier at jeanamaier5@gmail.com or text 908-507-0002.

#### The Cameo's Concert Saturday, May 11, 2024 | 7:00pm in Meaney Hall

Saint Helen presents New Jersey's premier 50's-60's doo-wop group "The Cameo's". Tickets are \$30 per person and available online at <u>sainthelen.org/cameos</u>, or in-person at the parish office front desk. Join us for this exciting and memorable concert event.

## **Mass Intentions**

#### Weekend of March 30/31

8:00pm - People of the Parish

6:30am - People of the Parish

8:00am - People of the Parish

10:00am - People of the Parish

12:00pm - People of the Parish

#### **Daily Mass Intentions**

April 1 - Cliff Spitser

April 2 - Edward Bruke

April 3 - Paul H. Sowa

April 4 - Daniel Lynch

April 5 - Oliva McManus Gross

April 6 - Luis Docabo

#### **Weekly Mass Association:**

Rose M. Polito

Victor Bruno

Dec'd Members of Bula & Verdiglione Families

Herman Sancho

Debra Marcin

Vincent Cuong Nguyen

AnnMarie Nancy Kelly

#### **Sanctuary Candle:**

James & Caitlin Nelson

### Service Auction

#### April 13, 2024 | 6:00pm in Meaney Hall

Join us for to support The Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless! We invite parish families to contribute to making this auction the most successful yet! Donate or purchase tickets at: <a href="mailto:sainthelen.org/auction">sainthelen.org/auction</a>

# Baptism Families Fellowship Sunday, April 28 | 1:00-2:30pm

join us for a class with Pediatric Physical Therapist, Dr. Kayla Paro, on current gross motor milestones as well as, fun and creative ways to work toward these milestones! Email Tracey at tsowa@sainthelen.org to register

# **Thanks For Joining Us**

Whether it's your first time visiting us, or your first time in a long time, we're so happy to see you! Happy Easter!

We are a community of Catholic believers who are on a mission to worship God, serve others and make disciples.

If you looking for a church home, we would love to have you join us on Sundays. We kick off our new Easter message series next weekend entitled: Becoming Witnesses: Resurrection Responses.

This Easter, dive deep into the heart of faith with our message series, "Becoming Witnesses: Resurrection Responses."

Journey with us as we explore the profound encounters of Mary at the tomb, the transformation of Doubting Thomas, and the road to Emmaus.

Each story reveals the varied, deeply personal responses to Jesus' resurrection, offering us a rich tapestry of faith, doubt, recognition, and joy.

"Becoming Witnesses" invites you to witness these pivotal moments through the eyes of those who were closest to Jesus, challenging and encouraging us to reflect on our own responses to the Resurrection.

What does it mean to truly bear witness to Christ's victory over death in today's world? How can their journeys strengthen our commitment to live boldly as faithful witnesses?

Join us at Saint Helen as we embrace the encouragement and challenge these stories offer.

Let's deepen our faith together, inspired by the early witnesses, to carry the message of the Resurrection into our lives and communities.

### **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
- · Venmo @sainthelennj
- Mail your contribution to: 1600 Rahway Avenue Westfield, NJ 07090





THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE; LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD

