St. Helena Church

602 Philadelphia Pike
Wilmington, Delaware 19809
www.saintheleNAS.org

Very Reverend Michael J Carrier, KHS, V.F.
Pastor & Dean ~ Brandywine Hundred Deanery
Deacon Joseph A Cilia, Jr. **Deacon William J Johnston, Jr.**
Sr. Kathy Flood, OSF
Pastoral Associate for Parish Life
Mr. Joseph Louden
Director of Music
Mrs. Hummy Pennell
Director of Religious Education
Mrs. Carol Ann Plunkett
Director of Parish Social Ministry

Mission Statement

We are a Eucharistic centered Catholic Church called to illuminate the Divine message of the gospel, by living our faith in God through loving and serving one another. As one family, we hope and work for a future of peace and justice through God's Holy will in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 9, 2026

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, August 10th
9:00 AM — Marcella Jacobs
Tuesday, August 11th
9:00 AM — Dillon Bauer
Wednesday, August 12th
9:00 AM — Edwin Blevins
Thursday, August 13th
9:00 AM — Dillon Bauer
Friday, August 14th
9:00 AM — Rene'e Muscolino
Saturday, August 15th
9:00 AM — Marcella Jacobs
5:00 PM — Melanie Fischer
Sunday, August 16th
8:00 AM — Reginia Bilinski
Dennis Bilinski
10:00 AM — Judith Goldhahn

THIS WEEK

Monday, August 10th
6:30 PM — Weekly Walk
Tuesday, August 11th
5:00 PM — Liturgy Committee
6:30 PM — Open Prayer
Thursday, August 13th
5:30 PM — Bingo

STEWARDSHIP

"After he had fed the people, Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. After doing so, he went up to the mountain by himself to pray." Matthew 14:22-23

The psychologist Carl Jung once said, "Busyness is not of the devil, busyness is the devil!" Stewardship is not about increasing our activities, but about establishing priorities in how we utilize our gifts. One of those priorities is prayer. Do we take time out to be alone with God?

Next weekend's second collection will be for Cathedral of St. Peter
Thank you for your continued generosity.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Almighty and eternal God,
in your unfailing love you provide
ministers for your Church.
We pray for those whom you call
to serve the Church of Wilmington
as priests, deacons, and consecrated religious.
Inspire in them a generous response.
Grant them courage
and vision to serve your people.
May their lives and service call your
people to respond to the presence
of your Spirit among us
that, faithful to the Gospel and
hope of Jesus the Christ, we may:
announce glad tidings to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives,
set prisoners free
and renew the face of the earth. Amen!

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Antionette Medeiros, Bernice Gibson, Carrie Spurlock, Christina Lavin, Donald Swanson, Gay Meriggi, Geri Crockett, Jeanne Fitzpatrick, Jim Fedena, Sr., Joe Lichota, John Coleman, Linda Lotsis, Linda & Milton Abrams, Marie McNulty, Mary Knight, Patti Grimes, Patty Keen, Ronald Dumont, Susan Watkins, Thomas Miller, Vaughn Whisker.

If you know someone who should be added to our list, please call the Rectory at 302-764-0325.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

We welcome you, one and all, to our parish. We welcome all Catholics from the neighboring parishes who find our schedule or our liturgies more suited to their needs. For those of you who regularly attend St. Helena's but have yet to register, we cordially invite you to do so. Registering can ultimately help us to serve you better each week as well as at those pivotal times such as weddings, baptisms, in times of illness and for funerals. Registering with the parish is quick and easy. Registration forms may be obtained from our parish office or are available from the parish website (www.sainthelenas.org). You may mail your completed registration form or drop it into the collection basket on Sunday.

HOLY DAY

This Saturday August 15th is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holy day. Since it falls on a Saturday, the obligation to attend mass is abrogated. Mass will be celebrated at 9 AM.

ST. HELENA'S FEAST DAY

St. Helena's feast day is celebrated on August 18th (Tuesday). In honor of St. Helena we will celebrate her feast on Sunday August 16th at 10 AM. Join us as we honor St. Helena and prayer for intercession.

The ***Brandywine Hundred Deanery*** consists of the parishes of: The Church of the Holy Child, Holy Rosary, Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Helena, St. Joseph on the Brandywine, St. Mary of the Assumption, St. Mary Magdalen.

Visit our deanery website:
www.brandywinedeanery.org

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

The ***2027 Mass Intention Book*** is about to open! Our book will open on ***Tuesday August 11th from 10 AM to 4 PM***. ***Please continue to read as our Mass Intention policy has changed***.

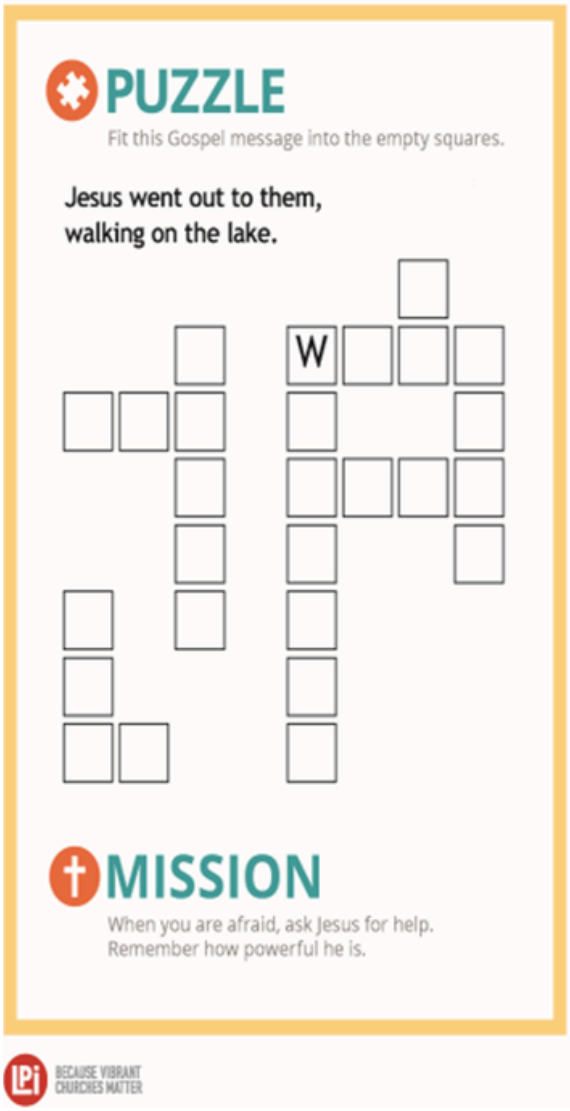
The online Mass Intention Requests are ***NO LONGER*** being taken. This online process has been removed and will no longer be functioning. We encountered many issues through this process including double booking for intentions and therefore have disabled it. All mass intentions will have to be ***requested in person***. ***Mass intentions will no longer be accepted by phone, email or letter. In person requests only will be honored***.

In our effort to meet the many requests for mass intentions throughout the year, the following will be implemented when the Mass Intentions Book for 2027 opens. Only ***three masses for the same intention*** will be accepted [i.e. mass intention for Joe Smith requested by Sue Smith].
Also, beginning this year to be able to accommodate the many requests for intentions throughout the year, one of our Sunday masses (rotated between the 5 PM, 8 AM and 10 AM) each week will have collective mass intentions [FOUR mass intentions] will be accepted for the particular mass. This year our Mass Intention Book closed in April since we had no remaining intentions available. The collective mass intentions will allow us to meet the continuing requests throughout the year.

The recommended mass offering is $10.00, if paid by cash or check. If paid by credit card, a $1.00 service fee will be added to each intention to defray the credit card fee paid by the parish to each credit card company or bank.

FAITH FORMATION

The Christmas Bazaar is months away, but the Bake Table is hoping to have "canned" peaches and jams and flavored olive oils and hopefully home-bottled honey. If you have a flair for canning summer fresh fruits for winter enjoyment, please email Ms. Hummy at hpennell@sainthelenas.org.



GOD'S WORD

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 Kings 19:9A, 11-13A
Psalm 85
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:22-33

TRUSTING GOD IN THE STORM

The 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time shows us how God works in ways we might not expect. Elijah hears God not in the strong wind, the earthquake, or the fire, but in a quiet whisper. The psalm reminds us that peace, kindness, truth, and justice all meet in God. He is faithful to His promises and guides His people with care. It is a picture of hope for those who look to Him with trust. Paul, in his letter, speaks with sorrow for his people. He loves them so deeply that he wishes they could see the blessing of Christ. His words show the weight of love and the longing for others to know the truth of God's plan.

When have you felt God's presence in a quiet moment?

What distractions make it hard for you to listen to God?

Have you ever been afraid to trust God? Why?

DAILY READINGS

Monday:
2 Cor 9:6–10; Ps 112:1–2, 5–6, 7–8, 9; Jn 12:24–26

Tuesday:
Ez 2:8—3:4; Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131;
Mt 18:1–5, 10, 12–14

Wednesday:
Ez 9:1–7; 10:18–22; Ps 113:1–6; Mt 18:15–20

Thursday:
Ez 12:1–12; Ps 78:56–59, 61–62; Mt 18:21—19:1

Friday:
Ez 16:1–15, 60, 63; Is 12:2–3, 4bcd, 5–6; Mt 19:3–12

Saturday:
Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab; Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16;
1 Cor 15:20–27; Lk 1:39–56

Sunday:
Is 56:1, 6–7; Ps 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8; Rom 11:13–15, 29–32;
Mt 15:21–28

PARISH AND FAMILY LIFE

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars as we celebrate St. Helena's 90th Anniversary on Sunday, November 22, 2026.

PRACTICING CATHOLIC RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Looking for God

What do we think when we see Jesus coming to save us? The first thing the Apostles scream is "Ghost!" when they catch sight of Jesus walking towards them on water. That always makes me laugh. After all they have witnessed thus far as the companions of the Messiah, they see someone walking on water and they still react like extras in a bad episode of Scooby-Doo. We are always more quick to believe a bad thing than a good thing. We can easily believe gossip and hearsay about a friend, but we fear being taken for a fool when it comes to faith. We would rather look cynical than stupid. "Save me, God, for the waters have reached my neck," reads Psalm 69. "My eyes fail, from looking for my God." I think back on my life, on all the various ways that God has rescued me from slipping beneath the surface. Rarely did it ever occur to me, in the midst of it, that I was being rescued. In fact, I usually thought I was being held underwater. Did I hear His voice directing me, or did I only hear my own despairing? "Save me, God." Was I looking for Him, or were my eyes shut in fear? "My eyes fail, from looking for my God." It's never until after the fact — sometimes years after, or decades — that we see things clearly. That we see Christ in the situation, making his way toward us, hand outstretched.

©LPi

SOCIAL CONCERNS

LION'S EYEGLASS BANK

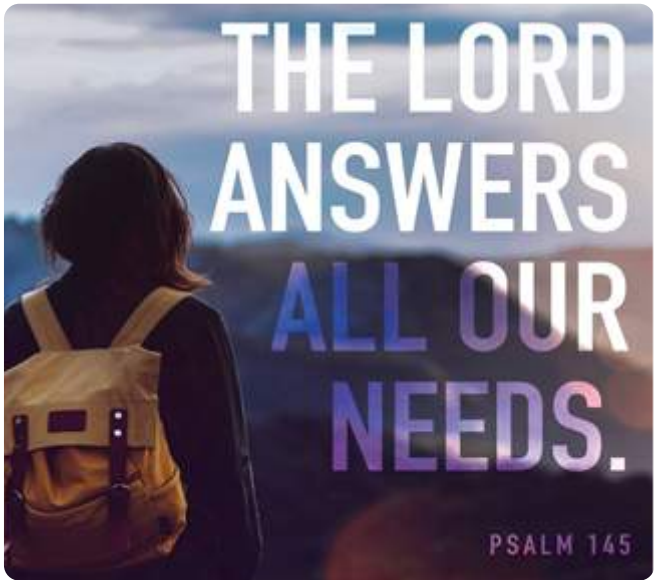
Have you gotten new glasses lately? What have you done with your old ones? Why not help the Lion's with their Gift of Sight program by donating your used glasses. We have an eye glass bank located in the main vestibule.

FOOD PANTRY

Our Food Pantry cans use the following items:

canned corn
tea bags
toilet paper

You can leave your donations on the rectory porch. Thank you for your continued generosity!



LITURGY

O.C.I.A.

Do you know someone who has asked questions about the Catholic faith or who is considering becoming Catholic? Have you ever invited them to join our parish community?

The **O**rder of **C**hristian **I**nitiation for **A**dults (OCIA) is a process developed for those of other faiths who might be considering joining in the Catholic Church. They come from another faith tradition or, on occasion, have not been involved with another faith tradition. The OCIA process allows individuals to ask and receive answers about the Catholic faith and also deepen their relationship with Our Lord. This process is also open to Catholics who have been baptized, but have never celebrated the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation.

Individuals who have completed this process say that they started this faith journey because of an invitation to "Come and See" from a family member or friend. Often times because of our own example others consider joining the Catholic Church.

We are preparing to begin our next group of catechumen's and candidates. If you or someone you know are interested in the Catholic faith, contact Deacon Bill Johnston (302-475-6486 ext. 128 or wjohnston@chcparish.org).

FAITH & CHARITY APPEAL

MANY HANDS. ONE MISSION.
Fifty Years of Hope.

We gratefully acknowledge the many who have graciously supported the ***2026 Faith and Charity Appeal: Many hands. One Mission. ~ Fifty Years of Hope***. Your generosity has allowed our parish to move closer to its goal of **$67,933.00**. To date, we have **$59,907.00** pledged toward our parish goal. This represents achieving **88.19%** of our goal. We still need **$8,026.00** to make our parish goal.

If you haven't made your gift…it's not too late. Pledge envelopes are available in each portico and may be deposited in the offertory collection or dropped off to the parish office. No gift is too small. If every family gives a gift we will reach our goal.

We remind ***first givers and those who may not have given in several years that 50% of your gift*** will be returned to our parish once our goal is accomplished.

The appeal for fifty years has carried out the Gospel into homes, schools, prisons, shelters, and parishes through ministries such as:

Serving the poor and vulnerable.
Forming our young people in faith.
Strengthening marriages and families.
Supporting our seminarians and deacons.
Expanding the mission of Catholic Charities'
care for the hungry, homeless,
and the brokenhearted.
Providing outreach that keeps our parishes vibrant.
Sustaining the evangelizing mission of our Catholic schools and The Dialog.

Join in the mission!!
Make your gift count.

Pledge Payments: When making a payment towards your pledge, please use the addressed envelope sent to you and return your payment ***DIRECTLY*** to the Development Office and not to the parish. This will make sure your payment is properly credited to your pledge and not cause any confusion. Thank you!

SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

Attend Mass and Pray Together: Dedicate time for communal prayer, both at home and at the parish. Participate in daily Mass, daily prayers such as the rosary, or spontaneous moments of gratitude, allowing your faith to be the cornerstone of your summer journey.

Explore Creation: Take advantage of the warmer weather and explore the beauty of God's creation. Plan nature walks, hikes, or visits to local parks, gardens, or beaches. Encourage conversations about God's presence in the natural world, fostering a sense of wonder and gratitude for His creative handiwork.

Volunteer together: Engage in acts of service by volunteering together. Seek out local charities, food banks, or shelters where you can lend a helping hand. Serving others as a family or group of friends cultivates empathy, compassion, and a greater understanding of our shared responsibility to care for those in need.

Plan a Pilgrimage or Visit Holy Sites: Embark on a pilgrimage to a nearby shrine, basilica, or other holy sites. Explore the history and spirituality associated with these places, and take time for prayer and reflection. This experience can deepen your connection to the Catholic faith and inspire personal encounters with God.

Host Faith-based Movie Nights: Gather family and friends for faith-based movie nights. Choose films that convey important messages of faith, hope, and love. Afterward, engage in conversations about the themes and lessons depicted, relating them to your own lives and experiences.

Cook and Share Meals with Others: Hospitality is an integral part of the Catholic tradition. Invite friends or other families for shared meals, potlucks, or barbecues. Use these gatherings as opportunities for fellowship, conversation, and building deeper connections within the faith community.

Engage in Acts of Kindness: Encourage your family or group of friends to actively seek out opportunities for kindness throughout the summer. Practice acts of charity, compassion, and forgiveness in your interactions with others. By living out the principles of Catholic social teaching, you bear witness to the love of Christ in the world.

PARISH INFORMATION

302-764-0325 fax: 302-764-1068
www.sainthelenas.org

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Communications Coordinator
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Vacant
Maintenance

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Daily Mass: Monday - Saturday 9 a.m.
Sunday Masses:
Saturday Vigil 5 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Confessions: First Fridays after 9 a.m. mass
Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Or by appointment
Baptisms: 1st and 3rd Sunday's at 11:30 a.m.
Contact Sr. Kathy Flood for more information and registration.
Weddings: One year preparation.
Contact Sr. Kathy Flood for more information.

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