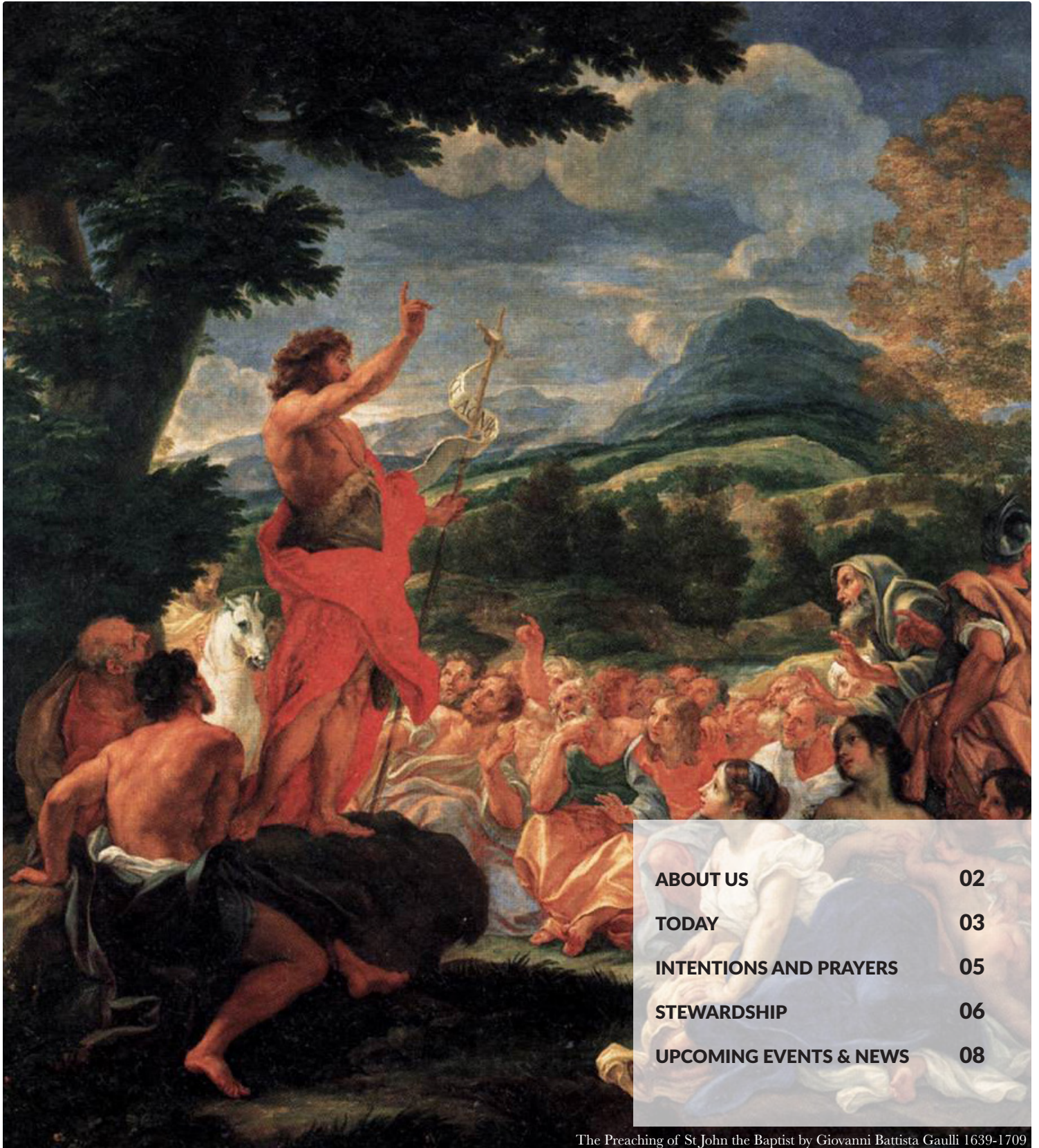




ABOUT US	02
TODAY	03
INTENTIONS AND PRAYERS	05
STEWARDSHIP	06
UPCOMING EVENTS & NEWS	08

The Preaching of St John the Baptist by Giovanni Battista Gaulli 1639-1709

About Us

WELCOME

BIENVENIDOS

If you are new to our Parish, please fill out a St. Helena Parish Registration Form located on the tables in the back of the church. Feel free to drop the form by the parish office or place in the collection basket.

Si usted es nuevo en nuestra parroquia, por favor llene un formulario de registro de St. Helena ubicado en las mesas en la parte posterior de la iglesia. Favor de dejar el formulario en la oficina parroquial o depositarlo en la canasta de recolección.

14714 Edgemont Street
San Antonio, TX 78247-1906
(210) 653-3316
parish@sthelena.org
sthelena.org



CLERGY & PARISH STAFF

CLERO Y PERSONAL PARROQUIAL

CLERGY

Pastor

Rev. Fr. Marcin Czyż
pastor@sthelena.org

Deacons

Rev. Dcn. Richard Armendariz
richard.armendariz@sthelena.org
Rev. Dcn. Gabriel Becerra
gabebecerra@sthelena.org
Rev. Dcn. John H. Murphy
johnmurphy@sthelena.org

PARISH OFFICE

Business Manager

Mrs. Esther Cotton
estherc@sthelena.org

Director of Parish Outreach & Stewardship

Mrs. Susan Betancourt
susan.betancourt@sthelena.org

Bookkeeper

Mary Medina
mary.medina@sthelena.org

Administrative Assistants

Mrs. Diana M. Becerra
diana.becerra@sthelena.org
Mrs. Karla Silvestre
karla.silvestre@sthelena.org

Maintenance and Facilities Manager

Mr. Bill Lamoureux
shmaint@sthelena.org

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

MINISTERIOS Y ORGANIZACIONES

Contact the office or visit our website.

MASS TIMES

HORARIO DE MISAS

Saturday

04:00 PM
06:00 PM (Español)

Sunday

08:00 AM
10:00 AM
12:00 PM
08:00 PM
06:00 PM (Español)

Monday - Friday

08:30 AM

Monday - Wednesday - Friday

06:30 AM (Liturgy of
the Word & Communion)

RECONCILIATION

RECONCILIACIÓN

Thursday

06:30 PM - 07:30 PM

Saturday

01:00 PM - 03:00 PM

OFFICE HOURS

HORARIO DE OFICINA

Monday | Wednesday | Friday

09:00 AM - 05:00 PM

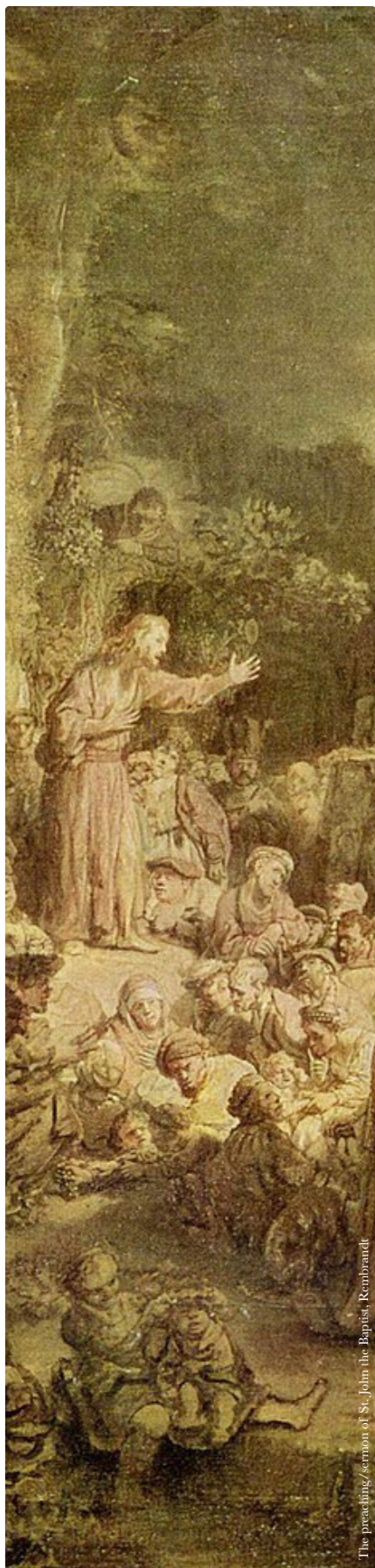
Tuesday | Thursday

09:00 AM - 07:00 PM

SACRAMENTS | (210) 653-3316
SACRAMENTOS

Baptism | Anointing of the sick

First Holy Communion | Con-
firmation | Holy Matrimony
(Arrange at least 6 months in
advance)



The preaching/sermon of St. John the Baptist, Rembrandt

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ZEP 3:14-18A | PHIL 4:4-7 | LK 3:10-18

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE

PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

“I want to be a sanctuary lamp,” Samantha, my childhood friend, once remarked. “To be the little flame that reminds everyone, ‘God is here.’” In those short phrases, Samantha summarized not only her personal vocation, but also the all-important mission of St. John the Baptist. Like the candle burning before the tabernacle, St. John was not the long-awaited Messiah; his God-given task was to point others to Jesus. We hear this theme of St. John’s message expressed repeatedly in today’s readings: “The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst”; “Great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!”; “one mightier than I is coming.” God himself would soon be among them – indeed, he was already there. Although 2,000 years separate us from St. John the Baptist’s ministry, the little flame still burns in the sanctuary to remind us that God has not only come, but he remains in our midst. This is cause for rejoicing: the same Jesus to whom John pointed is present among us in the Blessed Sacrament.

GO EVANGELIZE

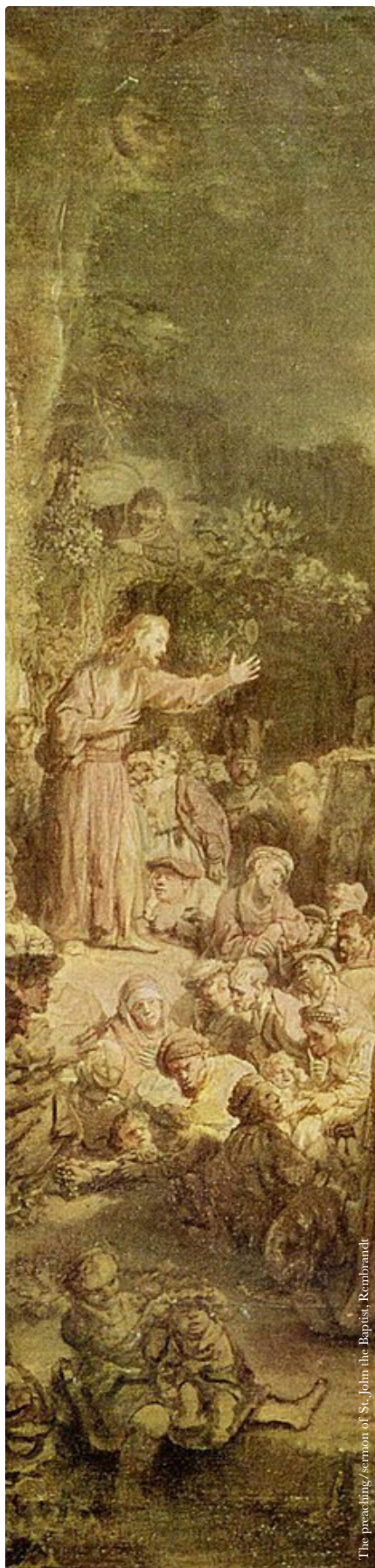
PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Becoming more attuned and attentive to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist – that is, to God in our midst – entails embracing another part of St. John the Baptist’s message. In today’s Gospel, St. John counsels people from all walks of life to prepare for the coming Messiah by changing their lives. Only by turning away from sin and committing themselves to God will they be

able to recognize and follow Christ when he comes. If we desire deeper faith in the Eucharist, our preparation must be similar: we ask God to show us the dusty corners of our souls which we have concealed from his merciful love. Then, confident in his willingness to forgive, we approach him in the sacrament of confession. This is his ardent desire: that, having come among us, he might forgive and heal us. Such is the meaning behind the consoling words of the Prophet Zephaniah in today’s first reading: “He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love.”

SING

O Christ, whom nations sigh for
Whom priest and prophet long foretold
Come break the captive fetters
Redeem the long-lost fold



The preaching/sermon of St. John the Baptist, Rembrandt

TERCER DOMINGO DE AVIENTO SOF 3:14-18A | FLP 4:4-7 | LC 3:10-18

Escrito por
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

CRECE COMO DISCÍPULO

ORAR, ESTUDIA, PARTICIPA, SIRVE

“Quiero ser una lámpara del santuario”, comentó una vez Samantha, mi amiga de la infancia. “Ser la pequeña llama que recuerda a todos: ‘Dios está aquí.’” En esas breves palabras, Samantha resumió no solo su vocación personal, sino también la importante misión de San Juan Bautista. Como la vela que arde ante el tabernáculo, San Juan no era el Mesías tan esperado; su tarea, dada por Dios, era señalar a los demás hacia Jesús. Escuchamos este tema en el mensaje de San Juan repetido en las lecturas de hoy: “El Rey de Israel, el Señor, está en medio de ti”; “Grande en medio de ti es el Santo de Israel”; “Viene uno más poderoso que yo.” Dios mismo pronto estaría entre ellos; de hecho, ya estaba ahí. Aunque 2,000 años nos separan del ministerio de San Juan Bautista, la pequeña llama todavía arde en el santuario para recordarnos que Dios no solo ha venido, sino que permanece entre nosotros. Esto es motivo de alegría: el mismo Jesús al que Juan señalaba está presente entre nosotros en el Santísimo Sacramento.

VE A EVANGELIZAR

ORAR, INVITAR, TESTIMONIA, ACOMPAÑA

Hacernos más sensibles y atentos a Jesús en la Sagrada Eucaristía —es decir, a Dios en nuestro medio— implica abrazar otra parte del mensaje de San Juan Bautista. En el Evangelio de hoy, San Juan aconseja a personas de todos los ámbitos de la vida que se preparen para la llegada del Mesías cambiando sus vidas. Solo alejándose del pecado y comprometiéndose con Dios podrán reconocer y seguir a Cristo cuando

venga. Si deseamos una fe más profunda en la Eucaristía, nuestra preparación debe ser similar: pedimos a Dios que nos muestre los rincones polvorientos de nuestras almas que hemos ocultado de su amor misericordioso. Luego, confiando en su disposición a perdonar, nos acercamos a él en el sacramento de la confesión. Este es su deseo ardiente: que, habiendo venido entre nosotros, pueda perdonarnos y sanarnos. Este es el significado detrás de las consoladoras palabras del profeta Sofonías en la primera lectura de hoy: “Él se regocijará por ti con alegría y te renovará en su amor.”

CANTA

Oh tú a quien las naciones suspiran
A quien sacerdotes y profetas predijeron
Romperá las cadenas de los cautivos
Y traerá de vuelta a los extraviados

Intentions and Prayers

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH FAMILY

REZA POR LOS ENFERMOS DE NUESTRA FAMILIA PARROQUIAL

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

O Lord, my God, please give me the grace to maintain my hope in you through all of life's changes and to taste and see your goodness. I praise you for the gifts you have showered on me for so many years. Help me find joy in a renewed strength of spirit. Please bless me with good health, and inspire me to be a good example to others. For you are Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer intentions for the sick remain in the bulletin for 4 weeks. To extend, call the Parish Office.

ORACIÓN POR LOS ENFERMOS

Oh Señor, Dios mío, por favor dame la gracia de mantener mi esperanza en ti a través de todos los cambios de la vida y de probar y ver tu bondad. Te alabo por los dones que me has derramado durante tantos años. Ayúdame a encontrar alegría en una fuerza renovada de espíritu. Por favor, bendíceme con buena salud e inspírame para ser un buen ejemplo para los demás. Porque tú eres Señor, por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.

Las intenciones estarán en el boletín por 4 semanas. Llame a la Oficina para extender.

Maria Teresa, Amy Tittarelli, Javier Valdez, Stephen Valdez, Rosa Maria Valenzuela, Hortencia Vasquez, Ernesto Vasquez, Sonia Vasquez, Jim Vescio, Josefina Villanueva, Mary Lou Vescio, Ida Vincent, Louise Wiatrek, Irene Williams, Mary Kathrine Youngblood, Rev. Fr. Zinzer,

Irene Aguilar, Perlita Alderete, Juanita C. Alcocer, Alma Zachary Baza, Amy Beumer, Arlene Borgmann, Clarissa Botello, Cesar Bustos, Bernie Bys, Irma Cerda, Zoey Checotah, Lourdes Chua, Jean Deliganis, Brian Donahoe, Douglas Craig, Estrella Patricia Campos, Castro, Roland J Castro, Judy Constanicio, Maria Cooke, Leo Cruz, Aj Davila, Lloyd Dodgen, Noe de Leon, Norma de la Vega, Maria Diaz, Kathleen Dinneen, Ani Duenas, Lucy Duran, Manuel Flores, Cindy Fritz, Abram Garcia, Maria de Jesus Garcia, Mary Ann Garcia, Natalie Garcia, Teina Garcia, Joyce Gallow, Gilbert Garza, Claudia Gonzalez, Ernest Gonzalez, Ernie Gonzales, Maria Gonzalez, Noel Gonzalez, Santiago Jimmy Gonzales, Natalia Govea, Kara Green, Lucia Guevara, Christian Gutierrez, Diana Gutierrez, Francisca González, Ethan Hamilton, Ana Hamm, Sylvia Iracheta, Leonel Fausto, Fay Jackson, Maria Jardon, Grace Jennings, Maria Jennings, Ray Laya, Jade Langley, Danni Lannen, Ana Maria Lazcano, Camila Lopez, Estella Loreda, Thomas Lozeno, Felicia Luna, Terry Martin, Daniel & Yolanda Martinez, Diane Maxwell, Jasmine Meme, Elizabeth Mendez, Jesus Mendez, Luis Mendez, Frank Mora, Raymond Morris, Carol Morris, John & Marie Nor-kus, Marvin Novak, Jessica Ochoa, Michael Odegaard, Adan Orellana, Isabel Ortega, Gina Ortiz, Christopher Oswalt, Maria Parker, Hilda Pfaffinger, Sandy Pham, Ursula R. Ramirez, Leon Riojas, Manuel Riojas, Richard Rivera, Baby Mateo, Tony & Flora Quan, Gloria Rodriguez, Jose Rodriguez, Felipe Rodriguez, Larry Rodriguez, Ruben Q Rodriguez, LaNell Rauschuber, Refugio Salas, Victor Sanchez, Jose Silvestre, Maddie Shaylor, Nancy Spinella, Mark Stewart, Anita Sunbug, Care Sunbug, Anita Sundberg, Waldemar Taboas,

MASS INTENTIONS

INTENCIONES DE LA MISA

SAT, DECEMBER 7

04:00 PM (†) Walter Fuller

06:00 PM (S) Familia Bohórquez, (B) Blanca Bohórquez, (†) Ernesto Leonel Cruz, (†) Graciela Moya, (†) María Valadez

SUN, DECEMBER 8

08:00 AM (H) Nona Dolores Canales

10:00 AM (†) Rev. Michel Bineen Mukad, (†) Zinia Hernandez

12:00 PM (Th) Marguerite Jones, (†) Rev. Michel Bineen Mukad, (†) Bibana McKinley, (†) Carlota Reyes, (†) Juan Manuel Reyes

06:00 PM (†) Adalia Garza Paz

08:00 PM (S) Missam Pro Populo for St. Helena Parish Family

MON, DECEMBER 9

08:30 AM (†) Rita Fakeye

TUE, DECEMBER 10

08:30 AM Liturgy of the Word with Communion

WED, DECEMBER 11

08:30 AM (B) Peter Chua, (H) Lourdes Chua

THU, DECEMBER 12

10:00 AM (†) Juanita Ramón

FRI, DECEMBER 13

08:30 AM (S) Dora Amelia Mena

(†) For the Repose of the Soul

Por el Eterno Descanso del Alma

(A) Anniversary | *Aniversario*

(B) Birthday | *Cumpleaños*

(H) For the Health | *Por Salud*

(S) Special Intention | *Intención Especial*

(Th) In Thanksgiving | *En Gratitud*

PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS

REZA POR EL DESCANSO DE LAS ALMAS

†Rev. Fr. Sean Garrett

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Concédeles Señor, el descanso eterno. Y brille para ellos la luz eterna. Sus almas y las de de Dios, descansen en paz.

MASS INTENTIONS & PRAYER REQUESTS | INTENCIONES DE LA MISA Y PETICIONES DE ORACIONES
prayer.sthelena.org | oracion.sthelena.org | (210) 653-3316 | Scan QR code



Stewardship Sunday

Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council is a group of lay faithful who work closely with Father Marcin, at his request, to help guide and support the direction of our parish. Council members listen to you -- the heart of our church -- and gather your feedback to ensure that our parish remains vibrant, welcoming, and faithful to Christ's mission.

The role of the Council is to collaborate with our pastor as he makes decisions that benefit the entire parish. Together, we strive with our parishioners to create a place where all can encounter Christ through worship, fellowship, and service. The Council plays a role in organizing activities, ministries, and outreach, always seeking to meet the needs of our community with love and care.

What truly drives the work of the Pastoral Council is the grace of the Holy Spirit. In all decisions and actions, the Council members strive to be inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit, which St. Paul tells us in Galatians 5:22-23 will yield fruits of love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These gifts are the foundation upon which the Pastoral Council seeks to serve, ensuring that everything done is rooted in the love and mercy of God.

“... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Some of the activities that we help to guide include opportunities for fellowship, such as initiating the Café Espiritu building and ministry, and our Fall Family Movie Night. We also help plan celebrations throughout the year, such as the May the 4th dance, our 50th Anniversary Mass and Dinner, the July 4th



picnic, our annual Christmas concert, and our Parish Christmas party. We also recognize outstanding parishioners monthly. The Pastoral Council seeks opportunities to grow the faith of our parish by planning campaigns such as our Advent and Lenten door-to-door outreach, organizing the lighting of our Advent wreath, supporting our faith formation team, promoting the Corpus Christi Eucharistic procession, and coordinating St. Helena's role as a Jubilee pilgrimage site for 2025.

As a council, we also support and collaborate with other ministries and organizations such as the Knights of Columbus, the Altar Society, the Fall Festival committee, the Finance Council, and the Stewardship Committee among others.

The Pastoral Council is here to listen to you, the faithful, and to serve our community in ways that build up the Kingdom of God. As we work together to guide our parish forward, we humbly ask for your continued support, but most of all - your prayers -- so that, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our work will bear good fruit for the growth of our parish and the greater glory of God.

Thank you for your dedication to our parish, for your prayers, and for your active participation in the life of our parish.

Viva Cristo Rey!

Domingo de Corresponsabilidad

Consejo Pastoral

ESPAÑOL

El Consejo Pastoral es un grupo de fieles laicos que trabajan estrechamente con el Padre Marcin, a su solicitud, para ayudar a guiar y apoyar la dirección de nuestra parroquia. Los miembros del consejo escuchan a ustedes —el corazón de nuestra iglesia— y recogen sus comentarios para garantizar que nuestra parroquia siga siendo vibrante, acogedora y fiel a la misión de Cristo.

El papel del Consejo es colaborar con nuestro pastor mientras toma decisiones que beneficien a toda la parroquia. Juntos, con nuestros feligreses, nos esforzamos por crear un lugar donde todos puedan encontrar a Cristo a través de la adoración, el compañerismo y el servicio. El Consejo desempeña un papel en la organización de actividades, ministerios y alcance comunitario, siempre buscando satisfacer las necesidades de nuestra comunidad con amor y cuidado.

Lo que realmente impulsa el trabajo del Consejo Pastoral es la gracia del Espíritu Santo. En todas sus decisiones y acciones, los miembros del Consejo se esfuerzan por estar inspirados y guiados por el Espíritu Santo, quien, como nos dice San Pablo en Gálatas 5:22-23, nos da frutos de amor, alegría, paz, paciencia, amabilidad, bondad, fidelidad, mansedumbre y dominio propio. Estos dones son la base sobre la cual el Consejo Pastoral busca servir, asegurándose de que todo lo que se haga esté enraizado en el amor y la misericordia de Dios.

Algunas de las actividades que ayudamos a guiar incluyen oportunidades de convivencia, como la creación del edificio y ministerio del Café Espíritu, y nuestra Noche de Cine

Familiar en Otoño. También ayudamos a planificar celebraciones a lo largo del año, como el baile del “May the 4th”, la Misa y Cena del 50º Aniversario, el picnic del 4 de julio, nuestro concierto anual de Navidad y la fiesta navideña parroquial. Además, reconocemos mensualmente a feligreses destacados. El Consejo Pastoral busca oportunidades para fortalecer la fe de nuestra parroquia mediante campañas como nuestro alcance puerta a puerta en Adviento y Cuaresma, la organización del encendido de la corona de Adviento, el apoyo a nuestro equipo de formación en la fe, la promoción de la procesión eucarística de Corpus Christi y la coordinación del papel de Santa Elena como sitio de peregrinación jubilar para 2025.

Como consejo, también apoyamos y colaboramos con otros ministerios y organizaciones, como los Caballeros de Colón, la Sociedad del Altar, el comité del Festival de Otoño, el Consejo de Finanzas y el Comité de Corresponsabilidad, entre otros.

El Consejo Pastoral está aquí para escucharlos a ustedes, los fieles, y servir a nuestra comunidad de maneras que edifiquen el Reino de Dios. Mientras trabajamos juntos para guiar a nuestra parroquia hacia adelante, humildemente pedimos su apoyo continuo, pero sobre todo, sus oraciones, para que, con la guía del Espíritu Santo, nuestro trabajo dé buenos frutos para el crecimiento de nuestra parroquia y la mayor gloria de Dios.

Gracias por su dedicación a nuestra parroquia, por sus oraciones y por su activa participación en la vida de nuestra comunidad.

¡Viva Cristo Rey!

STEWARDSHIP SOLIDARIDAD CATÓLICA



Sunday Collections

December 2-8.....\$3,514.21
December 9-15.....\$10,796.83

Online giving through 12/10
\$0.00

Additional
\$2,450.97

Total\$16,762.01



Second Collections

December 14th/15th
Building Fund

December 21st/22nd
Archbishop's Appeal



Building Fund

\$3,276,779.86

Please consider giving to our
Building Fund. Visit our website
to give online.



Sponsor of the week

Petal Palace
Your Neighborhood Florist
Since 1984
(210) 650-4223
15033 Nacogdoches at Judson.
Suite 300

Upcoming Events & News



LAS POSADAS

Friday, December 13, 2024 | 06:30 PM - 08:00 PM | St. Helena Catholic Church

Las Posadas are a Catholic tradition celebrated in Mexico and some parts of the United States from December 16th through 24th. They symbolize Joseph and Mary's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of safe refuge to give birth to baby Jesus. Unable to find lodging, they sought shelter in a stable, where the Christ Child was born.



ACTS DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

English: Sung in the Chapel every 1st/3rd/5th Monday of the month at 07:15 PM
Español: Cantado en la Capilla el segundo y cuarto lunes del mes a las 07:15 PM



QUILTING GROUP

Wednesday, December 11th | 09:00 AM | Dolan Center.



GIFTING TREE SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 14th | 04:30 PM - 07:30 PM
Sunday, December 15th | 09:00 AM - 01:30 PM

RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE			
December 16th	OLPH	6:30 PM	16075 N Evans Rd, Selma, TX 78154
December 19th	Holy Trinity	6:00 PM	20523 Huebner Rd, San Antonio, TX 78258



2ND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Wednesday December 18, 2024 | 07:00 pm | Church.

Reception to follow in the Dolan Center.



LIGHT UP ST.HELENA THIS CHRISTMAS

Help us bring joy to our parish and community with the 2nd annual Christmas lights display, which will cost \$10,000 this year. Your generosity can make this beautiful tradition shine brighter than ever! To contribute, simply place your donation in an envelope with your name, write "Christmas Lights" on the check memo, or stop by the parish office to make your gift. Let's come together to celebrate the season and share the light of Christ! Thank you for your support!

¡Ayúdanos a iluminar la Iglesia Católica St. Helena para la temporada navideña! Este año, estamos emocionados de continuar con la tradición de nuestras hermosas luces navideñas, pero necesitamos tu ayuda para que sea posible. El costo de la 2ª edición anual de las luces navideñas es de \$10,000, y cada contribución marca la diferencia. Puedes hacer tu donación en un sobre escribiendo "Luces Navideñas", pasar por la oficina parroquial para realizar tu aporte o donar en línea. ¡Iluminemos juntos nuestra parroquia y comunidad esta Navidad!

11-DAY PILGRIMAGE TO THE

SHRINES OF ITALY

FROM MILAN TO ROME

11-DAY PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINES OF ITALY

September 22, 2025 - October 2, 2025

[Register Online!](#)



For more information contact Esther Cotton (210)653-3163 | estherc@sthelena.org | Scan QR

DOORS OPEN AT
5:30PM

DINNER SERVED
6:30-8:00PM

WINE TASTING
6:00-10:00PM

NO ONE UNDER 21
WILL BE ADMITTED



Wine TASTING DINNER



JANUARY 18, 2025
ST. HELENA
\$75 PER PERSON

WE ARE IN NEED OF NEW ITEMS WORTH \$25 OR MORE FOR THE SILENT AUCTION AT THE WINE TASTING EVENT! GIFT CARDS ARE ALSO ACCEPTED!

11-DAY PILGRIMAGE TO THE

SHRINES OF ITALY

FROM MILAN TO ROME



11-DAY PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINES OF ITALY

September 22, 2025 - October 2, 2025

For more information contact Esther Cotton (210)653-3163 | estherc@sthelena.org | Scan QR

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Archbishop Gustavo-Siller in accordance with the Dallas Charter requires that every parish, school, and organization within the Archdiocese must be compliant with the Safe Environment requirements, there are the components:

Criminal Background Check

All clergy, employees, candidates for ordination, volunteers who minister to minors, and volunteers who minister to vulnerable populations must complete a CBC. Vulnerable populations include but is not limited to the elderly, the homebound, the sick, the grieving.

Safe Environment Module Training on:

Sexual Harassment, Protecting God's Children, Vulnerable Adults and Critical Conversations Training.

Your Safe environment and background check must be renewed **every three years**.

Your account can be accessed at www.Virtus.org.

For any questions, contact the Office of Victim Assistance & Safe Environment (OVASE) at 210 734-7786 or ovase@archsa.org or St. Helena's Parish Office at 210 653-3316 or parish@sthelena.org.



Melchizedek Project

We invite you to our monthly Hybrid gatherings for those who are considering a call to the priesthood. Ages 18 and over

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

September — May

6:00 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.



Whether you attend in person or online, your journey is important to us. We look forward to sharing this special time with you! Contact the Vocation Office for more information



**SAN ANTONIO
VOCATIONS**

vocations@archsa.org • 210-735-0553 • savocations.org

PARISHIONER OF THE MONTH

