

St. Helen Roman Catholic Parish - Oracle



66 E. Maplewood St.
 Oracle, AZ 85623-6148
 Phone: (520) 896-2708
 FAX: (520) 896-2631

Visit our Website:

<http://www.sthelenparishoracle.org>

To add, change or contribute information for the website please contact the Parish Office at

St. Helen's e-mail address:

sthelensmission@msn.com

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Pastor: Rev. Msgr. Ambrose O. Nwohu.....520-896-2708
 Parish Secretary & Compliance Representative: Gloria Acosta520-896-2708
 Parish Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday..... 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Priest: Tuesday - Friday.....9:30 a.m. - 12 noon & 2 p.m. – 7 p.m.
 Director of Religious Education: Mary Telles: Wednesday.....520-896-2708

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday (Mass of Anticipation).....5 p.m.
 Sunday.....8 a.m. & 10 a.m.
 Monday thru Friday.....8 a.m.
 First Friday of the Month Anointing of the Sick and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.....8 a.m.
 All Holy Days of Obligation.....9 a.m. & 7 p.m.
 Pray the Rosary.....1/2 hour before each Mass



Parish Board of Directors
 Rev. Msgr. Ambrose O. Nwohu, President
 Manuel Navarro, Treasurer
 Carmen Trejo, Secretary
 Most Rev. Gerald F. Kicanas, D.D.
 Rev. Msgr. Jeremiah McCarthy



*****SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION*****



Holy Matrimony

Marriage Preparation
 Diocesan regulations require that you see a priest at least *four months* before your wedding date.



Baptism

Baptismal Preparation
 Please call for arrangements at least *two months* prior to the date of Baptism. Baptisms are scheduled for the third weekend of each month.



Reconciliation

Reconciliation/Confession
 Saturday from 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 Any other time by appointment.



Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2017

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

— 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

REJOICE

Isaiah proclaims truly good news to us! God's coming brings not sadness, guilt, fear, wrath, or condemnation. No, God's coming is a source of comfort and joy. Saying it once is not enough, for today's readings are full of joy. Mary's Magnificat substitutes for our psalm today, and our second reading encourages us to rejoice, to give thanks and praise. This is the root meaning of the Greek word for eucharist. We are urged to rejoice and give thanks, because the coming of the Lord brings joy, healing, liberty, release, vindication. It makes the very earth spring up with new life! Good tidings!

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Deadline for bulletin announcements is 2 p.m. on Tuesday

MASS INTENTIONS

Offered for our beloved dead as well as our living ones.

May the souls of our faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

VOCATIONS CRUCIFIX

At each Mass, the family taking the crucifix should designate another family to carry the crucifix home the following week.

Please return the crucifix before the beginning of each Mass.

INFANT BAPTISMS

Instructions for infant Baptisms are on the first and third Thursday of the month (after initial registration) at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Hall.

It is mandatory that parents and Godparents attend.

Weekly Collections

12/9 & 12/10, 2017

Parish Offertory - \$1,008.00
Immaculate Conception Mass - \$70.00
Christmas Flowers - \$45.00
Seminar Education Fund - \$242.00

Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.

Sanctuary Lamp



Please stop by the parish office to reserve dates for the Sanctuary Lamp. The Sanctuary Lamp may be reserved by more than one persons for the same dates.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Ill and/or homebound: Patricio Ortiz, Paul and Brenda Bilek, Allison Gomez, Lawrence Ortiz, Martin Romero, Susie Molina, Payton Roberts, Rosa Santos, Evodio Barrientos, Rico Guerrero, Raymond Laase, Tom & Carmen Garcia, Dora Chavez, Lynne Cunningham, Mollie Clark, Michael Hilimire, Bea Marquez, John Hughes

Please help keep our prayer list current. To add or remove a name from the prayer list, please call the parish office. In order to ensure an updated prayer list, names will be listed for two months and then removed.

Our Service Men & Women: Ignacio Madrid, Nathan Jackson, David Navarro

Faithful Departed: Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon them

DECEMBER 2017 CALENDAR

Every First Friday – 8 a.m.- Anointing of the Sick and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

- Holy Days of Obligation – Masses 9 a.m. & 7 p.m.
- Adult Formation (Scripture) Classes with Msgr. Ambrose – Tuesdays, 7 p.m.
- Choir Practice – Saturdays, 9 a.m.
- Womens' Prayer Group – Tuesdays from 12 noon to 1 p.m. 896-9031
- Finance Committee – Every 3rd Thursday – 6:30 p.m.
- Parish Council – As announced
- Liturgy Committee – As announced

Second collection for Building Fund - Every first weekend of the month . Parish Maintenance Second Collection six times/year.

St. Helen Offices & Ministries

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson – Ellie Brown | 896-3530 |
| Finance Council Chairperson – Manny Navarro | 896-2469 |
| Compliance Representative – Gloria Acosta | 896-2708 |
| Liturgy/Bereavement - Mary Buzan | 730-8929 |
| Choir Director – Ellie Brown | 896-3530 |
| Sacristan/Altar Servers – Tony Telles | 896-9031 |
| Religious Education | |
| Gr. 1&2 | Angelica Saldivar 388-1979 |
| | Vincent Valdez 388 3032 |
| Gr. 3 thru 8 | Debbie Gutierrez 520-404-2763 |
| | Maria Martinez 896-2142 |
| Gr. 4,5,6 | Leonor Berumen 241-4793 |
| Gr. 7&8 | Allison Lapa 896-2148 |
| | Phyllis David 896-3169 |
| Confirmation Class | Mary & Tony Telles 896-9031 |
| Social Justice – Mary Ellen Kazda | 896-2955 |
| St. Helen's Food Bank – Helen Alvarez | 404-4817 |
| Knights of Columbus – Johnnie Seballos | 520-603-5584 |
| Cursillo Movement Leaders – Mary & Tony Telles | 896-9031 |
| Adult Catechesis – Msgr. Ambrose O. Nwohu | 896-2708 |
| Kitchen Angels | 520-400-4404 |
| Church Cleaning/Furnishings/Environmental Design (Volunteers needed) | |

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR SUNDAY MORNING SOCIALS

Thank you!

2017 SECOND COLLECTIONS (*Diocesan)

- December 9 & 10 – Seminarian Education *
- December 16 & 17 – St. Helen Parish Maintenance

Envelopes for PARISH special collections in rack back of the church.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017

Vigil of Christmas
Mass – 11 p.m. (Midnight Mass)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2017

Christmas Day
Masses 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30 AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017

Saturday and Sunday Masses will be held as usual, Saturday 5 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2018

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of obligation) will be held at 10 a.m.

Christmas Flowers



We are now accepting monetary donations for Christmas flowers in remembrance of loved ones, deceased or living.

On the envelope provided please list the names of those you would like remembered. The names will appear in the Christmas bulletin.



THE OPPORTUNITY CONTINUES TO SUPPORT WHAT YOU VALUE!

Continue to support a needy and deserving student by continuing to take advantage of the tax credit. Please pick up a brochure that will explain how you can get a dollar-for-dollar tax credit or visit the CTSO website at www.ctso-tucson.org.

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE NOW

Please collect your new envelope box, located at the back of the church. If you are not receiving envelopes and wish to, please call the office. If you no longer wish to receive them also please let us know.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDRENS' MASS

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2017 AT 5 P.M.
TREE LIGHTING AND REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS**

Call Mary Telles for information – 896-2708

“The Catechist is one who guards the memory of God and who knows how to awaken it in others.” – Pope Francis

Our food pantry needs supplies of non-perishable food items. If you know of any family who needs help please call 896-2540. All information will be held strictly confidential. Monetary donations also gratefully accepted.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will GOD make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).

Psalm — My soul rejoices in my God (Luke 1:46-50, 53-54).

Second Reading — Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

Gospel — I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent

Thursday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest; died 1597; Dutch Jesuit catechist and missionary; leading voice in counter-reformation Germany; organized the German Jesuit province and founded several colleges; authored the popular and enduring catechism, *Institutiones Christianae Pietatis*, published in nine languages and fifty-five editions; known as the "Second Apostle of Germany."

Winter begins

Saturday: St. John of Kanty, Priest; died 1473; dean of philosophy and professor of theology at the University of Cracow; noted for his austerity, humility, and charity toward the poor; a patron of Poland.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Last week, we looked at a form of nativity scene called a *presepio*, characterized by framing the crèche of Jesus with a vast array of personalities and a rich geographical context. The tradition was carried to the New World, and finds very rich expression in Latin America today. While in Europe the *presepio* was reserved mostly to the homes of wealthy nobles and great churches, in Latin America it was claimed by the poor and expressed the skills of native artisans. In Mexico, you can still find clay figures in every village market. In a way, the native people took the religion of Spanish rule and baptized it with their Indian culture by surrounding the crib of Jesus with local geography and people. In Brazil, where Christmas falls in summer, the figure of the baby Jesus is wrapped in gold and gems, and set on a hillside surrounded by flowers and animals of all kinds. Sometimes there is a double *presepio*, presenting both Nativity and Crucifixion.

In some places in Latin America, even non-religious people take care to have a *presepio* in the home, sometimes dedicating one whole room in the house or apartment to the scene. Some cities have markets where people from the countryside sell plants and figurines. In Cuzco, churches and families provide hot chocolate for the children of the poor who come down to help create the nativity scenes. In Paraguay, the baby Jesus grows—the small infant who arrives on Christmas Eve is replaced at New Year with a toddler Jesus who holds in one hand the globe and in the other a cross. Few Christmas traditions have the vitality and variety of *presepios* and crèches honoring the Nativity.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



Diocese of Tucson

...employment opportunities at the Diocese

The following are employment opportunities currently available in the Diocese of Tucson. To view the job descriptions and information on how to apply, persons interested should refer to www.diocesetucson.org (Employment Opportunities).

Diocese of Tucson Pastoral Center:

- Office of Tribunal, Tucson, AZ – Tribunal Notary
- Office of Corporate Matters, Tucson, AZ – Executive Assistant
- **Schools & Parishes:**
- St. Augustine Catholic High School, Tucson, AZ – Bus Driver (Part-time)
- San Xavier Mission School, Tucson, AZ – Custodian (Part-time)
- St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Yuma, AZ – Full-Charge Bookkeeper
- Santa Cruz Catholic School, Tucson, AZ
 - Kindergarten Teacher
 - 3rd Grade Teacher
- Santa Cruz Parish, Tucson, AZ – Cook (Part-time)
- San Martin de Porres Parish, Sahuarita, AZ – Office Assistant (Temporary, Part-time)
- Santa Cruz Catholic School, Tucson, AZ – 6th Grade Teacher
- St. Joseph Catholic School, Tucson, AZ – 4th Grade Teacher
- St. Joseph Catholic School, Tucson, AZ – Teachers, K-4
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, Tucson, AZ
 - 3rd Grade Teacher
 - 6th Grade Teacher
- San Xavier School, Tucson, AZ – Receptionist (Part-time)
- Immaculate Heart Academy, Oro Valley, AZ – Computer Teacher (Part-time)
- Our Lady Queen of All Saints, Tucson, AZ – Parish Secretary
- St. John Catholic School, Tucson, AZ – Second Grade Teacher

RETRouvaille & MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER RETREAT NOTICES




Retrouvaille - In marriage, communication is more than just talking. At some point, did you stop sharing about the things that were important to you? Did your spouse? Improving a marriage takes time and a conscious effort to learn about your spouse. Growing closer in a marriage does not happen automatically. Retrouvaille is a marriage program dedicated to helping couples grow closer and develop a stronger bond. You give your heart and soul to everything you do, between your work and your family. Are you giving your heart and soul to your marriage? Sometimes the distance between a husband and a wife can seem so wide that it cannot be repaired. Retrouvaille is a marriage program designed to bring couples closer together. **Register for Retrouvaille Weekend Program** beginning Friday evening, January 19 - Sunday, January 21. For confidential information Call 520-686-1598 or Visit: www.retrouvaille.org



“The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; . . .” Let your spirits be augmented by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WME) weekend with your spouse. The next weekend is on January 26-28 at Mount Claret Retreat Center in Phoenix. To apply online, and for weekend dates visit www.wmearizona.com

The parishioners of St. Helen Parish thank the following advertisers for helping to sponsor our weekly bulletin



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*In God we trust,
all others
pay cash.
Sorry,
no debit or credit cards.*

Casa Rivera

A Mexican-American Family Restaurant
1975 American Avenue • Oracle, Arizona

Hours: 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Sunday thru Friday
Closed Saturday

<p>Sunday Special BBQ Baby Back Ribs ½ Rack \$14.95 Full Rack \$21.95 <small>With corn on the cob and potato</small></p>	<p>Thursday Night Special 16 oz. Char-Broiled RIB-EYE STEAK \$21.95 <small>With soup or salad, baked potato and garlic bread</small></p>	<p>Friday Night Special Freshly Battered Cod Fillets <i>or</i> 7 Large Shrimp \$16.95 <small>With french fries, rice, chowder or salad</small></p>
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For TAKE-OUT Call
520 896-3744 or 896-3747


OLH ORACLE LAND & HOMES

1812 W American Ave Oracle, AZ

Office (520) 896-9099
Cell (520) 400-0242

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hv@olhoracle.com

Stop by our office for complete listings in Oracle and the surrounding area



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