

# 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](mailto:sthelensmission@msn.com)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017** **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Pastor: Rev. Msgr. Ambrose O. Nwohu.....520-896-2708  
 Parish Secretary & Compliance Representative: Gloria Acosta .....520-896-2708  
 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.



**Second Sunday of Advent  
December 10, 2017**

Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths.

— *Mark 1:3*

**NEWS OF COMFORT**

In a time of preparation, much of it having to do with material things, it is good to hear the words of Isaiah, “Comfort, give comfort to my people, / says your God” (Isaiah 40:1). In a time of such stress and rush, when our usual burdens are augmented by piles of Christmas preparations, we can choose to slow down, take some time to heal, and appreciate the enormous gift we are about to receive. Christ, the Son of God, has become one of us, and knows our human limitations. Yet God, even now, is freeing us from the burdens that our inattentiveness to our God and to our deepest inner longings have heaped upon us. The Lord comes, not as a king with mighty armies, but as a shepherd leading the flocks with care and tenderness. Isaiah prophesies good news: our oppression is over, our sins forgiven. The savior we have awaited is coming, not the first time, but in the end times, as our salvation.

*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.*

**Sunday, December 10 - 8 a.m. - +Jose Barrientos, +Maria Dolores Quiroz, +Maria Barrientos by Maria G. Barrientos**

**Sunday, December 10 – 8 a.m. +Rachel Rascon by Arnold Rascon**

**Sunday, December 10 – 10 a.m. - +Manuel Apodaca by Family**

**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**

**Parish Offertory - \$1,071.00  
St. Helen Building Fund - \$244.06**

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

<b>Gr. 1&amp;2</b>	Angelica Saldivar	388-1979
	Vincent Valdez	388 3032
<b>Gr. 3 thru 8</b>	Debbie Gutierrez	520-404-2763
	Maria Martinez	896-2142
<b>Gr. 4,5,6</b>	Leonor Berumen	241-4793
<b>Gr. 7&amp;8</b>	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)

**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.

**SOMETHING GREAT JUST GOT BETTER!**

Taxpayers contributed more than \$12 million dollars to Arizona's Catholic Tuition Support Organization (CTSO) last year and provided tuition scholarships for students throughout the Diocese of Tucson. Thank You!

Brochures are available in the rack back of the church or visit [www.ctso-tucson.org](http://www.ctso-tucson.org) for online giving.

*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.*

**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.*

**In Support of our Seminarian Education**

During the week end of **December 9-10** our parish will be asking you, our parish faithful, to donate to the Diocese of Tucson special collection for the Seminarian Education Fund. The 17 men studying to serve as priests in our diocese are seeking to be servant leaders spiritually, pastorally and administratively. Please be as generous as you can in helping these young men answer the call to priesthood.

**Tuesday, December 12, 2017**

Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe  
MASS 6:30 p.m.  
Potluck after 6:30 Mass



**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE  
ST. HELEN PARISH  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2017 – 6 p.m.**

*The family of Sabrina Ann Garcia would like to thank everyone for their prayers, hugs, words of encouragement and the great food you made for the funeral reception. Special thanks to St. Helen Kitchen Angels and Msgr. Ambrose Nwohu. ---David & Anita Garcia*

**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*

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — The rugged land shall be made a plain; the rough country, a broad valley (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11).

**Psalm** — Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (Psalm 85).

**Second Reading** — Conduct yourselves in holiness, hastening the coming of the day of God (2 Peter 3:8-14).

**Gospel** — I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:1-8).

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: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26  
Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of The Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712  
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30  
Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15  
Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19  
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13  
Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent;  
International Human Rights Day  
Monday: St. Damasus I, Pope; died 384; preserved papal archives; devoted to the relics and resting places of the martyrs; combated the anti-pope Ursinus, as well as Arian and Domatist heresies; first pope to speak of Rome as the "Apostolic See"; encouraged St. Jerome to produce a new translation of the Latin Bible, later to form the main part of the Vulgate.  
Tuesday: OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, USA; today's feast recalls the apparitions of Mary at the hill of Tepeyac from 9-12 Dec. 1531 as the native convert, Juan Diego; known to the Aztecs as *Tecoatlaxope* (or de Guadalupe in Spanish), meaning "she will crush the serpent of stone"; declared patroness of the Americas by Pope Pius XII and raised to the rank of feast for all the countries of the Americas by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, 25 March 1999.  
Hanukkah begins at sunset  
Wednesday: St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr; died probably in Sicily c. 304 under Diocletian; because of her name, she is the patroness of those afflicted with diseases of the eye and associated with festivals of light, especially in Scandinavia; mentioned in the Roman Canon; patroness of Syracuse and all Sicily.  
Thursday: St. John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church; died 1591; born in Fontiveros, Spain c. 1542; mystic and poet; ally of Teresa of Jesus of Avila in founding the reformed ("Displaced") Carmelite friars [O.C.D.]; suffered cruel imprisonment and privations by the unreformed Carmelites; authored *The Ascent of Mount Carmel*, *The Dark Night of the Soul*, *The Spiritual Canticle*, and *The Living Flame of Love*; known as the "Mystical Doctor"; Discalced Carmelites today number some 4,000 religious.  
Saturday: *Las Posadas* begins

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Many people think that Saint Francis originated the Christmas crèche, but its origins go far back. The Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome has housed what is said to be relics of the cradle of Jesus since the seventh century. In time, every year during the Christmas season the reliquary (container for relics) was surrounded by an increasingly grand three-dimensional scene of the place of Jesus' birth. Rocks and trees, houses, streams, figurines of villagers going about their daily tasks were all included. It was a very dramatic presentation. If you've ever seen an elaborate model train installation, you get the idea. The proper term for this depiction is *presepio*, from the Latin word for "surround" or "hedge."

Over the centuries, the custom spread first to churches, and then to aristocratic homes. In Italy, whole chapels are often set aside for the *presepio*, and it is not unusual to have hundreds of figures. It can sometimes be a challenge to locate the Holy Family amid the crowd, almost like a *Where's Waldo?* children's book. The oldest surviving *presepio* is in St. Mary Major and dates from the thirteenth century, although many pieces have been broken or lost. Saint Francis of Assisi took a decidedly creative step in 1233 in the village of Greccio, when he directed his followers to fill a manger with hay and tether an ox and ass nearby. He then invited the villagers to attend Mass outdoors near the crib, the worshippers themselves becoming a living *presepio*. By the seventeenth century, the tradition was well-established, particularly in Naples, and had a firm hold in Portugal, Spain, and in the Provence region of France. Today, it is not unusual to find *presepios* with five hundred figures, a vivid reminder of Emmanuel, God-with-us!

—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](http://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
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher
- St. Joseph Catholic School, Tucson, AZ – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher
- St. Joseph Catholic School, Tucson, AZ – Teachers, K-4
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, Tucson, AZ
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher
  - 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.retrouvaille.org)



“Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God.” Let us learn to comfort each other better by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWE) weekend with our 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.wwmearizona.com](http://www.wwmearizona.com)



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



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**520-825-6985**

*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><b>Sunday Special</b> <b>BBQ</b> Baby Back Ribs ½ Rack \$14.95 Full Rack \$21.95 <small>With corn on the cob and potato</small></p>	<p><b>Thursday Night Special</b> 16 oz. <b>Char-Broiled RIB-EYE STEAK</b> \$21.95 <small>With soup or salad, baked potato and garlic bread</small></p>	<p><b>Friday Night Special</b> 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  
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Visit our Website  
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[hv@olhoracle.com](mailto:hv@olhoracle.com)

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



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