Would you like to have an announcement in the Bulletin?

To get a bulletin announcement in, please send your request to Bulletin@sthelen.com



**WE ASK THAT YOU PAUSE A MOMENT AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL IN OUR PARISH ESPECIALLY**: Susan Amor, Bruce Barna, Jim Bizjak, Katie Brent, Matt Brent, Joe Chuckro, Marilyn Cillian, Sandy Felberg, Maria Flauto, Larry Fox, Don and Kathleen Hantak, Bill Hering, Anne Holdsworth, Justin Hostutler, Evelyn Jurkiewicz, Linda & Mike Koeth, Katarina Kekedy, Lara Kitko, Hope Krawulski, Pat Kunszt, Diane Lionti, Tim Mekota, Drew Mocarski, Linda Mulacek, Allen O’Brien, Mary Ann O'Brien, Kevin O’Reilly Jr., Joanne Orichella, Basil Pinzone, Lucille Pishnery, Sandy Polomsky, Greg Potts, Ed Rowan, Pat & Evelyn Rowlands, Emil and Marge Saloka, Samantha Schleger, Rich Stebnicki, Mary Stebnicki, Ann Svec, Dennis Szczepanik, Dr. Steven Tackacs, Cristina & Ron Thompson, Chuck Thomas, Karen Washington, Charlotte Whiting, Mimi Widmar, Leda Wojtowicz, Colbie Wolfe, and Catherin Zickert

***If your name needs to be removed from this list, please call the Parish Office.***

**BAPTISM:**

AUTUMN CRAMER

LUCILLE LOZA

NOAH MEKOTA

LEO PRETORIUS

**A REFLECTION FROM FR. JAY…**

**The Year of Our Lord**

The year of our Lord 2020. As Christians we recognize Jesus as the Lord of all history. History has a purpose. History is actually “his story.” The purpose of history is the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He came, born in Bethlehem (which means house of bread), born of Mary, born in humble circumstances so that we might be saved. He was placed in a feeding trough, so that right from the beginning He would be pointing us to the truth that He is the Bread of Life who comes down from heaven and that we must eat His Body and drink His Blood if we are to be saved. He will come again in glory at the end of time to judge the living and the dead.

Our calendar has focused on Jesus as the Lord of history for centuries. But now there are people who are attempting to push Jesus out of the center of history. Rather than BC (Before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini -the year of our Lord) they prefer CE (Common era) and BCE (before common era) to delineate history. Like the attack on “Christmas” where people try to just refer to “holidays,” this is one more attempt to remove Jesus from the center of life and culture.

In 1990 85% of Americans identified themselves as Christians. That number is now down to 65% (in 2019, according to a Pew Research Study). Those who are attempting to remove the Lord from the center of life have had great success. But we know Jesus has won the victory. Our job is to boldly proclaim the truth of who Jesus is, not to surrender to the popular culture. As I’ve encouraged you to boldly proclaim “Merry Christmas” rather than “Happy holidays,” I also want to encourage you to make no apologies for declaring 2020 “the year of our Lord.”

Jesus has given us a job to accomplish, to go and “make disciples of all nations.” Do not be intimidated from doing that. Do not try to be “nice” by going along with those who deny the truth of who Jesus is. Please do not be shy about declaring Jesus the Lord of all history. God bless you in this year of our Lord!

**ST. VINCEND DE PAUL** the October collection total for Project Hope for the Homeless was $1,991.00.  The November collection total for Geauga Hunger Task Force was $1,813.22.  SVdP checks for both have been
sent.  Thank you for your continuing generosity and note that SVdP never schedules a December collection.

**DO YOU NEED PRAYER?** The Heart of Jesus Prayer Ministry offers intercessory prayer sessions for all prayer needs, including physical, emotional and spiritual prayer.  Please contact Sue White at 440-213-9242 to schedule a session.  You may also request a prayer session on the ministry’s site: <https://www.heartofjesus.net/>.

**SUPPORTING EACH OTHER** A support group for caregivers of those with dementia and Alzheimer’s. We will meet in the gathering space on Saturday morning, Jan. 11, 2020 immediately after 8:00AM Mass. This group will meet once a month and is a “faith-based group.” The following dates are Feb. 8th and March 14th, 2020. Please pass the word on to anyone you know that is caring for a loved one. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Carol Joyce at 216-978-1911

**THE GIVING TREE** Thank you to all who participated in donating items to the St. Helen Giving Tree this year.  A total of 515 gifts and gift cards were distributed to the following:  16 local families, Maggie’s Place, Project Hope Homeless Shelter, Feed My Sheep, Birthright, WomenSafe, and our St. Helen Prayer Shawl and ProLife Ministries. Your holiday generosity always brings joy and smiles whenever the gifts are received.  God Bless you!

**ST. HELEN UNICYCLE DRILL TEAM PHOTO** The St. Helen Unicycle Drill team would like to invite any and all alumni, current members, parents and coaches for a large group photo to be included in the parish’s 70th anniversary yearbook. We will be in the Gym on Saturday January 4th 2020 at 2PM. Current members, please wear your uniforms.

**ST. HELEN UNICYCLE RECRUITMENT** The St. Helen Unicycle Drill team is sponsoring its 7th annual recruitment days on Sunday January 5th and again on January 19th, after all Masses in the gym, (Bring Tennis Shoes). Open to anyone wanting to learn to ride and be part of the team that is the legacy of St. Helen. Learn to ride and you’ll be able to perform in parades and special events throughout the year. Our first event for 2020 is in March, celebrating “St. Patrick’s Day” in a parade in Cleveland. Last year, some of our notable parades included Canton’s Football Hall of Fame Parade and Dick Goddard’s Woolley Bear Festival.

**END OF THE YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS**

With 2019 quickly ending and year-end giving just around the corner, we wanted to remind you of the deadlines for your contributions to be reflected this tax year. For those of us who are 70 ½ years of age, required distributions from the IRA’s can also be a great way to support the parish. The money given directly from an IRA to the parish does not enter your taxable income. We are not tax experts, so you really should talk to your tax consultant. For those who do not take standard deductions, there can be an advantage to combining two years donations into one taxable year. We are fine with that and it may help your tax situation. Again, talk with your tax people.

If you are dropping your contributions off at the Parish office, it must be received by noon on December 31st. If you are mailing your contribution, it must be postmarked December 31, 2019. For your convenience, you may also use the Online Giving options: <https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/2967> or found on the parish website, our “Church Page #” is 2967.

Lastly, please remember to make all checks payable to “Church of St. Helen.” If you would like the donation to go somewhere specific, you may write that on the memo line. As always, thank you for your continuous generosity.

**MEN**-- stay up late (very, very late) or get up early (very, very early) and join us for the **St. Helen** **Men's Prayer and Discussion Group**.  For January, we will meet on the second Friday morning of January -- the 10th -- rather than our typical first Friday of the month.  We meet at 6:30 am (considered to be either a "late night" for some or an "early morning" for others!).  Our host is Joe Williams and we meet at Electrolock (17930 Great Lakes Pkwy, Hiram, OH 44234 -- which is right off of Rt. 422). He always has the coffee "on" and the donuts "ready".  Hope you can join us.  Questions?  Contact Gary Burling:  gt2784@roadrunner.com

**AQUINAS ACADEMY** High School Catholic theology is every Sunday from 10:30 – 11:15 in the Bride’s Room with James Hogan. This is a wonderful addition for any teens to build on what they learn in Life Teen! Join the fun. Sign-up with James Hogan at jhogan@sthelen.com. There will be no class on December 29th.

**EUCHARISTIC MIRACLE** Interested in learning more about Eucharistic Miracles? Visit <https://dowym.com/voices/5-incredible-eucharistic-miracles-from-the-last-25-years/> or visit our website to find the link under “Resources” at the bottom of the page!

**CROSS TRAINING** with James Hogan. Perhaps second only to Blessed Mary herself is Saint Francis of Assisi, God’s own fool, who reinvigorated the Church of the Middle Ages from the bottom up.  Join us at 9:45am every Sunday, 45 minutes in length, in the Music Room.

**ST. HELEN SCHOOL GALA**

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 21ST, 2020

6PM-11PM

Join us for a spectacular “Roarin' 20s" event

supporting St. Helen School

NEW VENUE:

GENERATIONS EVENT & RECEPTION CENTER

12809 Chillicothe Rd, Chesterland

**PARISH COUNCIL:** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of these Parish Council members. See the website for email contact information.

**CHAIRPERSON:** Jeff Cicchella

**MEMBERS:**  Clare O’Brien, Linda Koeth, Francine Dome, Debra Finomore, Suzanne Finnerty, Kelly Reed, Dennis Blatnik, Bob McIlroy, Luke Reed, Ron Thompson, Nathan Frania.

**ST. HELEN SPORTS**

IT’S TIME TO REGISTER ONLINE!!! Please go to the following link and register your entire family so that you will receive notifications from Boosters going forward: https://reg.sportspilot.com/106654/leagues

We are streamlining our registrations & communications and going to Sports Pilot. You will be able to register & pay online, and we will be able to send communications directly to you via your registered email. We will no longer be doing paper registrations for our sports programs.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Men's organization, 18 years and older building faith in our volunteer works in our parish, school and community. For more information, please contact Mike Kalal at 440-552-4276 or mckalal73@gmail.com.

The Knights of Columbus Geauga Council 3304 would like to wish Fr. Jay, Fr. Jerry Bednar, Deacon Larry and all St. Helen Parishioners, a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy & Blessed New Year!

Congratulations to our New Knights of Columbus members, Joseph Etling & Tom Brugger. Welcome to our Catholic Men's Organization helping those in need.

St. Joseph Devotion Hour is cancelled for January because of New Year’s Day.

The next Geauga Council meeting is on Monday, January 6, 2020 at 8pm in the LTC.

Next Admission Degree into the Knights on January 13, 2020 at 7pm.

Save the date; Bill & Clare O'brien Pro-Life Dinner on Saturday February 8, 2020 at St. Helen Gym. Guest speaker, Bobby Schindler, President of the Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network. Tickets $15 or Good Will offering requested.

For more information for all above articles contact Mike Kalal 440-552-4276 or mckalal73@gmail.com

**LIFE TEEN**

All high school teens are invited to join Life Teen as we march for those who don’t have a voice. We will be attending the March for Life 2020 in Washington D.C. We will leave at 11:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 23rd and travel to the Youth Rally and then the March. We will stay overnight at Country Inn & Suites in Capitol Heights, Maryland. On Saturday morning, we will tour the National Basilica, attend Mass and head to the JPII Exhibit. We will be returning at approximately 11:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 25th. The cost for this event is $100 per person. Permission forms are available on the St. Helen website, at the information desk and in the Life Teen Center. If you have any questions, please call Theresa at 440-781-7269 or Tammy at 330-842-1745.

On Monday December 30th there will be a “Girls Night Out” and a “Guys Night Out” The girls will meet in the Life Teen Center from 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. for a White Elephant Party. The guys will meet in the St. Helen parking lot at 6:00 p.m. and head to Whirlyball. They will return at 10:00 p.m. Cost for both events is $5.00. A permission form is needed if a teen needs a ride from a core member. Forms are available on the St. Helen website, the information desk and in the Life Teen Center. Please see the flyers for details.

**Follow us on Instagram @sthelenlt**

**Follow us on Twitter @ StHelenLifeTeen**

**SCHOOL NEWS**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**

From everyone at St. Helen School, we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope you have a blessed and joyful Christmas season.

**CHRISTMAS BREAK AND SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS**

Our school and office will be closed throughout Christmas break. School will resume Monday, January 6, 2020. If you need to contact the school office, please feel free to email us or you may leave a message on the answering machine as we will check the messages over break.

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Holiday Helps for the Divorced and Separated** Are you ready for a new year? Let us help you turn the corner! Join us for this special program intended to offer practical advice on understanding your needs and rebuilding your life and making long and short term goals. We will meet Tuesday evening from 7:00-9:00 pm, on January 7th at St. Noel Church, 35200 Chardon Rd., Willoughby Hills. To register or for more info: call Karen @ 440-352-8282 or email: kjubeck@st-gabriel.org

Looking ahead, we will be offering Divorce Recovery for Catholics, an 8 Week Support Group, designed to meet the needs of those who are divorced or separated. It will begin Thursday, January 16th through March 5, 2020, at St. John Vianney Parish, 7575 Bellflower Rd., Mentor from 7- 9 pm. Sessions are designed to offer direction, support, and the tools for coping with this life-changing experience. For more information or to register, please call Catholic Charities at 352-6191 or 1-800-242-9755, or email kjubeck@st-gabriel.org There is no charge for this program, all materials are provided, and it is open to people of all faiths.

**2020 CENSUS** Anyone interested in helping the community in which you live with the 2020 Census starting in March-April please stop by the information desk and pick up a handout with information on how to sign up. You must be 18 years of age, a US citizen, have an email address, and computer access.  The positions are temporary & part-time, pay $17/hr with 30 hours of paid training as well as mileage allowance.

**MASS FOR LIFE** The Diocese of Cleveland Mass for Life, which coincides with the United States Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children, will be celebrated on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 10:00 AM at the Cathedral of St John the Evangelist.



